

## THE PARISH GIVING SCHEME

The Church of England offers a Christian presence in every community, seeking to be at the heart of all our cities, towns and villages; by serving our communities; by sharing our faith and values; by worshipping together and by our wonderful buildings. This valuable contribution to our community has a cost, which is largely met by personal donations. For the Church to survive and grow, we rely on regular donations so that we can plan confidently for the future.

Successfully addressing the Church's need to receive realistic, long term giving from committed Christians is a fundamental part of developing a thriving, outward looking Church. This has proved even more important with the inevitable reduction in giving in Church during lockdowns.

The Parish Giving Scheme is a 21<sup>st</sup> century solution to offset one of the greatest threats to parish income which is static giving. Donations made through this scheme use a Direct Debit. This can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis, and inflation proofed annually if requested. Each donation is restricted to a parish church.

The scheme is operated as a partnership between Church of England dioceses to ensure that it can remain delivered locally but administered as cost effectively as possible. It has been in operation since 2008 and is already making a huge impact. The Parish Giving Scheme continues to grow across the Church of England, with 30 member dioceses now registered. In May 2020 just over 49,000 regular gifts to parishes were processed with around 55% of donors opting to increase their giving annually in line with inflation. Over £3.8 million in gifts were forwarded to 2,884 parishes, with an additional £0.9 million in Gift Aid directly reclaimed from HMRC on behalf of parishes.

Enrolment is either by a downloadable Parish Giving Scheme Gift Form or by telephone contact with the Parish Giving Scheme. Details of both are available on St Mary's website; alternatively please contact the Parish Office. Although other forms of donation remain in force it is hoped as many donors as possible will make use of this scheme to reduce our cash handling and enable us to better plan our finances.

If you have any questions please contact  
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