

## Why should I make a will?

It is important to make a will to protect your family and to make sure your wishes are carried out. If you have children under 18 years old, you should make a will to protect them in case you die young.

In England if you die without a valid will, then the courts, following strict rules, will decide what happens to your possessions. It is not your family or friends who decide, so to be sure that your wishes are carried out you should make a will.

## Why is the Church concerned about this ?

For nearly 500 years the Church of England has encouraged people to make wills and the Book of Common Prayer has a specific reminder to “settle their estates whilst they are in good health”. It is important that your wishes are carried out and that grieving family and friends are not placed under additional stress because you didn’t leave a valid will. But there is also a spiritual dimension. “Everything comes from you, O Lord, and of your own have we given you”. *1 Chronicles 29 v14*.

The traditional offertory prayer is based around these words. They remind us that everything we have is on loan from God during our earthly lifetime. Christians are particularly generous in their lifetimes and should be no different in death.

## How Legacies make a real difference to the Church

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.

## How can I make a will ?

The best way to make a will is to see a solicitor, who is trained in all aspects of the law and tax and is insured to protect his clients. If you don’t know a solicitor ask your family and friends if they do.

## **Suggested Wording for your Solicitor**

We recommend that you seek professional advice when drawing up a will, and the suggested wording below is intended to help your solicitor or professional advisor with specific points relating to the Church.

To leave a fixed amount or a share of your residuary estate to the church might be expressed in a will as:

*“I leave the sum of £xxxx or x% of my residuary estate free of all taxes to the Parochial Church Council of St Peter’s Church Prestbury in the Diocese of Chester and its successors for its general purposes, and I declare that the receipt of an officer of the Church Council shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors.”*

## **Responding to God's Generosity**

The Bible teaches us to give proportionately, generously and cheerfully. All of our wealth comes from God, and so we have the opportunity in making a will to give back to God a thank offering for the way that He has blessed us.

## **More Information**

For more information, please contact Pauline, our Recorder , in the Parish Office on 01625 827625. Further information is also available on the Church of England website at [www.churchlegacy.org.uk](http://www.churchlegacy.org.uk)