

PRESS RELEASE

ST JOHN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL PORTSMOUTH

RELEASE IMMEDIATE: 27 April 2005

With the publication of the year's balance sheet for the Cathedral, Mr Joe McGannan, the organiser of the Gift Aid Scheme, launched an appeal for more members of the congregation to join the scheme.

STARTS

GIFT AID

This is the time of year when funny things like P45s and P60s start arriving along with the more welcome post. It tells us that it is balance sheet time again. This is something that happens to churches as well as homes.

On Sunday 24 April, with a view to increasing the income of St John's Catholic Cathedral, an appeal was launched by Finance Officer Joe McGannan for more members to join the Gift Aid scheme. Last year the Cathedral was able to reclaim £19,398 from the taxman: for every £1 donated to a registered charity the government gives back 28p from taxation.

How does the scheme work? Well, if you pay tax at basic rate or above, all you need do is fill in a gift aid form with your name, address and post code and then sign it. You contribute just as much as you wish to, using either the envelopes provided or by standing order. That's all you need do.

The scheme's organiser then notifies the tax authorities of your contribution. The scheme is totally confidential. The organiser is the only person who knows how much you have agreed to contribute - you can change what you contribute at any time - and that is all the organiser ever knows. Your tax code and income details remain a matter strictly between yourself and the tax office. The Cathedral then receives 28p from the tax office for every £1 your contribute.

If you feel you would like to be involved in this scheme and bring that added support to our Cathedral, please telephone Joe McGannan on 023 9269 2080 or contact the Cathedral on 023 9282 6170.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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