

# Newsletter

## Best practice claiming guidance

Accurate, consistent, HMRC claim dates are vital for all churches, but particularly for My Giving Online users. Further information, [page 8](#).

## Training dates

Upcoming training dates from the diocese, Church of England, and other external partners, including how to register to attend. More details on [pages 3 to 5](#).

## Annual thank you letters

Annual thank you letters are a great way to acknowledge your supporters' giving and generosity at the end of the tax year. More details on [page 6](#).

## Digital giving is making a big impact

Digital giving, from online and devices, is continuing to make a big difference in churches across our diverse diocese. This giving method has grown enormously across all measures in recent years. The figures and graphs on [page 12](#) are from accounts set up via Parish Buying only, so the total figures will be even higher.

### Gift Aid Lite

Manchester diocese has provided the Gift Aid Lite scheme free of charge (no admin or software charges) to its churches for the last 35 years. There are 200 churches that are members, and this number is increasing.

Over the last four years, the scheme has claimed £2.92 million of Gift Aid and Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) repayments back from HMRC (see [page 6](#)).

For more information on Gift Aid Lite and digital giving, [please get in touch](#).

# £7m is being invested in giving & generosity over the next three years by The Church of England

The Church of England's Giving Directorate will receive £7.25m funding for this triennium, covering the years 2026 to 2028, it has been announced. This will enable the Giving Directorate to develop and roll out new resources, training, and support to "help parishes and grow a culture of generous giving." These developments will include:

- Clergy training on generous giving.
- Cornerstone online giving platform.
- Giving Advisor Fund 2, for dioceses.
- Improving Parish Share.
- Legacy giving promotion.
- Net Zero Fundraising expansion.
- Parish Giving Scheme enhancements.
- Supporting giving in deprived communities.



The Giving, Generosity, and Thankfulness Team will be working closely with the Giving Directorate to share information once it becomes available with our churches and their clergy and lay officers. Where possible, this may include signing up for pilots to trial some of the above initiatives in our diocese before a wider national rollout.

# Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (LPWGS) is now closed to future applications. In other words, no new applications will be considered.

LPWGS refunds VAT on eligible expenditure on repairs and reordering works in listed places of worship. This year's budget of £23 million has been allocated to existing applicants.

If your church has applied and is awaiting a grant decision, it will hear the outcome no later than 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026.



## New Places of Worship Renewal Fund - what we know so far

In February 2026, the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS) announced £92 million over four years for places of worship. The new Places of Worship Renewal Fund (PWRN) should launch in April 2026 and will be administered by Historic England. This is what has been announced so far:

- There will be a £23 million per year capital fund for listed places of worship in England. The new Fund will be for urgent capital repairs with a focus on areas of greatest need, whilst also providing flexibility to support places of worship that play a vital role in their local community.
- Only listed places of worship in England, in active use (minimum six services per year), are likely to be eligible. Projects that are predominantly focused on routine maintenance will not be eligible for support under this Fund.
- The Fund is currently being designed in consultation with the sector, and Historic England has asked stakeholders to comment on the developing plans. It will then need to go through a Treasury approval process before it is launched. Further details of the Fund will be made available as soon as they are approved. It is hoped this will be in the Spring.

- Great efforts are taking place to make the application process as streamlined as possible and to ensure arrangements are in place to support potential applicants.

It is not easy to devise a new grants scheme from scratch and to gain government approval for it. Therefore, please do not be surprised if the timescales slip a little. Announcements are expected from the [Historic England website](#).

If you want to read further details on this announcement, please visit this website link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-bumper-15-billion-package-to-restore-national-pride>.



# Upcoming training dates

## Key:

**Manchester diocese training**  
**External training**

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## Getting the most out of contactless giving

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026.  
12.15 p.m. online, please register [here](#).

Interested in offering contactless giving in your church but not sure where to start? This webinar from the Church of England's Digital Giving Team will guide you through things to consider when looking to implement contactless giving. It will give an overview of the different devices currently available via Parish Buying, and explain what the next steps are for different providers and where to find more information and support.

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## Smarter volunteer recruitment

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026.  
2 p.m. to 3 p.m. online, please register [here](#).

This practical session from National Churches Trust is designed to help you think differently about volunteering and support. It will explore how to broaden your appeal, strengthen relationships, and create welcoming opportunities for people to get involved.

