

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



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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First and foremost...



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 Southwell and Nottingham. They help us to keep our clergy, maintain our parish churches, and enable us to invest in exciting new mission projects right across the Diocese.

For example, two parishes in the north of the Diocese both received significant legacies recently. These have enabled them to jointly fund the work of a children's and youth worker which will make a real difference to their ministry with young people.

This booklet tells you more about the difference you could make simply by leaving a gift to your church in your Will. Leaving something to the church when you die 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 don't 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 have a tremendous impact on the future life of our church.

I would like to encourage you to read this booklet and think seriously about acting on it.

+ Paul Southwell & Nottingham



CODICIL

A codicil is the easiest way to include a straightforward gift to your church if you have already written your Will. Complete a codicil in the form below and sign and date it in front of 2 witnesses (who must not be a beneficiary or the spouse of a beneficiary). The witnesses should then each sign the codicil in your presence and in the presence of each other. Once completed, the codicil should be kept with your original Will. If in doubt, you should seek advice from a solicitor.

CODICIL	
I, _____	(name) of
_____	(address)
declare this to be the _____ (1st/2nd/3rd etc) Codicil to my Will dated _____ (date). I give: _____ % of my residuary estate OR a gift of £ _____ (_____)	
<i>[choose one of these options and delete the other. If choosing the latter option, insert amount in numbers then, in the brackets, in words]</i> 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 Council shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors and trustees. In all other respects I confirm my Will and any previous codicils thereto. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand on this the _____ (date).	
Signature _____	(the testator/rix).
This codicil was signed by the above named person in our joint presence, and then by us in his/hers.	
Signature _____	Name _____
Address _____	
Signature _____	Name _____
Address _____	

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 but would like to add a gift to your church, you may prefer to use the codicil form opposite.

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.



Your church in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham

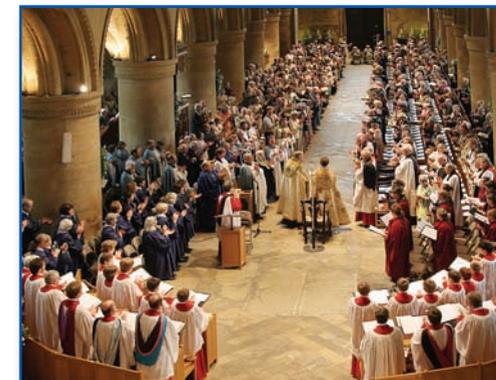
Your parish is within the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham which has around 180 clergy, over 250 readers and in excess of 18,500 regular worshippers across over 307 churches. In addition, over 18,500 young people attend the 70 church schools throughout the Diocese.

That is not the whole story; many parishes support and benefit from a growing number of youth and children's workers. There are many different chaplaincies in hospitals, prisons, education and other areas as well as numerous community projects providing Christian mission and ministry to all sorts of people every day of the week.

A gift in your Will can help your church carry on its vital work 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.

Leaving your gift for general purposes enables your church to use it in the best way for its mission. However, 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.

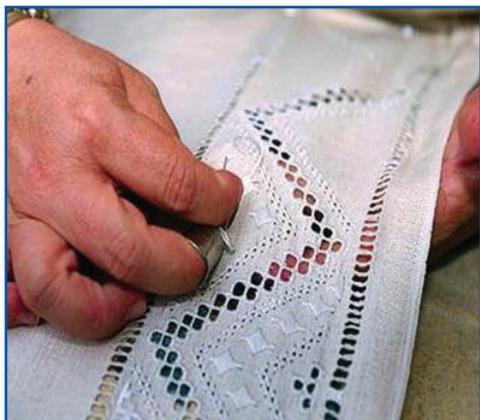


What difference will your gift make?

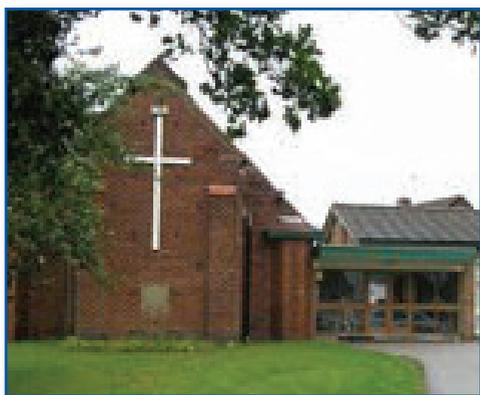


A legacy gift can make a real difference.

The medieval church of St Mary Magdalene, Hucknall has used part of a recent legacy to purchase and install new sound and audio equipment. The remainder of this gift has been used to prime the Tower Appeal Fund.



At St Anne's, Worksop a group of ladies now meet regularly to make altar frontals and kneelers and to enjoy each other's company. The money for this enterprise was left to the church by a parishioner who loved her needlework. This is a wonderful example of how a relatively small legacy can be used to provide friendship and companionship whilst enhancing the beauty of the church.



A recent gift has enabled a church in Mansfield to replace the central heating boiler which has made both the church and the adjacent church hall much more warm and welcoming. It is already encouraging greater community use.

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 in your Will helps your church live out its mission in your community and can make its dreams 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.

"I have left a legacy to my parish because I realise that whilst regular giving covers day to day expenses, it is useful to have funds for the one-off big bills and special projects that are part of running a church. I also believe that all we have comes from God and as such I am giving back part of that which I have been given."

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.