

An introduction to the Parish Giving Scheme

Why are regular donations so important to St Mary's?

The Church of England offers a Christian presence in every community. Together we seek to make this Christian presence the heart of all our cities, towns and villages: through our wonderful buildings; by worshipping together by serving our communities and by sharing our faith and values. This valuable contribution to our community has a cost, of which 75% is met by personal donations. For St Mary's to survive and grow, we rely on regular donations so that we can plan confidently for the future.

What is the Parish Giving Scheme?

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) has been set up to help parishes best manage regular donations. It is run as a partnership between dioceses on a cost sharing basis.

How does it work?

Donations can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis, by downloading, printing and completing the gift form and the Direct Debit instruction. Even though donations are made to the Parish Giving Scheme, they are restricted to St Mary's, giving you peace of mind that your gift cannot be used elsewhere. Unlike a utility bill you are always in charge of what you give. Your gift will be passed back to St Mary's by the 10th of the month. Gift Aid will be received separately once the PGS has received it from HMRC. The unique feature of this scheme is the option for you to commit in principle to increase your gift annually in line with inflation. Whilst this is a voluntary decision, it is one that could potentially have a huge impact on the life and future of St Mary's.

What are the main benefits?

The main beneficiary of this scheme will be St Mary's. Through your generous commitment, we 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. You will benefit from a system that is secure, confidential, and easy to use, while supporting St Mary's today and for the future.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is responsible for my personal information?

Although the PGS has been set up to help us manage donations, it is a separate legal entity from our parish and must comply with data protection law. By returning the gift form you consent to the PGS using your information for the purposes of the Parish Giving Scheme. For more information please see the [PGS privacy notice](#) on the PGS website. Alternatively, please call the PGS on 0330 002 1260 for a copy of the privacy notice.

Why can't St Mary's offer direct debit?

Direct Debitting is a highly regulated system, and is only offered by Banks for established businesses or organisations who are considered financially sound and reputable with proven internal control systems.

Will St Mary's be charged for this scheme?

There is no direct charge to us for using the Parish Giving Scheme or processing your donation. The annual running cost of the scheme is met by the diocese.

Why am I donating to the PGS?

In order to claim Gift Aid and manage the donation on behalf of St Mary's, it is necessary that your donation is legally given to the PGS who are handling all the administration on our behalf. The donation is restricted to St Mary's and cannot be used by the PGS for any other purposes.

Can I choose the day my gift is collected?

Unfortunately not. In minimising costs it is important that all donations are collected on the same day each month, which has been agreed as the 1st.

What rate of inflation will be used?

Retail Prices Index (RPI) will be used as an independent and well-known measure. The scheme will increase all relevant gifts using the rate for January of that year (if this rate is unavailable the rate for the previous January will be used for consistency).

What if I say yes to an inflationary increase, but my circumstances change?

We fully understand that circumstances can change; please rest assured that you will be written to 30 days in advance of any increase with the revised amount. If you are unable to meet it simply let us know.

What next?

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