



# Family Friendly Churches

Committed to making churches places where all are welcome

The Newsletter of the Family Friendly Churches Trust

June 2006

Check out our website: [www.FamilyFriendlyChurches.org.uk](http://www.FamilyFriendlyChurches.org.uk)

## The Charity Discount Software Pricing Maze

We have recently become aware that not all companies give their charity discounts to churches. We have asked Ian Bourne of Citnexus to clarify the situation.

The whole area of pricing and availability of software at 'charity' pricing is a minefield. So where do we start.....

Firstly, most major software producers offer 'educational' pricing to both support education and to encourage people in learning to use their software. Where vendors (as producers of software are termed) offer educational pricing they usually also apply this pricing to charities, and in some cases 'not-for-profit' organisations. This is where we come down to a point of definition and how it affects churches.

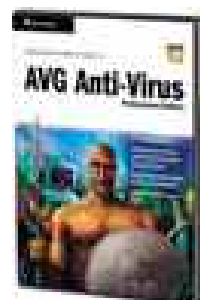
Obviously, churches that are registered charities will have a Charity Commission number, and this is automatic qualification of eligibility for charity pricing by vendors. In the case of Microsoft, the reseller (where you actually purchase the software from) can authorise eligibility themselves using the Charity Commission number. With some vendors, and Adobe in particular, the vendors will still require a purchase order on headed paper to be sent to the reseller (by e-mail/fax/hard copy), which in turn is sent through to the vendors' distributor to determine eligibility for charity pricing.

So, what if you do not have a Charity Commission number? This is where we stray into the murky definition of not-for-profit. Microsoft

will support churches on the basis they are clearly not-for-profit, which can be further endorsed by the Inland Revenue exemption under Statutory Instrument. Other vendors are a little less clear cut and often the vendor will have to make the case to the vendors' distributor on their behalf. Sometimes the argument for charity pricing status can be reinforced purely by being able to quote a website address that includes the '.org' or '.org.uk' tag.

To further complicate matters some vendors offer licensing and others offer 'boxed product' at charity pricing. Boxed product is just as you would get if you bought the product from a high-street retail outlet. Licensing is where you purchase the media (CDs/DVDs) with the actual software on separately from the license to use the software. You will need one media set for each application or suite of applications you buy, plus one license for each computer you install the software on but this does keep the cost of purchase down substantially.

**Is it all worth the effort?** Definitely. The savings to churches can be substantial. A good example is Microsoft Office Standard and Windows XP Pro both at only £42 per license (media is £20) and PowerPoint at only £27 per license. AVG anti-virus software offer churches



50% discount on all their products with, or without a charity number; although AVG do require the reseller to send a form out to the church which is then sent to AVG to get eligibility confirmed. Panda anti-virus offer a similar 50% discount.

One last tip. Check the postage and packing prices as these can sometimes be nearly as much as the license!

You can find out more by visiting the Citnexus web site at <http://www.citnexus.co.uk/>. You can contact Ian Bourne through the web site and he is always happy to answer questions.

Mike would always recommend using a specialist supplier when purchasing software for a charity. As Ian has said there are great savings to be made by exploring charity purchasing.

There is also a fact sheet on the subject on our web site under IT Help

## The eGroup

All members of the trust, no matter whether church or individual members, can become members of the Family Friendly eGroup.

In recent weeks we have discussed such issues as all age agape services, modern tunes for Hymns and Psalms and also the knotty issue of charity discounts. We have also had answers to queries

about where to find First Aid courses for youth leaders.

Members are welcome to raise any issues around the themes of being a family friendly church or using IT equipment and software

Basically an egroup is a mechanism that when an email is sent to the central address it is automatically forwarded to all the members of the egroup. This way you can hold an on line discussion

It also means that you may get a range of answers as the members of the trust come from a wide range of backgrounds and traditions.

It is easy and cheap for any individual to become a member of the trust and take advantage of the egroup. You can sign up on the web site and use Paypal to pay the £15 subscription. Alternatively you ask us to send you an invoice or a form for a Standing Order.

In addition, as Mike prepares to start working full time for the trust, joining would be a really good way of supporting the work of the Family Friendly Churches Trust.

## Mike's Diary

Below is a list of Mike's commitments for the next couple of months. Please do pray for him. You can now see all Mike's bookings on the web site.

### June

- 10<sup>th</sup> - PowerPoint Training in Cambridge Circuit
- 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> - Family Friendly Weekend in Kendal Circuit
- 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> - Residential Multimedia course at Willersley Castle
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Holiday Club Previsit to Broadstairs
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Family Friendly Day at Wolverhampton URC
- 26<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> Methodist Conference
- 30<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> - Family Friendly Weekend at Whitby (Wirral).

### July

- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Day with Cookham Summer FM
- 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> - Family Friendly Weekend at St Austell, Cornwall
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Family Friendly Workshop at St John's College, Durham
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Advanced PowerPoint Training at Acomb, York and Hull District
- 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Multimedia Weekend at Worsley
- 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> - Family Friendly Weekend Holsworthy, Devon
- 31<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> - SPIES Holiday Club at Broadstairs.

