

**"Everything comes from you, O Lord,
and of your own have we given you"**

1 Chronicles 29 v14

What happens next?

Your solicitor will write your will and check it with you; you will sign it and arrange to store it safely. You will then have the peace of mind of knowing that your wishes will be carried out after your death.

Revising your will

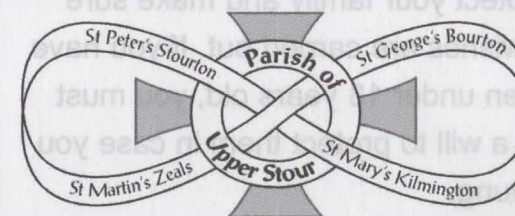
Most people need to review their wills every few years to check that their wishes are still accurately stated. Our wishes change as family circumstances change – births, marriages, retirements and deaths can all have an impact on the contents of our wills.

A new will can be made at any time with a solicitor and shouldn't cost much. It may be tempting to write a will yourself, but home made wills can be dangerous and leave your loved ones with problems. A will made with a solicitor is far more reliable.

Three things to remember

- gifts to charities can reduce the "death duties" charged to an estate;
- if you die without a will this may cause delays and legal problems for those you love at a time when they are grieving;
- your gift to your church can help to spread the Good News.

To order a free information pack about how to make or revise your will, visit www.churchlegacy.org.uk or ring the Church of England's Legacy Information Line: **08445 870 875** (a LoCall number).



Upper Stour PCC churches of
St.Mary, St.Martin, St.George, St.Peter.

Charity regn: 1131161

Contact: treasurer@agkemp.co.uk

for bank account or specific church details

Thank you very much for your support,
which is greatly appreciated

Changing lives after death

A short guide to making
gifts in your will

Why should I make a will?

To protect your family and make sure your wishes are carried out. If you have children under 18 years old, you must make a will to protect them in case you die young.

In England if you die without a valid will, the courts will decide what happens to your possessions – not your family or friends, but the Family Division of the Court. They follow strict rules that do not include unmarried partners or friends or churches or charities. So, to be sure **YOUR** wishes are carried out, please make a will!

Why is the Church concerned about this?

For nearly 500 years the Church of England has encouraged people to make wills and the Book of Common Prayer has a specific reminder to “settle their estates whilst they are in good health”. It is important that your wishes are carried out and that grieving family and friends are not placed under additional stress because you didn't leave a valid will.

But there is also a spiritual dimension.



“Everything comes from you, O Lord, and of your own have we given you”.

1 Chronicles 29 v14.

The traditional offertory prayer is based around these words. They remind us that everything we have is on loan from God during our earthly lifetime.

Christians are particularly generous in their lifetimes and should be no different in death.

Over the centuries, generous Church members have left gifts to their local churches in their wills. These gifts have not only represented an offering of thanks to God, but many have been transformational in helping their parish in its mission and ministry.

How can I make a will?

The best way to make a will is to see a solicitor, who is trained in all aspects of the law and tax and is insured to protect his clients. If you don't know a solicitor ask your family and friends if they do.

What must I do before I see the solicitor?

Making a will is like writing a very special Christmas list and gives you a wonderful opportunity to say ‘Thank you’ to God and all those you care about.

You will need to have a rough idea of what you own (called your assets), anything you owe, how you want to divide your assets up after you die, and who you want to act as your executors (they make sure your wishes are carried out).

You should name two executors who are younger than you. You can appoint a solicitor or accountant but they will charge for their services. Friends can benefit from your estate even if they are your executors.

A helpful worksheet to use as you think through your wishes is available in a free information pack from the Church of England. Call the number on the back of this leaflet or download it from www.churchlegacy.org.uk

