

# Some gifts are easily forgotten. Yours will last for generations.

The National Churches Trust is the UK charity dedicated to the repair and support of churches, chapels and meeting houses. Remembering us in your Will helps us to keep these precious buildings alive for generations to come.

## How to make a start

Your Will provides your opportunity to decide who you would like to receive your assets and possessions after you have gone. In order to write a Will we suggest you contact a local solicitor who can draw up your Will and ensure that there will be no complications.

The Law Society's website can help you to locate a solicitor in your area if you need help: [www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk)

## Before you visit the solicitor

Before your meeting it is a good idea to list your assets and any liabilities. For example: bank accounts, property, insurance policies, specific items of value and any debts, mortgages or loans you may have.

You also need to decide who you would like to be your Executor. This is the person that ensures that your wishes are carried out properly. You could appoint a family member, friend or your solicitor, and it does not matter if the Executor benefits from a gift in your Will.



*St Edmund's church, Southwold, awarded a National Churches Trust grant in 2017.*

## A legacy for the future



*Andrew Smyth,  
Legacies volunteer*

**As a long standing volunteer at the National Churches Trust I'm extremely touched by the thoughtfulness of the many people who, in a world of competing charity requests, have recognised the pressing needs of places of worship.**

Many of the UK's historic churches, chapels and meeting houses are fighting a battle against the ravages of time.

Today we need to ensure that they get the funding they need to carry out repairs, maintenance and renovations to remain at the heart of local communities.

In 2016 of our total income of £1,681,700, legacies comprised 36%. We are very grateful to all our legators for their generous bequests, which last year ranged from £200 to over £100,000, since our income comes from individuals and charitable bodies – not government or church authorities.

Thank you.

National  
Churches  
Trust

**For people who love church buildings**

## Types of gift (or bequest)

There are two main ways of leaving gifts in your Will.

### Pecuniary gifts:

These are a straightforward cash gift of a specific amount of money. If you would like to leave a pecuniary gift to the National Churches Trust you may find the following wording helpful:

"I give to the National Churches Trust of 7 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QB, registered charity number 1119845 the sum of £...."

### A residuary legacy:

This is a percentage sum of your estate, so after all individual gifts have been allocated the remainder of your assets can be divided up on this basis. The benefit of residuary legacies is that the value is not affected by inflation as there is no fixed sum. As the value of your estate increases, so will the value of your legacy. If this is what you would like to do the following wording might be helpful:

"I give all (or a .....% share) of the residue of my estate to the National Churches Trust of 7 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QB, registered charity number 1119845."

## Changing your Will

If you have already made your Will and wish to change any part of it you need to add a codicil: a form that is added into your Will and reflects any changes to your circumstances.

If you need a codicil, there is one on our website for you to print out and complete, or you can contact us and we will send you a copy: [www.nationalchurchestrust.org/legacy](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/legacy)

## How legacies help our work



*The 15th century church of All Saints in Bolton Percy, Yorkshire, one of many churches helped by the National Churches Trust in 2016.*

**When churches need to raise money for major repairs or adding a community cafe they can rarely raise all the funds locally.**

Through our national grants committee we can direct legacy income to where it is most needed – we are a national resource locally delivered.

In 2016 we were able to award grants totalling £1.4 million, helping to enable 166 projects at places of worship in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

*More details at [www.nationalchurchestrust.org/map](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/map)*

## I've decided I would like to leave you a gift – what now?

If you have decided to support us, we would be grateful if you could let us know. Not only does this allow us to thank you in your lifetime but it helps us to plan our work with confidence. As a small charity we like to connect with our supporters, and would be delighted to invite you to see our work in action on exclusive church tours and special events. Please contact Claire Walker in confidence and with no obligation on 020 7222 0605 or [claire.walker@nationalchurchestrust.org](mailto:claire.walker@nationalchurchestrust.org).

**"In the old days the churches used to worry about saving us. Now we have to worry about saving them. I am delighted that the National Churches Trust will be taking on the task for the future."**

*Ian Hislop, writer & broadcaster*