Preserving the past, planning for the future

Many who experience York Minster want to do more to help. Leaving a gift in a Will is one of the best ways to do this. Every person joins the countless contributors throughout the centuries who have pledged to maintain this masterpiece since its foundation in AD627.

Now, as always, York Minster relies on the generosity of all of us that love it.

How Your Gift Could Help
Legacies have always formed an important part of the cathedral’s income and leaving a gift in your Will to include York Minster need not be complicated or expensive. The York Minster Fund (charity no. 252157) seeks legacies to support the ongoing work of conservation and restoration as well as music, learning and education. If you would prefer to support the missional work of the Minster, your legacy should be directed to the Chapter of York.
Why make a Will?

To ensure that your estate is allocated as you would like, it is best to prepare a Will that can be executed in accordance with your wishes. In cases where a person dies without making a Will (intestate), the law dictates how the estate is divided. This could result in more inheritance tax being paid than would otherwise be the case. By taking charge early, you can secure the future of your estate, distributing it exactly as you wish.

Preparing a Will ensures that the people, places and causes close to your heart will benefit - not just now, but for years to come.

Tax Implications

York Minster Fund (charity no. 252157) and the Chapter of York both have exempt status and are therefore not liable to pay tax on gifts of money or property made during your lifetime, or inheritance tax on your death.

Should you leave more than 10% of your residuary estate to charity, the rate of Inheritance Tax on the rest of your estate may reduce from 40% to 36%. For more information, please seek professional advice.
Understanding Legacies

There are various ways of leaving a legacy gift:

**Residuary Legacy**
This allows you to leave all or a percentage share of the residue of your estate after other legacies, debts, fees and expenses have been paid.

**Pecuniary Legacy**
This is a simple legacy of a specified sum. However, the value of the sum may well reduce in worth through inflation.

**Conditional Legacy**
This ensures that in the event that none of your named dependants were to survive you, your estate would be left to the Minster.

**Reversionary Legacy**
This method allows you to provide for your family first and then benefit the Minster.

Adding a codicil to your will
A codicil lets you make amendments to your existing Will without the need to completely rewrite the original document. It is only valid when it refers to the Will it amends and needs to be witnessed and signed in the same way. Your solicitor will be able to advise you, or contact YMF for some suggested wording.

Suggested Wording
'I give to the York Minster Fund, registered charity number 252157 (state the %residue or sum you wish to give) to be used for its general charitable purposes. The receipt of the Treasurer or duly notified officer shall be a full and complete discharge.'

Professional Advice
While making a Will or adding a codicil to an existing Will need not be complicated, you should always speak to a solicitor when arranging a Legacy.

With your help, we can preserve this magnificent building for generations to come.

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