

New Year – New Hope

I am writing this on Advent Sunday, such is the way of deadlines. I want to suggest that at New Year, we should be looking forward rather than back, but I've already fallen into the trap of checking to see what I wrote this time last year – so there goes my first resolution, more than a month before January!

I'm glad, though, to see that, in innocence and ignorance of all things covid, I wrote (in capital letters, which I usually resist) GOD CAN BE TRUSTED. That will certainly be worth remembering in 2021 as well.

By the time you read this, we will or won't have trade and other agreements with the EU; Parliament will or won't have agreed to the strict new three-tier coronavirus regulations; the first vaccines will or won't have been approved and rolled out for use; England will or won't have won the first Autumn Nations Cup rugby championship, and the one-day cricket series against South Africa; Donald Trump will or won't have accepted defeat ... a lot can happen in a month.

And if a lot can happen in a month, what about a whole year? Who could have predicted so many aspects of our lives being overturned in 2020? (There I go, looking back again. That's two forfeits so far.) So, how can we look forward into a new year, when it could be overwhelmingly



good, or equally bad, or just not very memorable at all? We can probably rule that third option out, but the question remains: How can we look forward?

The answer, of course, is by looking to Jesus: Jesus the King of kings and Lord of lords, the Lord of the years, the Lord of the future; Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith (I hope you can join in my course of Bible studies on Hebrews this spring); Jesus our hope.

We have very little idea of what is in store for us in this new year. But it is still the Year of our Lord 2021, so we enter it with hope in him.

With best wishes
+Donald

+ Donald

Do your shopping and raise money for your church via easyfundraising!

Our churches have been hard hit financially this year. Months of lockdown has left many of you wondering where to find the necessary funds for repairs, running costs and maintenance.

We've listened and we're pleased to announce a new partnership with fundraising website [easyfundraising](#) which will enable you to easily generate funds for your church immediately.

How does easyfundraising work?

It's very simple – when anyone connected to a particular church uses the easyfundraising website or app to shop online with over 4,400 well-known stores, the retailer they shop with sends your church a free donation.

Many people in your community will already be shopping online, so this is a simple way that you can support your church easily and safely from home.

easyfundraising is completely free to use and it won't cost you anything extra as the retailer pays the donations, not the shopper.

What's more, you won't need to change where you shop either as all your favourite retailers are involved, including **Amazon, M&S, Eden, eBay, Argos, John Lewis, Dobies, Waitrose, Holland & Barratt, Boots** and many more.

The benefits:

- Free to register and use
- Trusted by thousands of churches
- Easy to set up and requires minimal management
- A safe and secure way for you to support your church from home

'Donate' feature

In addition to raising free funds with online shopping, your church can also use easyfundraising to collect direct donations from your congregation. Request a 'Donate'



1. Join

Register your Church as a cause with easyfundraising



2. Shop

Every time your congregation & supporters shop online they go to easyfundraising first...



3. Raise

...shop as normal and the retailer will give a donation to your Church for free!



4. Donate

Your supporters can also make a donation to your Church using a credit or debit card with the donate feature



button from easyfundraising and members of the congregation can donate directly to your church. easyfundraising offers this service completely free of charge – there is simply a card provider fee applicable of 1.4% + 20p per transaction.

How to get started

To get started now, simply [register your church](#) as a 'good cause' with easyfundraising – it's completely free to register and use, and only takes two minutes. We really recommend you give it a try.

Find out more

Watch [this video](#) to find out how easyfundraising works.

FAQs for churches

- **My church isn't a charity – can we still use easyfundraising?**

Yes – you don't need to be a charity to use easyfundraising.

- **Will it cost churches anything?**

No – easyfundraising is completely free to register and use for both you and your supporters. And your supporters will not be charged anything extra on their shopping either.

- **How do we get our shopping donations?**

Providing your church has raised over £15 in donations, easyfundraising total up all the donations raised by everyone supporting your church every three months and send them to you by bank transfer or cheque. There is no charge for this. If your church hasn't raised over £15 in the previous three months, the amount simply rolls into the next payment instead.



- **How do we get our direct donations?**

Donations made via a credit or debit card are handled by Stripe, the service provider. Stripe processes the credit or debit card payment securely and transfers the money to your church bank account within seven days of the date of donation. You'll receive an email to let you know when you have a new donation.

- **Do we get 100% of the direct donation value?**

The payment service provider, Stripe, charges a fee for processing payments of 1.4% + 20p per donation. So, for a £100 donation, you should expect to receive £98.40.

However, easyfundraising will not charge a commission fee on any donations you receive, unlike other

fundraising platform providers who take up to 5% away from a donation.

- **How does easyfundraising make money?**

Like price comparison websites, easyfundraising makes money through affiliate marketing. This means that retailers pay them commission each time a sale is made through their site. The donation rate shown on the website is what's paid to your church when one of your members buys something from a retailer.

So, [start raising now!](#)

A host of useful information and resources to help you during this time can be found via www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/coronavirus/coronavirus.

Visit www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/events to find out about our online events.