

Welcome to Cornerstone in the Diocese of Newcastle



CORNERSTONE

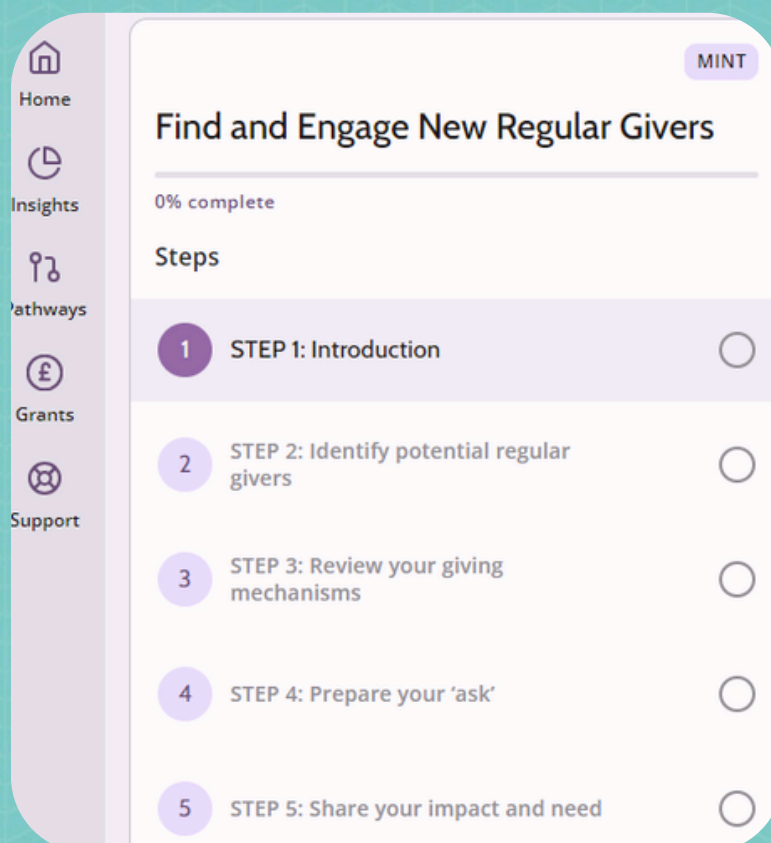
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 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

Introduction

The ministry and mission of parish churches is mostly funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it through money, time and talents. But when times are tough, financial struggles can seem overwhelming. Cornerstone has been developed by the National Giving Team, with the aim that it will take you on a journey to understand your church's giving culture and financial situation. It aims to leave you with clear, simple steps to grow giving and income.

Cornerstone is supported by an online platform that helps show areas where you can focus your resources to get the best results. The platform has easy to follow step-by-step actions which are called Pathways (you can see an example below).



Benefits of Cornerstone

As part of the Cornerstone process, parishes are encouraged to ask questions of themselves and their situation. From here, your Diocesan Giving Advisor will help to identify areas of giving practice that could be improved; these are chosen to meet the needs of your church or parish. You are then guided through simple steps to take appropriate action on these areas. These steps, as mentioned previously, are contained in Pathways, which are chosen by you to build on the great work you already do.

One of the main benefits of Cornerstone is that each Pathway has been designed as a series of short tasks, so that it doesn't feel too much of a burden. Our aim is to make this as easy as possible while delivering great results. Some Pathways also provide guidance on common areas that churches find they need to work on such as 'Measuring and communicating the impact of giving' and 'Encouraging giving from new congregation members'.

This is what PCC members who attended earlier Cornerstone workshops had to say:

'Cornerstone is a fascinating platform which offers us new ways to grow generous giving, put in the context of our individual churches.' St Hilda's, Lucker

'An opportunity to think systematically about giving and to stimulate fresh thinking.' Holy Trinity, Jesmond

