

GIVING FOR GROWTH



Once a year, every year, in every church across the land, an event is held which we call the SAM, the Stated Annual Meeting – what in other organisations might be called the AGM, the Annual General Meeting of the congregation. At its best it is a great opportunity for communicating the initiatives of the church/congregation over the last year, and what our hopes are for the year ahead. It is an opportunity to remember significant events, and people. It is also an opportunity to present the Annual Accounts of the Charity.

We are all well pleased when the Treasurer tells us that we have survived another year and paid all our dues. We hear about our income and our outgoings, and it is a relief to be told we have a little bit over to help us start the next year.

What makes up our income? Usually that would come from offerings, from gift aid (where we can reclaim from the government tax already paid on what members give us) and donations. The donations can come a number of different ways – perhaps from connected organisations like the Guild, from organisations using our premises, occasionally from individual generosity or from legacies, from weddings and other events. And the mainstay comes from our offerings.

Our offerings come from people who have set up Standing Orders, from people who give regularly through envelopes, and the open plate.

As it stands at the moment our churches still receive

our standing payments that come through the bank, but during Lockdown it has been difficult to collect any envelopes (although we do anticipate that members are continuing to fill them, and a day will come when that offering can be collected in). However, there hasn't been any Open Plate offerings – because there hasn't been any Sunday worship at which these offerings can be uplifted.

Since the beginning of Lockdown we have worked hard to adapt our ways of working to suit the new situation – online worship, weekly e-mails, monthly Focus mailouts to those who cannot access the internet, and a telephone reflection line. But one thing we have not tackled is how we can make it easier for members to continue giving their regular offering to God and for the work of the church.

On this, the central Church of Scotland has come to the assistance of congregations by developing a 'Just Giving' page for each congregation – you can access it online, make a payment (and agree Gift Aid also) and it will go to your own congregation.

If you are interested, here are the details:

At the top of the Church of Scotland website front page - churchofscotland.org.uk is a red box entitled **DONATE**. If you click that, it takes you to a page where you can make a donation – choosing first between 'donate to our general fund' and 'donate to a congregation'.

When you click the 'donate to a congregation' box it opens up some more, and you can then choose the congregation to give to – if you enter part of the name, a drop down box will make suggestions.

Once you have chosen your church, the next box asks if you want to add on gift aid – you need to give details if you do. And then there is a box, which is securely operated through Paypal, so you can make the donation you want. Paypal will ask you the details necessary so they can take your donation. And then it will all happen, and the payment will be channelled to your church. There is also an option for you to make a regular payment.

Very straightforward and, honestly, very helpful to your church.

Tinto Parishes REFLECTION phone line.

The line is available to call at any time, and a new reflection is added on Friday every week.



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A reflection from Rev. George for those who cannot access the internet or take part in the Sunday worship.

Or for just anyone!

Please do pass this information on

The very latest elder attire?

Alan Harper, an elder at Fossaway Church in Kinross-shire, raised £4,366 for Richmond's Hope, a bereavement charity working with young children—by walking round his garden dressed as a garden gnome!

