



GENEROSITY WEEK

Discover the joy of generosity



Organising a Generosity Week at your church

Sophie Hodge

Stewardship Enabler, Carlisle Diocese

A little bit about me...



1 Chronicles 29:14

'But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given only what comes from your hand'.

Proverbs 11:25

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed".

2 Corinthians 9:11

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God".

1 Timothy 6:6-7

"⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it."

2 Corinthians 8:7

"But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving."

John 3.16a

For God so loved the world He gave his one and only Son...

Psalms 24:1

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it



Why bother running a Generosity Week in your church?



**GENEROSITY
WEEK**

1. Generosity is a fundamental part of our Christian discipleship journeys...



What is Stewardship?

1. It is based in the character of God - we have an extravagantly generous God.
2. Everything we have is a gift from God, including Jesus.
3. In response to this we give our whole lives back to God: our time, talents and money – the call of discipleship.



**GENEROSITY
WEEK**

Giving is a central part of our discipleship

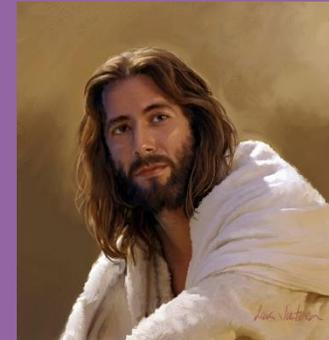
“Our cheque books, bank and credit card statements are theological documents in that they reveal our hearts.” Billy Graham



“There are three conversions: the heart, the head and the wallet – the last being a test of the first two” Martin Luther



“For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be” (Matthew 6:21)
Jesus



“The need to give is greater than the need to which we give”
Stewardship.Org



**GENEROSITY
WEEK**

Generosity Enables the Mission and Ministry of the Church



“I am absolutely delighted to tell you that our monthly giving has increased by nearly £1000. Against a £11,000 predicted overspend this is wonderful.

I hope other churches take up this scheme as it has helped us enormously. Heating bills will be very high this autumn and winter ***but this result means we don't have to hold back on missional activities which can easily take a back seat when you are worried about bills.***” Revd Shanthi Thompson, vicar of Holy Trinity Kendal.



GENEROSITY WEEK

Discussion Question...

“Stewardship is about so much more than balancing budgets and keeping the church open.”

Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

What does stewardship mean to you?



**GENEROSITY
WEEK**

Discussion question for you:

- Do any of the challenges I've listed resonate with you when you think about your own church contexts?
- What do you think Stewardship means to the people in your churches?
- Any questions so far...



The practicalities...

Explain what it is...

Generosity Week resources are designed to make stewardship as easy as possible for your church to engage with. Generosity Week is an invitation for your church to spend 8 days being inspired by generosity. The resources allow us to reflect on God's amazing generosity to us, and explore how we can grow generosity in our churches.



Pick a week...

- Harvest?
- Lent?
- May?
- February?



Sunday Resources

- Key resources
- Template Sunday services on the theme of 'generosity' and 'gratitude':
 - Eucharistic services
 - Formal services
 - Informal services

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church/generosity-week/generosity-week-resources-churches>

<https://www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/stewardship-and-planned-giving/generosity-week/>



Literature

• Letter from Vicar



xxx CHURCH
Parish Address
to xxxxxx
at xxxxxx
church web address

Dear

"We love God because God first loved us" 1 John 4:19

From **Sunday 4th September – Sunday 11th September**, we will be taking part in **Generosity Week**. As we spend a week focused on giving, I want to recognize that many of us are currently experiencing significant levels of uncertainty in our finances. COVID, energy prices and inflation are affecting us all.

The finances of our Parish Church are similarly very uncertain. **COVID has had a huge impact**, as lockdowns and social distancing meant we lost income from room hire, fundraisers and weekly collections. **Moreover, the cost-of-living crisis has meant the church is seeing many of its costs increase substantially, including perhaps most concerningly our energy prices.** [amend as appropriate].

