

GIFT AID SCHEME – UPDATE

Churches that operate their own Gift Aid administration should note that HMRC require a change to be made in the wording of Gift Aid Declarations.

The change became effective on 24th February 2012 but there is a period of grace up to 31st December 2012 in that Gift Aid Declarations signed between these dates, using the old wording, will still be valid. Thereafter Gift Aid Declarations not using the correct form of words will be invalid.

Gift Aid Declarations using the old form of words and signed prior to 24th February 2012 remain valid.

The new requirement is that the Gift Aid Declaration must contain the following additional statement by the donor...

“I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given.”

Further information may be obtained by following the link given below or by contacting Eric Cousins at the Grace Baptist Trust Corporation.

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/new-guid-giftaid.htm>

Churches that do not administer Gift Aid are reminded that donations from taxpayers can be increased by 25 pence for every £1 given if the taxpayer signs a Gift Aid Declaration. (This tax refund is claimed by the church from HMRC). GBTC operates a scheme for the benefit of churches that prefer not to administer their own Gift Aid Scheme. Further information about the GBTC Gift Aid Scheme can be obtained from Eric Cousins.

FS\GA-U\03\2012