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## PARISH GIVING SCHEME

A better way to give  
to your local church



*Your questions answered*

**Q Why would your church like you to consider giving in this way?**

**A** Your church has joined the Parish Giving Scheme, a scheme supported by the Church of England that offers an easy and efficient way for people to make regular donations to their church with benefits to both the donor and the local church.

*Please read on to find out more ...*

## Tell me more ...

The Parish Giving Scheme is a 21st Century solution to allow effective and efficient Direct Debit to local parish churches.

**Through your generous commitment, the Parish Giving Scheme will bring many benefits to your local church...**

- The scheme is free for churches and givers to use.
- Less cash donations are handled, so it is safer for volunteers and their time spent counting and banking cash donations is reduced.
- Income from giving is less prone to fluctuation when people are away from church for whatever reason - a steady income makes budgeting and planning in your local church so much easier.
- Those joining the scheme have the option to increase their donation annually in line with the rate of inflation. This maintains the value of giving to the church. Static levels of donor giving are a major concern for churches, as cost rise with inflation, and a gap can soon develop between income and expenditure.
- The Scheme makes life so much easier for local church volunteers; with Gift Aid claimed through the Parish Giving Scheme, administration for the local church is reduced considerably, saving time and work! However, even if you don't qualify to use Gift Aid, you can still give through the Parish Giving Scheme.

**There are benefits to you, the giver, too...**

- Your giving all happens electronically, avoiding the need for cash or cheque giving during a church service.
- You can choose to give monthly, quarterly, or annually; whatever suits your circumstances.
- You can alter the amount of your gift at any time if your circumstances change.
- The Parish Giving Scheme is a not-for-profit organisation. The full value of your donation is all used to support your church
- The Parish Giving Scheme uses the Direct Debit scheme which is the only one of its kind backed by guarantee - so your money and transaction is safe.
- You can choose to remain anonymous if you prefer.
- You will receive an annual letter thanking you for your donations and confirming your planned level of giving for the coming year.
- You have an option to automatically increase your giving to your church each year by the rate of inflation (RPI); a convenient feature which means you don't need to remember to review each year.

## More questions answered ...

**Q Why are regular donations so important to our church?**

**A** The Church of England offers a Christian presence in communities across the Diocese of Worcester. Together we seek to make this Christian presence the heart of city, town and village, by serving our communities, by sharing our faith, by worshipping together and by welcoming all to wonderful buildings. This valuable contribution to our communities has a cost which is largely met by regular personal donations. Regular giving is vitally important for churches not only to survive, but to grow, and to plan confidently for the future.

**Q Will my personal details be safe?**

**A** Your giving will have the security of the Direct Debit Guarantee. The Parish Giving Scheme has invested in a sophisticated database, regularly upgraded and security tested. All data is handled in line with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (2018)

**Q What happens if I tick the box to increase my giving in line with inflation?**

**A** Thirty days before your annual inflationary increase is due, you will receive a letter informing you what the revised amount of giving will be. If for any reason you do not wish for that increase to be actioned, simply notify the scheme by phone, by letter or by email.

**Q Can I choose the day my gift is collected?**

**A** Unfortunately not. In order to minimise costs all donations are collected on the first day of each month.

**Q How does the scheme calculate an inflationary increase?**

**A** The Retail Price Index is used as an independent measure. The scheme will increase all relevant gifts using the rate for the January of that year, or if that rate is unavailable for any reason the rate for the previous January.

**Q Who operates the Parish Giving Scheme?**

**A** The Parish Giving Scheme is a joint venture charitable company owned by the participating dioceses and the charity.

**Q Will our parish be charged for using the scheme?**

A There is no direct charge to the parish for joining and using the Parish Giving Scheme. The annual running costs are met by participating dioceses.

**Q How can the Parish Giving Scheme pay Gift Aid to the local church so quickly?**

A The Parish Giving Scheme database has been pre-approved as compliant with HMRC requirements and permits automatic monthly processing of Gift Aid claims

**Q When will the church receive my donation?**

A Your parish will receive all donations before 10th day of each month. Gift Aid funds in connection with your donation follow soon afterwards.

**Q How can I still participate in the church offering during worship?**

A As a church which has already joined the Parish Giving Scheme, giving tokens will be available in your church to collect before worship and to place in the offertory in the usual way.

**Q What do I need to do to join the Parish Giving Scheme?**

A Please complete the simple Gift form, which is available from your local church Parish Giving Scheme Leader or Church Treasurer. Upon receipt of your donor form the Parish Giving Scheme will write to you and send you a new member joining pack. Please do not cancel your current Standing Order or giving envelope until you receive confirmation of your new giving arrangements from the Parish Giving Scheme.

**Q How can I find out more?**

A Please visit [www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk](http://www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk) or speak to your parish representative.

*“...When we seek to raise funds we are not saying ‘please could you help us out because lately it has been hard,’ ... rather we are declaring ‘We have a vision that is amazing and exciting. We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources God has given you - your energy, your prayers and your money - in this work to which God has called us.’”*

**Henri Nouwen, The Spirituality of Fundraising**