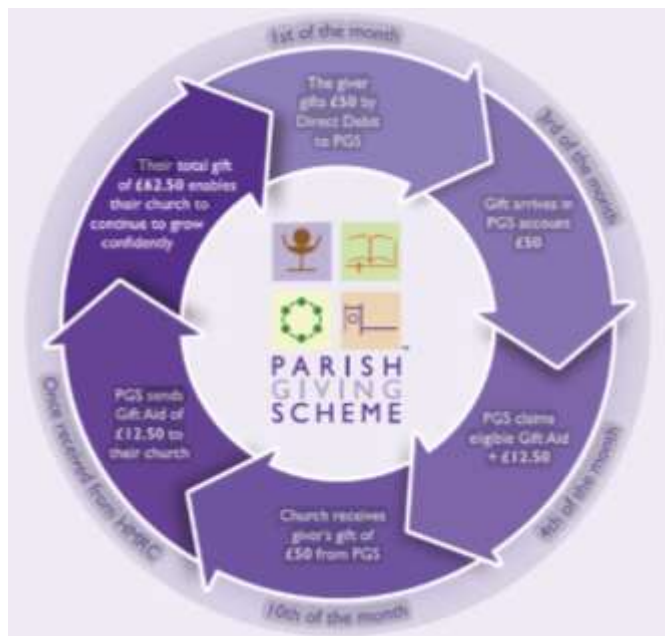


An Introduction to the Parish Giving Scheme

We have recently joined the **Parish Giving scheme**. The PGS is a UK-based charity owned by The Archbishop's Council and is designed to simplify the task of both those who generously give to the church and the treasurer and anyone else who deals with that giving.

The diagram below describes the scheme:



The Parish Giving scheme can be used by anyone who currently gives to the church by standing order or on the plate, enabling you, if you choose to do so, to give to the church by direct debit, the most secure and efficient method of giving.

These generous gifts can (if agreed by the giver) be increased annually by inflation.

PGS does the work. Each month they automatically claim and send the church the associated Gift Aid. All of the donation goes straight into the parish's bank account.

PGS is also able to take one off donations and handles all the gift aid claims for those. One off donations can be made

either by using the PGS QR code which will be displayed around the church, by phoning PGS or by going online. (To cover the card payment processor costs and additional bank charges, PGS charges 1.5% of the gift's value, but passes the full value of HMRC's Gift Aid contribution back to the church. This charge will be clearly shown at the bottom of the one-off giving statement and netted from the gift payment)

How does the scheme work?

You can make gifts on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis on the first working day of the month, these are paid to the church on the 10th of the month. Any associated Gift Aid is automatically credited to the church once received from HM Revenue and Customs. The Church Treasurer receives an online monthly report from the PGS Team, listing the giving and Gift Aid claimed. Tokens are available for church members to put on the offering plate at each service if you choose to do so.

Managing inflation

The church, like our government and every household, is hit by inflation, eroding the value of your gifts. The PGS tackles this problem by enabling you to choose to increase your giving annually in line with inflation if you choose to do so. If your financial circumstances change, you can increase or reduce your gift simply by calling the PGS. You will receive a letter annually advising you of the amount that your giving is increasing in line with inflation and you can retain full control by opting to decline, increase or reduce the amount.

Why is the inflationary increase important?

One of the biggest problems faced by churches is that of 'static giving'. If giving levels had kept track with inflation since the year 2000, they would have increased by more than 50%!

A unique feature of the scheme is the option for you, as a giver, to commit in principle to increase your gift annually in line with inflation. While this is a voluntary decision, it is one that could potentially have a huge impact on the life and future of the church. You can change this commitment at any time, either by using your personal log-in on this website, or simply by contacting the PGS team.

Joining the scheme

If you choose to join the PGS you can do so via the PGS website, over the phone, or by completing and posting a Gift Form. If you currently give by standing order you will have to contact your bank to cancel the payment details (but wait until you have had notification from PGS that your direct debit is in place with them). We will have Gift Forms available with our specific PGS account details.

Why give in a new way?

A summary of key benefits for the individual, the church and the Treasurer.

“Grow in grace of giving.” 2 Corinthians 8:7

Everyone benefits

The church benefits from:

- stable and often increased planned giving, offsetting ‘static’ giving
- Gift Aid being claimed automatically This means less work for the Treasurer and can improve cash flow
- protection against inflation by church members choosing to increase their gift annually in line with the rate of inflation.

The treasurer benefits from:

- reduced administration and paperwork
- time saved for them

The individual benefits from:

- being in total control of how much they give
- a simple giving method that means regular financial support for their church
- the option to increase giving annually to protect their gift against inflation
- a direct debit guarantee meaning that gifts are safe and secure
- having access to tokens to put on the offering plate at each service if they choose
- having access to help from the Diocese of Norwich and the Parish Giving Scheme office in Gloucester.