

FAQs

Why leave a gift in my will?

A legacy gift is one way of expressing gratitude for all that the Church has meant in your life. It can help ensure that St Mary's continues to be a place of worship, welcome, prayer and service for generations to come.

Do I need to be wealthy to leave a legacy?

No. Gifts of every size make a difference. Many people choose to leave a small percentage of their estate rather than a fixed amount.

Can I leave a gift for a particular purpose?

Yes. You may leave a gift for a particular area of ministry or for the upkeep of St Mary's building. Because priorities and needs can change over time, we encourage you to discuss any specific intentions with the Rector before finalising your will.

Will a legacy affect my family?

Your family and loved ones should always come first. Many people choose to provide for those closest to them and then leave a proportion of what remains to causes that matter to them.

How do I make a legacy gift?

A legacy gift is made in your will, so the first step is to contact a solicitor to draw up a new will or amend an existing one. Wills are legal documents and, as small errors can cause significant problems, it is important to have someone legally qualified to draft or amend your will.

Do I need to tell the church?

No. Your gift can remain entirely private. However, if you choose to tell us, it allows us to thank you and, if you wish, include you among those whose generosity we remember in our prayers.

Thank you

We are very grateful that you are considering leaving a legacy for the work of St Mary's and/or the care of its building.

Such gifts are acts of generosity and hope. They help ensure that future generations will continue to find in this place worship, prayer, welcome, beauty and service to the community.

Each year, as a mark of our appreciation, we will invite those who have pledged a legacy, and those close to them, to a simple gathering of thanksgiving and fellowship.

If you choose to leave a legacy, or if you have already done so, please let us know so that we may thank you appropriately and include you among those whose generosity we remember in our prayers.

A Prayer

Heavenly Father, giver of every good gift,

we thank you for all that we have received

through the life and ministry of your Church.

Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us,

that through our generosity others may come to know

your love and faithfulness.

Bless this church and all who worship here.

May it continue to be a place of prayer, welcome and hope

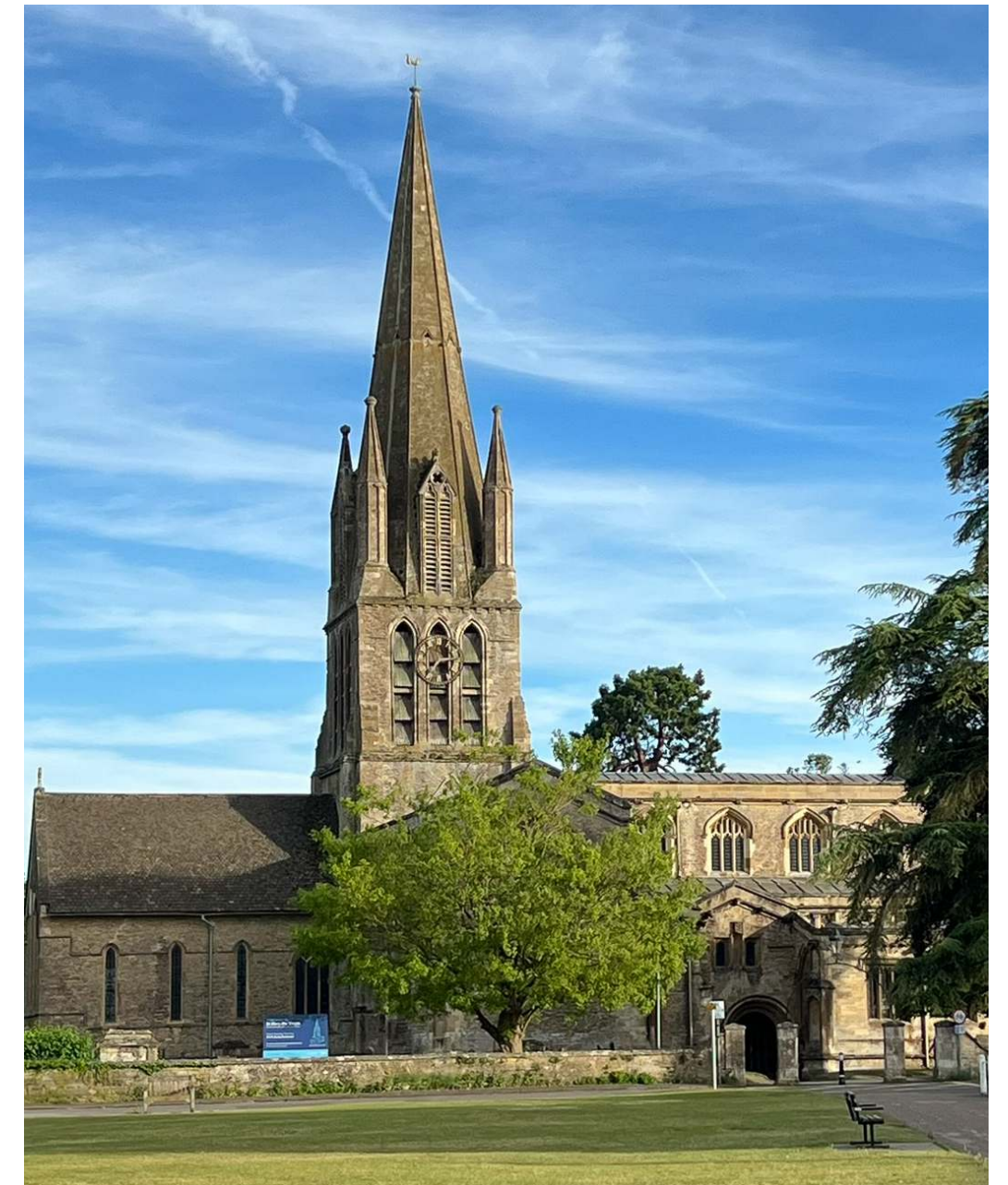
for generations to come;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ST MARY'S: PARISH OF WITNEY

