**PGS Testimonials – St Edmundsbury & Ipswich**

*“I’m not quite sure who to thank, but we are incredibly grateful to the Diocese for introducing the Parish Giving Scheme... It’s definitely* ***improved giving*** *in our churches without a lot of effort … everyone finds having the gift aid as we go along much easier for* ***cashflow*** *and PCC members generally have reported that it's much* ***easier to give*** *than it used to be. It has cheered our treasurers immensely after the initial workload.”*

Tiffer Robinson, Rural Dean (Lavenham)

*“.....our early experience at St Mary’s Combs is encouraging. Our bank account was credited on the 10th with the donations and the Gift Aid was received just a few days later. We’ve been pleased with the overall reception of the idea of* ***paying by Direct Debit to ensure a regular cash flow to the church****…”*

Lawrence Smith, PGS Project Leader (St Mary, Combs)

*“Since introducing the Parish Giving Scheme* ***our regular weekly giving has increased.*** *We kept it simple and just sent a letter to those we felt appropriate and then followed up with a reminder. That was all - oh and thank you letters to those who gave! It worked for us. Why not give it a try?”*

David Fison, Treasurer (St John the Baptist, Butley)

*“…nearly every donor increased their giving when they joined the scheme and in virtually* ***every case their regular giving is now index-linked.*** *This is a great improvement on the situation compared with pre-PGS! About half of our regular donors now give through PGS and it certainly reduces the monthly recording of donations on my part. It will also* ***reduce the task of completing the Gift Aid claim*** *each year…”*

Les Weeks, Treasurer (St Giles, Risby)

*“The* ***members of the PCC*** *have all taken a pack, and we have also* ***approached the congregation directly****. We’re exploring other strategies; having packs available in the church and village shop, utilising the village* ***social media*** *and making attendees to the* ***other fundraising events*** *aware of the Scheme.”*

Steve Hurford, Treasurer (All Saints, Hitcham)

*“The Diocese are promoting Parish Giving Scheme which encourages people to switch to Direct Debits plus option to index link their gift. Added advantage is that* ***tax reclaim is done automatically and is in bank account within a few days of the donation each month*** *which all helps with cash flow. PGS certainly helps the Treasurer!”*

David Bryant, Treasurer (St Mary's Haughley)

*“ … people have either* ***switched from their monthly standing order or from the weekly giving envelopes.*** *The scheme is easy to use – the joining pack is very easy to understand, and the donor just has to complete one direct debit form and declare whether they are able to Gift Aid or not.* ***Monthly statements are made available to the treasurer via the PGS website and the money is transferred to the nominated account promptly****.* ***Gift Aid is collected on a monthly basis*** *and transferred a couple of weeks later.*

Stephen Went, Treasurer (Holy Trinity St Mary, Bungay)