

Finance and Generous Giving Update November 2020



Dear Colleagues

As our churches re-enter lockdown we would like to thank you for your continued and faithful work. We are very grateful to all parishes for their ongoing generosity in trying to pay their pledges. Please find attached some of the latest guidance, resources and new initiatives to help your finances and encourage giving. We also introduce two new team members – Janet and Clare. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or would like some assistance.

With kind regards

Gabby and Tony



The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is here!

We are very pleased to announce that the PGS will be available to all Southwark parishes from 1 November. Used by more than 50,000 people over 30 Dioceses, this Direct-Debit scheme provides an effective, free donation management system for parishes.

Your church can benefit from stable and often increased planned giving, an inflationary increase combating static giving, Gift Aid being claimed automatically monthly for

the church helping to improve your church's cash flow and reduce work for your treasurer.

'How PGS can help your parish' – webinar

On Tuesday 17 November, 1-2pm and Monday 23 November, 7:30-8:30pm we are hosting a webinar to explain and answer your questions.

Book space here <https://bit.ly/3mTlaNQ>



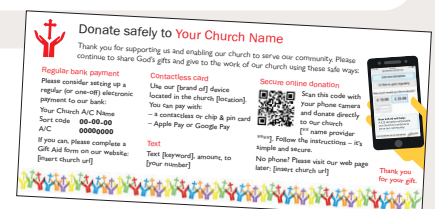
Encouraging safe giving

Thank! Remember to thank people for their generosity during the crisis – maybe a brief note in the weekly sheet, a thank you note to all those regular givers or posters in church and near your donation points. If you make an appeal a quick thank you text or e-mail is always welcome.

Share! Tell people what their giving is supporting in your church, maybe a story from lockdown, a reminder of your vision and mission or some of the bills you were grateful to pay. Use noticeboards, websites and social media. Why not run a series celebrating why people feel your church is special?

Encourage regular giving!

We have produced a template for you to adapt and leave in your pews or use on your website to encourage people to give safely – click the image or this link <https://bit.ly/3oSKt5L> to download it.



Go contactless! Offering digital giving can grow your parish's giving as well as help with hygiene during the pandemic. We are offering two GoodBox devices on a 'Try Before You Buy' basis. Sign up to borrow here



Welcome to our new team members



We welcome two new team members. Janet Boyce, replacing Bob Dallimore, will be looking after trusts and financial returns and parish accounts. Janet worships in our Diocese, is a dog person but also owns a cat and will be happy to assist with your financial queries.



Our new Generous Giving Adviser, Clare Lucas, funded by the Archbishops' Council, will be working with parishes to encourage generosity and will provide support on digital giving tools (such as contactless and the PGS). Clare previously worked for the Christian Union's charity (UCCF) and, having worked in a café, appreciates a 'proper' coffee!



Parish Buying can help

COVID-19 supplies update



COVID-19

Testing! AV/PA equipment solutions



Audio visual

Guest visit is a visitor register for churches which supports NHS Test & Trace. Your church may find this service helpful.



Guest visit

Why online giving is so important this Advent

Online giving is an essential mechanism for giving and fundraising that can enable a huge range of people to give. Being able to receive donations through online giving has never been more crucial. Parish Buying has developed a competitive online giving service for churches. Find out more information here <https://bit.ly/34VPgLJ>



Online giving

Share your online giving page as widely as you can. You could add a donate button or link to your service bookings page, share the link to give during online services, and on social media. You can generate QR codes directing people to your online giving page for free, which could be displayed in advent windows or around church this Christmas.



Gift Aid over the phone or online

This guide outlines how to take Gift Aid declarations over the phone, online and via e-mail



Ecclesiastical COVID-specific grants

Ecclesiastical has collated a list of funders currently offering COVID-19 emergency grants to support churches. Use their search function to find potential grants for your church here.



'We're Good to Go' official mark

Consider applying for the official UK 'Good to Go' Industry Standard award which signifies that you are following COVID-19 guidance correctly and, as and when you can, re-open safely for visitors.



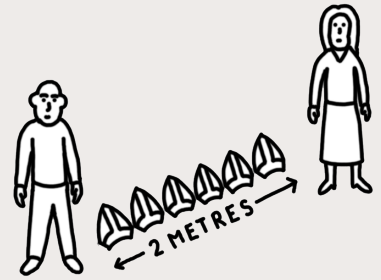
For more information please contact:

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MASK



MEASURING DEVICE

Virtual fundraising events

You can still fundraise virtually!

- 1. Host a virtual quiz.** Socialise from home! Write your own quiz including a round about parish life or find a quiz online. Teams can be formed across households, conferring over the phone or via messages, whilst you all tune in online. Everyone donates £5 to take part.
 - 2. Declutter to donate.** Declutter the house while fundraising in the process. Encourage people to sell some bits and bobs and donate the proceeds to church. Companies like Ziffit or Music Magpie will buy old books, DVDs, CDs and games, and will send a courier to collect. Ziffit will even give directly to a Virgin Money Giving page.
 - 3. Online shopping donations.** Did you know that you could receive donations when parishioners shop online? Services such as AmazonSmile and EasyFundraising turn everyday or Christmas shopping into free donations for charitable causes. Simply register online and spread the word to the church!
 - 4. Have an online 'Christmas Crafternoon'.** Host a workshop, online or otherwise, for people to learn a new craft or share a parishioner's skills – people could donate to receive a craft pack and join in on the day. Or, ask for a donation to a socially distanced crafternoon – everyone brings their own knitting, drawing, painting, and so on, and shares what they are creating for Christmas.
 - 5. Host a festive treasure hunt.** This is a great way to encourage families to be involved. Design one around your parish or organise a virtual hunt with a series of interesting things available to view on Google Maps Streetview and provide clues for participants. Let people explore and simply ask for a donation.
- Other ideas.** [Tadworth church](https://bit.ly/3k0CxLX) (<https://bit.ly/3k0CxLX>), working with its local school, gathered unwanted clothes from people and was paid by a clothing collection company. 



[Oldham](#) had a virtual balloon race to raise money for repair work on the church roof!

[Wanstead Parish](#) applied for support from the Aviva Community Fund and successfully crowdfunded more than £4,000 for its night shelter project!



The Diocese of Southwark

Loving God
Walking with Jesus
Led by the Spirit

Luke 24:13-35