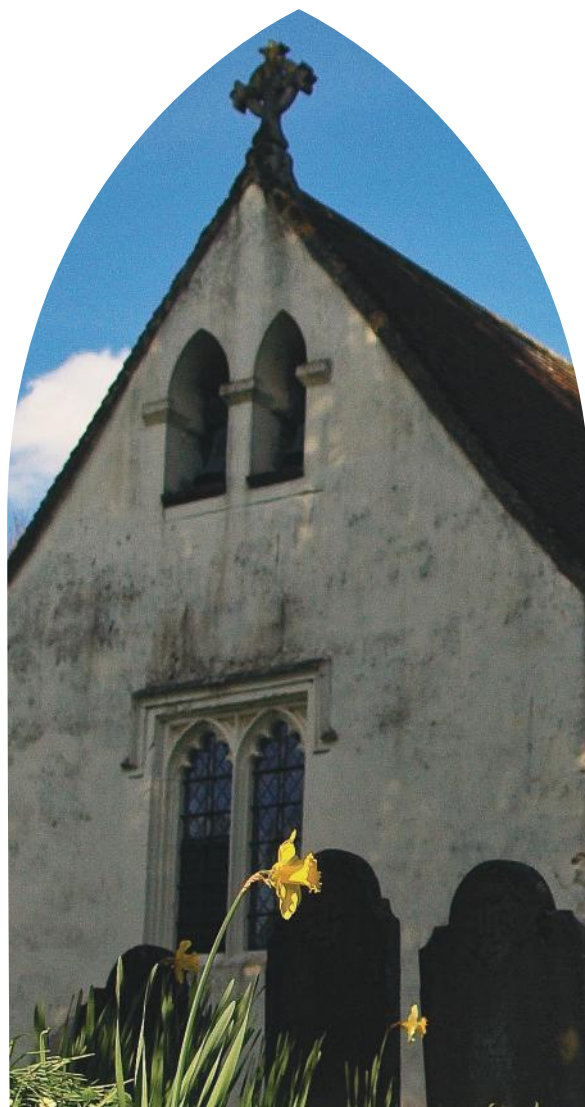


A lasting legacy

Leaving a gift in your will to the CCT

**Churches
Conservation
Trust**



'The reason we are leaving a bequest is because we have enjoyed so much visiting CCT Churches, for the history and architecture but also for the uplifting spiritual atmosphere they bring to us'

David & Denise,
CCT Supporters



Churches have been at the centre of our lives for centuries past and with your support will be for centuries to come

We have saved over 350 historic buildings which attract almost 2 million visitors a year. This unique collection of English churches includes irreplaceable examples of architecture, archaeology and art from over 1000 years of history.

any additional bequest, such as a small percentage of the residue of your estate, makes an incredible difference.

Thank you for helping us to forge ahead and secure this great collection of churches for everybody, for ever.

We need your support if we are to continue to meet the enormous challenges that lie ahead. A gift in your will can help us secure the future of the CCT and the growing number of churches in our care.



However large or small we are truly grateful for every gift. We recognise that providing for family and friends will be a priority but

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Aiers'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Peter Aiers
Chief Executive

What we can achieve with your help

Our mission is to preserve and breath new life into our historic churches for the use of future generations. With our help and your support, we can ensure they are kept open and in use - continuing to live at the heart of their communities.

Protect our heritage



St Stephen's Church, Fylingdales

All of our churches are listed, mostly Grade I, and some are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Our collection - the third largest of heritage buildings in the country - carries national historic, architectural and cultural significance.

Unrestricted gifts in wills have recently enabled us to undertake vital conservation work at St Stephen's, Fylingdales, an extraordinary example of a 19th century fisherman's church.

Create lasting value



Holy Trinity, Sunderland © Andy Marshall

We want to prevent the historic parish church from becoming irrelevant and ensure they are valued for generations to come. We aim not only to save historic church buildings but to find new uses that give these spaces a fresh lease of life.

It is in no small part thanks to a generous legacy from a former parishioner that we have been able to save Holy Trinity Church in Sunderland which was in danger of collapse. Work is taking place at the moment to turn the building into a community hub, for all to use and love.



Empower communities

Historic places of worship have so much to offer their local communities. Not only do they bring people together for events, but these beautiful structures tell the stories of their parish in a way that no other building can.

By investing in traditional craft skills training, sharing our unique conservation knowledge, and working with local schools to inspire the next generation, we aim to provide a supportive infrastructure to empower communities to practically care for, and value, their historic places of worship.

