

I want to know...

why is inflation important?

Over time the cost of living keeps increasing. This is as true for the Church as it is for other areas of society, paying clergy, salaries and maintaining buildings, all go up over time.

Over the past 50 years the reliance of the Church on personal donations has increased enormously (see our companion leaflet; *Why is the Church no longer free?*).

The Church currently relies on these regular gifts being made either through standing order or by cash in the collection plate. The difficulty with donations made in this way is that although generous they are fixed: trends suggest that a donor who puts £10 in the collection plate each week, or sets up a standing order for £50 per month is unlikely to increase their gift on a yearly basis by (say) 3% – putting £10.30 in the plate or changing their standing order to £51.50 a month.

Although this problem may seem small, collectively its effect on the Church is enormous.

In this diocese we are giving people the opportunity to easily agree, in principle, to increase their donations inline with inflation each year as part of the new Parish Giving Scheme. We are inviting donors to consider securing their support to the church for the long term by ticking 'yes' to an annual increase to their donation. Donors can be reassured that if circumstances change it is also easy to decline the increase when the annual inflationary letter arrives.