



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 this year 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 and Gift Aid officer 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. Although inflation has been relatively low in recent years, the situation is changing and it is estimated to soon reach levels not seen since the 1970s. In addition, energy, insurance and maintenance costs are all likely to increase at unprecedented rates. We will do all we can to keep costs as low as possible through careful budgeting but it is enormously helpful if your donation can at least keep pace with inflation.

## **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 knows what the future holds. If you have joined the PGS, you can change things at any time with a simple phone call.

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

The treasurer and Churchwardens 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 or by putting an amount aside each week/month and placing it in the bowl as you leave church or by using the Card Reader at the entrance to St Mary's to make a donation online. If you wish to use Gift Aid envelopes, please see the Gift Aid Officer (currently Angus Bentall). 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, if you wish, please complete the Parish Giving Scheme gift form and **return it direct to Parish Giving Scheme, Church House, College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY.**