

GIVING NEWS

News on

GIVING AND FUNDRAISING *from the Diocese of Sheffield*

giving
from the heart

for the
love of
God

August 2003

This is the latest in an occasional series of newsletters that are designed to keep those who are working on Giving and Fundraising in parishes aware of issues that affect them and what is available to help them.

The Giving Department, based at Church House, Rotherham, consists of *Nick Hutton*, Diocesan Christian Giving Director; *Karen Hubbard*, Diocesan Fundraising Manager; and *Hilary Perry*, Secretary. Nick's job is to work with parishes to encourage and stimulate realistic levels of Giving from church members. Karen's role is to find new sources of income to help pay for work carried out by the Diocese (from trusts, public money, companies, etc.) and to give advice to parishes.

Giving Service

You should have received an invitation to the Giving Service being held in Sheffield Cathedral on September 23rd at 7.00 pm.

This service will be a Eucharist to give thanks for all the work undertaken on Giving in parishes. Bishop Jack will preach and preside. Parish Giving Directors, Gift Aid Secretaries, Treasurers, and those many clergy who have worked hard to teach Christian Giving are most welcome to attend.

Refreshments will be available afterwards so it would be helpful to know if you are coming in order to arrange the catering.

Please ring Hilary Perry on 01709 309129. Email: hilary.perry@sheffield-diocese.org.uk

Redesigned Giving Leaflet

The 'Giving can put a smile on your face' leaflet has been well received since it was first produced nearly two years ago. This has been redesigned with the title '**Giving from the heart for the love of God**' and in a new colour to freshen it up. This is an alternative to the original leaflet, which is still available, and can be used in parishes which have already given out copies of the original design.

Contact Nick Hutton or Hilary Perry for more information.

Developing Your Church Project

Many of you are involved in church projects of varying types; some are about keeping a roof on the church! Many are about reaching out to the community.

On Friday 28th November 2003 at Herringthorpe United Reformed Church, Rotherham we are planning a whole day workshop based event

looking at how church and community projects can be linked.

This event is open to people from all denominations and will offer workshop options on disabled access, working with your community partnership, project planning and 'how we did it' case stories from two very different church projects. We expect to have a lunchtime showcase from local funding bodies with the chance to collect information about how they fund church projects.

For those who cannot attend the full day we will hold a condensed half-day event at Church House on Saturday 7 February, 2004 .

Both events are free although we will ask for a small donation towards lunch for the full day event. Details of both events and booking forms will be circulated to all churches in September.

'Funding Your Project' Updated

This very popular booklet is now widely used across the Diocese and has just undergone a major review and update. The updated version is now available and is still free thanks to "Unigraph", who have generously produced the booklets for us free of charge. The review has taken a considerable time and we would like to offer apologies to anyone who has been waiting for a copy.

A version can also be sent electronically if you prefer.

Contact Hilary Perry at Church House.

Update on Giving in Parishes

Nick Hutton has been in post as Diocesan Christian Giving Director for over two years. He has worked in about seventy parishes, and has experience of a wide variety of types of parish - large and small; UPA,

suburban and rural; and parishes with different types of churchmanship.

Whilst the basic approach is usually similar, parishes can benefit from different ways of encouraging Christian Giving. Parishes of all types and traditions have found that a carefully planned Giving Renewal has helped teach the spiritual use of money and has inspired generosity.

To arrange an informal chat, ring Nick Hutton on 01709 309151.

Diocese's Giving in the News

Church members in the Diocese of Sheffield continue to be generous and we should thank God for that fact.

The latest figures published nationally are for 2001 and these show that the average amount given under the Gift Aid scheme was £8.65 per giver per week. When the tax is recovered on this, it rises to £11.07 in the hands of the church. This is the second best figure in the league table of tax efficient giving out of all 43 dioceses. As a percentage of average personal income, Sheffield comes third with 3.7%.

The Times, Yorkshire Post, and Sheffield Star, amongst other papers, reported the news prominently.