Generosity Week invites us to do more than simply think about church finances. It is a chance to reflect on all God has given us: love beyond measure; His Spirit; our beautiful creation; the gift of life each day and, of course, Jesus Christ. To focus on generosity is to focus on the very nature of our God and all He has given to us.

Generosity Week is also an invitation into a new way of living. A way that recognizes that **"we love God, because God first loved us" (1 John 4:19)**. At its heart, generosity has nothing to do with budgets, deficits or even Parish Offer! It is an outworking of love. God loved first and God gave first and we strive to live in a way that joyfully reflects that to all around us. My prayer for **xxx Parish** is that this culture of generosity and gratitude will grow in every aspect of our lives: from our hospitality to friends and family, to how we treat those in need in our community, to our giving to the life of the church.

So, what will Generosity Week involve? [amend list as appropriate]

- We will spend two Sundays looking at the themes of generosity and gratitude.
- 8 morning prayer services will focus on different aspects of God's generosity
- We will run two mid-week small group sessions
- 8 podcasts will be made available for you to listen to
- We will provide a leaflet to help you review your giving

We are also using the opportunity of Generosity Week to invite you to review your giving to **xxxxParish**. The enclosed annual review leaflet sets out our parish financial situation in more detail.

As we ask you to prayerfully consider financially supporting **NAME OF CHURCH**, it seems right that we outline what we believe God is calling us to do and be over the next couple of years

-
-
-

Moreover, the Mission Community, of which our parish is a part, is currently paying x% of its ministry costs, and after prayerful consideration, the Mission Community has agreed that this should increase to x% in the coming x years OR and we are keen to **qqqqq** the inflationary increase requested by the Diocese each year [amend as appropriate or add your own wording to reflect your local context - your stewardship enabler can provide information on proportion of ministry costs currently covered by your Parish Offer if requested]. You will see in the accompanying annual **review**, we are currently operating with an **£xxx** annual deficit.

During these challenging times, it can feel even more difficult to ask members to review their giving. However, it is important that **[church name]** acts now to ensure the sustainability of our mission and ministry in the years ahead. For some of you, it may be impossible to increase your giving or start giving at this time. It's possible that there will also be those of you who have to reduce your giving because of your personal financial circumstances. However, I am confident that as you read this, others will feel able to increase the amount you give to the church or start giving for the first time.

Finally, I ask you also to consider the way you give to our church, for example, could you set up a standing order or even think about leaving a legacy gift to **[parish name]**?

To respond, please either put your response form in the box which will be at the back of the parish church or send it to: **[treasure name]** by **date**.

Please be assured we are grateful for all gifts, large and small, whether you increase your giving, reduce your giving, or start giving for the first time! In these times of real uncertainty, we rest ever more strongly on our faith in God - our Rock and our anchor.

As you prayerfully consider this letter and accompanying leaflet, I go back to where I started: generosity is about more than church finances. Our giving is an outworking of our love for God, our church and our community. Let us give out of a recognition of all God has blessed us with, and through a desire to bless others. Do take time to think, pray and reflect on these themes of generosity and gratitude and may this time prove a great encouragement to us all.

On behalf of the PCC, I would like to thank you for your support and prayers.
Yours in Christ
Revd. xxxxx

<https://www.carlisediocese.org.uk/stewardship-and-planned-giving/generosity-week/>



GENEROSITY WEEK

Literature

- Finance Leaflet

our church

To fulfil this vision, each week we will spend:

- £692 on our share of clergy costs: stipend, housing, training etc
- £1240 on our building: insurance, heat, light etc
- £120 on worship and ministry: for our congregation and wider community, including our hall

£2,052 Total expenditure each week

each week we receive the following income:

- £550 from regular congregational giving, including Gift Aid.
- £330 from fees: weddings, funerals etc
- £388 from room hire
- £95 from social events and the magazine

£1,363 Total income each week

This ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but overflows with many thanksgivings to God
2 Cor 9:12

our challenge

To cultivate what St Paul calls the **grace of giving** we need to think carefully about all we receive from God and prayerfully review our giving.

