



Hello and Goodbye,

This is my last newsletter to you before I disappear to pastures new. I just wanted to take the opportunity to say what a pleasure it has been working with and alongside so many of you over the last nine years in all manner of parish financial matters.

As many of you know I frequently, accidentally, address my emails to you as “To All Treasures” and you are all that to me. The work you do as Treasurer is so important but can often feel quite lonely and I hope you realise how much we appreciate all the work that you do.

My colleagues in the Finance Team remain here to help and support you in your work and if you are unsure who to speak to please email:

Financeteam@cofebirmingham.com

And one of them will be in touch.

And so to other matters.

Giving Facilitator



We would like to introduce you to our newest colleague Lou Bayliss. Thanks to funding from the National Giving Team and their Giving Advisor Fund, CofE Birmingham have been able to recruit Lou as a full-time Generous Giving Facilitator to provide resources and support to parishes. Lou, who has previously worked within CofE Birmingham as a Mission Apprentice, took up the role at the beginning of March. As Giving Facilitator, she will be working alongside parishes and can help in several ways, such as:

- Making giving easy – supporting the introduction of contactless giving and the Parish Giving Scheme
- Helping you to run a Generosity programme
- Facilitating a Giving review with your PCC & develop strategies around generosity





- Talking about legacies
- Engaging with PCCs, sub committees and the wider congregation
- Offering training and support

Regular giving can often be a sensitive topic of discussion. We aim to transform it into a conversation around discipleship, mission and sustainable ministry, so as to maintain a meaningful Christian presence in our communities. Look out for new resources on the CofE Birmingham website over the coming months. For any queries around generous giving, you can contact Lou via loub@cofebirmingham.com.

Charity Commission

Back in March the Charity Commission ran some Financial Management webinars particularly aimed at faith charities. Some really interesting and useful questions were asked at these webinars and you can find full details of those [questions and answers here](#).

It is however worth highlighting their response in relation to GASDS.

Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme – GASDS

Question

In relation to HMRC/GASDS, where churches have not been open since March 2020 and weekly collections have not been possible, will there be any provision for claiming any amounts under GASDS?

Response

In respect of GASDS, guidance on the eligibility for donations for inclusion in this scheme is clear in stating that claims can only be made on cash donations of £30 or less; and contactless card donations of £30 or less collected on or after 6 April 2019. The decision over what constitutes an eligible donation is one for the church/charity to make for themselves, rather than HMRC, but the conditions for something to be considered a “small donation” are clearly set out in legislation. Where it is the case, for example, of separate donations being given in a single envelope, then if the church/charity official is happy these are clearly separate “small donations” (and clearly stated as such then they will be eligible for GASDS, as is the case where separate envelopes are used).

This clarification about GASDS is particularly helpful where we receive donations from planned givers using an envelope scheme and the giver has been unable to sign a gift aid declaration.





Parish Returns and Annual Accounts

Due to +David allowing PCCs until the end of June to hold their APCM we have requested an extension to the submission deadline for filing the PCC Finance Parish Return. This request has been met and we have a new submission deadline date of 9th July.

Thank you to everyone who has filed their Finance return already. We usually reach over 90% of parishes successfully completing their Finance return and currently we have reached 71% of completed returns. It would be much appreciated if you could help increase our percentage by filing your return as soon as possible. If you are having any difficulties, please contact Alex Woodhouse who will be happy to support you.

If you have not already done so, could you also send us a copy of your annual accounts so that we can verify your data entered on the Finance Return and these should be sent to Alex whose contact details are:

Email: alexw@cofebirmingham.com

Tel: 07767100219

Seminars Reminder

We still have several seminars happening during the remainder of the year and the link to find out about these and to book on to a seminar can be found here:

www.dio.org.uk/TreasurersTraining2021

Accounts Packages

Are you thinking about moving your accounts to a cloud-based package? Or moving your accounts from spreadsheets to an accounting package? Through the Parish Book-keeping Service we can now offer you access to Data Developments MyFundaccounting cloud-based finance package at a cost of £5 per month. If you would like to find out more please email:

bookkeeping@cofebirmingham.com

Once again thank you for all you do, it has been a pleasure.

Best wishes,

Amanda

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.

