

Gifts in Wills Guide



Give a
Legacy of Love
to Willen Hospice





Dear Supporter,

Thank you very much for considering a gift in your Will to Willen Hospice.

Dedicating a part of your legacy to our cause is so much more than a financial decision. It is an act of compassion that will allow the Hospice to provide care far beyond our own lifetimes.

We think of it as a legacy of love. You would be joining us as we build a future in which every individual in our community facing a life-limiting illness will have access to expert, compassionate care, whenever and however they need it.

Through gifts in Wills and other forms of community support, we ensure all our care and support services are offered free of charge to individuals and their families.

By aligning yourself with our cause and vision at Willen Hospice, you'll be forever linking your life's story to the community we all share.

This guide will walk you through the process in the simplest way possible. Your gift, no matter how big or small, is important to us and the countless lives it will touch.

For over 40 years, we have dedicated ourselves to providing individuals and their families with care, comfort and support during their most challenging times. With your legacy gift, we can continue to do so for many more years.



Help us to create a legacy of love and care that will continue to ripple through generations to come.

From the bottom of my heart - thank you.

Kate Broadhurst, CEO

Importance of legacy gifts

Legacy gifts are nothing less than transformative for the work we do at Willen Hospice.

Around 21% of our voluntary income is provided by the gifts in Wills of our generous supporters. This considerable contribution is instrumental in allowing us to provide the level of care we do.

Each legacy gift brings with it the potential to change lives. Every donation, whether large or small, contributes to the overall funds required to ensure the continuous operation of our crucial services. To give you an indication of our expenses, it costs approximately £16,000 a day to run Willen Hospice.

A gift in a Will supports various aspects of our work. It contributes to the care we provide to over 630 patients annually, ensuring they and their families are supported during one of the most challenging times of their lives. Such generosity ensures offerings like our In-Patient Unit, which last year alone provided specialist care to over 400 patients, with an average stay of 14 days.

Leaving a legacy gift offers you an enduring way to help a cause close to your heart long after you're gone.

Every gift left in a Will ensures our Hospice can continue to make a significant difference to those in our care, both now and in the future. The impact of this generosity echoes beyond our corridors and rooms. It seeps into the lives of everyone who comes to us seeking compassion, support and care.

// My mother was cared for by Willen Hospice. She was only in there a fortnight, but all the nurses and staff were very good to her. You couldn't fault them.

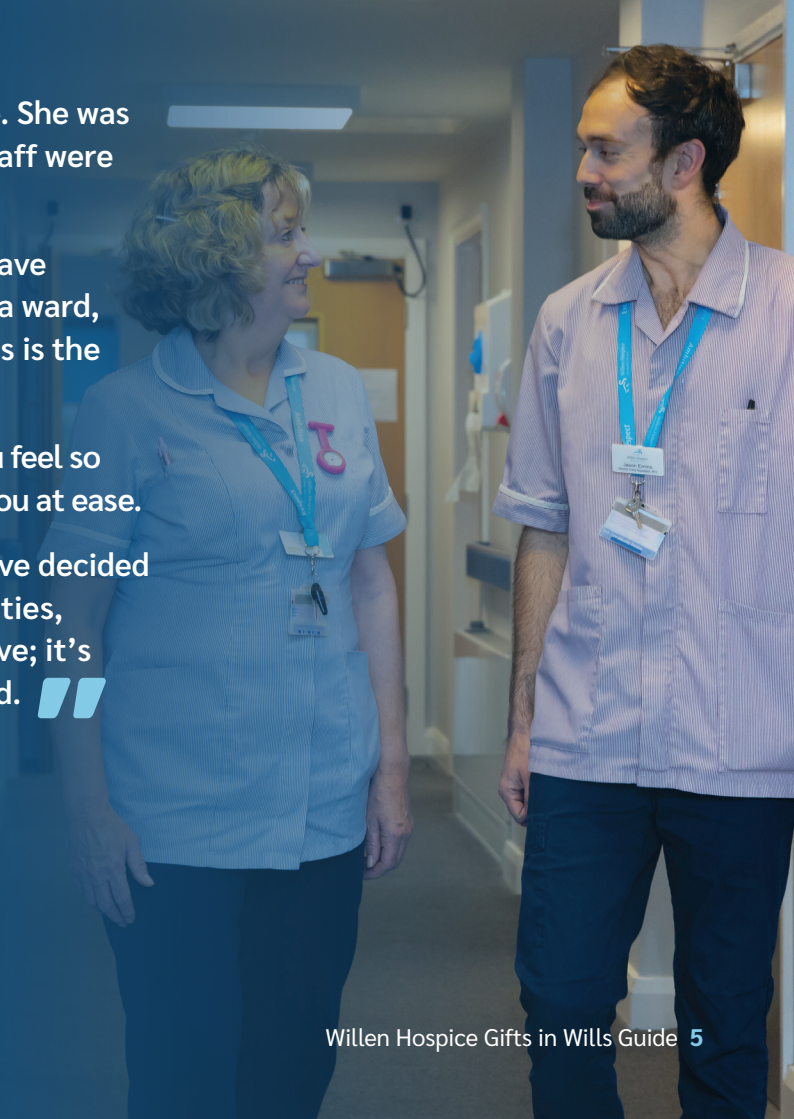
I used to go down there with our small dog, and have meals with her every night. Back then, she was in a ward, overlooking the lake. I remember her saying, "This is the closest I'm going to get to a sea view".

