

## Money Matters Finance Newsletter

May 2019

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### Retirement of Theresa Moses & Recruitment of Stepney Finance Adviser

The following is a note sent from Theresa Moses, Stepney (and formerly) Edmonton Area Finance Adviser, and Sarah Major, Head of Finance at the LDF to Stepney Area treasurers on afternoon of Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May:

*This is a strange note for me to have to send: it is to let you know that this will be the last time that I'll accompany you through the Common Fund process. My husband Alan, who is Vicar in a London parish, retires later this year, and as we will (probably must) leave London I've decided that I should retire too, at the end of September. The advert for my successor has just gone out so it is now all very real! Please be assured that I'm planning to leave things in good order before I go, and there is to be a proper hand over period. It's been an amazing time for me, working with all of you. Thank you, but not yet goodbye. Theresa Moses*

*It is with great sadness that we prepare to say goodbye to Theresa later this year, after serving and working with the Diocese for over 16 years. I am sure that you will join me in thanking her for her hard work, dedication and commitment to the work of the London Diocese and in particular the Stepney area. There will be plenty of opportunities in the coming months to celebrate her time with us and wish her well as she embarks on the next chapter. Sarah Major*

We would also like to add, as Theresa's colleagues, how sad we will be to see her go and that, when the time comes, we wish her the very best. Theresa has been a firm friend to us all and an incredibly helpful mentor to the newest members of the Area Finance Team (Julie and Joshua).

As Theresa mentioned in her note she will not be finishing until the end of September and in the meantime a recruitment advertisement has been released for her replacement as Stepney Area Finance Adviser. This will be a full-time role which will also include project coordination for the Finance Adviser team. You can read more about the role and apply [here](#). Please do share the link with anyone you believe might be interested in applying.

### **Business Rates on PCC Buildings**

Recently some Local Authorities have been seeking to charge churches business rates on their buildings. Church's liability to pay business rates is a complex legal issue and we intend to release more formal guidance next month. In the meantime, if your Local Authority approaches you seeking to charge business rates, please contact your Archdeacon.

### **Statutory Fees for Weddings and Funerals**

A reminder that wedding and funeral fees contain an amount which must be paid to the London Diocesan Fund (Diocesan Board of Finance). The PCC collects this fee and should send it, to the London Diocesan Fund on a quarterly basis along with a Fee Return Form which can be found [here](#). Please would you ensure that your fee returns are up to date. If you have not had any eligible services please note this in an email to [Elaine Saunders](#). If you are unsure when you last made a fee payment, or need more information, please contact your Area Finance Adviser.

### **Stewardship & Generous Giving Event**

We previously highlighted a save the date for a Stewardship & Generous Giving event on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July. This event has been held over until the autumn and will not happen in July. This is to ensure we can provide the most valuable training on the day. We will share the new date with you as soon as possible.

## Gas/Electricity Smart Metering for Churches and PCC Buildings

Smart metering is set to improve everyone's control over their energy use and help to reduce costs. The meters measure gas and/or electricity consumption, and automatically send information to the utility companies, removing the need to take meter readings for billing purposes.

Some older smart meters lost their smart function after a change of supplier; these are either being replaced with the latest type (called SMETS2), or being switched to the newer secure infrastructure which should enable them to regain full functionality. Churches should get ready for an offer from their supplier(s) – which should be free. The first step is to check where your meters are, and whether there is access and space to remove and replace them.

The Diocese has commissioned a thorough report on smart metering, which is available on [our webpage](#), with the report downloadable at the foot of the page.

## ACAT Training Sessions

The Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers (ACAT) provides training for anyone interested in church finance. The 2019 dates are:

**Being a Treasurer: The Basics** seeks to “equip today's treasurer with the knowledge needed to carry out their multi-faceted role.” It covers:

- **Trusteeship:** Churches as Charities; Responsibilities of Trustees and Treasurer
- **Bookkeeping:** Managing Finance Operations; Accounting Records; Fund Accounting
- **Financial Planning:** Budgeting; Risk Management
- **Tax Reclaims:** Gift Aid; GASDS; VAT
- **Reporting:** Trustees' Annual Report; Financial Statements; Independent Examination

The dates for this training are:

**Saturday 15 June 2019** (10am to 4pm) at Holy Trinity Brompton, Brompton Road, SW7 1JA

**Wednesday 2 October 2019** (10am to 4pm) at CCLA, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, EC4V 4ET

Other training available includes:

- **Gift Aid & GASDS** on **Friday 28 June 2019** (10am to 1.30pm) at St Albans Centre, Leigh Place, Baldwins Gardens, EC1N 7AB

- **A Church Investment Seminar** on **Thursday 19 September 2019** at CCLA, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, EC4V 4ET
- **Budget & Planning** on **Saturday 23 November 2019** (10am to 1.30pm) at Church of the Good Shepherd, Beavers Lane, Hounslow, TW4 6HJ

The cost for each of the above courses is £50 and includes all course material, refreshments and a buffet lunch. Booking early is essential and both members and non-members of ACAT are able to attend. For further information and to book your place, please visit our [website](#). You can book instantly online using Paypal or a credit/debit card, or print out a postal booking form to send with a cheque.

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### Contact Details for the Area Finance Advisers

<b>Mary Spredbury</b>	020 7932 1245	for Kensington and Two Cities
<b>Theresa Moses</b>	020 7932 1247	for Stepney
<b>Julie Churchyard</b>	020 3837 5015	for Edmonton
<b>Joshua Townson</b>	020 3837 5014	for Willesden

email: *firstname.lastname@london.anglican.org*