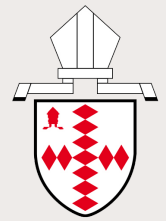


# Finance and Generous Giving Update February 2021



Dear Colleagues

May we take this opportunity to wish you the best for the new year ahead whilst recognising that we find ourselves in more restricted times. Thank you to all parishes for your ongoing generosity in serving your communities and trying to honour your pledges. This resulted in a collection rate of 96.6% for 2020 which is a magnificent response in such challenging times. Please find attached some encouraging stories, resources and updates to help your finances and encourage giving. We look forward to working in partnership with you during 2021. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns, queries or would like some assistance.

With kind regards

**Tony & Gabby**

## Parish Support Fund – thank you from Bishop Christopher

Bishop Christopher has written to incumbents to express his gratitude for parishes' generosity and commitment to the Parish Support Fund – both for 2020 result and the pledges promised for 2021.

All treasurers should have received an email copy – please see




## Worried about pledge payments – please call us first!

Some parishes may be anxious about levels of income and expenditure, and we understand that cashflows can be a little bumpy! However, if you are concerned about paying your parish pledge, as a first response

please call Tony Demby or John Jackson. Please do not cancel your Direct Debit – we can easily alter it at our end. For some reason banks do not like setting up cancelled direct debits so please call or email us first.

## Back in lockdown – Six Top Tips for encouraging giving!

**1 Don't forget the offering!** Be creative in encouraging generosity in online worship. Give thanks to God for his generosity and include an offertory prayer to value and bless those gifts given electronically and perhaps prompt others to give! Offertory prayers – click here  for the PDF


Try using the CofE giving video on your website, facebook or A Church Near You?



**2 Foster a generous church and keep in touch with regular givers, particularly those who give by envelope.** Why not join the Parish Giving Scheme and encourage envelope givers to make a change?

**3 Make it easy for people to give – set up and encourage online giving.** Later we hear from St Stephen's Lewisham and offer training for parishes.

**4 Say thank you!** This is a good time to say thank you to all who have supported you over the last year and

for them to understand from you the impact of their giving for your church. You can find some sample thank you letters here 

**5 Brainstorm virtual fundraising ideas.**

Read about some parishes' experiences

**6 Look for and ask funders, for example individuals or grants.** Please see some funding options later in our letter.

# Training opportunities for you

## Growing giving with the Parish Giving Scheme





The Parish Giving Scheme is now available free to all Southwark parishes. Your church can benefit from

stable and often increased planned giving, an inflationary increase combating static giving, Gift Aid will be claimed automatically each month for the church helping to improve your church's cash flow and reduce work for your treasurer.


### 'How PGS can help your parish' – webinar

We are hosting some webinars to explain more about how the Scheme works and to answer your questions:

For Tuesday 16 March, 1-2pm, book space here  **TUE 16**


For Monday 22 March, 7:30-8:30pm, book space here  **MON 22**

### New to the role of being a treasurer?

This introduction by the finance and giving teams is ideal if you are a new treasurer appointed after May 2020 – join us on Thursday 11 March 1-2pm  **THU 11**

### New for this year!

The finance and giving teams will be holding regular surgeries to answer your questions. If you can, please do let us know of any questions beforehand.


For Tuesday 9 March 1-2pm book space here  **TUE 09**


For Tuesday 9 March 5.30-6.30pm book space here  **TUE 09**

## Using online giving well – webinar

Online giving is an essential mechanism that can enable a huge range of people to give enabling donors to support their church whether they are able to attend in person or not.

We are running some training with Helen Simpkins from the National Team on "Using Online Giving Well".



To join us on Monday 22 February, 7:30-8:30pm, book space here;  **MON 22**

or for Wednesday 3 March, 1-2pm, book space here.  **WED 03**

## Building a generous church – webinars and training

The National Giving Team is running a number of training sessions online to better equip you to grow giving within your parishes. Topics include:

- Getting started with contactless giving (4 March, 21 April)
- Saving money and increasing income with Parish Buying (16 March, 26 April)
- An introduction to Gift Aid (5 March, 23 March, 13 May)

For full details and to book a place see the [Church of England webpage](#).  

