



A hopeful hour
about legacies





Elizabeth Worth: St Margaret's Putney

- A “once-in-a-generation opportunity.”
- Lasting impact.
- Enabling connections, reflecting her life of faith.



Do you know about any legacies
left to your church?



- Church of England: around £60 million* per year
- Diocese of Southwark: over £2 million* per year
 - Each year, between 22% and 45% of our parishes receive a legacy.
 - Gifts vary from £100s to £100,000s.

* Details from Parish Finance returns

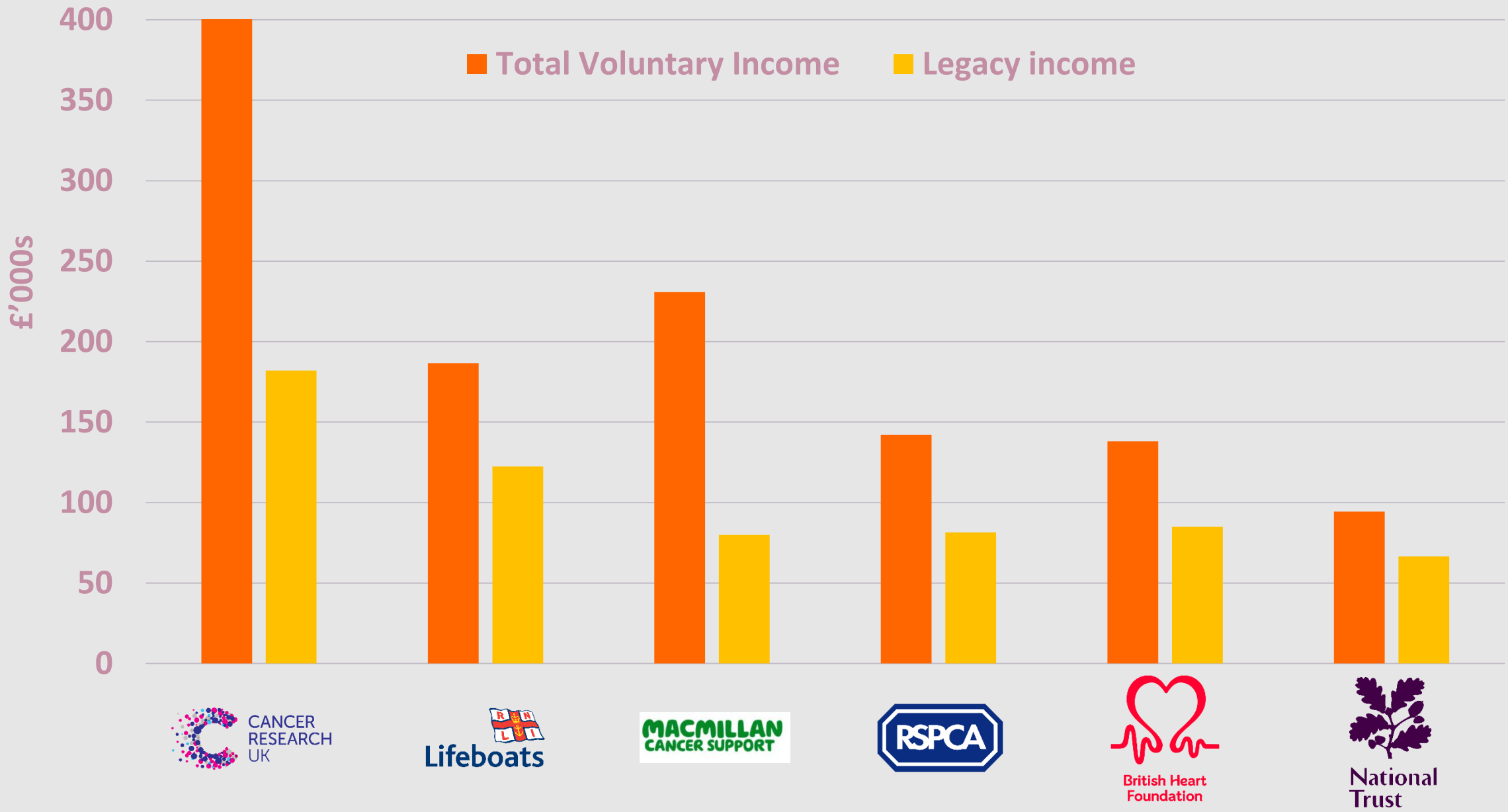


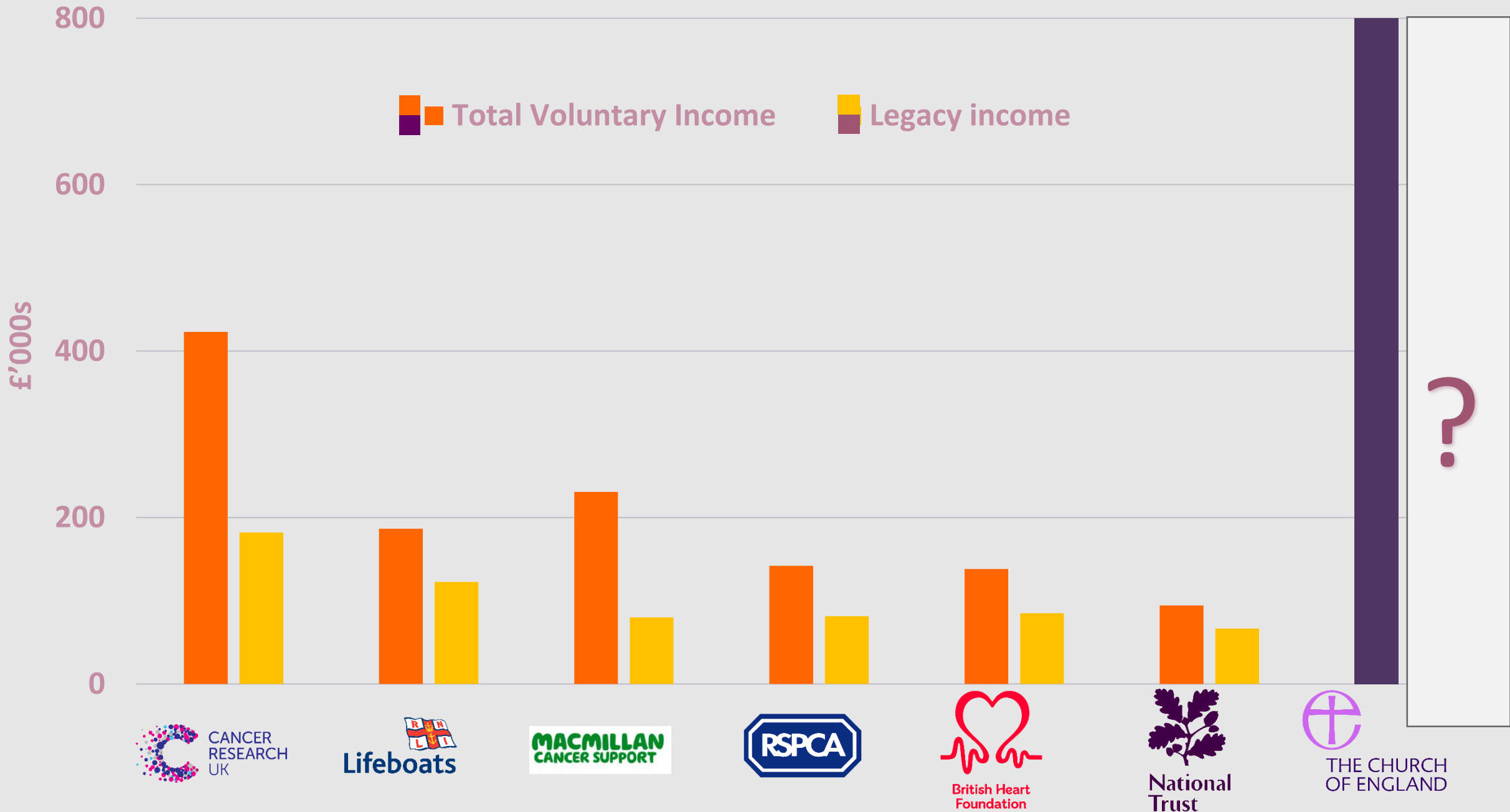
- Anglicans are around x3 more likely to leave a gift to a charity than to their church*.
- Diocese of Southwark: 25% of our parishes didn't receive any legacies in the last 3 years, 14% in the last 5 years**.
- 2/3 of Anglicans have made a will*.