All Saints, Benington © Simon Jacquet



"I started visiting places of worship when I retired. What surprised me was that the majority of these churches were open! In the peaceful and quiet atmosphere I learnt so much about them - the architecture, the furnishings, the stone and wood carvings, and how important they are in relation to the history of England. I soon realised how much these important old churches need financial help. That is why I have remembered the CCT in my will."

Paul, CCT supporter

St John on the Wall, Bristol © Paul Blakemore

Recognising your support

Every gift, however large or small, makes a huge difference to us and we are incredibly grateful if you are considering remembering us in this way. We would love the opportunity to show our gratitude and thank you for your support, as well as keeping you up to date with our activities.

By way of saying 'thank you' we will

Recognise your support in our Annual Review alongside our sponsors, patrons and donors.

Send you regular copies of Pinnacle, our members magazine.

Keep you updated with our monthly email.

Invite you to exclusive events.

Making your will

Making a will and keeping it up to date is the only way you can be sure your wishes will be taken care of properly in the future. Putting a will together is straightforward and doesn't need to be time consuming or expensive. It can be broken down into the following simple stages:

Appoint an advisor we recommend appointing a professional advisor, such as a solicitor, to ensure your will is written properly and meets your specific requirements.

Assess the value of your estate this should be the sum total of your property, possessions and money at the end of your lifetime, minus any outstanding loans or mortgages you may have.

Decide who you want to benefit from your will there are several different types of gifts you can make (see opposite) which ensure you give security to those you love and leave a gift to causes you hold dear.

Choose an executor to ensure your wishes are carried out you might want to choose relatives, close friends or a solicitor. You can have up to four executors to share responsibility.

Keep your will up to date it is good to review it from time to time to ensure it continues to reflect your wishes.

Updating your will

If you already have a will you can attach a simple codicil form to it. A codicil is a document used to make simple amendments to your existing will such as adding a charity, changing a gift amount, or adding an executor.



Types of gift

There are several different ways to leave the CCT a gift in your will. We recognise that providing for family and loved ones will be the priority in most cases but any additional bequest, such as a small percentage of the residue of your estate will make a valued difference.

A residual gift: This is the gift of all or part of the net residue of your estate, after all liabilities, taxes, legacies and administrative expenses have been met. This gift is particularly simple as you neither have to quantify the sum nor worry about inflation when you draw up your will. As many of us are also aware of unknown future costs, a residual legacy provides assurance that costs and family commitments are met first.

A conditional gift: This provides for the eventuality that, if any one of your named beneficiaries does not survive you, their part of your estate will be left to the CCT.

A pecuniary gift: This simple form of legacy allows you to give a specific sum of money.

A reversionary gift: This gift has the advantage of providing for your family first and then benefitting the CCT. It involves leaving your assets to trustees so that beneficiaries can enjoy the benefits during their lifetime with the whole or a portion passing to the CCT on their death.

A specific gift: If you wish you can leave a personal possession, such as property, stocks or shares, to the CCT.

Did you know? You could reduce inheritance tax liability from 40% to 36% if charitable bequests total 10% of your net estate (this can be to a number of charities)

Suggested wording

Most gifts we receive are for general purposes. This is helpful as it gives us the flexibility to direct funds where the need is greatest at the time. Here is an example of how your will could be worded:

'I give [a X% share of the residue of my estate/I give the sum of {amount in figures and words}] to the Churches Conservation Trust (registered charity no. 258612) of Society Building, 8 All Saints Street, London, N1 9RL for its general purposes'

We also welcome legacies for specific churches or projects. If you are considering a gift of this kind please get in touch with us.

Contact Us

For an informal and confidential conversation about making a gift in your will, please contact the Fundraising and Membership Team:

Fundraising and Membership Team
The Churches Conservation Trust
Society Building
8 All Saints Street
London, N1 9RL

Email legacies@thecct.org.uk
Telephone 0207 841 0404

In this guide we have enclosed a pledge form to let us know your intentions and a reply paid envelope. We recognise that your will is a very personal matter and you may wish to keep private the details of your will. However, it is enormously helpful if you could let us know your intentions. This not only helps with future planning but also ensures we can properly thank you and acknowledge your support.



'Parish churches are England's glory. They enshrine the history of a people, most of whom have lived far from the capital, court and Parliament. These people – their art, architecture and faith – are seldom recorded or celebrated. The parish church is their public monument.'

Sir Simon Jenkins, Trustee of the Churches Conservation Trust



Registered Charity No. 258612
visitchurches.org.uk
Cover image: All Saints', Little Somborne © Angus Kirk