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## Free treasurer training

Part 1 - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026.  
Part 2 - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026.  
Part 3 - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026.  
Part 4 - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026.  
All sessions start at 5 p.m. online; please register for each session individually [here](#).

Free online training from Data Developments. This is role-specific and not software-related. Full details about the content of each session via the registration link. If you can't attend any of the sessions live you will be sent a recording.

## Discover the impact of your church with The House of Good: Local

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.  
2 p.m. to 3 p.m. online, please register [here](#).

The House of Good: Local is a social value calculator for churches from National Churches Trust. This session will help you to understand how to use this valuable tool to demonstrate your church's impact in the community it serves.

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## Free Gift Aid training

Part 1 - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026.  
Part 2 - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026.  
Part 3 - Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026.  
All sessions are 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. online; please register for each session individually [here](#).

Free online training from Data Developments. This is role-specific and not software-related. Full details about the content of each session via the registration link. If you can't attend any of the sessions live you will be sent a recording.

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## Applying for National Churches Trust grants

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026.  
12.30 p.m. to 2 p.m. online, please register [here](#).

A great opportunity to hear about the grants available from the National Churches Trust.



## Getting started with online giving and QR codes

Tuesday 12th May 2026.  
12 p.m. online, please register [here](#).

This Church of England Digital Giving Team webinar will offer an introduction to online giving and explain how to receive donations online using either the Parish Giving Scheme or Give A Little. It will also cover QR codes and how your church can use them for digital fundraising.

## Enterprise, setting up a charity-style shop

Wednesday 13th May 2026.  
2 p.m. to 3 p.m. online, please register [here](#).

This National Churches Trust and Development Trust Association Wales workshop outlines the pros and cons of creating your own shop or making space in your church building available for others to use in this way.

## Applying to the National Lottery Heritage Fund

Tuesday 19th May 2026.  
2 p.m. online, please register [here](#).

Are you planning a major repair, reordering, or heritage project at your church? This might include preparing a Heritage Fund application. This National Churches Trust training session will provide some great advice for you.

## Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
7 p.m. to 8 p.m. online, register [here](#).  
and

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2026  
7 p.m. to 8 p.m. online, register [here](#).

The diocese is running two online sessions where you will be able to watch a short online presentation about PGS and ask questions about it.

## How to register and effectively use the Open4Community grant search portal

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026.  
7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. online, please register [here](#).  
and

Thursday 8th October 2026.  
7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. online, please register [here](#).

Open4Community, provided by Idox, is an external funding search facility which is free for parishes, church schools, and church hall users in the dioceses of Manchester, Chester, Leeds, and Blackburn to use free of charge. It is an excellent tool and all potential users are encouraged to register and use it on a regular basis to gain the maximum benefit.

This webinar will explain how to: register to use Open4Community; search for potential funders and find out more about them; utilise the other tools provided; and set up regular email updates on potential funding sources.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to arrange a one-to-one consultation with Matt Godfrey from Idox. During an online meeting he will provide guidance on how to use the site's search function to identify potential sources of funding to support your church's mission and ministry in its local community.

## How to write a successful application for external funding

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026.  
7 p.m. to 9 p.m. online, please register [here](#).  
and

Thursday 22nd October 2026.  
7 p.m. to 9 p.m. online, please register [here](#).

This webinar will outline how your church can write applications for consideration by external funders, including organisations such as charitable trusts and foundations. It will include the preparatory work required to gather the necessary information before the writing process can start. Hints and tips will also be shared to enable your church to draft and submit funding proposals that the recipient organisations will be interested in supporting.

# Planning a big project at your church? Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July

PLANNING A BIG PROJECT AT YOUR CHURCH? A GUIDE TO SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPING A MINISTRY, MISSION, OR BUILDING PROJECT.

SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY AT ST JOHN'S HOUSE, BURY.

Clergy and laity, please save this date in your diaries. Registration details to be announced.

Details on how to register to attend this event will be announced shortly.

Please save the date!

## ACAT training courses

The Diocese of Manchester has a block membership with the Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers (ACAT). This means that individuals (both clergy and lay) can create their own membership accounts without paying the usual ACAT fees.

Further details on how to do this are available on this diocese website page: <https://www.manchester.anglican.org/support-for-parishes/parish-finance/acat-membership/>

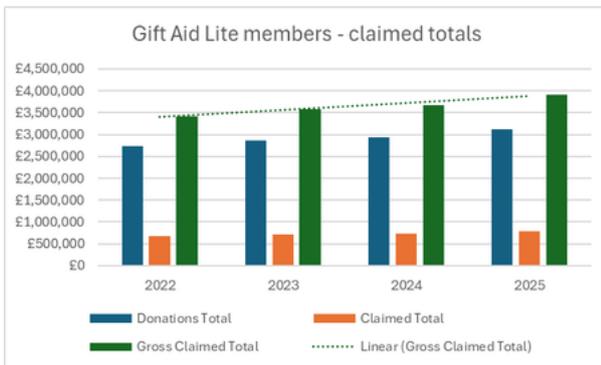
A benefit of the diocese's block membership is that it can offer up to 20 free places for selected online ACAT training courses. A small number of training courses are taking place in March (see right), with more to be announced shortly on topics possibly including Trustee Training for PCCs, Good Governance, New Treasurers, and Budgeting and Planning. Please regularly visit the [ACAT website](#) to confirm their current training offer.

If you are interested in attending one of ACAT's online courses, please email [giftaid@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:giftaid@manchester.anglican.org) with your name, church, specifying the course name and date you wish to attend.

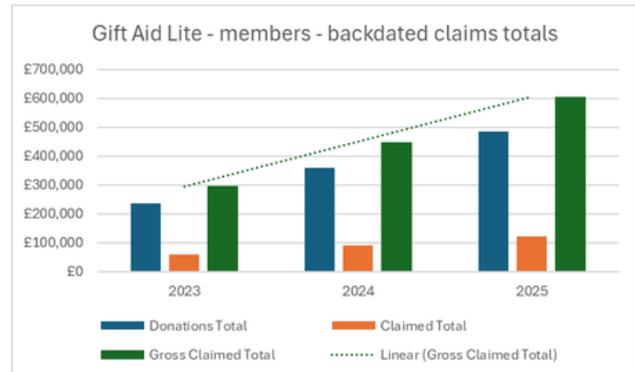
- **Keeping simple church accounts**  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026.  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. online.
  - **Accruals accounting - accounts for larger churches (session one)**  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026.  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m. online.
  - **Gift Aid - maximising the benefits and reducing the pitfalls**  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026.  
7 p.m. to 9 p.m. online.
  - **Accruals accounting - accounts for larger churches (session two)**  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026.  
10 a.m. to 12 p.m. online.
  - **Charities SORP 2026 - an introduction**  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026.  
7 p.m. to 8 p.m. online.
- You can register to attend this session free of charge, as it is a sponsored session by Unity Bank, using the link below:
- **Banking for faith groups - key considerations**  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026.  
12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. online. Register [here](#).

# A great year for the Gift Aid Lite scheme

2025 was a bumper year of Gift Aid and Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) claims for the 200 member churches in the Gift Aid Lite Scheme. £3.123 million of donations were processed, which resulted in claims of £780,639 being off to HMRC, a 14% increase from 2022 (see below).



Additionally, the Gift Aid Lite team is supporting several parishes with historic back claims for existing and new members, and so far, £274,670 has been claimed between June 2023 and 2025. An increase of 105% over 2.5 years.



If your church requires support with backdated claims or is interested in joining the Gift Aid Lite scheme, please contact the Diocesan Giving Advisor using the details on [page 14](#).

# Annual thank you letters: a reminder

The [Anglican Giving Survey](#) highlighted that less than a third of churchgoers say they are regularly thanked for their giving. People who donate to support our churches (funding their buildings, mission and ministry, and running costs) should be regularly thanked for their giving and generosity, and for what God has provided to enable it to take place.

A thank you letter enables you to highlight a person's financial giving and any Gift Aid or Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) claimed from His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) during the last tax year (2025 to 2026). It is also an opportunity to ask if a donor is still paying tax so that Gift Aid can continue to be claimed. Some donors will need the information in a thank-you letter for their own tax returns.

The letters provide an opportunity include a small leaflet or a flyer highlighting a summary of your church's achievements during the last

twelve months. It is also an opportunity to highlight what has happened inside your church building, your church hall, and your work to support your congregation and local community.

The Anglican Giving Survey highlighted that half of Anglicans would donate more if they understood the impact of their giving.

A template thank-you letter is available on request from the Giving, Generosity, and Thankfulness Team; [see page 14](#) for contact details.



# easyfundraising Impact Fund

The easyfundraising Impact Fund is offering 20 unrestricted grants of £500 to UK not-for-profit organisations, including church and faith organisations. The grant is unrestricted, so it can be used wherever the money is needed most to support your work.

## When to apply:

23 February – 5 April

## Who can apply:

The fund is open to UK-based:

- Registered charities
- Other not-for-profit organisations
- Sports clubs and teams
- Schools and education settings
- Social enterprises and CICs
- After-school and youth groups
- Churches and religious organisations

“How it’s awarded: The application form is straightforward. Grants will be awarded to organisations that best explain how they would use the £500.

## Apply here:

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/impact-fund](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/impact-fund)



# easyfundraising update

During 2025, churches and religious groups using easyfundraising benefitted from over £300,000 in completely free funding. There is no need for events or grant applications.

If your church was part of the success in 2025, a huge well done – we know this will make a difference to your church. If not, you simply need to register with easyfundraising using the link below – it takes a matter of minutes and is safe and secure.

Once registered, your church can:

- Raise free donations when your congregation shops online with 8,000 retailers – at no additional cost. The likes of Argos, eBay, John Lewis, Eden, M&S, and Tesco will give to your church (and many more well-known retailers too)
- Raise free donations when your congregation shops in person at selected stores
- Access resources to help you encourage your church community to shop in support and raise as much as possible throughout the year

This is a year-round source of unlimited free funding for your church, so don't miss out.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/diocese-of-manchester>



# Accurate and consistent claim dates

A reminder to all churches in the diocese to use either month-end or quarter-end dates when sending off your Gift Aid and GASDS claims to HMRC or the Gift Aid Lite scheme for processing.

This is vital to ensure you are claiming on all eligible donations up to and including a specific date. It also helps to ensure your claim balances exactly to the eligible amount of donations received by your church in its giving records. HMRC expects audit trails to be in place that match your claims to the penny.

Regularly, the Gift Aid Lite (GAL) scheme receives claims that use the last Sunday in the month (or similar) as the cut-off date for a claim, or the cut-off dates on the claim report and claim authority do not match. When the GAL team checks a claim for accuracy before it is submitted to HMRC, often late donations have been added into My Giving Online,

which changes the claim figures. This results in extra reconciliation work for the GAL team, as the Treasurer or Gift Aid Secretary who submitted the claim needs to reauthorise the claim before it is sent off to HMRC for repayment.

Therefore, from April 2026 onwards, if claims are received from Gift Aid Lite member churches that have not used month-end or quarter-end dates, or the dates on the claim report and claim authority do not match, they will be returned to the Treasurer or Gift Aid Secretary for amendment.

As a reminder, the quarter-end dates are up to and including:

- 5<sup>th</sup> April
- 30<sup>th</sup> June
- 30<sup>th</sup> September
- 31<sup>st</sup> December

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# Warm Spaces and Warm Banks

“Faith groups are uniquely placed to promote public health and wellbeing during the colder months. Their trusted presence, strong local ties, and commitment to service make them invaluable allies in easing winter pressures.” (FaithAction October 2025)

The Warm Welcome campaign is a good example of the kinds of support offered by churches to support their local communities. They offer warm and welcoming spaces to isolated people and those who are perhaps unable to heat their own homes or afford a hot drink or food.

Find out more and register your church's space here:

<https://www.warmwelcome.uk>

Last winter, there were 2.7 million visits to over 6,000 warm spaces, and a register of them is available here:

<https://www.warmwelcome.uk/find-a-space#map>



# Parish Giving Scheme

Since its launch in early 2025, conversations have taken place with many churches about joining the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). So far, 9 churches have joined, and a further 15 are considering this in their PCC meetings or have already started processing their application forms. This is a great start.

PGS is a free resource to help churches to offer a simple and secure way for people to give regularly. Most people give monthly, but there is also an option to give quarterly, annually, or as a one-off. PGS does not replace your current planned giving arrangements, but it is made available as an additional mechanism for giving. For more information, please click on the YouTube image shown below.

