



We want to encourage everyone in our church family to make a will, and review it regularly. This is the only way you can ensure that your affairs are dealt with as you would wish.

Please also consider leaving a gift to St Helen's and St Peter's through your will. Many of us give regularly out of our income during each year to meet the running costs and outward giving of our parish but we are stewards of everything we own, not just our income. As Christians we should consider giving a proportion of all that we have to support the mission of our church.

Writing a will helps to secure the future of the people you love. Leaving a gift in your will helps to secure our church and our vision for its future. At St Helen's and St Peter's such gifts will be used to make a difference to our ministry whether it be for buildings, equipment or staff.

Making a will and including a gift to our church is simple to do and can have a tremendous impact on our future. Please think about it, pray about it and act upon it!

Thank you

*Richard Banham
Rector*





Your Will Matters

- Thinking about life after death should not be difficult for Christians. Make sure you are prepared practically as well as spiritually. Whatever your age write a will and keep it up to date.
- Without a will, your loved ones could face a lot of trouble, work and expense after your death. Without a will, a court, rather than you or your family, could decide how to distribute your goods and who should look after your children.
- Many Christians give regularly and proportionately from their income. Why not give proportionately from your estate too?
- A gift in your will helps St Helen's and St Peter's to fulfil our vision and mission in Wheathampstead.
- It's a way to thank God for all the gifts of our lifetime, and to hand on to future generations the legacy we received from past Christians in Wheathampstead.
- Leaving gifts to charity (including the church) in your will is very tax-efficient. They are deducted for Inheritance Tax and such gifts of 10% or more of your estate give rise to further relief.

Remember our churches in your will and help us to continue our mission



What your gift could achieve

Your gift will be used to further our work as a church in and around our village. There will always be much to do to achieve our vision in the form of Christian teaching, reaching out to our community, particularly the elderly, sick and vulnerable, working with the schools and young people as well as preserving our beautiful 13th century church and its churchyard and providing the further accommodation we need to support this vision.

'Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours... LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.'

1 Chronicles 29.11 & 16

£82,000 has been spent in recent years in stabilising and maintaining the churchyard wall at St Helen's which has been largely funded from a legacy.



Gifts from wills have been used to provide glass doors on the south porch and part of the new heating. Although much has been done, St Helen's is now undertaking an ongoing series of projects to update the church building and to provide the additional facilities needed for the church and its members.

Just as important, we need resources to expand our ministry, for example, with a share of the cost of a curate and a youth worker for the village.



Our work with young people is thriving but we need more resources.

You are encouraged to make a gift for the general purposes of the parish rather than for a specific purpose, so that it can be used in the most appropriate way at the time. It would always be used to further our work and to make a positive impact on our mission rather than for meeting ordinary expenditure.

The Parish has adopted a formal policy which is set out below.

Parish Legacy Policy

'We welcome all legacies however large or small, and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in our parish.'

'The policy of the PCC is to use legacies to help fund significant development projects in the parish, whether buildings, equipment or staff. As circumstances change over the years, church members are encouraged to leave gifts in their wills for the general purposes of the parish. When the time comes the PCC will discuss with executors the most appropriate use of the gift in the light of current projects and the donor's known areas of interest in the church (e.g. children, youth, music, buildings).'

Making a Will

Making a will and including a gift to your church can be a simple process and need not cost much. Some solicitors will do it free, in return for a gift to charity, during Will Aid Week in November.

You are strongly advised to see an independent solicitor when writing or amending your will or codicil

If you wish to leave a gift to St Helen's or St Peter's the following suggested clauses may be of assistance to you and your solicitor:–

'I give _____ % of my residual estate free of all taxes to the Wheathampstead Parochial Church Council in the Diocese of St Albans 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.'

If you prefer to give a fixed amount of money rather than a share of your estate, replace the words in *italics* above with:–

'I give the sum of £ _____ (amount in words) free of all taxes...'

It can be difficult to know how much or little we will have to leave. Dividing your estate into shares instead of fixed amounts of money can ensure your will continues to reflect your wishes and is in tune with the Church's teaching on proportionate giving.

Codicil



If you have already written your will a codicil is the easiest way to now include a straightforward gift to our church. Complete a codicil in the form below then sign and date it in front of two witnesses (who must not be an executor, an executor's spouse, a beneficiary or the spouse of a beneficiary of your will), The witness should then both sign the codicil in your presence and in the presence of each other. Once completed, the codicil should be kept with your original will. If in doubt, you should seek the advice of a solicitor.



An expert from the specialist restoration company Hare & Humphreys applying gold leaf during the cleaning and restoration of the Chancel ceiling in St Helen's in 2008.

'Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.'

2 Corinthians 9.7-8

For more information

For further information on how you may help St Helen's and St Peter's or to discuss in confidence a gift you have in mind please contact the Parish Office and we will be pleased to put you in touch with the person specialising in this matter in the parish.

01582 834031 or email: info@sth-stp.org or visit www.sth-stp.org

You may also consult your solicitor or call the Church of England Legacy and Wills information line on

08445 870875 or visit www.churchlegacy.org.uk

The information in this leaflet is believed to be correct at the time of printing. Changes in law occur from time to time so you should seek professional advice as to the current situation.