

SAMPLE PARISH LEGACY POLICIES

The single most important step a PCC can take in order to encourage gifts in Wills is to **make a legacy policy and communicate it the congregation**. Most people will only leave gifts in their Wills if they think the church will use them for worthwhile projects rather than simply for paying the bills. Having a policy reassures potential donors that legacy gifts are taken seriously by the church and will be used to make a real difference. Having a policy can also prevent unpleasant disagreements amongst the PCC about how a gift should be used.

You might like to use some of the following paragraphs as a basis for your PCC Legacy Policy. We recommend that you adapt/adopt the first two paragraphs below as these cover the most important points.

At St Benet's, we welcome all gifts in Wills, however large or small, and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in our parish. Our PCC legacy policy is to use gifts to help fund significant development projects, whether buildings, equipment or staff.

Since needs change over the years, we encourage you to leave a gift in your Will for the general purposes of the parish rather than for a restricted purpose. We will discuss possible uses of your gift with your executors when the time comes, bearing in mind your known areas of interest in the church (e.g. music, buildings, children and youth, overseas mission or aid) and the church's priorities at the time.

You can be confident that your gift will be used to make a real difference to our future mission and ministry. We won't spend it on parish share or paying the gas bill!

We will acknowledge gifts in whatever way the donor and/or his/her executors feel most appropriate too. Equally, we can make sure that gifts remain anonymous if the donor prefers.

If you would like to talk to someone in confidence about the sorts of purposes your gift might fund, and how (if) you would like your gift to be acknowledged, contact _____, on/at _____.

If you would like to make a gift to our church in memoriam, please come and discuss this with us too. It can be a wonderful and appropriate way to remember a loved one.

See **[A Short Guide to Encouraging Giving Through Legacies](#)** and **[Legacies and Wills: Decisions that will help the PCC](#)** for more help. Both of these leaflets can be downloaded or ordered via www.churchlegacy.org.uk