Leaving a gift in your will



Supporting the future of St Mary's

A lasting gift to your church



As a worshipper in St Mary's, part of the wider Parish of Witney, you share in an unbroken tradition of worship in that beautiful space since 1243. St Mary's is an iconic building, a historic landmark, but also a vibrant living church, sustained by the faithful for nearly 800 years.

As you plan how to distribute your estate and make provision for your loved ones, we pray that you will be inspired to follow generations of Witney Christians in leaving a final and powerful expression of your thanksgiving to God. A gift in your will can be a lasting way to support your successors in spreading the good news of Jesus.

A gift in your will for the Parish will help ensure that St Mary's and the other churches of the parish will continue their ministry, meeting the spiritual and pastoral needs of future generations. You may also, or instead, want to leave a gift to help with the care and maintenance of St Mary's building itself, a constant challenge because of its age and size.

Called to be a community of mercy and kindness

How your gift could help

A) Unrestricted gift (to the PCC)

If you wish to support the ministry and mission of the church, its spiritual and pastoral work is funded across the wider Parish of Witney. You should therefore make your gift to the Parochial Church Council, allowing the Rector and the PCC to decide how the funds might most effectively be used at the time of your gift.

B) Restricted to upkeep and maintenance of the building (to the DCC)

If you want your legacy to help to ensure that the fabric of St Mary's, its building and fittings, is kept in good repair for future generations, you should make your gift to the St. Mary's District Church Council which is responsible for upkeep.

C) Specified purpose

It is of course open to you to make your legacy for a specific purpose which is important to you, but in that case we would ask you first to discuss it with the Rector, before giving detailed instructions to the solicitor preparing your will.

Suggested wording for a standard legacy gift

“ I give___% of my residuary estate OR I give the sum of £_____ pounds only free of all taxes.

Either A)... to the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Witney, registered charity number 1129784, in the Diocese of Oxford for its general purposes

Or B)... to the District Church Council of St Mary the Virgin Witney for the upkeep of its building

And I declare that the receipt of an officer of the Parochial Church Council (for A) or District Church Council (for B) shall be sufficient discharge to my executors and trustees.”

Making a gift in your will

Most importantly, please take legal advice to help you decide which of the following types of legacy gift would be right for you

1. A Residuary legacy
2. A Pecuniary legacy
3. A Reversionary legacy
4. A Gift in Kind
5. A Deed of Variation
6. Life Assurance

For further information about leaving a legacy to your church you can visit:
www.churchlegacy.org.uk



Further information

For further information on how you might help St Mary's or the Parish as a whole, or to discuss a potential legacy in confidence, please contact the Parish Office on 01993 779492 or office@witneyparish.org.uk and arrangements will be made for someone to contact you.