



The Parish of St Mary's Charlbury with  
All Saints Shorthampton

Be part of the journey...

*For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.*

1 Chronicles 29:14

Given everything we are doing, and plan to do, at St. Mary's and All Saints, we would like you to consider making a financial pledge for the coming year. We know many people already give generously when they come to church, but it would help the PCC tremendously to know what we might expect as we budget for 2018 and beyond.

If you do not regularly give to the church, *would you play a part, and become a regular giver?*

If you are already a regular giver, *can you play a bigger part by increasing your donation?*

### **A New Way to Give – The Parish Giving Scheme**

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a new, free way to help you plan your giving and, if you are a tax payer, do so tax efficiently.

Those who join will complete a Direct Debit form, and your contribution will be collected from your bank on either a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. PGS will then collect any Gift Aid due on your donation and within ten days transfer the total amount directly to the PCC bank account. By joining you will save our Treasurer a lot of administration!

It also has the advantage that you can choose to have your donations increased annually by the rate of inflation. That means that your giving to the church will not remain static over time. One of the biggest problems we face is that many of us are still giving the same amount to the church that we did 5 or even 10 years ago.

Though inflation has been relatively low in recent years, we have still faced rising costs on things like energy and insurance. This increase in costs for St. Mary's and All Saints has occurred despite careful budgeting. Thus, if your giving does not keep pace with inflation, then your giving becomes worth less over time. The table below shows how much a donation potentially falls in value if it does not change with inflation.

Year	2000	2005	2010	2014
Gift	£20.00	£17.88	£15.85	£13.95

## FAQs

### ***What will the money be used for?***

To help fund all the initiatives and programmes that we run (see accompanying leaflet), as well as to cover our operating costs. In the 1970s, about 75% of church funding came from the C of E. Today, we are essentially responsible for all the costs of running our churches.

### ***Who operates the PGS?***

PGS is an independent charity (Registered Charity 1156606) started by the Diocese of Gloucester with trustees from the dioceses that use the scheme.

### ***How much will it cost us?***

The Diocese of Oxford is paying the costs of participating in the scheme.

### ***How much should I give?***

Only you can answer that question; and, there is no 'right' answer. We all have differing financial circumstances and commitments. To make a decision, please think and pray about a contribution in the light of your circumstances. We are not asking for equal amounts, but for equal generosity.

### ***What happens if my circumstances change?***

None of us know what the future holds. If you have joined the PGS, you can change things at any time with a simple phone call.

### ***What do PGS givers do as the basket is passed around on a Sunday?***

We can provide participants with PGS tokens which can be placed on the plate or in the collection bag. This indicates that they participate in PGS, and enables them to express an act of offering during the course of Sunday worship.

### ***Where can I get more information?***

Brian Morley, Paddy Gallagher, and Dine Glasgow will be available after church services to answer any questions that you may have.

If you would rather not give by Direct Debit, you can continue to give by standing order. We can also still provide a box of giving envelopes. That way you can put your giving aside each week/month and put envelopes in the collection when you are in church. However, please note that Direct Debit givers don't have to remember to bring money or an envelope to church; and, they are protected by the Direct Debit Guarantee which makes it a very safe system - safer than other forms of giving.

Please take this leaflet away with you, and prayerfully consider over the next few days what you can give. Then, complete the Parish Giving Scheme gift form and return it direct to Parish Giving Scheme, Church House, College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY.