

PGS at St Cleer

St Cleer church adopted PGS in 2017, because it made the treasurer's job easier due to simpler record keeping and automatic gift aid; it was considered easier for the giver, using direct debits instead of standing orders or regular envelopes; it saved on the cost and wastage of buying envelopes.

The graph shows changes from 2016 to 2021. In 2017 the envelope scheme was cancelled so there was a drop in planned givers. Despite this the average weekly gift (AWG) nearly doubled and the total income increased by 25% and continues to increase.



Standing order givers began to switch to PGS, with new PGS givers coming on board. In 2022, there are now 17 PGS givers and just 4 standing order givers. The PGS income alone amounts to £12,700 a year (with gift aid). During the lockdown of 2020, PGS income increased significantly, partly because most givers had signed up to the annual inflationary increase, but also some new givers joined. At a time when cash collections dropped by nearly 70%, the PGS ensured a good stable income for the church.

Contact Us

For more information or assistance please contact your local Generous Giving Advisor.

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Or visit

<https://trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/parish-facing-support/stewardship/>



Why use the Parish Giving Scheme?

Some Case Studies to show the value of regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme



PARISHGIVINGScheme™

A better way to encourage giving in your church

Why Use PGS?

The PGS is a simple, secure and efficient method of regular giving by direct debit. It is free of charge to parishes, who can sign up easily by filling in a form available from their Generous Giving Advisor. Givers can sign up easily online, by paper form or over the phone. Some of the main benefits are:

- stable, regular and often increased planned giving
- reduced admin and paperwork for the treasurer
- option to increase gifts with inflation tackling the problem of static giving
- efficient and regular reclaim of gift aid, improving cash-flow
- reduced cost and time in handling cash/envelopes

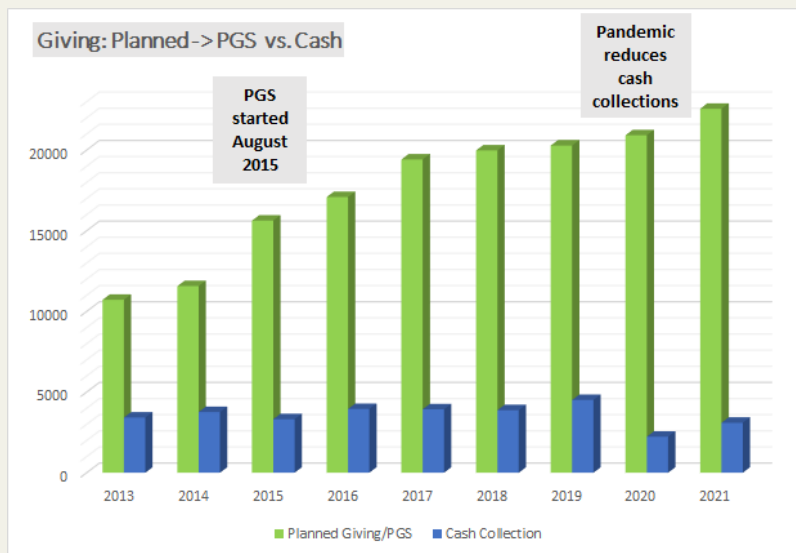
PGS at St Germans

The St Germans Group Parish is a small rural congregation where PGS has made a huge difference to their giving. They joined PGS in 2015 and, as shown in the chart below, giving through PGS has increased since that time. Now there are 17 PGS givers, 4 standing order givers and cash collections.

The average weekly gifts (AWG) through these methods (not including Gift Aid) are:

PGS	£24.37
Standing Order	£4.90
Cash	£3.97

During the Pandemic, when cash collections decreased, PGS giving ensured a reliable steady, and even increasing, income. Over the years PGS consolidated giving in the parish, and the scheme was attractive to people as it secured the gift aid, which had previously been a lot of work.



PGS at St Agnes

St Agnes church joined the PGS in 2017, with an extra push in 2019. In 2020 the envelope giving scheme was cancelled and people moved to PGS with others giving by contactless. Some still give through standing orders, but now the majority of planned giving is through PGS. The overall impact is an increase in planned giving, especially important during the Covid pandemic as plate collections decreased. This table shows planned giving over this time, excluding Gift Aid.

Year	PGS Givers	PGS Total	Standing Order Givers	SO Total	Envelope givers	Envelope Total	Total Giving (ex GA)
2017	6	£921	16	£6,804	26	£6,392	£14,117
2018	15	£5,751	15	£6,594	16	£3,770	£16,115
2019	17	£6,354	14	£6,579	14	£2,984	£15,917
2020	23	£8,210	12	£5,855	13	£1,798	£15,863
2021	31	£15,141	8	£3,037	0	£0	£18,178

The average weekly gift (AWG) per planned giver increased as people changed to using PGS. In 2021, with the majority of people now giving through PGS, the AWG was significantly higher, and the majority of these givers gift aided their donations. There was also an increase in donations through the contactless giving station, some of those previous envelope givers changing to this method, bringing in over £4000 in 2021.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Weekly average gift per planned giver	£5.00	£5.64	£5.90	£5.83	£6.51	£6.28	£6.81	£6.99	£6.96	£9.53

This example illustrates that a change to PGS encourages people to increase their giving and results in a stable, constant and reliable income, particularly valuable in situations such as the Covid pandemic. Cancelling the envelope scheme and encouraging a change to PGS means a significant decrease in administration and cost.



“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”
1 Corinthians 9: 7