It's an upsetting time, but everyone there made you feel so happy and took the negative parts away. They put you at ease.

I don't have any family to leave my house to, so I've decided to leave it to Willen Hospice and a few other charities, because they need help. That's the best alternative; it's going to do some good, which makes me feel good. //



..... David Pratt,
..... Legacy pledger



The rewards of legacy giving



Make a lasting impact

A gift in your Will creates ripples of care and support that extend beyond your own lifetime. You're actively ensuring that your values and kindness continue to benefit others for years to come.



Tax advantages

Gifts left to registered charities can be exempt from Inheritance Tax. This not only allows you to maximise your donation, but can often mean a reduced tax bill for the rest of your estate.



Remember a loved one

If someone close to you has used our services, a gift in your Will can be a loving tribute to their memory, supporting others who are going through a similar journey.



Support a cause you care about

Maybe you're passionate about helping to extend our specialist care, contributing to our wellness programmes, or simply making sure anyone who needs our services can get them. Whatever your drive, a legacy gift allows you to align closely with your philanthropic aspirations.



Reflect your values

By leaving a legacy gift, you're making a heartfelt statement about your personal beliefs. Your act of kindness will directly contribute to our purpose of providing comfort, empathy and dignity to those we care for.



Flexibility

Legacy gifts come in all shapes and sizes. It could be a small fixed sum of money, a percentage of your estate, or a specific item. You have the freedom to choose a way that suits your personal and financial circumstances.



Inspiration

Your decision to leave a legacy gift is an incredible act of kindness. If you choose to share your decision, you might just inspire others to do so too, creating a chain of legacy giving that will support the Hospice for many years to come.



Why we need legacy donations

Legacy donations represent a poignant act of love that directly impacts our community. They directly and profoundly affect so many people's lives. They enable us to carry out our important work, providing comfort, dignity and compassion to people during some of their most challenging times.



Here are a few reasons why legacy gifts are so precious to us:



They keep the lights on

With the NHS only covering part of our operating costs, we rely heavily on the generosity of individuals who choose to leave gifts in their Wills. This helps us sustain our vital services, so we can continue lighting the way during dark times for patients and their families.



They help us plan for the future

Knowing that we have legacy donations in the pipeline gives us the confidence to make long-term strategic plans. It provides a reassuring sense of stability and peace of mind, helping us chart a course so that we are prepared to navigate future challenges.



They drive innovation

Legacy gifts mean we can reinvest in our services and facilities, allowing us to adopt and implement the latest advancements in palliative care.



They show us love

Perhaps the most important aspect of legacy donations is the heartfelt intent behind them. These gifts offer a compassionate gesture that speaks volumes to the care of our community and the belief in our cause. They symbolise an enduring connection to Willen Hospice and our shared vision to show love and respect to every person we care for.

“ I really believe that hospice care, and Willen in particular, provides the most important support to someone at the most difficult time of their life... To know that after my death, I can leave a lasting legacy that will continue to support Willen, to provide those excellent and much-needed services, gives me a real sense of comfort. ”

**Peta Wilkinson,
Legacy pledger**





// Darren was diagnosed with bowel cancer when he was 44. While he was in hospital, we decided to get married. It was something we never thought we would run out of time to do. The night we were married, I had to leave him alone in a side ward with just our wedding memories. It soon became clear that there was nothing the hospital could do, he was lonely and miserable, so I asked if he could be transferred to Willen Hospice.

He had a room with a view over the lake, and a personal welcome message on the board of his room. This small gesture meant so much to him that he took a photo of it. That evening, I mentioned to a nurse that it was our first night together as husband and wife. The room then went into action as the nurses made us up a double bed and let us have the normality of sharing the night together as a married couple.

