

Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)

The “Parish Giving Scheme” is a centrally run multi-diocesan approach to serving parishes with a professional donation management and Gift Aid service which combats the challenge of static giving by allowing donors to increase their giving in line with inflation. A quality launch alongside a stewardship review provides the opportunity for a step change in the level of giving in a diocese.

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 our donors.

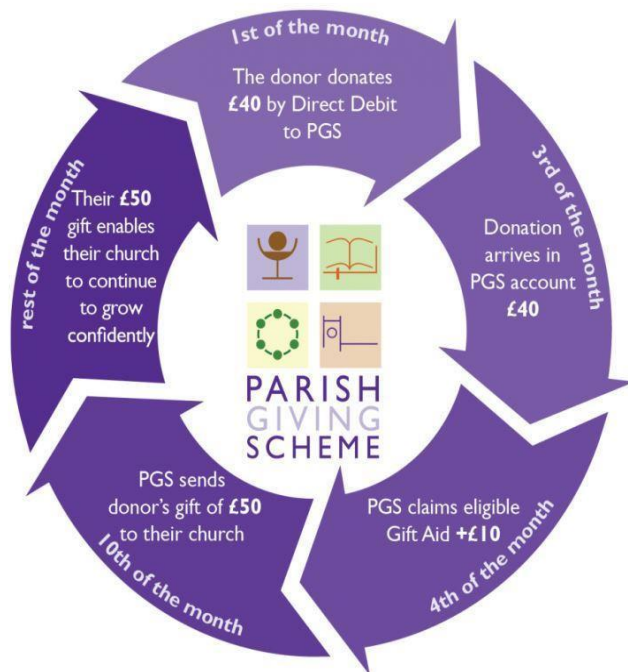
It enables:

- The donor to sign up to inflationary giving, overcoming the static nature of cash and standing order gifts.
- The parish to improve cash-flow by receiving the gift, together with gift aid accompanying the donation on the tenth of the month.
- It does all this at a lower cost than envelope schemes.

At the Diocese of Chelmsford 50 parishes have joined the scheme. We have received a positive response from those who have joined, and we welcome further parishes to register.

This scheme offers regular givers a different way of giving to their parishes, however weekly or monthly freewill gift envelopes will still be an option for those that value them, as will giving through standing orders. There will, however, be significant benefits if parishes register with the scheme, and persuade people to give through it. Registration is free, and no fee is taken from the parish or the donors.

How does it work?



The PGS enables a donor to donate to any parish registered with the scheme. 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 parish by the tenth of the month. Gift Aid is prepaid to enable the gross donation to be returned altogether.

The picture shows this diagrammatically based on an example gift of £40 a month.

Donors who decide to give through the scheme will have two options. First they can opt for their gift to be increased annually by the rate of inflation. If a donor opts for this, PGS will be in touch the month before it would take effect to inform the donor how much this would raise their giving by and to give the donor an opportunity to change their mind. Second, donors can opt to give anonymously to any registered parish.

The scheme has proved so successful that it is now being rolled out across the Church of England. Much more information about it can be found on the website <http://www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk/>

The best way for a parish to benefit is if the launch is coupled with a giving programme such as *Giving in Grace* or *TRIO*. That way, people can be fully informed and helped to prayerfully review their giving.

If you are interested in signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme, please contact Catherine Forsyth, Project Manager at the Chelmsford Diocesan Office who will be able to advise you on the next steps.

Contact via email cforsyth@chelmsford.anglican.org or via telephone 01245 294429 or 07972 301305