

LEGACIES

A gift in your will has the power to help St Mary's for generations to come.

There can be few worshipping communities anywhere in England that are so blessed as St Mary's. Our wonderful buildings provide a unique resource for the whole community, and one of which we can be proud.

But looking after these buildings for the next generation of worshippers brings significant financial challenges. The church is not able to pay for major structural repairs from its regular income, and relies on its reserves, a large portion of which come from bequests from parishioners.



In addition to your family and friends, your will is also a way for you to continue to support a cause close to your heart. More and more people today are including a gift to charity in their will to support the causes that matter to them. St Mary's depends on this type of gift. They provide the funding necessary to preserve our church for the future, and even a small sum can make a huge difference.

We are all incredibly grateful to those parishioners who have so generously provided a legacy for the church, helping to ensure that the Gospel can be proclaimed from this place for generations to come.

There are 3 types of gift you can leave in your will:

A residuary gift

This is a share of your total estate after all other payments have been deducted

A pecuniary gift

This is a fixed amount of money that you leave in your will.

A specific gift

A specific gift is when you leave a particular item of value (such as personal possessions, property or shares)



Updating an existing will

If you are updating an existing will, you can either make an entirely new will, or add a 'codicil' which would set out changes to your existing will and be read alongside it. In both cases, we recommend you speak to your solicitor.



If you do decide to include St Mary's in your will, please remember to include our full name "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wimbledon" and "Registered Charity Number 1134177" with your gift, or else your wishes may not be followed.

The impact of a legacy can be transformational for the church

In 2019, friend to the church Charles Eglington left a significant legacy for St Mary's. At the time, the church was suffering badly from damp in the walls to the South West corners, due to inadequate drainage in the churchyard. Then, in the winter of 2022, masonry fell from the bell tower. On further inspection, it was discovered that there were several areas of unsafe stonework that had cracked and were liable to fall. Extensive repairs were required to all 4 sides of the tower to replace the stonework, repoint the brickwork, and remove and refurbish the iron supports for the windows. The Vestry roof also needed some repairs, so new coping stones and a damp proof course were installed. The broken paving slabs at the West Entrance were replaced and the slope was amended to improve wheelchair access. The church clock faces were removed and re-gilded, and a time regulator has been installed to improve its time-keeping.

The total cost of these works was over £325,000, and none of it would have been possible without the bequest left by Charles Eglington. The entire St Mary's community is incredibly grateful to Charles for his extraordinary act of generosity. The legacy he left will live on for many years, ensuring our beautiful church can welcome worshippers through its doors and continue to be the hub for our Christian community.

THANK YOU