

# How Can the Generous Giving Project Help Your Church?

## Intro

The Generous Giving Project resources churches in new, creative and innovative ways so that we can approach this topic anew and ask ourselves "How do we serve our communities and contribute to the ongoing mission of the church by giving generously?" It doesn't follow the pattern of a traditional stewardship campaign, because it's about long-term culture change. We'll be considering our "everyday" practices and asking how or if they highlight generosity as part of our faith.

## Ethos

More than anything, I'm told the Project gives churches hope. PCCs and incumbents feel that no matter what their starting point, progress *can* be made and the challenges aren't insurmountable. They're also reminded how generous they already are, and with only a few tweaks here and there, they can begin to change their culture of giving to reflect our God of abundance.

This includes contributing financially, as well as in other ways, and this can be a difficult thing to talk about, so Project helps churches to discuss this topic openly, sensitively and inclusively, ensuring that those who have little to give and those who have much to give, both understand that generosity is *income-blind*. It's about our personal calling based on what we have, not what we don't have. So nobody should feel under pressure or judged for giving less if they are poorer. Jesus teaches us that it's the generosity of the heart, not the amount that's important, and this is reinforced throughout.

## Resources

I've created a large variety of resources with busy people in mind. They're easy to implement and you can use them as they are, or edit and change them to suit your needs. It depends how much time you have and what works best for you. Many can be found [here](#).

## Focus

Discipleship is the main focus, and Biblical principles and scripture are the foundations. The GGP offers support to people who want to have a greater understanding of the mission of the church and how and why our Christian faith is practiced the way it is, and what impact generosity can have on furthering the Kingdom. The Project does not limit itself to talking about good stewardship.

## WHAT ARE THE RESOURCES?

- workshops
- presentations
- blogs/short stories about faith
- preaching
- home group resources
- written resources for use in church (prayer cards, info about offertory, posters etc.)
- and numerous activities that can be adapted for children, young people and for the meetings, retreats and cafe church.

Furthermore, I'm supporting preachers who are uneasy about preaching on wealth, finances, giving money etc. I preach on these topics almost weekly in Sunday services around the diocese, following the lectionary, and should you wish to access any of the 30 or so sermons on generosity I've preached so far, you are very welcome to get in touch.

Finally, the Generous Giving Project will support your parish in identifying and highlighting all the ways it is already generous (a bit like a generosity audit; see [here](#) and [here](#)). This will hopefully affirm, encourage and inspire existing members and potentially help you to reach out to your local community.

If you want me to visit your church to explain how to use all the resources on offer, and talk through an implementation plan that would work for you, please contact me at [Rachael.phillips@durham.anglican.org](mailto:Rachael.phillips@durham.anglican.org)



This is the latest message from The Burgess Family, our mission partners in Peru

## Witchcraft, Fines Paid and a Conference Stateside

Thanks guys for praying for us; we so appreciate it and need it.

PRAYER: We have had a woman about 2 weeks ago who spoke curses against the church. We have also had horror movies left outside our house, presumably as a threat. We are encouraged because if the devil is attacking he is scared. We are starting to intentional evangelise in Los Cedros and invite people of peace in our neighbourhood to eat with us. We have already seen some positive signs. Nancy is due to give birth to their second child any day. Please pray for a safe delivery and protection over the family.

PRAISE: Anna has just returned from the States where she was attending the Ezer women's conference, led by Jo Saxton. She had a really encouraging time. We have several people hoping to be baptised and we hope to have a baptism service in November. Everyone has recovered from the debilitating virus that affected more than half the community and most of the leadership. We have been able to pay the fines to the local council for the church building and now can move to the next stage of the process.

Thanks as always for praying.

*Love Mark, Anna, the boys and the Oikos team*