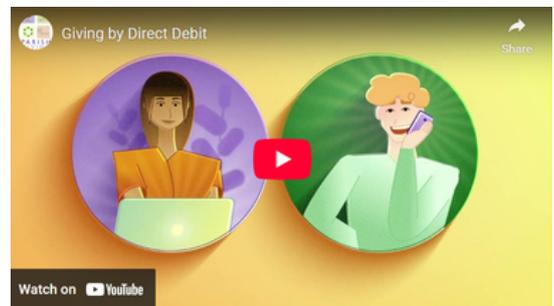
PGS giving is processed once a donor has set up a Direct Debit covenant with PGS. The donations are clearly allocated against a specific church, and most importantly, this includes an option to increase their giving in line with inflation each year. The donations, including any Gift Aid, are received and processed by PGS, and these monies are paid directly into your church's bank account without the removal of any transaction or administration fees.

## Reasons to join PGS

- Maximising planned giving and number of planned givers.
- Increasing and improving cash flow, especially through Gift Aid recovery.
- Combating static giving as the majority of donors choose to index-link their gift.
- Future proofing and protecting against an ever-increasing digital society.
- Opportunities to talk about giving and launch a stewardship campaign.
- Ability to use professional, tried and tested materials.
- Lightening your administration burden.
- Statistically produces higher average gift levels.

## How can my church join PGS?

Your PCC needs to pass a motion agreeing to join PGS. Afterwards, please contact Paul Bailey, Diocesan Giving Advisor; Rob Chilton, Parish Support Officer; or Carolyn McGloughlin, Parish Support Officer, who will provide assistance to ensure your church is registered with PGS as a single church/parish or a multiple church/parish. Resources are provided by PGS to assist your church in promoting this new giving method to your donors, including how to complete the sign up process.



## Gift Aid Lite and PGS

For information, PGS is not a replacement for the Gift Aid Lite scheme, which will still be offered to all churches across the diocese free of charge.

## Want to find out more?

The diocese is running two online sessions where you will be able to watch a short online presentation about PGS and ask questions about it.

Please click on the links below to attend one of these events:

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

7 p.m. to 8 p.m. online, register [here](#).

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

7 p.m. to 8 p.m. online, register [here](#).

# Give A Little donations not auto-importing into My Giving Online?

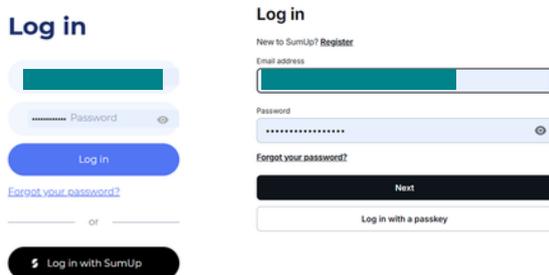
Several churches have reported issues with the link between their Give A Little and My Giving Online accounts. When working normally, this integration enables giving data to be auto-imported from one site to the other.

There are several steps you can take to hopefully resolve these issues:

## 1 - Regularly logging into Give A Little using your SumUp username and password

*This only works if your church's payment processor is SumUp.*

You need to regularly log into your church's Give A Little account using the SumUp username and password used by the church. This is required because Give A Little needs permission from SumUp to access the transaction information from each donation received by the church. This can only be provided if the Give A Little account is logged into using the church's SumUp username and password. It is recommended that you do this every time you log into Give A Little, and these steps are shown in the screenshots below:



## 2 - Ensuring your Give A Little app campaigns are eligible for Gift Aid

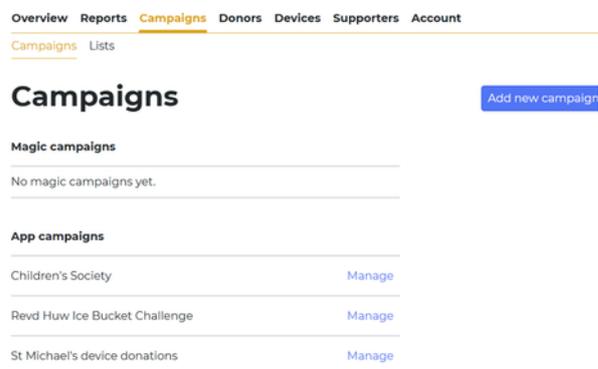
The app campaigns used by your church in its Give A Little account may need editing to ensure they are eligible for Gift Aid.

