



A legacy of kindness

How to let your kindness live
on with a gift in your Will.



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Thank you for considering a gift of lasting kindness.

I was first inspired to join the St Vincent de Paul Society by their clear message of putting faith into action and helping people in need. As former National President, I have seen for myself what a difference kindness can make to someone's life, and the positive influence it can have. I truly believe that leaving a gift in your Will is one of the strongest and most sincere ways to continue that kindness.

Our Vincentian values lead us to seek and find those in need, help them in a spirit of dignity and humility, and speak out against injustice where we can. With a gift in your Will, you are committing to always ensuring these values live on. I want to thank you for considering a gift of long-lasting and much-needed kindness.

As we continue to live through such uncertain times, more and more people are falling deeper and deeper into poverty. It's why we're so incredibly grateful to those supporters who left us gifts in their Wills in the past – without them, we might not have been able to provide the vital support to help people through these difficult times.

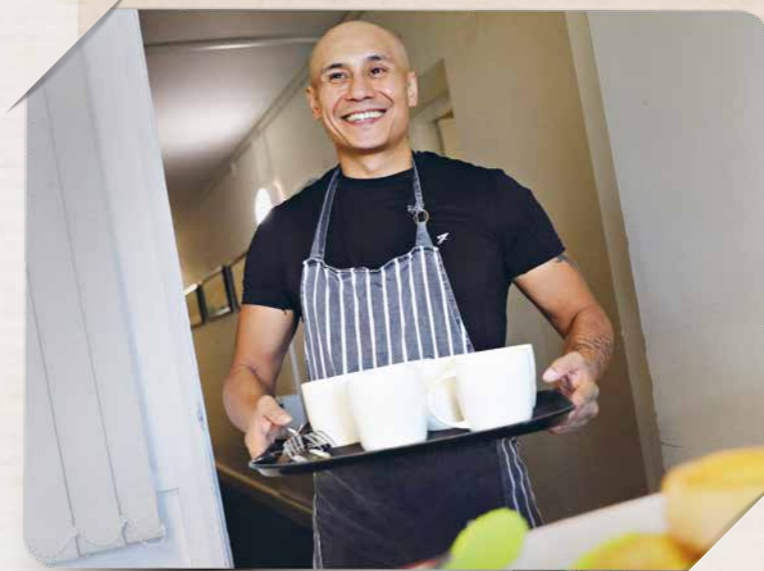
Of course, we hope that in the future things will improve, but we can't know that for sure. What we can be certain of, thanks to gifts in Wills, is that we'll always be there to support people in need – just as we have been for almost 200 years.

It means so much to everyone here at the St Vincent de Paul Society to know that you are interested in supporting us in this unique way. I do hope you find this guide helpful, but if you have any further questions, please do get in touch with our Legacy Manager who can be reached using the details on the back of this booklet.

With deep gratitude,

Helen O'Shea

Helen O'Shea
Legacy Ambassador



Gifts in Wills are vital to our work

Showing people acts of kindness will be as important in the future as it is today. It's only through gifts in Wills that we'll be able to keep spreading kindness for years to come.

By choosing to support us in this special way, you'll create a wonderful ripple effect on our work and the lives of people we help. Whoever they are, whatever they need, your foresight and compassion will make sure that we're always there to support them. It's the perfect way to celebrate the kindness you've shown throughout your lifetime – by ensuring it lives on long into the future.



John's way of saying thanks

When we first met John in 2019, he had fallen on some difficult times. He was living in temporary accommodation after suddenly losing his job and home and was struggling with depression and loneliness as a result. Remembering a visit from an SVP member at his home, John contacted his local SVP group to connect, and we were able to help him get back on his feet. We supported him through food vouchers, regular home visits and check-ins on his mental health, which he believes was the reason he could turn things around.

Now John is feeling stronger than ever, living in a permanent home with a full-time job for a charity. He told us he decided to leave a gift in his Will to the SVP, as a way of repaying the warmth and friendship he felt from his group.



“ I want to leave something for others who can be helped like I was. I still remember the despair I felt at my lowest points and truly believe the power of giving and compassion SVP showed is what got me through it. I want SVP to be there supporting people like me for years to come. ”



How your gift can make a difference

With a gift in your Will to the SVP, you'll be helping us to continue tackling the root causes of poverty, befriend and support people suffering from isolation, and keep turning concern into action however we can. You'll make sure the kindness you're showing today, continues to live on for years to come.

