

CONFERENCE 2018
COMMITTEE TWO – QUESTION ONE

VISIT REPORT: Friday 19.00hrs Methodist church, Hinde street, London, W1U 2QJ

Treasurer: Tom

Tom explained to me that the group had been using an iZettle card reader for about a year. In that time, weekly contributions have increased by on average £20 per week - from £40 to £60. The cost of running the meeting is £57 so the initiative has been successful.

The card reader usually costs about £50 but they bought the group reader for £30 on a promotional offer. Three group members shared the cost individually as it was an experiment that they wanted to try. The transaction cost charged by iZettle is about £0.56 per week on average takings of £20.

The device is particularly useful in Hinde Street which is near Oxford Street and Marble Arch. Many tourists and other foreign visitors use it. Group members use it if they forget to bring coins to the meeting. Visitors from other groups have shown interest in this method of collecting Tradition 7 contributions.

How it works:

At the end of the meeting the secretary announces that the pot is going around for Tradition 7 and asks that the group weekly cost of £57 be taken into consideration when people are making their contributions. He also announces that the group treasurer Tom is happy to take contributions by debit or credit card. If anyone wants to pay by this method, they should raise their hand. Tom then goes to the people with raised hands and shows them his mobile phone which has the iZettle app. There are options on the screen (£1, £3 or £5), but it is OK to choose 'other' and enter a different amount. Tom looks away from the screen. The cardholder enters the desired amount and then presses 'Done'. The card reader screen lights up. The mobile phone and the iZettle card reader are linked by Bluetooth.

The payment is completed by touching the card reader (contactless) or by inserting the card and entering the PIN number. As there is only enough time to take 3 or 4 payments whilst the pot is going around, Tom continues to take card payments during the post-meeting group announcements. He also waits after the meeting for other people to approach him and pay by card if they wish.

It seems to be effortless and doesn't attract any undue attention or fuss. Most people put coins in the pot but some prefer to pay by card. A few group members use it as their main method of payment, others only when they forget to bring cash to the meeting.

When Tom receives a summary of the group bank account from iZettle, he can only read the last 4 digits on the cardholder's card. He can't see any names or other personal information. He would only know how much a person has contributed to the group if only one person decided to pay by card that evening.

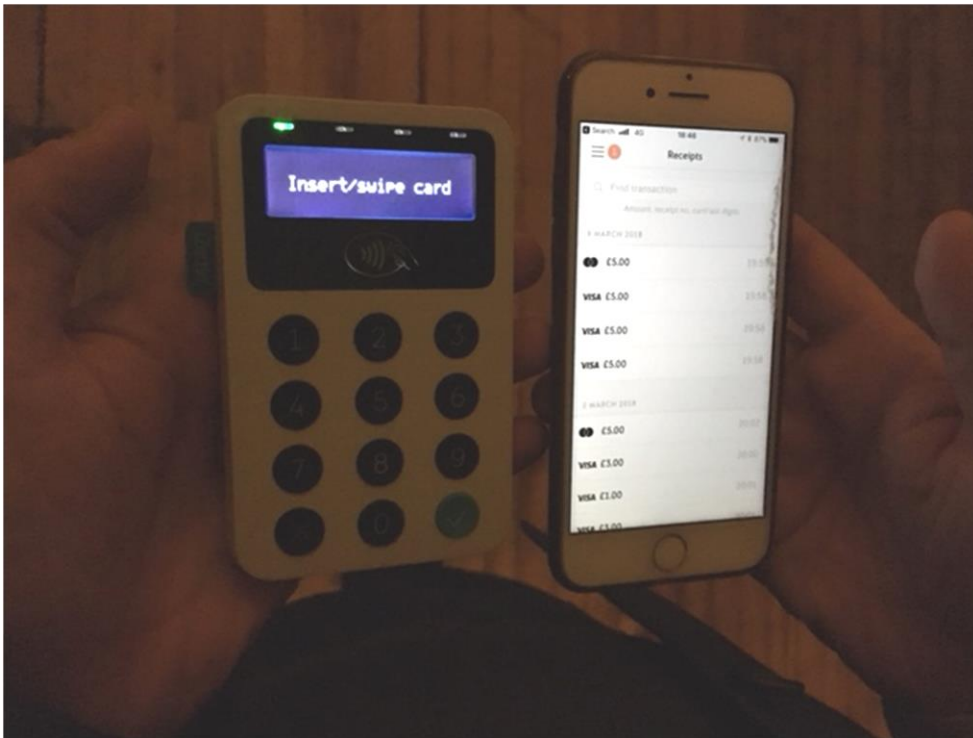
When the card payment appears on the cardholder's bank statement, the information supplied is 'IZ HINDE STREET FRIDA LONDON' and then the amount.

