Practicalities of Giving

The following questions are designed to help you explore how you encourage giving in your church and community. It may be helpful to send these questions to your PCC in advance of your meeting and get everyone to complete the questions as best they can, comparing the answers during the meeting. *Please tick all answers that apply.*

*1. How do we encourage regular giving to our parish?*

 [ ]  We have giving information leaflets easily accessible in the church

 [ ]  We have a giving display in a prominent location

 [ ]  We have giving information on our website

 [ ]  We have online giving facility setup

 [ ]  We encourage the use of the Parish Giving Scheme

 [ ]  We encourage people to move away from envelopes to other regular giving systems

*2. Do we make the most of Gift Aid?*

 [ ]  All who give are encouraged to complete a gift aid form

 [ ]  We claim gift aid monthly

 [ ]  We claim gift aid quarterly

 [ ]  We claim gift aid annually

 [ ]  We claim all the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) we are entitled to

*3. Our church has a giving day/week*

 [ ]  More than once a year

 [ ]  Annually

 [ ]  Every few years when required

 [ ]  Rarely or never

*4. On our giving day/week we...*

 [ ]  Explain what we spend money on

 [ ]  Explain how gifts enable mission and ministry

 [ ]  Ask everyone to consider an increase to their giving

 [ ]  Follow up with those who have not responded

*5. We formally thank all our regular givers...*

 [ ]  By personalised letter or email

 [ ]  In general written communications

 [ ]  During the ‘giving service’

 [ ]  Rarely or never

 [ ]  We thank in other ways

*6. We preach/talk about giving and/or generosity*

 [ ]  Several times a year

 [ ]  Once a year

 [ ]  We don’t preach/talk about giving, but we use other methods (e.g. small groups)

 [ ]  We don’t preach/talk about giving

*7. We preach/talk about our impact and vision for the future*

 [ ]  Several times a year

 [ ]  Once a year

 [ ]  We don’t preach/talk about impact or vision, but we use other methods

 [ ]  We don’t preach/talk about giving

*8. Do we have ways people can give contactlessly*

 [ ]  Yes through a contactless giving device

 [ ]  Yes through a QR code system

 [ ]  No

 [ ]  No, but we recognise this is an area we should explore

*9. Do we encourage people to give through a legacy?*

 [ ]  We have mentioned legacies within the preaching and teaching at services

 [ ]  We celebrate past legacies and new pledges

 [ ]  We have a legacy policy

 [ ]  We have information leaflets easily accessible in church

 [ ]  We have information about legacies on our website

*10. Do we encourage fundraising in our local community where appropriate?*

 [ ]  We host special fundraising events

 [ ]  We give opportunities for people to give at ‘life event’ services (weddings, baptisms,

funerals etc)

 [ ]  We offer 50/50 plate offerings at ‘life events’ so that donations are shared with

another charity

The questions on this final page relate to financial practice more generally and are focussed on areas that can sometimes get overlooked. Whilst improving in these areas won’t directly generate extra giving (although they may generate alternative income streams) they will help you build a more stable financial model, which in turn builds trust that can encourage people give more generously.

*11. Do we make the most of our facilities for hire?*

 [ ]  We advertise online

 [ ]  We advertise with up to date and attractive photos

 [ ]  We have checked our charges with other venues locally

 [ ]  We review our charges and ensure any subsidies we offer are still correct

*12. Do we manage our maintenance wisely?*

 [ ]  We put money aside each year for maintenance

 [ ]  We have a budget for work highlighted on the last quinquennial inspection report

*13. Do we explore grant funding?*

 [ ]  We have applied for 1 or more grants in the past year

 [ ]  We have highlighted activities that might be suitable for grant funding

 [ ]  We have asked the diocese for support and expertise in applying for grants

*14. How do we manage our reserves?*

 [ ]  We have a reserves policy which is reviewed by the PCC each year

 [ ]  Our reserves are at least three months running costs (not including parish share)

 [ ]  Our reserves are more than six months running costs but we have a policy to spend

the surplus