Historically, especially those churches who received a giving device between 2023 and

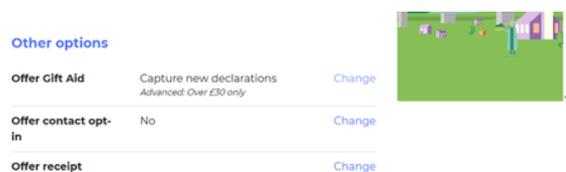
mid-2025, were advised to carefully consider whether to enable Gift Aid on their Give A Little campaigns if their device donations came from one-off life event services. If Gift Aid wasn't enabled, GASDS would be automatically applied to device donations of £30 or less and auto-imported into My Giving Online.

Thanks to a change on Give A Little's website implemented in July 2025, GASDS eligible donations are no longer auto-imported into My Giving Online unless the relevant campaign has been made eligible for Gift Aid. This change can be completed by following the instructions shown below:

- Click on the 'campaigns menu.' Scroll down to the relevant campaign name and click on 'manage.'



Once the campaign has opened, find the heading 'other options' and then click on 'change' next to 'offer Gift Aid.'



- Click on 'yes' to enable your campaign to be eligible for Gift Aid and GASDS, see below.

*Continued on page 11.*

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St Michael's device donations

## Is your campaign eligible for Gift Aid?

You will have further options on the next page

Yes No Cancel

- You will then be provided with a variety of options as shown below. If your church wants to continue claiming GASDS on small donations made via a giving device, then look carefully at the options offered under the 'capture new declarations' menu.
- A good option could be to use the 'do not capture declarations on donations of £30 or less' option. This means that GASDS will be claimed on device donations of £30 or less, but a Gift Aid declaration will be offered to donors who are donating over £30.

### Gift Aid options

#### IMPORTANT

- If a donor has **previously made a declaration** with you through Give A Little, their donation will automatically be marked as eligible.
- If the donation is **£30 or less and there is no declaration made**, it will be marked as eligible under the [Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme \(GASDS\)](#).

#### ● Capture new declarations

Your donor is presented with the option to make a Gift Aid declaration and can choose to include past donations and/or future donations. Or they can choose to do this later.

#### Do not capture declarations on donations of £30 or less

The declaration screen will only be shown for donations over £30. Any donations of £30 or less will be recorded in the GASDS report.

#### Do not capture declarations in-person (later only)

The declaration screen won't be shown but the donor will be given the option to be sent an email to complete it later

#### Do not capture new declarations

### 3 - Give A Little and SumUp are not processing device and online donations

- Make sure the Give A Little and SumUp accounts are linked.

In your church's Give A Little account click on the 'account' menu and then choose the integrations option.

Billing Integrations Users Settings Security

### Integrations

Integrations are connections with 3rd party systems that allow you to extend the capability of your Give A Little account.

- Scroll down to the SumUp option and check whether your account is still linked to Give A Little. If it states it is disconnected, please follow the instructions on page 1 to link the accounts. If it is connected, as shown below, please read on.



### 4 - Are no donations being received into the church's bank account? Have the SumUp account verification checks been completed?

The verification checks when setting up a new SumUp account have two stages. The first occurs as your account is being opened. The account's administrator and the church as a charitable organisation need to confirm their identities by uploading the document types required by SumUp. This process is outlined in the step-by-step SumUp account set-up guide provided by the Parish Buying website at <https://parishbuying.org.uk/products-services/digital-giving-payments/online-giving-qr-codes/>. This document is checked and updated regularly, so please open it via the Parish Buying website rather than using a saved version on your device. If you haven't used Parish Buying previously, you will need to register a new account to do this.

The second verification check occurs when your church's SumUp account has gone above a financial threshold. Once this limit has been breached, it triggers a more detailed verification process. You will be notified about this and the actions you need to take via a message sent to the email address used to set up the SumUp account. Please do not ignore these messages, because your account will be blocked until the required actions are completed. Detailed guidance on how to complete this process is provided under the heading 'further support with verification' in the step-by-step SumUp account set-up guide provided by the Parish Buying website at <https://parishbuying.org.uk/products-services/digital-giving-payments/online-giving-qr-codes/>.