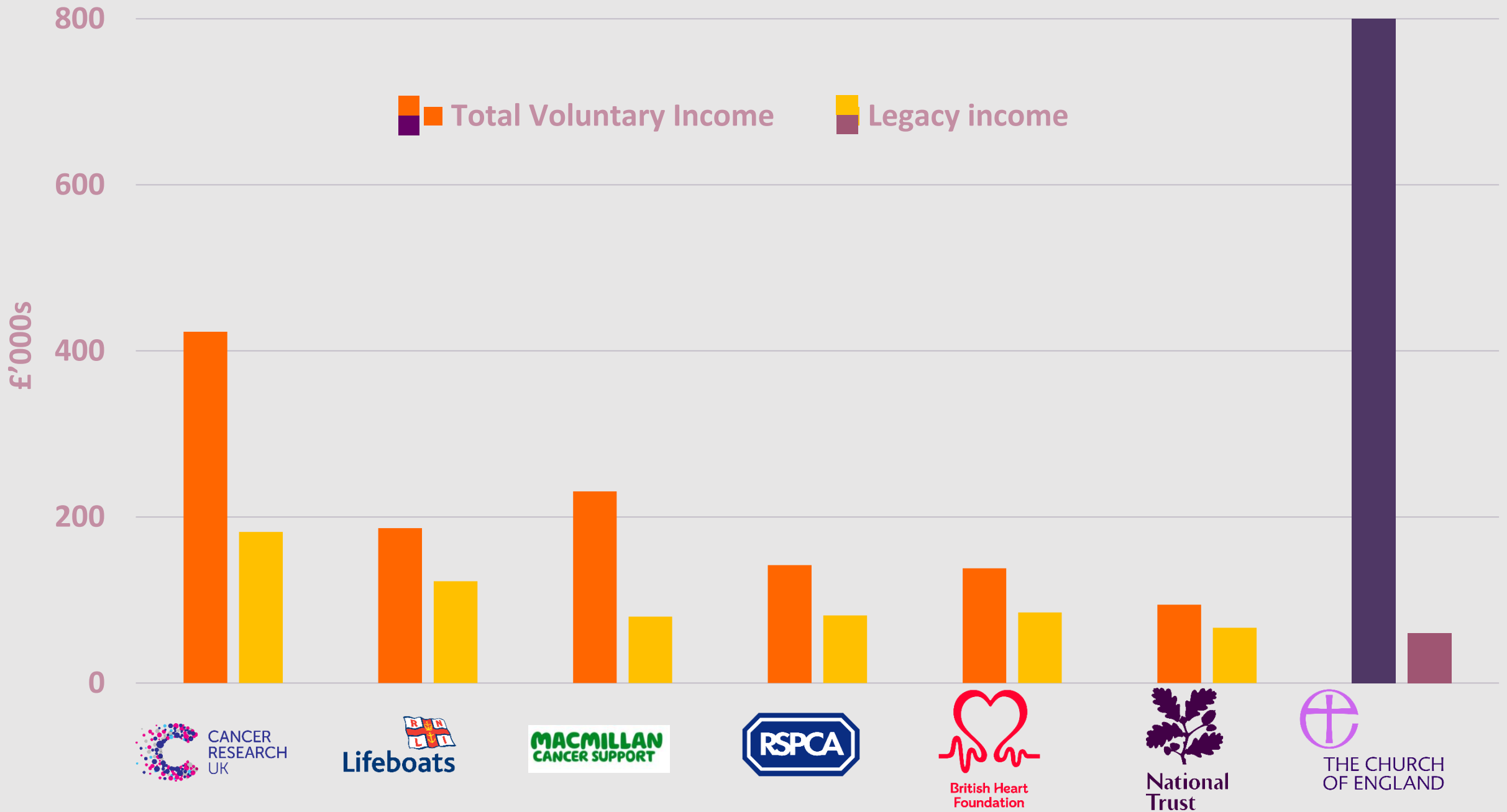
* Anglican Giving Survey, 2021

** Parish Finance Returns









- 77% of Anglicans are aware churches can receive gifts in wills....*
- ...but only 15% of Anglicans have ever been asked to support their church by leaving a legacy.*

