

Living Generously

Growing giving in your church through news, ideas, support and encouragement.




DIOCESE OF
LINCOLN

A Time
to Change
Together

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Need help with your Church Accounts?

As APCM season is upon us, no doubt Treasurers, Churchwardens, Incumbents and PCC members in general are busy helping to prepare the PCC's Annual Report and Accounts. Every PCC across the country, without exception, is required to send a copy of its Annual Report and accounts to their Diocesan Board of Finance within 28 days of the APCM. (PCCs must also provide this to members of the public upon written request, albeit that a fee may be charged.)

Thankfully, the Charity Commission makes available helpful guidance and templates for parishes to use. These are for all PCCs to use, regardless of whether your parish is registered with the Charity Commission or not. These templates can be used by all parishes with an annual income of less than £250,000, which of course will be the vast majority.

It is important that this requirement is not confused with the need to submit the Annual Parish Finance Return, Statistics for Mission and Energy Footprint Tool (Cntd...)

Grants Database

Are you seeking funding for a mission or building project? Cornerstone includes a searchable database of sources of grant funding. If your church would like access to this tool, please contact us here: generosity@lincoln.anglican.org

Software Packages for PCCs

In addition to this guidance from the Charity Commission, specific software packages are available through the C of E's procurement service, [Parish Buying](#), to help parishes with their financial accounting. Over many years the Church has partnered with a midlands-based company, Data Developments, to provide church-specific accounting software, designed for church treasurers. It not only prepares the accounts in the right format for the APCM, but also pulls together the figures you need for your [Annual Parish Finance Return](#) and submits it at the push of a button. Additionally, it records all your accounting transactions and funds, including print or email invoices and produces a range of church and charity specific reports. Through Parish Buying you can obtain an extended 90-day no obligation free trial period of the accounts package [MyFundAccountine.online](#). If the trial is successful, it costs £15/month thereafter. If not, there is no obligation and you can revert to how the parish accounts are currently being kept without charge.

If you are already registered with Parish Buying, you can [view more details here](#) - If you are not registered with Parish Buying, [you can do so here](#). More than one person per church can be registered with Parish Buying and it is free to register. Once registered, you can then view the details of the software packages offered by Data Developments via the link above.
(Cntd)



Donations Management

There is also an additional software package, called MyGiving.online, which is a donations management system to support parishes with submitting both GiftAid and GiftAid Small Donations Scheme claims directly to HMRC. It also costs £15/month and is designed to work with the Parish Giving Scheme and GiveALittle, if your parish already has account with either of them. Similarly, an extended 90-day no obligation free trial period is available through Parish Buying.

If you have any questions about preparing your Annual Report and Accounts, Data Developments or Parish Buying, please contact the Generous Living Team on generosity@lincoln.anglican.org

For queries and support with the Annual Parish Finance Return, Statistics for Mission and Energy Footprint Tool, please contact parishsupport@lincoln.anglican.org To submit your PCC's Annual Report and Accounts to the Diocesan Office, please email them to finance@lincoln.anglican.org

Fraudulant letters targetting charities

The Charity Commission has issued a warning about fraudsters targeting charities with fake letters.

A news post has been added to the Parish Resources website: [Fraudulent letters targeting charities](#) and the [original press release from the commission](#) can be found here on their website:

If in doubt, charities are encouraged to contact the Charity Commission to check any correspondence they have received.

Please share this information through your communications, so that we can hopefully raise awareness and prevent anyone falling victim.

While it is not entirely clear whether only registered charities are at risk, it is important for all PCCs, as charities, to remain vigilant. Likewise, nearly half of PCCs nationally are already registered with the Charity Commission, and many parishes and volunteers are connected to other charities— lets spread the word and protect our communities!

Rev'd Simon Dean steps back from Generous Living Team

Rev'd Simon Dean, has returned to full time parish ministry, stepping back from his role within the Generous Living Team.

Simon has led the Covenant and Generous Living Team for the last four years alongside working in parish ministry. As we move into the next phase of Covenant conversations and as we transition from *A Time to Change Together* to *A Time to Grow Together*, we have decided we need to make this lead role a full time post to help encourage generosity across the Diocese of Lincoln. Simon wishes to continue to serve the Diocese as parish priest, serving as incumbent of All Saints, Waddington and in support of the surrounding area, and so his secondment to the Generous Living Lead role has now come to an end.

