

# PARISH GIVING SCHEME

## Overview

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a direct-debit system developed by the Diocese of Gloucester to provide a professional, effective donation management system to support parishes fund their mission and ministry. It reduces the burden of work on parish volunteers and provides a professional service to donors. It enables:

- The parish to improve cash-flow by receiving the gift, together with gift aid accompanying the donation on the tenth of the month.
- The donor to sign up to inflationary giving, overcoming the static nature of cash and standing order gifts.

It does all this at a lower cost than envelope schemes.

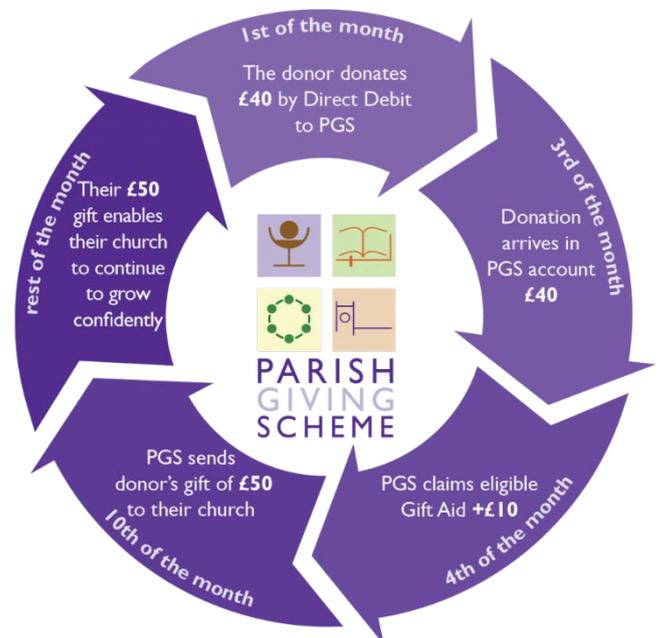
## How it works

Donations can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. They are collected by Direct Debit on the first day of the month. The gift, plus any related Gift Aid, is then passed on to the specified church within ten days of collection.

Another unique feature of the scheme is the option for the donor to commit in principle to increase their gift annually in line with inflation. This is entirely at the donor's discretion on an opt-in basis but more than 60% of the cash received is index-linked.

Upon completing and sending off the application form, donors receive an initial letter confirming their details and welcoming them to the scheme. All those who have requested to inflate their giving annually will then receive a letter one month preceding the anniversary of their first gift informing them of their soon to be inflated gift (with the option to vary it or to opt out of the increase).

Static regular giving is a big concern for most parishes, if giving doesn't keep in line with inflation, a parish can easily find a gap develop between income and expenditure.



## Benefits to parishes and participating dioceses include:

- The scheme is delivered locally (in the parish), but administered centrally reducing the administrative burden on parishes.
- Regularly increasing giving through the majority of donors opting for index-linking.
- Anonymity for donors, if required.
- Direct Debit offers greater flexibility with regards to managing giving; increases and decreases can be made easily.
- Increased cash flow through faster recovery of Gift Aid, enabling more regular payments of parish share.
- Central system ensuring that Gift Aid is processed accurately.
- Professional, tried and tested materials for donors, and for parish treasurers. Monthly, Annual and Tax year statements are sent to each Parish.

By offering this scheme in a parish and through donors' generous commitments, churches can be assured of a regular, tax efficient source of income which has the capacity to increase with the cost of living, yet involves virtually no administration.

With the help of the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), donors benefit from a system that is secure, confidential and easy to use, while supporting the Church today and for the future.

## How do I sign up?

1. Application 'gift forms' will be distributed through the church. Each donor is required to complete and send off their own form directly to the Parish Giving Scheme (the church cannot do this for you). Donors will then receive an initial letter confirming their details and welcoming them to the scheme.
2. If you currently give by Standing Order you will need to ask your bank to cancel this existing payment once you have set up your new Direct Debit (again, the church cannot do this for you).

Although the transition to giving through the PGS requires these two steps, in the long run the scheme is easier for both the church and its donors, requires far less administration, and saves money (costing less than even than an envelope giving scheme).

## Current Rate of Inflation

The current RPI amount published for January 2017 (the agreed date of the fixed annual inflationary increase amount) is 2.6%.