

New Community Church

Leaving a Legacy in Your Will to the Church

What is a legacy?

A legacy is a gift left in a person's will to provide support for an individual or to an organisation after the person's death. It is a means one can use to express generosity at a level which may not have been possible earlier in one's life. It is a means by which a person who has given a proportion of their income to a particular cause during their life, can arrange to do so with their capital after their death.

Why should I consider leaving a legacy to my church?

When making one's will, one might want to consider leaving such a gift to one's church, just as we might leave a gift to friends or family. Giving a legacy to your church is an expression of your gratitude and thanksgiving towards God for all that you have been given and enjoyed during your life. It is also a means of ensuring that your past can become part of the future of your church's life, through mission and ministry to all God's people.

Our church exists to continue the ministry of Jesus. We can express our commitment to him by reaching out to the people of the world he loves. As followers of Christ we are called to serve our society and that includes, the homeless and poor, the friendless, those who are ill and the vulnerable. We invite the 'heavy laden' to take rest in the welcoming heart of our church.

In order to respond to Christ's call to ministry in the world, we also have to care for those already in the church. That is why:

- We work to empower all God's people to be ministers of Christ
- We continue to train our future leaders to be caring and effective evangelists

A gift in your will is a testament to your commitment to the ministry of Christ and can help to ensure that New Community Network continues to change lives and transform communities for years to come.

How do I make or amend my will?

If you already have a will it is important to ensure that it is kept up to date. A new will can be made at any time and a charitable legacy can be added easily by your legal advisor.

Homemade wills can be fraught with problems as it is all too easy to make a mistake that could lead to difficulties in settling your estate. Having your will drawn up by your solicitor enables you to have peace of mind knowing that you will really does reflect your wishes.

If you decide to have your will drawn up professionally, it is useful to have done a little homework before visiting your solicitor:

- Make a brief list of everything you own (your assets)
- Write down your intentions as simply as you can: who you would like to receive what, be they family, friends, your church or other charitable organisations or causes.
- Write down the names and addresses of all the people and organisations to be included in your will, together, if you know them, with any relevant charity numbers.

Any money you leave to charity in your will is given favourable tax treatment. In some instances, this can have a beneficial effect on the overall amount of tax paid on your estate. Again, your legal or financial advisor will be able to advise you on this issue.

Reducing your Inheritance Tax bill by giving to charity

Any gifts you make to a 'qualifying' charity – during your lifetime or in your will – will be exempt from Inheritance Tax.

Guidance can be downloaded from HMRC's website (<https://www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax>) on the reduced rate of Inheritance Tax to estates leaving a ten percent bequest to registered charities. This reduced rate is to encourage people to leave part of their estate to charity, so where at least 10% of a person's net estate is left to charity, the rate of tax charged is reduced to 36%, instead of 40%.