* Anglican Giving Survey, 2021



Why have only 15% of Anglicans been asked to consider leaving a gift to their church in their will?

What are the barriers?



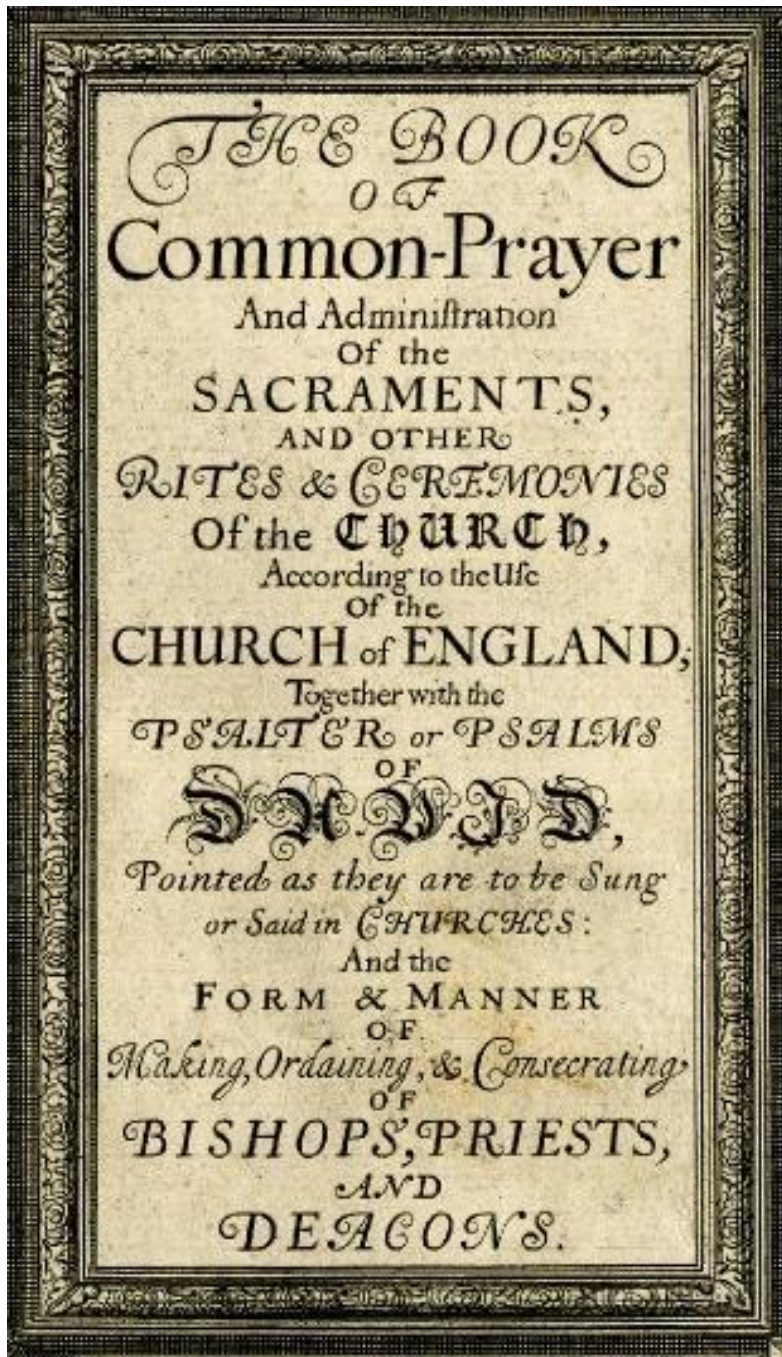
Nervousness about the conversations?

