

St James Thrapston  
Holy Trinity Denford  
St Nicholas Islip



# Giving a lasting gift to your church in your will

Dear Friends

We all have different priorities for family, friends and good causes that we might be able to help when we die. So when planning your legacy you should pray for God's guidance and think carefully.

Having done so, if you would like to support the ongoing mission and ministry of your local church, then this document is designed to help you.

First of all I would recommend you read: [Our Legacy Policy](#) on page 3. This explains how we promise to use your gift to make a real difference in the church.

Then there is information about two ways to give. One way is to get a solicitor to include details of the gift in your will. Suggested wording for this can be found on page 6. However, if you already have a will, then it may be possible to add a codicil. Read: [Using a codicil to revise your Will](#) on page 4 to determine whether you can use the form on page 5 to simply and quickly add a gift to your will.

Thank you for thinking about leaving a gift to your local church and if you want to discuss matters in more detail, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

*Nolan.*

The Revd Nolan Robson  
Rector of Thrapston,  
Denford and Islip



## Our Legacy Policy

For all three Parochial Church Councils (Thrapston, Denford and Islip) our policy is to use gifts in wills to help fund significant projects or mission activities. Whilst you are always welcome to leave money for a restricted or specific purpose, we encourage legacies to be left either for the **general purposes** of the respective parish or towards its **mission and development** fund. This is because needs change over time, and we want your legacy to be the most significant blessing it can be to the church.

We welcome all gifts, however large or small, and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in the church. We recommend that smaller gifts are left for the **general purposes** as this enables us to use them for things like funding children's events or purchasing significant equipment. With larger gifts you might prefer to leave your legacy to the **mission and development** fund of the respective church. This is a fund for significant projects in the church, such as the appointment of new staff, new building works or significant restoration.

In all cases the PCC would be happy to discuss with executors the most appropriate use of the gift in the light of current projects and the donor's known areas of interest in the church.



## Using a codicil to revise your Will

Everybody's circumstances change over time and so it is sensible to review your Will regularly and check that it still reflects your wishes. Many people revisit their Will every five years or whenever a 'life cycle event' occurs such as the birth of a grandchild.

If you find that you need to make changes to your Will, you should seek advice from a solicitor. It won't cost much to make simple changes but if changes are not made correctly, your Will could become invalid.

If you simply want to add a gift into your Will without the cost of consulting a solicitor, you can do that by using a codicil form. A codicil is a legal document which enables you to amend your existing Will.

All you need to do is to complete the codicil form and sign and date it in front of two adult witnesses (these people must not be a beneficiary or the spouse of a beneficiary, in the case of churches this means witnesses or their spouses cannot be members of the PCC). The witnesses should then each sign the codicil in your presence and in the presence of each other.



Once completed, the codicil should be kept with your original Will. We would recommend you also send a copy to your executor, solicitor or other trusted friend, with a note indicating where the original is held.

Codicils work best for adding a cash gift to your Will. You could use the codicil form on the next page to add a gift of a proportion or fixed amount of your estate. But if giving a proportion, please be careful that the gifts already in your Will and the additional gift in your codicil do not add up to more than 100%. If in doubt, you should seek advice from a solicitor.

## Codicil

I, ..... (full name)

of ..... (address)

declare this to be the ..... (1st/2nd/3rd etc)

Codicil to my Will dated ..... (date of will)

I give: ..... % of my residuary estate

OR a gift of £ ..... [.....]

*(choose one of these options and strike through the other. If choosing the latter option, insert the amount in numbers then, in the brackets, in words)*

free of all taxes to the Parochial Church Council of the parish of:

.....

*(insert either, St James Thrapston, Holy Trinity Denford or St Nicholas Islip)*

in the diocese of Peterborough for: *(delete as appropriate)* -

*its general purposes / its mission and development* - and I declare that the receipt of an officer of the Parochial Church Council shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors and trustees. In all other respects I confirm my Will and any previous codicils thereto. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand on this the ..... (date)

Signature ..... (your signature)

This codicil was signed by the above named person in our joint presence, and then by us in his/her presence.

Signature ..... (witness signature 1)

Full Name .....

Address .....

Signature ..... (witness signature 2)

Name .....

Address .....

## Suggested wording for your will:

" I give ..... % of my residuary estate OR I give the sum of £ ..... (pounds only) free of all taxes to the Parochial Church Council of the parish of ..... (*St James, Thrapston / Holy Trinity, Denford / St Nicholas, Islip*) in the Diocese of Peterborough for its ..... (*general purposes or its mission and development*), and I declare that the receipt of an officer of the Parochial Church Council shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors and trustees."

***We strongly advise you see a solicitor  
when writing or amending your will.***



If you would like to talk in confidence, about any matters regarding legacies, then please contact:

**The Revd Nolan Robson**  
The Rectory, 48 Oundle Road,  
Thrapston, Kettering, NN14 4PD  
01832 734614    [tdichurches@gmail.com](mailto:tdichurches@gmail.com)

He can also provide you with the contact details of the relevant church treasurers with whom you can discuss matters in more detail.

For general information about leaving legacies to the church go to:  
**[www.churchlegacy.org.uk](http://www.churchlegacy.org.uk)**

*This document was last updated 13th October 2020*