THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PINNER



PLANNING A FUNERAL AND MAKING A WILL

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Preface

Every Ash Wednesday the priest marks a cross in ash on our foreheads and says, "*Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return*." We come face to face with the reality of our mortality, which most of the time we would rather not think about. But Ash Wednesday begins the pathway to Easter joy and the proclamation of our faith that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. "**I am the Resurrection and the Life**" said Jesus and spoke to his friends of eternal life.

It is in this Easter faith that Christians should consider making a will and thinking about their funeral arrangements. In many ways this is a spiritual exercise, a responsibility of love and care to those whom we will leave behind. This brief pamphlet sets out to aid this practical act of love and faith. It encourages you to make clear your intentions or wishes concerning your funeral, making a will, leaving a legacy, preparing for eventualities in later life.

The parish clergy are willing to assist you in any way they can and talking through these things with a priest can prove very helpful indeed.

These things should not make us unduly morbid, but deepen our understanding of the reality of our Christian faith and life. Also making decisions easier for loved ones.

May God bless you in this endeavour, as you think and pray about this matter.

Please read the whole pamphlet before writing anything

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

People often say after they have been to a funeral, '*Oh, I would like this to happen at mine*' or '*I wouldn't want that for me*'. Sadly, that is often the end of their thinking and talking about it. When we die it falls to our families to try and think about what we would have wanted, what our favourite hymns were or Bible readings were etc.,

It is helpful, particularly for those of us who are members of the Church, to leave some instructions for their own funerals.

This partly helps our families at a time when they are in grief, but also enables us to make a statement about our belief that death is not the end, but a change from this life to the next with Christ. So, we are able to offer some comfort and hope to those who mourn our death, by the hymns etc. used at our funeral and its style.

This form has no legal force.

However, your next of kin will want to be guided by your wishes and so it is important that they know where copies of this are to be found.

Please fill out this form as much as you are able or wish to, and discuss it with one of the Parish clergy, then sign it.

Then make two copies: one to place with your important documents and one to give to your next of kin. You may also like to keep a copy at the Church and, if you have a funeral bond / pre-paid funeral arrangements, you may like to give another copy to the Funeral Director.

Please complete this form in BLOCK CAPITALS

MY Name	
Address:	
☎ ✉:	**Date of birth:**
Name of Next of kin:	Relationship:
Address ☎ ✉	
Name of Executors	

Address		
☎		
✉		

1) Do you have a funeral bond / pre paid funeral? No / Yes
If yes, please give details:
2) Do you have a preference for which Funeral Directors should be used ? No / Yes
If yes, please give details:
3) Copies of this document given to:

This form has no legal force but indicates my intentions

FUNERAL SERVICES

I should like…(circle, or delete, writing, on another sheet of paper where appropriate).

To be cremated

To be buried (please provide details of graveyard / plot etc.)

My body to rest in Church the night before the funeral

The whole service to take place in the Crematorium

A funeral service in Church, followed by the Committal at the Crematorium

A Requiem Mass in Church, followed by the Committal at the Crematorium

My ashes are to be interred (please give details of location)

The following hymns:

Three Hymns for Funeral Service (tune)

1)

2)

3)

Five Hymns for Requiem Mass (tune)

1) Introductory Hymn:

2) Gospel:

3) Offertory:

4) Administration:

5) Final Hymn:

The following readings or prayers:

_____

_____

_____

The following people to be invited to read (at least two):

_____

_____

Or give an appreciation / eulogy

_____

The following clergy to be invited to share in the taking of the service:

_____

Other details

Family Flowers only

No flowers

Single arrangement

Donations to the following charity:

To leave a capital sum or percentage to the Church (name)

_____

Any other requests or wishes:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Signed:_____

Date:_____

Date received: _____

Parish clergy:_____

When should I make or change my Will?

If you haven't already made a Will now is a good time to think about it. You need to make a will to ensure that your money and possessions (known as your estate) are distributed as you would wish and not automatically passed to your next of kin.

If you have already made a Will it is a good idea to look at it from time to time to ensure that it still reflects your wishes.

Family circumstances change with the birth of new children or grandchildren; people may have married, died or divorced or your financial circumstances may have altered.

Many people do not realise that marriage automatically revokes a previously existing Will.