Most people agreed that the Church should definitely offer a listening ear about death (61 %); and guidance or preparation for someone's death (55 %)*.

1 in 4 have thought about fear of dying, whether there is life after death, how they might be remembered or dying alone*.

1 Thessalonians 4.13: we “may not grieve as others do who have no hope.”





Nothing new!

“let him then be admonished to make his Will... for the better discharging of his conscience, and the quietness of his Executors... men should often be put in remembrance to take order for the settling of their temporal estates, whilst they are in health”

Book of Common Prayer, 1662



Where do I start?

Three top tips – and a bonus

1. PCC pass a **legacy policy** - and communicate it.
2. Find a **legacy co-ordinator** – personalised leaflets, thank yous, someone to talk to.
3. Help people **write a will** – Farewill is an easy start.

BONUS! A way of starting the conversation: Faith Will



1. A legacy policy

“At St Agatha’s we welcome all gifts in Wills ... and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in our parish....

Our PCC legacy policy is to use gifts to help fund significant development projects; whether buildings ... mission or staff.

... Since needs change over the years, we encourage you to leave a gift for the general purposes of the church ...

...if you would like to talk to someone in confidence about leaving a legacy...



2. What might a legacy coordinator do?



St Mary's Merton: Ian Aldridge

- makes information available.
- provides a confidential listening ear.
- works with the vicar to ensure names are remembered in a liturgy of remembrance each November.

“Making a will ensures a person’s wishes are respected after their death and gives peace of mind for their loved ones. My church has benefitted from gifts in wills, enabling us to meet the cost of a public address system in church and helping to pay for significant improvements to the church hall, a great asset enjoyed by people in our part of London.”

What might a legacy coordinator do?

- Sharing at PCCs and APCMs
- Testimonies
- Preaching
- Website
- Small groups
- Emails
- Parish Magazines
- Thank you letters



Thank yous!

Saying thank you is really important - although you might not always know when someone has written you into their will. So find other ways:

- Thank friends and family
- Remember givers publicly (if friends and family agree)
- Include in other thanks





The Church of England

28 July at 08:00 · 🌐

'My sister Hazel and her husband Frank loved living in Lightwater. Most of all they loved All Saints' and its congregation.' David (right), pictured with Hazel and Frank, loved hearing the newly-restored churchbells ring out at the church where he grew up with his sister. Thanks to a gift left in their Will to their local church, the bells were restored and rung again for the first time in three years. "



churchlegacy.co.uk

Learn More

Leave a gift in your Will to your local church today

👍❤️ 104

2 comments 16 shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

🔄 Share

ANNUAL THANK YOU LETTER

At this time of year we write to thank you for your support to our wonderful St Mary's Church.


Thank you to everyone who has given to the weekly collection, monthly via Standing Order, to help fund the new organ and to everyone who has included a gift in their will.

All these gifts help us to continue our ministry and mission to the community. Thank you

3. Help people write a will

One third of Anglicans have not written a will, so create opportunities and reminders.




 Farewill

Write your will for free

We're here to help you write your will in just 30 minutes. Your free will code '**SOUTHWARKDIOCESE**' will be automatically applied at check-out.

[Get started](#)

Over 14,000 reviews | 4.9 on Trustpilot

 Trustpilot

- Farewill – free, online, 30 minutes (for simple wills).
- Work with other churches to hold a will-writing event.
- Is there a solicitor in your congregation or community?



BONUS!

Take opportunities (Diocesan Speakers, Death Cafes)

AND - such as Faith Will

Over to Christian Aid!



Resources to Help You

www.churchofengland.org/legacies

www.southwark.anglican.org/legacies

We're here to help! Leaflets, co-ordination (eg, with deaneries), talking through ideas, talks and sermons



What is a realistic first step for you?



Who? What? When?



- Get a slot on the PCC agenda.
- Talk to the Giving Team about making a personalised leaflet.
- Find out if there are any solicitors in the congregation.



Resources to Help You



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jenny.dawkins@southwark.anglican.org

