



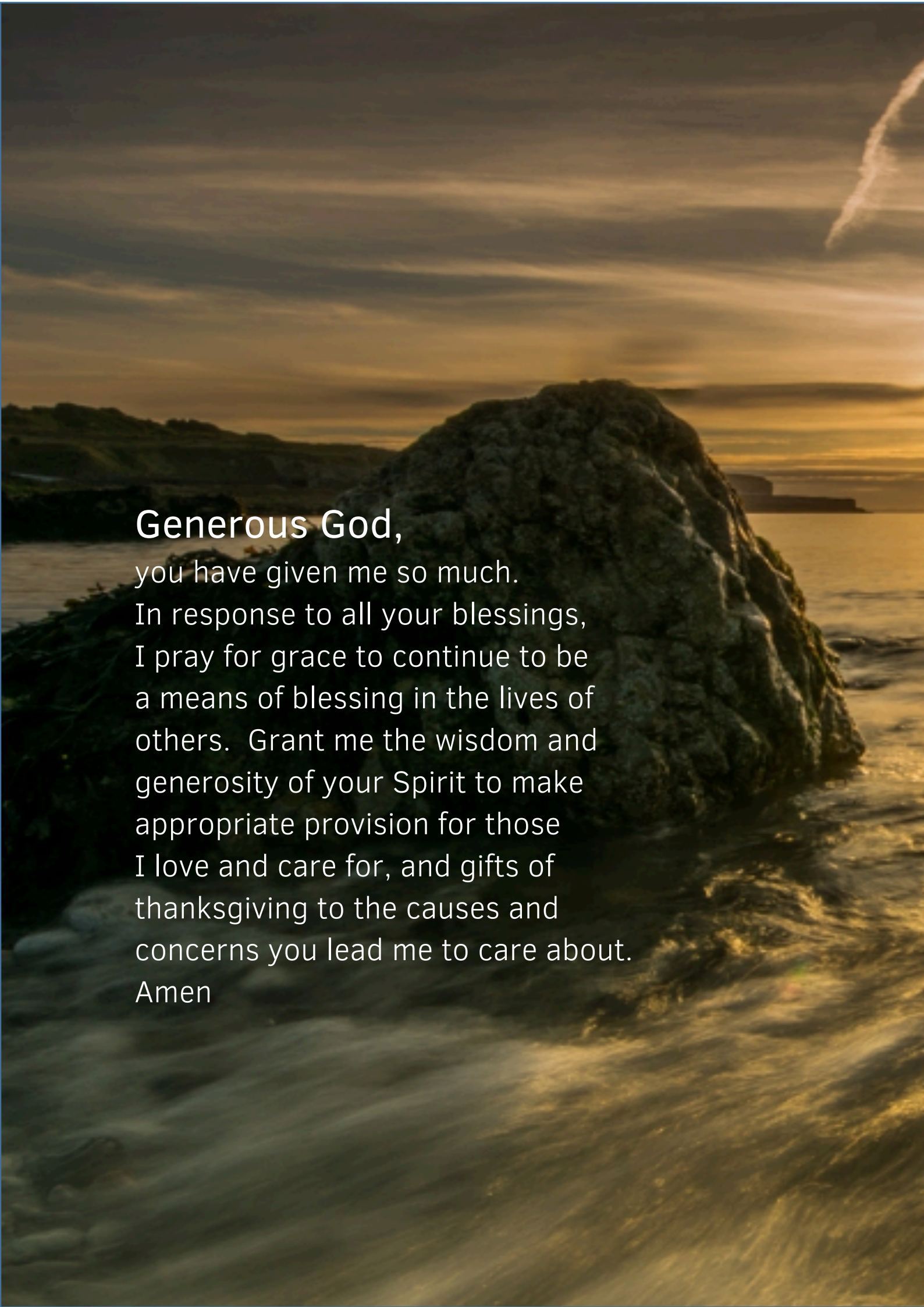
Gifts of Faith, Hope and Love

A guide to writing your will to reflect your Christian Faith

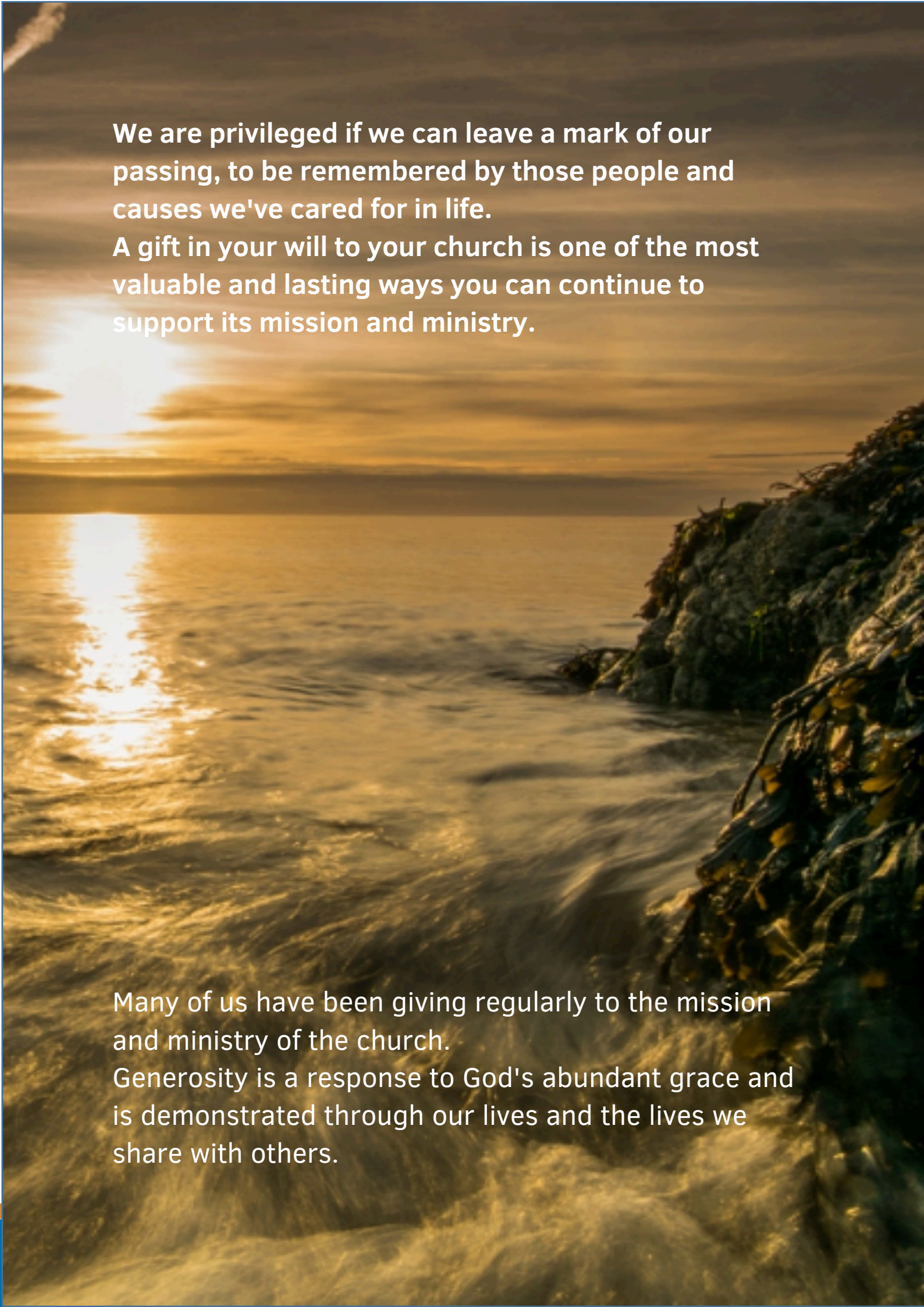
YR EGLWYS
YNG NGHYMRU



THE CHURCH
IN WALES



Generous God,
you have given me so much.
In response to all your blessings,
I pray for grace to continue to be
a means of blessing in the lives of
others. Grant me the wisdom and
generosity of your Spirit to make
appropriate provision for those
I love and care for, and gifts of
thanksgiving to the causes and
concerns you lead me to care about.
Amen

A full-page background image showing a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, golden reflection on the water's surface. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds. On the right side, a dark, rocky coastline with some seaweed is visible. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

We are privileged if we can leave a mark of our passing, to be remembered by those people and causes we've cared for in life.

