

Gift Aid Report for 2019

Gift Aid is a government scheme intended to give financial assistance to charities in recognition of the important role they play in society. The Scheme is open to all taxpayers – parishioners who pay income tax or taxes on pensions, dividends or building society interest.

In 2019, 61 parishioners paid into collections using envelopes, compared with 64 in the previous year. 59 parishioners paid by monthly standing order, compared with 36 in the previous year. Thus, a total of 120 families participated in the Gift Aid Scheme in 2019, compared with 100 the previous year, indicating that participation in the Scheme has expanded significantly, mainly as a result of the Planned Giving campaign in late 2019. 81% of the Parish's Offertory income is Gift-aided (the figure for St. Benedict's by itself is 100%).

The total amount received back from the Diocese in 2019 was £5,842, compared with £6,990 in the previous year. In addition, following significant changes made by the Diocese to the method of payment of tax refunds to parishes, some £6,000 of Parish funds has been retained by the Diocese in a Loan Fund, this fund being repayable to the parish on demand. No payments have been received since September 2019. The Diocese has also claimed over £5,000 Gift Aid for past years' parishioner contributions under the Small Claims procedure, and, when this amount is received by the Diocese and added to the Loan Fund, the amount owed to the Parish by the Diocese will total over £11,000.

The Gift Aid Scheme is administered by me and Sandra Rocco through a Diocesan website. Many thanks to Sandra for her assistance.

Gift Aid income is vital to the Parish, so a big "Thank you" to all parishioners who participate in the Scheme.

Steve Duxbury.