



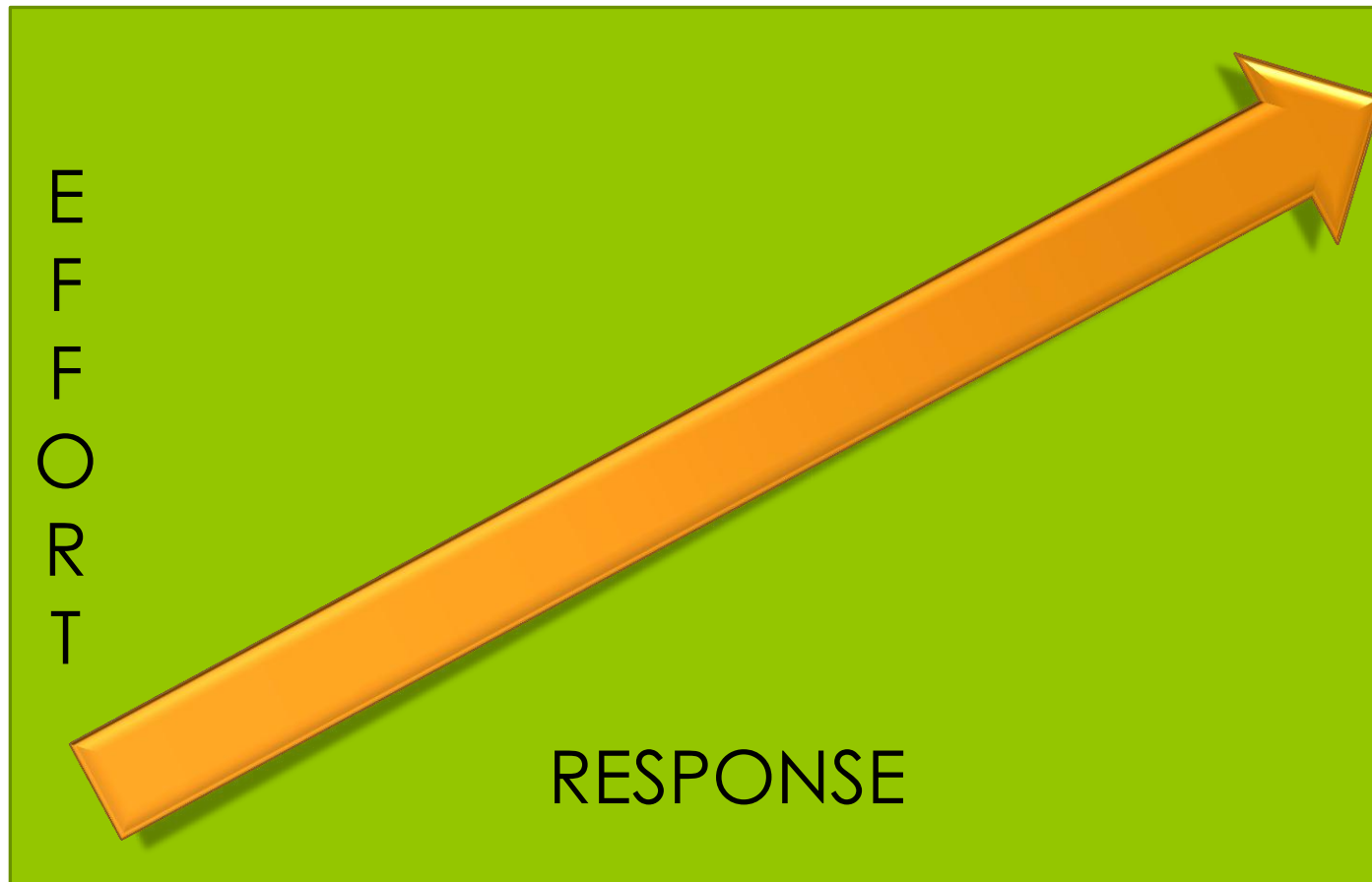
Stewardship for Life

Responding to the
challenge of
Stewardship
teaching in the
Diocese of
Newcastle
2011