A gift in your will to your church is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can continue to support its mission and ministry.

Many of us have been giving regularly to the mission and ministry of the church. Generosity is a response to God's abundant grace and is demonstrated through our lives and the lives we share with others.

Making a Real Difference

All churches rely entirely upon the support of generous Christians. Our giving is vitally important and helps sustain mission both here in this country, and overseas.

For example, through our church buildings, clergy and our wider ministry; as measured by every ill person visited,

every confirmation course run,

every assembly taken,

every bereaved family comforted,

every baptism celebrated,

every sermon preached,

every Eucharist celebrated and

every person shown the love of Christ through our care, comfort and compassion.

Your Gift

Beyond our regular lifetime giving a gift in your will can be a final and powerful expression of your gratitude and thanksgiving towards God and can help transform your local church's future.

We pray that as you plan how to distribute your estate, you will feel encouraged to remember your church family and we invite you to consider how a gift in your will could help the Church meet the needs of future generations.



“But those who hope
in the LORD will renew
their strength. They
will soar on wings like
eagles; they will run
and not grow weary,
they will walk and not
be faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

“Where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.”

Luke 12.34



Writing your Will

For hundreds of years the Anglican church has encouraged people to make a will. The Book of Common Prayer instructs clergy to remind those who are sick:

“Let him be admonished to make his will... for the better discharging of his conscience and the quietness of his Executors. But men should often be put in remembrance to take order for the settling of their temporal estates, whilst they are in health.”

Making a will and updating it regularly is the only way to make sure your wishes are carried out after your death, giving you peace of mind that you can continue to support the family, friends and causes you love.

Why every Christian should have a Will

We are God's stewards, entrusted to use His gifts for the good of our loved ones. In thanksgiving, we should also take will writing seriously – setting our affairs in order and stewarding them wisely to the end of our time on earth and beyond.

Free will writing and Discount Schemes

Wills are legal documents, and as small errors can cause big problems, it's vital to have someone legally qualified to draft it.

There are a number of low cost wills, or individual and charity based schemes available. To find out more, please visit www.churchlegacy.org.uk/lowcostwills

Making your will is simple!

