



# Legacy Policy

## Document history

Version	Date	Author/Editor	Approved by
1.0	23OCT24	Kevin Lovell	PCC
1.1	04FEB26	Kevin Lovell	PCC

**Next review date:** February 2029

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## 1 Overview

This document contains information about legacies : how people may make gifts to St Barnabas in their will; also how St Barnabas church officers and PCC will handle legacy gifts.

## 2 Legacies

Some say, 'A legacy is like planting seeds in a garden we will not see.' Legacies can include gifts of money and property, but just as important, legacies are the values we try to live by, what we have started and hope others will continue. We are beneficiaries of those who possessed the vision to build St. Barnabas Church. And before them, those who possessed the vision to proclaim the Gospel.

Whether you have thought about it or not, we would like to invite you to reflect on what will be your legacy? More specifically what will your legacy be as a Christian?

Here at St Barnabas, we welcome all legacies, including gifts in wills, however large or small, and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in Emmer Green and Caversham Park. Our PCC Legacy Policy is to use gifts with the aim of maintaining and growing the church both physically and spiritually. This could include fostering the development of children's work, supporting ministry, or developing community outreach to our neighbours.

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 and the church's priorities at the time.

You can be confident that your legacy will be used to make a real difference. We will acknowledge gifts through a letter of acknowledgement. Equally, we can make sure that your gifts remain anonymous if that is what you prefer. Finally, if you would like to make a gift to St. Barnabas in memory of a loved one, please do come and discuss this with us too.

The name for the beneficiary is "Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Emmer Green and Caversham Park, St Barnabas".

If you already have a will and do not wish to redo it, straightforward changes can be made through a Codicil. Alternatively, you may write a 'Letter of Wishes' which has to be considered by your executors: this is an easy way of achieving the same thing, so long as it does not contradict your will. See below for more information.

If you would like to talk to someone in confidence about leaving a legacy to St. Barnabas Church, or making a gift, please contact Revd Kevin Lovell at [vicar@saintbarnabas.org.uk](mailto:vicar@saintbarnabas.org.uk) or 0118 947 5214.

## 3 Letter of Wishes

A Letter of Wishes is an informal letter that accompanies your Will. It can be a very useful document in assisting your Executors and Trustees to ensure your personal wishes are carried out.

As needs change over the years, most Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) encourage gifts in wills to be left for the general purposes of the parish rather than for a restricted purpose.

However, if you would like to see the gift used for a personal area of interest in the church (e.g. music, buildings, children and youth, overseas mission or aid) you can outline this in your Letter of Wishes. When the time comes, the PCC will discuss possible uses of your gift with your Executors bearing in mind your Letter of Wishes and the church's priorities at the time.

The contents of the Letter of Wishes will depend on your individual circumstances. You must take care that your Letter of Wishes does not contain anything that could conflict with your Will.

You can write or type the Letter of Wishes yourself. It should be written in plain English, signed and dated by you and addressed to your Executors. It is not legally binding and does not require witness signatures.

You can also specify the type or style of funeral you want, including any specific instructions regarding the service.

### 3.1 Letter of wishes template

To My Executors / My Family / My Trustees / The Person To Whom It May Concern

I, ..... (name) of

..... (address)

wish to state my wishes with respect to my gift to charity and my funeral wishes.

I understand that I may not restrict your actions, but I ask you to consider the following when making decisions in regards to how my gift to charity is used.

(insert requests here)

This Letter of Wishes does not change or revoke my Will.

My Funeral Wishes are:

(insert requests here)

Signed ..... (your signature)

Date ..... (date)