

Gifts in Wills

Autumn 2024

Welcome!


Making a will is not a prospect most of us relish, which might be why only 42% of UK adults have a will.* For a church, discussing gifts that could be left in a will is also a challenge. Perhaps for that reason, Church of England members are three times more likely to leave a legacy to a charity than to their church, and most of them say no one has ever asked them to consider leaving a gift in this way.**

Making legacy information available is not about being heavy handed or grabbing – it's simply giving people the opportunity to consider it if they want to. Some of the most common reasons people give for not having a will are dotted around this newsletter. The good news is that they can all be addressed by using freely available resources.

*National Wills Report

**Anglican Giving Survey 2020

For the avoidance of doubt, 'Gifts in wills' and 'legacies' are essentially the same thing and the terms are used interchangeably in this newsletter.



Nearly 20% of wills in the UK are now produced by a will-writing company, and because there are no appointments to be made, or time to be taken off work, it's simple to arrange and you are guided through the process. There's no danger of the final will being invalid as they are always checked by qualified solicitors.

Encouraging gifts in wills

New for 2024 are **bookmarks, leaflets and posters** which are designed in Canva so you can customise them with your church's details.



All nine of the current resources are now available as **free downloads** on the new Gifts in Wills page on the Church of England website. These cover PCC guidance, general awareness raising and detailed help with writing a will. Print them yourself, or have a High Street or online bureau do it for you. If you'd like to order resources ready-printed, you can order small numbers of free sample copies, or larger numbers for bigger campaigns. Postage is payable.

"I don't know how to write a will"

"I just haven't got round to making a will"

Making a Will

The Church of England has once again **partnered with Farewill** to offer a free online will writing service. There is no obligation for people to leave a gift to their local church, but many do – over £3m has been left to local churches through Farewill since 2021.

If you'd like to think about this – you can find everything you need here.



"Making a will? It'll cost more than I've got to leave!"

christian aid

If you'd like to run a legacy campaign in your Church look at these great resources from Christian Aid.

Get in touch if you have any questions, or would like to discuss running a legacy campaign in your church.