



# A few frequently asked questions from PCCs thinking about joining the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)

## Why do we need to pass a PCC resolution?

Under the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), financial gifts will flow to the PCC through the PGS, rather than directly from the giver to the church. To give permission to PGS to process gifts on the church's behalf, it is important that the Trustees of the church pass and minute a resolution to allow this.

## Ok, how would that normally look?

This can be as simple as: "We the PCC of ... request the Parish Giving Scheme to commence operation of the scheme on our behalf."

## If our PCC represents more than one church – does each church in our parish need to register separately?

It is the PCC, on behalf of the church or churches that the PCC represents, that registers to join PGS. If your PCC has multiple churches, then there are a couple of options depending on how you would like to manage your monthly statements showing gifts and Gift Aid processed by PGS on your behalf.

## What are the options?

You can choose to register each church separately. In this case, your nominated individual/s will receive separate statements showing the value of gifts and Gift Aid and giver details, for that specific church.

# FAQs for PCCs

Alternatively, you can choose to register a single PGS account, managing the giving across multiple churches in a single statement.

Your diocesan representative will be able to discuss these options with you and provide the relevant registration forms.

## How do we register our parish?

The Parish Giving Scheme is easy to set up and manage. Your diocesan representative will provide you with the Church Registration Form which will have a unique reference number. All the PCC needs to do is pass a resolution to start the scheme, complete the registration form and pass it back to your diocesan representative. When we receive your registration form from the diocese, we'll check the details and register your parish on the scheme.

## What happens next?

Within five working days, the person you've designated to administer the church's PGS account (we refer to them as Statement Receivers) will receive an email, informing them that the scheme is live. We'll send them a Welcome Pack full of useful information to get started. They can then set up their personal secure log-in on the PGS website, where they'll be able to view their church's statements of gifts and Gift Aid received via PGS.

## What are the fees for our church?

The annual running cost of the scheme is paid for by the National Church Institutions of the Church of England, so this core service is free for churches to use. The only charge for the parish is a small transaction fee for one-off gifts made online. The PGS team then does all the work to process gifts and Gift Aid claims to your chosen church bank account every month. The most important role of the PCC members is then to show leadership by joining the scheme and encouraging others to join as well.

# FAQs for PCCs

## How do parishes and churches get set-up for online giving?

Online giving is automatically activated for any parish within a member diocese. Each parish has a dedicated parish homepage within PGS's website. This acts primarily as a point of reference for the giver, so that people interested in giving to the parish are assured that they are about to give to the correct parish. It is also designed to help a parish be found within search results and, most importantly, it acts as the starting point of the simple online giving process, both for regular giving and making a one-off gift. The website address of this page, or its unique QR code, can be used as a reference to give to potential givers within parish literature and information.

## What is one-off giving?

A one-off gift is made in a single transaction using a debit or credit card, or Apple or Google Pay, through the secure PGS website. The giver can either log in to use their existing account or, if they haven't registered with PGS before, continue as a guest.

## How much does it cost?

To cover the card payment processor costs and additional bank charges, PGS charges 1.5% of the gift's value, but passes the full value of HMRC's Gift Aid contribution back to the church. This charge will be clearly shown at the bottom of the one-off giving statement and netted from the gift payment.

## FAQs for PCCs

**Why can't we offer Direct Debit services ourselves?**

Direct Debit is a highly regulated system, and it is only offered by Banks to large businesses or organisations who are considered to have the necessary internal control systems required to process significantly high numbers of Direct Debits.

**The friendly PGS team are on hand to answer any questions you may have from:**

**Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5pm**

**Email: [info@parishgiving.org.uk](mailto:info@parishgiving.org.uk)**

**Tel: 0333 002 1260**