



Dear Parishioners,

Despite a few teething problems, the new contactless donation points in the church appear to be working well and we have collected £5,700 since they were installed on 5 December 2020. We are collecting around £380 per week, with an average donation of around £13.00. Whilst the weekly average is down on the c£1,900 that was being donated prior to the start of the pandemic, one also needs to adjust for the significant drop in weekly attendance and also the shift to standing orders.

The good news is that some 60% of the £5,700 is being Gift Aided. Signing up to Gift Aid using the machines can be a little time-consuming and it may be easier for parishioners to do this from home using their own PC or tablet.

Please find attached guide for signing up via the web site. Once you have done this, every time that you tap on the device in the church using the same card, your donation will be automatically Gift Aided. At the end of the tax year, we can then send you an email with your total donations.

If you want to Gift Aid the donations from your card, you will still need to sign up via the portal or the device even if you have previously signed up with the Diocese as it is via a different payment method. We will then send the details to the Diocese.

If you are unable to sign up for Gift Aid, please always remember to tap 'no' when asked on the device in the church. Sometimes the following person then thinks it is the first screen and fills out a Gift Declaration for your donation.

Whether you are able to sign up for Gift Aid or not, please remember to use the devices in the church for your weekly donations. Whilst we can now see the end of the COVID-19 restrictions, the pandemic has accelerated a number of trends including the move to a more cashless society. Whilst we may no longer automatically carry cash every time that we leave the house, we are likely to carry a card or a smart phone with a payment app, both of which can be used with the devices.

Best wishes,

Fr Richard

Fr Giovanni

Antony Legge (Chair, Pastoral & Finance Committee)