

10 Ways to Grow Your Income

1. Put in place a robust stewardship programme that is right for, and owned by, your parish supported by teaching and a regular cycle of events. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need help with this – whatever you decide should link with your Committed to Growth plan. Work through the resource implications and establish a budget including Parish Share with a clear plan for addressing any shortfall.

2. Don't forget **PMA:=**

**Prayerful Mental Attitude
And
Positive Mental Attitude**

3. Ensure that the financial facts of the parish are known to all parishioners and that information is displayed on the notice board and published in the church magazine so it is available to visitors and the local community.
4. Review and promote planned giving as the best and most tax efficient (for taxpayers) way of giving.

Stress the 3Rs of Christian giving:

Regular: the parish and the diocese rely on regular income.

Realistic: must be in line with the times.

Readily Offered: God loves a cheerful giver.

5. Make giving easy rather than difficult. Ensure there are Gift Aid envelopes and pens in the pews and occasional worshippers or those attending Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals are invited to use them. Are your cash deposits earning a good rate of interest? Rates on some accounts including CCLA are now (2012) as low as 0.5% with little prospect of increasing over the next 12 months or so. The Finance Team cannot give financial advice but they do maintain a list of accounts offering better rates and would be happy to provide details.
6. Explore new ways of maximising Gift Aid e.g. through claiming and donating volunteer expenses, by asking for a donation from couples getting married or at baptisms.
7. Look for ways of engaging and educating the wider community about the importance of the church as a community resource. Don't forget that the wider community will support you if asked. Remember that fundraising can be an important element in mission by sharing your vision with the community and inviting them to support it.
8. More and more churches are successfully applying for funds from charitable trusts and other funders such as the lottery and local government. Knowing where to look and what to say is the key. David Broom and Alan Muff can help.
9. Technology will play an increasing role in mission and ministry and income growth. Electronic fundraising through websites, webshops and Ebay church shops can all help to grow your income with the minimum of effort or demands on hard pressed volunteers. David Broom and Alan Muff can help.
10. **And finally, the answer to smaller congregations and higher costs is not to cut resources for mission and ministry but to increase to meet the challenges and potential for growth especially in the current climate. So if you have got this far, start back at 1. and remember that stewardship involving time, talents and treasure is a continuous cycle.**