



# Unlocking the potential of Gift Aid

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October 5 2023 marked Gift Aid Awareness Day across the UK. While many of our members have been long-standing Gift-Aiders, not everyone may be aware of what Gift Aid is or how it helps make your hard-earned tithe donations go further. In August we looked at the four ways in which tithe can be used; however, there are many things that tithe cannot be used for (more on that in next month's article), so the British Union Conference (BUC) has to find other means of funding these activities. This is where ventures such as Gift Aid come in.

## What is Gift Aid?

Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows registered charities like the BUC to claim extra money from HMRC. For every £1 donation made, the BUC can claim a further 25p from HMRC at no extra cost to the member. As long as a member has paid enough income tax within a single tax year, which runs from 6 April to 5 April the following year, the BUC can claim Gift Aid on that donation. In essence, Gift Aid boosts the donations you make through tithe and other offerings by 25%.

## How does the BUC use Gift Aid?

Without Gift Aid, many organisations would struggle to maintain operations. In the BUC territories, Gift Aid income accounted for £4.5 million in 2022. Each conference and mission within the BUC splits its distribution to suit its needs:

- In the South England Conference, 45% of Gift Aid returns remain with the local church; 40% is used towards building projects within the Conference; and 15% is distributed to the area.
- In the North England Conference, 60% of Gift Aid returns remain with the local church; and 40% is used towards Conference building projects.
- In the Missions, currently 100% of Gift Aid returns remain with the local church; although, as they grow, and their needs change, they could implement a different distribution policy in the future.

With this extra income, conferences, missions and churches can support different fundraising activities, such as events and campaigns to assist with their building projects and more. It also frees up other sources of funding to enhance their services and launch new programmes that lead to long-term financial sustainability.

## How can I support the church through Gift Aid?

If you're already signed up to the Gift Aid scheme, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to you. Your long-standing and unwavering support is deeply valued and has been instrumental in making a difference to the lives of those we serve. If you're not yet signed up, now is the perfect time to do so. It's a simple and incredibly impactful way of maximising your support to your local mission or conference.

Ask your local treasurer for a Gift Aid form, or you can get it through the BUC website: <https://adventist.uk/contact-us/buc-gift-aid-registration/>. If you use the 7me app, you can simply tick the consent

**GIFT AID AWARENESS DAY 5 OCTOBER 2023**

£100 donation → *giftaid it* +25% → £125 total value of donation

QR code: @BUC\_TREASURY

Donate with Gift Aid and the government will add 25% to your donation. It won't cost you an extra penny and all you have to do is #TickTheBox

ASK YOUR LOCAL CHURCH TREASURER FOR A GIFT AID FORM TO SIGN UP!

box when registering for an account. It's a hassle-free process that can increase the value of your donations.

Encourage your friends and family to sign up to Gift Aid if they are eligible, and don't forget that even one-off donations can be Gift Aided! The more people that sign up, the greater the impact will be for the conferences and missions.

Don't forget to follow @BUC\_Treasury on Instagram to keep up to date with news about Gift Aid, tithe and other important matters.

## Why Gift Aid matters more than ever

The last few years have been challenging for charities. The ripple effects of COVID-19 are still being felt as charities are slowly beginning to recover. However, the pandemic also highlighted the important role that charities play in supporting vulnerable individuals and communities. The ongoing faithful giving of our members throughout these difficult times has ensured that we can continue to serve, and Gift Aid has been a critical lifeline enabling us to continue this work.

We hope to spotlight the remarkable power of Gift Aid and the potential it unlocks when you sign up. Your involvement contributes to the positive impact we can make across the British Isles. Thank you for joining us to create positive change and a brighter future for the church.