Nothing was too much trouble for the nurses during our stay, we were treated with dignity and respect. My daughter set up a study centre in his room as she got ready for her GCSEs, and spent hours with him. I even took him away for the weekend two days before he died. All of this was possible as he once again became a human with a life to lead and not a terminally ill patient stuck in a bed. I will forever be grateful to Willen Hospice for allowing us to have these wonderful memories at such a difficult time. //

Nikki Poole



The difference your gift will make

Every single legacy gift, no matter its size, means the world to us. Your kindness has the very real power to transform lives in many significant ways:



Supporting palliative care

Your gift can help bolster the range of palliative care services we offer. This includes our clinical support services, which provide essential medical treatment, psychological support, spiritual care, and physical therapies.



Enriching community support

You will be helping us with our ambition to extend our community reach, providing more individuals and families with access to support groups, educational workshops, and our 24-hour advice line.



Assisting care at home

We want to ensure that everyone in need has the choice to receive care in their own home, wherever home may be. Your gift contributes to us being able to offer this specialised home care, providing comfort and dignity to our patients.



Enhancing our services

We are always striving to improve our services and facilities. Gifts in Wills are vital to this, whether it's refreshing patient facilities, investing in cutting-edge medical equipment or providing continued training for our dedicated staff.



Ensuring free services

Your gift will allow us to continue to stand by our belief that everyone should have access to high-quality end-of-life care, regardless of their financial situation.



Securing long-term stability

As a charity, we value financial stability highly, and legacy gifts provide a degree of certainty for future services. Your generosity ensures that we can continue providing the highest level of compassionate care to those who need it most, both now and in the future.



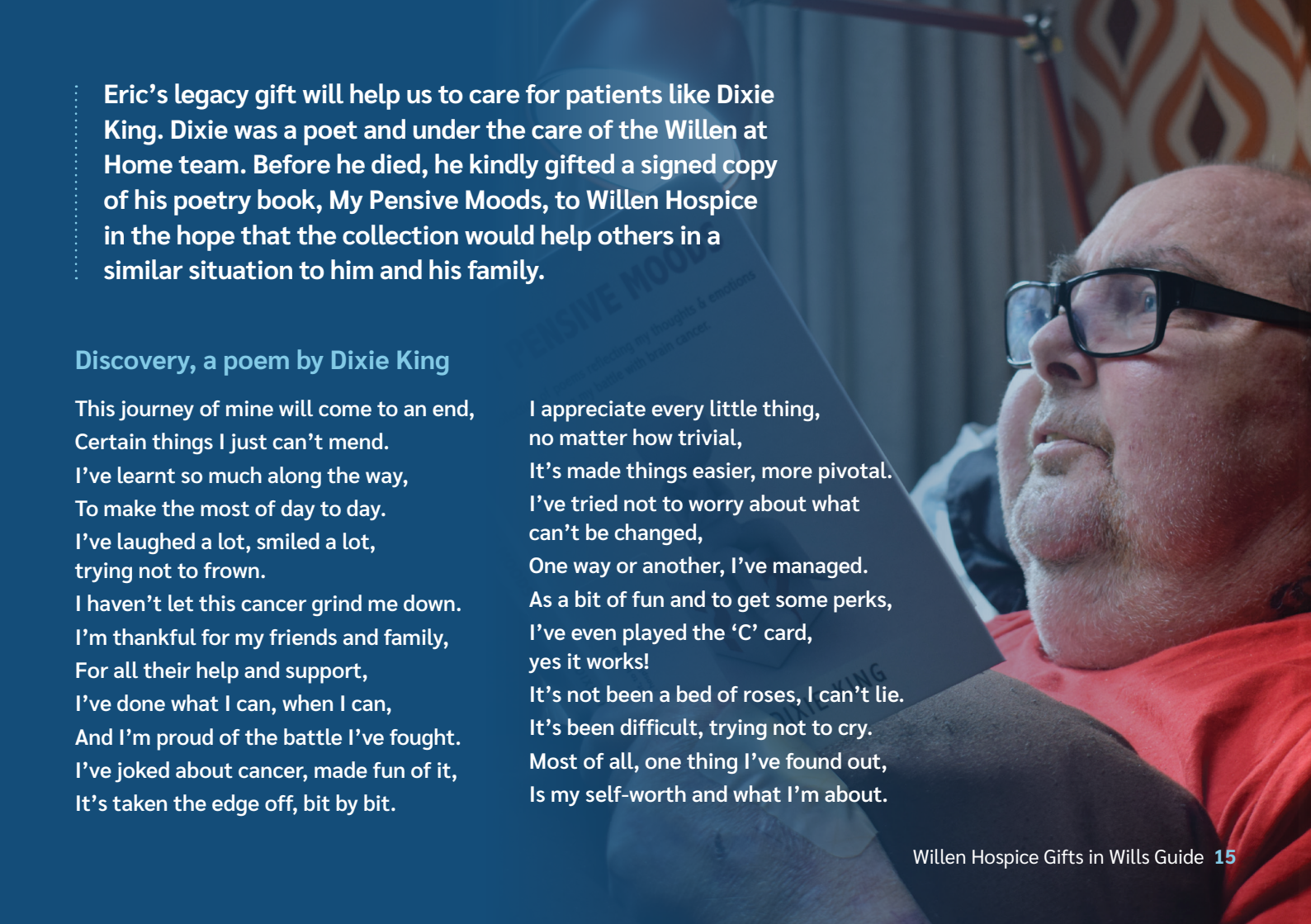
It's thanks to a legacy gift, we were able to extend the Hospice and improve our facilities. Rooms that used to face the car park now look over towards the lake, a new hoist system offers patients dignity and comfort, and our Wellbeing Centre, with therapy rooms and a fitness studio, helps patients to live better for longer. This is the power of a legacy gift.

