

GENEROSITY LEARNING HUB

Introduction and Roadmap



INTRODUCTION

The Christian faith starts with a gift, for God so loved the world that he gave..... Yet despite generous giving being at the heart of our faith, many of us often struggle to feel confident in teaching and preaching on it in our churches.

The Generosity Learning Hub is here to provide resources, guidance and inspiration so that you have all you need to do this. A wide variety of resources, from all traditions, for all settings, have been brought together in this hub for you.

Generosity is at the heart of our faith, and as we grow a generous culture we grow our ministry and mission. Generosity inevitably spills out from our churches, reaching into our communities and enabling people to see and hear the good news of Jesus Christ. Generosity is not a side-line to our ministry, it is integrated and embedded within it. Sharing God's generosity with others is both an obligation and a privilege, and helps us become more like the generous God we believe in.

The learning hub has been funded by the national church as part of the National Giving Strategy. It is one of a series of initiatives to encourage giving and generosity and build a generous church. The strategy starts with the acknowledgment that without God's help, our plans will never succeed.

As St Anselm prayed, "I owe you more than my whole self, but I have no more, and by myself I cannot render the whole of it to you".

This is where everything must start, in prayer that God will give us all we need to be the generous people he is calling us to be. We pray that these resources will be an answer to your prayers, that they will enable you and your church to grow in an understanding and awareness of God's incredible generosity to us and how we can live generous lives in response.

You can use the materials and resources in the Hub in various ways listed in this document. You may wish to use all the resources available or just a selection.

USE OF THE LEARNING HUB

The Hub can be used by:

- Lay Leaders and PCC
- Ordinands and Theological Colleges
- Curates and Training Incumbents
- First Incumbents
- Clergy
- IME Officers
- Giving Advisors
- Anyone interested in the ministry of Generosity

ROAD MAP

Home Page

Front page showing short cuts to pages in the Hub.

About

Introduction to the Learning Hub and overview.

Courses:

1) Stewardship in the Local Church by Canon Raymond Andrews:

This three part course places fundraising within a theology of the grace of God and explores why one of the greatest gifts we can bring into the lives of others is helping them to discover the joy of giving. It is the fruit of Canon Raymond Andrews' experience in teaching giving and generosity over thirty years. This course is most suitable for clergy, ordinands, theological colleges and all members of PCCs, though it is open to anyone.

Sessions:

- Why is this my job?
- How can I change things?
- What can I teach?

Resources for download:

- Example of a promise card
- Good with money in the year of Covid
- Pie charts
- Paul – accountant to the Gentiles
- Renewal of Giving Trifold Brochure 2020

2) Enabling Ministry at Parish Level by Giving Advisor Sammi Tooze

This three part course focusses on cultural change in the local church through developing and integrating our theological understanding, our language/communication and content of our preaching.

This course is most suitable for clergy, future clergy and all members of PCCs, though it is open to anyone.

Sessions:

- Giving and Mission
- The Language of Giving
- Teaching and Preaching Generosity

Resources for download:

- Giving and Mission Workbook
- The Language of Giving Workbook
- Teaching and Preaching Generosity Workbook

3) Theology of Giving – Social Enterprise by Revd Dr Sam Wells

In this three part course Sam Wells explores the following timely topics:

- Investing in the Kingdom: Let's take this time of financial heart searching in our church and see it as a gift from the Holy Spirit, a gift for the clarifying of the gospel, the renewing of the church, and the rediscovery of the kingdom. Make money your friend in the business of making friends, remember that generosity is the best investment, let God show you the kingdom – and let that kingdom renew the church.
- Minding God's Business: Is there something inherently problematic in church getting too tangled up in business? If there is such a thing as the business of the kingdom, what kind of business might that involve, and what are its purposes? What is the potential for a kingdom business movement within the vision of church renewal?
- God, Church & Kingdom – How does money look when we see it in the three mirrors of God, Church and Kingdom?

This course is most suitable for clergy, future clergy, theological colleges and all members of PCCs, though it is open to anyone to join.

