

A letter of wishes alongside your Will

A Letter of Wishes is an informal letter that accompanies your Will. It can be a very useful document in assisting your Executors and Trustees to ensure your personal wishes are carried out.

As needs change over the years, most Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) encourage gifts in wills to be left for the general purposes of the parish rather than for a restricted purpose.

However, if you would like to see the gift used for a personal area of interest in the church (e.g. music, buildings, children and youth, overseas mission or aid) you can outline this in your Letter of Wishes. When the time comes, the PCC will discuss possible uses of your gift with your Executors bearing in mind your Letter of Wishes and the church's priorities at the time.

You can use the Letter of Wishes Template over the page to share your personal wishes.

The contents of the Letter of Wishes will depend on your individual circumstances. You must take care that your Letter of Wishes does not contain anything that could conflict with your Will.

You can write or type the Letter of Wishes yourself. It should be written in plain English, signed and dated by you and addressed to your Executors. It is not legally binding and does not require witness signatures.

You can also specify the type or style of funeral you want, including any specific instructions regarding the service.

Letter of Wishes template

To My Executors / My Family / My Trustees / The Person To Whom It May Concern

I, _____ (name) of
_____ (address)

wish to state my wishes with respect to my gift to charity and my funeral wishes.

I understand that I may not restrict your actions, but I ask you to consider the following when making decisions in regards to how my gift to charity is used.

This Letter of Wishes does not change or revoke my Will.

My Funeral Wishes are: _____

_____(date)

Signature _____(your signature)