

Caleb Gestion devient  
**Theo ~ asso**



Webinar held on Thursday 22 January 2026

## **Why is Caleb changing and what can we expect from Theoasso?**

The webinar was led by Stéphane Hamelin, CEO of Theoasso and Alain Ledain, owner of Caleb

### **Why is Caleb changing?**

Alain Ledain presented the history of Caleb:

- Started in the 1990s when his Church asked him if it would be possible to develop a suitable accounting tool. Alain is a maths teacher, with no specific prior accounting or computer knowledge so “self-taught” himself the basics to write Caleb (named after a biblical character from the Exodus era).
- He soon began to share his tool with other Churches and benefited from their feedback to continually improve the product – and above all make it easy to use for those who were not trained accountants.
- By the year 2000, more and more Churches and other associations were using it. Christ Church Lille came on board in 2007.
- As the software is above all designed for Churches, the development of the donations module, linked to the preparation of tax certificates, was key – and is universally appreciated by users (as seen by all the comments in the chat).
- In parallel, Alain created Actes6 to provide legal support and training on how to use Caleb – managed by Irène Bernakia. This will continue.
- There are now over 3,200 users. 41% are “Associations 1905”, 36% are “Associations 1901, and 23% use it for both types of association.
- 20% of users have revenues under €12,000, 22% are 12,000 to €40,000, 35% are €40,000 to €120,000 and 23% are over €120,000. The largest user has revenues of more than €10million. Some have statutory audits and Caleb Gestion is good enough to satisfy accounting regulations.

### **So why handover Caleb Gestion to Theoasso?**

- The underlying technology (Visual Basic 6) is outdated and very limited in the modern, connected world
- As the technology is old, there is very little prospect of making the software evolve further
- Data is stored on the user’s computer – it is not possible to have multiple users accessing at the same time and there is a huge back-up risk as a dead hard drive means everything is lost.

- There is no interactivity with other systems – eg importing bank information, linking to other products that collect donations (e.g. Helloasso).
- The standards and requirements – accounting, legal, tax – are becoming more and more invasive, beyond the knowledge base of Alain on his own.
- Alain has, for 30 years, been developing Caleb Gestion almost as a hobby. He had a full-time job as a maths teacher so did not need revenue from CG to live off so he could fix extremely low prices set to cover his costs. A complete revamp of the technology is not something he can manage, as it requires skill sets that belong to a variety of profiles – a development team – who would be doing the work as their day-job. So the cost base changes completely.
- Also, Alain is a “one man band” – dependence on one person, who has just reached retirement age, is not a good business model. He needs to pass on his knowledge and experience to a competent team of experts.
- Caleb Gestion needs to be able to be stored on the cloud, using SaaS (Software as a Service) technology both to solve the back-up issue and allow multiple users.

### How will the change take place?

- Theoasso is developing a new, Saas, software package which will be accessible on the cloud (like MicroSoft 365, for example). It will ensure all of the features of Caleb Gestion are included in the new version and that, to the extent possible, it works in the same way – although there will inevitably be differences. The goal is to retain the same simplicity of use, so non-accountants can feel safe.
- The timeline is to carry out the development during 2026 and launch the new version in early 2027 – so no change to Caleb Gestion for this year!
- In any case, Alain has committed to remaining on board until the end of 2027 in order to accompany the changes and provide the support we have all been used to.

### What are the steps?

- Theoasso has launched a Community on the web. They plan regular update sessions, to cover topics such as how to issue tax certificates, how to close the accounting year, how to migrate from Caleb to Theoasso. It will also include a forum so the user community can exchange on topics that concern them.
- A smartphone app “Theobills” is being developed, for launch in March 2026, to allow the capture of expenses which can then be exported into Caleb Gestion (ie even before the new version) in two clicks.
- Theoasso has created a “Serenity package” to support users in their migration from Caleb to Theoasso. **This will be a one-off cost** to cover the migration and the cost will be based on the revenues of the user. It is not compulsory as a user can take the decision to carry out the migration themselves – or even change to another provider which of course will also involve migration. The cost of this package is:
  - o €240 for users with revenues below €12k (€199 for early bird)
  - o €500 for users with revenues €12k to €40k (€399 for early bird)
  - o €740 for users with revenues €40k to €120k (€599 for early bird)
  - o €1,240 for users with revenues from €120k to €400k (€999 for early bird)
  - o €1,999 for users with revenues over €400k (€1,599 for early bird)