Resources for download:

- Investing in the Kingdom (Extract)
- Minding God's Business (Extract)

Resource Library

Worship materials

- Eight formal daily morning prayer services
- Traditional Eucharist Material
 - 1st Sunday of the week: A Eucharist to celebrate Generosity
 - 2nd Sunday of the week: A Eucharist to celebrate Gratitude
- Traditional Service of the Word
 - 1st Sunday of the week: A Service of the Word to celebrate Generosity
 - 2nd Sunday of the week: A Service of the Word to celebrate Gratitude
- Service Content packs
 - Generosity
 - Gratitude

Further Resources

- **Retreats**

- **Generosity Week**

Generosity Week materials and resources to give you the time and space to reflect on God's Generosity and celebrate its impact within your church's ministry and mission. You can run Generosity Week in your church to coincide with your Harvest Festival. We have various resources for your church to use during Generosity Week.

- **Inspiring Stories**

- **Video: Nick St Giles**

Revd Nick Burk, a parish priest in the Diocese of Lincoln shares his experience of using the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). A Lincolnshire Case Study.

- **Video: Pledges Film I**

Mr David Foster, a lay leader in the Diocese of Chichester speaks on building trust and a sense of belonging in a parish context. Encouraging pledges in Church building projects.

- **Video: Snowy night I**

Mr David Foster, a lay leader in the Diocese of Chichester speaks on love as the bedrock of giving and generosity. Seeing the bigger picture when giving.

- **Video: Growing a generous church culture**

A presentation that offers seven simple and easy to follow steps in encouraging and growing a culture of generosity in churches.

- **Video: Bishop of Burnley Giving Video**
The Bishop of Burnley, Rt Revd Philip North encourages leading on generosity and giving as part of God's mission and our Christian discipleship.

- **Video: Stephen Hance**
The Very Revd Dr Stephen Hance - National Lead for Evangelism and Witness share his experience of leading generosity and giving in the parish.

- **Video: Gordon Randal**
Revd Gordon Randal, a former stewardship adviser in the Diocese of Winchester shares some inspiring generosity stories and offers some opportunities to grow generosity in the parish. What is the best gift of all?

- **Giving and Young People**
 - Generation Z and Generosity

- **Case Studies**
 - Greyfriars Kirk: For centuries, Greyfriars Kirk has had a heart for the poor of Edinburgh. The Grassmarket Community Project is a partnership between Greyfriars Kirk and the Grassmarket Mission, building on their long history of outreach to Edinburgh's most disenfranchised people. Based on the principle that a hand up is more empowering than a handout, what was once a soup kitchen has been transformed into a community project that changes lives through sustainable social enterprise.
 - Sherriff Centre: Facing out into the town on the corner of Sherriff Road, St James' has long had a visible presence in West Hampstead, but in 2012 the church building was closed to the community for most of the week. A social enterprise based around the Post Office could turn the church into a space open for everyone – improving local quality of life, creating opportunities for mission, and contributing to expensive upkeep of the building.
 - St John's Seven Kings: is an example of how churches can survive and thrive in changing and challenging times and locations. What was achieved at St John's demonstrates the value of community

engagement and commercial activity for churches in areas where numbers of Christians overall were declining. Sustaining their congregation, improving their finances and developing new ministry was a significant achievement in their context and shows that combining congregation, compassion, commerce and culture (the four Cs) is an approach which is relevant to each and every church and community and needs to be shared and used more widely within the Church as a whole.

- St Luke's Prestonville: An example of how building community partnerships can help churches grow and flourish. The year 2020 saw our community work take over in a really positive way. We found a real solidarity with our partners and by pulling together, our relationships are better.
- The Parish of St Giles is located on the north-eastern outskirts of Lincoln and like some other parishes, has an historic church building situated in a very deprived area. With this as the local context, you'd imagine that funding the local church would be a real struggle, to say the least. However, to address this the incumbent, Revd Canon Nick Buck, has made it the church's practice to hold an Annual Giving Sunday, helping all members of the congregation to reflect, in different ways, upon all that God has given us and our response to His generosity.

- **Book Extracts**

- **Investing in the Kingdom**

Let's take this time of financial heart searching in our church and see it as a gift from the Holy Spirit, a gift for the clarifying of the gospel, the renewing of the church, and the rediscovery of the kingdom. Make money your friend in the business of making friends, remember that generosity is the best investment, let God show you the kingdom – and let that kingdom renew the church.

- **Minding God's Business**

Is there something inherently problematic in church getting too tangled up in business? If there is such a thing as the business of the kingdom, what kind of business might that involve, and what are its purposes? What is the potential for a kingdom business movement within the vision of church renewal?

Search

Search tool

Help

Information on how to receive technical help and pastoral support concern with a contact list of the National Giving Team members and Diocesan Giving Advisors.

Site Privacy Policy

Policy for the Learning Hub.