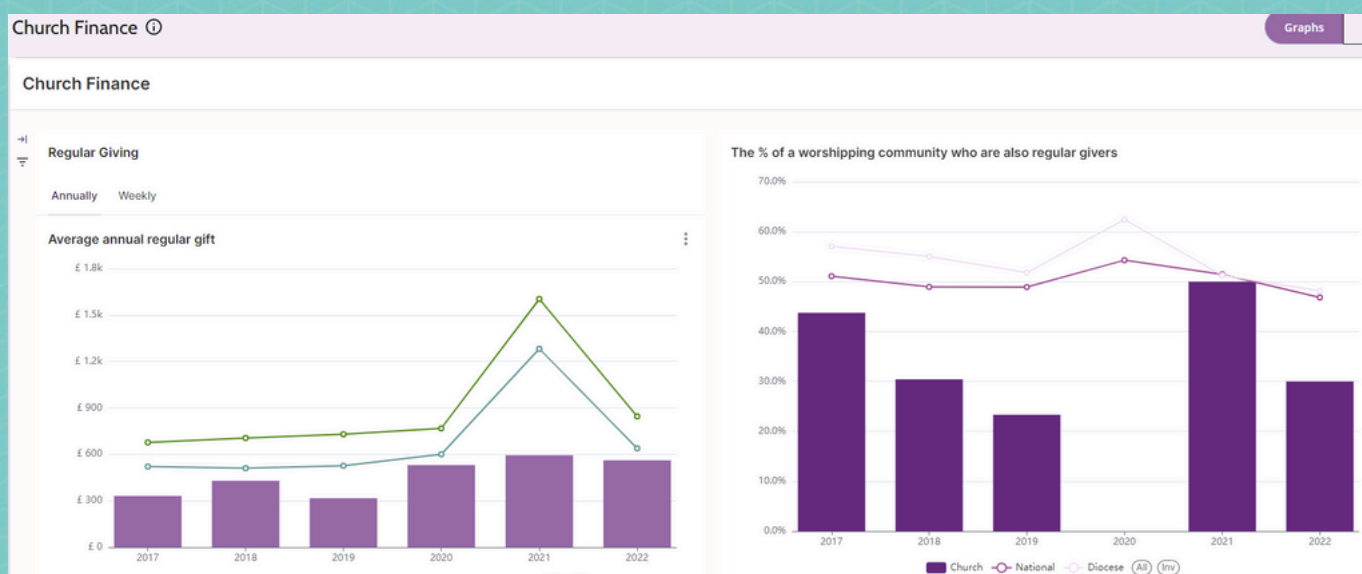
'The insights from surveys and prior research into giving and generosity was really illuminating and helpful.' St Cuthbert's, Norham



Benefits of Cornerstone

Other benefits of taking part in Cornerstone:

- Dedicated time to review giving and generosity.
- Opportunity to complete Pathways which give the biggest impact for your specific church.
- A greater understanding for all church decision makers of church finances.
- Time saved on researching how to grow giving and generosity.
- Step by step guidance on how to develop less tangible areas of giving and generosity.
- Access to a free grants database with over 600 grant opportunities available.
- Access to your parish data which is visualised in easy to read graphs.



The Six Stages

What is involved?

We have summarised the Cornerstone process into six easy to follow stages.

1. **Register** - Interested parishes can book up to 4 spaces on our rollout workshop being held during Generosity Week.

2. **Briefing** - Select and book a webinar to find out what's involved and what the expectations are.

3. **Research** - You will gather the parish's data and other information.

4. **Workshops** - Face to face sessions take place, examining the data that was gathered during the 'research' stage.

5. **Pathways** - You will choose actions/Pathways that will make the greatest impact on giving in your parish.

6. **Implementation** - You will work through your chosen Pathways.

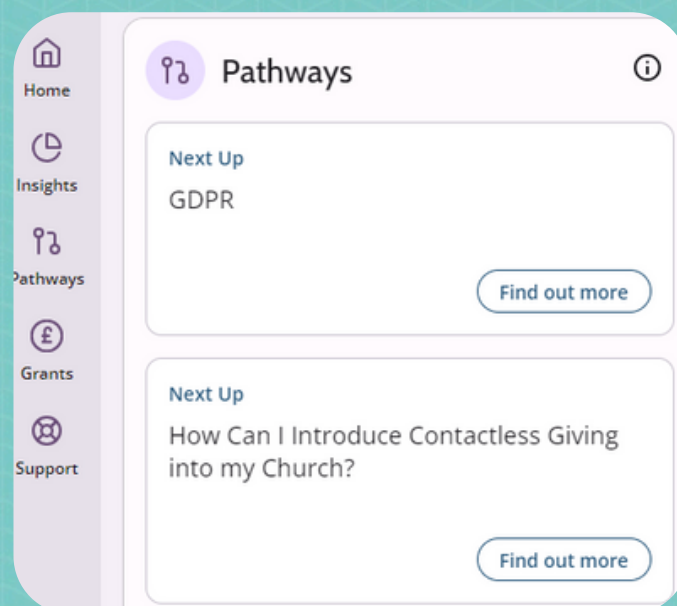


How Cornerstone works

Once you have signed up to use Cornerstone, you will be asked to complete a short questionnaire. This gives an insight into the generosity culture that exists in your parish.

In addition, we will look at your parish's financial data as part of the workshops; this is based on your Parish Return and we will also ask you to share some information that is not available through the Parish Return's system. Using the questionnaire and financial data, we can help identify Pathways that will help foster generosity in your parish and build giving to sustain your mission and ministry.

All Pathways can be found on the online Cornerstone platform and you will be given access to these by the Generous Giving Team. Individual activities can be allocated to the person best suited within your parish to take the necessary action. As you complete your selected Pathways you can review your culture and financial data to see how things are improving and select any new Pathways to continue on your journey



How to sign up

Key dates:

Webinars:

- Tuesday 9th September at 10am or
- Tuesday 9th September at 7pm

Workshop:

- Tuesday 23rd September 10am-1pm
Church House, St John's Terrace, North Shields, NE29 6HS

Contact the Generous Giving Team

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[Click here to visit our Cornerstone web page](#)

