



# Help and Advice

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## Bulletin 39: 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 was disbanded in 2014, as part of a simplification of Synod committees, and its work continues through the Trust Officer, under the oversight of the Trust. We are willing to try to provide specific advice on particular topics. Please get in touch if you have questions or suggestions.

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.

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This bulletin updates churches on 4 financial issues.

### **Employment Allowance**

Churches that pay National Insurance Contributions in respect of employees are reminded that they can claim an allowance of £2,000 a year from HMRC. Further details and links can be followed up at: [www.gov.uk/employment-allowance](http://www.gov.uk/employment-allowance).

### **Gift Aid**

Churches are reminded that recent increases in the personal tax allowance to £10,000 for anyone born after 5 April 1948 may lift some donors out of income tax altogether. It may be worth reminding donors periodically to check that they pay enough tax to cover the Gift Aid to be claimed.

Where a donor no longer pays tax, Gift Aid can no longer be claimed, although the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme could still be used if the donor puts no more than £20 in the collection plate.

### **Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme**

Please note from 1 June 2014, the administration of this scheme, whereby churches can reclaim some of the VAT paid on repairs, maintenance and alterations to their listed buildings, is being transferred to a new supplier. Notice of the transitional arrangements is given on their website, [www.lpwscheme.org.uk](http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk).

## **VAT on Induction Loop Systems**

HMRC has advised that VAT on the installation of induction loops in places of worship should be charged at 0%. Accordingly, churches should ensure that installers are aware of this and charge VAT at the zero rate.

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