If there's a particular area of the SVP's work that really speaks to you, you can even specify this in your Will. Perhaps because it's something that you've been involved with in your lifetime, or because you see how great the need is in your own community. We promise to honour your wishes with dignity and respect, just as we do for the people we support.





Patrick's legacy of kindness

After years of selflessly helping others, the gift that Patrick decided to leave us in his Will was a wonderful and very fitting gesture.

Patrick spent over 70 years as a member of his local SVP group and worked tirelessly to support people in his beloved community of Burnley. From delivering food parcels and furniture to visiting people suffering from illness in their homes, his simple acts of kindness made a life-changing difference to so many people in need. And through his generous gift in his Will, his legacy of kindness and compassion lives on.

His son Bernard told us:

“ He was a wonderful, generous, kind man. Now his work will carry on at his local SVP group. I know that would mean a lot to him. ”

Things to consider when writing your Will

Everyone needs a Will, no matter your age or circumstance. It's the only way to ensure your wishes are made clear about your estate when you're no longer here.

We appreciate that friends and family will always come first. But after those closest to you have been looked after, a gift to the SVP would mean so much to people in need.

Many people choose to leave gifts to charity in their Will as a way of continuing to support the causes they've cared about in their lifetime. In our case, it means helping us continue to tackle the root causes of poverty, and letting your kindness live on.

We would always recommend working with a solicitor to write your Will, but there are a few things you can do before meeting with them to make the process easier, such as:

Making a list of everything you own and estimating the value.

These are what's known as your 'assets' and include things like your home, your car, and any antiques or jewellery.

Making a list of what you owe or are owed.

This might be referred to as your 'liabilities' checklist by your solicitor.

Making a list of any digital assets you own.

This will include things like social media accounts, email addresses, and subscription services like Netflix.

Decide who you'd like your executor to be.

Your executor will be legally responsible for ensuring your Will is carried out when you are no longer here.

Listing all these things may seem daunting, but it can make getting your Will written relatively straightforward and save you time and money later on.

The kinds of gifts you can leave

There are actually a few ways you can leave a gift to the SVP in your Will, so you can choose the option best suited to you and your wishes.

Residuary gift

This is a gift made from the remainder of your estate after expenses like debts, liabilities, and any other specific gifts have been made.

Pecuniary gift

This is also known as a cash gift, where you decide upon the specific amount for the gift.

Specific gift

This means a particular item, such as a house, a piece of jewellery, stocks and shares, or the proceeds of a life insurance policy.

Whichever of these gifts you decide to leave, you can also choose to make your gift restricted – meaning it will be used for a purpose or project of your choice – or unrestricted, so it can be used to support the SVP wherever the need is greatest.

We know that choosing to leave a gift in your Will is an extremely personal decision and are incredibly grateful for any kinds of gift we receive.

