

HOW TO NURTURE A FAITH-SHARING CULTURE

PRACTICE 7 – BUDGET FOR EVANGELISM

SUMMARY

Include an allocation for evangelism in the annual budget.

EXPLANATION

Most churches have a formal budgeting process. Normally, once a year, a budget is constructed and then agreed by the relevant body. The shift here is to ensure there is a budget line for evangelism. This is distinct from a budget line that might be called 'mission' or 'mission support.'

This latter mission budget might be the money we give to mission agencies, or to people we know who are active in mission in another part of the country or world. It might be focused around projects in the community that serve people, for example, a homeless shelter, or engagement with a wider concern, such as A Rocha and climate change (www.arocha.org.uk). We rightly set aside funds to help support such projects, and many churches give a tithe or set percentage of their income to mission.

A budget line for evangelism is different. It is specifically for the nurture of evangelism through our church or congregation. There are two reasons why this helps shift the culture to be more evangelistic. Firstly, we tend to allocate funds to what we value. Whilst theoretically PCCs might agree that faith sharing is an important part of church life, you will discover if they really think that when you suggest allocating money towards it. It will also require decisions about what level of funds to allocate, which will prompt a helpful

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'All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.'

Acts 4:32

discussion about both why this is appropriate and what you are trying to achieve.

Secondly, there are many helpful resources available to facilitate evangelism, but most of them cost something. For example, there are a range of helpful materials to help people Pray for Five, but giving them to congregation members will involve some expense.

TOP TIPS

- Explain the 'why' as well as the 'what'. When deciding your budget, it is a great opportunity to reinforce why there is a line for evangelism, as well as to discuss what it will be used for. It is often the case that the 'why' for things gets lost (people forget), or is never known (new people have joined the PCC and it hasn't been explained).
- The amount is often not as important as having the line in the budget because you are making resourcing evangelism a priority. Whatever the amount, allocate something.
- Be sure to spend it, thoughtfully and wisely.
- Report back on how the money was used. Often with other items in the budget the result of the spending is visible and fairly obvious. For example, the budget for flowers is spent and visible every Sunday. The money for decorating the church hall is clearly observed when it looks great as a result. Spending on evangelism can be less obvious, so be sure to tell stories which are related to the outcome of the expense.
- [Click here for a downloadable pdf for your PCC.](#)

RESOURCES

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