

## What is the Parish Giving Scheme?

The Parish Giving Scheme is a direct-debit system developed to provide a professional, effective donation management system to support parishes in funding their mission and ministry.

The Parish Giving Scheme has attracted considerable interest from around the Church and has been adopted as the preferred way of giving by the National Stewardship Committee. The PGS is a charitable company owned by participating Dioceses.

## Key Benefits of the Scheme

For Church:

* The scheme is delivered locally (parish) but administered centrally reducing the administrative burden on parishes
* The scheme is completely free to St Laurence
* Central system ensuring that Gift Aid is processed accurately
* St Laurence will see increased cash flow through faster recovery of Gift Aid
* Supports St Laurence’s desire to thank those who give personally

For Donors:

* Supports inflation-based giving, should the donor be happy to increase their giving annually in this way
* Anonymity for donors available, if required
* Professional, tried and tested materials for donors, and for parish treasurers. Monthly, Annual and Tax year statements are sent to each Parish

## How does the scheme work and how do I go about joining?

1. Donations can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis by Direct Debit using a PGS gift form.

 PGS gift forms can be found in church on the wall to the right as you enter. A hard copy form with St Laurence’s unique number needs to be completed and so it is not possible to complete the form online or download one.

1. Donations are made directly to the PGS but are restricted to the parish chosen by the donor and cannot be used elsewhere
2. The donation is passed back to the parish of the donor's choosing and will be passed back on the same day each month.
3. You can submit the form straight away but select the date you want to start.
4. You can commit, in principle, to increase your gift annually in line with inflation and you have the option always to change your mind at any stage.
5. Any existing standing orders set up payable to St Laurence need to be cancelled by you.
6. This scheme relates to the general St Laurence fund and is not applicable for generous donations to the Ministry Fund which continues as a separate fund.
7. Quick, efficient and clear service offered by PGS with user friendly website and help line.
8. Other forms of giving will still be available.

## Considerations for giving

The Bible talks extensively on giving, indeed over a third of Jesus’ parables

cover this topic. When considering your giving, please do so:

1. **Prayerfully** – as an act of worship & thanksgiving *(1 Chron 29:10-14)*
2. **As a priority** – assessed relative to your total income *(1 Cor 16:2)*
3. **Cheerfully** – give with grace from the heart, as an offering to God *(2 Cor 9:7)*

## Helpful Information

* Parish Giving Scheme forms and stamped addressed envelopes are available in the church, on the wall to your right as you enter the church. Alternatively, should you be unable to make it into the church, we can arrange to have a form dropped round to you.
* St Laurence also has a few “PGS Ambassadors”, members of our church family who are ready to help you should you have questions about the scheme. These are:

Stuart Gibson (Churchwarden)

Roger Mitty (Churchwarden)

Richard Dick (PCC Member)

If you would like to get in touch, please let us know and we will ask one of them to call you.

* Further Information is also provided by the resources made available by the Church of England:

Parish Giving Scheme website: <https://www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk>

* Introduction to the Parish Giving Scheme (video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEUXnudJDy4>

We thank you for your continued support of the work at St Laurence and in the wider parish and trust that the information provided is useful. Many thanks again to all those who have already signed up.

Yours sincerely,

St Laurence Parochial Church Council (PCC)