

A lasting gift



Leaving
a legacy
to your
church

Walking | Welcoming | Growing



Peace of mind for you, your family and friends

For nearly 400 years the Church of England has encouraged people to make a will as an expression of Christian generosity and an act of care. When Archbishop Thomas Cranmer wrote the first English Prayer Book, he reminded parishioners to keep their wills up to date, and to be generous with this, their final gift.

Why should you write a will?

Writing a will means you choose:

- How you would like to share your property and possessions;
- Who you would like to look after any children under the age of 18;
- How to support any charities or churches that are important to you.

Without a will, these decisions will be made according to pre-ordained rules, and by the courts, which may be different from your wishes. Leaving a will gives you peace of mind and lifts a burden from loved ones after you are gone.

“For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.”

1 Chronicles 29:14

A gift for future generations

After you have made provision for your family and friends, we hope you'll also consider a gift in your will to a church that has been significant for you. A legacy is a valuable expression of how meaningful a church has been during your time there. It's a way to give thanks - a lasting testimony to the faithfulness, goodness and generosity of God.

How do I write or update my will?



Make a simple will for free.

Over 30% of worshippers in Church of England churches are yet to make a will. When asked why, around 60% of people said simply that they have not got around to it.

To make it easy, the Church of England has partnered with Farewill, the nation's favourite will-writer. You can write your will for free, online, in as little as thirty minutes.

Visit www.farewill.com/southwarkdiocese or scan to find out more.



Last Will
AND TESTAMENT

Add a codicil to an existing will.

Suggested wording for your will

"I give ___% of my residuary estate OR I give the sum of £___ (pounds only) free of all taxes to the Parochial Church Council of the parish of _____ in the Diocese of Southwark for its general purposes. I declare that the receipt of an officer of the Parochial Church Council shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors and trustees.

We strongly advise you see a solicitor when writing or amending your will.

What legacies have enabled in Southwark Diocese

Gifts of any size can make a great difference to a church.

St Leonard's, Streatham



Congregation member Mimi bequeathed St Leonard's with a generous unrestricted gift of £20,000 upon her passing. This allowed for the PCC to use Mimi's gift for a missional project that they had wanted to grow for a long time: music.

Appointing a Director of Music, an adults choir grew and diversified, and soon after a children's choir was started - which now has more than 20 children practising each week and singing every month during a service.

St Margaret's, Putney

The Worth Project is a development that will allow for a new parish centre and much needed building work to take place at St Margaret's. This all thanks to a substantial legacy left by congregation member Elizabeth Worth. Her legacy will make a lasting impact on the church and local community for centuries to come.



For more information contact:

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