

Often asked questions

Gifts from couples

We welcome gifts from couples, therefore if you wish to make a joint gift – please select correct titles when completing the form. For the purpose of Gift Aid, we need the signature of just one individual who pays sufficient tax to cover the gift.

How do I 'opt in' to the inflationary increase?

A unique feature of the scheme is the option for the donor to commit in principle to increase their gift annually in line with inflation. Simply tick the required box to 'opt in' to an annual inflationary increase on the gift.

How do I go about changing my gift in the future?

We know that circumstances change and your ability to give may increase or decrease over time. If you wish to make a change please notify the Parish Giving Scheme quoting your parish reference number.

What measure of inflation is used?

The PGS applies the most recently published January RPI on the anniversary of our donations through the PGS. This increase is only applied to those of us who have 'opted in'.

Can I remain anonymous to my parish?

All information is treated as confidential. However if you decide to remain anonymous, only the amount of the gift will be shared with your Parish Representative (e.g. the Treasurer or Gift Aid Secretary).

What happens at the Offertory?

When donors join PGS, they can use PGS tokens to place on the plate or in the collection bag at the Offertory. The PGS tokens enable us to participate in the Offertory.

Can I choose the day my gift is collected?

Unfortunately not. To enable PGS to run cost effectively and efficiently, one date had to be chosen for all donations. The 1st of the month is what we chose.

How often will PGS contact its donors?

Once registered (either online or paper form), donors will receive an initial letter confirming their details and welcoming them to the scheme.

All those who have requested to inflate their giving annually will then receive a letter one month preceding the anniversary of their first gift informing them of their soon to be inflated gift (with the option to vary it).

There is no further communication from the PGS Team to its donors unless there is a genuine administrative reason. It is important that the relationship remains with the donor and the parish.

Gift Aid

The donation claimed through the Parish Giving Scheme, will be passed back to your Parish by 10th of the month.

Gift Aid will be sent separately once PGS has received it from HMRC; however you will still have to claim Gift Aid for other donations received by your Parish. If you are having difficulties with claiming Gift Aid please look on the Parishes Resources Website.

If one of your donors becomes eligible to claim Gift Aid after starting their donation through the Parish Giving Scheme they will need to complete a Gift Aid declaration.

Helping to support parishes in funding their mission and ministry



Your area advisors are:

Colchester: Phillip Ritchie

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Bradwell: Mike Power

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The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

Generous God
Generous Disciples

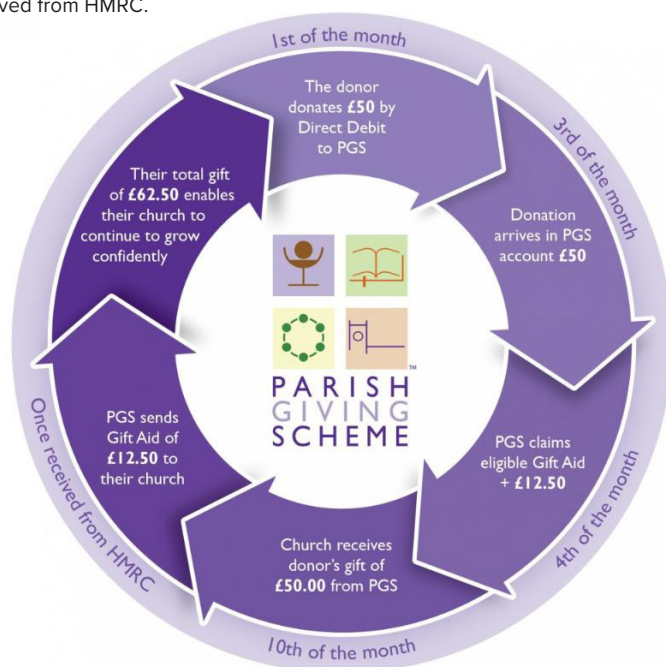
How it works

Donations made through this scheme use a Direct Debit. This can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. Each donation is restricted to a parish church chosen by the donor and cannot be used elsewhere.

The donation will be passed back to the parish of the donor's choosing by 10th of the month. Any eligible Gift Aid will be sent separately, once it has been received from HMRC.

Another unique feature of the scheme is the option for the donor to commit in principle to increase their gift annually in line with inflation.

This is entirely at the donor's discretion on an opt-in basis but more than 55% of the cash received is index-linked.



- The scheme is delivered locally (parish) but administered centrally, thus reducing the administrative burden on parishes.
- All parishes can participate, and it suits regular and fringe donors.
- The degree of impact is linked with the quality of local execution, and being launched alongside a giving review.
- Anonymity for donors, if required.
- Direct Debit offers greater flexibility with regards to managing giving; increases and decreases can be made easily.
- Increased cash flow through faster recovery of Gift Aid.
- Central system ensuring that Gift Aid is processed accurately.

It's easy to set up and manage.

All the PCC needs to do is pass a resolution to start the Scheme and show leadership by joining and encouraging others to join as well. The Diocese covers the administrative cost so it is free to churches and the Parish Giving Scheme does all the work.

Passing a PCC resolution

Some donor money will flow to the PCC through the PGS, rather than directly from the donor to the church. It's important therefore that the Trustees of the local church (the Parochial Church Council) pass and minute a resolution. It can be as simple as:

"We the PCC of ... request the Parish Giving Scheme to commence operation of the scheme on our behalf."

Registering your church

Your Mission and Ministry Advisor will guide through this process. Their contact details are on the next page.

How do I sign up

Once your parish is registered you can fill in a gift form or use the telephone signing up number 0333 002 1271 (Monday to Friday 9 - 5pm).

Giving Review or Giving Programme

It is strongly recommended that you run a giving review or programme first, to take advantage of the opportunity to discuss giving and, second, as a way to introduce the PGS as a preferred method of payment.

To help your church to process incoming donations and administer Gift Aid, but it is not of itself a motivational tool to elicit more giving.

The church benefits by:

- Stable and often increased planned giving – by launching PGS alongside a Giving Review.
- Efficient and regular reclaim of Gift Aid - improving cash flow.
- Protection against static giving – by offering givers to index link their gift.

The treasurer benefits by:

- Reduced administration and paperwork and Saves time for those who count the money.
- Access to monthly and annual (both tax and calendar year) statements.

The individual benefits by:

- Being in total control of how much they give.
- Using a simple giving method that means regular financial support to their church.