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Parish Buying

Hello everyone,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our latest quarterly newsletter. This edition is packed with updates and resources designed to support your church in practical and impactful ways. We've decided to move from monthly to quarterly newsletters to bring you more curated content without overloading your inbox.

We at Parish Buying want to thank everyone who supported our transition to the new website, and I want to encourage you all to log in and see what's on offer.

Warm regards

Grace Okafor
Head of Parish Buying

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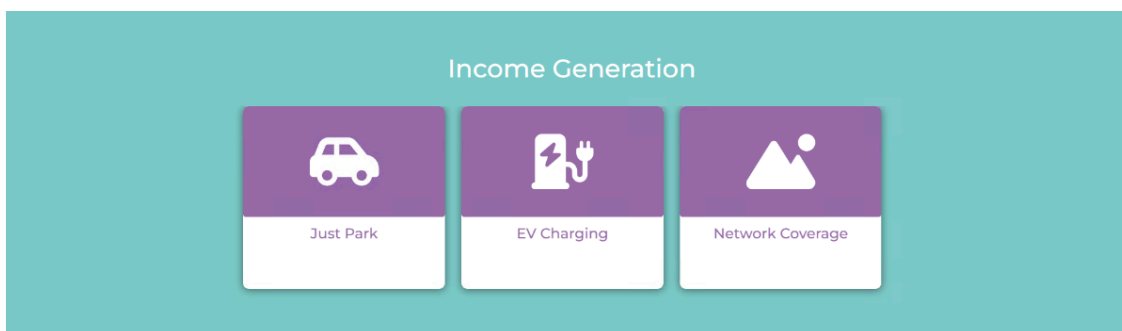
New from Parish Buying

New Services and Categories

New Income Generation Product Category

We've launched a new and expanding Income Generation category to help churches explore additional revenue streams.

- **EV Charging Stations:**
Maximise the potential of your church's parking space(s) by offering EV charging to the public. With five EV charging suppliers available on our website, you can earn commission while supporting green travel within your community. To learn more, including watch our webinar, [click here](#).
- **JustPark:**
Turn your unused parking spaces into a revenue source with JustPark. This new Parish Buying supplier allows you to earn commission each time someone parks at your car park. Discover more about how it works [here](#).
- **Network Coverage:**
Struggling with poor mobile coverage in your area? Consider providing coverage to your community (and yourself!) by applying to host telecoms infrastructure on your church tower or spire. By linking up with a network of other local churches, you can extend mobile coverage across a broader area and generate regular income for your church. To find out more, [click here](#).

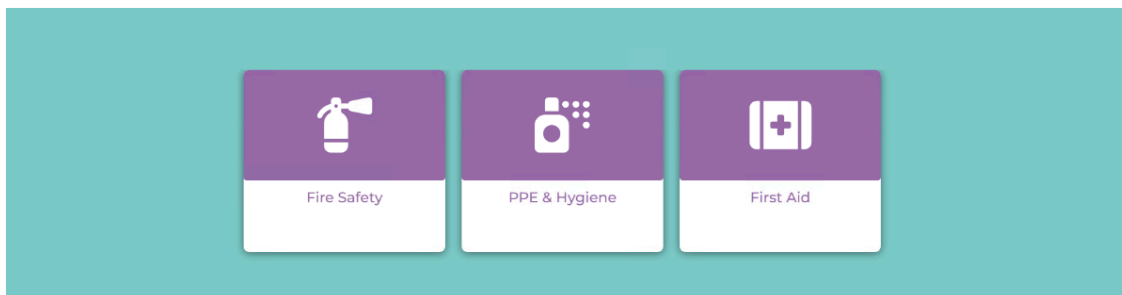


New Health and Safety Product Category

live on our website. This category includes:

- First Aid Supplies: Including defibrillators and essential first aid kits.
- Fire Safety Equipment: From fire extinguishers to alarms.
- PPE and Hygiene Products: Personal protective equipment and hygiene essentials.

