

# Common Fund 2023

Enabling Mission in the Diocese of  
Sheffield and beyond

**Leader Resource**



THE DIOCESE OF  
**SHEFFIELD**

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The welfare of individuals and their leaders is paramount. Each church or organisation will have its own safeguarding policy which needs to be strictly observed.

If you are intending to use these resources in groups online, then please be aware of any online safeguarding policies or protocols.

If you are in any doubt, please contact the person in your church who is responsible for safeguarding in your own Parish or, if you are still unclear, your Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.



# Intro

**“...He gives you something you can then give away,  
which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God,  
wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in  
every way, producing with us great praise to God.”  
– 2 Corinthians 9 v 11 - The Message**

This resource can be used for leaders to process their own life or that of their church. It has also been designed to enable PCCs to use it as a way of processing where their church currently is.

The SWOT analysis tool has been used in many business contexts but is also a helpful reflective tool for churches and individuals.

What you will need to do is take some time to look at your life or church and identify areas that fall into these four sections:

<b>Strength</b>	<b>Weakness</b>
<b>Opportunity</b>	<b>Threat</b>

Use the blank Matrix to plot these areas in your own life or that of your church.

Life does not always fall neatly into a box so feel free to place these across two areas if you need to.

Before we do the SWOT analysis we would recommend beginning with thanksgiving. The next page encourages us to look at what we have that we can be grateful for.



# **SESSION ONE**

## Thanksgiving

# Begin with Thanksgiving

## Hands, Home & Heart



**"I will extol the Lord at all times;  
his praise will always be on my lips."**

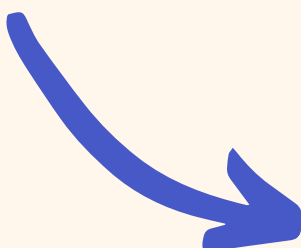
**Psalm 34: 1 - NIV**

The focus for the whole of June is to look at how grace, gratitude and generosity are linked so please feel free to access any of the other resources that we have created by visiting [generousjune.org](https://generousjune.org).

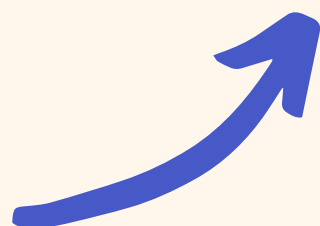
In session one we will begin by giving thanks for what God has already given us.

**GRACE**

**GENEROSITY**



**GRATITUDE**



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# Begin with Thanksgiving



## Hands, Home & Heart

As we prepared the resources for Generous June we have been reminded by God, through Paul's letters, that grace and gratitude are linked to how we see and live out generosity. We would encourage you to pause and reflect on all that God has given you and give thanks to him for those blessings.

You might find it a helpful filter to consider these three areas

**HANDS   HOME   HEART**

Give thanks for three things in each area. When you think about these three areas, use them as a lens to filter your gratitude through.

**HANDS:** consider what you put your hands to: Your work? Whose hand do you hold? Are you artistic or musical? These are all things to be grateful for.

**HOME:** consider what about it you love? The garden? The paint colour on the walls? What it represents to you. Can you thank God for his provision?

**HEART:** Consider what passions you have for a group, activity or project. Is there something God has put on your heart?

Use the next page to write down what are thankful for



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# Begin with Thanksgiving

"I will extol the Lord at all times;  
his praise will always be on my lips."

Psalm 34: 1 - NIV



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# **SESSION TWO**

## Reflection

# 5

## Questions For Leaders

LET'S  
Talk

**In this session we are going to reflect  
on the five questions you will find on  
the next page.**

**Use the following page to note down  
your answers.**



# 5

## Questions For Leaders



Do I over-extend myself? Is there time, energy, capacity left for my friends and family?

What areas would I like to grow in?

What am I passionate about?

What does generosity mean to me as a leader?

Do I lead from a place of abundance or scarcity?



# Notes

This image shows a full page of blank, lined notebook paper. The paper has a light cream or off-white background. It is ruled with horizontal blue lines that are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



# **SESSION THREE**

# SWOT

# Activity

## SWOT ANALYSIS

In this session we will be completing a SWOT analysis. This analysis helps us access where we currently are. We will analyse what strengths and opportunities we have as a church and/or leader. We will consider where we are under threat or can identify areas of weakness in our congregation or own life.

The words in the orange boxes on the SWOT tool can be used as an additional filter to help us plot things on this chart: They are: FRUSTRATION, FAILURE, BATTLE AND BREAKTHROUGH.

Do not be discouraged by this exercise if you find that situations, opportunities or relationships are not where you hoped they would be. We are all of course longing to see breakthrough in areas of our lives and ministry; by taking stock of where we currently are we are better able to plan for future success.

See examples below of what could go in quadrants

### **Opportunity & Strength**

Large church hall for hire – This is an opportunity where the church ministers to the community and raises financial capital. This would be an area of breakthrough.

### **Strength & Threat**

Covid19 has meant that the church building is closed but online church has begun because of the dedication and skill of a volunteer AV tech team. This is a strength and Covid is a threat so this would be defined as a BATTLE but could easily move into BREAKTHROUGH.



