

TREASURERS' NEWS

The latest news for Presbyterian & Cooperating Venture parishes

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Treasurers' News

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Welcome to our November newsletter

It is hard to believe that we are already near the end of November... and Christmas is only a month away!

This month our newsletter includes two surveys: one from the External Reporting Board (XRB) asking for feedback on Tier 3 and Tier 4 reporting requirements; the other from the Inter Church Bureau collecting information on the completion of tax donation receipts and how they may assist in the future.

We also highlight a new Xero subscription package which could work very well for many of you.

As always, if you have any questions or would like help with anything financial, please don't hesitate to contact either your Treasurer Support person, Katrina (katrina@presbyterian.org.nz), or myself at Assembly Office.

About the External Reporting Board (XRB):

The XRB is the independent Crown Entity responsible for developing and issuing New Zealand financial reporting, auditing, assurance and ethical standards. These standards include Tier 3 and Tier 4 standards used by most registered charities to prepare the performance reports filed with Charities Services each year.



Review of the Simple Format Reporting Standards

The XRB is currently reviewing the Tier 3 and Tier 4 financial reporting standards used by smaller not-for-profits and they want your feedback on how they are working.

They would like you to tell them:

- what's working well;
- what's not working well; and
- what needs more guidance or information

There are three ways you can give them your feedback. You can:

- complete an online survey;
- complete our online feedback form; or
- upload a full submission letter

You can find more information on the review and give your feedback by [clicking here](#).



Donation Receipt Survey

The Inter Church Bureau has been looking at solutions for tax donation receipt software for churches. To assist their work on this, they have asked that interested parishes complete the survey, [click here](#).

A screenshot of a survey titled "Tax Donation Receipts - How do you do it?". The survey is presented on a white background with orange accents. It explains that people who provide churches and other charitable organizations with donations are able to claim a "tax deduction" for such giving. The survey is part of a project by the All Churches Group to develop a free online system for churches in New Zealand. The first question asks: "1. Do you use manual paper based process or a computer based process to produce your tax donation receipts?". There are three radio button options: "Manual", "Computerised", and "Do not provide them". A "Submit" button is at the bottom. The background of the survey form features a stylized illustration of a living room with a clock, a sofa, and some plants.

New Subscription option



Xero have brought out a new starter plan. This allows you to send out 20 invoices a month and enter 5 bills. This could be a good fit for some of our smaller parishes who only issue a few invoices each month.

Please [click here](#) for more information. The Presbyterian discount of 30% would be available on this package reducing the monthly cost to \$19.25 + GST per month.

Please contact either us, your accountant or treasurer support person if you would like to change to the new plan.

How does your church compare with others using Digital Technology in 2020?

Connecting Up and TechSoup New Zealand have released their annual "Digital Technology in the Not-for-Profit Sector" report for 2020.

The report, which includes responses from NZ churches, aims to better understand how not-for-profit organisations are using technology in order to recognise areas of growth and where improvement is needed, and how they are using technology the best way possible to achieve their mission.

On average, not-for-profits spend 6% of their operating expenses on IT, \$2,573 NZD per FTE in New Zealand per annum. This is on par with small to medium businesses across the region. However, the religious sector spends 40-50% less on IT per FTE than the average not-for-profit.

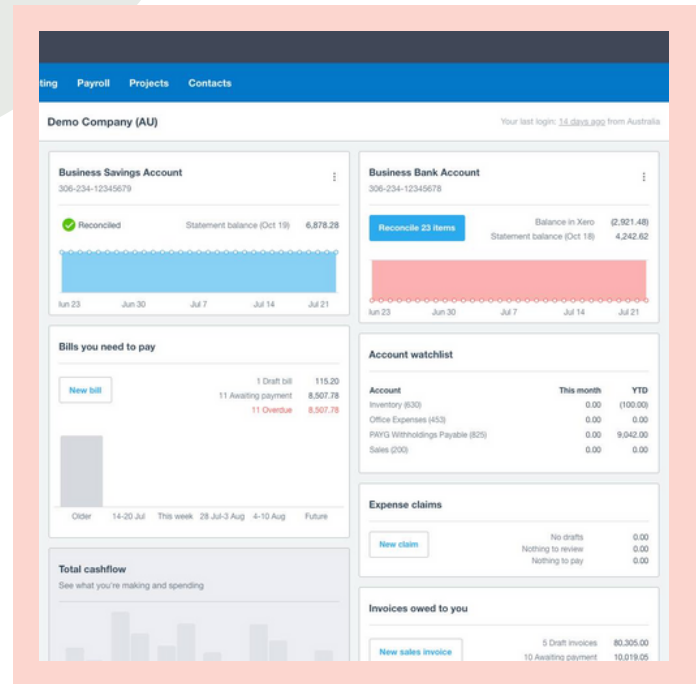


This year's edition provides valuable insights into how the not-for-profit sector has handled the technology challenges of COVID-19. For example, 46% of not-for-profits have now moved to the cloud – an increase from 43% last year and 35% the year before; 41% said improving their website is now a top priority; and of concern is 46% do not have ways of actively monitoring information security and cyber risks.download the full report [here](#).

Assistance with setting up

Over the last year many parishes have moved onto Xero. This has been a great help for us as we continue to work on the consolidation and I would like to thank all those parishes who have made the move. I am sure they are also finding Xero easy to use and saving lots of time.

Should you wish to shift to Xero we recommend Laurenson Chartered Accountants (avril.hillind@laurenson.co.nz) or CATAS (cameron@catas.co.nz).



TREASURER SUPPORT TEAM DETAILS

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Presbytery Central

Alpine Presbytery

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