

# Finance and Generous Giving Update December 2022



Dear Colleagues

This is a wonderful season when we celebrate God's great generosity to us with the birth of his son but we recognise that some of you will be facing challenges both personally and with church finances. We are incredibly grateful for all you do to support your churches helping them bring encouragement and life to our communities.

Thank you to our parishes for continuing to honour their pledges enabling us to reach a collection rate of 99.2% at the end of November and to all of you who have made pledges for 2023. Please find below news, ideas and resources from our teams but do contact us if you have any concerns or suggestions – we are here to support you.

Wishing you an enjoyable Christmas season,

**Mark & Gabby**

## News



### Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) to introduce one-off giving



From 9 December, people can give a one-off gift to a PGS church. There is a small charge of 1.5% per transaction for this one-off facility but PGS will claim the Gift Aid. There continues to be no charge for regular giving. If your church is registered, look out for the one-off gift link on your PGS home page.

Not yet registered with PGS? Any parish can join PGS – read about the benefits for PCCs and givers [here](#). To join, your PCC must first pass a simple resolution agreeing to join the scheme then complete a Registration Form available [here](#) or from Gabby.

### Good news – no VAT on contactless devices!

HMRC confirmed that contactless giving equipment sold to charities and churches will now be zero-rated for VAT.

### Tips for a greener Advent and Christmas

Help your food bank and download our [reverse advent calendar](#) or use one of the [12 tips from Arocha](#) for a greener Christmas.

### Updates from the UK Budget

1. The minimum wage for those over 23 increases to £10.42 per hour from April 2023. The London *Living Wage* has been calculated as £11.95 per hour. Please make sure you are paying your staff the legal minimum and consider paying the *Living Wage* as an act of social justice.
2. Extra money to be made available to local authorities for the Household Support Fund. Local authorities are required to work collaboratively with third party organisations to distribute this money. Consider applying to your local authority for funds to help with projects your church runs to help

those most in need, for example your food bank.

3. *The Energy Bill Relief Scheme* for businesses or charities remains and there will be continued help with business rates, which may apply to church shops or cafes that are classed as rateable.

### Heard about your parish's energy grant from the Diocese?

Please see attached letter sent to incumbents last month. 



### Why have standing charges increased?

OFGEM have implemented industry-wide regulatory charges to modify the way that balancing, distribution and transmission charges are applied. Certain charges which were previously applied to the unit rate are now applied to the standing charge, which is why nationally we have seen standing charges increase. [Read more.](#)



## Six seasonal *Top Tips*

...to encourage generosity this Christmas!

### 1 Set up an online giving page and share it widely!

On average, people give 10 times more online than by cash! *Parish Buying* offers an affordable and simple online giving service called *Give A Little (GAL)*. [Click here](#) to set up your online giving page – and share the link widely!

### 2 Share QR codes in your festive resources.

Free and easy to do! Insert your QR code for your online giving site into [Christmas posters](#), Advent trails; and on screen if you stream your services. Add your QR code to York Diocese's "Follow the Star" [poster](#), [bookmark](#) or [postcard](#).

### 3 Signpost your contactless giving device and make it look festive!

Put your device in an area where visitors meet. Try to have someone nearby to thank those who donate. If you use 'Give a Little' then make your device look festive using Canva – [watch the video](#).

### 4 Enable quick mode on your CollecTin/ Giving Station and review your buttons!

With large numbers of visitors enable quick mode (in *Give a Little* menu) to decrease queues! Review your lowest donation – could it be higher to encourage people to give a little more?

### 5 Write cards or send a video to say thank you to your regular givers.

Inspire people with examples of what their giving has enabled over the last year. Use our sample [thank you letter](#) or record a message – find guidance on creating videos [here](#).

### 6 Appeal for help with your energy bills.

Not everybody will need their £400 from the *Energy Bills Support Scheme*. Consider an appeal asking people to consider sharing their rebate with the church to help provide a warm, welcoming space. Try [ASDA Foundation](#) to see if you are eligible for a grant.



## Parish spotlight

Legacies are a wonderful expression of support for the ongoing life of the church community for future generations. Read about St Leonard's Streatham experience and how ["Thanks to Mimi, children sing every month"](#).

The Church of England has partnered with *Farewill*, the will writer, to offer a free online will writing service. Making a will and keeping it updated is an important part of Christian Stewardship and with *Farewill* individuals can do it from the comfort of their home, for free and in less than 30 minutes. Get started [here](#).

## Useful dates, training and resources

### Give a warm welcome and energy-saving quick-wins

The Church of England website has some helpful links and tips about [Heating your church this winter](#) and how to offer a [Warm Welcome Space](#). Their practical tips [booklet](#) is a great resource to see what further savings can be made – not only in terms of money but also carbon footprint. Listen also to the accompanying [webinar](#).

### Generosity in creative prayer

Use the Diocese of Liverpool and York's resource with interactive prayer stations as a focus for Advent, all age worship, school visits or services. Download the [resource pack here](#).

### Looking ahead to key dates for 2023

This aide-mémoire has key dates for your diary!

### Do you have a contactless giving machine?

If not, and your church would like to borrow one from us and 'Try Before You Buy' please fill in this [form](#) to book a slot! Nominations for *Ecclesiastical's* '12 Days of Giving' closes on 15 December – [nominate your church](#) for a chance to win £1000.



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