



Money Matters Finance Newsletter

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Willesden Area Finance Adviser

We are pleased advise that Bruce Rickards will be joining the Finance Adviser team as Willesden Area Finance Adviser on 2nd March – Bruce’s contact details will be available shortly and will be sent out to parishes in the Willesden Area. In the meanwhile, parishes in Willesden are welcome to contact any of the other Finance Advisers or to use the e mail at the end of this mailing.

Date warning

While many of us normally abbreviate years, for example by writing 2019 as “19”, doing so in 2020 can be dangerous.

Because the last two digits of the date, “20”, are also the first two digits of the current century, writing just “20” allows people to modify the date backwards or forwards with a great deal of ease. When it comes to cheques (which we know are becoming rarer!) and other important documents, it can be dangerous, and lead to fraud as the dates can easily be changed to earlier or later dates.

Can we therefore encourage you to not abbreviate the year in 2020 and write it in full.

Annual Accounts: Year End Actions

A new edition of the Church Representation Rules was published last month (please ensure your church has a copy of the new rules) and one of the changes is that, whilst PCCs are still required to display their Examined or Audited Annual Report and Accounts for 7 days prior to the Annual Parochial Church meeting, the PCC can now decide to do this electronically (page 76). If you go down that route you must make a paper copy available to anyone who reasonably asks for one. Ideally your accounts should already be with the Independent Examiner so that there is plenty of time for queries and clarifications.

Statutory Fees for Weddings and Funerals

Many thanks to all of you who have sent in your statutory fees for 2019.

The diocesan element should be paid quarterly to the London Diocesan Fund using a Diocesan Fees Return Form which can be found [here](#). Please ensure, if you have not already done so, that all the 2019 Diocesan Fees are paid to the London Diocesan Fund by the end of this month.

For a breakdown of the 2019 fees or 2020 fees please see the [Church of England website](#). If you have not had any applicable services within the previous quarter a “nil return” copy of the form should be submitted.

As you will probably have noticed, there is now no PCC fee in respect of services held at crematoria. An amount should be added to the statutory fee to cover the cost of clergy travel expenses and any other costs.

The Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR)

The ECCR are a Christian organisation whose vision is to see money used in a way that creates a fairer and more sustainable world, aiming to help faith communities and people to make financial choices which reflect these values and passions.

They have a resource for use by small church groups called “Money Makes Change” to help individuals make ethical choices around money. There is more information [here](#) in the Resources section.

Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers (ACAT)

The December Money Matters mailing included a section on the new ACAT website and how to obtain an individual login as part of the block membership that the London Diocesan Fund has for parishes. If you obtained your own login you should have received an e mail newsletter from ACAT on 1st February which I hope you found helpful.

The ACAT website and training events are particularly helpful for treasurers and if you have not yet obtained your own login, we would recommend that you do so in order to access the resources in the members area of the website.

New Annual Returns System

As a reminder of the deadlines for submitting data:

Statistics for Mission

- Many thanks if these have been completed. The deadline for this data was **31 January 2020**. The portal for the data to be entered will be closed shortly so, if this has not already been done, could you please enter the data as soon as possible. The portal is at [annual returns](#)

Financial Statistics

- These need to be provided as soon as possible after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). The APCM must now be held no later than 31 May 2020 (see Rule M1(1) of the new Church Representation Rules 2020).

Annual Report and Examined/Audited Accounts

- These should be uploaded as soon as possible after being presented at the APCM.

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

Contact Details for the Area Finance Advisers

Mary Spredbury	020 7932 1245	for Kensington
Martin Hornbuckle	020 3837 5018	for Stepney and Two Cities
Julie Churchyard	020 3837 5015	For Edmonton

For parishes in Willesden please email joshua.townson@london.anglican.org and someone will respond as soon as is possible.

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