

Dear Friend

Talking about making a Will is always a delicate subject and I would be hesitant to offer advice, which is why I am glad that the Church has produced this leaflet to help answer any questions you may have about leaving a gift to the Church in your Will.



What I do know from experience, is that gifts left to the church can enable us to do great things in the service of God, that might otherwise be impossible. And every gift large and small, really does make a difference.

We recommend you speak to a solicitor if you would like to support the church in this way, or if you require further help or advice in preparing your Will.

With every blessing

Mark Taylor

Revd. Canon Mark Taylor
Rector, United Parish of Whitehead &
Islandmagee

Easy steps to making a will

Choose 2 executors who will be responsible for carrying out your wishes e.g. relatives, friends, a solicitor. (However note professional executors may charge for this service)

Naming someone as an executor doesn't stop them benefitting from your will if you decide to name them as a beneficiary.

Calculate the value of your assets ensuring you include all property, investments and any debts. Choose who you want to remember in your will, such as family, friends, church, charities. Some people having first looked after their loved ones then kindly leave a percentage of their estate, a sum of money or a specific gift to the church.

Contact a solicitor to draw up your will. You can contact the Law Society on 028 9023 1614 or lawsoc-ni.org who can help you find a local solicitor.

Keep a copy of your will in a safe place and tell someone close to you where it is stored.

Reducing Inheritance Tax

A gift in your will to your church can be an effective way to reduce the amount of inheritance tax charged to your estate, but you should take professional advice.

What type of gifts can I leave in my will?

1. **A residuary gift** – a gift of the remainder of your personal estate after all other legacies etc, have been paid out to family etc. Many people decide to leave a residuary gift as it enables them to look after their loved ones first before making a gift to the Church or good causes. This type of gift is the most beneficial to the Church as it retains its value.
2. **A pecuniary gift** – is a set sum of money you may wish to donate to the Church, but unlike a residuary gift, this type of gift may decrease in value due to inflation over time.
3. **A specific gift** – is a specific item such as a piece of jewelry or house contents. Care should be taken when describing such items so as to avoid any future confusion.

Why it matters to have a will?

An up to date Will is the only way to ensure your final wishes are fulfilled. Furthermore, it protects your grieving loved ones being left with difficult decisions when you have gone.

Suggested wording for leaving a gift to the Church in your Will:

"I give ___% of my residuary estate OR I give the sum of £___ (pounds only) free of taxes to the Select Vestry of St Patrick's & St John's United Parish of Whitehead & Islandmagee (Reg Charity No NIC 102649) in the Diocese of Connor for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of an officer of the Select Vestry shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors and trustees."



We advise you see a solicitor when writing or amending your will.

Our Legacy Policy

The policy of the Select Vestry of our church is to use gifts in wills to help fund development projects in the Parish.

Since needs change over the years, we encourage church members to leave a gift in your Will for the general purposes of the Parish, rather than for a restricted purpose.

The Select Vestry will discuss with Executors the most appropriate use of the gift in the light of current projects and the donor's known area of interest in the church (e.g. children's or youth work, building improvements, outreach, pastoral care, music or training.)

A Lasting Remembrance

Both St Patrick's & St John's will remember those who have chosen to support our Parish in this meaningful way, by adding the name of each benefactor on a Tree of Life Remembrance feature that will be kept on permanent display in both churches as a lasting remembrance and tribute.

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Making a lasting gift to our church

