A GUIDE TO WRITING YOUR WILL, TO REFLECT YOUR CHRISTIAN FAITH

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUFFOLK

A gift in your will is a lasting gift to your church



All churches rely entirely upon the support of generous Christians. Our giving is vitally important and helps sustain mission both here in this country, and overseas.

For example, through our church buildings and parish clergy and our wider parish ministry; as measured by every ill person visited, every confirmation course run, every assembly taken, every bereaved family comforted, every baptism celebrated, every sermon preached, Eucharist celebrated, and every person shown the love of Christ through our care, comfort and compassion.

Your Gift Beyond our regular lifetime giving a gift in your will can be a final and powerful expression of your gratitude and thanksgiving towards God, and can help transform your local church's future.

We pray that as you plan how to distribute your estate, you will feel encouraged to remember your church family and we invite you to consider how a gift in your will could help the Church meet the needs of future generations.

You are making a Real Difference.

For nearly 500 years the Church of England has encouraged people to make a will. The Book of Common Prayer instructs clergy to remind those who are sick:

"Let him be admonished to make his will… for the better discharging of his conscience and the quietness of his Executors. But men should often be put in remembrance to
take order for the settling of their temporal
estates, whilst they are in health."

Making a will and updating it regularly is the only way to make sure your wishes are carried out after your death, giving you peace of mind that you can continue to support the family, friends and causes you love.

Why every Christian should have a will



We are God's stewards, entrusted to use His gifts for the good of our loved ones. In thanksgiving, we should also take will writing seriously – setting our affairs in order, and stewarding them wisely to the end of our time on earth and beyond.

Free will writing and Discount Schemes Wills are legal documents, and as small errors can cause big problems, it's vital to have someone legally qualified to draft it.

There are a number of low cost wills, or individual and charity-based schemes available.

To find out more, please visit
www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/church-legacy

Farewill

Farewill are now the largest and most trusted will writer in the UK. Farewill has developed a bespoke will writing journey with the Church of England which allows people to easily find their local churches for legacy giving (in connection with www.AChurchNearYou.com). Farewill offers both online and telephone will writing – the Church of England partnership offers free online wills only.

Your Church, Your Gift

The Church of England is not a single charity, but a gathering of the faithful and this is reflected in its institutional structure as a family of related charities. There are many ways you can support the work of the Church with a gift in your will.

- To your local Church
- To your Cathedral
- To your Diocese
- To the Church of England

No matter how large of small, gifts in wills create amazing opportunities for mission.

"Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours."
1 Chronicles 29 v 11

How to make a lasting gift



No matter how large or small, every gift can make a difference.

To leave a share of your estate (Residuary Bequest)
This is a percentage of the remaining figure). This is the gift of all or part of the value of your estate (after debts, other legacies and liabilities have been met). This has the advantage of automatically keeping up with inflation.

To leave a fixed sum of money (Pecuniary Bequest)
You can choose to leave a sum of money, which you can arrange with your solicitor to be increased in line with inflation.

The suggested wording for a bequest is:

"I give ..... % of my residuary estate OR I give the sum of £ ..... pounds only free of all taxes to the Parochial Church Council of the parish of .....
(registered charity number if applicable) in the Diocese of .....
for its general purposes, and I declare that the receipt of an officer of the Parochial Church Council shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors and trustees."

Contact Us

- You can discuss gifts in wills in confidence by contacting your member of clergy, Treasurer or Churchwarden.
- Visit gifts in Wills Church leaflet
- Alternatively, you can visit the National church website: www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/church-legacy
- Email Emma Denton, Parish Resources Team: emma.denton@cofesuffolk.org or call 01473 298556/ 07483006379.

Generous God, you have given me so much.
In response to all your blessings, I pray for grace to continue to be a means of blessing in the lives of others.
Grant me the wisdom and generosity of your Spirit to make appropriate provision for those I love and care for, and gifts of thanksgiving to the causes and concerns you led me to care about.
Amen

Frequently Asked Questions

How might I divide up my estate?
When deciding how to divide up your estate, it may be appropriate to consider thinking in 'percentages' rather than specific cash amounts. This also reflects the Church's teachings on proportionate giving.

What are the tax implications?
All gifts to charities (including churches) in wills are tax-free. Gifts to your local church and other charities would be deducted from the value of your estate when Inheritance Tax is calculated.

What happens if my church doesn't have a registered charity number?
All Church of England churches hold charitable status even if they do not have a Registered Charity Number. If the church does not have a registered charity number, the only information you need to leave a gift in your will to your local church is its full name and address. You can find this on www.achurchnearyou.com

I am happy with my will, but I want to add a gift to my local church. What do I do?
Ask your solicitor or legal advisor to draw up a codicil – this is a simple legal addition to your existing will. We have a template codicil available online, which you can download, or contact us for information on how to do this.
www.cofesuffolk.org/gifts-in-wills

How will my gift be used?
A legacy can be left to your local church for specific or general purposes. However since needs change over the years, churches encourage gifts to be left for the general purposes of the parish (unrestricted), rather than for a specific purpose (restricted), and then your PCC can decide where the money can be best used by your church. Many parishes have a written Legacy statement confirming that however large or small, all gifts will be used wisely to make a real difference.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

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Charity number 248919