Eric Coles kindly left a gift in his Will to Willen Hospice. His nephew, Michael, shares why the Hospice was important to his uncle.

// Willen Hospice was a local charity that had provided help and support to many of Eric's friends and family members. It was a cause he liked to support and he hoped that the legacy he gave in his Will would help make a difference to the Hospice in these difficult times. //

... Michael Coles,
... Eric's nephew



A man with glasses and a red shirt is shown in profile, looking upwards and to the left. He is holding a book titled 'My Pensive Moods' which has a subtitle 'Sharing my thoughts & emotions with my brain cancer'. The background is a patterned curtain.

Eric's legacy gift will help us to care for patients like Dixie King. Dixie was a poet and under the care of the Willen at Home team. Before he died, he kindly gifted a signed copy of his poetry book, *My Pensive Moods*, to Willen Hospice in the hope that the collection would help others in a similar situation to him and his family.

Discovery, a poem by Dixie King

This journey of mine will come to an end,
Certain things I just can't mend.
I've learnt so much along the way,
To make the most of day to day.
I've laughed a lot, smiled a lot,
trying not to frown.
I haven't let this cancer grind me down.
I'm thankful for my friends and family,
For all their help and support,
I've done what I can, when I can,
And I'm proud of the battle I've fought.
I've joked about cancer, made fun of it,
It's taken the edge off, bit by bit.

I appreciate every little thing,
no matter how trivial,
It's made things easier, more pivotal.
I've tried not to worry about what
can't be changed,
One way or another, I've managed.
As a bit of fun and to get some perks,
I've even played the 'C' card,
yes it works!
It's not been a bed of roses, I can't lie.
It's been difficult, trying not to cry.
Most of all, one thing I've found out,
Is my self-worth and what I'm about.

How to leave a gift in your Will

Here's a simple, step-by-step guide of how to leave a gift in your Will to Willen Hospice:

1

Make a list - Start by figuring out all the assets you have - this can include properties, finances and prized possessions. This gives you an idea of what you could potentially leave to causes you care about.

2

Decide your beneficiaries - Your loved ones are your priority, so it's important to take them into account first. After you've considered them, think about which charities you'd like to leave something to.

3

Choose the type of gift - Decide what kind of gift you'd like to leave to Willen Hospice. This could be:

a. **Specific gift.** You could choose to leave a particular item of value. This could be anything from jewellery to a piece of art, or even a property.

b. **Pecuniary gift.** This is when you leave a fixed sum of money. The value of pecuniary gifts can decrease over time due to inflation, so it's worth reviewing your Will regularly or linking your gift to inflation.

c. **Residuary gift.** One of the most valuable ways you can support Willen Hospice is by leaving us a share, or the entirety, of your estate after all other gifts and financial responsibilities have been taken care of. This type of gift is less likely to lose value over time and may even increase in value.

d. **Reversionary gift.** This is a thoughtful way to take care of your loved ones first, with your estate going to your chosen family and friends for their lifetimes, before being passed on to Willen Hospice.

e. **Contingent gift.** This is dependent on a certain event. For example, you could leave us a gift in your Will only if your other beneficiaries are no longer alive.

