

Parish Giving Scheme

September 2018 Update - 16 months since launch

Background

1. Of the 41 dioceses in the Church of England 24 have now joined PGS with more to join this winter. PGS as an organisation continues to show geometric growth in all its principal work load measurements:
 - Monthly Direct Debit collections 30,000
 - Amount collected £2.4m
 - Gift Aid claimed £0.6m
 - New donors 1,000
2. Other interesting PGS statistics:
 - Inflationary increases per month 1,000+
 - "Superinflation" increases per month 5%
 - Increases (ex-inflation) so far in 2018 800
 - Decreases so far in 2018 289
3. PGS is carefully and systematically developing its "on-line" offering. They are still not giving a firm date for its launch (which is wise given the reaction and adverse publicity to recent IT launches/transfers). UAT is progressing and a launch is possible by the year end.
4. Cathedrals in dioceses are registering. Some dioceses open a DBF account for direct giving to the equivalent of Fairer Share. The Church as a whole is being encouraged to change its language from "envelope giving", "standing orders" to just referring to the Parish Giving Scheme or PGS – "sign up"
5. At the end of August 2018 there were 106 parishes (23% of the Diocese of Salisbury) which had passed PCC resolutions to join PGS and had submitted their Registration Forms to Accounts Department in Church House.
6. Of the 106, only 80 had active givers recorded by PGS using the scheme. This means that 26 parishes were either:
 - Work in Progress – i.e. still being set up in Salisbury or at PGS in Gloucester
 - Yet to engage or explain PGS to potential or regular givers in their parishes
7. Latest PGS statistics show that 1,119 givers are now giving actively to their parishes. This is only about 6% of the total potential number of church members expected to want to support their church on a regular basis.
8. One third of these active givers are from 6 (town/city) parishes: Broadstone St John, Dorchester St Peter, Swanage All Saints, Devizes St John & St Mary, Salisbury St Paul, Southbroom St James.
9. The chairman of PGS, John Preston, has reiterated his view that Salisbury has made a better than anticipated start to its PGS roll-out.

Action

1. Senior clergy/management (bishops, archdeacons, diocesan secretaries, chairman DBF) to acknowledge success of 6 leading parishes. Also do the same with smaller rural parishes. Write to them?
2. Contact parishes in 1. above for quotes on how PGS has gone – help from Communications
3. Write to 26 parishes (registered but inactive) offering roll out suggestions.
4. Write to parishes with low number of active donors and offer further roll out suggestions
5. Explore further ways to encourage parishes to register – still 77% unregistered!
6. Cathedral to register
7. Register a DBF account

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john.kilbee@salisbury.anglican.org