



A CHURCH FOR THE CITY

WELCOMING ALL
CELEBRATING LIFE
SHARING THE JOURNEY

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



St Peter's Church, St Albans

From the Vicar

Our vision at St Peter's is to be a church for the city –
welcoming all,
celebrating life,
sharing the journey.

Lasting gifts to the church in the form of legacies are
an important part of enabling us to fulfil that vision.



The Rev'd Mark Dearnley, Vicar

We are privileged at St Peter's to worship in a beautiful and historic church which has been a place of prayer for over a thousand years. During that time it has also been at the centre of community life for the town, and more latterly for the city of St Albans. Many of those from former generations are remembered here for the part they played in the life of our church and city – their legacies are with us today.

As we reflect on the part that we are called to play in the unfolding story of St Peter's under the leading of God's Spirit, the lasting gifts of those who have gone before us encourage us to think about what difference we might make to God's mission in this place, both in our lifetime and after we have gone.

A financial legacy left to the church as part of your Will can be part of what you give alongside the legacy of your lifetime. Many special and important projects at St Peter's have been funded by such legacies over the years which otherwise could not have been easily achieved. Please may I invite you to consider leaving a legacy when you make or update your own Will, and help us to fulfil all that God calls us to be and do, as the parish church at the centre of our city's life today.



What a Legacy could do

For most churches, including St Peter's, regular congregational giving is largely absorbed in 'keeping the show on the road' – paying the parish share which provides for and trains the clergy, staff salaries, resourcing ministry and mission initiatives, insuring and heating the building, repairs and maintenance etc.

A gift from your estate is different. Gifts in Wills can enable our ministry to young people to develop, sustain our growing ministry amongst young families, help us to develop better care for the elderly, support the urgently needed extension and refurbishment of our buildings, support an overseas mission partner, preserve our historic church bells or our wonderful organ, enable our enviable musical tradition to continue training choristers into the next generation and much much more.

In short, legacy gifts offer a precious opportunity for furthering the mission and ministry of our church within the community in so many ways. Once you have made provision for your loved ones, you have the opportunity to support your local church in one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can.



A gift can be an expression of your gratitude and thanksgiving towards God, can help keep your local church alive, and help transform its future.

Your Will Matters

Getting around to thinking about a Will is important whatever stage of life we are at. It is about acknowledging that the gift of our lives is for a season and about wanting to pass on something of that gift to those who come after us. It is about responsible planning for the future, for those we love, and the things we care about.

As Christians we also do this in the light and hope of eternity.



- Whatever your age, write a Will and keep it up to date.
- Without a Will, your loved ones could face a lot of trouble, work and expense after your death.
- Without a Will, a court could decide how to distribute your goods and who should look after your children.
- Many Christians give regularly and proportionately from their income. As part of Christian giving, it is good also to plan to give proportionately from your estate too.
- A gift in your Will helps your church to live out its dreams and mission in this community.
- It's a way to thank God for all the gifts of our lifetime, and to hand on undimmed the legacy we've received from the faithful Christians who have gone before us.
- Leaving a gift in your Will can be tax efficient and can reduce the amount of inheritance tax you pay.



Parochial Church Council of St Peter's Legacy Policy

- St Peter's Church, St Albans is a registered charity, number 1131571, and welcomes gifts in Wills as acts of Christian stewardship.
- A legacy gift makes a difference in our parish life, however large or small.
- The PCC undertakes to use gifts to help fund significant development projects within the parish, whether for buildings, equipment, outreach or staff.
- As needs and priorities change over time, the PCC encourages leaving a gift in your Will for general purposes of the parish rather than for a restricted purpose.
- When the time comes, representatives of the PCC will, if possible, discuss with executors the projects which the Vicar and PCC would like to take forward and explore with the executors the donor's known areas of interest (e.g. music, buildings, children's work, mission/aid) to identify the project(s) which would most closely match the donor's interests.
- Appropriate forms of acknowledgement will be discussed with the donor or executors and requests for gifts to remain anonymous will be honoured.
- Any correspondence with donor or executors remains confidential, except for information required for statutory records.



The Garden of Hope with The Tree of Life memorial sculpture and, in the background, the Hope Stone on which is carved 'God is with us so there is hope'. The sculpture was partly funded by legacies.

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

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

A gift of a share in your residuary estate:

I give _____ % of my residuary estate free of all taxes to ...

Or for a gift of a fixed sum (for clarity write the amount in numbers and then, in the brackets, in words):

I give the sum of £_____ (_____) free of all taxes to ...

and then, in either case, continue:

... the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Peter's, registered charity number 1131571, in the diocese of St Albans for its general purposes, and I declare that the receipt of an officer of the Council shall be sufficient discharge to my executors and trustees.

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.

3 steps ...

Three steps that we encourage every adult member of our church to take:

- 1 Make a Will and review it regularly.
- 2 Consider leaving a residuary gift in your Will to our parish. For help with both these steps visit www.churchlegacy.org.uk.
- 3 Get a free information pack about making a Will and making a difference to the work of the wider church. Phone 08445 7879875 to order a free pack from the Church's Legacy and Wills Information Line.

You can also speak in confidence to the Vicar or to our Parish Giving Officer about legacies at any time using the contact details below:

Peter Court
104 How Wood
Park Street
St Albans
AL2 2SD

Tel:
01727 873635

Email:
peter.e.court@gmail.com

OUR VISION

We are called to be a church for the city –

Welcoming all, celebrating life, sharing the journey.



A Church for the City

As the historic town church, we seek to serve the life of our city and parish in partnership with others, and to make God's love visible. This includes support of civic occasions, community events, city-wide developments, the work of local charitable organisations in line with our priorities, and our hosting of concerts & the arts.

We have faith in the city.

Welcoming all

We seek to offer generous hospitality and the inclusive welcome of Christ to all who come through our doors, whether newcomers, visitors, pilgrims, shoppers, those seeking weddings or baptisms, those requesting other kinds of help.

We embrace diversity.

Celebrating life

We seek to celebrate as sacred the life of all creation and to promote human flourishing. This includes our commitment to issues of global justice and the environment; to music, liturgy and learning which nourish the human spirit; and to the nurturing of children and young people in the faith.

We cherish the gift of life.

Sharing the journey

We seek to be pilgrims on a journey into deeper knowledge and love of God, and to build a Christ-centred community at the core of church life. We are called through our mutual care and pastoral ministry to share in life's celebrations and sorrows, and to inspire faith today in continuity with St Peter's ancient witness.

We invite you to travel with us.



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