

Finance Debrief—9th June 2020



So much information coming through the Inbox it is easy to miss something so we are sending you a debrief of some of the things you might have missed or one or two things you may not know and some of the changes which have been put in place following the Government restrictions on our daily lives.

Parish Share

We are very grateful to our parishes for their response in continuing to paying Parish Share regularly each month and to hold Share at a level each month which will support and help others. We accept that you may need to reduce the amount but it is important to maintain a level of share each month. Thank you to all those who are contributing regularly and we ask you to do all you can to bring the Share up to date for the end June.

Please try to avoid sending cheques to St Mary's House. We are only permitted to enter the premises very infrequently during this time. If you would like us to collect payments from you by Direct Debit please go to our Finance and Covid-19 website and download a form. You may email this to us and we can collect any amount on any date during the month. These amounts can vary, you can change them up to 5 working days before the date it is due and we can use this for collecting fees or any other payments due to the Board. If you would like to send a bank transfer please use Account number 00030004 LDBF Sort Code 30-95-04.

Flexible Furlough Scheme

If you use the diocesan payroll scheme and have people on furlough it is vital you tell us what your plans are for your staff as soon as possible.

From 1 July 2020, you'll have the flexibility to bring previously furloughed employees back to work part-time – with the government continuing to pay 80% of wages for any of their normal hours they do not work up until the end of August. Any working hours arrangement that you agree with your employee must cover at least one week and be confirmed to the employee in writing.

Employer contributions

From August, the government grant provided through the job retention scheme will be slowly tapered.

- in **June** and **July**, the government will pay 80% of wages up to a cap of £2,500 as well as employer National Insurance (ER NICs) and pension contributions for the hours the employee doesn't work – employers will have to pay employees for the hours they work
- in **August**, the government will continue to pay 80% of wages up to a cap of £2,500 but employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions – for the average claim, this represents 5% of the gross employment costs that they would have incurred if the employee had not been furloughed
- in **September**, the government will pay 70% of wages up to a cap of £2,187.50 for the hours the employee does not work – employers will pay ER NICs, pension contributions and 10% of wages to make up 80% of the total up to a cap of £2,500
- in **October**, the government will pay 60% of wages up to a cap of £1,875 for the hours the employee does not work – employers will pay ER NICs, pension contributions and 20% of wages to make up 80% of the total up to a cap of £2,500
- the cap on the furlough grant will be proportional to the hours not worked.

Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme

Update on GASDS while Church Buildings are closed

HMRC have issued the following statement about GASDS while church buildings are closed:

In respect of GASDS, guidance on the eligibility for donations for inclusion in this scheme is clear in stating that claims can only be made on cash donations of £30 or less; and contactless card donations of £30 or less collected on or after 6 April 2019. The decision over what constitutes an eligible donation is one for the church/charity to make for themselves, rather than for HMRC, but the conditions for something to be considered a 'small donation' are clearly set out in legislation. Where it is the case, for example, of separate donations being given in a single envelope, then if the church/charity official is happy these are clearly separate 'small donations' (and clearly stated as such) then they will be eligible for GASDS, as is the case where separate envelopes are used".

Churches could also help to make it easier to distinguish such gifts by providing separate collecting plates/donation receptacles reserved for saved-up donations when the lockdown restrictions are eased.

Start fundraising with
JustGiving

Just Giving

Just Giving is a fantastic resource and a great way to advertise your church to the local Community and for regular congregation to give while the church doors are closed. All setup charges and transactions charges are absorbed by the LDBF so all the money you raise plus Gift Aid goes straight to your church each month. Over 40 parishes have created their own page already generating over £8,000 to parishes.

Giving Direct

Another way to ensure you receive regular donations monthly and again with the Gift Aid already included. This has become extremely popular, one parish has had 25 people sign up in the past month. Please download the form from the Diocesan website and either pop it in the post or if you have the facility scan a copy to finance.



Gift Aid Claims 2019/2020

Please continue to send your completed Gift Aid claims into the office if you are able, these will be picked up and dealt with as soon as possible. We are also accepting turnaround reports and Sheet H claims via email so if you have the facility please scan them to finance@lichfield.anglican.org

The Finance Department

Please be aware that some of our finance department staff may now be on furlough. Those that remain are working from home. Please direct all queries for members of the Finance Team to finance@lichfield.anglican.org and we will ensure it gets to the right person.

We thank you for your patience during these unprecedented times—please stay safe!

Best wishes from The Finance Department

