

TITLE

WADHURST CHURCH LEGACY POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy outlines the underlying principles and practical guidelines within which Wadhurst church seeks to encourage the leaving of legacies for the ongoing work of the local church.

It aims to assist those wishing to leave a legacy to the church in a will, whether as an addition (codicil) to an existing will or as an inclusion in a new document.

CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Practicalities
3. Appendix 1 – [Draft] wording for a legacy

1. Introduction

The parish church is a charitable body that does not receive any government funding. Leaving a legacy in a will is one way that Wadhurst Parish Church can maintain an ongoing income that will enable it to:

- Maintain a Christian presence in the heart of the community through regular worship, discipleship and outreach;
- Continue to provide practical support for the wider community through the work of Carillon Cottage;
- Progress work with children and families, (Jellybeans and J-Club) ongoing collaborative work with local schools (school assemblies, Uplands Pastors and Stargazers) and vital support for older members of the community (Cameo, Afternoon Fellowship and Senior Lunches);
- Maintain a grade1-listed ancient monument

A legacy or bequest can take advantage of the tax privileges that are available to encourage such support for worthy causes. Legacies or bequests to a charity can reduce or eliminate the tax payable on the balance of any estate and are themselves exempt from inheritance tax.

Making a will and leaving any legacy is a sensitive and private matter for individuals and there should never be any pressure or coercion of individuals to leave funds in their will to the church.

2. Practicalities

- (i) Although it is possible to write a will without legal assistance – and proformas to fill in are available in shops - those wishing to leave legacies to the church should be encouraged to use a solicitor, in order to cover the various necessary legal formalities required to ensure a will is valid.

Individuals may need legal advice for more complicated matters. A solicitor can also advise about how inheritance tax might affect an individual's financial affairs and those of any family beneficiaries of a will. Leaving a legacy to the church, however, should be a straightforward task.

- A form of words to include in a will can be found in appendix 1. Anyone choosing to leave a legacy to the church could send a copy of their intentions to the church Treasurer and the details would be held in complete confidence, but no pressure will be made on individuals to inform the Treasurer of their actions.
- (ii) A small flier, outlining the practicalities for leaving a legacy to the church, will be made readily available for those visiting the church to see and take away.

- (iii) The church accounts will not show details of individual legacies, nor will the source of the legacy be disclosed to PCC members. However, if a legacy is left for a very specific purpose, accounting standards may require that the legacy is 'ring fenced' in either a 'designated' fund or a 'restricted fund'. It may be necessary for those auditing /examining the accounts to be made aware of the source of the funds.

APPENDIX 1

Wording for a legacy

When making a will, the following wording would be appropriate to leave a legacy:

I hereby bequeath to The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Peter and St Paul in Wadhurst, the Diocese of Chichester, Registered Charity No. 1132389, Wadhurst PCC, Carillon Cottage, High Street, Wadhurst, East Sussex TN5 6AA, the sum of £..... free from all taxes and other fiscal impositions for its general purposes and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being shall be sufficient discharge for my executors.

This document should be signed and dated, and the signature witnessed by someone who would not be a beneficiary of the bequest, either directly or indirectly.

When amending an existing will, a simple codicil can be added:

By this codicil to my last will I hereby bequeath to The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of St Peter and St Paul in Wadhurst, the Diocese of Chichester, Registered Charity No. 1132389, Wadhurst PCC, Carillon Cottage, High Street, Wadhurst, East Sussex TN5 6AA, the sum of £..... free from all taxes and other fiscal impositions for its general purposes and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being shall be sufficient discharge for my executors.

Any codicil should be signed and dated, and the signature witnessed by someone who would not be a beneficiary of the bequest either directly or indirectly.