

Generous Giving during Covid19 - Some Top Tips

At this challenging time for us all, when we are not able to meet together for worship, and our church buildings are closed, our churches will be dependent on the generosity of others as they themselves seek to be generous to the wider community. The Parish Support Team are here to help you look at ways to continue to encourage generosity and enable people to give. The following are 5 top tips to help you in this. For further information and advice, please see the [Parish Resources website](#)

1. Encourage Planned Giving especially through the Parish Giving Scheme, or through standing orders and direct debits

Communicate to your regular givers that our giving is still important even though we are not meeting together at the present time. If your regular givers usually use envelopes or cash, encourage them to transfer to the Parish Giving Scheme, standing orders or direct debits. Please be sensitive as many people will be facing financial difficulties at this time, and we recommend that you use email to contact people where possible.

We would recommend the PGS as a safe and efficient way to give. The PGS are now able to access and process paper gift forms as usual, and there is now an option to [donate by phone](#). You can register your church for the scheme via email or post. If you require more gift forms, or registration form, please contact the parish support team.

(Note that you need to know the PGS code for your church in order to set up your donation over the phone. If you do not know it please call us)

2. Add a donate online button to church websites and Facebook pages

Donate buttons, are a great way to enable people to continue giving if they usually use cash. You need to sign up with an online giving provider and then you can add this to your church website or include a link if you are broadcasting live streamed or recorded worship. You can also set up a donate page on A Church Near You. Givers simply click on the button and are then able to give online. Click [here](#) for more information on the options available

We would recommend using [“Give a Little”](#) through parish buying which is currently the most cost effective option available and comes with a special offer of 0% transaction fees throughout the month of May and 8 months free premium membership, allowing simple processing of gift aid

3. Use creative ways of including the offertory in online worship

If you are recording or live streaming worship, you may want to still include offertory prayers and perhaps an explanation as to why giving is as valuable now as ever, as our mission remains constant and our churches continue to serve our communities.

Parish Resources have produced some helpful guidance on [Encouraging Online Giving](#) In particular a short animated video is available which could be used in online services or social media to encourage people to give. The video can be used as it is, or can be customised for your church through “A Church Near You”. Details of how to do this are available on the above link, and the video itself can be viewed [here](#)

4. Include a message on websites and social media

On the homepage of your church website, on your facebook page or on your page on “A Church Near You”, you could include a message about how our generous giving is as important as ever to support our ongoing mission and ministry, or perhaps use the video above, reminding people to continue to give generously in whatever way they can.

5. Keep up to date with information and resources from the Parish Support Team

The Parish Support Team are here to help. Please contact [Christine](#) or [Liz](#) should you have any queries. We will be updating this page with any updated advice and information as we receive it.