These are wonderful figures, but they are necessary if we are to keep the number of clergy available to us in place in our parishes. Let's not forget that we are taught to give 5% of our net income to our church as a start so we cannot be complacent, but we should give thanks for what has been achieved.

Gift Aid Advice

As there have been no changes to the Gift Aid arrangements recently, it has been decided that the next Gift Aid seminar at which a presentation is given by the Inland Revenue will not be held until 2005.

However, if you need any help or advice in the meantime on the subject of Gift Aid ***please contact Nick Hutton or ring the very useful Help Line run by the Inland Revenue on 0151 472 6036/7.***

Church in Action Appeal

How often do we hear from the media that the Church is irrelevant, just for a few and only for Sundays? How wrong they are!

Do you know that in this Diocese we do more to help people and communities at both Diocesan and parish level probably than any other local or national charity?

A new booklet is available that really spells out just how relevant the church is to building community and helping those in real need across the area. There is also a series of 6 A1 posters to support the booklet and these are available for loan if required.

If you want a supply of leaflets, to borrow the posters or just to know more, call Karen Hubbard on 01709 309153.

Tax and Self-Assessment Forms!

This is an important opportunity not to be missed.

There are now two opportunities to give via self-assessment forms. Changes are being brought in so that any one who fills in a self-assessment form has the option of nominating a charity to receive part or all of any rebate they may be entitled to.

Each parish needs to be registered under the scheme to receive these donations. The Inland Revenue have sent a form for this purpose to the contact name they have on their records, which is the person who makes the tax reclaim under the Gift Aid Scheme.

If you have not got a form, you can download one from the Inland Revenue website or ***contact either Nick Hutton at Church House or the Inland Revenue help line 0151 472 6036/7***

Higher Rate Tax Payers

An important message to get out to higher rate taxpayers who Gift Aid is that we only receive the standard rate of tax back from the Inland Revenue on their gift. Higher rate taxpayers are entitled to claim the difference between the standard rate and the rate they pay back from the Inland Revenue themselves. If they do not claim this difference the Revenue gets to keep it!

If they do claim it back they can decide what to do with it - keep it themselves or use it to raise their giving at no further cost to themselves.

For details contact Nick Hutton

Cathedral Appeal

You are probably aware that this Appeal has been running for some time and has been successful in raising substantial sums to build a Resources Centre to house the Breakfast and Archer project and to promote the rich history of the Cathedral.

The Appeal is in its final stages now but all personnel closely involved to date have moved to other ministries elsewhere, leaving the Appeal vulnerable. The Cathedral have approached the Diocese to second Karen Hubbard for one day a week to work with Cathedral staff and volunteers to ensure the Appeal remains on track through these difficult last few months. We hope you will bear with any difficulties this might cause in contacting Karen during the period of the secondment.

Giving Website

The Diocese has been designing a website over the last few months. The Giving and Fundraising Department has a page on this which will be developed further shortly to enable you to download material for use in parishes and to receive current news on work being undertaken on Giving and Fundraising.

The address of the site is www.sheffield-diocese.org.uk.

Diocesan Growth and Opportunities Fund

This Fund helps a variety of work in the Diocese, mainly by supporting innovative parish initiatives which enable the Church to grow and further God's work in our communities.

The Fund is administered by the Diocesan Grants Committee.

The Bishop's Council has agreed that the collections taken at all Diocesan services such as Confirmations and the Installation and Induction of new parish clergy will go to this fund. Gift Aid envelopes for this purpose have been produced and Area Deans will bring a supply of these when a Diocesan service is organised.

It is important that an announcement is made at the beginning of the service to give time for the Gift Aid section on the envelopes to be completed.

The collection will be counted and banked by the Giving and Finance Departments at Church House.

If one of these services has been held at your church and you want the collection taken

away for counting, please contact Nick Hutton.

Interested in Reading about Giving or Fundraising?

There is a collection of books available from the Department's office on Giving and Fundraising topics. If you are interested in learning more about these subjects, these books are available on loan.

If you hear of any book that you think should be available in this library, please let us know.

Contact Nick Hutton or Karen Hubbard for more information.

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