



Hello,

The year rolls on, and it's time to send out another newsletter, because things are moving on, deadlines are looming, and information which could be important to treasurers is piling up.

Just to remind you all that emails sent to financeteam@cofebirmingham.com are reviewed by everyone in the finance department and any which are sent there for me are forwarded on. If any of you do need or want to contact me directly, my email is: LucyP@cofebirmingham.com.

And so to other matters.

Parish Returns

This is the big one. The deadline for the Parish Finance Form 2021 to be completed online is Friday 10th June. As in previous years we are asking you to complete the form online once your accounts have been completed and approved by the PCC.

The web-link to this form is <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>. Just to remind you, too, that if you have lost your login details or need help to file your information online, please do contact Alex on AlexW@cofebirmingham.com or 07767100219.

Contactless Donation Devices and Online Giving

Digital Giving

Last week we were delighted to hand over 29 contactless donation devices and support parishes in setting up online giving as part of the National Digital Giving Rollout Scheme. In response to continued interest we will shortly be launching a *Try Before You Buy Loan Scheme*. Parishes will be able to loan a suitable device from Church of England Birmingham for a pre agreed period of time. The aim of the scheme is to:

- Allow churches to test a fully integrated contactless donation device in your context, gaining insight into:
 - Income
 - Frequency of use





- Aesthetics
- Connectivity via WIFI or mobile signal
- Use the money raised to fund a device of your own with support provided by the Giving Facilitator to set up accounts and the unit
- Loan a device for a specific event or season, benefitting those where general use wouldn't justify the expenditure for a permanent device

There is currently no set start date for this project, however, understanding the needs and interest of parishes will help shape the scheme and the support provided. You can register your interest here.

In the meantime, please contact me for more information and support on all things generous giving, or if you would like to get started with contactless giving sooner.

Lou Bayliss: LouB@cofebirmingham.com / 0121 262 1865

Bookkeeping Service

The bookkeeping service is proving to be a real success. It now supports 30 parishes, made up of 34 churches. We have now started a waiting list for those wishing to join the service while we get the new parishes up to speed. We will be due to start working through this waiting list in the second half of 2022 as the Bookkeeping Team expands.

Even if you don't need support around bookkeeping or the year-end accounts, you may as a PCC want to consider using MyFundAccounting, which is a cloud based accounting system that the Bookkeeping Service and many other churches within the diocese use.

The advantages of using this system are:

- It is built for churches
- It offers full funds accounting
- It produces financial statements for statutory year end accounts
- It allows multiple user access
- It is cloud based (much safer than being on a single computer)
- It populates parish Financial Returns

We are able to pass on a reduced license fee of £5 per month (rather than the usual £15 per month) for the MyFundAccounting online software if you decide to do it through us rather than through Data Developments (the company who make it).

Something to bear in mind? If you feel this is worth pursuing, then contact Alex Woodhouse on AlexW@cofebirmingham.com and he'll be able to point you in the right direction.





Energy Footprint Tool

The CofE Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) allows all churches around the country to enter their utility bills and find out their annual 'carbon footprint', based on the energy used to heat and light church buildings.

The EFT is now open for churches to enter your 2021 utility bills. It will remain open until the end of July 2022.

The CofE Birmingham asks all churches to submit this information, to help you to understand your current carbon footprint, as well as helping us to understand our carbon baseline across the diocese and to see what progress we are all making. Last year 49% of our churches submitted EFT returns, a 15% increase on the previous year. We aim to increase this number of returns again this year as we all work towards the CofE net zero carbon target.

You can access the EFT on the [Online Parish Returns System](#). Before starting to complete this tool you should ensure that you have a figure for energy use for 2021, either in the form of kWh used, AND/OR cost (£).

To find out how to submit information on the EFT [read the instructions sheet here](#), and watch a [short instructional video](#) created by the Diocese of Manchester.

If you have any questions about using the EFT or would like further support, please contact Ben Smith, Care of Churches Officer – BenS@cofebirmingham.com.

Seminars 2022

As noted in the Spring Newsletter, we have been reviewing our seminars for 2022, in light of how things have gone in previous years. The limit of 10 places on our online seminars has been removed. Hopefully this will allow more of you to feel encouraged to apply to join any that you think would be helpful to you in your role as treasurer.

We have several seminars happening during the second half of this year. The link to find out about these and to book onto a seminar can be found here:

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/Cofebirmingham/TreasurersOnlineTraining2022>

The Living Generously seminars have been rescheduled from their original dates in April and will now take place on 28th June 10.30am-12pm or 7pm-8.30pm, so please take a moment to return the cognito form if you have already booked your sessions for the year.

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.

