

Bath Abbey



A lasting legacy

A gift from one generation to another



A Message from the Rector

Thank you so much for considering leaving a legacy to Bath Abbey in your Will. It is deeply appreciated.

You may be a faithful member of the Abbey Church congregation, past or present, wishing to recognise how God has sustained and inspired you in this special place.

In which case, please can I say thank you.

Thank you for all the time, skills, and income you have already dedicated to our shared life and mission, here at the heart of the city.

Thank you now, for continuing that wonderful generosity - on behalf of all the future generations God will touch and bless, because of your bequest.

Equally you may be someone who, over the years, has simply fallen in love with Bath Abbey. Maybe you have been captivated by the glory of its architecture, its rich cultural history, its beautiful music-making, or its open-hearted welcome and care offered to locals and visitors alike.

In which case, again, please can I say thank you.

Churches like the Abbey receive no regular financial support from State or central Church funds. Thank you for your thoughtfulness in helping keep those great Abbey doors forever open so all may discover Bath's historic gem, long hailed as the "Lantern of the West".

Thank you. Your gift is deeply appreciated.

And in return may God himself (as is his way) out-give your own generosity, with treasure everlasting.



The Revd Canon Guy Bridgewater



An Inheritance Rooted in the Past

Legacies, the leaving of gifts in one's Will, are a lasting and visible expression of support for the ongoing life of the Abbey community for future generations.

It has been through the donations of individuals (who were often far from wealthy) that the Abbey has been maintained throughout the ages. Queen Elizabeth I authorised a nationwide collection to help fund the restoration of Bath Abbey church and countless citizens made donations and left legacies. Between 1583 and 1617, John Elmer, a local surgeon, and George Gibbs, an apothecary, both left £5 in their Wills, and Francis Allen's £10 was ring-fenced to cover the cost of the north-east buttress. Between 1608 and 1612, Bishop Lord Montague, perhaps the Abbey's greatest benefactor, donated the enormous sum of £1,000 towards its restoration and also bequeathed his body to be buried "in the Great Church of Bath ... to stir up some more benefactors to that place".

The 17th century Benefactors' Window and the 635 monuments around the walls of the Abbey, mostly placed between 16th and 20th century, are further testament to the gifts that individuals have generously left to the Abbey over the ages.

The recently completed Footprint Project saved the Abbey's collapsing 19th century Nave floor, enabled an innovative eco-friendly heating system powered by energy from the local spa waters to be installed beneath the restored Abbey floor, and opened up the vaults round the church to create a new Discovery Centre, Learning Room and Song School.

These transformational changes were made possible not only by generous funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund but also through significant donations by individuals, families, the local community and Trusts, as well as gifts from two of the Abbey's charities – The Friends of Bath Abbey and Bath Abbey Music Society.

There are three areas of life at the Abbey where your own legacy can make a lasting difference:

1. The Mission and Ministry of the Abbey through the Parochial Church Council (PCC).
2. The Buildings and Fabric of the Abbey through The Friends of Bath Abbey or through a restricted fund within the PCC.
3. The Music of the Abbey through Bath Abbey Music Society or through a restricted fund within the PCC.



1. Bath Abbey Parochial Church Council

The Abbey plays many roles. It is a refuge of pastoral care and prayer in the heart of the city, and an outstanding attraction for visitors; a forum and resource for learning and discovery for all ages, and a glorious venue for concerts and the arts; an oasis for quiet contemplation, and a focus of public engagement, raising a “voice for the voiceless” in its outreach work.



Legacies can play a significant role in the Abbey’s mission where normal income (for example, entry fees, regular donations, investments) is not sufficient.

“Unrestricted” legacies allow Bath Abbey Parochial Church Council - the PCC - to decide how donations can be used to meet the Abbey’s Mission Action Plan.

Legacies, whether large or small, can support the Abbey’s learning offer to schools, intergenerational

worship, or enhance the church’s Youth Club experience, fund the provision of evangelical literature for visitors, the translation of the gospel into different languages, or the purchase of special equipment, consumables, and a broad range of pastoral care training opportunities.

