



DIOCESE OF  
**YORK**



## **Giving for Mission and Ministry**

*Sustaining financial support to your church in difficult times*

It goes without saying that, as a Church, our first concern is for all of God's people: those who are sick, those caring for others and for all those who are finding isolation and a disruption to the rhythm of life unsettling and uncomfortable. Within these troubling and uncertain times, many clergy will have a leading role in caring for everyone in their communities, and so it is vital that we take all reasonable and appropriate steps to sustain regular financial giving for our churches and this ministry.

When encouraging the continuation of regular giving in these times, we must all show a sensitivity and awareness to potential changes in the financial, economic and employment circumstances of individuals. The Generous Giving Team have therefore produced a collection of advice and resources to help you to approach the subject in your communities.

### **Sustaining income to your church**

The most effective and efficient form of regular giving is by **Standing Order**. This maintains regular income to your church while we are not able to meet physically, and we would encourage you to communicate this sensitively to those who might normally give by envelope. This enables us to sustain the practical needs, the ministry and the mission of our churches – particularly at a time when many other forms of income, such as fundraising events and hall bookings, are unable to take place. On the [Generous Giving webpage](#), you can find a draft letter which can be sent to members of your community.

We recognise that some people may prefer to continue to **give by envelope**, and so in these cases we recommend encouraging alternative ways of making their offering each week, such as setting aside their gift in the usual way with the intention of bringing those offerings at a time when physical worship begins again. We do not recommend that you encourage anyone to send cash through the post, in the interests of the safety and well-being of all.

It may be helpful for those who wish to continue setting money aside to be supplied with pre-addressed envelopes in which they can post a **cheque donation** in lieu of their cash donation, direct to your PCC Treasurer. If you wish to suggest this option please ensure that correct details of your church bank account are included in any correspondence.

Another option is for people to make regular gifts through their **online or telephone banking**. In these cases, it is helpful to ask people to include their name in the payment reference, so you can record their giving and claim Gift Aid where you hold a current Gift Aid declaration for them. Please also ensure that people choosing this option are provided with all the details needed to make a donation, which are:

*Church bank account name, bank name, sort code, account number.*

It is perfectly safe to have the details of your bank account available on your website.

Our committed, regular, planned giving will be even more important whilst other forms of significant income are curtailed. Put simply, if people don't know that we rely on their support to keep the life of the church going, they have no opportunity to respond. The generous giving team are here to help and resource you in getting the message out that we need one and other to be generous now more than ever.

### **How the Generous Giving Team can support you**

In collaboration with colleagues nationally, the Generous Giving Team has put together advice which can be accessed on the diocesan website, by [following this link](#). It includes 'Top Tips' to help with sustainability during this time, as well as downloadable resources and suggested wording for letters and websites. Advice includes ways of including the offertory when streaming online worship, setting up online donations, guidance on how to communicate with regular givers, and suggested wording to include on church websites or social media.

The team will be promoting other resources, online reflections and other information, which will be regularly updated on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages, which we encourage you to follow for the latest information. We will also promote this, when possible, through the [diocesan mailings](#).

Email is the ideal method of communication while we are to stay at home as much as possible, however if email is not an option for some of your members, the resources above can be printed and posted.

### **Further support**

Over the next few weeks, we will be developing our advice and resources, which will include:

- expanding the advice on online donations to include helpful step-by-step guides
- how to encourage those who may engage for the first time with your church online
- guidance on cost minimization, including advice on government crisis support that is available to parishes
- resources for prayer, reflection and teaching on generosity, relevant to our current world-wide situation
- stories on the many inspiring ways that our churches have responded with extraordinary generosity at this time of crisis; if you have any stories of generosity you would like to share, [we'd love to hear from you](#).

Most importantly, please ensure that you take all reasonable steps to protect yourself and others, ensuring that people are supported in their roles. You may need to add additional PCC members to the PCC bank mandate to ensure the bank account can continue to operate smoothly.

With our prayers and best wishes,  
The Generous Giving Team

[www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/generosity](http://www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/generosity)