



Simpler Support for Churches

Find the support you need quickly



› Church Support Hub

a central hub for tailored and ongoing learning across the Church

The Church Support Hub is designed to provide resources and learning to support lay and ordained staff, churches and dioceses to grow, and to realise the Church's Vision and Strategy in parishes and local communities. It offers a flow of support for ongoing learning between dioceses, networks, parishes, and individuals and the national team.



Content is developed with specific audiences in mind. Whether a leader in a diocese, church or network context, you can access a **range of resources**, from webinars, videos and online courses to research, policy and practice guides, and inspiring stories designed for you.

The site provides **information** on what has been **fruitful in nationally funded projects**. The aim of the site is to **share learning** from a range of churches and contexts for the benefit of the whole Church. We are not teaching, but **facilitating, signposting** and **inspiring people** to undertake their own learning based on what has worked in other contexts. Ultimately we recognise that **growth is God's work**.



The site's search feature is designed to enable you to **find the learning** you most need, or to **connect with others** working on the same theme or approach, in just a few clicks. As well as resources and learning, there are opportunities for you to connect with others by reaching out to those sharing their work and peer networks.

With an account, you can draw together a **personalised library**, and if you opt to receive a **newsletter**, you can even **personalise** the type of **content** you receive. You can also easily **connect with individuals and groups** directly on the site.



> Key features

- **find what you want** with clear signposting, searching and filtering
- **recommended for me:** choose your topics of interest and the site will recommend resources for you on your own dedicated page and in a personalised email
- **my library:** save the resources that interest you most, bookmarking them so they are all in one place
- **flexible learning:** in your own time or at a scheduled time with on-demand videos, downloads, courses, online and face-to-face events and webinars, stories and blogs
- **connect** with groups of others who have similar interests
- **monthly newsletter**, personalised to your learning interests and role



› The Church Organiser

tools to help you organise church life - all in one place

The **Church Organiser** is online administration software for Church of England churches and provided to them free of charge.

The new **Ticketing**, **Service Finance** and **Room Booking** modules unlock revenue streams for your church and reimagine traditionally cumbersome tasks into easy-to-use powerful tools.

Whether you're just starting a new journey with a family through a baptism, celebrating a marriage following a wedding in your church or providing comfort and prayer for a family after a funeral, the **Life Events Diary** allows you to streamline the administration and follow-up and helps you to build lasting relationships with those you meet through the life event services.



> The Church Organiser is

- free for Church of England churches*
- integrated with A Church Near You
- secure - data is encrypted and stored on UK-based servers



> With the Church Organiser you can

- add multiple users and churches with bespoke access and permissions
- reduce duplication of data collection and data input tasks
- record legal and personal data of families safely and securely
- make use of tools to assist with DPA, UK GDPR and PECR compliance
- coordinate tasks with other leaders and team members
- access live and on-demand webinars and tutorials as well as email support from a UK-based team
- never forget a significant date for pastoral care or an opportunity for follow-up after a service



› Parish Buying

a one stop shop for your major parish spends, from paper clips to photocopiers and more

Through bulk buying power, **Parish Buying** can negotiate competitive prices with suppliers across a range of different contracts. All suppliers undergo a careful selection process, and the contracts have been professionally reviewed. **Parish Buying** also manages the contracts and can guarantee ongoing support from a dedicated customer service team.

› Parish Buying provides:

Contactless giving

Parish Buying can help you decide which contactless device is right for you. See parishbuying.org.uk/giving.

Giving and payments

The average gift online to churches is four times more than a contactless gift, it is an important method to offer. See parishbuying.org.uk/giving. Or for people who like to pay via mobile phone, you can offer QR codes too at parishbuying.org.uk/QR-codes.



Energy, including sustainable electricity

The Parish Buying Energy Basket – with its green electricity – has protected member churches from price changes year after year.

See parishbuying.org.uk/energy-basket.

Connectivity and telephones

Parish Buying can help set you up at

parishbuying.org.uk/telecoms.

Net zero carbon - energy audit

Take advantage of a subsidised energy audit for your church to work out the changes you can afford to make a difference.

See parishbuying.org.uk/energy-audit.

Insurance

Get a quote from one of the two specialist insurers, Ecclesiastical and Trinitas. See the buying guide at parishbuying.org.uk/insurance.

Supplies and printers

If you need catering, hygiene or cleaning supplies you will find them at parishbuying.org.uk/office-products.

Parish or team printers are available at parishbuying.org.uk/photocopiers.

Planned and reactive maintenance

Ensuring the upkeep of properties is essential but can be a daunting task, requiring expertise across various trades and disciplines. Let Parish Buying help you to alleviate your maintenance burden by working with a facilities management or maintenance company, whose skilled professionals provide expertise across multiple trades. By tapping into their knowledge and experience, you can ensure these tasks are carried out to the highest standards, with attention to detail and compliance with industry regulations.

➤ Can't see what you need?

Parish Buying surveys its members regularly and tries to respond where there is enough demand. Registering is quick, easy and free at parishbuying.org.uk/register. You will receive a monthly newsletter as well as full access to the website.