[Find Out More](#)



GWD Lite Devices Coming Soon to Parish Buying!

We're excited to soon offer GWD Lite devices, perfect for quick and easy transactions at church fetes, votive candle stations, and even sites without internet. With minimal training required, these devices enable seamless donations on the go.

"[Our learning centre] have really loved the device and they've used it loads. It's really nice having something that's battery powered that they can carry around with them. So, when they go outside, they can collect donations on the move." - Ely Cathedral

Stay tuned for more details!



New Buildings Maintenance Services – Coming Soon

We are adding Phosters, our new buildings maintenance supplier, to the Parish Buying website later this month. With both Maintenance Booker and Phosters as Official Parish Buying suppliers, we will be able to offer a range of services, including tree maintenance, and electrical servicing. To find out more about Maintenance Booker, [click here](#).

Maintenance Books

- Rainwater maintenance, e.g.: guttering
- Tree surveys and tree surgery
- Stonework, masonry, and lime mortaring
- Asbestos surveys, management, and removal
- Lightning protection system surveys and repairs

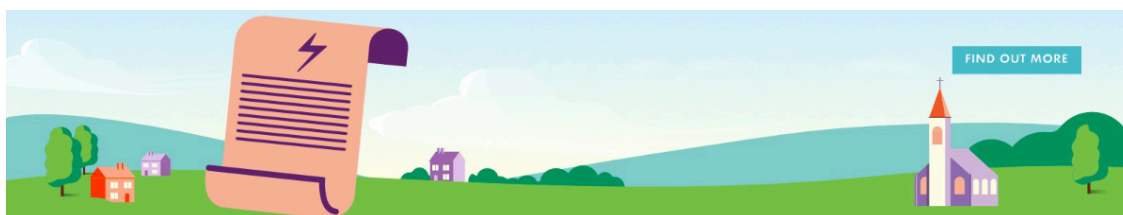
Phosters

- Mechanical Services
- Commercial Cleaning
- Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Compliance Testing
- Grounds Maintenance
- Water Treatment
- Electrical Services
- Fabric Maintenance
- Planned Maintenance (PPM)

Energy Basket Pricing

Churches in the Energy Basket will receive their pricing details later this month via energy@parishbuying.org.uk.

Starting from **January 2025**, Mitie will take over from 2Buy2 as our energy broker. This transition means that Mitie will handle account management, pricing, and the purchase of energy throughout the year. This is to ensure you benefit from the most competitive rates. We will provide further information closer to the time of transition.



Change to Supplier Arrangements from 1 January 2025

to providing tailored and cost-effective support. The transition will take place from 1 January 2025.

To ensure a smooth transition, we have commissioned Novo-K UK to manage the process, working closely with 2Buy2 and Parish Buying. Some benefits of the switch include improved access to information, easier navigation on our website, enhanced customer service, and cost savings.

To find out more, log in to our new Parish Buying website and read our [blog](#). If you have any questions or suggestions, use the customer feedback form or email us at parishbuying@churchofengland.org. [Find out more.](#)



Office Depot Invoicing Process

Office Depot has revamped its invoicing process to better serve our churches. You will now receive automated email invoices directly to your email address, ensuring quicker receipt and easier budget management. Each site has been set up as a separate account, enhancing visibility and making it easier to interact with Office Depot. Additionally, the new system will provide clear invoice status tracking through their online portal, SmartPad, which will help to streamline administration. You can find the full details by [clicking here](#).

We have negotiated a selection of products to sell at a discount of up to 40% compared to high street prices. View our Office Products section [here](#).



Heat the Person, Not the Building!

Is your church struggling with inadequate heating as the colder months approach? Consider keeping your congregation warm during services with heated cushions from Sit and Heat. These cushions are designed to fit a variety of pews and chairs, offering a practical way of heating the person, not the building. As a Parish Buying member, you can enjoy a 20% discount on these products.

Our Net Zero Carbon Officer recently visited St Bridget's Church in St Bride's, Wales, to donate heated cushions and demonstrate their effectiveness. Watch the video now to see how they work and how they can make a difference in your church! [Watch Now](#)

Find out more about Heated Cushions by [clicking here](#).