My own view is that this is a perfectly acceptable way of offering choice to the AA member and of protecting group income. As cash becomes gradually phased out, many members go

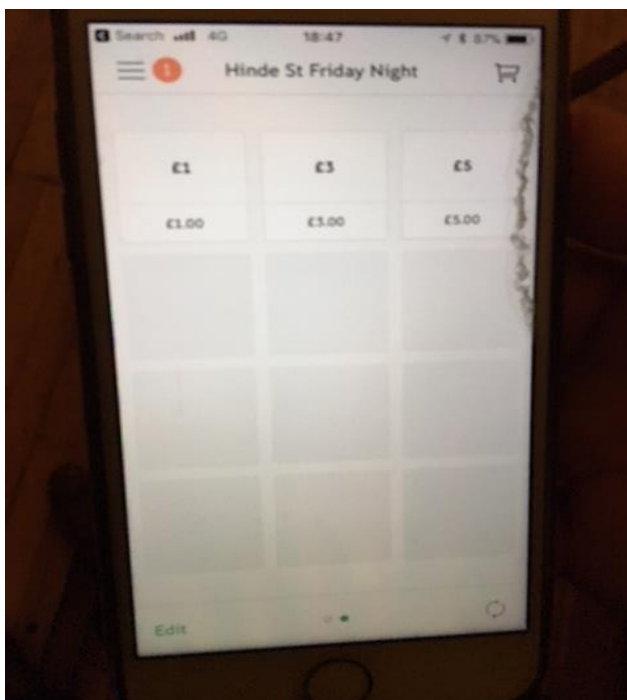
to meetings and forget to take coins. Sometimes they borrow some small change from other members so they can make a contribution to the pot. Also, it would be easier to pay for AA literature if a card reader were available at the meeting.

In rural areas there might be difficulties with access to wifi or to a mobile phone signal. Electronic card readers would therefore remain an option available to groups which feel a need for it and which can make practical use of it.

The following photos may prove useful:



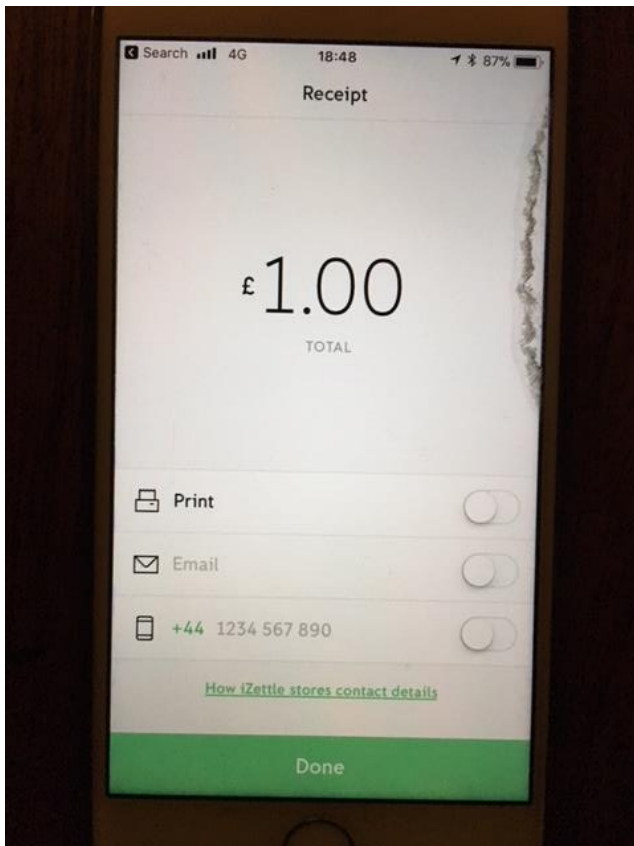
Card reader on the left. Mobile phone with iZettle app screen on the right.



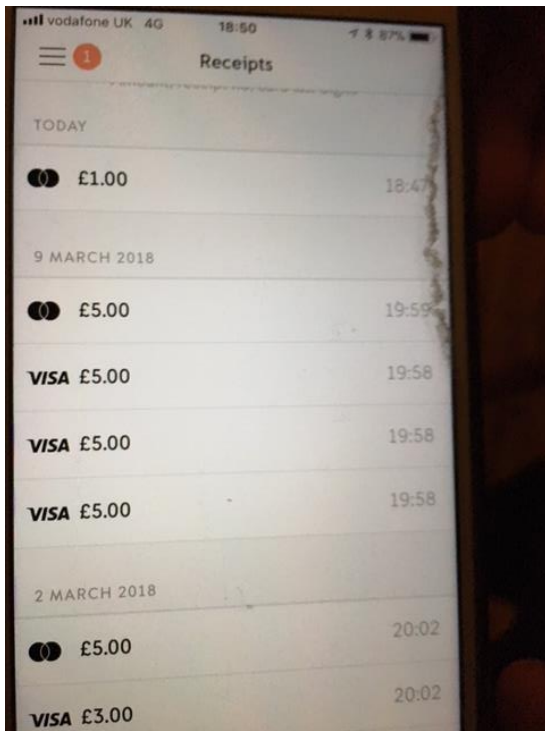
Hinde Street Friday Night iZettle App. Options are £1, £3 or £5. Press Edit to go to a new screen for other options. Nine options can be displayed.



iZettle payment screen as activated by Bluetooth link to the treasurer's mobile phone.



Treasurer's mobile phone with iZettle app. Press 'done' to activate the card reader



At the end of the meeting the treasurer can see a summary of the electronic takings. He adds this sum to the cash takings from the pot.

16/03/2018	IZ *HINDE ST FRIDA LONDON	5.00

This is a reading from the cardholder's bank statement. It might be a good idea for the wording on the statement to be read out to the group before payments are processed electronically.

Bob S.

Conference Delegate

South East Region

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