



## **Making a Gift in Your Will**

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

### **A Gift in Your Will**

A gift in your Will can keep our Church alive in our community—and transform its future.

Many of us give a proportion of our income to support our church every week. But we are stewards of everything we own, not just our income. As Christians, we are encouraged to give a proportion of all that we have to support the mission and ministry of our church too.

### **Your Will**

- 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 them on to future generations.
- Leaving a gift in your Will can be tax efficient and can reduce the amount of inheritance tax you pay.

## 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 enable our ministry to young people and families to develop, help us to develop better care for the elderly, support the ongoing refurbishment of our buildings, support our outreach and missions ministry, enable the music and worship life of the church to flourish, and preserve our historic church bells and our organ ..... and much much more.

## Your Gift

We welcome all legacies, however big or small, and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in our parish. PCCs generally use legacies to help fund significant development projects in the parish, whether buildings, equipment or staff. Since needs change over the years, you are encouraged to leave a gift for the general purposes of the parish. PCCs will often discuss with executors the most appropriate use of the gift in the light of current projects and your areas of interest in the church.



## 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.
- Appropriate forms of acknowledgement will be discussed with the donor or executors and requests for gifts to remain anonymous will be honoured.
- 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.
- 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:*

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

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

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

...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](http://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 870875 to order a free pack from the Church's Legacy and Wills Information Line.

You can also speak in confidence to our Parish Giving Officer about legacies 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](mailto:peter.e.court@gmail.com)*

**01727 855485 | [mail@stpeterschurch.uk.com](mailto:mail@stpeterschurch.uk.com) | [www.stpeterschurch.uk.com](http://www.stpeterschurch.uk.com)**

**St Peter's Church, St Peter's Street, St Albans, AL1 3HG.**