MAKING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

A LASTING LEGACY

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Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your will to support the Cathedral. Making a gift in your will is an excellent and thoughtful way to help ensure the Cathedral continues to flourish now and long into the future.

Lichfield Cathedral stands witness to the extraordinary generosity of all manner of donors and benefactors across the last thousand years. Gifts of all shapes and sizes have always been part of our story. We need always to be able to meet the needs of those who come here. Legacies can have a profound effect on our ability to respond to the world around us and to serve the community in new and dynamic ways.

All of us who cherish this special and sacred place today are indebted to those who have gone before, and it is our privilege to maintain the Cathedral for those who will come after us.

I hope this leaflet gives you all the information you need while you consider this deeply personal decision, but if there is anything you would like to discuss we will be happy to help. Thank you on behalf of Chapter and all who visit and worship here, now and in the years to come.

THE VERY REVEREND ADRIAN DORBER
DEAN OF LICHFIELD
Legacy gifts are used to support a wide range of activities that support the Cathedral’s life and mission.

One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. Psalm 145:4

Your gift might support our daily worship, our education and outreach programmes or our dynamic programme of public events. It might be directed towards the restoration of part of the building, or the conservation of a book or manuscript in the Cathedral’s library collection. Perhaps your gift will be used to support the choral music, or the repair and maintenance of the Cathedral’s wonderful Hill organ.

Wherever they are directed, all legacies help underpin the unchanging reason for the Cathedral’s existence – the worship, love and praise of God that has to be proclaimed afresh in every generation.
**How do I make a gift in my will?**

Anyone can leave a gift in their will. Making a will is important, as it ensures your wishes are carried out, and that your loved ones and any charities you would like to support are taken care of as you intend.

A will is a legal document so it is advisable to consult a solicitor. If you already have a will and wish to add a gift for the benefit of the Cathedral, you can do this by adding a codicil to your will.

There are two main ways of including provision for the Cathedral.

1. A residuary bequest involves leaving the remainder of your estate (or a percentage of it) after other gifts, taxes and expenses have been settled.

2. A pecuniary legacy is a fixed amount of money. The value of a pecuniary legacy will diminish over time so you may wish to consider index-linking your gift to allow for inflation.

It is also possible to leave gifts of specific items of property. If you are considering a bequest of a specific item, we ask that where possible you discuss your intention with us before drawing up your will.

**Can I direct my gift to a specific purpose?**

One way to ensure your legacy gift is of the greatest value is to make it without any restriction on its purpose.

It is impossible to predict what challenges lie ahead, and unrestricted legacies can be directed by the Dean and Chapter towards the area of most urgent need at the time they are received. With no regular funding from the government or the Church of England, the Cathedral relies on the generosity of donors each year to meet its costs. Leaving your gift without restriction ensures your gift helps wherever the need is greatest.

However, it is also possible to direct your gift towards a specific area of the Cathedral’s work, such as fabric repair or music, if you so wish.

We ask that wherever possible you discuss the wording of your will with us in advance to help ensure your intentions are carried out.

To support the Cathedral, a gift in your will should be made to Lichfield Cathedral. If you would like to express the wish that it be used for a specific purpose, please indicate whether the gift is for general purposes or fabric or music.
Lichfield Cathedral and its tranquil Close are a treasured landmark in the heart of England. The only mediaeval English Cathedral with three spires, the building as it stands today was begun in 1195; by the time the Black Death brought work to a stop in 1349, its layout and shape looked much as they do today.

GIFTS TOWARDS THE FABRIC

The unique two-story Chapter House which houses the Cathedral Library dates from this period, and contains a rare complete example of a mediaeval tiled floor. Throughout the Middle Ages, the Cathedral was one of the three most important pilgrimage destinations in the country. During the Civil War the Cathedral suffered significant damage, besieged three times and losing its roof and central spire to cannonballs. Restoration was followed by a period of flourishing in the 18th century, when the Cathedral and Close became a centre of culture and learning of national importance.

The Victoria era saw a major and sensitive restoration under Sir George Gilbert Scott, which included the ornate figures on the West Front, the Skidmore Screen, and the Minton tiled floor in the Quire. Conserving and maintaining this extraordinary place requires funding. Annual operating income helps Chapter meet the general running costs of the Cathedral but repair and restoration projects require additional fundraising. A gift in your will towards the fabric will help ensure that we can continue to preserve the Cathedral for future generations.

