

Finance and Generous Giving Update May 2021



Dear Colleagues

As we emerge from lockdown, and churches start to welcome congregations and visitors back into buildings, thank you for your support and work at this busy time. Thank you too for your pledge contributions which have resulted in a very encouraging collection rate of 98.2% at the end of the first quarter. As we enjoy the season of Annual General Meetings may we pass on our thanks to those of you who may be moving on, and wish you well, and welcome any new treasurers. We look forward to working in partnership with you.

With kind regards

Tony & Gabby

News

PGS launches online donor registration



New donors can now set up their giving via the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) online!

This is a fantastic opportunity for registered parishes to remind their church community of PGS and invite them to set up their gift to your parish. For those who would rather not register online, donors can still join via the PGS telephone service or by completing and posting a gift form. If you would like to find out more about the Parish Giving Scheme, please contact [Gabby Parikh](#) or [Clare Lucas](#).

Upcoming Deadlines for Treasurers

A reminder that your accounts must be approved and submitted to Janet Boyce no later than 31 May. If possible, please send these electronically, or else by post to Trinity House.

You are also required to submit a 'Return of Parish Finance' via the Parish Returns Portal online by 18 June. For details on how to do this, please read Janet's letter or email [Janet Boyce](#).



How do you pay your parochial fees?

Thank you for your fees' payments. For those who are still paying by cheque please could you move to making a bank transfer? Please contact [John Jackson](#) for details.

Try contactless giving for your church for free

Contactless giving is a safe, secure, and convenient way to give one-off donations to your church. Even if you have no internet signal in your church building, we have machines that will work! Borrow a machine for a fortnight from our 'Try Before You Buy' scheme which has enabled many of our parishes to explore this method of giving. [Register here](#)

Goodbye to Tony!

As some of you will know Tony Demby is retiring in June – we are sure that many of you will want to join us in thanking him and wishing him a long and happy retirement.



Top Tips as you return to the church building

- 1 Reintroduce the offering to your weekly services.
- 2 Keep saying thank you to your supporters.
- 3 Enable contactless giving via a machine or QR code.
- 4 Remember those at home – include them in the offering and give them time to donate online.
- 5 Share what people's giving enables and the ministry you hope to do as restrictions lift.
- 6 Make COVID-safe precautions for cash and envelope gifts.



A gift from HRMC with GASDS claims!

HRMC has confirmed that, where regular donors save up the cash they would have put in the collection each week and give it to the treasurer in one large cash amount, that provided the treasurer was satisfied that the cash received was multiple small donations which happened to be in one envelope, then they could claim GASDS subject to the normal rules. This is not restricted to COVID times and could be particularly helpful when regular donors are on holiday or required to miss events/church services for an extended period due to lockdowns or illness. Read more on the [Charity Tax Group website](#).



Grant Funding Success at St Luke's, Charlton

St Luke's, Charlton have been awarded £17,500 from the London Community Energy Fund – receiving the second highest of 17 grants! These funds will help install LED lighting as part of the church's plan to develop a community hub and is estimated to save them 2.6 tonnes of carbon a year.

Tips for sharing your online giving page

You've successfully managed to set up your new online giving page – but what should you do next? Our Generous Giving Adviser, Clare Lucas, shares how to make the most of your church's online donation platform. Read more over on our blog.



Training & Resources

Resources for Financial Controls

Following our New Treasurers' Gathering in March, the finance team would like to flag these resources which will be available on the Treasurers' login area of the Diocesan website after Thursday 6 May:

- Financial Control Guidance for PCCs
- Checklist & Risk Assessment for Financial Controls
- Sample Financial Control Policies

If you would like any assistance with your parish finances or copies of these papers please contact [Janet Boyce](#).

Building a Generous Church

Watch this [video](#) from the National Giving Team to find out how you can help grow a generous culture in your parish, and the best environment to enable financial support of your ministry.



Webinars on Demand

The Giving Team have recorded two of their previous webinars which you can watch at your leisure and share with any giving or stewardship volunteers in your church. Please note that viewers will need to complete a brief registration to access the webinars.

- [How PGS can help your parish](#)
- [Using online giving well](#)

Upcoming Webinars

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

- 'How to run a giving review' – [Friday 7 May, 11:30am](#)
- 'What does our congregation think about giving?' – [Monday 10 May, 11am](#)
- 'An introduction to Gift Aid' – [Thursday 13 May, 12pm](#)
- 'Communicating legacy giving in your church' – [Monday 17 May, 11am](#)

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

For more information please contact:

Gabby Parikh, Head of Giving
gabby.parikh@southwark.anglican.org

Tony Demby, Director of Finance
anthony.demby@southwark.anglican.org