

# Finance and Generous Giving Update August 2022



Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the summer edition of our newsletter with news, ideas and resources from our teams. It was delightful to meet some of you over *Zoom* for our treasurers' conference in June; we are so grateful for your dedicated work within our churches. Thank you to our parishes for continuing to generously honour their pledges enabling us to reach a collection rate of 98.9% at the end of July.

We wish you an enjoyable summer but please do contact us, or look at the advice and resources on the Diocesan website, if you have any queries.

With kind regards  
**Mark & Gabby**

## News

### Scam update

Ruth Martin and the Archdeacons advised you of the scam perpetrated on one of our parishes. As you may have heard, we are very grateful that the bank has been generous and will reimburse the church concerned. Nevertheless, we would ask you to be vigilant: *"no matter how persuasive and how convincing, the access codes and passwords to accounts of your church – or your private accounts – must not be released to anyone. Please always speak to your bank*

*direct first and only using the numbers you have been given on your bank correspondence or if possible, visit a branch."*

### NatWest progress

Issues with NatWest bank accounts are being resolved – please contact [Mark](#) if you need help.

### Nearly 60% of Southwark parishes have online giving – don't miss out!

An online giving website page is ideal for visitors, fundraising and occasional givers. If you have not yet set one up, please look at options on [Parish Buying](#) or contact Gabby.

### New low 1.1% rate for online giving

Parish Buying has partnered with Stripe and Give A Little to offer an additional payment processor for online giving. Give A Little users can now set up a [Stripe Express account here](#) and benefit from a low 1.1% transaction rate, *Apple Pay* and *Google Pay* and fewer limits on individual donations.

### GoodBox update

As we write (9 August), Goodbox are still in administration and continue to trade. Regular updates are posted on Parish Buying and direct to customers.

*More news on next page*

## Five top tips... for celebrating Generosity Week (25 Sep–2 Oct)

### 1 Listen to a daily podcast!

A variety of speakers share a daily reflection on a bible passage and suggestions of simple things individuals can do to [bring generosity to life](#).

### 2 Engage your wider community.

There are many ways we can engage with our wider community when exploring generosity – here are a [few ideas](#).

### 3 Generosity Worship Resources.

Make use of [these](#) Eucharists and Services of the Word, themed on generosity and gratitude, as well as services of Morning Prayer.

### 4 Explore activities for Children and Young People.

[Access new 2022 resources](#).

### 5 Grow your giving.

Take the opportunity to reflect on the way you use, share and give away the resources God has entrusted to us. Make time to thank and inspire volunteers or promote the [Parish Giving Scheme](#).



## News

### Fixing your energy rate

Every day, between six and eight churches are moving on to fixed rate energy contracts through Parish Buying. Many are finding the Parish Buying quotations a competitive alternative. If you'd like them to get you quotes for 1, 2 or 3 years or if your contract still has some time to run, then just let Parish Buying know on the [application form here](#) and they'll be in touch

### Are you getting reduced-rate VAT on your church's energy?




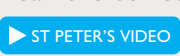
Churches should always fill in a charity declaration when signing up with their energy supplier (or even afterwards if they forgot at first). Every company has its own form, and once accepted, your church will be charged only 5% VAT and will be exempt from Climate Change Levy (CCL). CCL. Churches will generally be eligible for 100% relief, but some church halls will not be able to claim 100% charitable use. This is made clear on the form. It applies to electricity, to gas, and to oil. See the [HMRC guide here](#).

### Survey on generating church income

The National Giving Team are researching income generation activities to help them understand the challenges and opportunities that income generation creates in your church environment. Please help them and [complete this short survey here](#) by 31 August.

## Parish spotlight

### St Peter's Norbiton

Have you heard the stories of generosity from St Peter, Norbiton? Do read about the work of their vintage banquet in the Kingston community and the unexpected spread of generosity following a TV programme. Read the St Peter story   and share their video.  



### Parish Support Fund (PSF) pledges due by 15 September

The PSF materials have been sent to all parishes – please submit your 2023 pledge by **15 September**. If you have any queries please contact Gabby.



**Hearts on Fire**

The Diocese of Southwark

Loving God  
Walking with Jesus  
Led by the Spirit

Luke 24:13-35

THE CHURCH IS EMPTY



THIS IS BECAUSE EVERYONE IS OUTSIDE  
IN THE GARDEN HAVING A PARTY





CartoonChurch.com

## Useful dates, training and resources



### Ride and Stride – Saturday 10 September

Ride+Stride is a wonderful way to get out and about to visit churches and raise money to keep them open and in good repair. Money raised from Ride+Stride in Surrey helps to repair and conserve Surrey's churches: half of the money you raise goes to your chosen church and the rest is distributed to other places of worship across Surrey via conservation grants. To take part as a church and/or as a Ride+Strider.   SEP 10

### Working towards net zero carbon – 15 September

The Parish Buying team is offering a webinar on *How Parish Buying can support parishes towards Net Zero Carbon*; September 15 at 12 noon.   SEP 15

### Generosity Week – starts 25 September

Download a useful outline route map for information about resources.   SEP 25

### Community Businesses in Churches funding

The Plunkett Foundation is working with the Benefact Trust in supporting community businesses in places of worship which can provide an additional income stream and increased footfall. Plunkett is offering free business support and grants for feasibility and development work to community groups looking to set up community-owned businesses in active places of worship, in both rural and urban areas. For more details see [here](#).

For more information please contact:

**Gabby Parikh, Director of Giving and Parish Funding**  
gabby.parikh@southwark.anglican.org

**Mark Rhodes, Director of Finance**  
mark.rhodes@southwark.anglican.org