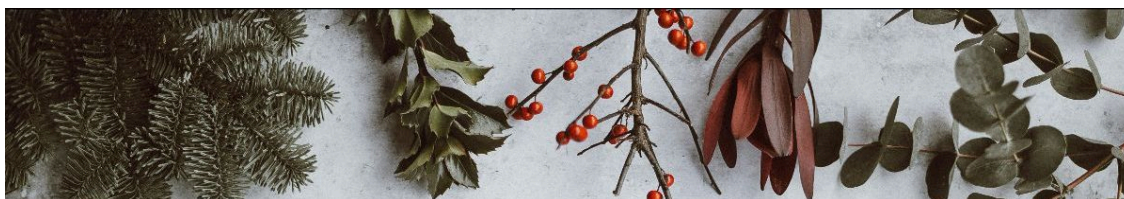


Watch our short video on how Heated Cushions work at St Bridget's Church, Wales

Preparing Your Church for Christmas

As your church begins preparations for Christmas, take advantage of exclusive discounts from our three trusted suppliers on a wide range of church supplies. From candles, vestments, and wafers to nativity scenes, advent wreaths, greeting cards, and gifts, visit Parish Buying today and see what's on offer!

[Find out more](#)

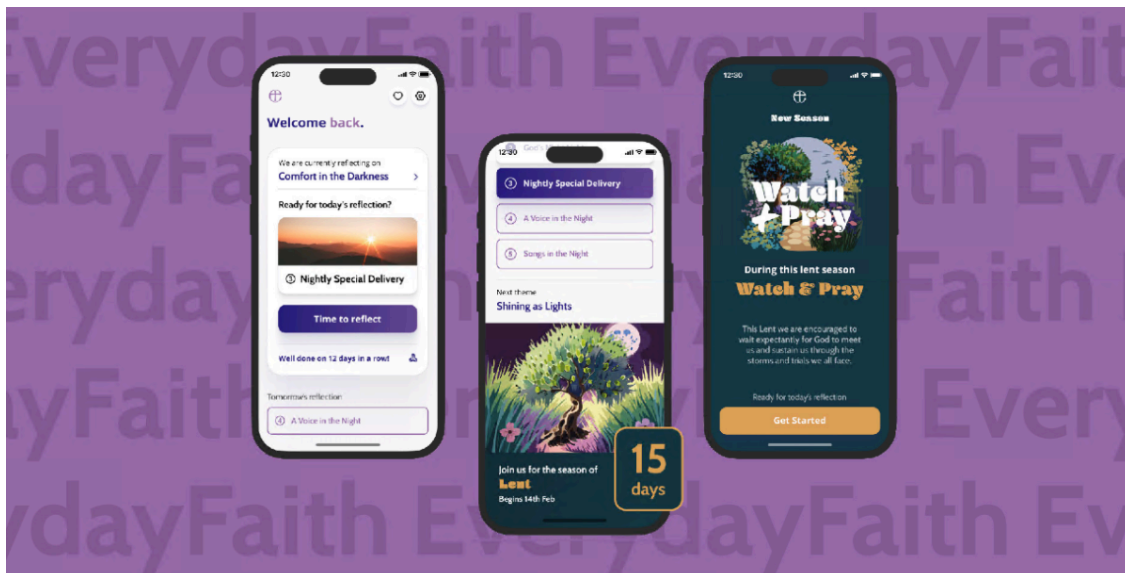


Develop a daily connection with God

In the lead up to Christmas, why not connect with God with the new Everyday Faith app. Journey daily with reflections to inspire, equip and encourage you in your everyday faith.