# Activity

## SWOT ANALYSIS

### Threat & Weakness

The roof is leaking and there are not enough financial reserves to repair it. You are experiencing a threat to the use of your building and it has highlighted your lack of financial stability. This would be a FAILURE. This is something that could move to BREAKTHROUGH by starting a giving campaign to support building repairs. Or you could discover you have a grant writer in your congregation that can help you secure a building grant.

### Weakness & Opportunity

Church is closed and that means that collections are not happening on a Sunday. Parish Giving Scheme allows you to still receive gifts. This is a great example of how you can move into a different quadrant. If PGS was to be set up and giving moved online this would move into the BREAKTHROUGH quadrant.

*Strength and weakness  
are internal influences.*

*Opportunities and threats  
are external influences  
(things outside your control)*



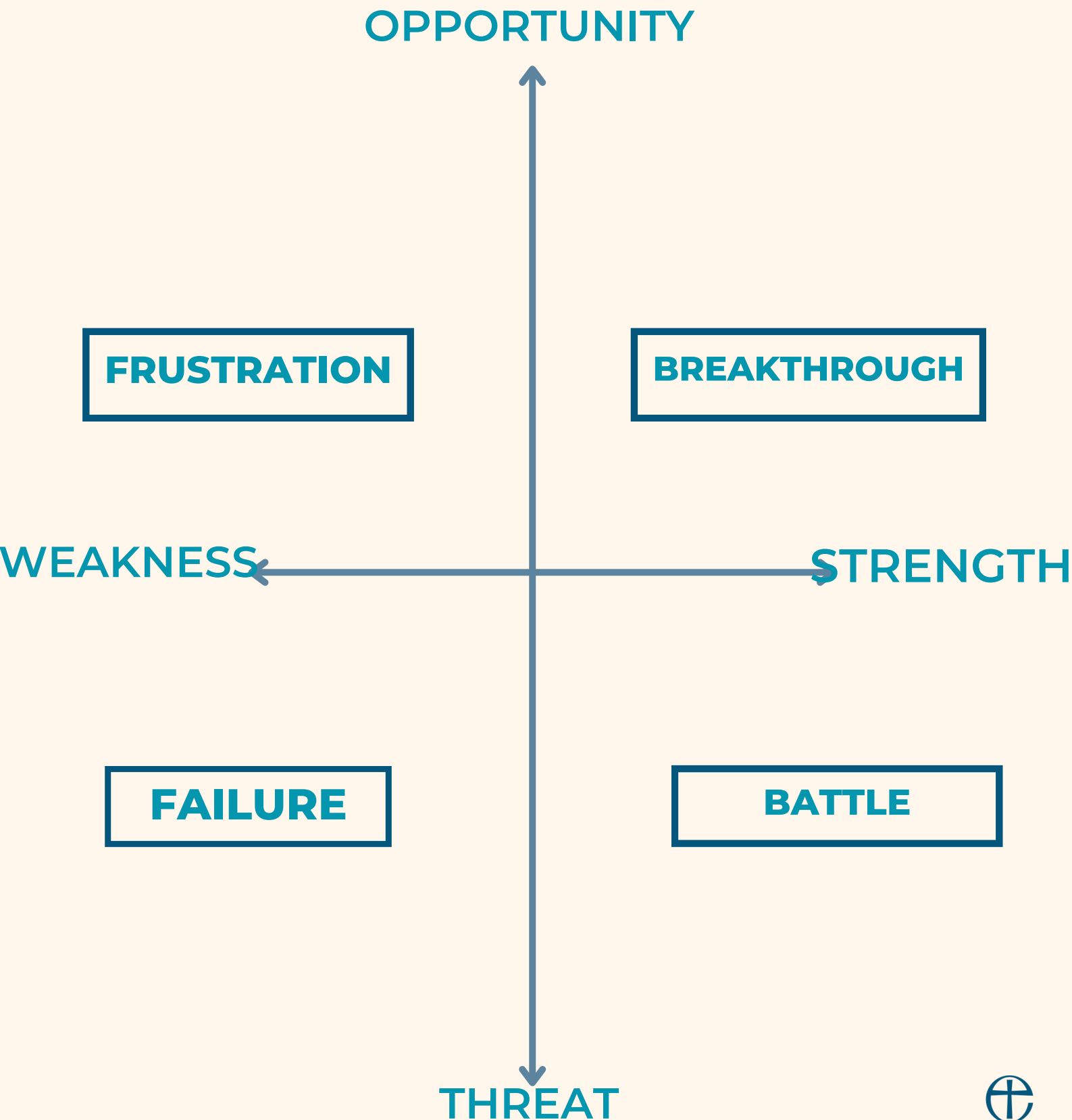
# Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue lines, resembling notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



# Activity

## SWOT ANALYSIS





# **SESSION FOUR**

## **Start Stop**

# Action



In this session we will consider if there is an action we need to take. It is helpful to ask ourselves if we are being prompted to begin something new. At times, we need to stop doing something to make time or space for something else.

These things could be a short term action or a long term plan. Use the next page to write down your thoughts and reflections.



# Action



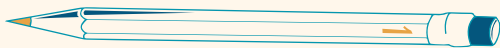
**START**

**STOP**



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# Notes



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 25 horizontal blue lines.

# Prayer

**“...He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.”**

**– 2 Corinthians 9 v 11 – The Message**

Ask God to show you areas that you need to stop something and where you need to begin something new.

Ask God to reveal people and organisations that can join you in ministry, that can support you in your kingdom work and calling.

