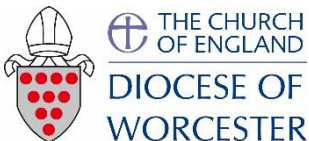




# A better way to give to your local church



## An introduction to the Parish Giving Scheme



Your church has joined the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), which is supported by the Church of England and offers an easy and efficient way for people to make regular donations to their church, that benefits both the donor and the local church.

### **Benefits for your church:**

- PGS is free for churches and donors to use.
- Donations are less prone to fluctuations, especially if the church cannot meet in person.
- Donors can opt to increase their donations annually with inflation, meaning that donations do not lose value with time.
- PGS reduces admin time, it claims Gift Aid on donations and sends the donations as one sum, reducing input into your church accounts.

### **Benefits for you, the donor:**

- The donation is taken as a Direct Debit, which gives you a guarantee and is the safest way to give.
- It all happens electronically, avoiding the need for using cash or cheques during the service.
- You can set up and update your donation online, via a dedicated telephone line or by post.
- You can alter the amount of your gift at any time as your circumstances change.
- PGS is a non-profit organisation so all your donation and Gift Aid go to your church.
- You can remain anonymous if you prefer.
- You can choose to give monthly, quarterly or annually, whatever you prefer.

## **Why are regular donations so important to my church?**

The Church of England offers a Christian presence in communities across the Diocese of Worcester. Together we seek to make this Christian presence the heart of every city, town and village, by serving our communities, by sharing our faith, by worshipping together and by welcoming all to our wonderful buildings. This valuable contribution to our communities has a cost, which is largely met by regular personal donations. Regular giving is vitally important for churches not only to survive, but to flourish and plan confidently for the future.

## **How does it work?**

You can sign up to give monthly, quarterly or annually. Your donation will be taken out on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the relevant month and PGS send off the Gift Aid claim to HMRC. They then send your donation to your church on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and follow this with the Gift Aid when this comes in (usually by the 25<sup>th</sup>).

## **How does PGS pay Gift Aid to my church so quickly?**

The PGS database has been pre-approved as compliant with HMRC requirements and permits automatic monthly processing of Gift Aid.

## **Can I choose the day my gift is collected?**

Unfortunately not, in order to minimise costs, all donations are taken on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

## **Will my personal details be safe?**

Your giving will have the security of the Direct Debit Guarantee. PGS has invested in a sophisticated database, which is regularly updated and security tested.

## **What happens if I opt to increase my giving with inflation?**

30 days before your annual increase is due, you will receive a letter informing you what the revised amount of giving will be. You can opt out of the increase for any reason at any point.

## **How does PGS calculate the inflationary increase?**

PGS uses the Retail Price Index as an independent measure.

## **Will my church be charged for using PGS?**

No, there is no direct charge to the church for using PGS. The annual running costs are met by participating dioceses.

## **How do I join PGS?**

Your PGS parish representative should be able to give you a leaflet called “Ways you can set up your regular giving”, which has more details. You can sign up to PGS on their website, by calling 0333 002 1271, or with a paper form.

Please do not cancel your current Standing Order or giving envelope until you receive confirmation of your new giving arrangements from PGS.

If you want to find out more about PGS, please contact:

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[www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk)

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