

Church is Changing

Getting financial support from your local authority

From Nick Baker, Director of Operations at St Paul's Salisbury:

"If your church has a hall or community centre then there is a good chance you may be able to get a significant amount of financial support from your local authority for places of public assembly that have been forced to close.

"If you have been assessed for business rates (even if you receive a charitable discount)... your local authority may already have contacted you. However most church halls are exempt from rates and the government guidance is less clear, however it would be worth making an application to your local authority, especially if you have lost a significant amount of venue hire income.

"There are two forms of support: 100% business rate relief, (the Expanded Retail Discount or ERD), which is available to places of public assembly and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant (RHLG). The RHLG is £10,000 for premises with a rateable value up to £15,000 and £25,000 for premises with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000. You can find your rateable value at the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) website under the business section, by entering the hall's postcode or rating reference."

If you want more information from Nick, email him via nick@wearestpauls.church.