'It's been a real privilege to lead this team over the last few years. As we have transitioned from the old parish share scheme to the Covenant scheme, we have seen giving grow across the Diocese which has been a real testament to the people within our churches and communities across Greater Lincolnshire. As the Diocese moves into the next stage of its vision and strategy, the Generous Living Team needs to grow and develop to resource churches for the future. I look forward to putting my efforts into helping God's kingdom grow in the parish of Waddington and partnering with others across the LMP and DP. Thank you for your support!'



Freezing of Barclays Bank Accounts opened pre-2019

We have been made aware that following their 'Know Your Customer' (KYC) data refresh programme, Barclays Bank has identified a number of PCC account holders which have not completed the KYC verification. These accounts are due to be included in a staggered process of 'transactional freezing' which started on 13th February 2025. Affected PCCs may find the following information useful:

- Transactional freezing is a result of there being no engagement from the account holder. Once contact has been established, the freeze can be lifted within 24 hours, restoring use of the account while checks and any necessary changes to mandates are completed.
- It is important to continue engaging with Barclays once contact has been re-established to avoid further freezes.
- When the freeze takes effect, a stop will be placed on any debit cards and online banking.
- PCCs may have been invited to upload ID and verification documentation through an online portal. If for any reason PCCs are experiencing difficulties engaging with the online portal, you should call 03300580087, choosing option 1.

There could be any number of reasons why ID and verification checks have not been completed, for example— out of date contact details meaning the PCC is unaware of an issue, forgotten accounts, or problems responding through the online portal. Whatever the reason, Barclays is keen to reiterate its commitment to supporting non-profit organisations and encourages affected PCCs to get in touch so that issues can be resolved.

Further advice on charity banking can be found [here on the Charity Commission website](#)



JustPark at Church

JustPark has recently been approved by Parish Buying, the Church of England's procurement service, as an accredited supplier,



meaning they are a trusted partner in delivering income streams for churches with their own parking spaces. Just Park is an online platform to allow the owners of private parking spaces to rent them out for a daily charge and generate income; a bit like Airbnb for cars! While this largely involves private individuals making their unused driveways and other parking areas available for people to hire for the day, it can also apply to other parking spaces belonging to businesses and charities, including churches.

It may seem unexpected at first, but when you think about how many places of worship are located in prime locations – near a football stadium for example – you can begin to see why there is so much potential for revenue. Many churches are already benefiting from renting out their empty spaces on JustPark and are making a healthy income. One example is Birmingham City Church, which generated tens of thousands of pounds in its first six months of renting out its parking spaces on the days they weren't in use by church visitors. The funds were then invested back into essential repairs and community projects.

If your church has car parking spaces that aren't being used to their full capacity, then you can get in touch via [a form on JustPark's website](#), or simply give them a call on 020 3835 5995. They will then follow-up with you to talk you through the set-up process with no commitment on your part. [More information about this opportunity can be found here:](#)



Try Before You Buy!
Want to borrow a contactless giving device?

Register your interest by completing
this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/r0h2uyxK4L>

Parish Giving Scheme Bucks the Trend!

Whilst the number of people giving regularly to their church in a planned way has been falling, the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) continues to buck this trend. Every year the number of people faithfully giving to their church through PGS grows, both nationally and within Lincoln Diocese. The number of regular gifts made through PGS in 2024 increased to 950,606, an increase of 10% on the previous year. This was also reflected in the total amount given, which rose by nearly 12% to £96,692,551. Closer to home, the number of regular gifts made through PGS in 2024 to churches in this Diocese increased to £14,526, a rise of nearly 19% and the amount given rose by 22% to over £998,000.

One hundred percent of these gifts is received by the churches to which they are given, as PGS is provided free of charge by the CofE's National Church Institutions to all parishes who wish to use it.

Just over half of all CofE churches nationally are registered to receive gifts through PGS and nearly a quarter of the almost four hundred thousand people who give regularly to their church across the country, do so through PGS.

One of the main benefits to a parish of using PGS is that it makes the Treasurer's job easier to administer the gifts received, by PGS submitting the Gift Aid claim on their behalf. This should help to retain the invaluable services of the Treasurer for longer and make it easier to recruit a new Treasurer, due to it being a more do-able job, as and when they do decide to pass the baton on.

To find out more about the Parish Giving Scheme's other benefits and how to join, [visit our website](#).

We look forward to your church becoming another of those bucking the trend, along with the 175 churches in the Diocese who have already joined PGS.

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