



The
United
Reformed
Church

Help and Advice Group

Northern Synod Office, 4 College Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8JJ (0191-232 1168)

Bulletin 36: FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Help & Advice Group was set up by Synod in 2009, to support local churches in being informed and effective in their life and mission. The Group is made up of four members of local churches, together with administrative support from the Trust Officer. We are willing to try to provide specific advice or organise training days on particular topics. Please get in touch if you have questions or wish to suggest a training or discussion event.

This article is part of a series giving an overview of particular subjects on interest for local churches. We also circulate general updates from time to time. Bulletins will also be posted on the members' area of the website with direct links to other websites.

Where readers are directed to web-based resources, the Synod Office is willing to respond to reasonable requests for printed out information for readers without web access, although they may find it more satisfactory to follow up their interest through their local library's web access.

Financial Update

The HMRC has updated its guidance on charities and tax: www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/tax/basics.htm.

Sections include how to gain recognition as a charity for tax purposes, and taxes that may apply to churches in some circumstances, together with details of various reliefs and exemptions from tax.

In particular, churches can reclaim income tax on some investments, and can have bank interest paid gross. Reliefs from value added tax include advertising, equipment for visually impaired people, constructing new buildings, and fuel and power, as described in bulletin 31. Reliefs can also be claimed from the climate change levy.

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