

What do you want to do with your money?

Obviously you will want to make sure that you have acted responsibly in making provision for your dependants. It may also be a chance for you to continue your support for the church or some other cause which you have supported during your lifetime. Our churches were built by generous gifts from people both during their lifetime and in their wills. To maintain the fabric and ministry of our churches we are dependant on future generosity.



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Legacies

Four reasons why making a will is important

1. Chose a guardian for your child

It is best to ask them first, but if you don't specify anyone, it will be left to surviving relatives to sort out who looks after them. It may end up being someone you would never have chosen yourself.

2. Ensure your will is tax-efficient.

This is important if you have a lot to leave, and it will safeguard the money that goes to your family.

3. Appoint an executor

The right executor can ensure your wishes after death are carried out. Again, you need their permission before nominating your executors.

4. Leave your property, money and other assets to the people you want.

Without a will, the Government steps in and divides everything according to strict rules - which could mean family, friends or your church would miss out altogether.

John Wesley advised all Methodists in his time to make a will and his advice remains sound in the 21st century !



Are you willing ?

How to support your church by remembering St Mark's in your will.

Reasons to make a will

Making a will isn't just for old people, death might seem a very long way off, but everybody should have a will. Intestacy is the word used to describe the estate of someone who dies without leaving a will. The intestacy rules distribute the estate between a spouse, children parents, your brothers or sisters or their children and there are no provisions for co-habitees and stepchildren. If there are no living relatives the money goes to the Treasury. You can see that failure to make a will can be one of the most irresponsible acts, leaving loved ones without proper consideration or provision. Parents of children who die without leaving a will can compromise the well being of their children. Making a will shows you care. It is also a way of expressing your faith in exercising stewardship over the worldly goods God has entrusted to your care.

1. It gives an opportunity to continue to carry out the responsibilities you accepted during your lifetime.
2. It means that whatever you leave will be used in the way you want with the minimum of trouble for the bereaved.
3. You don't need a lot of money or goods for it to be worthwhile making sure that they go to benefit who you want them to. Most people will leave some assets-what is legally referred to as their "estate" - and it is sensible to decide what you want to happen to them and put this down formally in a will.

4. If you do have "reasonably substantial" assets, greater than the tax free allowance which at present is £255,000, making gifts in your will to a charity which you would like to help can also help reduce your estates liability to inheritance tax. (Gifts to charity are exempt from Inheritance Tax).

5. If you don't make a will then legal rules will decide what happens to your estate and your relatives may well not receive what you want them to. At the same time if you don't make a will charities that you might wish to help will not benefit from your estate either.

Hints on making a will.

1. Whilst you can legally write your own will it is best to go to a solicitor. This will give you expert help in making sure that things are dealt with in the best possible way. If you have already made a will it can be added to or changed; again you should get expert help.
2. You must sign your will and two witnesses who do not benefit from it must certify your signature.
3. It is normal to appoint at least one, preferably two executors whose duty it will be to carry out the instructions in your will. It is wise to tell your executor where your will is kept and to keep a copy at home or in another safe place.
4. It is also a good idea to review your will regularly and whenever there is a major change in your family or financial circumstance - for example, marriage or death of a close relative.



Here are some words which you can use ?

Sample wording for a legacy

I bequeath to St Mark's Church

the sum of £..... ..

OR a% of the residue of my estate

for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of the treasurer of the said church shall be a full and sufficient discharge of my duties.