1

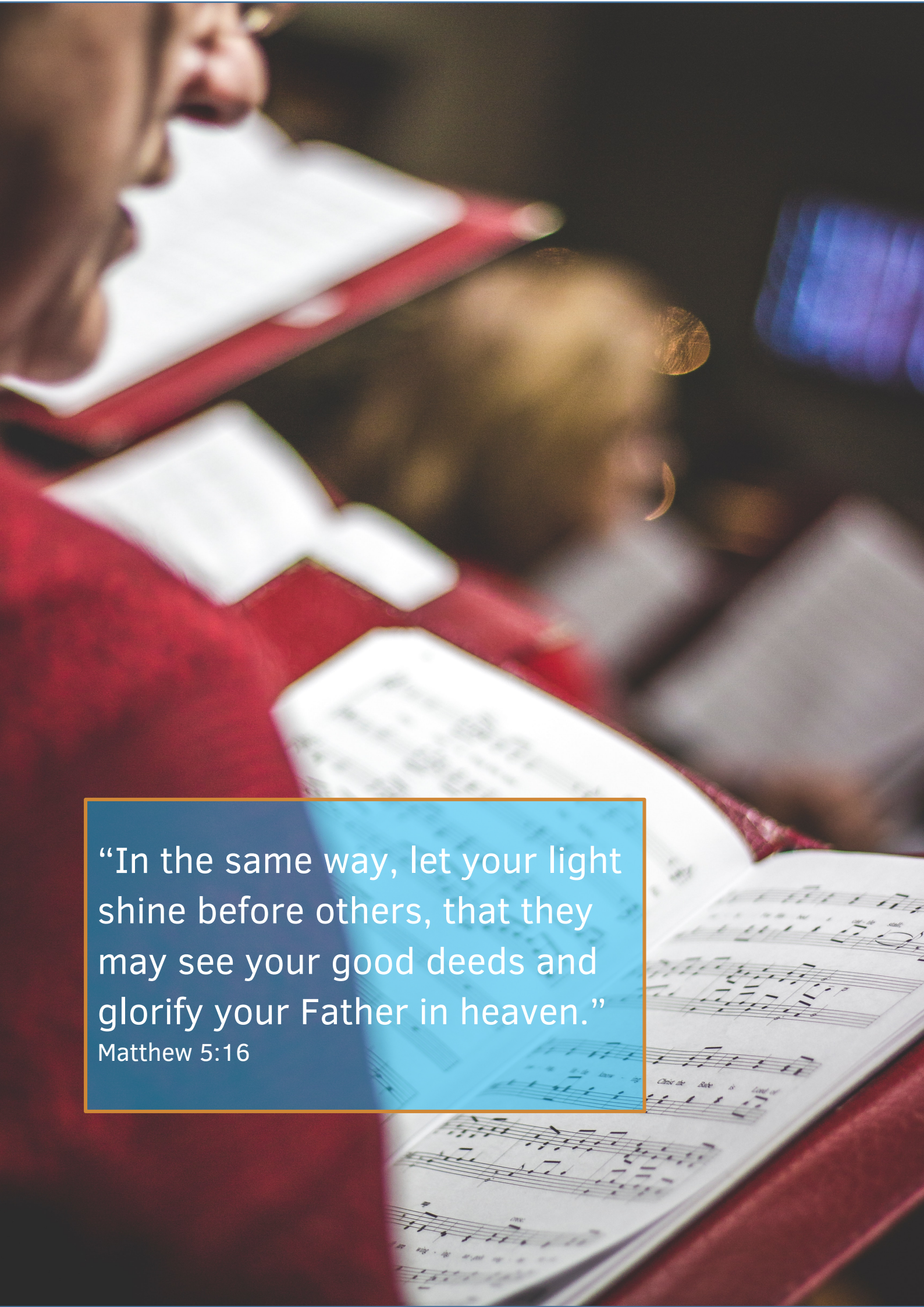
Use the 'Preparing to visit your solicitor' form to help plan how you would like to divide your estate and other important decisions.

2

Find a Solicitor – ask your family/friends for local recommendations or try searching on www.lawsociety.org.uk

3

Make an appointment to see your solicitor and take this pack with you.



“In the same way, let your light
shine before others, that they
may see your good deeds and
glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16



“Yours, LORD, is the greatness
and the power and the glory
and the majesty and the
splendour, for everything in
heaven and earth is yours.”

1 Chronicles 29:11

Your Church, Your Gift

The Church in Wales as a whole is not a single charity on its own but a gathering of the faithful and this is reflected in its structures as a family of related charities. There are many ways you can support the work of the Church with a gift in your will.

To your Local Church

A local church enables engagement in every community. A gift in your will could make a lasting difference and help to further the mission and ministry of your church.