Email reminders for both verification steps will be sent to the email address used to set up the account, so please check it regularly.

*Continued on at the top of page 12.*

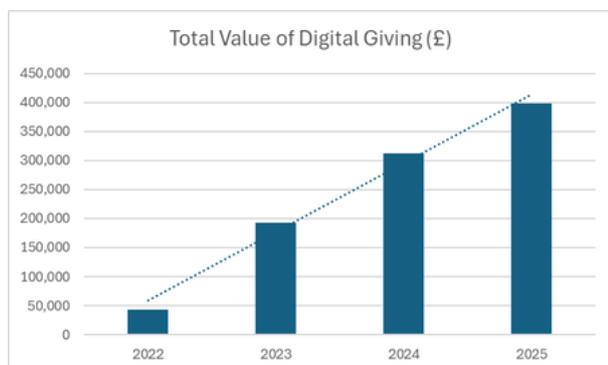
## What should we do if your church's SumUp account administrator has resigned or moved away, and you need to appoint a new one?

You may need to update the details held within your SumUp account because your treasurer has resigned or moved away. At the end of the step-by-step SumUp account set-up guide provided by Parish Buying <https://parishbuying.org.uk/products-services/digital-giving-payments/online-giving-gr-codes/>, there is a series of answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs), and each one includes advice on how to resolve that issue.

If you are emailing the SumUp and Church of England Digital Giving email addresses provided in the FAQs, please copy [giftaid@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:giftaid@manchester.anglican.org) into your message.

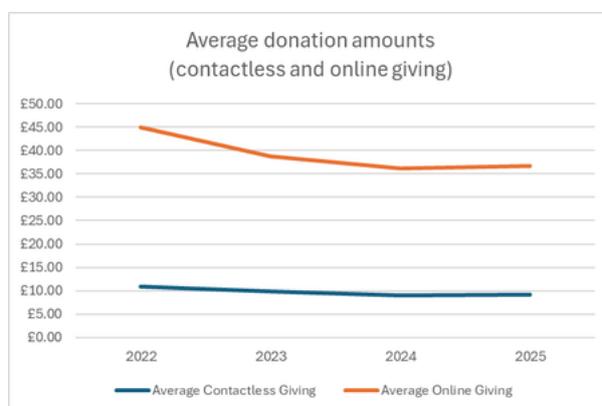
# Digital giving is generating new donations for churches

Digital giving, which includes contactless and online, has increased substantially since 2022 (see the graph below). Based on the accounts set up via Parish Buying only, a total of £946,966 was raised between 2022 and 2025, an increase of 812%. In 2025 alone, £398,561 was donated, and evidence from across The Church of England suggests this is predominantly new money for churches.



Contactless and Chip and PIN donations via a giving device is the most popular donation method. £301,730, made up of 32,837 transactions, was donated in 2025. The average gift was £9.19 per donation, and this has remained constant since 2022.

Online giving, via web, A Church Near You, and QR codes, generated larger average donations. In 2025, this was £36.73 per donation, but there were less of them compared to contactless and Chip and PIN donations. £96,831, via 2,636 transactions, was donated last year. Again, the average gift is remaining constant since 2022. This is summarised in the graph shown on the right.



If your church hasn't embraced device and online giving yet, please contact Paul Bailey, Diocesan Giving Advisor for guidance before getting underway. This will enable your church to minimise the transaction fee per donation, and access free software funded by The Church of England.

The national Digital Giving Team regularly host 'how to' webinars on setting up contactless and online giving. Additionally, they host annual webinars on how to maximise digital giving at Easter and Christmas. Further details can be found here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church/webinars-and-training>

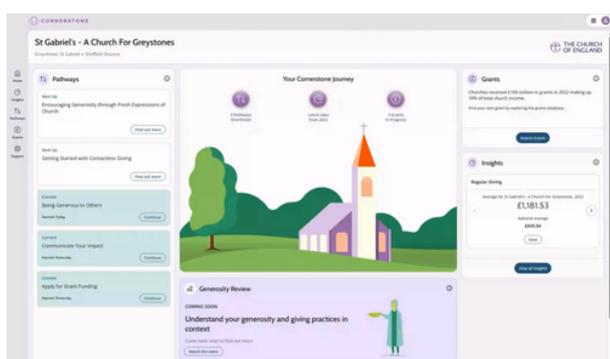
The registration links for the next two webinars - 'Getting started with online giving and QR Codes' on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 12 p.m., and 'Getting started with contactless giving' on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 12.15 p.m. - are on [page 3](#) and [page 4](#).

