

Finance and Generous Giving Update March 2023



Dear Colleagues

We are so grateful for your care and commitment to our churches. In supporting their finances and enabling their giving, you're sustaining mission and ministry in your communities and beyond – thank you!

In 2022, you were able to fulfil 99.4% of your Parish Support Fund (PSF) pledges. In the face of all the challenges, this is a hugely encouraging collection rate. Thank you too for a great start to 2023. Read on for news, tips and case studies and please do get in touch for any support. And please don't miss the Energy Basket deadlines – see below!

With kind regards

Mark & Gabby

News

More support for you in the Diocesan Giving Team

Meet our new team members!



Hannah Starkins, our Digital Giving Advisor, is your go-to contact for online and contactless giving. She can loan you a contactless giving machine in our 'Try Before You Buy' scheme, support your online giving, troubleshoot technical hitches and more! [Contact Hannah.](#)

Jenny Dawkins has joined as Generous Giving Advisor. Jenny can support PCCs or finance committees, ministers and treasurers, in stewardship campaigns, nurturing a generous culture and legacy conversations. She loves to preach about the generous God we worship. [Contact Jenny.](#)



We're grateful that both these posts are funded by the national Generous Giving Advisor Fund.

Prayers and pledges, and accounts

You'll receive your Parish Support Fund materials at the end of June to help your PCC prayerfully decide what you can pledge.

Please make space for this on your July or September PCC meeting agenda.



If you haven't done so already, please complete your Return of Parish Finance and remember to send your parish accounts to [Janet Boyce.](#)

New Letter of Authorisation (LOA) needed for your Energy Basket!

If Parish Buying does not have your signed LOA by 30 April 2023, your parish will be out of contract from the 30 September 2023 and will need to switch to a fixed term contract. Details on the Parish Buying [website.](#)



Maximising Gift Aid

HMRC have confirmed that where digital donations incur administration fees, it is the *gross donation* that is eligible for Gift Aid. Any processing fees may be treated as charitable expenditure.

Inflation: Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) update

One advantage of PGS is that donors can



choose to increase their regular gift annually in line with inflation. In response to the changing economic picture, the Trustees have changed the way this annual inflationary increase is calculated. From May 2023, they are moving from the Retail Price Index (RPI) to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Also, rather than using just one inflation point in January for all givers, the calculation will now use the CPI data for the most recent month, at each donor's giving anniversary.

Each donor will still have time to prayerfully reflect whether they'd like to increase their gift for the year ahead.

Energy bills relief

Good news – the Government has extended automatic energy bill relief for non-domestic customers to 31 March 2024. See next page.



Top Tips... for Contactless Giving through Give A Little

1 Inspire people with pictures

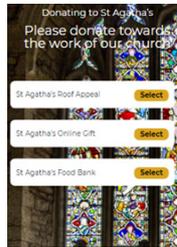
A colourful campaign grabs people's attention.



2 Stop the queues with Quick Mode

This allows people to tap and go with less time between transactions.

A 'thank you' pops up and the app will not ask for details for Gift Aid or receipts. Ideal for crowds at events or bigger services.



3 Combine Campaigns: more causes attract more gifts

To raise money for different needs, you can create a list of multiple campaigns and advertise them on one page. This gives

donors the option of where to donate. (The campaign name will appear on the donor's bank statement, so try to include your church's name for every campaign).

4 Extra security with Fully Single App Kiosk

Locks the screen to your Give A Little app to prevent people accessing your whole tablet.

5 Stop wandering fingers with Lock Menu

Locks the screen to the chosen campaign to prevent people exploring the Give A Little App. For full instructions see our [website manuals](#).

Parish spotlight

St Saviour, Brockley Hill

have raised over £1700 in three months through their new contactless machine. This is an outstanding amount for a modest congregation of 35 people. Revd David Vyvyan and treasurer, Kathryn, explained to Hannah that St Saviour make new campaigns on their *CollecTin* for different appeals, the most recent being for earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria. They also receive a healthy stream of donations from guests. Kathryn finds contactless giving is great "particularly for people not familiar with church. They are more likely to have a card in their pocket" rather than cash. Despite financial hardships, the generosity of people's giving reflects the generosity of people's hearts.

Training and resources

Help with energy costs – are you part of the Energy Basket?

This scheme uses the bulk buying power of the Church to obtain competitive prices for your gas and electricity. 100% of the electricity is from UK renewable sources, so the Energy Basket helps you: save money; save time; and save the environment.

Join the 2023/24 Basket (starts 1 October) and sign up soon on the Parish Buying [Energy Basket](#) page.

The Government has extended automatic energy bill relief for non-domestic customers. From 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, all eligible customers will see automatic discounts applied to their energy bills.

These are reduced from the previous scheme. You don't need to apply – suppliers will automatically apply reductions to bills.

Please check that you are paying the correct rate of VAT on your fuel on the [Government website](#) and contact suppliers if you believe you may qualify for a refund.

Grants for churches

The *Benefact Trust* has recently created a new grants framework with two streams of funding:

- 1) Community Impact Grants.
- 2) Building Improvement Grants.

Details and application forms available from the [Benefact Trust website](#).

Webinar

Ideas and inspiration for growing generosity in your church.

Thursday 15 June
1–2pm

JUN
15

Monday 19 June,
7.30–8.30pm (repeated).

JUN
19

Book by emailing [Jenny Dawkins](#).

The annual Treasurers' workshop will take place early in the autumn.

For more information please contact:

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