

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Will my details be safe?

The PGS has invested in a sophisticated Customer Relationship Management database, which is used by some of the UK's largest charities. It is a secure system which adheres to the Data Protection Act.

### 2. What if I say yes to an annual inflationary increase to my donation, but my circumstances change?

We fully understand that circumstances change; please rest assured that the PGS team will write to you 30 days in advance of any inflationary increase to your donation with the revised amount. If you are unable to meet it, simply let them know. You can opt out of your decision to inflate your donation at any time by letting the PGS team know.

### 3. Can I choose the day my gift is collected?

Unfortunately, not. In minimising costs for the PGS all donations are collected on the same day each month, which has been agreed as the 1st. Donations go initially to the PGS who then claim any eligible Gift Aid and then deposit the donations into your church's bank account on the 10<sup>th</sup> Month. Receiving all PGS donations on 10<sup>th</sup> of every month has the added benefit of enabling your church to plan its finances more effectively, enjoy an improved cash flow situation and ultimately be in a stronger position to meet its Parish Share instalments.

### 4. Will your Parish be charged for this scheme?

There is no direct charge to the Parish for using the Parish Giving Scheme or processing the donation. The annual running costs of the Parish Giving Scheme are met by the Diocese.

### 5. Will the PGS annual running costs be paid for out of the Parish Share?

The Parish Share income is all used to help fund Ministry in Parishes and Clergy property costs. The Diocese still requires additional sources of income to meet all costs and this is raised through property rents, investment income, fees and church grants. The Parish Giving Scheme will be paid for out of this additional income.

### 6. Can I be an anonymous donor through the PGS?

Yes, you can opt to give anonymously through the PGS. Only the PGS team will know your personal details. The church receiving your donation will be able to identify you as a number on their statement. If you are a tax payer it will also be possible for the PGS team to claim Gift Aid on your

If you have further questions regarding the Parish Giving Scheme please email Janet Edmond, Stewardship Officer [janet.edmond@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:janet.edmond@leeds.anglican.org)

donation while you remain anonymous to the church; meaning that your church will benefit from receiving an extra 25% of the value of your original donation through Gift Aid.

### 7. Does the size of my Parish affect joining the PGS?

The size of a Parish has no bearing on whether it can join the PGS; both small and large Parishes can join. There is also no minimum or maximum number of PGS donors that a Parish can have.

### 8. Is the PGS only available exclusively for church members to join?

Anyone who is a regular giver to their church can join the PGS and have their regular donation collected by direct debit instead of giving by standing order, envelope or plate. The PGS also offers an opportunity for churches to attract “new givers” to donate regularly to their local church. These new givers may be members of the community who are not church members but who value their local church and use their local church for activities other than for worship e.g. keep fit classes, concerts; mother and toddlers etc.

### 9. Can I change my donation through the PGS at any time.

Yes, it is easy to change your donation through the PGS at any time. Simply contact the PGS team directly either by post, email or telephone and give details of the changes you wish to make. The various contact details for the PGS are clearly shown on the Gift Form.

### 10. Will giving through the PGS affect our church's ability to claim through the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme (GASDS)?

Yes, it could if your parish currently has a majority of regular givers who aren't eligible to Gift Aid their donations (e.g. aren't taxpayers). In this scenario these churches may benefit more from not adopting the PGS, so they still qualify to claim the maximum amount of Gift Aid through the GASDS.

A Parish adopting the PGS and encouraging their regular givers to switch to the scheme might like to consider the following advice. In order for the Parish to both benefit from the PGS and still qualify for GASDS the Parish should ensure that they receive a minimum of £800 in Gift Aid eligible donations outside the PGS. This will ensure that the Parish can continue to qualify for and fully benefit from GASDS.

### 11. I already give regularly through standing order - why should I switch to giving by direct debit with the PGS?

Switching from standing order to a direct debit through the PGS will mean that your donation will be taken by direct debit on 1<sup>st</sup> of the month and arrive in your church's bank account on 10<sup>th</sup> of the month thus improving the church's cash flow and financial planning. See Q3.