Money Matters – December 2020

In this issue we will cover

- New contactless payment solutions
- Fraudulent emails warning
- Building a Generous Church
- PCC Accountability book
- Data Developments training and prize draw
- Statutory fees for funerals held at a crematorium
- Common Fund collection by Direct Debit – change of date for January 2021

New contactless payment solutions

A number of new contactless card reader options (including stands and screen) are now available through the Parish Buying website. They use a Sum Up reader and the Give a Little app so a Sum Up account will need to be set up to use them if one is not already in place. There are a variety of options in addition to the Good Box and PayaCharity readers and stands already available.

Some units require a Wi-Fi or 3G phone signal and some have the ability to take Gift Aid details. The full range is on the Parish Buying website under Categories – Giving and Payments – Solutions. Prices vary but a number are now lower than the earlier options.

Fraudulent emails warning

We have been advised that, once again, parish officers or administrators have been receiving emails purporting to come from a member of the parish clergy requesting urgent payments be made or a response back which leads to such a request. The email often also contains a statement that the person is in a meeting so not to phone but only respond to the email. Often the email address of the sender is incorrect. If in any doubt do phone the purported sender of the email. Other fraud attempts include emails that seem to come from a business the PCC is due to make payment to and which give differing bank details. Again, contact the company (using a phone number that you have from previous dealings with them) before using the new bank details.

Building a Generous Church

The Church of England website now has a page of information and ideas (here) to assist with building a culture of generosity in the church. This is split into two sections – Enabling Giving and Encouraging Generosity with sub-sections on specific areas and resources to download.
PCC Accountability – the Charities Act 2011 and the PCC (5th edition)

As we near the year end and you start to think about preparation of the annual accounts, a reminder to ensure that your Auditor or Independent Examiner has a copy of this book as it explains the church rules that need to be applied to the format of the PCC accounts and the information they should contain. A copy of the book was sent to all PCC Treasurers when it was printed in 2017 and it is essential for the production of PCC accounts. Even if the Auditor or Independent Examiner is well-versed in the production of accounts for charities they will still need this book to understand the specific requirements of the Church of England. The book is available from Church House bookshop.

Data Developments training modules

If you use one of the Data Developments software packages you should have received an email from them with details of the online training modules they now offer. Rather than offering whole day or half day training they have now produced a range of online training modules for Finance Co-Ordinator and Donations Co-Ordinator (their PC based packages) and MyFundAccounting.online and MyGiving.online (their cloud based packages). There is currently a launch offer price of £12 per module (usually £15). Full details are available at Data Developments training.

Data Developments prize draw

This year Data Developments has opened up participation for their annual Christmas Quiz to everyone. (The prize is a Chocolate hamper, delivered in time for Christmas.) The link to play the quiz is https://event.webinarjam.com/login/r4pylf8vhn8iolbls5. Entries close at 6pm on Sunday 13 December 2020.

Statutory fees for funerals held at a crematorium

We are currently looking at the implementation of the decision taken at Diocesan Synod on 2 December regarding the treatment of fees charged in respect of funerals held at a crematorium. Further guidance on this will be issued in the New Year.

Common Fund collection by Direct Debit – change of date for January 2021

For parishes giving towards Common Fund by Direct Debit please note that the first collection in 2021 will exceptionally be on 22 January. Subsequent collections will revert to the 15th of the month as usual.

Happy Christmas

All the finance team wish you a very happy Christmas.
Questions

If you have any questions relating to this mailing or any parish financial matter, please contact your relevant Area Finance Adviser:

Mary Spredbury 020 7932 1245 for Kensington
Martin Hornbuckle 020 3837 5018 for Stepney and Two Cities
Bruce Rickards 020 3837 5014 for Willesden
Julie Churchyard 020 3837 5015 for Edmonton

E mail addresses are: firstname.lastname@london.anglican.org

Additional information is also available on the Diocesan website:
https://www.london.anglican.org/support/finance/