To your Cathedral

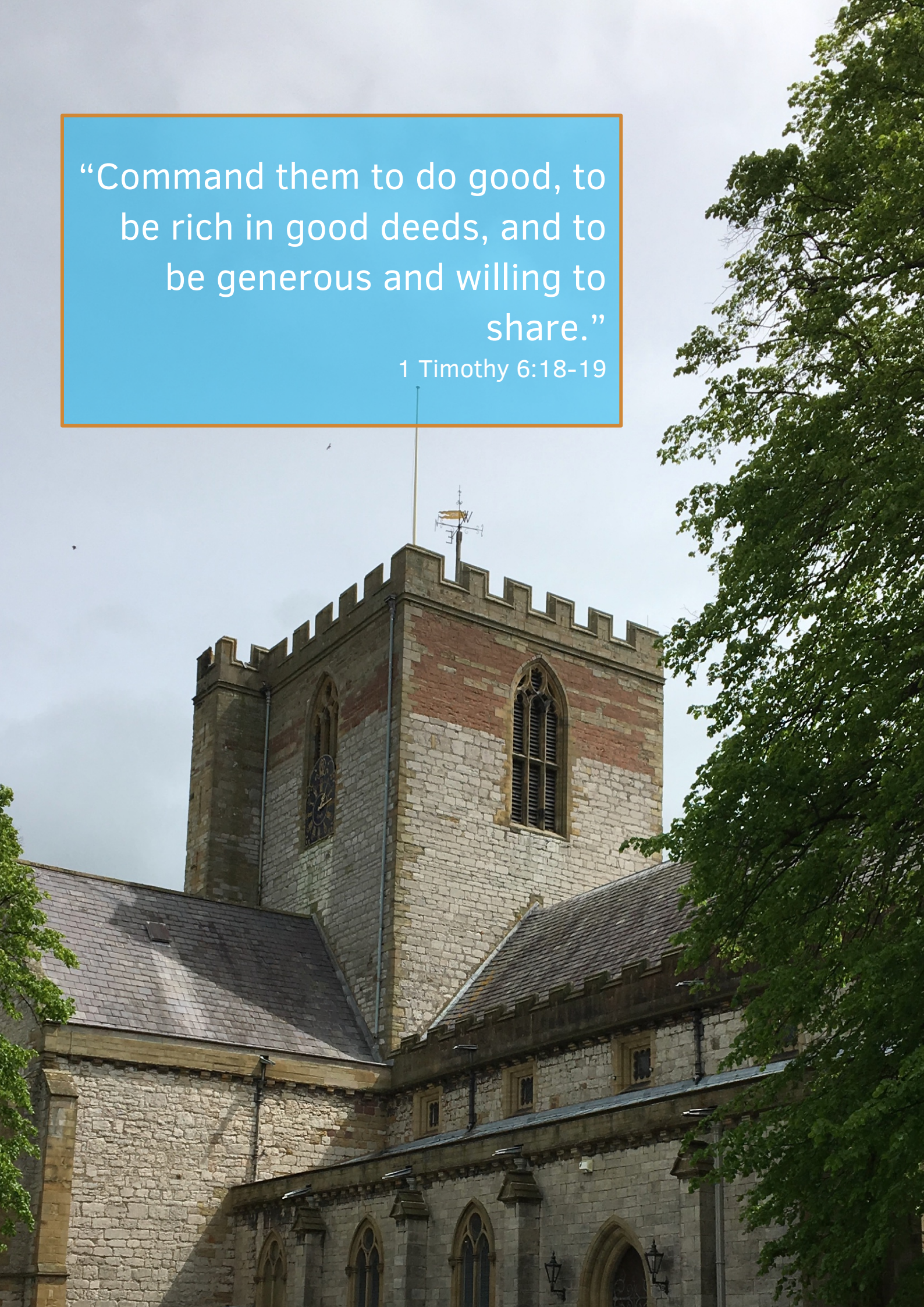
A Cathedral is often the most historic and architecturally important building in its city. A gift to a Cathedral would help preserve this beautiful building for future worshippers, pilgrims and visitors from near and far.

To your Diocese

Many Diocese make grants to Mission Areas. Your gift could enable churches in poorer parts of the region or help them to engage in projects they believe God is calling them to do.

“Command them to do good, to
be rich in good deeds, and to
be generous and willing to
share.”

1 Timothy 6:18-19





“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9.7

An Amazing Gift

No matter how large or small, gifts in wills create amazing opportunities for mission. Here are some examples of projects that have been made possible through a legacy gift.

