



# Becoming a generous people

Take hold of the life that is truly life 1 Timothy 6.19



## GENEROSITY BEGINS AND ENDS WITH GOD

People give sacrificially and generously to the things they value; when they understand how much God has given to them; and when they make the link between faith and finance. Congregations respond to a culture of generosity. On the other hand, without a vision, without a shared theology of giving and without any sense of how faith impacts finances, parishes get into financial difficulty.

There are many resources available to help parishes address these issues, but we felt a need to draw them together in one place. Our aim is to provide you with easy to use resources – helping to lighten the load rather than adding to it. We have provided a step change approach, realising that parishes are at different stages – for some it is a question of survival, for others a desire to grow.

We are providing a menu of options and each year your church is encouraged to select

one option and to devote some time to exploring it during that year. As there are four options, you may find it helpful to do this over four years. For some of the options, as well as the full method, there is a lighter approach.

To enable you to tailor your approach to match the needs and aspirations of your church, we have used materials from various sources and hope that whatever your church's style, you will find something that will work for you.

### WE HOPE THE BENEFITS OF THIS WILL BE:

- Resourcing individuals/church members/disciples.
- Resourcing the church's collective generosity.

## COMMITTING TO DOING ONE THING PER YEAR FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WILL MEAN THAT:

- Levels of giving will rise.
- Cash flow will improve.
- Relief from financial pressures should enable your church to focus on mission and ministry both inside and outside the church building.
- Your church will have articulated a clear vision for the short and medium term.
- This vision will be based on a realistic assessment of the resources available.
- A culture of generosity will develop within your congregation.
- Your church will demonstrate generosity in its financial management.
- Your church will have a policy for making best use of legacy gifts.
- Legacy gifts will become more commonplace.
- And if that isn't enough, all the recommended stewardship resources are free.

## WHAT ARE THE MENU OPTIONS?

- Growing A Culture Of Generosity.
- Encouraging Regular Giving.
- Planning And Resourcing Growth.
- Encouraging A Lasting Gift.

## WHAT ORDER DO WE DO THEM IN?

We've recommended an order that makes sense to us, but reflecting on the needs of your parish you may want to do them in a different order.

**The most important thing is to do something, and to do it well.**

# Becoming a generous people

Growing a culture of generosity



**Generosity begins and ends with God, who desired to share his life with others. So he created humanity in his own image, which means that, deep down in our nature, is the divine generosity, the desire to give of ourselves to others, heedless of the cost to ourselves.**

Generosity is a life skill and a lifestyle. It has less to do with how much we give than how much we retain. Most of us have to work hard to be generous – it doesn't often come naturally and we learn by reflecting on the incredible generosity of God to us and by being surrounded by generous people and practising generosity in the context of church. If we can't be generous in our giving to God's work (so that others may experience the divine generosity), how else will we learn to be more generous?

We are responsible for what we do with the resources given to us. We need to confront an unwillingness to give significantly, that often arises from fear, suspicion, and insecurity.

During this year, your church will explore what generosity is and how we achieve it both as individuals and as a Christian Community.

You will look at how God models generosity; how clergy and leaders model generosity; how our language and actions reflect God's generosity, and how the church as a charity demonstrates generosity.

The hopes for this year are:

- Individual growth in discipleship.
- Financial resources to support mission and ministry growth.
- The mission and ministry of your church is enriched.

#### **RESOURCES AVAILABLE:**

- [Preaching Resources](#)
- [Teaching Resources](#)
- [Study Materials](#)

## **Further help and resources**

[www.parishresources.org.uk/giving.htm](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/giving.htm)  
[www.givinggrace.org/index.html](http://www.givinggrace.org/index.html)

[www.churchinwales.org.uk/asaph/life/funding/stewardship](http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/asaph/life/funding/stewardship)  
[www.stewardship.org.uk/money/spotlight/seasons-of-giving](http://www.stewardship.org.uk/money/spotlight/seasons-of-giving)

# Becoming a giving people

Encouraging regular giving



**In a church of faithful stewards the only people putting cash on the plate should be people who are new to your church or visitors. Regular givers should be encouraged into one of the other ways of giving.**

Gift Direct ensures a regular monthly gift goes into the parish bank account, along with any gift aid. The scheme is administered from the Provincial Office and is a free service to parishes. Gift Direct reduces the workload on the Gift Aid Secretary and improves cash flow.

The Gift Direct giving method has also proven itself useful in enabling the community to offer financial support for the church.

During this year, you will encourage people to give to church in a planned, regular way however often they attend. The Gift Direct scheme is one of the best ways of achieving this.

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- Case Studies
- Guide to running a programme for the PCC
- Leaflet incorporating sign-up documentation
- Posters
- Letters for use with leaflet as part of congregation appeal
- Letters for use with leaflet as part of a community appeal

## Further help and resources

[www.churchinwales.org.uk/resources/giftdirect/](http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/resources/giftdirect/)

[www.churchinwales.org.uk/asaph/life/funding/giftaid/](http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/asaph/life/funding/giftaid/)



# Becoming a visionary people

Planning for growth





**If you were the only Christian in your community, how would you spread the good news of Jesus Christ? This may be a good place to start when seeking to discern God's vision and purpose. Having been open to God in prayer, a process of vision planning will help you and your church grow.**

During this year your church will define its purpose and plan for the future. You'll be asked to consider what you have to hand (people, skills, money and other resources) and what the needs of your local community are.

We'll suggest resources which might help you reach a consensus on the way forward and which will then assist in communicating that vision to congregations, communities and other organisations and partners with whom you are hoping to work.

