

What is Gift Aid?

Gift Aid is the scheme used by charities and donors to reclaim tax on charitable giving, commencing 6th April, 2000.

So what does it mean?

It means that if you are a taxpayer, the Diocese can reclaim tax for your parish on all your donations. It can cover all giving, whether by weekly or monthly offertory, irregular donations, or a single one-off donation. We can reclaim tax on your donations at the basic rate equivalent, and as long as you have paid enough tax, at whatever the rate, then your giving is eligible.

Overall for every £1 you give, your parish will receive an additional 25p from the HMRC. (Please see the table on the back of this form).

The tax you pay could be income tax, (e.g. on earnings, dividends, bank interest etc.) or capital gains tax. You should be paying at least the amount of tax during the year that charities reclaim on your Gift Aid during the year. If you pay tax at the higher rate you will receive additional relief.

How does it work?

You sign a "Gift Aid Declaration" to the Parish (see your Parish Priest/Organiser). The Diocese can then reclaim for your parish the tax you have paid. There has to be a record of what you give, so we ask you to use numbered envelopes for cash, give by cheque, or give by standing order. The declaration will cover everything you give.

Standing Orders

Please consider paying by Standing Order. It enables regular giving and reduces administration costs. It will also mean that less cash will be held at the presbytery and less cash will have to be banked. The holding and banking of cash is always a security risk.

What does it cost me?

It costs you absolutely nothing! You are giving to your parish anyway: this simply asks the Government to redirect to your parish some of the tax you have paid to them. Please also be reassured that your donations are confidential.

What if you pay tax at the higher rate?

Better still, if you are a higher rate taxpayer you will receive additional relief, which you will need to claim via your tax code. Seek advice from the HMRC.

What happens if I stop paying enough tax?

Simply ask your parish priest or organiser to cancel your declaration. If you don't then you could be sent a bill by the HMRC for any tax reclaimed by the Diocese that you have not paid. If in future you start paying sufficient tax again you can make a new declaration.

GASDS - Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme

From April, 2013 parishes have been able to claim a Gift Aid Style repayment without the need to obtain a Gift aid Declaration on small cash donations of £20 or less. No cheques or notes over £20. A record of the donations at each service to be maintained and a breakdown of the monies collected to be kept in the parish recording system. Claim listings are sent out at the beginning of each year for parishes to make a claim.

Planned Regular Giving

We consider that it is important to maintain the concept of planned regular giving to the Parish. Please continue to support your parish in this way.