

... so what can you do to secure the future of this important place of worship, mission and ministry for the people of Berwick?

One way could be a Gift to the Trust in your Will ...

If you die without a Will, your loved ones could face considerable trouble and expense and a court could decide how your property is divided.

A Will is a simple and effective way to ensure that Berwick Parish Church continues to be a place of regular worship and a focal point for the wider community in years to come.

If you wish, your legacy or bequest can be directed towards specific areas of the church but gifts "for general purposes" are especially valuable as they allow the Trustees to respond flexibly to requests from the PCC, allocating funds where they are most needed at any particular time, but always within the terms of the charity's constitution.

Legacies or bequests to the Trust can greatly reduce or even eliminate the tax payable on the balance of an estate and are totally exempt from inheritance tax under the law as it stands at present.



Legacies and Bequests

If you are considering alternative ways of remembering the Trust in your Will, you may make a legacy of a specific sum of money, a bequest of a specific item of real or personal property or of the residue of your estate or a part of it.

A husband or wife leaving his or her estate to his or her spouse for life and thereafter to the Trust, may reduce or avoid liability for inheritance tax.

You should consult your solicitor for advice on the best way to make provision in your Will to assist the Trust, but the Honorary Secretary (at the address on the front page) will be pleased to discuss the possibility of a legacy or bequest informally and in strict confidence if you wish.

If you already have a Will, your wishes may be met simply by adding a codicil to your existing Will. A simple legacy might be in this form:

"I hereby bequeath to the Berwick Parish Church Trust (registered charity 517699) the sum of £.....the receipt of the Treasurer of the said Trust or other proper Officer thereof to be a good discharge for my executors"

The wording can easily be amended to cover a bequest of property or a gift of the residue of your estate or part of it.

A Legacy to

Berwick Parish Church



**Berwick Parish Church Trust
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The Trust works in full co-operation with the Parochial Church Council.

“A quite exceptional church ...”

Berwick Parish Church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity and St Mary, is a Grade I listed building of “quite exceptional architectural interest” (Pevsner), built by Colonel George Fenwicke in 1650 to replace an earlier church on the same site.



The most northerly church of the established Church of England, it is one of very few seventeenth century churches in England and the only Parish Church built during the Commonwealth.

It continues to be a welcoming place of Christian worship and witness, serving all the people of Berwick, and a centre for civic and community events. It must never be left to fall into disrepair.



The work of the Parish Church Trust

Although the Parochial Church Council had spent substantial sums over the years in maintaining the fabric of the church, a survey report in 1985 identified an urgent need for extensive works of repair and restoration which were clearly beyond the ordinary resources of the congregation.



The restoration of the windows



The Parish Church Trust was established in 1986 as a registered charity by a group of church members and other members of the wider community. Its purpose is to raise money that secures the future of this important place of worship, mission and ministry for the people of Berwick.

*Photographs: Peter Barham - www.northernvicar.co.uk
Simon Harvey and Paul Marshall*

Securing our church for the future

Since its inception, the Trust has raised more than £1 million to meet the costs of extensive works. Recent projects include rebuilding and modernisation of the fine pipe organ, overhaul of the church's external stonework, restoration of the stained-glass windows, replacement and upgrade of the church heating plant, overhaul of the church roof, installation of a new and expanded kitchen facility in the multifunction Parish Centre and installation of broadband in the church.

The Trust's ongoing financial commitments create a requirement to continually raise new money by donations, legacies and lifetime gifts.

Please help us to maintain Berwick's fine inheritance for the benefit of future generations.