Our church is projecting a **£36,000 deficit** this year! If we can increase our planned giving by **£20,000** we feel confident we can meet the rest of the deficit through cutting our costs and increasing our income from room hire.

This means we need to increase our planned giving income by **£385 per week**. Can you help?

The following table gives an example of how we can achieve this:

This many people	increasing weekly giving by	equals this much extra income
6	£2.50	£15.00
13	£5.00	£65.00
19	£7.00	£133.00
10	£10.00	£100.00
6	£12.00	£72.00
To meet our target of		£385.00

But just as you excel in everything...

our choices

Our church planned giving scheme has **40** members.

Is it time to start planned giving for the first time or move to a standing order (see response form)?

The Gift Aid scheme has **[xx]** tax payers contributing.

Is it time to join?

Giving to God's work through the church should be a priority.

Is it time to increase?

There are a number of people giving proportionately as the bible teaches.

Is it time to give a percentage of what we receive?

Weekly income	Giving (£)			
	1%	2%	5%	10%
£100	1	2	5	10
£150	1.50	3	7.50	15
£250	2.50	5	12.50	25
£480	4.80	9.60	24	48

<https://www.givinginrace.org/Review-leaflet>

<https://www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/stewardship-and-planned-giving/generosity-week/>



GENEROSITY WEEK

Response form



'This ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints, but overflows with many thanksgivings to God' (2 Corinthians 9:12)

My commitment to xxx Church

Dear **Name of Treasurer**

I am pleased to respond to the invitation to show my support for **xxx Parish Church** by joining our planned giving scheme. I understand that this scheme is confidential and that I may withdraw at any time.

As a planned giver to the church, I have reviewed my giving and would like to increase it.

I would like to find out more about how to leave a legacy to the church:

- I would like to have a confidential conversation with the treasurer, **Name**, and/or
- I would like a codicil form to amend my Will and/or
- I would like template wording to write **Name of Church** into my Will.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

giftaid it If you are a UK taxpayer and eligible to Gift Aid your donation please sign below. This will increase your gift by 25p for every £1 given at no extra cost to you or us. Thank you.

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of this declaration and in the past four years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please tick your preference (if applicable):

Standing Order

Weekly envelopes

Please return this form before or at our Thanksgiving Service on Date

(A Bank Standing Order Form is provided overleaf for your convenience should you need it.)

The Parish of **XXXXXX**

Rector: **Revd. xxxxx**

Treasurer Name
Treasurer Address
Treasurer phone number:

BANK STANDING ORDER

Bank (Address) _____

Account Name _____

Account Number _____

Please pay to **Bank Address**

Sort Code	Account Number	Account Name
xx-xx-xx	xxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

the sum of _____

on the _____ day of _____ 2019

And a like sum monthly / quarterly / annually on the _____ of each subsequent _____ (month/quarter/year) until further notice.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

This instruction is NEW / DIFFERENT / IN ADDITION (delete as appropriate)

<https://www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/stewardship-and-planned-giving/generosity-week/>



GENEROSITY WEEK

Other resources...

- <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church/generosity-week/generosity-week-resources-churches>
- <https://www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/stewardship-and-planned-giving/generosity-week/>
- [Eight daily morning prayer services](#)
- Short generosity themed videos
 - [40acts 2017: Pete's Story](#)
 - [40acts 2019: Seize Your Opportunity](#)
 - [40acts 2017: Chuma's Story](#)
- Two midweek group sessions, called '[Living in Faith: Celebrating Our Legacy](#)' and '[Living Faith: Giving in Community](#)'
- [Eight podcasts](#)
- [Marketing materials](#)



FAQs

- Cost of Living Crisis

<https://www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/cost-of-living-crisis/>



**GENEROSITY
WEEK**



**GENEROSITY
WEEK**