



Treasurers News

Sept 2021

Hello,

In the June 2021 newsletter, Amanda said her 'hello and goodbye', before she moved on to pastures new. I've recently been recruited as her replacement, so I'm taking this opportunity to introduce myself.



My name is Lucy Pinnock. I'm a Certified Accountant, with over 25 years of experience working within the charitable and not for profit sector (25 years – where does the time go?). Most of my working life has been spent down south, in Wiltshire, supporting a number of charities, on a self-employed basis. Before that, there was a brief period of two years commuting from Salisbury to London to work with the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign.

My husband and I (sounds a bit royal?) made the decision to move to the Midlands in 2018, for family reasons. It was a huge step for me, because basically I had to start all over again. So here we are, settled in Stafford, with me now given the opportunity to work with The Church of England, Birmingham.

I'm really glad to be here, and very much looking forward to giving you all whatever help and support I can. Amanda gave you the financeteam@cofebirmingham.com email in the June newsletter and that will still get your questions through to me. If any of you do need or want to contact me directly, my email is: LucyP@cofebirmingham.com

And so to other matters.

Generosity Week

Generosity is at the heart of our faith. The generosity we show is testament to a lived-out faith and our generous God.

This Harvest (August – October) we invite your church to take part in Generosity Week. Together we will celebrate the generosity that has helped us through these difficult times, reflect on God's generosity to us and explore how we can grow generosity in our churches.

Churches can choose the week that suits them to hold Generosity Week. There is a range of free resources for your church to use including service and worship materials, a podcast





series on generosity in our churches, generosity reflections, guidance on engaging the wider community with generosity and Living Faith: two new discipleship sessions for small groups. You may wish to use all the resources available or just a selection. All the resources can be found [on this webpage](#). And if you would like more information on how your church can hold a Generosity Week, contact our Giving Facilitator, Lou Bayliss:

Email: LouB@cofebirmingham.com

Tel: 07590 921644

Upcoming webinars from the National Giving Team

'Getting the most out of Give A Little' – 30th September, 2pm and 18th November, 11.30am

'Getting started with contactless giving' – 1st September, 2pm and 28th October, 12pm

'Introduction to the Generosity Toolkit' – 23rd September, 2pm and 10th November, 3pm

For more information on these webinars and to [register your attendance, click here](#).

Parish Returns and Annual Accounts

In the June newsletter, Amanda reminded us all that the submission deadline for parish returns was 9th July.

Thank you again to everyone who has filed their finance return already. We usually reach over 90% of parishes successfully completing these returns. This year, the percentage submitted by the deadline stood at 93%, which is a great result. For those of you who have not yet submitted your returns, please don't hesitate to contact Alex Woodhouse if you are having difficulties; he will be happy to support you.

Just a further reminder also that, if you have not already done so, could you send us a copy of your annual accounts so that we can verify your data entered on the Finance Return. These should be sent to Alex Woodhouse:

Email: AlexW@cofebirmingham.com

Tel: 07767 100219

Seminars Reminder

The year is moving on fast, but just to remind you that we still have several seminars due to take place before the year end. Although I will not be presenting at all of them, I am looking forward to taking every opportunity to put some names to faces.

The link to find out about these and to book on to a seminar can be found here:

www.dio.org.uk/TreasurersTraining2021





Common Fund – a note from our Director of Finance

We are now well past the mid-point of the year and I thought that I would update you on all on how Common Fund collection is going. Despite the difficulties of the last eighteen months, we were overwhelmed by the commitments that most parishes made with regard to their 2021 Common Fund and we continue to be grateful for the way in which payments have continued to come in. I think that at the turn of the year, we were still not totally prepared for how long we would be locked down and for how difficult it has been for any return to what we once saw as normal.

As at the end of July, we have received 82% of commitments due to date and there are only seven parishes that have yet to make any payments, which is actually better than the last couple of years.

Looking slightly ahead, we will be looking to agree 2022 commitments in November/ December, so look out for your letters in due course. Remember that the approach to setting and agreeing your 2022 Common Fund commitments will broadly follow the same approach as for 2021 and will once again use your 2020 commitment as a base.

Thank you once again to you and your parishioners for their continuing generosity and let us pray for a more “normal” second half as you strive to rebuild your parish finances.

Energy Footprint Tool

Ben Smith, the Care of Churches Officer, is encouraging parishes to submit their [Energy Footprint Tool](#). The Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) records the carbon footprint of your church, based on your energy use – mainly heating and lighting. Please take the time to review it.

The deadline for EFT submissions has been **extended to 30th September 2021**.

ACAT Newsletter and Membership

Here is a link to the latest [ACAT Newsletter](#) and also a reminder that you are all members of ACAT which is a charity for treasurers of all Christian churches. They have advice, training and information on accounting, financial and legal issues. [Click here for details on how to register](#) and set up your log in.

With our prayers and best wishes,

The Finance Team

You are receiving this communication due to your role as Treasurer in your parish. If you no longer wish to receive these communications please reply to this email address with the word Unsubscribe, along with your name and parish.