Feeding Faith

One Ministry Area has received a Legacy of £20,000 for General Purposes. The Ministry Area Council decided to use a proportion of this funding to start a new monthly Breakfast Church initiative at one of their church buildings. This encouraged young families to come and learn about our faith and provided a platform for the Ministry Area to begin other outreach programs aimed at growth.

A gift that keeps on giving

A few years ago a Parish received a residuary bequest for the maintenance of one of their buildings of £60,000. They used it towards seed funding for further grant applications towards repairing their very dilapidated building which amounted to nearly £400,000. Their building is now a very welcoming place that attracts thousands of visitors annually. The gift was a residuary bequest and they continue to have a payment now and again from this gift as more items are found. The extra payments are being used to top up the maintenance fund of the building.

Supporting New Mission Projects

A pecuniary bequest of £2,000 was given to a small rural church on condition that it was used for improving the provision of children's activities. The congregation didn't have any children attending and so couldn't keep to the restriction. The Ministry Area Council decided that there was a need for outreach to families within the village so volunteers from the other churches helped to set up a Messy Church in the village school. The gift was used to purchase equipment to help with this and families are back in the church.

How to make a Lasting Gift

No matter how large or small, every gift can make a difference.

To leave a share of your estate (Residuary Bequest)

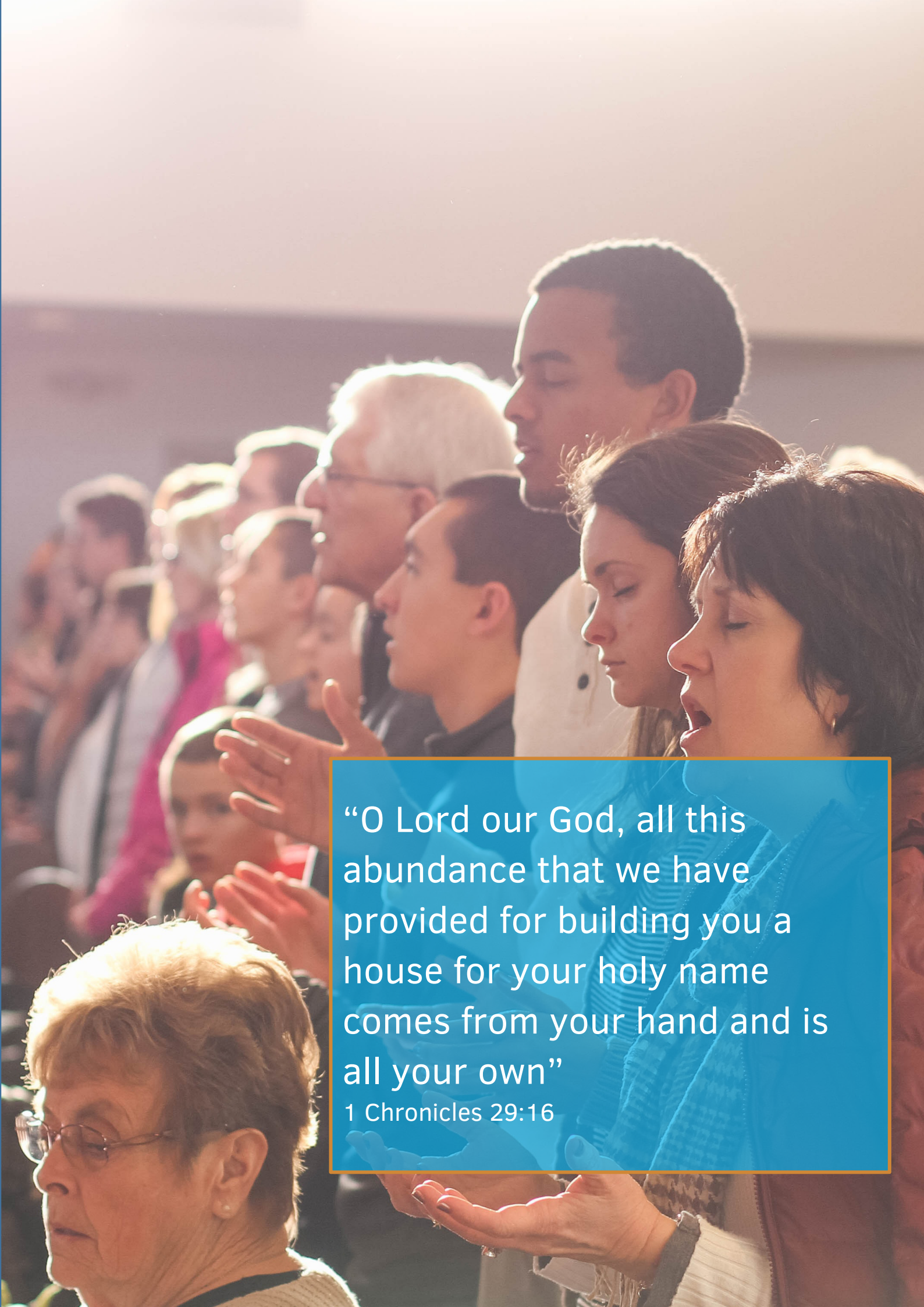
This is the gift of all or part of the value of your estate (after debts, other legacies and liabilities have been met). This has the advantage of automatically keeping up with inflation.