› Parish Resources

supporting the governance and administration of parish churches

A new version of the Parish Resources website is under construction. Here you will be able to find everything you need for governance and administration. The improved platform will provide trusted guidance and resources to help churches keep up to date with changes in legislation.



› Parish Resources for guidance, templates, downloads and more

Parish Resources is the manual for the day-to-day 'behind the scenes' administration of churches. **Parish Resources** has information on many areas such as:

- administration of life events
- governing documents and guidance on implementing the church representation rules
- data protection and GDPR
- registering with the Charity Commission
- templates for annual meetings
- resources for treasurers: Gift Aid, church accounts, reporting, with more to come



> Parish Resources for collaboration, best practice, next steps

Parish Resources is the link between essential elements of church life with signposting to relevant resources for mission and ministry and other support services:

- excellent resources developed by dioceses
- Church Support Hub and The Church Organiser pages for life events
- safeguarding
- HR resources
- working with volunteers
- A Church Near You

Parish Resources is developing a system for parish representatives to keep track of their responsibilities and tasks, share with their leadership team and help provide an overview of their 'compliance health status'.

Parish Resources provide a network for those in diocesan teams who support parishes with governance and administration to share learning, information and expertise. The aim is to continue to identify ways of reducing the administrative burden on parishes by responding to ongoing feedback.



› MyFundAccounting

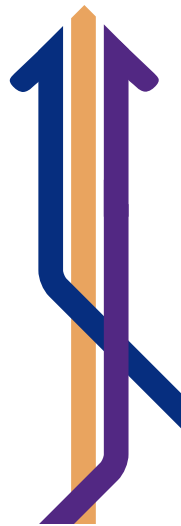
financial software and services for churches



Data Developments produce a range of software, services and training specially designed to meet the requirements of churches and charities across the UK for managing accounts, gift aid and administration. With a thorough understanding of the challenges you face, the software simplifies the accounts and donations process, enabling you to focus on your mission.

› MyFundAccounting lets you:

- record all your accounting transactions and funds
- import transactions directly from your bank account
- attach documents and invoices to transactions easily
- produce accounting reports such as the Return of Parish Finance
- produce the Trustees Annual Report including charts and graphs
- record all your donations including **Gift Aid** and **GASDS**
- submit **Gift Aid** and **GASDS** claims to HMRC at the click of a button
- integrate with **Give a Little** and the **Parish Giving Scheme**
- add an optional full payroll system
- make use of online training videos and technical support



➤ Bookkeeping Service

The **bookkeeping service** is designed to help those churches that have found themselves without a treasurer, giving peace of mind that the church's bookkeeping is all being looked after.

The service includes:

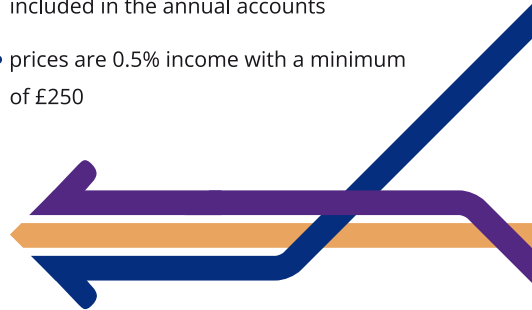
- data entry of all transactions, standing orders and transfers
- production of financial reports
- regular bank reconciliations
- liaison with the Independent Examiner and entering adjustments, if required
- entry of regular and **GASDS-eligible** donations
- import of **Parish Giving Scheme** and **Give a Little donations**
- submission of Gift Aid and GASDS claims to HMRC
- prices start from £20 per week including VAT

➤ Independent Examination

Although not a full audit, an **Independent Examination** is a form of external scrutiny from a person who is independent of the church and provides a limited check on specific matters.

The service includes:

- a review of the accounting records
- a comparison of the accounts presented with those records
- a review of any unusual items or matters of concern
- a review of payments made to PCC members
- a review of payments made to overseas organisations
- an Independent Examiner's report to be included in the annual accounts
- prices are 0.5% income with a minimum of £250



➤ A Church Near You

the Church of England's official
church finder tool

ChurchNearYou.com allows the
public to find their nearest church,
view information about that church
community and get in touch.



ChurchNearYou.com receives over 70 million
page views per year. Every Church of England
church has a listing on the site. By keeping your
church's listing up to date, you help more people
discover your church and contact you.

If your church already has a website, you can
simply use **ChurchNearYou.com** to link back to
your homepage. If you don't yet have a website,
ChurchNearYou.com will help you get started
with the basics, with options to add as many of
the features as you like.



> Benefits of using AChurchNearYou.com

- a free website for churches and multi-church benefices
- easily receive and respond to messages from the public
- highlight upcoming events and news
- embed recordings of your services
- completely free and easy to update
- the Resource Hub has a wide range of free materials such as music tracks, stock photography, social media templates, campaign branding
- the Editor Help Centre gives training and support: cofe.io/EditorHelpACNY

> What else can AChurchNearYou.com do?

