

# Securing a future for St Mary's

*Leaving a gift in our will – a rich legacy.*



## **The value of a gift in our will**

A well-known actor received her award at a lavish ceremony and spoke to the wealthy guests assembled there: *“Legacy is not built on what you earn but on what you give”*. When we think of the 1000 year history of St Mary’s, we remember the many people who have given so generously through their wills, often enabling the church to make significant changes to the building, life and work of the church. The results of these legacies are mostly unseen – but they live on in the vast network of caring community friendships nurtured in the faith, hope and love drawn from the deep wells of the worshipping church.

Once we have provided for our loved ones in our will, a gift to St Mary’s will help ensure that it remains a strong witness in the community and grows in influence for the good of all. Some people like to give to something specific like maintaining the church building, or work with children, or music and services. Others like to give for ‘general purposes’ (it costs over £2000 a week to run the church). Whatever you feel able to give, we will ensure your wishes are honoured.

In the UK, gifts in our will (legacies) to charities like St Mary’s, are tax exempt, they are paid out before inheritance tax is deducted.

## **How to leave a gift to St Mary’s in our will**

Leaving a gift is an important decision, but it does not need to be complicated. It’s important for us to discuss our wishes with our loved ones before making a will or making changes to an existing will.

When making a will we choose ‘executors’ who are legally empowered to carry out our wishes; it’s also helpful to talk things through with them.

It is advisable to consult a solicitor before amending or writing a will.

The Church of England suggests the following wording for leaving a bequest:

*“I give £\_\_\_\_\_/(%) of my residuary estate free of all taxes to the Parochial Church Council of the ecclesiastical parish of St Mary’s Church, Thorpe (Charity number 1176929) in the Diocese of Guildford for its general purposes, and I declare that the receipt of an officer of the Parochial Church Council shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors and trustees.”*

### **What does St Mary’s Do? A selection of our activities.**

- Festival, Wednesday and Sunday services
- Church family services
- Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals
- Noah’s Ark Baby and Toddler group - weekly in term time
- Family Club - Monthly on Sunday afternoon
- Alpha Course
- Wednesday Friendship Group
- Tea and Talk - Monthly on 2nd Monday
- Work closely with Thorpe Primary School
  - Host Thorpe School services and events
  - Provide teams to help with reading and gardening at the school
  - Support school governance
- Pilgrimage Days, Contemplative Prayer Meetings
- Host events to bring Thorpe community together.
- Summer and Christmas fairs
- Maintain our medieval Grade 2 Listed church building

Thank you for your kind consideration, for being one of a very long line of people who have generously provided for St Mary’s and secured it’s future for generations to come.

***Fr. Stephen Girling***

*On behalf of St Mary’s Parochial Church Council.*