

Hold a Gifts in Wills service



Faith lives in a large homestead in Mathea village, Makueni county in Kenya. She lives there with her husband Steven, their five children and her extended family. Their lives have been transformed by the Kwa Kilii Sand Dam which was built nearby by Christian Aid's partner ADSE.

An Introduction: Remember a charity, remember your church

I wonder what your first memory of this church is. Perhaps you were born into this church family and grew up running through the halls and appearing in the annual Nativity plays. Perhaps you came as a stranger but remember your first warm welcome and cup of tea. Maybe this place is linked with lots of your favourite memories, your wedding day, your children being blessed, and friendships being made. Perhaps it is a place where you remember people you have loved who are now no longer sitting among us.

Every church is built up of a thousand memories of the people who have sat in these seats, who have loved and followed Jesus here together. For many people church becomes their second home, their second family.

Today we are celebrating Remember A Charity week, where our partners at Christian Aid ask us to remember our global brothers and sisters with a gift in our Will. Over a third of Christian Aid's voluntary income is made up of these special gifts of love. For churches, like us, where Christian Aid is part of who we are, leaving a gift in our Will is a powerful and special way that our love can live on for generations to come.

But this week is also a time for us to remind ourselves that this place that we call home, our church, is also a charity. We have a vision in this church that you are part of and will always be part of, even when you are no longer sitting here. By remembering your church, as well as much loved charities like Christian Aid in your Will, we can ensure that our mission lives on, transforming communities locally and across the world.

To find out how you can leave a gift in your Will, visit caid.org.uk/legacy for your free Gifts in Wills guide.

Interactive ideas

Place slips of paper on seats with the start of the sentence 'I love <your church's name> because...' Gather and read them out as part of the service.

Ask some of the longest standing church members to share some early memories of the church and what it means to them.

Invite the congregation to walk to a place or pick up something in the church that holds a special memory. It could be the organ, a painting, a seat - ask them to share their memory.

Faith's Story

You could share Faith's story during the service as an example of the impact that gifts in Wills can have for communities across the world.

Faith remembers when there was plenty of rain: 'The weather has changed because when I was young, there was a lot of rain and food was plenty. Today the rains are very poor.'

Faith lives in a large homestead in Mathea village, Makueni county in Kenya. She lives there with her husband Steven, their five children and her extended family. Their lives have been transformed by the Kwa Kilii Sand Dam which was built nearby by Christian Aid's partner ADSE. Faith tells us her story:

'Before the sand dam we were facing a lot of trouble fetching water, we did not even try to do farming or planting vegetables because there was no water. There were a lot of challenges getting any kind of income.

The sand dam has helped us because we are getting water, as are many families in the village. Everyone is growing vegetables, even the people downstream are growing vegetables. When I planted tomatoes, I got 150,000 shillings after selling them. I paid school fees using this money, I bought food, I bought two cows and I bought one acre of land.

I am happy, I don't have the words to express how I feel. I hope that by the time my children grow I will have done a lot of things. I'll do my best to educate my children and my children will be what they want to be when they grow up.'

A gift in your Will to Christian Aid could help families like Faith's flourish for generations to come.

Something for the children

Faith has hope that her children 'will be what they want to be when they grow up.' You could ask the children as part of an all age talk or in their smaller groups outside of the service:

What do you want to be when you grow up?

What do you hope this church will be like in the future?

What are your hopes for children across the world?

Divide a piece of paper into three and invite them to draw or make a collage to show their hopes for each.



Faith is pictured with her young son Hilary. Faith and her husband Steven have five children and she says: 'I'll do my best to educate my children and my children will be what they want to be when they grow up.'

Sermon ideas

Here are some Bible verses that you could use in your sermon or talk on the theme of leaving a lasting legacy.

The story of Noah: Genesis 9:15-16

'Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.'

A green legacy: Just as God provided for Noah, he has provided for us. How can we uphold our part of the covenant to love and care for God's creation? Whether that is blessing your church to make their buildings and activities more sustainable or blessing the work of Christian Aid tackling climate injustice across the world. You can leave a lasting legacy for God's creation.

The alabaster jar: Matthew 26:10-13

'Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.'

The fragrance you leave behind: What is most important to you in your life? What makes you who you are? We all leave behind a fragrance in the world. The woman with the alabaster jar leaves an incredible legacy through her act of generosity. Remembering your favourite charity or church in your Will is a lovely way for your values and love to live on.



Faith tending her crops. A gift left in your Will is like planting a seed that gets bigger and bigger as it reaches and transforms the lives of others for generations to come.