There are many dimensions to church growth:

- Growing in numbers.
- Personal spiritual growth.
- Depth and strength of life of Christian community.
- Growing in our service to the community.

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- [Spiritual Gifts](#)
- [Healthy Churches](#)
- [Leading Your Church Into Growth](#)
- [Mission Action Planning \(MAP\)](#)
- [Resourcing Growth](#)

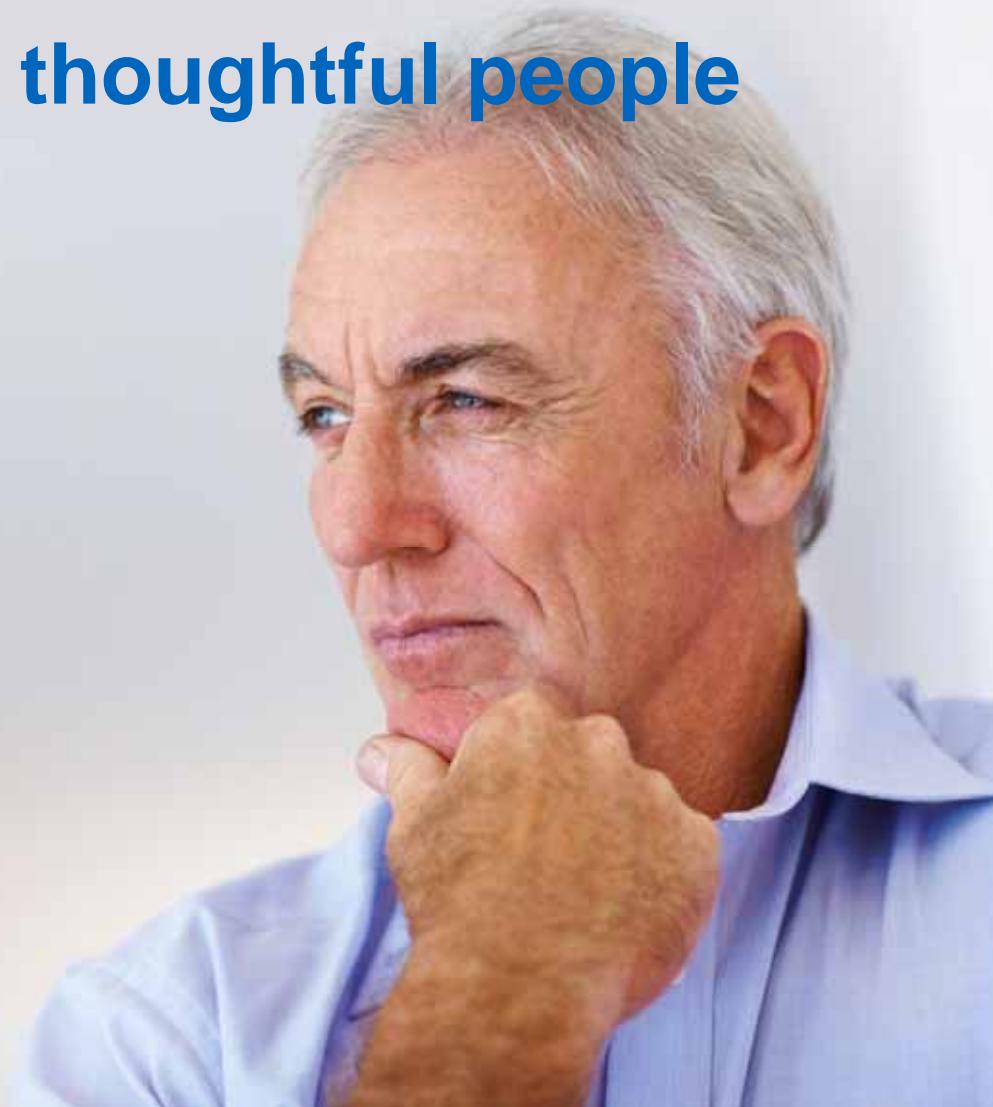
## Further help and resources

[www.chpublishing.co.uk/healthychurches](http://www.chpublishing.co.uk/healthychurches)  
[www.churchmaps.co.uk/](http://www.churchmaps.co.uk/)

[www.leadingyourchurchintogrowth.org.uk/](http://www.leadingyourchurchintogrowth.org.uk/)  
[www.givinggrace.org/leadership/caseState\\_L5.html](http://www.givinggrace.org/leadership/caseState_L5.html)

# Becoming a thoughtful people

Encouraging a lasting gift



**During 2010, nearly £2.5million was given in legacies across the Church in Wales. Having a clear policy in place clarifies to donors that such gifts are welcome, raises opportunities for discussion and reassures them that their gift will be used wisely.**

Making a Will ensures that what you leave will go to the people you want it to – and ensures that your gift reaches them quicker, yet many church members have yet to make a Will.

During this year your church will:

- Encourage every member to make or review their Will.
- Ask the PCC to agree a legacy policy.
- Use the available resources with the congregation.

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- Teaching session on theological and ecclesiastical issues around legacies
- Tips on how to approach a legacy awareness programme – and how not to!
- Step-by-step guidance on using the materials
  - PCC leaflet
  - Congregation Leaflet
  - Preaching and prayer resources
  - Snippets for parish magazine
  - Bookmarks
  - Posters

## Further help and resources

[www.churchinwales.org.uk/publications/downloads/](http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/publications/downloads/)

[www.parishresources.org.uk/legacies.htm](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/legacies.htm)

[www.churchlegacy.org.uk/](http://www.churchlegacy.org.uk/)

## Priorities

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Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Next steps

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Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

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