

your legacy

**I have fought
the good fight,
I have finished
the race,
I have kept
the faith.**

TIMOTHY 4:7



The Church of Scotland

Stewardship and Finance

Your legacy

Making or updating a Will makes us stop and think. It focuses attention on our priorities in life. One of these priorities might be to consider how your assets are used for the things you care about. You may wish to help provide for the future of family, friends, or causes closest to your heart.

The diverse work of the Church of Scotland is greatly enhanced by the generosity of people who leave legacies. Some choose to leave a gift to their local congregation for furthering the work where they have lived. Others choose to leave a legacy to the national Church either as a general gift, or to a particular Council or Committee, to take forward specific work.

A legacy can be small or large. A legacy can be money, property, shares or other assets.

Every gift left to the Church is valued and used carefully for its intended purpose. Your legacy can offer encouragement to those who will continue work that you think is important, or help provide a resource to develop new work. The gift you leave will always make a difference to the Church.

The Church of Scotland and each of its congregations are registered charities. By leaving a legacy to a charity, you can reduce any potential inheritance tax on your estate. Your solicitor can advise you on this.

We touch the earth lightly while we are here. We are privileged if we can leave a mark of our passing to be remembered by those people and causes we've cared for in life.

If you are considering making a Will or changing an existing one, here are some points to help you.

Seek the help of a solicitor to make or update your Will. Your solicitor will ensure that your wishes are clearly drafted in accordance with the law.

There are different ways to leave a legacy to the Church –

- You can leave a specific amount of money
- You can leave a part of what is left after all your other bequests have been met
- You can leave a specific item

Your solicitor will provide all the help you need to record your wishes. Solicitors in the Church of Scotland Law Department can assist you or your legal advisor with the wording required to ensure your legacy is directed in accordance with your intentions. They can also advise on the wording of any restrictions.

Please think about leaving a gift in your Will to further God's work in Scotland and beyond, to the Church of Scotland, or to a particular congregation.

THANK YOU

Here are some examples of work that has been made possible through legacies in local congregations –

- Re-ordering a church interior to allow flexible worship
- Employment of a youth worker for three years
- Resourcing Christian education or outreach
- Audio-visual equipment to enhance worship

Legacies to the National Church make a difference to the work of:

- Social Care (CrossReach)
- Ministries
- World Mission
- General Trustees
- Pension Funds
- Housing and Loan

Any unspecified legacies will be applied where there is greatest need. Legacies received are published monthly in 'Life and Work'.

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