



The Church of St. John, Ainsdale

Website: <http://www.stjohnsainsdale.org.uk>

Treasurer: Paul Ellis - treasurer@stjohnsainsdale.org.uk

Leaving a Legacy

Why make a will?

In order to leave a legacy to St John's or anyone else after your death you need to make a Will. Making a Will is the only way to ensure that on your death, your property and affairs are dealt with in accordance with your wishes. Without a Will, the Law decides what happens to your estate and how it is distributed. Many married people assume that when they die everything they own will automatically pass to their spouse, but this is not always the case. A Will is a legal document and we recommend that you use a solicitor to get one drawn up, it isn't as expensive as some people think. For general advice see:

http://www.adviceguide.org.uk/n6w/index/family_parent/family/wills.htm

I already have a will, can I change it?

Yes, you can. You can make a completely new Will in the same way as creating your first Will. However, if you are only making minor alterations then it is usually easier just to create a 'codicil' which just details the changes to the original Will. Again, we recommend you consult your solicitor.

What sorts of Legacy are there?

Pecuniary or Specific Legacy – This means a specific amount of money or a specific item. Wording such as this could be used:

"I bequeath to The Parochial Church Council of St John's Church Ainsdale, Liverpool Road, Ainsdale, Southport the sum of ... (the amount in figures and words) for its general charitable purposes; and I declare that the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer for the time being, or other proper Officer of the church shall be a good discharge for the same."

Residuary Legacy – This means what is left of your estate once all specific legacies have been paid out and any debts settled. You can leave the whole of the remaining amount or a proportion of it. This form of legacy is often preferred because you do not have to amend it if your financial circumstances change or to take account of inflation, etc. Your solicitor could use wording like this:

"I bequeath to The Parochial Church Council of St. John's Church Ainsdale, Liverpool Road, Ainsdale, Southport, all or a ... (insert the percentage) share of the residue of my estate for its general charitable purposes; and I declare that the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer for the time being, or other proper Officer of the church shall be a good discharge for the same."

Can I give for a specific purpose?

You can leave money for a specific purpose such as the 'Organ Fund' but we would prefer it if you didn't and instead gave the money for our 'general purposes' as above. The PCC makes the ultimate decisions on what we pay for as a church, if your instructions are not compatible with the PCC's wishes then your gift may never be used. This creates an awkward and distressing situation which is best avoided. If you would like to discuss this matter in confidence please contact the church Treasurer.

Thank you for considering making St John's a beneficiary of your Will,

Paul Ellis, Honorary Treasurer.