

Finance Alert — February 2026



We are here to support you and your church

The Finance team at St Mary's house are here to support and guide you and your church, helping you to boost giving and generosity, simplifying your Accounts and Administration and guiding you through now and future changes.

SORP changes

The new Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2026 was published on the 31st October 2025 but please be mindful that this applies to the accounting period beginning on or after the 1st January 2026 so your 2025 accounts will not be effected by the changes. Details will be shared with you closer to the time when this will be relevant to your accounts. If you are unsure please reach out to parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org

Return of Parish Finance

Your 2025 Return of Parish Finance is required by the Archbishops Council in London. The Return of Parish finance must be submitted by 30th June 2026 and your APCM meeting must have been held by the 31st of May. In addition your accounts must be submitted no later than 28 days after your APCM meeting. If you are struggling to reach this deadline, please reach out to the finance team on parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org.

Charity Registration



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

PCC's have already been working with our team to get registered and it is great to see so many of you reaching out. We are currently seeing that registrations are coming back completed within a week at the moment. Obviously this lead time will get longer as more PCC's around the country get registered so why not reach out to us at parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org where Karen is on hand to help guide you through the process and beat the queues. Remember by 2031 ALL PCC's must be registered with the Charity Commission regardless of your income.

Energy Footprint Tool

Did you know that submission of the E.F.T is now a mandatory requirement for many Church of England Net Zero Carbon grant schemes, including those for heating, lighting, and insulation improvements. The deadline for Your Energy Footprint tool is the 30th June 2026. This only takes around 1 hour to complete, so why not grab a coffee and a hot cross bun and give it a go.

<https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>



Listed Places Worshipping Grant Scheme

The LPWG scheme has now officially closed. As of Wednesday 18th February all of this year's £23 million budget has been allocated to applicants, so no new claims are being considered. From April 2026, there will be a new fund called the Places of Worship Renewal Fund. The new Fund will be for urgent capital repairs and will be administered by Historic England, with a focus on areas of greatest need but with flexibility to support those places of worship that play a vital role in their local community. More details will be released in due course.



Parochial Fee Return

Have you thought about sending your Parochial fee Returns over to us on a monthly or quarterly basis even if it is Nil? This will help spread the admin load and it will also help when applying for grants and funding as these figures will be looked at. Why not give it a go. If you need a hand please contact parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org

Gift Aid Claim Deadlines

For those of you who are in the Diocesan central gift aid scheme, it is time to start thinking about your Gift aid claims. Please be aware of the following cut off dates Turnaround reports / One off donations for the year 21/22 Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (loose plate) for the year 23/24.

Claims **MUST** be sent to Giftaid@lichfield.anglican.org by the **28th February 2026**. If you require more information or assistance please contact Julie on parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org

Tips to Encourage Digital giving at Easter

Lent and Easter can bring a rise in church attendance and can also bring a rise in digital donations. Below are a few handy tips to help you during this "Egg" citing time.



1. **Draw Near** is the 2026 theme for lent by the Church of England check some ideas out at churchofengland
2. **Colourful** giving through devices such as creating a thank you on your contactless devices or posters.
3. **Spring Clean** your mechanisms are up to date such as QR codes, giving pages, suggested donation amounts, instruction posters are up to date.
4. **highlight** to givers how a gift supports different areas of the church such as community, pastoral, families.
5. **Follow up**. After Easter why not share a warm thank you in your services and via email or social media. Show your supporters how much you appreciate them, and make sure you demonstrate what their giving made possible

Up and coming Diary Dates:-

APCM	To be held by 31st May 2026
Accounts	To be sent within 28 days of your APCM meeting
Return of Parish Finance	30th June 2026
Energy Footprint	30th June 2026

New releases for 2026

New Training sessions coming soon

- * Cornerstone
- * Church Organiser
- * MGAOL
- * MFAOL
- * Deanery
- * Drop in sessions

The Finance Department :- Who's who here at St Marys

Jonathan Hill	Director of Finance
Jess Dace	Deputy to the Director of Finance
Yvonne Leonard	Executive Assistant to the Director of finance
Jean Overton	Parish Support Team Officer
Julie Lunn	Parish Support Team Officer and Gift Aid
Nici Danaher	Finance Officer including Direct Debits
Karen Brooke	Senior Support Officer
Gill Woodward	Administration Officer
Chloe Smith	Finance Administration Officer
Rachael Wheeler	Finance Development Worker and Giving Advisor
Fiona North	Project Support and Church Buildings Officer

A prayer for Spiritual Growth



We are yours, Lord.
Do with us what needs to be done.
Heal what needs healing,
renew what needs renewing.
Pour out grace upon grace, Lord.
May your will be done,
nothing else, nothing less, nothing more.
In Jesus' precious name,
Amen

Best wishes from The Finance Department

