

# Case study:

## Holy Trinity, Theale

Theale Church is a Grade 1 listed building and a wonderful architectural treasure. It was modelled on Salisbury cathedral, consecrated in 1832 and was once sketched by the artist John Constable.

Stephen Bridge, treasurer at Holy Trinity, writes:

“Most of our congregation are elderly and our average attendance is 30 -40 per service. Even so, they only carry a small amount of loose change but seem to have bank cards. Certainly, the younger generation don't carry cash, hence the reason we decided to acquire a card reader.

The device is left at the back of the church and people can use it as they leave. The transaction time can take a few seconds, depending on mobile bandwidth, though it can store donations “offline” if there is no Wi-Fi or mobile signal available and transmit them later.

For the time being, we are not passing it around the congregation with the plate collection, although we may do at larger festive services. We have also used the device in church for the purchase of items, such as books and tickets for our Christmas fundraising event.

Setting up the device is easy. We have chosen the Goodbox Mini. It comes from the Goodbox people (via [www.parishbuying.org.uk](http://www.parishbuying.org.uk)) set up and ready to go. There is a two-page application form to complete before you can order, but your treasurer should be able to do this easily.

The Mini offers chip ‘n pin/swipe and contactless, similar to a shop handheld card payment device. There is no upper limit for chip ‘n pin, though there is an upper limit of £30 for contactless donations. The screen is non-customisable, so we have created our own Holy Trinity backing sheet that instructs the user how to operate device.

The offering plate accessory is available in either powder white or hand spun brass. There is also a security cable so you can leave the device unattended, if the church is open during the week.

The Mini can be powered from the mains or battery. Battery life is c. 2 – 3 hours, so we bought an extra battery as a spare.

We have been using our contactless card reader since October 2019, and we are finding that people are now deliberately heading for the device after a service to make a donation.

We recommend the use of card readers to other churches.”

