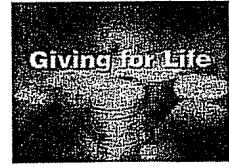




Marks of a 'Healthy' Giving Parish



Stewardship in essence is about commitment and giving to God in response to His amazing generosity to us as His Church. One definition is 'A way of life – all that we do after we say we believe.'

So the real marks of a healthy 'stewardship' church are very similar to marks for other aspects of discipleship and church life – marks for a healthy giving church can be:

St Agatha's Anytown 'Working to be a Stewardship Church'

- ◇ The PCC has a clear focus of vision and mission for our Church
- ◇ There is regular teaching and preaching on giving and stewardship in the context of Christian discipleship
- ◇ We believe that each of us should prayerfully give a proportion of our income to the mission of our church
- ◇ Everyone, including those new to our church, is given an annual opportunity to review their committed giving and make a new pledge
- ◇ We thank each regular giver, in writing, at least once a year for that regular giving to the mission of our church
- ◇ Clear information on tax efficient giving and ways of planned giving is readily available and Gift Aid envelopes are available for visitors
- ◇ We are committed to increasing our dependence on regular giving rather than fundraising and other income to pay our running costs
- ◇ As responsible stewards, the church council prepares, publishes and monitors an annual budget to support our mission aims
- ◇ We are committed to prayerfully giving away at least x% of our income
- ◇ We are committed to paying all bills and our Parish Share payment on time
- ◇ We believe each of us should make a will and, if appropriate, leave a legacy to the church
- ◇ Over 70% of our electoral roll use a planned giving scheme, with 80+% using tax efficient methods of giving.

This list provides a useful picture of what all churches can be doing in this aspect of church life.

Further thoughts on a health check can be followed up at :
www.parishresources.org.uk/giving.healthcheck