



Dear All,

We hope you are all continuing to keep well and safe. We have quite a few updates and useful information for you in this edition of the Treasurers newsletter:

Annual Accounts and Parish Returns

It is once again that time of year when we are preparing/finalising our end of year accounts. The online parish returns system is now open for you to submit your 2020 figures once your 2020 accounts have been approved by the PCC and independently examined. The link to submit your finance return is:

<https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>

and the **closing date for submissions is Friday 18th June 2021.**

Attached is an excel spreadsheet of the online form which you may find helpful to complete before accessing the system. If you do have any difficulties or have forgotten your login details please do not hesitate to contact us.

Could we also remind you to send a copy of your annual report and accounts to us as we have to verify the data you have entered on the online system and we are unable to do so without a copy of your accounts. A copy is also passed on to your Archdeacon for their information.

The email for queries concerning the parish returns and to send your annual accounts to is:

bookkeeping@cofebirmingham.com

Common Fund

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the Common Fund requests. The consideration and generosity shown by your PCCs is much appreciated as we continue to navigate these most testing of financial circumstances for our parishes and the wider diocesan family.





If you have not as yet advised us of what your PCC is able to contribute it would be appreciated if you could advise us as soon as you are able. Your contribution, however small, has a significant part to play in the valuable work that we are all engaged in.

It is important that we understand the level of income in the form of Common Fund that can be relied on (so far as any of us is able to predict this) to plan to ensure the maintenance of CofEB Christian mission over 2021.

You can use our online form (www.dio.org.uk/CF2021), email Karen Preece our Director of Finance (karenp@cofebirmingham.com), contact your Archdeacon or your usual key contacts in the finance team. We are all happy to discuss any concerns that you might have and to help you to complete the process.

Generosity Facilitator

We have successfully obtained a grant from the Giving Advisor Fund of the National Church for the post of a Church of England Birmingham Generosity Facilitator. The successful applicant to this post will be working with all parishes over the next five years to help facilitate PCCs and their congregations in engaging with God's generosity as well as helping parishes with practical solutions to giving such as the Parish Giving Scheme, online donations and contactless giving.

The National CofE Giving team is also offering a series of free webinars to help churches explore generosity. In these webinars they will guide you through ways to encourage giving, such as online, contactless and legacy giving, as well as how to save money with Parish Buying. To find out more about these webinars and to register please follow the link below: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church/webinars-and-training>

Charity Commission

As you are aware all our PCCs are "excepted" charities under Charity Commission legislation which means your PCC does not have to register with the Charity Commission unless its income exceeds £100,000. This exception was due to expire at the end of March 2021. It has now been confirmed that the exception is being extended by 10 years with a new end date of 31 March 2031.

The Charity Commission are running some online webinars on "Financial Management in a faith context" If you are interested in attending one of these webinars the link to book a place is:

<https://bookwhen.com/fcot#focus=ev-s1lt-20210113130000>





Seminars

We have arranged several online seminars for this year which we hope you will find helpful. Please click on the link www.dio.org.uk/TreasurersTraining2021 to find out about these seminars and to book a place.

We also have a monthly zoom Parish Finance “drop-in” session on the first Wednesday of each month. This is an opportunity for you to “drop-in” and ask a question about any finance query you have. The zoom link for this will be provided in the Church of England Update which is sent out on Tuesday of each week

Treasurers Meeting

As advised at the October Annual Treasurers meetings we have arranged a further Treasurers meeting on **April 21st April at 6.30pm**. At this meeting we will update you on the Church of England Birmingham’s financial position as at the end of 2020 and our plans as we move forward.

ACAT

This is a reminder that you are all members of ACAT which is a charity for treasurers of all Christian churches. They have advice, training and information on accounting, financial and legal issues. Please see the leaflet attached which details how to register and set up your log in.

As ever if you have any queries or require support we are here to help and if you are unsure who to contact then we have a new Finance Team email address:

Finance@cofebirmingham.com

With our prayers and best wishes,

The Finance Team

You are receiving this communication due to your role as Treasurer in your parish. If you no longer wish to receive these communications please reply to this email address with the word Unsubscribe, along with your name and parish.