- The early bird price applies to all users who purchase their Serenity package before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.
- The Serenity package includes:
  - o Caleb Gestion 24 (useful for those who have not upgraded to this version, and essential to allow for the migration)
  - o Migration support – Theoasso will do everything
  - o Theobills smartphone app
  - o Theoasso web community
  - o 10% discount “for life” on all future Theoasso purchases
- Migration, for those who have taken the Serenity package, will take place as soon as the SaaS environment is ready so that historic data is already there when the new software is available in the first quarter of 2027.
- Not all planned new features (links to banks, multi-user ...) will be available on launch but will be rolled out during 2027.
- When launched in the first quarter of 2027, Theoasso will be sold on a monthly payment basis. Despite a large number of questions, Stéphane would not be pushed into giving an indication of price – except to say that the price for the smallest user should not exceed €25 per month. So my personal guess is that a Church in the €40k to €120k band will probably be looking at €50 to €60 per month. **This is just a guess.** Also remember, those who take out the Serenity package get a 10% discount on the SaaS price for life.
- The monthly charge will allow use by both a 1905 and a 1901 association, so those of us who currently use different accounting systems for our 1901 will be able to put both on Theoasso.

#### **The new team:**

- Stéphane – founder, marketing, partnerships
- Benjamin – finance
- Uto – Technical Director, software architect
- Aurélien – Cybersecurity
- David – Front end design
- And of course, for two years, Alain Ledain, Customer service

#### **Some thoughts:**

- For many years, Caleb users have had access to a fabulous tool at a ridiculously low price. All good things come to an end... Eventually.
- From what was presented in the Webinar, Alain Ledain has done all he can to find the best solution to pass on his product and for something as good (and possibly better) to remain available at a price that should be below that of other similar packages.
- But we will have to accept that, if we want to continue to benefit from Caleb, in its new version, there is a price to pay that will become a larger part of our annual expenses budget:
  - o Firstly a one-off charge to cover the migration (basically)
  - o Then a monthly payment, amount not yet known, but likely to be in the range of €500 to €1,000 per annum for most Anglican Church users.
- It will still be possible to use Caleb Gestion – we have all purchased the licence. But there will be no more updates so if there are changes to, say, tax certificate legislation, we will no

- longer be covered. And, one day, evolutions to Windows may well mean Caleb stops working – hopefully after we have backed up all the data to be able to migrate to something else!
- So we will all have to weigh up whether this extra cost compensates the risks of obsolescence of Caleb gestion, that we would have to migrate ourselves if we chose a different accounting package, which may or may not be as targeted at the needs of a Church – and which may be more expensive than Theoasso anyway... Also beware that some Church management packages are not French and so may not easily comply with French regulations (particularly for payroll, tax certificates ...).
    - o An example, Church Windows ([www.churchwindows.com](http://www.churchwindows.com)) is a US package. It has five modules (membership, scheduler, donations, accounting, payroll) and the price varies depending on the number of modules taken and the level of support wanted. The web version (desktop version is cheaper) is \$89 a month for two modules (say, accounting and donations).

### **So what should we do next?**

- Weigh up the alternatives:
  - o Stay using the existing Caleb software (obsolescence risk, no ongoing support, but free)
  - o Migrate to Theoasso and accept there is a one-off migration cost (remember early bird if purchased before 31/3/26) and from 2027 a monthly charge the amount of which we do not yet know (but which should not be more than comparable alternatives – and there is a 10% discount).
  - o Change to different accounting software – but migration might be your own responsibility and it might not be designed for France and so not meet requirements re accounting or tax certificates.
- **But above all decide soon** as it would be a shame not to get the 20% off the Serenity package, and a decision to move to another software provider will require careful planning to ensure the changeover goes smoothly.

**Tony Banton**  
**Treasurer, Christ Church Lille**  
**23 January 2026**