

What is a legacy?

A legacy is a gift left in one's will to provide support for an individual or to an organisation after one's death. It is a means one can use to express generosity at a level which may not have been possible earlier in one's life. It is a means by which a person, who has given a proportion of their income to a particular cause during their life, can arrange to do so with their capital after their death.

When making one's will one might want to consider leaving such a gift to one's local church or denomination, just as we might leave a gift to friends or family.

As a Christian

... one is called to give generously and cheerfully in response to the love we receive from God. A legacy to one's church can help our Church train clergy and laity to teach, preach, guide and comfort God's people. It can also help the Church care for the most vulnerable in our society and to help and preserve our buildings as places of spiritual exploration and worship.

As an individual ...

... one is generous to those one loves; using one's time, talents and treasures for their benefit. Should one treat God any differently?

How to leave a legacy?

Your solicitor will be able to help you with the details but there are basically three ways in which you can leave a legacy:

A fixed sum of money (*pecuniary legacy*)

A gift of a share (proportion of percentage) of your estate after any other provisions are made (*residuary legacy*)

A gift of a particular item/s (*specific legacy*)

Why should I consider leaving a legacy to my church?

Our Church exists to continue the ministry of Jesus. We can express our commitment to him by reaching out to the people of the world he loves. As followers of Christ we are called to serve those whom society often rejects or excludes – the homeless, the friendless, those who are ill and in pain be it physically, mentally and/or spiritually. We also seek to care for the isolated and vulnerable and we invite the 'heavy laden' to take rest in the welcoming heart of our Church.

In order to respond to Christ's call to ministry in the world we also have to care for those already in the fold. That is why:

- We work to empower all God's people to be ministers of Christ
- We continue to train our clergy and lay ministers to be caring pastors and effective evangelists
- We cherish the beautiful churches and cathedrals we have inherited and their daily round of worship

Scripture tells us that Jesus was able to do his work because of the generosity of his friends and supporters. A gift in your Will, will be a testament to your commitment to the ministry of Christ and help ensure that the Scottish Episcopal Church continues to share in God's mission for years to come.



How do I make or amend my Will?

If you already have a Will it is important to ensure that it is kept up to date. A new Will can be made at anytime and a charitable legacy can be added easily by your legal advisor.

Home-made Wills can be fraught with problems as it is all too easy to make a mistake which could lead to problems in settling your estate. Having your Will drawn up by a professional enables you to have peace of mind knowing that your Will really does reflect your wishes.

If you decide to have your Will drawn up professionally it is useful to have done a little homework before visiting your solicitor:

- Make a brief list of everything you own (*your assets*)
- Write down your intentions as simply as you can: who you would like to receive what be they family, friends, your church or other charitable organisations or causes
- Write down the names and addresses of all the people and organisations to be included in your Will, together, if you know them with any relevant charity numbers.

Any money you leave to charity in your Will is given favourable tax treatment. In some instances this can have a beneficial effect on the overall amount of tax paid on your estate. Again your legal or financial advisor will be able to advise you on this issue.



To whom can I leave a legacy?

Your local Scottish Episcopal Congregation will greatly appreciate an unconditional legacy. You can also leave a legacy for a specific purpose, such as towards paying the clergy stipend or the fabric fund. If you wish to do this it is important to discuss it with your local church treasurer, priest or vestry representative.

You can also leave a legacy to your particular diocese who can then use it to offer direct support to the congregations, or to other ministries (hospital or university chaplaincies for example) where additional funds can make the greatest difference to the lives of others.

You can also leave a legacy to the Province through the General Synod Office for similar use and reasons.

There are also many Christian missionary agencies and other organisations, that your local church may support and you may wish to remember in your Will.

You are not limited in the amount of support you may choose to give, or in the types of gift/legacies you may wish to leave. For example someone who is unsure of the value of their estate could decide to leave a cash (*pecuniary*) legacy as well as a share in their estate's residue (*residuary legacy*).



What type of outreach might my legacy support?

Ask your local church or diocese what its mission and ministry priorities, hopes and dreams are; ask to see their mission statement.

As a Province we seek to develop the spiritual heritage of our denomination in many ways:

- By incorporating our young people into the full life of the church, through the Provincial Youth Network.
- By commitment to the most disadvantaged in our society through providing a church presence in areas of need and by responding to the vulnerable and most needy whenever and wherever need arises.
- By training our people for a variety of ministries, in a variety of diverse situations and by a variety of means.
- By supporting our existing clergy in their ministry by further training and support, by ensuring that those aspects of personal security they often forego can be put in place for them – such as ensuring they have a home to live in, in retirement.
- By maintaining the upkeep of our churches as living testament to the glory and love of God and as centres of outreach and worship.



*Your
Will be
done...*

*How your legacy can
further the work of your
Church*