



For more information, call the Church Legacy and Wills
Information Line on 08445 870875 or visit
www.churchlegacy.org.uk

You can order a free pack from this Legacy Line including a
simple guide to making a Will and ideas for different ways to
support the Church with a gift in your Will.

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How you can make a
lasting difference
to the work of
your Church



Changing Lives, Changing Churches for Changing Communities

A message from Bishop Peter

Over 5,000 people each year leave gifts in their Wills to support the work of the Church. These gifts make a significant impact on our mission and ministry here in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. They help us to keep our clergy, maintain our beautiful listed buildings and invest in exciting new mission projects right across the diocese. Legacies have helped churches undertake schemes to make them warmer; more energy efficient and even to install facilities such as serveries and toilets. . .



This leaflet tells you more about the difference you could make simply by leaving a gift to your church in your Will. Giving a share of your estate to the church goes hand in hand with your regular giving; it is an important part of our Christian stewardship.

Making a Will and reviewing it regularly is good stewardship too. If you do not make a valid Will, your loved ones could face significant trouble and expense after your death, and a court will decide how to distribute your estate and who looks after your dependants.

Making a Will and including a gift to your church can be simple to do and can have a tremendous impact on the future life of our church.

Please read this booklet and think seriously about acting on it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by 'B Price'.

The Right Reverend Peter B Price
The Bishop of Bath & Wells

Your church in the Diocese of Bath and Wells

Your parish is within the Diocese of Bath and Wells which has almost 300 clergy, over 200 readers and in excess of 30,000 regular worshippers across 506 churches.

In addition, over 35,000 young people attend church schools throughout the Diocese. But that is not the whole story; many parishes support and benefit from a growing number of youth and children's workers. These are often supported by the Fund for Church Growth - a fund that operates solely in this Diocese. Can a gift in your Will support this fund?

A gift in your Will can help your church carry on its vital work day after day, year after year. It can also make a lasting difference by enabling your church to achieve something that it would not normally be able to do. If you want to, you can channel your gift to mission or community projects, to maintenance of the church fabric, to youth work or music or to any other aspect of church life that matters to you.

Your local church may have produced a policy on how it will use legacies. This should help you see how a gift in your Will can make a significant difference to its longer-term mission and ministry.



What difference will your gift make?

A legacy gift can make a real difference. The Diocese supports churches in the less well off areas to enable them to remain open. This is made possible by the generosity of previous generations. Can you leave a gift in your Will?

Nationally the Church provides support to dioceses in less well off parts of the country. In Bath and Wells we are fortunate in living in a spectacular part of God's creation and in relative prosperity. A legacy gift to the national church could enable mission and ministry in inner city areas not as blessed as we are.



And, of course, we cannot ignore the brilliant work of Christian Aid, USPG etc - working in some of the most challenging areas of the world - in Jesus' name and on our behalf.

Christian Aid Jodi Bieber/NB Pictures

Your Will matters

- Thinking about life after death should not be difficult for Christians! Make sure you are prepared practically as well as spiritually, whatever your age; write a Will and keep it up to date.
- Having a Will can save your loved ones a lot of trouble. Without one, a court will decide how to divide your estate and who should look after your dependants.
- Many Christians give regularly and proportionately from their income. Why not give proportionately from your estate too?
- A gift to your church helps your church live out its mission in your community and can make plans it has dreamt of come true.
- It is a way to thank God for all the gifts of your lifetime, and to hand on the legacy we have received from generations of Christians past (our building, our faith) to Christians of the future.
- Leaving a gift in your Will is tax efficient and can reduce the amount of inheritance tax you pay. Gifts to charity are themselves free from inheritance tax, and the 2011 budget announced that if you leave 10% or more of your estate to charity (which includes the church), any inheritance tax due on the rest of the estate will be charged at a lower rate.

"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.

LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you."

(1 Chronicles 29)

When leaving gifts in your Will you might like to consider dividing your estate into 'shares' rather than specific cash amounts.

This has a number of benefits; it can help you provide for your family and friends first and share what is left over between your church and other charities that you care about; it reflects the Church's teaching on proportionate giving; and the value of your gift will not be eroded by inflation over time. Your solicitor will be able to help you with this.

How to make a Will

Making a Will and including a gift to your church in it can be a simple process and need not cost much. Some solicitors do it for free, in return for a donation to charity, during Will Aid Week each November.



Phone the Church Legacy & Wills Information Line on 08445 870875 and ask for a free pack to guide you through visiting your solicitor and making a Will. If you already have a Will, it should be straightforward to revise it.

Suggested wording to leave a gift to your church in your Will

We strongly advise you to see an independent solicitor when writing or amending your Will.

"I give _____ % of my residuary estate free of all taxes to the Parochial Church Council of the parish of _____ 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."



If you prefer to give a fixed amount of money rather than a share of your estate, replace the words in blue above with 'I give the sum of £ _____ (_____) free of all taxes...' Write the amount in numbers and then in words in the brackets, for clarity.

It can be difficult to know how much or how little we will have to leave. Dividing your estate into shares instead of fixed amounts of money can ensure your Will continues to reflect your wishes, and is in tune with the Church's teaching on proportionate giving.



Revising your Will

It is straightforward to make or revise your Will. If you already have a Will, a codicil may be an easy way to add a gift to your church. However, please seek professional advice, as this could save a lot of confusion in the future. Advice from a solicitor need not be expensive and the solicitor will give an indication of the likely cost before you decide whether to proceed.



To request a free guide to making a Will or for more information on different ways to leave gifts to the Church through your Will, phone the Church's Legacy & Wills Information Line on 08445 870875 or visit www.churchlegacy.org.uk.