The challenge of Stewardship: 3 fundamental principles

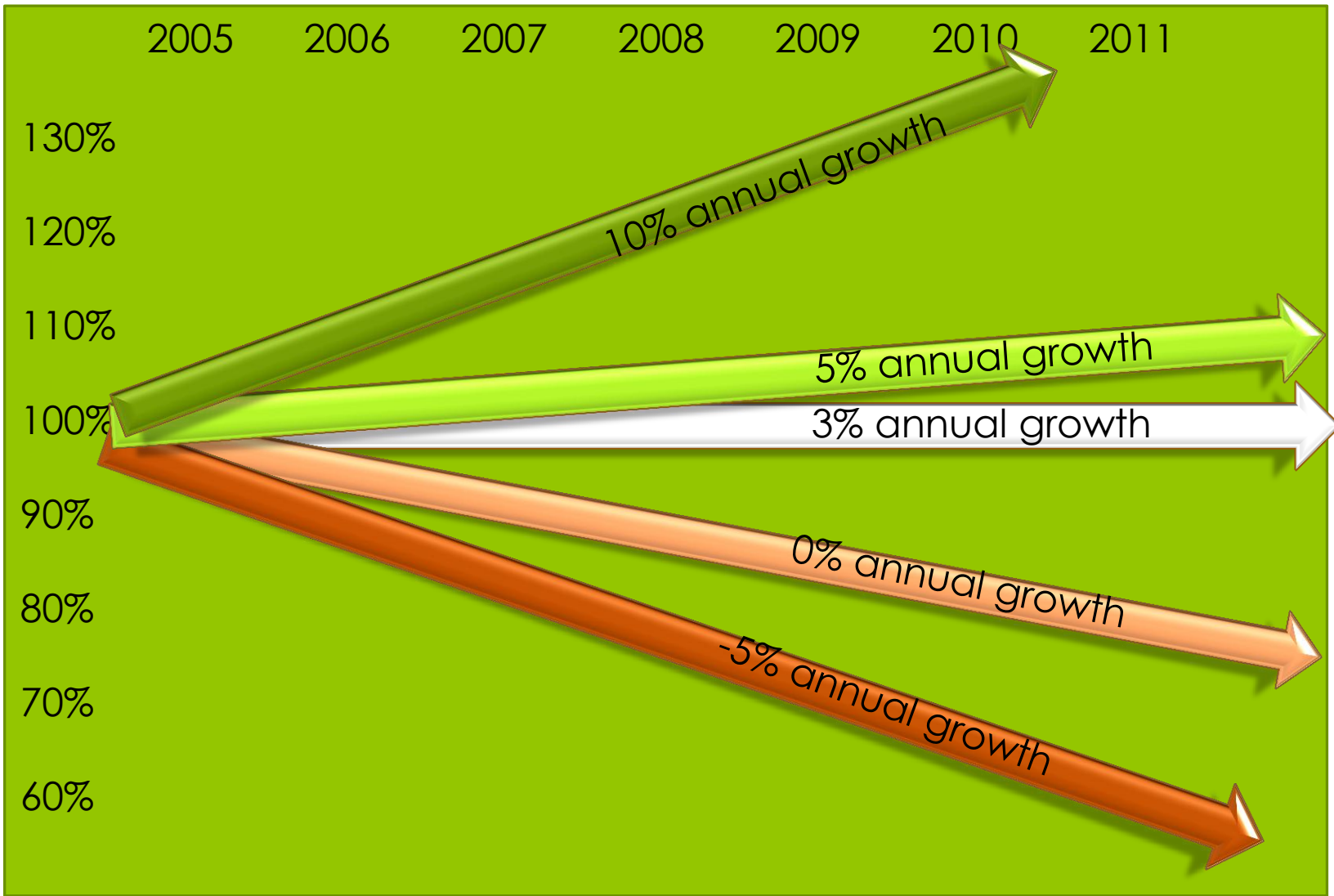
- The practices of Christian Stewardship cannot be caught unless and until they are taught and modelled
- An important part of our role as clergy is to make sure that all associated with our parish or community are given the resources to choose to be generous in giving and living
- This needs to be done carefully and regularly