If you would like support with online giving for your church, book a consultation appointment with our Generous Giving Adviser, Clare Lucas. She can help you with choosing a provider, getting set up, and promoting your page effectively. Please email [clare.lucas@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:clare.lucas@southwark.anglican.org)

## Online giving – a case study

### St Stephen's, Lewisham

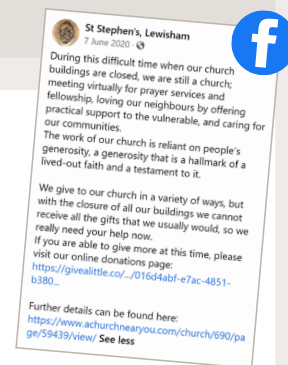
Sandra, the Treasurer at St Stephen's Lewisham, shared with us how adopting online giving has helped the church finances.

*"We adopted online giving as the church was closed and we needed to try to get some income by making it easier for people to make a donation. It was also part of our strategy to move to a more digital way of doing things as we thought this was the future. We chose our provider primarily on terms of cost and that they were a Parish Buying recommended provider.*

*The first way we used it was by enabling donations on our 'A Church Near You' page. We used the 'A Church Near You'*

*resources to create adverts which we used on the web page plus YouTube videos which provided information on giving – these were all shared on our Facebook page. Details were also given out to regular donors. When the church re-opened we also adopted card payments in church with posters on our notice boards inside and out also using a QR code to give quick access.*

*Following the introduction of online giving, there was some switching from envelope donations to Direct Bank transfers. These would have otherwise been lost income as church was closed to have received donations by envelopes, should we not have encouraged giving online."*



# Keeping the 'fun' in 'fundraising'

Many parishes have still been fundraising virtually – here are some of our favourite ideas!

- “One of our church wardens, Julie, took a wonderful photo everyday during the spring lockdown. She emailed them to the interested members of the congregation. It was a really lovely daily boost! Our plan is to turn these fabulous photos into photo books and postcards to sell to raise funds for our church.”  
Tish Mousell, Churchwarden, Christ Church West Wimbledon

- St John’s, Caterham Valley raised money for their stonework repairs by inviting asking people to sponsor an angel displayed outside during the festive period. Several local businesses sponsored an angel as did the community’s Girlguiding Units. Their Churchwarden, Julie, commented that, “the Angels will have raised £484 – we never dreamed we’d raise as much as this for paper angels!”



- Holy Trinity, South Wimbledon ran a scavenger hunt in lieu of their annual Christmas Fair. The hunt included various clues and challenges, and raised an amazing £1700 for their church! They use their contactless giving device to collect donations.
- Why not organise an Easter themed scavenger hunt? The giving team can help set you up with QR codes or maybe a contactless device to help you raise funds.

## FUNDRAISING

EVENT IDEA GENERATOR

**THE** VICAR / YOUTH GROUP / CONGREGATION / CHOIR / FLOWER ARRANGERS

**IS/ARE** RUNNING / ABSEILING / LIVING IN A TENT / SELLING CAKES / CRAWLING

**FOR** 100 MILES / 24 HOURS / A MONTH / AS LONG AS IT TAKES / EVER

**WHILST** WEARING FANCY DRESS / SINGING ALL OF THE HYMNS / TELLING JOKES / JUGGLING / RATTLING A TIN

**PLEASE** DONATE / SPONSOR / PURCHASE A RAFFLE TICKET / BUY TEA AND A CAKE / STAY AWAY

CartoonChurch.com

## Grant funding opportunities

As you plan for the year of mission and ministry ahead, there may be projects of yours that could be funded by a grant. Did you know that grants can help you fund the following?

- Children’s & Youth work
- Community projects
- Building work
- Environmental projects
- Missional activities

See some of the funding options available to parishes in Southwark here.



### Top tip

Keep an eye on your local council’s website for extra grant opportunities!

**Key accounting deadlines** We hope you received Janet’s email update last week on key dates and links for financial reporting this year. Please click [here](#) for a copy. As Janet wrote in her email, please remember that our teams are “here to support you – to provide information and guidance and work alongside you if there are problems. Please do get in touch if you need assistance.”

For more information please contact:

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**Tony Demby, Director of Finance**  
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