

Why Make a Will at all?

If you die without making a Will, it is called Intestacy.

- Intestacy could mean that complete strangers have control of your affairs.
- Intestacy means that you have no say in who takes your property after your death.
- Intestacy restricts the amount of money that goes to your husband or wife where you have children.

Where do I go to make a Will?

If you already have a solicitor, contact them. If not, most solicitors can help you.

A solicitors fee is small compared with what could be lost if you do not have a Will which adequately reflects your wishes.



What do I need to tell the Solicitor?

If you wish to leave a legacy to St Mary's, the details to give your solicitor are as follows:

Beneficiary: St Mary's Church, Ely,
Parochial Church Council.

Address: St Mary's Street, Ely, Cambs,
CB7 4HF

You can leave a legacy for a specific purpose, but leaving an unconditional legacy to be used at the discretion of the PCC is the most helpful option. It is PCC policy to discuss with your executors the kind of use of the legacy which would fit with your particular interests.

We have another leaflet which includes suitable wording which may help your solicitor. Copies are on the church finance notice board, called "Legacies – guidance on making a legacy to St Mary's".

St Mary's Ely
Registered Charity 1133993

St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
ELY
CB7 4HF
Phone: 01353 659550
E-Mail: office@stmarysely.org

YOUR LEGACY TO ST MARY'S



For a Thriving Church In the 21st century

St Mary's Ely
Registered Charity 1133993

What is a legacy?

Legacies to the church or charities enable you to leave a proportion of your assets after you have died.

There are three types of legacy:

- Residual legacies leave shares of your estate after any other provisions.
- Pecuniary legacies leave fixed sums of money.
- Specific legacies leave particular items of property.

Everyone should consider leaving a legacy – it's not just for those who feel "rich".

St Mary's PCC has adopted the following policy on how to handle legacies:

We welcome gifts in Wills, however large or small, and we are committed to using such gifts to make a difference in the future mission and ministry of the church in our parish. Our policy is to use such gifts to help fund significant development projects within the parish, whether for buildings, equipment or staff.

Since needs change over the years, we encourage all who wish to leave a gift to the church in their Will to do so for general rather than restricted purposes. The executors of Wills containing such gifts can, when the time comes, discuss with the churchwardens or the priest in charge, what such gifts will be used for. They will bear in mind the donor's known areas of interest in the church (e.g. music, buildings, children, mission or aid) and the church's priorities at the time. If donors or executors wish to discuss any aspect of such bequests they should contact the church office to arrange a meeting with the churchwardens or the priest in charge.

Gifts will be acknowledged publicly if donors and their executors feel this to be appropriate, but will be treated as anonymous if the donor prefers.

Why should I leave legacies to the church?

It's our privilege, as the Church family, to provide for a thriving Christian church for future generations.

Christians want to give generously during their lifetime as a response to God's love, but legacies are a means of expressing generosity at a level which may not have been possible earlier in life.

Legacies to the church are both an act of thanksgiving to God and a witness to family and friends.

Our faith in Jesus allows us to prepare positively for death. This can extend to material things.

Legacies can complete a lifetime of faithful giving, but only if a Will is made.

Legacies enable St. Mary's to do some things that would normally be financially out of reach.

Every legacy helps.

How do I make or amend my Will?

If you have already made a Will, you will need to keep it up to date as you get older and a new Will can be made at any time.

More simply, you can add charitable legacies to your Will by seeing your solicitor about an amendment called a codicil.

The help of a solicitor ensures that your Will really does reflect your wishes.

When you visit your solicitor, remember to make a brief list of the things you own (your assets) to take with you. Think about your intentions before you go. This will save both time and costs. Make sure you have the names and addresses accurately written down for any legacies you wish to include.

