Money Matters – July 2020

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Welcome to Chris Harris as Director of Finance and Operations

I am very pleased to be joining the Diocese of London as Director of Finance and Operations. I originally trained as an accountant in the NHS, then went to Egypt as a volunteer finance director with a Mission agency. I then worked for 20 years in the UK charity sector with the Shaftesbury Society, Action for Blind People and CIPFA. Before joining the LDF, I spent nine years working as an advisory partner at MHA MacIntyre Hudson. I am keen on professional development in charity finance, completing a MSc at South Bank University and serving on the SORP Committee. I now sit on the Practitioner Advisory Group for the International Financial Reporting projects for non-profits. I have four grown up children but no grandchildren yet!

Welcome to Catherine Dawkins as Head of Finance

I’m excited to be joining the Diocese of London as Head of Finance and look forward to supporting the mission of the Church of England in London. I have worked in the voluntary sector for over 15 years, most recently as the Finance Director for the Diocese of Chichester. I started my career at PricewaterhouseCoopers, and subsequently worked for Ernst & Young and Buzzacott Livingstone. Outside work I am a self-supporting minister in the Diocese of Southwark. I have also had a long interest in the criminal justice system and have been a trustee of the Prisoners’ Education Trust since 2014. I look forward to discovering more about the Church of England north of the river!

Funeral fees

The permission given to clergy to waive funeral fees has been extended until 30th September at which point it is expected to end. Fees for funerals where the fee has not been waived and for weddings should be remitted to the London Diocesan Fund on a quarterly basis with the June quarter now being due. If at all possible please make a BACS payment for the amount and email the returns form to Elaine Saunders and Natalie Atkins (elaine.saunders@london.anglican.org, natalie.atkins@london.anglican.org). A copy of the returns form is available on the diocesan website at https://www.london.anglican.org/support/finance/fees/statutory-fees/. The forms and cheques can continue to be sent to the Finance Department at 36 Causton Street if a bank transfer is not possible but there may be a delay in processing the cheque.
Promoting giving as buildings reopen

As some churches start to reopen for services it remains a good idea to continue to promote online giving with a link to your chosen provider or using a QR code. The Parish Giving Scheme is a helpful way to encourage regular giving and, if your church is not already registered, this may be a good opportunity to start using the Scheme. Your Finance Adviser can provide further information and, if your church is already registered, we can also supply a pdf of a Gift form for you to email to potential new donors.

The guidance for church services is that card readers and online giving/QR codes should be encouraged in preference to cash giving. However, for some people cash giving remains their preferred option. If you are accepting cash offering then a plate or other suitable receptacle should be placed in church and only handled by one person. Collection plates or bags should not be passed round during the service. One off giving envelopes should not be left out where they can be touched or handled by several people but can be available on request. Cash (including any in giving envelopes) should continue to be counted by two (socially distanced) counters and they should wear disposable gloves. As usual a cash sheet should be completed, and details entered in the service register. Cash should be left in safe until it can be banked.

Job retention bonus Scheme

The Chancellor has announced that a £1,000 bonus will be paid to employers for each furloughed employee who is still employed as of 31st January 2021. Further details will be available in due course.

Parish Buying

Parish Buying has recently introduced a new category: for the purchase of cleaning and hygiene goods (including hand sanitizers, dispensers, liquid soap and PPE). There are full details on the website at https://www.parishbuying.org.uk/.

In addition Parish Buying will soon be introducing offers on AV equipment and advice to support churches with their engagement with online congregations.

In order to see what is available you will need to be registered. Parish Buying is a Church of England procurement website that offers a variety of goods and services to parishes at a discount to usual rates.

Online giving webinar

A further webinar for parishes about how to set up and promote online giving has been arranged at 11am on 24th July https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/5015888640699/WN_rutsVUNwQ3-O-BNJhARLrA. After registering you will receive an email confirmation with details of how to join the webinar.

Charitable Status Certificate

If your parish needs proof of their charitable status (as an Excepted Charity), a certificate can now be printed from the A Church Near You website that confirms this status.
From your parish’s page on the website, click on the ‘More Information’ tab on the left hand side. Then scroll to the bottom of the page, the option to ‘Download Certificate’ is available. Click on that and then enter your name and email address, the certificate confirming Excepted Charity status and the relevant measure, will be emailed to you.

Launch of new Allchurches Trust : Hope Beyond (Covid-19) grants programme and research

Allchurches Trust has launched a new grants programme – Hope Beyond – aimed at enabling churches and Christian charities to meet the changing needs within their communities as the longer term impact of Covid-19 becomes clearer.

Funding projects that will enable people, organisations and communities to flourish in life after lockdown, Hope Beyond will help churches, Christian charities and communities to adapt to the challenges and opportunities presented by the pandemic – building resilience and encouraging hope.

Grants of up to £50,000 are available, and the amount you receive will depend upon the cost of your project and level of need in your community, ranging from 10% of project cost through to 80%.

Hope Beyond : Pack for partners

Hope Beyond : Research Report

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 questions and answers are available on the Diocesan website:

https://www.london.anglican.org/support/parish-finances/