# Cornerstone - what is it?

Cornerstone is an online learning platform focusing on the development of giving, generosity, and thankfulness in churches. It is being developed by the Church of England's National Giving Team, and an external partner called The Kindness of Strangers.

The [Cornerstone website](#) provides guidance to churches to help them to understand and improve their finances and identify levels of giving and why people give. It provides this information via a series of different giving insights and graphs to help clergy and lay leaders understand this data for their church and identify areas for development and improvement. To help churches tackle the issues they have identified, a series of step-by-step guides called pathways has been created (around 40 so far) to enable churches to focus their resources on the areas most relevant to them. For example, improving giving levels via a stewardship campaign/giving review, launching new donation methods, and developing the theology of giving and generosity. There are dedicated pathways for signing up to use the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) (see page 9) and how to launch it at your church.

To watch a short video outlining the latest version of the Cornerstone platform, please click on the image shown below.



## How can my church use Cornerstone?

The aim is to rollout Cornerstone mission community by mission community from summer 2026 onwards. Interested in taking part? Please contact [Paul Bailey, Diocesan Giving Advisor](#), [Rob Chilton, Parish Support Officer](#), and [Carolyn McGloughlin, Parish Support Officer](#).

## Pathway examples - and more are being added

- Apply for grant funding.
- Being generous to others.
- Building a case for support.
- Celebrating a generous Christmas/ Easter.
- Communicate your impact.
- Create an impact of giving leaflet.
- Embed generosity into your weekly practices.
- Encourage generosity in young people.
- Encouraging generosity through fresh expressions of church.
- Encouraging gifts in wills to your church.
- Encouraging giving from new congregation members.
- Exploring generosity through Lent.
- Find and engage new regular givers.
- Generosity in small groups.
- Getting started with contactless giving.
- Getting started with online giving.
- Giving at life events: baptisms/ weddings/funerals.
- Grow discipleship using the 'Living Generously' video resource.
- Hold a 'Gifts in wills' event.
- Hold a Generosity or Gratitude Service.
- Identify opportunities for income generation.
- Launch or relaunch the Parish Giving Scheme.
- Make giving visible.
- Organising a successful fundraising event.
- Preaching and teaching on generosity.
- Running a 'Generosity Week'.
- Running a giving campaign.
- Thanking your givers.
- Writing an engaging annual report.

# Bits and bobs

## My Giving Online - issues with the grid inputting method

There is an issue with envelope numbers when using "Enter donations in a grid" in My Giving Online. Some envelope numbers are being duplicated. This means that you could be seeing different donors with the same envelope numbers, including active and inactive.

Data Developments are working on a fix.

## Gift Aid Lite members using spreadsheets to process their claims

Currently, 30 Gift Aid member churches are using spreadsheet templates, emailed out at the end of each quarter, to record their giving data. Once completed, they are emailed back to the Gift Aid Lite (GAL) team for inputting into the My Giving Online software that is used to process the claims.

Over the next few months, these churches will be contacted by email to request that they move to direct inputting into My Giving Online. Full training and ongoing support via phone, email, and meetings (in person and online) will be provided to the Treasurers and Gift Aid Secretaries affected.

Year-on-year, see [page 6](#), GAL is processing more claims, including backdated claims, for its member churches. They are increasingly complex, containing a greater variety of giving methods, which means claims are taking longer to check for accuracy before they are sent off to HMRC for repayment. Several initiatives, including direct inputting, are being developed in 2026, so the GAL team can maintain its current high levels of service to its members, both old and new.

## Claim remittances, HMRC statements, or both?

Gift Aid Lite member churches normally receive both of these documents after a claim has been processed. The named contact at each church will be emailed, asking them to confirm which document(s) they wish to continue to receive.



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**GIVING, GENEROSITY,  
& THANKFULNESS**

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH FOR A DIFFERENT WORLD



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