

Some Facts

Research shows that over half the UK adult population have not written a will so far.

Without a will that has been properly witnessed, UK law requires the courts to decide how to distribute an estate according to a fixed legal formula. This takes time, incurs costs and almost certainly differs from what was really wanted. Many other adults have wills that are out of date, containing old addresses, or not reflecting their current situation.

Gifts made to the Church are exempt from inheritance tax, and are deducted from the value of your estate before inheritance tax liability is calculated.

A new will can be made at any time with a solicitor, and shouldn't cost much. It may be tempting to write a will yourself, but home-made wills can be dangerous and leave your loved ones with problems. A will made with a solicitor is far more reliable.

There is a free pack available to help you prepare to make a will, including a guide explaining some of the terms used in writing a will. This can be obtained from the Parish Office or ordered from:

The National Stewardship Officer,
Church House, Great Smith Street,
LONDON SW1P 3NZ
phone: 08445 870875
email: info@churchlegacy.org.uk

All things come from
you, O God

(1 Chronicles 29:14)

for more information please contact

St Paul's Church
The Parish Office
99 High Street
Honiton
EX14 1PG

01404 44035

Weekdays 9.30am to 12.30pm

or speak to the clergy or churchwardens

Leaving a Legacy



The Parish of St Paul's, Honiton

St Paul's Church, Honiton. Charity registration number: 1128921

St Paul's, Honiton

The building of St Paul's began in 1835 on the site of the old Allhallows School Chapel. It was dedicated by Henry Philpotts, Bishop of Exeter, in 1838, the year after Queen Victoria came to the throne. The building was designed by Charles Fowler, a Devon architect who chose a Norman/Romanesque style with rounded arches built from local chert and Beer stone. The tower is a conspicuous landmark both in the town and the Otter Valley. It is 104 feet high and houses a clock made in 1851.

St Paul's church is supported by voluntary donations from the congregation and visitors, by one-off donations and by hiring out the facilities.

The church has been successfully used in the past for concerts, exhibitions and theatre productions alongside all the regular and special services that are held day by day.

It is also the venue for a wide range of groups and activities.



Over the centuries, generous Church members have left gifts to their local Churches in their wills. These gifts have often been transformational in helping their parish in its mission and in continuing to play its part in the unfolding Christian story of our country.

At St Paul's we have been fortunate over the past few years to receive a number of legacies. Some of these have been restricted for specific purposes. Others have not had restrictions placed upon them and have enabled us to continue to maintain and refurbish the church.

For example, proceeds from legacies have enabled us to

- Purchase a communion kit to be used when visiting those people who are housebound and unable to get to services at St Paul's
- Repair the stained glass windows and ensure they are protected from the elements and also from vandals
- Purchase robes for the choir
- Undertake electrical repairs in the church

All these gifts have provided an ongoing opportunity to develop parish mission, as well as creating a lasting memorial for those who gave them.

Leaving a gift in your will could make a real difference to the future life of St Paul's.

Why consider leaving a gift to St Paul's in your will?

The Bible challenges us to be careful stewards of all that God has given us.

Many Christians today follow St Paul's advice in 1 Corinthians 16:2 and give a regular proportion of their income to the Church. That principle can be extended to cover what we will give back to God when we have no further earthly use for it. Giving a proportion of your estate is called a "residuary legacy"

If you are thinking about making or revising your will, please consider leaving a gift to St Paul's. As God's people, we have much to be thankful for. If it were not for the generations of Christians before us, faithfully sharing the Good News of God's forgiveness through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, we would not be here as members of the Church today.

The very building we meet in is a testimony to their love and generosity, built and maintained by our predecessors' investment and stewardship. They have left us a precious gift. Our inheritance was their legacy for the future.

So what will we hand to our children's children? In future years will they too know of Christ's love in this community? Will there still be a faithful community of Christians witnessing to God's love and forgiveness through practical service and regular worship? With our help, prayers and practical support all things are possible.