

What to say in a will

If you decide to donate to St Mary's in your will, you can choose one of two approaches.

Either you can give a specific amount (a specific legacy)

Or you can give a percentage of your net assets, after deciding how much your loved ones need to have (a residuary legacy)

The main problem when you make a will is that you don't know how much money you will leave. The advantage of the second approach is that you can make all the necessary provision for your loved ones, and then leave a proportion of what's left to charity, including the church.

Suggested wording for your will:

"I give [£.....(pounds....)] OR [...per cent of my residuary estate] free of all taxes to the Parochial Church Council of the parish of St Mary-at-Finchley in the Diocese of London, for its general purposes, and I declare that the receipt of an officer of the Parochial Church Council shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors and trustees."

What to do now?

- Think and pray about your possessions and money, and how you would like to leave them when you die
- Think and pray about how much you would like to leave to your family, and then to charities and the church
- Consider talking to Nigel Wildish, the St Mary's Legacy Officer
- Go to a solicitor to get your will made



*Lord God, giver of everything,
Help us to remember that Jesus said,
'It is more blessed to give than to receive'.
Fill our hearts with that love
Which knows that real happiness and true
wealth
Come from sharing all that we have;
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*



A legacy for St Mary's

Christian giving on our death

We are God's stewards, entrusted to use his gifts for the good of our loved ones and our church family. For this reason, as members of St Mary's, we take seriously the task of giving regularly to St Mary's out of our income. Our gifts are made out of gratitude to God and His church and to support the costs of the church in relation to its mission and ministry.

We should take will-writing seriously too, because it is a further response to God's generosity. At the end of our lives, our possessions and money will be distributed, and with God's help, we should direct that distribution. If we do not make a will, those assets may not be passed on as God would wish.

"Yours, O LORD, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Riches and honour come from you"

1 Chronicles 29.11-12

Why a legacy for the church?

On death, we should provide for the people and causes we love, as guided by God. They will include our loved ones in need, and charities and the church. We make our will in accordance with those principles.

A gift to St Mary's can help keep it alive and transform its future.



Your gift to St Mary's could be used in many different ways. It might be used to help maintain the fabric for future generations; or provide a piece of equipment or furniture for us to use; or you may simply want to help the church's mission, in providing staff or facilities for the church's many users.

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9.7

Find out more

Nigel Wildish is the St Mary's Legacy Officer. He is happy to talk through your options and provide more information or you can speak to the Rector or a Churchwarden.

To make a will, you are strongly advised to get the advice of a solicitor. This is particularly important for those who are not British, as getting probate for them is more complicated.

Meanwhile, there is a wealth of advice and information on the internet, for example at:

www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax

www.churchlegacy.org.uk

www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk

