



STEWARDSHIP

“Living as thankful and generous people”

Stewardship is about protecting, sustaining and nurturing our church and our communities. Our call is to care for and serve all people - including those outside our current congregations. To live out our faith fully, we must reach out and connect. Our welcome cannot start at the door; it's up to us to be generous, to extend our arms in invitation and welcome.

USING OUR GIFTS AND TALENTS

- Be generous and creative - what talents from your church community could be offered to serve your wider community?
- Ask for help! Our local communities are full of loving, kind and generous people that would gladly volunteer to help if they were asked to.
 - Be specific and clear about your needs/expectations.
- Always say THANK YOU! Generosity must be met with gratitude. Make time to celebrate and thank all those serving our churches.

USING OUR BUILDINGS

- Our buildings are huge assets for us, but also for our communities. These are their churches - invite them in to use them.
- Advertise - have up to date rental information and pictures on your website. Offer special rates for halls to families following life events.

LIFE EVENTS

- Stay connected! Keep a contact list for all the families that use their church for funerals, weddings, and baptisms. Make sure to stay in touch – consider sending a handwritten personal invitation to events and festival services. Generic emails are not the same.
- Create a special service to celebrate all the new couples in your ministry area; with emphasis that you're praying for them. Replicate for other life events too.

FESTIVALS

- Don't underestimate the importance of seasonal worshippers. Faith can always grow, but they must feel welcome and included first.
- Be sure to have at least one family-friendly service/event prepared. Parents enjoy forming traditions with their children – be that tradition!

BEING INVITATIONAL

- Encourage your congregation to be invitational in their faith and always be ready for new worshippers.
- Host an annual 'Bring a Friend' service. It's much easier to try something if you know you won't be the only new person there.
- Make space for those that are new to join in through volunteering. Invite them to join the coffee rota, to help plan an upcoming event, or to read during a service.

BUILDING BRIDGES

- Consider partnering up with other charities or groups in your community. Establish joint projects or programmes.
- Connect with local schools – invite the children and teachers into church but also go out and visit them.
- Don't be afraid to network.
- Be active and visible in your community.