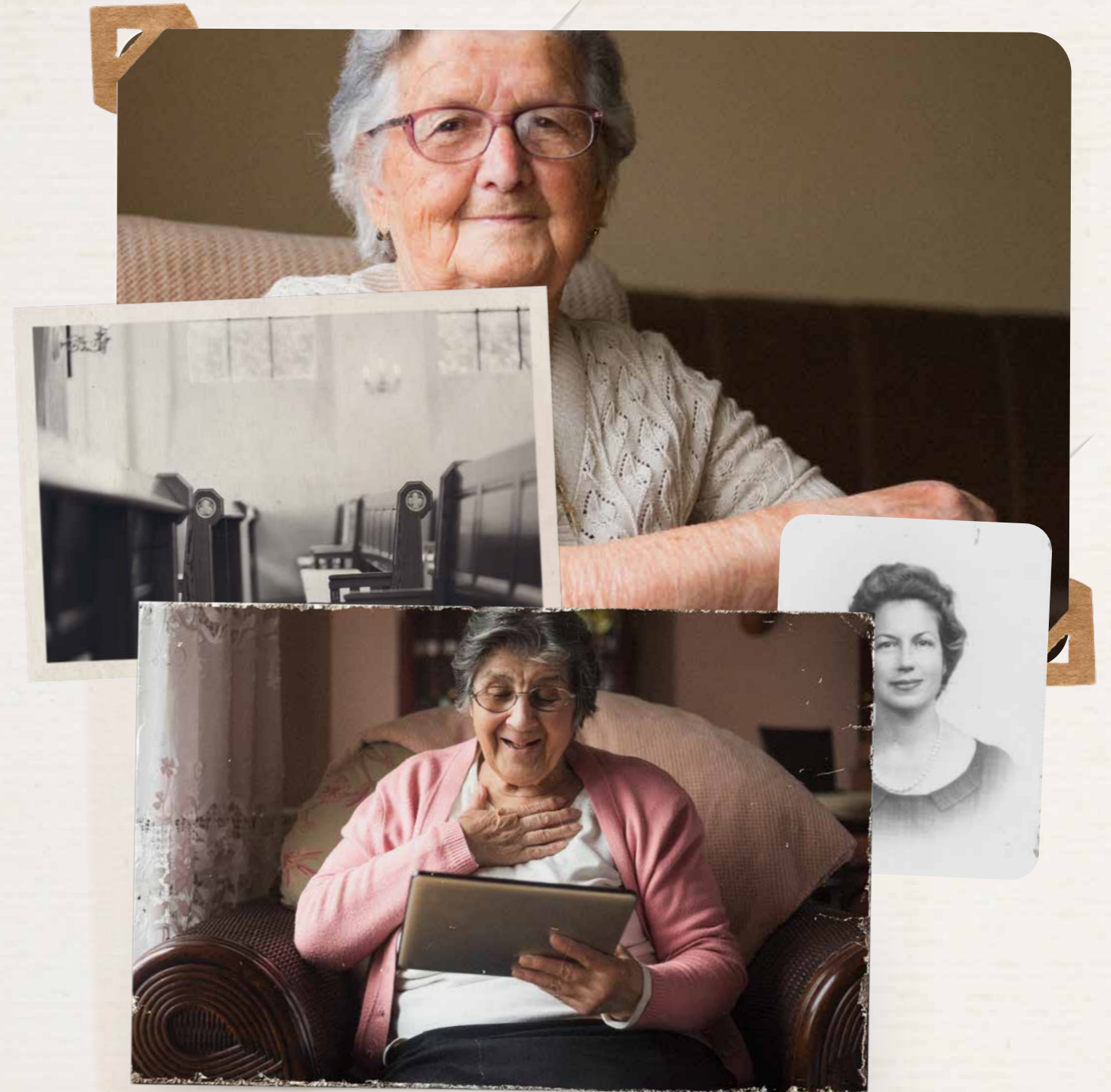
Aileen's long-lasting friendships

Aileen was always a strong advocate of the SVP's work, especially our visiting and befriending service. So, when she kindly left a gift in her Will to her local SVP Conference, we were mindful of what had mattered so much to her in her lifetime.

Touched by her friendly and compassionate nature, the Conference used Aileen's gift to help people struggling with isolation in her local community.

Many people using the befriending service are bedbound or have limited mobility, meaning they struggle to leave their homes on their own. Aileen's gift meant that we were able to visit them and be a much-needed friend, and even covered the cost of tablet computers for them to watch church services from home and feel included in Catholic life.

Just as she showed people friendship in her lifetime, a gift in her Will means her kindness lives on.



Write your Will for free

In partnership with Your Catholic Legacy (YCL), the SVP provides a free Will-writing service for SVP Members, Friends, volunteers and staff. By using this service, your details will be passed on to a local solicitor who is willing to help you write your Will for no extra charge.

If you are interested in using the service, please visit act.svp.org.uk/registration and fill in the simple registration form. An application pack will then be sent to you within seven working days.



Frequently asked questions

Should I inform you that I've included the SVP in my Will?

We know that choosing to leave a gift in your Will to the SVP is an incredibly personal decision, and it's entirely up to you whether you choose to share that decision with us. But if you do, it would be lovely for us to be able to thank you directly.

Is there a minimum amount I need to be able to leave in my Will?

No, we appreciate gifts of any size. They all play a vital part in helping us show kindness to anyone in need of support. You can read more about the different types of gifts you can leave on page 7 of this guide.

Could leaving a gift in my Will to charity reduce my inheritance tax liability?

Yes. If your estate is above the inheritance tax (IHT) threshold, and you leave at least 10% of it to a charity, this will reduce your overall IHT liability from 40% to 36%. We strongly recommend discussing all IHT matters with your solicitor.

What details should I use to include St Vincent de Paul Society in my Will?

Our registered charity number is 1053992 and our registered address is as follows:

SVP England and Wales
Romero House
55 Westminster Bridge Road
London
SE1 7JB

How should I word my gift in my Will?


This depends on the type of gift you are leaving, and if there's any particular area of our work, project or Conference you'd like to specify. You can find templates of suggested wording to take to your solicitors on our website, please visit svp.org.uk/gift-in-will to find out more.

Thank you for letting
your kindness live on

If you have any other questions,
please do get in touch.

 0207 703 3030

 legacies@svp.org.uk

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