GIFTS TOWARDS MUSIC

There has been a Choral Foundation at Lichfield Cathedral since 1315, when Bishop Walter de Langton first provided accommodation for the Lay Vicars Choral in Vicars Close.

This formal provision of Lay Vicars has over the years been expanded to include the posts of Director of Music, Organists, Choral Scholars, the Headteacher of the Cathedral School and both Boy and Girl Choristers as part of the Foundation plus an enormous singing outreach programme, MusicShare, involving local schools.

The Cathedral's choral tradition is at the heart of our daily worship, with at least one sung service most days. Thousands of people hear our choir every year, from the regular singing of Choral Evensong to the magnificent services for Easter and Christmas, as well as broadcasts and concerts. Legacy gifts towards Cathedral music help educate our choristers and support the Music Department in delivering high quality music all year round. Gifts can either be made towards the ongoing running costs of the music programme, or towards the Cathedral's permanent endowment – the Cathedral Music Fund – which generates income each year in support of our annual music costs. Please contact us if you would like more information about a gift towards the endowment.
Inheritance Tax is a tax on the estate (the property, money and possessions) of someone who’s died. Whether your estate is liable for Inheritance Tax will depend on the value of the estate and what provisions you make in your will.

Inheritance Tax is complex and subject to change, so we recommend you seek professional advice on how it may affect you.

Legacies to charities are exempt from Inheritance Tax. Under the current rules (2022), making provision for charities in your will may also reduce the rate of Inheritance Tax on the rest of your estate if you leave at least 10% of your estate to charity.

M A K I N G  A  R E A L  D I F F E R E N C E

Restoring our Cathedral building
Joy Emmett held an affinity to Lichfield Cathedral all her life. Joy’s unrestricted gift of her residual estate was transformational, enabling us to undertake essential fabric repair and secure other significant grants towards major restoration of the Cathedral’s central spire.

Enhancing our worship
The late Reverend James Potts assisted with the worship at the Cathedral, regularly presiding over the lunchtime service. His bequest to enhance the Cathedral’s worship has helped to reinstate the Shrine of St Chad in the Lady Chapel.

WHAT ARE THE TAX IMPLICATIONS OF A GIFT IN MY WILL?

A living tradition
Bill Colman was a loyal supporter of the Cathedral over many years. His legacy gift enabled the restoration of the Cathedral’s Tantony Bell, which has been rung before every act of public worship in the Cathedral for over 350 years. Thanks to Bill’s legacy, the bell has been repaired, refurbished and reinstalled to ring out before services for many more years to come.

Lichfield Cathedral is charitable by legislation; the Cathedral does not have a Registered Charity number but is treated by HMRC as a charitable organisation for the purposes of donations. Bequests to the Cathedral are therefore exempt from Inheritance Tax. If you or your professional advisor would like more information about our charitable status, please contact us.

“As an engineer, forever taking things apart and putting them together again, Bill would have loved this project.”

JANE COLMAN
Thank you for considering making a gift in your will to support Lichfield Cathedral.
If you would like any further information, or to let us know about your legacy intentions, please contact us. Your enquiry will be kept confidential.

Please return this form to The Development Office, 19a The Close, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7LD.

Title .................................................................................................................................
Name .............................................................................................................................
Address ............................................................................................................................
Postcode .........................................................................................................................

Please tick the appropriate boxes:
☐ I have included Lichfield Cathedral in my will.
☐ I would like to join the St Chad Legacy Circle.
☐ I have questions and would like to speak to someone, my telephone number is

The information you provide will remain confidential. If you wish, we will use your details to send you information about our work and invitations to events. We will keep your details safe and will never sell them to another organisation.

To receive this information by email please provide your email address below:

Email ..............................................................................................................................
I have sung continuously since joining a church choir at the age of seven. To sing or witness the very best of music by Cathedral Choirs is both uplifting and inspirational. As I wish to help to maintain this fine tradition, I have made provision for the music in Lichfield Cathedral in my will.

PETER PARSONS

CONTINUE THE STORY...
Email: legacy@lichfield-cathedral.org
Telephone: 01543 622460

The Chapter Office
19a The Close
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS13 7LD

www.lichfield-cathedral.org