

Dear parishioner,

Thank you so much for being a St Mary Magdalene Church member. There is much to be thankful for and much to pray about. We have submitted to Bishop Paul our Benefice Profile and are now actively looking for a new Rector. The church is being managed by our Area Dean, Clay Roundtree, the Churchwardens and the PCC and we are all grateful for your support.

The PCC has considered a different way of giving to our church called the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). PGS has many advantages especially this year when activities have been curtailed by Covid 19. Members of the PCC found it easy to transfer by simply making a phone call and the operator most helpful. Leaflets have been enclosed to provide information.

We are not asking you to change the sum you give, but if you have not raised your level of giving recently, please consider if you are able to make an increase. The advantage to your church comes from the Tax Man if you are a taxpayer. We currently claim the tax in arrears which means the tax you have paid in 2020 will be recovered in 2021. PGS claims the tax as you give it so, if you transfer to PGS and for one year only, we will receive the tax owed and also the tax you pay in 2021. It is important now because we have a deficit caused by loss of income due to Covid 19. The PCC pray that sufficient members of the church will transfer to PGS from standing orders, green envelopes or plate giving to cover this deficit and allow the PCC to honour its financial commitments.

All you need to do is to phone 0333 0021271. John Rhodes got an answerphone message and within 15 mins he received a phone call back. You just need to let the operative know our Church reference number; 430643581. That will identify our church and allow them to check with you the information they have for us. You will need your bank account details available. It is nice and secure because you know you are speaking with a PGS operative.

They will ask you a series of questions. When you are asked whether you wish the contribution to be increased with inflation, we hope you will say 'yes'. This will ensure that our income is not eroded over time. You will be contacted before any annual change is made so you are in control of your contribution. If you pay tax, please permit PGS to reclaim the tax contribution for us. They do this as soon as they receive your money and pass the gift aid to the church bank account within a few days.

You will be asked whether you wish to withhold your name to the Parish or provide it on a statement from PGS. The choice is purely yours to make. We would advise you to terminate your current giving from the day your first contribution via PGS is made either by phoning or writing to your bank.

You will be sent your own personal PGS number either by Email or letter. If you choose to make a one-off contribution to the church that is also easy to do by phoning and giving the operative your unique number. You can just phone up and the sum will be changed for one month only as a single donation.

If you have access to a computer the PCC has launched an exciting new page on the church website. Please visit <https://www.yarmchurch.org.uk/giving/>. Thank you for reading this letter and prayerfully considering the matter. Please complete the return slip and place it in a plate at the back of church by 31st January or phone either Marion on 01642 872483 or John on 01642 780323 to have it collected. We will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.



Marion Johnston and John Rhodes (Churchwardens)