If you want to change your Will, it is not obligatory to use a solicitor to draw up a new will. You could include an additional document (known as a codicil), which adds to or alters an existing Will.

Before you visit the solicitor

Here are some things to think about before going to a solicitor:

- Draw up a list of what you own (including savings, insurance policies, stocks and shares, your house, car and any other valuable items (e.g. jewellery) with an approximate value (your assets).

- Make a list of the amounts you owe – e.g. mortgage outstanding, credit cards, loans and any other debts that would have to be repaid (your liabilities).

- Think about whom you wish to include in your Will and what you want to leave them. As well as family and friends you might want to include your parish church and favourite charities.

- Instead of leaving specific amounts to individuals or charities you can specify percentages of your estate

- If you have children (below the age of 18 years) decide who will be their guardians in the event of your death (discuss this with the people you choose).

- Who will be your executors? These are the people who will carry out your wishes under your Will and can be friends or relatives or a bank or Solicitor.

- A simple form "***Preparing for a Visit to Your Solicitor***" is available from the parish office. They will also have the form of words for your solicitor to use if you wish to make a legacy to the church.

What to do now…

1. Decide to make or update your Will
2. Make a list of your assets with an approximate value, and your liabilities
3. Decide who you want to include in your Will and what you want to leave them
4. Choose a guardian if you have a children under the age of 18 years old.

5. Appoint at least two executors to carry out your wishes
6. Make an appointment with your solicitors to write your Will
7. Make a note in your diary of when it would be good to review your Will to keep it up to date
8. **Plan ahead:** consider Setting up a Lasting Power of attorney (LPA) concerning two areas.

    i) **Financial and property affairs**
    ii) **Health & Welfare**

An LPA covers decisions about your financial affairs, or your health and care. It comes into effect if you lose mental capacity. You would set up an LPA if you want to make sure you are covered in the future for this eventuality.

A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is a legal document that gives people of your choice (attorneys) the authority to help and deal with your affairs on your behalf. This gives you more control and peace of mind about what will happen to you if you become unable to make your own decisions.

An LPA, which must be signed, witnessed and "certified" by an independent person to confirm you are making the LPA of your own free will is sent to the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) for registration. The LPA cannot be used until it has been registered by the Office of the Public Guardian.

Please be aware the process of registration can prove very time consuming.

LEGACIES

Leaving gifts to Charity

You can donate:

- a fixed amount
- an item
- what's left after other gifts have been given out

Your donation will:

- be taken off the value of your estate before Inheritance Tax is calculated
- reduce your Inheritance Tax rate, if 10% or more of your estate is left to charity.

If you give at least 10% of your taxable estate to charity, the inheritance tax rate for the rest of your estate drops from 40% to 36%.

For further details, see Government website:
www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/leaving-gifts-to-charity-in-your-will

It can be very difficult deciding who should benefit from our gifts when we die; there are so many possibilities.
There is a long tradition of Christians leaving their wealth to those whom they love and to the work of the Church.

Yesterday…

As God's people, we have much to be thankful for. If it were not for the generations of Christians before us, faithfully sharing the Good News of Christ then we would not be here as members of the Church today.
The very building we meet in is a testimony to their love of generosity, built and maintained by our predecessors' investment and stewardship. They have left us a precious gift; our inheritance was their legacy for the future.

Today…

We too have been called to be faithful servants of the Gospel. As disciples of Christ, each one of us shares the responsibility for the mission of the Church, through our careful stewardship of the resources God has given us to use in His service.

Forever…

So, what will we hand on to future generations?

Will they know of Christ's love in this community? Will there still be a church here in our parish and a faithful community of Christians witnessing to God's love and forgiveness, through practical service and regular worship? With our help, prayers and practical support all this can be possible.

Please consider leaving a legacy to St John the Baptist, Pinner Parish Church. It may be a capital sum or a percentage of your estate or some property.

The legacy can be made to **THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PINNER No: 1130752** (registered charity number)

This is a registered charitable trust set up to support the ministry, maintenance and mission. The correct wording for leaving a legacy of money or property ought to be discussed with your solicitor but the parish clergy may also be able to help.

May God bless you in this endeavour, as you think and pray about this matter.

The Ministry Team of Pinner Parish Church

This guide does not amount to legal or financial advice. You should always seek independent legal or financial advice about your affairs.

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