

Finance and Generous Giving Update August 2021



Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the summer edition of our newsletter with updates on projects, training and latest guidance. Thank you to you all for your dedicated work and to our parishes for continuing to generously honour their pledges. We are mindful of the challenges this continued lockdown has posed for churches and volunteers.

We wish you an enjoyable summer but please do contact us if you have any queries.

With kind regards

Mark & Gabby

News



Introducing our new Director of Finance

We are delighted to introduce Mark Rhodes as our new Director of Finance. Mark has spent his career in charity finance, working with a series of arts charities, beginning at the Royal Shakespeare Company. He went on to the National Theatre and has been Director of Finance at the Young Vic, Sadler's Wells, the National Youth Theatre and English Touring Opera. Mark lives near Greenwich and is looking forward to working with parishes.

Parish Support Fund

Please make use of the [2022 Parish Support Fund materials](#) as you consider your pledge. All treasurers and parishes have been sent a copy. They include letters from Bishop Christopher and Ruth Martin; and lockdown stories from parishes.

Please do use the [PSF prayer](#) written by Andrew Nunn, our Dean of Southwark. Please submit pledges by 15 September

– any queries, please contact [Gabby](#).

We are open: micro-grant opportunity

As churches have begun to meet in person again, the Mission and Communications teams have created invitations that parishes can use and can also provide you with a micro-grant of £100 to use. Download the invitation cards and grant application form [here](#).

How simple is it for people to donate to your church as they return to the building? Could you use tools such as a [QR codes](#), [pew cards](#) and [contactless?](#)

Contactless giving project

Thanks to the National Church, in July we delivered 45 contactless giving machines to participating parishes, who received subsidised devices. We are looking forward to a second round in the coming months.

If you would like to try this method of giving, you can borrow a machine for a fortnight from our Giving Team's 'Try Before You Buy' scheme which has enabled many of our parishes to explore this method of giving.

[Register here](#)

Returns of Parish Finance – thank you

A big thank you to the 73% of treasurers (and others) who have uploaded their Return of Parish Finance! The portal is now closed but it is not too late to send in your data. Just download the spreadsheet from the Parish Return website and email it directly to statistics.unit@churchofengland.org.

Generosity Week 2021

Please take a look at the new resources to help churches reflect on and celebrate God's generosity prepared by the National Giving Team. Could the [liturgical and worship materials](#) (covering two weekends), daily [podcasts](#) or discussion materials be of help to your vicar or your church?

New HMRC guidance on waived refunds and loan repayments

In May 2021, HMRC issued guidance confirming that Gift Aid can now be claimed on waived refunds and loan repayments. Find out more about this updated guidance on the [Charity Tax Group website](#).





Top Tips

...for saying “thank you” to your church community

According to a survey from the Church of England last year, less than a third of Anglicans say they are regularly thanked for their giving. As we emerge from the difficult season that the pandemic has brought, here are some ways that you might like to recognise people’s support of your church.

- 1 Make a thank you announcement in a ‘back to church’ service, acknowledging the ways people have given and served during the pandemic.
- 2 Celebrate stories of generosity with a generosity wall, to which all ages can add pictures and messages.
- 3 Write thank you letters or cards from your incumbent or PCC treasurer.
- 4 Give thanks for people’s gifts given in all ways (standing orders, PGS, online, etc) in your intercession or as you pray over the offering.
- 5 Put a thank you message in your parish newsletter or church notice sheet.
- 6 Post on social media with an update of how any fundraising is going.

Parish spotlight

Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) success at St Paul’s, Thamesmead

St Paul’s joined PGS in January, and have seen over half of their planned givers make the switch to the scheme. Patrick, their Team Rector told us, “it helps greatly that we can rely on that money coming into our account on the same day each month. Since day one, everything has worked smoothly. Donors have found it easy to join and our treasurer is happy because it greatly reduces her workload with the Gift Aid claimed automatically.” Do watch our recent webinar “How PGS can help your parish”.



Training & resources

Treasurers workshops

All treasurers are warmly invited to our Autumn workshops, which will be hosted online on Tuesday 28 September. We will run the training at both lunchtime (1-2pm) and in the evening (7:30-8:30pm) to suit your availability. The session will include a question time with our speakers at the end. Workshop topics will include:

- Encouraging giving in a Digital Age;
- Fundraising for Capital Projects;
- Controlling the cash: budgeting, cash flow, checks and balances;
- Accounting with accountability: producing policies to protect your assets.

[Register here](#)

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Helpful resources online

We have a host of useful articles for encouraging generous giving on the website blog for you to explore. Some recent posts include:

- Using QR codes to enable generous giving [BLOG](#)
- Top tips for reimagining the offering [BLOG](#)
- Five reasons to try contactless giving [BLOG](#)

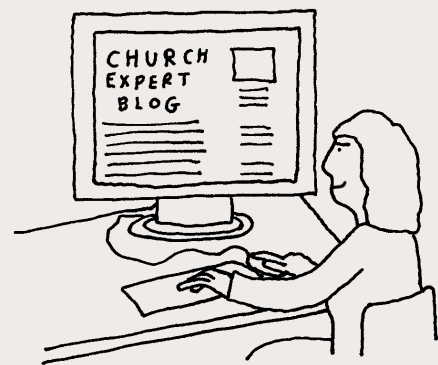
The National Church have a wealth of resources for treasurers on the Parish Resources site. Topics include:

- Getting Started – [The New Treasurers Handbook](#)
- Overview to [Accounting and Reporting](#)
- [Managing Restricted Funds](#)

Upcoming webinars

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

- ‘Getting started with contactless giving’ – Wednesday 1 September, 2pm [WED 1](#)
- ‘Why some people give (and why some don’t)’ – Monday 13 September, 11am [MON 13](#)
- ‘Getting the most out of Give A Little’ – Thursday 30 September, 2pm [THU 30](#)



For more information please contact:

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