**PGS at Budock**

St Budock Church, in Budock Water near Falmouth, joined the Parish Giving Scheme in February 2025, prompted by the imminent retirement of both our Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer (who claims our Gift Aid, currently bringing in c. £10K a year and so a significant part of our budget and not something we can afford to lose!). Joining PGS, who claim the Gift Aid on our behalf, cuts out most of the current Assistant Treasurer’s duties so that alone is a significant benefit in making the job look less daunting! So, we decided to launch in mid-February in the hope of getting most of our c.50 current planned givers moved on to the scheme by the end of April when the new Treasurer takes over. We did a presentation in Church during the Sunday morning service, doing a Q&A with Christine Salaman who kindly came over to help and keeping it as light-hearted as possible – aided by my grandson, who overhearing me talking about the scheme with his father piped up ‘What’s the Pirate Giving Scheme’? – out of the mouths of babes! – so folks, in Budock we will always know it as the Pirate Giving Scheme – happy for others to copy so long as we receive copyright fees…!

As a result of the launch and supporting literature, posters and magazine article about 20% of our existing Planned Givers signed up for PGS straight away, and we followed this up with an individual letter during March encouraging the others to follow suit; up to the time of writing about 80% have moved over, which is encouraging. A number chose to do this by telephone, and we had several appreciative comments on how friendly and helpful the operators are. From the end of the tax year we discontinued our weekly envelope scheme (which only had 7 remaining users) and Gift Aid envelopes for the collection, replacing them with a home-designed envelope carrying details of PGS and a QR code, encouraging people to use that for regular gifts or one-off gifts by card – they can still use the envelope for cash if they wish. We also have a CollectTin contactless device, which has now raised nearly £9.5K since we installed it three years ago: transactions are uploaded automatically to our Gift Aid-claiming software, MyGiving Online, so while we still have to claim Gift Aid/GASDS on those donations ourselves, it is literally a matter of pressing a couple of buttons so very quick.

Budock has come quite late to the PGS table – almost all the other churches in our deanery preceded us – but so far it’s looking good. If your church has still to take the plunge, go for it – it’ll save you work, and if your donors go for the automatic annual cost-of-living uplift can even increase your income! And it’s fun…

Roger Mills, Pirate Captain (aka Asst Treasurer [retiring!], St Budock Church).