**“Houston…we have a problem.” 3 Small Steps to a Successful Mission**

“Houston…we have a problem”, was the momentous call sent out by the stricken Apollo 13 space shuttle. Reading through Deanery Plans is exciting but successful implementation will undoubtedly mean recognizing that outside intervention and support may be necessary. The Generous Giving team encourage you to make such a call to us, as we may have tools crucial to your survival and prospering. Here are 3 small steps anyone can take.

**Step 1. Call: You’re not a million miles away from help.**

Many parishes mistakenly believe that help is only available for the larger churches when in fact the Generous Giving team spend much of their time assisting tiny rural parishes with few worshippers. In scripture, we see the command to call and the results of that calling: “All who call on the name of the Lord shall be saved” and “Call on Me and I will show you great and mighty things which you do not know”.

* Confused by digital giving? Call – and be guided through a step-by-step decision making process, tailored to your requirements.
* Want to talk about giving without frightening people away? Call – and be equipped with scripture and short sermons, which will encourage the body of Christ.
* Perplexed as to why so few have signed up to PGS? Call – and the team will help you establish the scheme in your church and make the best use of this resource.

**Step 2. Trust: No problem is too big that it can’t be fixed**.

If you have ever watched the film, ‘Apollo 13’, you will remember that the crew were given instructions, which went against the grain (“Tear up the flight plan!”) but ultimately saved their lives. The definition of madness is familiarly recorded as doing the same thing over and over again but expecting a different result. Sometimes, the advice given by the Generous Giving team will be unfamiliar, uncomfortable and unwelcome but it is all designed to bring about a change for the better. When we make recommendations, it is because we have evidence that these methods, once implemented, will produce a good result.

**Step 3. Re-focus: The mission may change but the purpose remains the same.**

The heartbreak for Jim Lovell was never being able to fulfil the lifelong dream of walking on the moon, although he made further missions where others did. Across parishes there are numerous individual ideas, dreams and desires, many of these now written into deanery plans. What is your attitude going to be when your particular dream is put on hold or, worse still, forever shelved? King David told the Lord he intended to build a temple as a permanent dwelling place for the ark of the covenant; a worthy desire, I’m sure you’ll agree. But God replied, “No”. It was to be David’s son, Solomon, who would build it. What a slap in the face! David, however, didn’t sit around sulking and complaining but invested everything he had in the future project he would never see completed. He contented himself with, “It was good that it was in your heart” and set about providing the means for someone else to do it – all for the glory of God.

Keep the bigger mission picture in mind and determine to invest all *you* have – times, gifts, finances, energy – all for the glory and Kingdom of God.