

Finance Alert — September 2026



We are here to support you and your church

The Finance team at St Mary's house are here to support and guide you and your church, helping you to boost giving and generosity, simplifying your Accounts and Administration and guiding you through present and future changes.

Return of Parish Finance—A giant well done!



We would like to thank everyone who completed their Return of Parish Finance this year. As a Diocese we hit 97% completed which is fantastic. The RPF allows us to be able to see how the Diocese and the National Church can help to support you and it helps churches to secure grants. Can we go over 97% next year? If you would like some hints or tips, please drop Karen an email at RPF@lichfield.anglican.org.

Point of Contact

If you need to get in touch with any of the team and you do not know who is best placed to help and it sometimes feels like you are going round in circles. We now have the point of contact available on our website. This lists the email address and the person who best to contact for your issue. You can click the link below and you can save it, pin it or print it

[Points of contact](#)

If you are still unsure you can always contact parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org and we will help to find the relevant person.

ACAT subscription



Did you know that the Diocese can provide access to ACAT. Here at Lichfield we provide access to the ACAT platform. The platform provides advice, training and information on accounting, financial, legal for church treasurers and trustees across the UK. If you would like us to get you up and running with this fab platform, please email parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org using the subject ACAT.

Harvest Festival Tips



Autumn is fast approaching and this can be a fantastic opportunity to bring people from your community into your church. Below are some tips that you can do in church to help people to brave the drop in temperature and the crispy leaves.

- * Harvest Supper or barn dance, using local produce
- * Collections for Foodbanks and charities
- * Invite recently baptised and their families to a harvest service
- * Crispy leaves arts and crafts for the little ones

You can retrieve some fab documentation on the Church of England [support hub](#)

Charity Commission registered churches



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

If you are registered with the charity commission and your financial year ends

December 2026 your Charity Annual Return must be completed by the 31st October 2026. This is mandatory for any registered charity with an income of over £10,000. All submissions can be filed online via your HMRC charities regulator portal. If you are struggling or require guidance please email parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org

Up and coming Diary Dates:-



Charity Commission return deadline	31st October 2026 (registered charities only)
Fee Changes	1st January 2027
Statistics for Mission	31st January 2027
APCM	To be held by the 31st May 2027
Accounts	To be sent within 28 days of your APCM
Return of Parish Finance	30th June 2027

Cornerstone



Our next Cornerstone webinars and workshops are now available to book. This time the cornerstone team are visiting Stafford, Cannock, Colton and Chasetown. If you would like to embark on the Cornerstone journey please visit the web page below and get you team booked in

[Cornerstone](#)

Training



We want to hear from you!
We are working with other teams in St Marys to help to provide you with more available training sessions. We would like to hear what you would like to see moving forward by completing the attached [poll](#)

The Finance Department :- Who's who here at St Marys

Jonathan Hill	Director of Finance
Jess Dace	Deputy to the Director of Finance
Yvonne Leonard	Executive Assistant to the Director of finance
Jean Overton	Parish Support Team Officer
Julie Lunn	Parish Support Team Officer and Gift Aid
Nici Danaher	Finance Officer including Direct Debits
Karen Brooke	Senior Support Officer
Gill Woodward	Administration Officer
Chloe Smith	Finance Administration Officer
Rachael Wheeler	Finance Development Worker and Giving Advisor
Fiona North	Project Support and Church Buildings Officer

A prayer for Autumn



O God,
Creator of all seasons
We thank you for the gift of fall's embrace
Be near as our family embarks
On autumn's adventures
And new ages and stages of life

Amen

New releases for 2026



New Training sessions coming soon

* Cornerstone * Church Organiser * MGAOL * MFAOL * Deanery * Drop in sessions

For more information on any of the above please email us on parishresources@lichfield.anglican.org

Best wishes from The Finance Department

