

# How to... embed generosity in the life of your church

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## The big question: Why is generosity important?

If we cannot answer this question, then we will struggle to embed generosity in the life and culture of our churches!

At its heart, generosity reflects the character of God. Scripture repeatedly shows us a God who gives freely and abundantly. For example, 1 Timothy 6:17 describes God as the one who “richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” Generosity is not merely about giving of our resources; it is a way of expressing God’s love to the world and sits at the centre of Christian discipleship.

Talking about generosity also gives us the opportunity to be thankful for those who already give -financially, in time, in gifts, and in prayer. Their generosity helps the Church grow in its mission and ministry, and we should thank God for that regularly.

## So, how do we begin embedding generosity?

### 1. Grow a culture of generosity

Generosity is not something we can impose. It must be cultivated intentionally and consistently, not just addressed once a year. Some simple ways to grow this culture include:

- Highlight God’s generosity in scripture during services.
- Include thanksgiving for God’s generosity within intercessions.
- Embed generosity into mission and ministry plans.
- Introduce generosity to new church members as part of belonging to a generous Christian community.
- Let generosity shape decision-making, conversations, and planning.

Over time, these practices help generosity become part of the natural character and discipleship of the church.

### 2. Talk About generosity broadly—not just financially

Generosity involves the whole of life. You can broaden the conversation by:

- Recognising time and energy invested by people living out their faith daily e.g., using LICC’s This Time Tomorrow [licc.org.uk/resources/this-time-tomorrow](http://licc.org.uk/resources/this-time-tomorrow)
- Reflecting on hospitality—not just refreshments, but the quality of welcome and the creation of safe, transformative community spaces. It is about the sort of welcome we give and receive to others as a way of creating a safe space for forming Christian Community as we connect with others (Definition taken from Partnership for Missional Church).
- Identifying and celebrating God-given gifts, and encouraging people to share them with the church and wider community e.g., using the Shape Course [bristol.anglican.org/SHAPE](http://bristol.anglican.org/SHAPE) which can either be run as a 6 session course or a 3 session course.

This approach helps people see generosity as a joyful part of discipleship, not an obligation.

## But it is about money too, isn't it?

Yes—financial generosity matters too. But if we reduce generosity to giving money, we lose sight of its deeper spiritual meaning.

There are many tools to help churches talk about money sensitively, biblically, and confidently:

<b>Giving in Grace</b>	a giving programme aimed at medium and larger churches including sermon notes, service liturgies, youth activities and much more <a href="https://givinginGrace.org">givinginGrace.org</a>
<b>The Simple Giving programme</b> smaller churches	a much more manageable resource for smaller rural/village churches <a href="https://parishresources.org.uk/sgp">parishresources.org.uk/sgp</a>
<b>The Parish Funding programme</b>	for all sizes of church. Helps to develop and communicate a church's vision, and ways to encourage church members to support the vision <a href="https://parishresources.org.uk/giving/pfp">parishresources.org.uk/giving/pfp</a>
<b>Preaching Generosity</b>	a weekly bite-size preaching resource from the Diocese of Rochester based on the week's lectionary readings <a href="https://rochester.anglican.org/for-leaders/preaching-generosity">rochester.anglican.org/for-leaders/preaching-generosity</a>
<b>Small group study resources</b>	<a href="#">Group study resources</a> and <a href="#">Exploring Generosity Course</a>
<b>Individual study resources</b>	<a href="#">Individual study resources</a>
<b>40acts</b>	Lent activity promoting active generosity <a href="https://stewardship.org.uk/40-acts-sign-up">stewardship.org.uk/40-acts-sign-up</a>

There are also a number of practical tools to make generosity easier and more accessible, including:

- Online Giving and QR codes including Ways to Give
- Parish Giving Scheme
- Gift Days
- Thinking about Legacies
- Contactless giving devices
- Easyfundraising

More information and some How-to guides for these tools are available on the Giving and Grants section of the Diocesan website.