

Leaving a legacy to St Mary's Church in your will

Having a professionally drafted will is the best way to ensure your wishes are respected after your death.

If you would like to leave a legacy to St Mary's in your will, please discuss with a solicitor how this can be included in an existing will or as part of a new will.

Will Aid www.willaid.org.uk is a partnership between UK charities and solicitors in our area which provides free will writing services in November. This may be a useful resource for finding a suitable solicitor.

Legacies to the church should be made payable to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) as the legally accountable body, not to the Incumbent and Churchwardens.

If a donor would prefer the PCC to use any of the legacy for some particular purpose in the church, rather than setting this out in the will, they can write a non-binding letter to the executors setting out those wishes, and store it with the will. The PCC will then consider the request, and will normally do their best to meet it in the light of the church's circumstances after the donor's death.

Subject to the wishes of donors and their executors and relatives, the PCC will ensure that donors of gifts made to St Mary's by will are recognised by inclusion in the Parish Book of Remembrance as 'Benefactors' and celebrated annually on the Feast of Dedication.

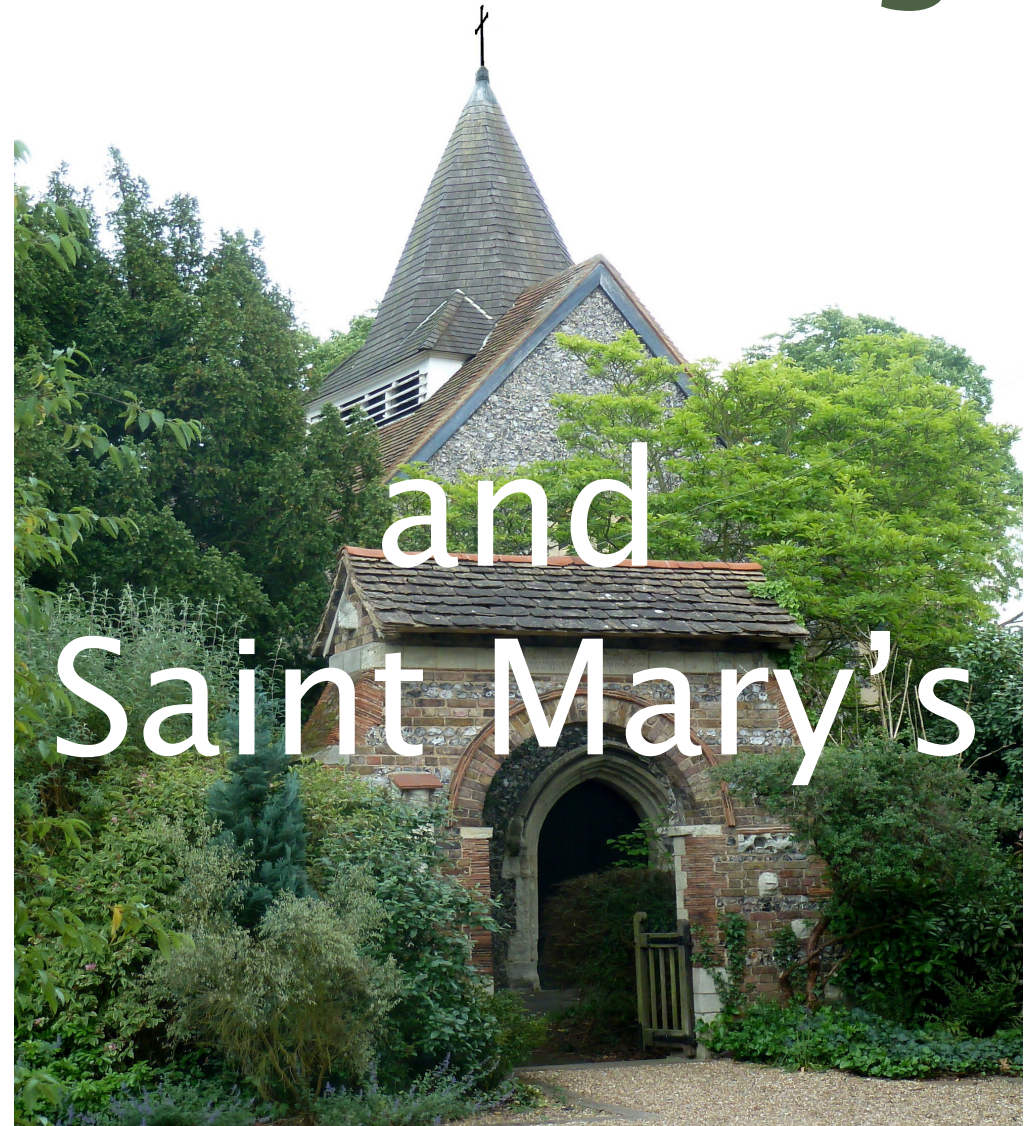
Parish Legacies Co-ordinator

The PCC have appointed Ian Aldridge as the Parish Legacies Co-ordinator to act as an independent point of contact for those who wish to discuss issues relating to wills on a **confidential basis**.

Please contact Ian Aldridge on 07880 648797
or email i97aldridge@btinternet.com

Registered Charity number 1134108

Will-Making



Why make a will?

As Christians we believe that our life does not consist only of the abundance of our possessions, and that we should be wise stewards. For nearly 500 years the Church of England has encouraged people to make a will; in fact the first English Prayer Book reminded parishioners to keep their wills up to date while they were still in good health, for their own peace of mind as well to help their executors.

In thinking about making a will, please remember that all things come from God, and we have much for which to be thankful. So please consider leaving a gift in your will to the church as recognition of God's goodness to us all.

It is estimated that 70% of us will die without ever making a will. This can cause unnecessary complications for our families and friends, so it is vital to have a legally valid will to ensure the people we care about are provided for.

Please see the back page for advice on how to make a will.

Legacies and St Mary's Church

Our church was re-built more than 900 years ago and has been sustained and maintained by our predecessors' investment and stewardship. So our legacy will be a reminder to those who come after us of that continued love and generosity.

Wherever possible legacies will be used to help fund significant capital expenditure or the development of special projects rather than day to day running costs and the diocesan support fund.

Over the last 10 years legacies have enabled us to:

- Redecorate the church and repair the dormer windows
- Upgrade the public address system
- Support the organ scholars
- Provide a new churchyard gate in Church path
- Refurbish the Church Hall including the new kitchen
- Repair the bell tower

These examples have shown how gifts have provided an ongoing opportunity to develop parish mission, as well as creating a lasting memorial for those who gave them. Leaving a gift in your will could make a real difference to the future life of Saint Mary's.

The PCC has identified four areas that can benefit from gifts through legacies:

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| • Worship and music | • Building fabric |
| • Outreach | • Bells and glebe |