- collect enquiries about baptisms, weddings and funerals
- room booking
- use the survey tool for a clearer picture of faith, discipleship and demographics in your church
- add an online giving button
- Online Services Register
- Everyday Faith: link to this faith and discipleship portal or customise it to your church's Everyday Faith journey
- explore the benefice functionality
- diocese-wide analytics available via a diocesan login



➤ Church Development Tool

a way of planning together:
simple, effective, encouraging



➤ What is the Church Development Tool?

The **Church Development Tool** is a short, anonymous survey which can give you a clearer picture of demographics, discipleship and evangelism in your church.

What is your church great at? What support would your congregation like to grow in faith and discipleship?

The **Church Development Tool** can help you find out and then point you to resources that will help you act on what you discover, helping you prioritise what to focus on in the years ahead. It engages your whole congregation in the process, offering ways to involve children and young people as well as adults.



➤ How can it help?

- The survey results help you to look at your community with fresh eyes and find the opportunities for growth. This could be by building on strengths or addressing gaps.
- How representative is your church community of the community you serve? The report will show you your congregation's demographics in comparison to the census data for your parish.
- How are your congregation living out their faith and growing in discipleship?
- What might opportunities for engaging with children and young people look like in your parish?
- For example, if the survey results show that not everyone agrees 'I know how my faith connects with everyday life', you might consider how this could be talked about more, such as by following an **Everyday Faith** journey together.
- If the survey results reveal a strong interest in engaging with the wider community, you could incorporate these activities into your church's mission work.

➤ How do we complete the survey?

- The **Church Development Tool** is free and accessed through **AChurchNearYou.com**.
- People in your worshipping community can complete the survey online or on paper.
- The survey questions and a sample report are available on the website.
- A guide with tips and links to a range of resources can help you act on what your survey results suggest. Or you can contact your diocesan staff for help interpreting the results and choosing what to focus on.



➤ Data & Dashboards

exploring statistics for mission, parish finances
and census & deprivation data
Church of England Data & Analysis team

The information we collect, and the local, diocesan
and national totals and trends we calculate, are used
to help diocesan and national colleagues in their
work with individual churches, and to inform
diocesan and national decisions.



We publish annual reports going back to the
1960s, including

- statistics for mission
- parish finance statistics
- cathedral statistics
- ministry statistics

These are available at [churchofengland.org/
resources-publications-and-data](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources-publications-and-data)

We have developed three parish dashboards
which give a visual, at-a-glance, overview of
recent trends in each parish.

The Statistics for Mission dashboard
summarises parish-level attendance and
participation figures from the past 10 years.



The **Parish Finance dashboard** summarises parish-level income and expenditure figures from the past 10 years.



The **census/deprivation dashboard** shows summary parish census and deprivation figures alongside equivalent deanery, diocese and national figures.



We also map government statistics onto Church of England parish boundaries. Our interactive online map arcg.is/1RaS4CS shows summary census and deprivation information mapped onto parish boundaries, as well as church and school locations.



These tools have been developed by the small Data & Analysis team. Most of the information we receive is entered by clergy, churchwardens or other members of local churches onto our online parish returns system (OPRS) parishreturns.churchofengland.org. The parish Statistics for Mission and Finance dashboards can already be accessed through the OPRS, soon to be joined by the parish census/deprivation dashboard.

The census and deprivation datasets are all publicly available in spreadsheet format at churchofengland.org/resources-publications-and-data.



> iKnow Church

Church administration software
for churches

iKnow Church is administration software designed especially to meet the needs of churches. It has lots of tools to help clergy, laity and church staff in their day-to-day tasks along with technical support when needed.



> iKnow Church lets you:

Store all your people information

Whether they're regular congregants, members of your community or local businesses, you can keep all of their contact details in one place.

Manage your electoral roll

Collect, renew, produce and publish your electoral roll.

Stay GDPR compliant

Plan rotas, avoid rota clashes and send automatic reminders

Help your volunteers and staff keep on top of their serving appointments, make sure no one is overworked and always serving to their full potential.

Send emails, text messages or generate letters

Communicate with your church. Record contact preferences for each person.



Create custom forms for your website

Collect any information you need, whether it's a visitor's welcome card, a parent's consent form or anything else.

Includes Ticketing, Room Booking and Life Events Diary modules

All the tools of The Church Organiser are included.

Great for single church and benefices

However your structure might look, one account in iKnow Church can handle it all, from a single church parish all the way up to a multi-benefice deanery.

Upload recorded sermons

Advanced access control

Scale access to the different tools, and grant varying permissions according to a user's individual needs.

Customisable workflow and automated reminders

Set up to do lists — never forget a task.

Easily personalised communication with groups and lists of contacts

Tools to help monitor your congregation pastorally

Record and keep secure notes, monitor attendance and signpost prayer requests and praise reports.

Mobile app

Collect and record whatever statistics you need to count

Whether you're counting adults in a main meeting, children in Sunday School or communicants receiving communion, see them reflected month on month, year on year.

