



The
Barnabas
Account

What is this for?

The New Testament church cared for its members, especially in times of crisis. One of the great examples of this was a man known as Barnabas who “sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet” for it to be given to any in the church who were in need (Acts 4:34-37).

We want to help those in King’s who are going through financial hardship during the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath. To do this we are setting up The Barnabas Account to provide emergency financial assistance. It will be made up from donations by members of King’s, with a small initial amount coming from the church’s current savings.

The elders and trustees have created a process that makes things as clear as possible for those giving to this account and receiving from it, and to ensure that we adhere to charity law.

Who can give?

Anyone is welcome to give but we are especially encouraging the members of King’s to do so because this is one of the ways we should care for one another at this time.

Generosity is in the nature of God and His people should reflect His rich love for us by loving others in the same way. If you want to spend time thinking and praying about giving in difficult times, we’d recommend reading 2 Corinthians 8-9 where Paul highlights what a gift giving is, and commends the Macedonians for giving even though they were desperately poor.

How do I give?

The best way is through ChurchSuite. Click “My Giving” on your MyChurchSuite app or follow [this link](#).

UK tax payers can increase their gift by 20% at no cost to themselves by ticking the Gift Aid Declaration box.

Who can receive?

Anyone who is part of the King's Church community can ask for help. They may or may not be a member but will have some involvement in the life of the church and be known by others in King's.

They will have an immediate financial need which they are unable to meet, such as rent/mortgage payment, essential bills, or daily living expenses. We will make amounts of money available either as a grant or an interest-free loan, if that is preferred.

We will give at least 20% of what we receive to other Christian charities who are responding to this crisis. Any money that is left over when we consider the account to have served its purpose for King's will also be given away.

How do I ask for help, or get help for someone I know?

We expect small group leaders to be the first point of contact. You can let your leader know that you are in need or they may take the initiative in asking you. If you know someone who you think requires help, please speak to them and their small group leader.

The small group leader isn't responsible for making the decision but for informing their small group hub leader of who needs help. The hub leader will communicate with the account's administrators who are Chris Rawson (an elder of King's) and Phil Capon (a trustee).

An online form will be sent to the person requesting help in order to assess their situation (see below).

When a decision has been made, this will be communicated via the small group leader. If a payment is to be made, the account administrators will need to be given the bank details of the person receiving it.

What help will be given?

We will provide grants of small amounts of money for specific needs, such as the week's shopping. The amounts will be £50, £100, and £200. The account can provide more than one payment to an individual, and this may be arranged at the beginning of the process or later on if necessary.

Getting in contact

For questions about any of this, please email barnabas@kingschurchedinburgh.org

Example of Grant Application Form

Name

Email

Current income, excluding benefits (per month)

Benefits currently received (per month)

Current bills/outgoings (per month)

Current savings (if any)

What is the grant needed for?

- Groceries
- Household bills
- Emergency repairs
- Rent
- Debt repayment
- Other (please describe)

What is the size of the grant you are requesting?

- £50
- £100
- £200

Name of Small Group leader (If not in a small group, please state the name of someone at King's Church who knows you).

Are you an international student?

Have you investigated whether any further additional help might be available from the government? (For further information on what is available, see the section on Employment and Financial Support at www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

If you answered no to the previous question, would you like any help to see what support might be available?