



The Diocese of Winchester

Christian Stewardship Adviser

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Dear Gift Aid Secretary / Treasurer / Stewardship Adviser

Happy New Year!

As Ann Fryer and I send out our first newsletters of the year, I thought it was appropriate to include this short note to say "*thank you*" for all the work that you do voluntarily throughout the parishes of the Winchester Diocese, particularly the efforts you make to encourage people in their Christian Stewardship and embrace the facility of Gift Aid.

You will notice we've enclosed some extra items with these two newsletters. These 'extras' are all designed to try and help you and others within your parish. Please let me briefly explain...

'Thinking about our giving'

'Thinking about our giving' is an idea used successfully by the Bath & Wells Diocese last year. This simple form is designed to try and help Gift Aid Secretaries and Treasurers to gather a snapshot of where the local church is with their giving. Once you have entered the relevant material on the form you should find it much easier to communicate this important information to your PCC and, perhaps, the entire congregation. Indeed it may be worth copying the completed form for each member of the church.

You will see that apart from a blank form I've also provided an example of a completed form to try and make this process as simple as possible.

There is no compulsion to complete the form and I don't want it back! It is there for you to use if you wish to although, naturally, I hope you do choose to take advantage of this approach.

'Raising Awareness of Gift Aid'

Over the last two and a half years Ann Fryer has developed some great ideas to help promote the use of Gift Aid. In your own quest to improve the uptake of Gift Aid it is highly likely that many of you around the Diocese will also have produced many excellent ideas and tools for use in your parish.

With your help we would like to try and tap into all of the many different ways in which Gift Aid can be promoted and pushed. Please therefore take a few moments to fill in the form Ann has sent to you and return it together with any examples of material that you use. Ann will gather everything together to make all the ideas available to everyone, either in the form of a pack or booklet and in electronic format as well so people can tailor ideas with their own parish name.

'Personal Giving Renewal Checklist'

The enclosed checklist is designed to try and help you and your PCC. Again it is entirely up to the PCC concerned as to whether or not they use this checklist. However, before discarding the checklist do bear in mind that more and more parishes are recognising the value of having some form of 'annual renewal' whereby everyone within the church is given an annual opportunity to review their giving. Remember that in asking people to review their giving all you are doing is offering them the chance to think and pray through whether they should increase, decrease or leave their giving as it is. I hope the checklist will help to facilitate this process.

With all best wishes for this coming year

Gordon Randall
Christian Stewardship Adviser