In the lead up to [Generosity Week](#), starting on 23 September, Jonathan de Bernhardt Wood will be featured on the Everyday Faith app with six days of

Everyday Faith is now available to download for iOS and Android. If you already have the *Watch & Pray* app installed, you will automatically get the update. [Find out more](#)



Seasonal Webinars

How to use Canva for your church: Christmas special

September 27, 11am - 12pm [Register here](#)

Canva is a free design tool which offers a number of great features to help you create logos, flyers, social media posts and more. In this free webinar, we'll guide you through Canva's essential features, giving you an introduction to the tool and showing you how to create eye-catching content for your church.

The Christmas Digital Planner

October 16, 11am - 12pm [Register here](#)

Join us for a hands-on session to help you connect with people through digital media this Christmas. A chance to ask questions, talk to other churches, learn about our Digital Planner and see live demos of how to use the Calm and Bright resources. Register now at the link below, and find out more about the Christmas resources on the [Calm and Bright page](#).

Digital Giving this Advent and Christmas

whether it's online donations or contactless and in-person. We'll look at templates for promoting donation QR codes, and how to edit those on Canva. We'll also show you how you can maximise opportunities for giving over the Advent and Christmas period.

Health, Safety and Security

Fire Extinguisher Maintenance

Maintaining your church's fire extinguishers isn't just good practice – it's a legal requirement. Under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, the responsible person at your church must ensure all extinguishers are in proper working order. This includes conducting monthly checks of hoses, nozzles, locking pins, seals, pressure dials, and ensuring all labels are intact and legible.



Unless you have a service-free fire extinguisher, such as a P50, it must be professionally serviced each year by a BAFE-accredited company. Generally, extinguishers have a lifespan of about five years, with CO2 models lasting up to ten years if maintained correctly. No fire extinguisher should be in use for more than 20 years.

Our supplier, Safelincs, provides both fire extinguishers and servicing options to help you stay compliant. For supplier details, [click here](#).



Balancing Welcoming Spaces with Security

Following a recent theft at St Michael's Church in Framlingham, Suffolk Police has issued an advice sheet for all parishes. Download your copy [here](#). As many churches remain open during the day, it's important to find a balance between creating a welcoming space and protecting your valuable assets. This is a good time to review your church's security.

Simple steps like conducting an inventory of valuables, securing collection boxes, and ensuring keys are locked away can make a big difference. For added security, consider installing CCTV systems, available through Parish Buying in the Audio Visual section. These measures can help keep your church safe while remaining accessible to the community. [Request a quote](#)

Testimonials and Case Studies



Witness Through Heritage: St Mary's Journey into Digital Storytelling

St Mary-the-Virgin, Brading, on the Isle of Wight, recently received a £10,000 grant from the National Heritage Fund to share its rich heritage through digital storytelling with Info Point, a Parish Buying supplier offering virtual tours of churches.

Joan Solomon, Secretary of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), expressed excitement about this opportunity to “Witness through Heritage,” boost tourism, and support the local economy. The church hopes to be part of an island pilgrimage trail—especially since it is likely the location of the first baptism on the island. The congregation has enjoyed creating the tour together, strengthening their church family and sense of community. We’ll check back with St. Mary-the-Virgin in a few months to see their progress. In the meantime, [click here](#) for more information on Info Point.



Write your will for free this Autumn - Making a Will

The Church of England has once again [partnered with Farewill](#) to offer a free online will writing service. Nearly 20% of wills in the UK are now produced by a will-writing company, and because there are no appointments to be made, or time to be taken off work, it's simple to arrange and you are guided through the process. There's no danger of the final will being invalid as they are always checked by qualified solicitors. There is no obligation for people to leave a gift to their local church, but many do – over £3m has been left to local churches through Farewill since 2021.

[Get started here](#)

Faith Will

Help spread the message: Your Faith is powerful, so is your Will.

Start a legacy conversation in your church with Faith Will

Faith Will is our way of inspiring Christians of all denominations to share the power of leaving a gift in their Will to both Christian Aid and their place of worship. Our free resources make it easy to tailor Faith Will to your church and the time you have available. Join hundreds of churches this autumn and take part in Faith Will to inspire your congregation. [Sign Your Church Up Here](#)



support@parishbuying.org.uk



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