

Gift Aid: The One Simple Step That Adds 25% to Your Offering

The Area Giving and Finance Adviser Team

In parish life, we often speak about generosity in spiritual terms - gratitude, stewardship, trust. These are the right foundations. But sometimes, alongside the theology, there is also a wonderfully practical opportunity staring us in the face. Gift Aid is one of those opportunities.

Quite simply, Gift Aid allows your church to reclaim 25p from HMRC for every £1 you give - at no extra cost to you. It is, in effect, a way of increasing your offering by a quarter, without changing the amount that leaves your bank account.

It can sometimes be described as the “loaves and fishes” of church finance. A gift is placed in the plate - or given through planned giving - and through a straightforward declaration, it becomes more than it first appeared. What might seem like a modest offering is quietly multiplied.

For many churches, Gift Aid makes a remarkable difference. It can help fund children’s ministry resources, contribute towards Common Fund, support a youth worker, or simply keep the heating on during winter services. Across the Church of England, millions of pounds are reclaimed each year - money that enables mission, sustains ministry, and serves communities in Christ’s name.

And the beauty of it? It costs the giver nothing more.

If you are a UK taxpayer, you can complete a simple Gift Aid declaration. That’s it. No complicated forms each time you give. No additional payments. Just a single step that continues to bless your church year after year. The only criteria is that you must have paid at least the amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax that all of the charities for whom you have signed Gift Aid declarations will reclaim

Gift Aid can have significant impact. Perhaps a renewed focus on Gift Aid will mean your church is able to reclaim enough to repair a leaking roof without launching a separate appeal. Maybe it could fund outreach events that welcome people who had never crossed the church threshold before. The generosity is there; Gift Aid can simply amplify it.

There is something quietly hopeful about that. Gift Aid is not about pressure or persuasion; it is about making the most of what is already given. It reflects good stewardship - using every legitimate means available to resource God’s work.

Of course, generosity always begins in the heart. As St Paul reminds us, “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7). Gift Aid does not replace that cheerful spirit; it enhances its impact.

In challenging economic times, churches can feel stretched. Yet here is a simple, accessible way to strengthen the resources that support worship, pastoral care, and mission. A signature on a declaration can translate into children hearing the gospel, lonely neighbours receiving support, and sacred spaces remaining open for prayer.

If you have not yet completed a Gift Aid declaration and are eligible to do so, we warmly encourage you to consider it. It is one small step that carries lasting significance - a practical expression of generosity that ensures every pound you give can go further.

Sometimes, hope is found not only in grand gestures, but in faithful, thoughtful action. Gift Aid is one of those actions: simple, effective, and quietly transformative.