

THE PARISH GIVING SCHEME

A NEW WAY OF MAKING YOUR REGULAR PAYMENTS TO THE CHURCH

Over the course of the last year or so the PCC has engaged with the church's 'Giving for Life' programme. This was first launched many years ago and is now in its second phase and it considers 'Stewardship' in the context of discipleship and mission. It is about responding to St Paul's invitation to 'excel in this grace of giving' and is encouraged by the infinitely greater generosity that God shows to us day by day. Fr Tom has recently preached a sermon focusing on this context.

We have all been very familiar with the envelope scheme which enables us to make our regular donations. This helps support the life of the church in this parish and the wider diocese. The parish depends on the generosity of those who give regularly and without this we would not be able to meet our obligations or pay the bills. The PCC is hugely grateful to those who make regular payments and they will recently have received a letter thanking them for their generosity.

About 10 years ago a scheme was launched in Gloucester diocese called the 'Parish Giving Scheme'. This has since been adopted by many dioceses across the country and was taken up by Derby diocese in 2017. Earlier this year the PCC here gave this consideration as part of the 'Giving for Life' process and the scheme was adopted for the parish in July 2018

The PGS is a new way of making regular payments and has many advantages for both the parish and members of the congregation. About twelve people, mainly from the PCC, have already changed to this new way of giving and we are now making this available to everyone. However, there is no compulsion to do this and we recognise that some people will wish to keep making their contributions in the way they do now.

Briefly, the scheme allows you to do your regular giving by way of a Direct Debit to PGS. Once a month, a single payment comes to us from PGS in respect of all those who have joined the scheme and another payment in respect of the gift aid tax recovered. It therefore provides a streamlined way of making payments and makes life a bit easier for the Treasurer. It also recognises that the way people make payments has changed over the last few years – most people are now very familiar with making all sorts of payments by Direct Debit.

The advantages for you:

- You don't have to worry about having the correct amount of cash available every Sunday.
- You can be sure that you are up to date on your donations even if you are not able to attend church every week.
- There is the option to make your payment index-linked so that you are still giving the same amount in real terms.
- The Direct Debit system is very secure and has a money back guarantee.
- There is an option to have tokens which can be placed into the offertory plate if this is something which is important to you.

The advantages for the parish:

- It ensures a smooth flow of funds and assists with cash flow for the payment of bills.
- The treasurer receives a monthly statement from the PGS.
- It saves the Treasurer time and decreases security risks as less cash will be handled.
- The index-linking option can ensure payments are kept in line with inflation.

Some other things to note:

- It's free, as the diocese pay the annual fee.
- You have the option of putting tokens into the offertory plate.
- It has the support of the Archbishop's Council and became a church run not-for-profit company in 2014.
- There is the option to make donations anonymously via the scheme.

Geoff Raby has been steering the adoption of the scheme here at Holy Trinity and has further information and application forms available for anyone who is interested. He will be talking to as many people as he can about this over the course of the next few weeks but if you have any questions please do ask him, or indeed any other members of the PCC who have signed up to it.