

A BETTER WAY TO SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH



Dear friends

The Diocese of Chichester have introduced a better way for us as church members to support our church financially. It is called The Parish Giving Scheme (or PGS for short). As you are someone who kindly supports our church, we would like to say a big THANK YOU, and to ask that you consider joining this new scheme.

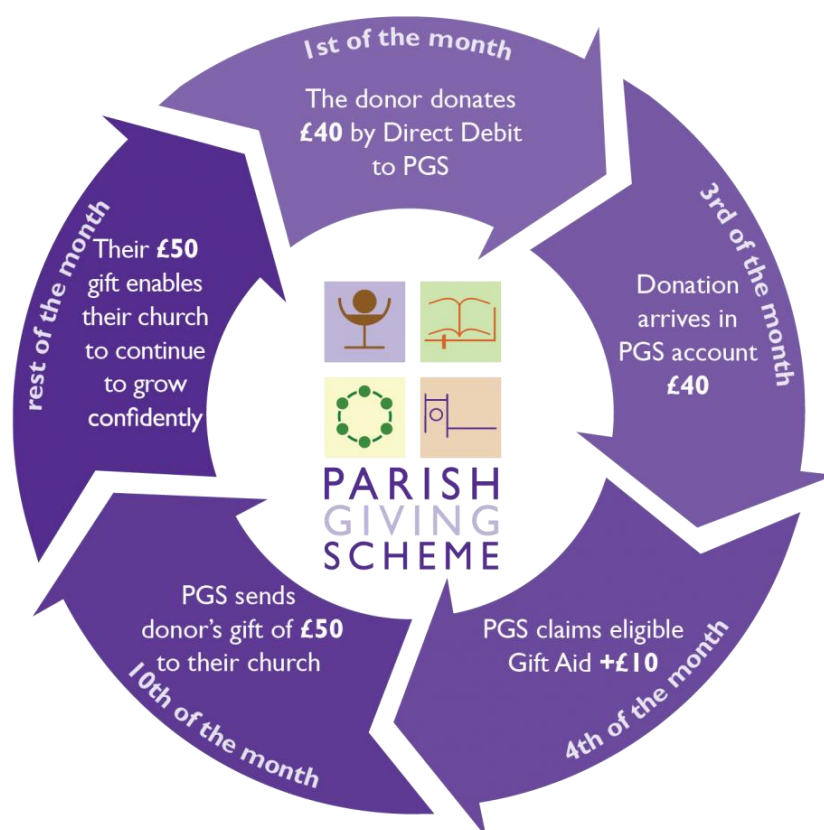
I'm sure you are well aware of the financial pressures on the church, and how lack of funds can hold us back in our work for God. The Parish Giving Scheme is therefore an answer to our prayers, because it helps in a number of ways.

Basically, joining the PGS involves setting up a direct debit. The forms enclosed with this letter will explain more about how you can do this. So why are we asking you to consider doing this?

Firstly, regular donations from supporters help us plan much more effectively for what we will and what we won't be able to afford in the future. And secondly, if you are a UK tax-payer then setting up a direct debit to the PGS means that they can reclaim the tax you paid on your income within just a few days and get it back to us. This greatly helps our cash-flow situation.

This new scheme is being rolled out in a number of Dioceses across the Church of England and it is proving very popular. I've signed up, and at the last count so had most of the PCC. I hope that you will be willing to do the same.

So how does it work? This diagram shows the monthly cycle based on a donation of £40 a month:



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I hope you already know about Gift Aid, which is how charities can reclaim tax back from the government. It means that when you make a gift to us, the government will then add to that gift, providing that you are a UK tax-payer and that you have signed a church Gift Aid form. Usually, we have to apply for this money in lump sums every now and again, but under the PGS we will actually get the Gift Aid added in just 10 days, which will be such a help.

The enclosed information will help you understand the situation more fully, but there are a couple of things I want to highlight.

- You don't have to make a donation monthly, it can be quarterly or annually if you prefer.
- You can leave the scheme at any point or change the size of your gift just by phoning the PGS.
- There is an option for your gift to be automatically increased annually in line with inflation. For some of us this will be helpful, as it will save us having to do it ourselves! For others this might cause concern, so it is worth pointing out that if you tick this option then you will be sent a letter BEFORE the annual increase is applied, so that if you feel unable to make the increase you can simply phone them up and tell them not to increase your gift. You are not bound by your decision if you tick the box – you can always change your mind at a later date.
- There is also an option that says: "I wish to remain anonymous to the Parochial Church Council (PCC)". This doesn't mean that the whole PCC will know how much you give! Ticking this box means that only the headquarters in Gloucester will know your identity. If you don't tick this box, then they will pass your details on to our Planned Giving Officer (Robert Park), and he will keep your information completely confidential.

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to ask me or one of the PCC members. For now may I suggest that you do 3 things?

1. **THINK** about how much you give to our church. Pray about it and consider what level is appropriate.
2. **RETURN** your confidential PGS form on our Gift Day which will be 9:15am Sunday 27th October. At that service we will collect the forms and dedicate them to God before sending them off. If you can't make the service then please feel free to send the form off yourself.
3. **OPTIMISE** your giving if appropriate. You can do this by making your gift tax efficient through signing the Gift Aid box if you pay tax, and by ticking the inflationary increase box.

Thank you for considering this new scheme. We are so grateful for all the support you give us, and we wouldn't be asking you to join this scheme if we didn't think it would be a great help in supporting our church. Please just ask if you have any questions.

Thank you

James