



TOP CHURCH



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

⊕ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Giving to Top Church

- At Top Church, our hope and mission is to be a blessing to our community. This takes many forms through gathering and eating together on Sundays, helping local vulnerable people as part of our community work, and ministering to the young people of Dudley through our Children and Youth work.
- This is all made possible through the generosity of everyone who gives. Whilst we currently benefit from funding through the Church Commissioner's Strategic Development Fund (SDF), this is restricted to certain uses only (salaries, building work, office rent and a proportion of operational costs). Our ministry and a significant proportion of operational costs are funded entirely by donations.
- In other words, without giving, whether that is through the Parish Giving Scheme, standing order, cash, contactless or other means, we would not be able to do ministry (or keep the lights on!).

Why are regular donations so important to our church?

- Regular giving provides us with a reliable income, which helps us to plan and budget our ministry with confidence. We want to be good stewards of our finances. Practicably, this translates to operating and doing mission within our means. A reliable income helps us to understand what those means are.
- Income through regular giving is less prone to fluctuation when people are away from church for whatever reason and are therefore unable to give at our services.
- In the case of the Parish Giving Scheme, those who join have the option to increase their donation annually in line with the rate of inflation. This maintains the value of giving to Top Church. As costs rise with inflation, a gap can soon develop between income and expenditure when giving remains static.

What is the Parish Giving Scheme?

- The Parish Giving Scheme offers an easy and efficient way to give regularly to Top Church via Direct Debit.
- The Scheme is run by an independent not-for-profit organisation supported by the Church of England. This means that the full value of all donations are used to support Top Church.
- By using the Direct Debit scheme, which is the only one of its kind backed by guarantee, your money and transaction is safe.
- The Scheme undertake all the administration for claiming Gift Aid, leading to quicker payment of Gift Aid claims from HMRC.
- Donations are taken on the first day of each month, with Top Church receiving payment and Gift Aid claims ten days later.

What are the benefits to you, the giver?

- Your giving all happens electronically, avoiding the need for cash or cheque giving during a church service.
- You can choose to give monthly, quarterly, or annually; whatever suits your circumstances.
- You can alter the amount of your gift at any time if your circumstances change.
- Whilst we at Top Church would love to be able to thank you for your financial support, you can choose to remain anonymous if you prefer.
- You will receive an annual letter from Parish Giving Scheme thanking you for your donations and confirming your planned giving for the coming year.
- You have an option to automatically increase your giving each year by the rate of inflation (RPI); a convenient feature which means you don't need to remember to review each year.

Frequently Asked Questions...

Q: Who operates the Parish Giving Scheme?

A: The Parish Giving Scheme is a joint venture charitable company owned by the participating diocese within the Church of England and the charity.

Q: Will my personal details be safe?

A: Your giving will have the security of the Direct Debit Guarantee. The Parish Giving Scheme has invested in a database that is regularly updated and security tested. All data is handled in line with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (2018)

Q: Can I choose the day my gift is collected?

A: Unfortunately not. In order to minimise costs all donations are collected on the first day of each month.

Q: What happens if I tick the box to increase my giving in line with inflation?

A: 30 days before your annual inflationary increase is due, you will receive a letter informing you what the revised amount of giving will be. If for any reason you do not wish for that increase to be actioned, simply notify the scheme by phone, letter or email.

Q: How does the scheme calculate an inflationary increase?

A: The Retail Price Index is used as an independent measure. The scheme will increase all relevant gifts using the rate for January of that year, or if that rate is unavailable for any reason the rate for the previous January.

Q: What do I need to do to join the Parish Giving Scheme

A: Please contact Nathan Conway (nathan@topchurch.co.uk) to obtain a registration form or for details on how to sign up by telephone.



TOP CHURCH, ST THOMAS & ST LUKE'S, HIGH STREET, DUDLEY, DY1 1QD
TOP CHURCH IS A RESOURCING CHURCH WITHIN THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
TOP CHURCH IS PART OF THE DUDLEY RESOURCING CHURCHES TRUST, A CIO. CHARITY NO. 1187653

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