



GIVING TO  
St Matthew's Church, Harwell

REGISTERED ENGLAND NO: 8824540; REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1156606

## What is the Parish Giving Scheme?

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The Parish Giving Scheme is a new, free way to help you plan your giving and, if you are a tax payer, to do so tax efficiently. Whether you currently give by Standing Order, the envelope scheme or by occasional donation, you can easily make the switch to this secure and efficient Direct Debit system. Tried, tested and highly recommended by over 20,000 people in over seventeen dioceses for its reliability and ease of use, the Parish Giving Scheme can help you give in an easy, straight forward way.

## How does the scheme work?

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You give your regular donations for St Matthew's to the Parish Giving Scheme by Direct Debit on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis on the 1st of the month. Your full gift and any associated Gift Aid is automatically credited to St Matthew's by the Parish Giving Scheme in the same month. You can choose to inflation proof your gift which will really help St Matthew's finances. You can also give anonymously if you wish. You can change or cancel the amount at any time by a simple phone call to the Parish Giving Scheme team.

## Why does inflation matter?

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St Matthew's, like every household, faces increasing costs every year. If your giving does not keep pace with the increasing costs then your giving becomes worth less. The illustration below shows how much a donation falls in value if it does not change with inflation.

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

The Parish Giving Scheme tackles this by enabling you to choose to increase your giving annually in line with inflation. You simply tick the relevant box on the gift form to authorise an inflationary increase. If you choose an inflationary increase the Parish Giving Scheme will send you a letter before it increases, and if you do not want it to increase then you simply call them to ask for it not to take place. So far, nearly two-thirds of givers across the participating dioceses have opted to increase their gift annually in line with inflation.

## Why give in a new way?

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The Church of England has a Christian presence in every community, seeking to be at the heart of all our cities, towns and villages. St Matthew's serves our community by sharing our faith and values, worshipping together and by our wonderful buildings. This valuable contribution to our community comes at a cost, which is largely met by personal gifts from you and other church members. For St Matthew's to grow and fulfil the vision we have for the future then we need to increase our giving, and have more people giving regularly. Money often dominates too many agendas in the church, and takes up a lot of volunteers' time in counting the money, administration and claiming Gift Aid. If you sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme more of your money and our time can be devoted to God's mission.

## How Much Should I Give?

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Giving by individuals is essential to secure St Matthew's ability to serve its community and for the Church of England to minister across the country. How much you give is a matter for your personal and prayerful reflection.

***Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.***

***1 Chronicles 24:19***

Our giving should reflect not only our willingness to give, but also our ability to give; since individual circumstances differ significantly, so will our individual gifts. A starting point when reflecting on our Christian giving is that when giving to others we should give in proportion to what we ourselves receive from God i.e. in proportion to our income. This practice of tithing has Biblical origins and the "tithe" literally means a tenth.

For some time, the Church of England General Synod has encouraged us as Christians to review our giving annually and to give a proportion of our income. The initial target suggested by General Synod is 5% of post-tax income to and through the church and a similar amount to other kingdom building charities.

You can choose to calculate your proportionate giving on pre-tax, post-tax or disposable income but do whatever feels right for you.

***Each person should give what they have decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)***

## What Happens Next?

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St Matthew's has already signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme. All you need to do is to complete a Gift Form - available from your treasurer or Gift Aid secretary if one is not with this leaflet. You will need to tick the necessary box on the Gift Form to select an inflationary increase if you wish to do this.

Send the Gift Form direct to: PGS Office, Church House, College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY. Keep the left-hand side of the form as it explains what will happen next.

Finally, if you currently give by Standing Order you will need to cancel it with your bank.

## Everyone benefits with the Parish Giving Scheme

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- ≈ You are in total control of the amount you give.
- ≈ The Direct Debit guarantee means your gift is secure and safe.
- ≈ You can choose to increase your gift annually by inflation if you wish.
- ≈ Parish Giving Scheme tokens are available if you would like something to put in the offertory plate.
- ≈ Gift Aid is automatically claimed for the church every month, and this means reduced administration, less work for your treasurer and Gift Aid secretary and better cashflow.

## Questions?

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If you have further questions, please contact Jonathan Farnhill, Generous Giving Adviser at the Diocese of Oxford ([jonathan.farnhill@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:jonathan.farnhill@oxford.anglican.org) / 01865 208757) or look on the diocesan website for further information including a section on frequently asked questions.