



Making your bequest

We strongly recommend that you take legal advice when making or updating your Will. The Trust suggests that you leave an unrestricted bequest that gives trustees the freedom to address the most pressing needs as they arise. We would, of course, be delighted to discuss your gift with you. This way we can ensure we are able to fulfil your wishes.

You can contact our campaign administrator at campaign@bedshertshct.org.uk or on **01767 666331**. Our conversation with you will be treated in strictest confidence. If you would like to know more about the Trust and our work please visit www.bedshertshct.org.uk

Let us know

If you have already remembered the Trust in your Will (or intend to do so), please consider completing a confidential **Legacy Pledge Form**. By telling us about your gift, you give us valuable assurance for our long-term activity. Just as importantly, it also gives us a chance to thank you properly and to keep you informed about what we are doing.



BEDS & HERTS
Historic Churches Trust

www.bedshertshct.org.uk



BEDS & HERTS
Historic Churches Trust

Saving the past for the future



LEGACIES
*gifts that keep giving
for our living heritage
of churches*

RECOGNISING THAT HISTORY STARTED YESTERDAY

Our two counties are blessed with an extraordinary collection of churches and chapels of all denominations. They all claim a unique place in our communities whether urban or rural. All of these diverse buildings survive only through the careful stewardship of those who appreciate their historical significance, architectural beauty, spiritual value and enduring capacity to effect positive social change.

Since 1991 when the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust was founded, its mission has been to fund this broad spectrum of Christian churches with grants that keep spires and stonemasonry, thatches and furnishings, in excellent condition and fit for purpose. Over the last 25 years, we have made available more than £4 million, currently at the rate of about £250,000 each year, to churches in need of vital repair work.

Silver Jubilee £3 million endowment fund

Over the centuries, our churches have served as inspirational places of prayer, worship and reflection for countless Christian congregations. Within their walls people are baptised and married, and their deaths marked by funerals.

Churches also serve as centres of community activities such as choral and orchestral concerts, recitals, pre-schools, drama and even as rural shops and post offices. In some cases, these centres of faith and friendship are the only public buildings left after the village shop, post-office and pub have closed.

Whilst our local churches continue to inspire worship and to support community life, many congregations are finding themselves hard-pressed to fund the unremitting need for repairs to the buildings they treasure. To diversify our sources of funds, reduce



risk and be able to give larger grants which will be increasingly needed, the Trust is building a permanent Jubilee Endowment Fund of £3 million. Well-managed, this fund, built by donations and legacies from people who care about churches, could yield an additional income-stream of up to £100,000 every year. That is why your legacy will be the gift that keeps giving.

HOW A LEGACY GIFT CAN PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN OUR CHURCHES FOR THE FUTURE



The goal of raising as much as £3 million in endowments, marks a major change of scale in the aspirations of the Trust. Over the past 25 years we've grown a solid base of support

across the two counties, creating the ideal foundation for a significant fundraising campaign that includes the option of legacy giving.

By choosing to make a bequest, you'll be helping us to build a sustainable future for our heritage church buildings and the diverse communities they serve. Whatever the size of your legacy, it will continue to safeguard an extraordinary past whilst transforming both church buildings and the lives of local people for the future.

Leave a legacy that lasts

Our Jubilee Campaign invites you to become a guardian of the wonderful array of churches and chapels in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. By making a legacy gift to the endowment fund, you will become a valued benefactor of the Trust. You will be supporting the well-being of our churches as they stand up to the challenges of time, weather and costly repairs. Year on year, your gift will help to protect the heritage buildings we treasure and support the sort of vibrant community life from which everyone benefits.

