

All the fun of the fete! Contactless and QR codes at Powerstock

Churchwarden Laura shares their story from St Mary the Virgin in Powerstock.

“Just over 2 years ago, with our biennial fete coming up, we decided to implement a card payment option for fete visitors. This was fairly daunting, as we had over 40 volunteers, some of whom were very digital-adverse. However, we recognised the societal trend to cashless payments and decided to test the water. We chose Square Up as our supplier, and the 2022 fete went ahead with £1 in every £10 being taken via the digital system. At this year's fete that has increased to slightly more than £1 in every £7.



“Inside our church building, we looked long and hard at installing a tablet connected to a digital payment provider. This certainly would have some advantages, none the least a backlit screen would show up in the gloom! However, doing the numbers, we realised it might be overkill for our small country church, attracting only a handful of Ramblers and tourists a year.

“But we realised we do have several baptisms, weddings and funerals a year, along with Christmas and Easter - all of which attract many visitors – and we felt we may be missing out on giving opportunities. We created an online account and printed out QR codes (shortcuts to our on-line payment page) on A4 sheets, positioning one at the back of the church and one in the porch. The visitor scans the QR code with her phone and this brings up our payment screen. She can input any amount she likes.

“It was certainly worth doing! QR codes giving has brought in £356 from only 18 transactions in just nine months of this year so far. The transactions have been everything from £2.50 to £200, and average £19.77 per transaction. Square up takes 25p + 1% commission on every transaction, but even so, we believe they are donations we would not have received in the cash box, and the software developers have to get paid somehow!

“We'll definitely keep going with this giving option, possibly promoting it more visibly in church with more of a fundraising message to optimise it.”

NOTE

Parish Buying has negotiated deals with SumUp and Stripe, so [check the Parish Buying website](http://www.parishbuying.org.uk) to secure the best price. www.parishbuying.org.uk