Equally, the PCC can choose to use an unrestricted legacy to support the fabric of the building or the Abbey’s music. In 2008, an unrestricted legacy was used to facilitate the establishment of the Abbey’s Schools Singing Programme.

Alternatively, a legacy to the PCC can be “restricted” for a particular purpose - so long as it is in line with the Abbey’s Mission Action Plan - such as its mission and ministry work, or be channelled into the PCC’s two Funds for Music or Buildings & Fabric.

Bath Abbey Parochial Church Council is the most suitable avenue for a legacy to support the Mission and Ministry of the Abbey.





2. The Friends of Bath Abbey

The Friends of Bath Abbey is an independent charity, formed in 1948 to raise funds for the post-war restoration of the Abbey. Its objectives are to support the conservation and enhancement of the fabric, goods, and ornaments of the Abbey.

For seventy-five years, the generosity of members of The Friends of Bath Abbey has enabled a long list of projects, both small and great, to embellish the Abbey. The Friends made a substantial donation to start the Bath Abbey 2000 Project and an even bigger donation early in the Footprint Project.

Later, they gave a six-figure sum to enable the Song School corridor (shown above) to be built, without which access to all the rooms in the Music department would only have been possible through the offices in Kingston Buildings.



The Friends of Bath Abbey is the most suitable avenue for legacies benefitting the conservation and refurbishment of the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Abbey.





3. Bath Abbey Music Society

Bath Abbey Music Society (BAMS) is an independent charity whose aims are to financially support the Abbey's music, bringing the music of the Abbey's choirs and world-class organ to the widest possible audience, and advancing the musical and general education of the choristers.

BAMS supports the life of Abbey music by providing funding for recordings and choir tours, both in the UK and internationally. BAMS assists with the organising and stewarding of concerts in the Abbey featuring the Abbey's choirs of boys, girls, and lay clerks and also the many lunchtime and evening organ concerts which take place in the Abbey.

In recent years BAMS has supported a choir tour of Holland and Belgium involving the girls' choir and lay clerks,

and has given a generous donation to the Footprint Project to help fund the new Song School.

BAMS generates income through the sale of CDs, concert tickets, organ recitals and subscriptions. However, a legacy could make all the difference to the choristers' experience and the musical life of the Abbey.

BAMS is the most
suitable avenue if your
legacy is intended
for the benefit of the
Abbey's music.



Taking the Next Step

If you would like to leave a legacy for the work of the Abbey in your Will, we invite you to consider the following:

- Seeking legal advice: your solicitor can outline the appropriate procedures.
- Talking to the Abbey's Congregational Legacy Officer, who will take you through the various options in more detail.
- Considering your legacy as a share of your estate, rather than a specific cash amount. Alternatively, your legacy could be your "residual" estate - that which is left after certain specific bequests have been subtracted.
- Deciding how much you want to leave in support of the Abbey in total and how you want to channel it, whether to one or other of the Abbey's three areas of activity or to a particular Abbey charity.
- Once you have decided, you should instruct your solicitor to draw up a Will for you or, if you already have a Will, then a codicil to that Will with the appropriate legacy wording included.

If you are comfortable to do so, please consider letting the Congregational Legacy Officer know your intention to support the Abbey with a gift in your Will. This will allow us to thank you, keep you updated on the Abbey's work, and invite you to events.

Specimen wordings in a Will

"I give pounds (£...) to Bath Abbey PCC (registered charity number 1134081) for the general charitable purposes of the Abbey **OR** to be used for the restoration, repair, renewal and decoration of Bath Abbey and its fabric and contents through a restricted fund within the PCC **OR** to be used for the musical mission of the Abbey through a restricted fund within the PCC

OR

"I give pounds (£.....) to Bath Abbey Music Society (registered charity number 1123118)

OR

"I give pounds (£.....) to The Friends of Bath Abbey (registered charity number 205082)

AND I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer of the organisation shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my Executors."

Bath Abbey's Congregational Legacy Officer

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Bath Abbey Office

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Registered Charity Numbers

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BathAbbey

www.bathabbey.org