Stewardship Return Of Investment



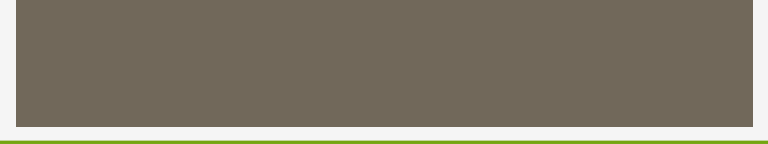
Stewardship giving realities

					Infl
	<u>0%</u>	<u>-5%</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>3%</u>
2005	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
2006	\$ 100,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 105,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 103,000
2007	\$ 100,000	\$ 90,250	\$ 110,250	\$ 121,000	\$ 106,090
2008	\$ 100,000	\$ 85,738	\$ 115,763	\$ 133,100	\$ 109,273
2009	\$ 100,000	\$ 81,451	\$ 121,551	\$ 146,410	\$ 112,551
2010	\$ 100,000	\$ 77,378	\$ 127,628	\$ 161,051	\$ 115,927
2011	\$ 100,000	\$ 73,509	\$ 134,010	\$ 177,156	\$ 119,405



Stewardship giving realities...(2)

- This means that if you're simply maintaining last year's level of weekly offertories, your real value of those offertories is declining by 20% every six years
- The challenge of addressing the issues of Christian Stewardship will enable the church to have a positive and well resourced future in mission and ministry.



Principles and strategies

Principle 1

○ ***It has to be Biblically sound***

- Anything less is not good enough
- Stewardship is about life giving principles, **not** fund raising
- Stewardship teaching is a part of the teaching programme of the church
- Stewardship teaching applies to all people and all ages

Principle 2

- **Whatever is done has to be locally owned**
- Often the first group to be taught are the leaders.
- Local ownership of the principles and programmes is essential.
- Local participation and leadership will enhance the possibilities and encourage people to think and respond appropriately

Principle 3

○ **Whatever is done has to speak to local needs**

- Generic is not good enough after the principles are presented
- Local information is vital
- Needs to be presented in a positive and challenging way
- Presentations should celebrate successes from the past, and identify opportunities for the future
- Possibility thinking is a helpful approach

Principle 4

○ ***It has to challenge and confront***

- There is no easy way to identify and teach the principles of Christian Stewardship
- Beware the threat of 'not offending'. Jesus spoke frequently about our relationship to God, and how God calls us to be stewards of all God's gifts. His words apply to us today.

Strategies (1)

○ **Annual stewardship Sunday**

- Regular...becomes part of rhythm of parish life
- May have a limited application or impact depending on what is done and how many are reached

Strategies (2)

● **Stewardship teaching programme.**

- Over 3 – 4 weeks
- Can vary input
- Can use resources for home or group study
- Can share relevant information more widely
- Sometimes people miss out because of regularity or otherwise of worship

Strategies (3)

○ Monthly (annual) Stewardship awareness raising

- Through bulletin or teaching material, magazine, website etc
- Can be regular and focussed
- Can use wider range of material
- Less personal and possibly less challenging
- Good way of varying learning processes.

Strategies (4)

○ Stewardship 'PROGRAMME' led by outside consultants

- Has been effective in the past
- Little resources today
- Beware the temptation to use old programmes today, they often don't speak to this age
- Can produce good results, but are expensive and need follow up
- MUST have an informed and committed leadership group

Strategies (5)

- **WWW based programmes and material**

- Can often be adapted to local need
- Good visual presentation
- Often multimedia resources available
- Can 'mix-n-match' if appropriate
- Can be used over a longer period, and with more deliberate intention

Strategies (6)

○ **A mix of the above**

- Monthly information 'trickles' into the consciousness
- Coupled with a teaching /small group programme
- Backed up by good resources that inform and challenge
- With appropriate local information sharing and awareness building
- Tied to a Stewardship week with dinner, thanksgiving celebration, worship etc.

In summary

- We are stewards, because Christ calls us to be such.
- We are all accountable, to God and to each other.
- We need to be committed to affirming the principles of Christian stewardship, and living them to God's glory.
- We can help each other in living and learning this truth.

Discussion

- What have we done /can we do to effectively teach these principles in our parish communities?
- What resources do we need to enable us to do this well?
- What further training would we like or would assist us in this area of our shared ministries?

Some Resources

- <http://www.stewardship.org.uk/money/>
- http://www.blackburn.anglican.org/more_info.asp?current_id=159
- <http://www.parishresources.org.uk/index.htm>
- <http://www.niagara.anglican.ca/stewardship/>
- http://www.ontario.anglican.ca/joomla/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=107:stewardship-toolkit-for-your-parish&Itemid=313
- <http://www.tens.org/online-stewardship-resources.htm>
- <http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=departments.content&cmid=409>
- <http://www.parishresources.org.uk/preach/s4sundays.pdf>