To leave a fixed sum of money (Pecuniary Bequest)

You can choose to leave a sum of money, which you can arrange with your solicitor to be increased in line with inflation.

The suggested wording for a bequest is:

“I give ____% of my residuary estate **OR** I give the sum of £_____ pounds only free of all taxes to the Mission Area Conference of the Mission Area of _____ (registered charity number if applicable) in the Diocese of St Asaph for its general purposes, and I declare that the receipt of an office of the Misison Area Conference shall be sufficient discharge to my executors and trustees. ”



“O Lord our God, all this
abundance that we have
provided for building you a
house for your holy name
comes from your hand and is
all your own”

1 Chronicles 29:16

Frequently Asked Questions

How might I divide up my estate?

When deciding how to divide up your estate, it may be appropriate to consider thinking in 'percentages' rather than specific cash amounts. This also reflects the Church's teachings on proportionate giving.

What happens if my church doesn't have a registered charity number?

All Church in Wales churches are part of a Mission Area which holds charitable status. All Mission Areas have a registered charity number but the only information you need to leave a gift in your will to your local church is its full name and address.

I am happy with my will, but I want to add a gift to my local church. What do I do?

Ask your solicitor or legal advisor to draw up a codicil – this is a simple legal addition to your existing will.

What is a Letter of Wishes?

A letter of wishes is a document that accompanies your will. It is not legally binding but can guide your executors and trustees to ensure your personal wishes are carried out.

How will my gift be used?

A legacy can be left to your local church for specific or general purposes. However since needs change over the years, churches encourage gifts to be left for the general purposes of the Mission Area (unrestricted), rather than for a specific purpose (restricted). Many Mission Areas have a written Legacy Policy confirming that however large or small, gifts will be used to make a real difference.

Contact Us

You can discuss gifts in wills in confidence by contacting your Incumbent, Legacy Officer or Treasurer.

Alternatively, you can visit the Church in Wales website www.churchinwales.org.uk or contact the St Asaph Diocesan Office.

"Rejoice in hope,
be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer."

Romans 12:12

Encouraging words, which we can all draw strength from in our day to day living. Our hope is built on God's love, a sure and certain thing which enables us to endure with patience the trials and tribulations of this world.

For many of us the idea of persevering in prayer might be the harder part, yet it is through prayer that we will discern God's will for our lives and that includes seeking his guidance on how we use all that he has entrusted to us for his glory.

A Lasting gift to your church



"And now these
three remain:
faith, hope and
love. But the
greatest of these
is love."

1 Corinthians 13:13

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<<Organisation Name>>

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