Song and hymn suggestions

I, The Lord Of Sea and Sky

Take My Life, And Let It Be

How Great Thou Art

In Christ Alone

Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace

Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands

An interactive prayer: the legacy plait

Give each person three lengths of ribbon to represent Christian Aid, your church and their loved ones. As they hold each strand they can offer silent prayers for their global family, church family and those that they live with. You may like to play some music while they pray.

Ask them to tie all three strands together at one end and gently plait or twist the strands around each other to show how we are all one family, God's family.

When we decide who to remember with a gift in our Will, it is right to look after our family and friends first. The legacy plait reminds us to look outside our own home to our wider church and global family too.

A prayer for climate change

Let us pray with Faith's community facing the challenge of climate change:

God of life, God of justice.
You are the enabler, the all in all.
Enable humankind and the powers-that-be
for a change of heart
on the issue of climate change;
for compassion for the poor and the vulnerable
who are threatened by the change in climate.
So that at the end, God, humanity will be edified
And you God, glorified.

Amen.

Dr Bright Mawudor, Deputy General Secretary (Adapted)
All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)

A lasting legacy prayer

Generous God, your blessings in our lifetime are immeasurable.
We are humbled and grateful.
We thank you for material gifts of a safe home, food to eat and clothes to wear.
We thank you for your beautiful creation, with life growing all around us.
We thank you for the love of friends and family who are with us for all our precious moments.
When we look ahead to the day when you will eventually take us home, let us not be afraid or feel sad for the things that we will leave behind.
Let us rejoice in the lasting legacy that we can pass on to others through our values, our talents and our generosity with your blessings.
We know that everything we have is yours and so what we leave behind matters, to our family, our church, and our wider global neighbours.
Give us a generous heart so that we may plant seeds of your love to flourish for generations to come.

Amen.

The prayer of the Baobab tree

Father God, like the Baobab tree standing strong for thousands of years, help us to leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.
Let our compassion be like the branches reaching out to our sisters and brothers around the world.
Let our generous gifts be like the fruit empowering others to flourish.
Let our faith be the roots that ground us in this life and the next.

Amen.

How do I leave a gift in my Will?

Leaving a gift in your Will is a simple and easy thing to do. The team at Christian Aid cannot provide legal advice but your solicitor or a professional Will writing service will be able to help you write or amend your Will.

There are three different types of gift you can consider:

Specific: an object or piece of property

Pecuniary: a fixed sum of money

Residuary: a percentage of your estate that is left when other legacies and expenses have been paid.

A residuary gift is the most common type of legacy gift and allows you to take care of all your other beneficiaries first.

The only other information your solicitor or Will writer will need is the registered charity number and address.

To leave a gift in your Will to Christian Aid here is the information you will need:

If you live in England and Wales: Christian Aid, PO Box 100, London, SE1 7RT (Charity no. 110585)

If you live in Scotland: Christian Aid, First floor Sycamore House, 290 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4JR (Charity no. SC039150)

If you live in Northern Ireland: Christian Aid, Linden House, Beechill Business Park, 96 Beechill Road, Belfast BT8 7QN (Charity no. XR94639)

To leave a gift to your local church you just need to provide the name, address and charity number.

Christian Aid gifts in Wills facts

On average, gifts in Wills raise £11 million each year for our work with the world's poorest communities.

Two thirds of people that leave a share of their Estate to Christian Aid, also remember their local church with a special gift.

More than two thirds of churchgoers have never heard gifts in Wills talked about at church and one in two church leaders say that they would feel reluctant or nervous to talk about this way of giving.

Remember A Charity Week is the perfect time to start raising awareness about gifts in Wills and the impact they have both locally and globally.



Faith and Hilary smiling together, 'I am happy, I don't have the words to express how I feel. It's like I lack the words to express what I feel, but I am very happy.'

Remember A Charity

Remember A Charity brings together over 200 UK charities, like Christian Aid, to raise awareness about gifts in Wills and increase the number of charitable gifts left each year.

Currently 6% of people leave a gift to charity in their Will, but if this increased to 10% then it could generate another £1 billion for good causes each year.

With over 40,000 churches across the UK, we can help too by simply talking about this special way of giving in our church.

You can find out more about Remember A Charity at rememberacharity.org.uk.

Will Aid this November

Feeling inspired? Why not write or update your Will for free. Christian Aid is one of nine charities that benefit from Will Aid each year. To register for an appointment with a Will Aid solicitor near you, visit willaid.org.uk.

We also have other ways that you can write your Will for free too, either face to face, online or over the phone. Visit caid.org.uk/legacy and choose the right one for you.

Thank you for all the special ways that you support



REMEMBER US IN
YOUR WILL
Help our work live on...