

All Charities exist through gifts.

This leaflet aims to increase awareness of legacy income. Many UK Charities were founded by large legacies. However, it is the small gifts left in wills, when put together, that support the good causes of those of us who leave a charitable gift in their will.

Within our Diocese we can together be “willing” to provide funding in continuing to develop our Catholic faith for future generations. It is a tangible means to thank God for all the gifts we have received. We can help a variety of causes.

- Our Parish in serving the community
- The work of the Diocese in furthering a social programme to influence legislation and public attitudes
- Retired and sick clergy—for those priests who gave so much in their pastoral ministry and need our support to enjoy their twilight years
- House of Prayer—providing for those seeking spiritual renewal, guidance and promotion of the Catholic ethos. Offers residential retreats and days of recollection
- Walsingham House—helping young people to discuss, reflect on and deepen their Catholic faith in schools, parishes and on pilgrimages

All the foregoing sounds as if leaving a legacy is a done deal. Yet a recent survey found some interesting responses.

- Only 7% of the UK population plan to leave a legacy gift
- An increase to 11% could raise an extra £1 billion for Charities
- Those leaving a legacy favour child welfare or cancer (63%), whilst animal aid runs at (12%)
- 90% of children would be proud of their parents leaving a donation once family and friends have been looked after.

Families are really at the centre of charitable donations. Passing on the value of giving is to live our Christian life. We inherit from our forefathers their legacy. In turn it is us who have the responsibility to continue such good works.

Giving permission to ourselves to give to a charitable cause in our will is, therefore, an important first step to help the cause of thanksgiving for the gifts we have received in this life.

To Will or not to Will?

We all need to know the facts before we act. About two thirds of adults in Britain have not made a will. If you do not have a will, your spouse may only be entitled to a certain amount of inheritance, your relatives may be entitled to the rest. Your children need the security of financial arrangements and possibly guardianship.

The real pleasure in making a will is to reduce the inheritance tax on your estate. In a worse case scenario, if you have no family and no will, your estate goes to the Government. Is that really your dying wish?

Having made adequate provision for our family, it “will” be our last act of thanksgiving for all that we have received from our loving Father.

A legacy, no matter how big or small, will be an example of our fraternal love for one another. We are reminded that Jesus will reward our generosity far more than we can imagine.

Legal Standing

We can write our own will, sign it before two witnesses, who will not benefit from the will, and keep it in a drawer. Ensure all details are correct.

We can use a “do it yourself” pack from a shop or off the internet. It avoids the cost of a solicitor, but again take care in the wording.

We can use a will writing company found in shopping centres or through the internet. This option may give you more confidence in making your will.

We can have complete peace of mind by using a solicitor, but prepare your intentions by collating all the details before a meeting. It will save time and money.

Find out more

- Citizens Advice Bureau 0845 050 5250
www.citizensadvice.org.uk
- Institute of Professional Will Writers 08456 442042
www.ipw.org.uk
- The Charity Commission
in England & Wales 0845 300 0218
www.charity_commission.gov.uk

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Legacies

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Brentwood Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (Reg. Charity No. 234092)