Always make sure you seek legal advice. We recommend that you contact a solicitor to carry out your wishes. If you need help finding a solicitor, please visit The Law Society at www.lawsociety.org.uk

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Seek professional advice - Making a Will is a big decision. To ensure your Will represents your wishes and is completely valid, you should get professional advice. They can also provide you with information on potential tax benefits you can gain through legacy giving.

5

Detail your gift - When writing your Will or updating it, you'll need to provide specific details about your chosen gift. This includes the type of gift and our charity details. This information is crucial for ensuring the gift reaches us in the future. Your solicitor can assist you in adding the specific wording to your Will, but it might look something like this:

- a. **Residuary gift** (a share of your estate):
Please include: "I give (%) of the residue of my real and personal estate to Willen Hospice, Milton Road, Willen Village, Milton Keynes, MK15 9AB, registered charity number 270194."

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- b. **Pecuniary gift** (a fixed sum of money):
Please include: "I give the sum of (£) to Willen Hospice, Milton Road, Willen Village, Milton Keynes, MK15 9AB, registered charity number 270194."
- c. **Specific gift** (named item):
Please include: "I give (detailed description of the item) to Willen Hospice, Milton Road, Willen Village, Milton Keynes, MK15 9AB, registered charity number 270194."

7

Update your Will - If you already have a Will and wish to add a gift to Willen Hospice, you can do this by adding a codicil - a document used to change a Will that has already been made.

Let us know - You do not have to tell us of your decision, but we would love to hear from you if you decide to leave a gift. It helps us to plan for the future and, of course, we would like to say thank you. This is not compulsory and we will always respect and honour your privacy.

Glossary of terms

Crafting your Will can seem complicated, especially when legal language and phrases are used. Here's a simplified glossary of common terms you might come across:



Estate planning: This is all about planning how your estate (your money, property and possessions) will be distributed after your death.



Executor: This is the person you choose to ensure your wishes, as written in your Will, are carried out. They sort out your estate and pass it on to the people who are meant to receive it.



Beneficiary: A person or organisation that you have chosen to receive something from your estate. This can be a loved one, a friend or a charity.



Bequest: This is just another term for a gift left to someone in your Will.



Inheritance Tax: This is a tax paid on the portion of an estate that's passed on when someone dies, although not everything is taken into account and not everyone has to pay it. Currently, Inheritance Tax is not paid on charitable gifts.

This glossary shouldn't replace professional advice, but it should help to make some of the legal jargon a bit clearer. Always seek professional advice when preparing to write or update your Will.



Intestacy: If you die without a Will, you're said to have died 'intestate'. In this case, specific legal rules will be used to decide how your estate will be divided.



Probate: This legal process confirms an Executor's authority to deal with your estate.



Trust: This is a legal arrangement where you give money, property or investments to someone else (Trustees) so they can look after them for the benefit of others (Beneficiaries).



Legacy: This is similar to a bequest - it's any gift left in your Will for a person, organisation or charity.



Specific gift (or Specific Legacy): This is a particular item or property which is left to a specific person or organisation in a Will.



Residuary gift (or Residuary Legacy):
This is a gift from the leftover portion of your estate once all the debts, funeral expenses, administrative costs and all other gifts have been deducted.



Codicil: This is a legal document that adds to, substitutes or revokes a part of your existing Will.



Life Interest: This is a gift in a Will that allows the Beneficiary to receive income from a fund or property for their lifetime, with the remaining funds then going to others.

It's important to always seek professional legal advice when considering a gift in your Will, to ensure your wishes are effectively and accurately represented.

Contact us

We understand that deciding to leave a legacy gift is a big decision - one that requires time and careful thought. If you have any questions or need more information about leaving a gift in your Will to Willen Hospice, we are more than happy to help.

If you'd like a chat, to meet up for a coffee with our Legacy Officer, or to receive a tour of the Hospice facilities, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Please reach out to our friendly Legacy team on **01908 303068**.
We're available Monday to Friday from 9am until 5pm.

Alternatively, you're welcome to email your enquiries to **legacies@willen-hospice.org.uk**

We look forward to possibly hearing from you, and sincerely thank you for considering Willen Hospice in this thoughtful and impactful way.



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Willen Hospice is a Registered Charity (No. 270194) and a company registered in England and Wales (Company No. 1231909). Our registered address is Willen Hospice, Milton Road, Willen Village, Milton Keynes, MK15 9AB.