

Leaving a Legacy



**A Gift of Faith for Future
Generations**

Leaving a Legacy – A Gift of Faith for Future Generations

For generations, people of faith and members of the community have left gifts in their wills to support their local church. These legacies are an expression of gratitude and faith, ensuring that the mission and ministry of the church continue for years to come. **Each legacy helps sustain and grow the work of the church, making a lasting impact on future generations.**

How Legacies Make a Difference

While regular giving helps with the church's daily running costs, legacies allow us to go beyond, funding special projects and initiatives that strengthen our ministry. Your gift could help:

- **Enhance the ministry to children and youth**, nurturing faith in the next generation.
- **Maintain and improve church buildings**, ensuring they remain a welcoming space for worship and community events.
- **Expand outreach and mission**, helping us serve those in need both locally and beyond.

Making a Will – A Practical and Loving Act

Having a will ensures that your wishes are carried out and provides peace of mind for you and your loved ones. If you haven't yet made a will, or if it has been a while since you reviewed yours, now is a good time to consider it.

The **Church of England** offers a **free legacy pack** to help guide you through the process. You can request one by:

- Calling **08445 870875**
- Emailing **info@churchlegacy.org.uk**
- Visiting **www.churchlegacy.org.uk**

Alternatively, you might prefer starting the process with a confidential conversation with our Stewardship Secretary, Chris Rickard, or one of our churchwarden.

Contact details

Chris Rickard - christine.rickard@sky.com

Nigel Bright - nigel@bright-learning.co.uk

Fiona Hope - fionahope301@gmail.com

What will the church do with my legacy?

The Church Council has officially established a policy outlining how legacies will be managed and used to support the church's mission and ministry.

At St James, Taunton we welcome all legacies, however large or small, and we promise to use them to make a difference to the life and mission of the church, not simply to fund current operating expenses. Our policy is to use legacies to help fund significant development projects, whether buildings, equipment or staff.

Needs and circumstances change over the years and it may not be possible to fulfil specific requests from givers so church members are encouraged to leave legacies for the general purposes of the church rather than for a restricted purpose. When the time comes we promise to discuss possible uses of any legacy with the giver's executors, bearing in mind the church's current priorities and the giver's known areas of interest in the church

How to Leave a Legacy to Your Church

If you feel called to leave a gift to your church, here are some simple steps to follow:

1. **Decide on the type of gift** – You can leave a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or a particular asset.
2. **Consult a solicitor** – They can help you update or create your will to reflect your wishes.
3. **Use the correct wording** – Your solicitor can include wording such as:

“I give to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical parish of St. James Taunton in the Diocese of Bath and Wells the sum of £___ (or ___% of my residual estate) to be used as its trustees see fit. I declare that the receipt of an authorised official shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.”

Please avoid making restrictive legacies tied to the maintenance of specific things. As our legacies policy states: *Needs and circumstances change over the years so it may not be possible to fulfil specific requests from givers. So church members are encouraged to leave legacies for the general purposes of the church rather than for a restricted purpose. When the time comes we promise to discuss possible uses of any legacy with the giver's executors, bearing in mind the church's current priorities and the giver's known areas of interest in the church.*