

St Leonard's
Hospice

A photograph showing an elderly man with grey hair sitting in a wheelchair. He is wearing a white bathrobe and a blue and white striped blanket. Two women are standing behind him, smiling. The woman on the left has dark hair and is wearing a dark jacket. The woman on the right has blonde hair and is wearing a light blue shirt and a dark jacket, with a name tag. They are outdoors in a garden with green grass, trees, and a building in the background.

Have the Will to make a difference

A guide to gifts in Wills

About St Leonard's Hospice

St Leonard's Hospice is proud to be part of the local community where we have been supporting hundreds of families each year since 1985.

We provide expert end-of-life care for terminally ill patients, including those with life-limiting illnesses such as cancer, respiratory disorders, heart disease, Parkinson's, motor neurone disease and other neurological problems. The Hospice's care also extends to the patients' families through our family support and bereavement teams.

The Hospice building in York has an in-patient unit for those who need round the clock care. It also provides a base for our community support teams which aim to enhance the independence of patients and help them live well by managing symptoms and offering emotional, social, and spiritual support. Our established Hospice@Home service and our developing community based support services offer care for people across the region. This could be in their own homes or in other community buildings.



Last year, gifts in Wills funded the care of one in four patients.

A gift to make a difference

Including a gift in your Will today means you will be helping to make a difference to lives in the future. When you include a gift to St Leonard's Hospice in your Will, you give a wealth of care and precious moments to patients and families, often when they are facing their most difficult times.

A gift in your Will - also known as a 'legacy' - really can make a huge difference for our patients and those who care about them. Your gift will help patients live their lives as normally as possible - from visiting a favourite place or seeing a grandchild born, to the simple pleasures of sitting in the sunshine or having more time at home.

You could fund the physiotherapist who gives a patient the confidence to walk again. You might pay the nurse who brings hospice care into a patient's own home and allows a wife or husband to stop being a carer and return to being a loving partner once again. It could provide bereavement support to a partner, a son, a daughter, a brother, a friend.

Your generosity means more people with a life-limiting illness can get the very best care and support.

“Here at St Leonard's Hospice our mission is to provide excellent care and support to those living with life-limiting illness and to the people they care about, to enrich their lives and to contribute to the ongoing development of end-of-life care.”

Emma Johnson,
Nurse and Chief Executive.



Why your gift is so vital...

Once you have provided for your loved ones, leaving a gift to St Leonard's Hospice in your Will could make a real difference to local people who may need hospice care in the future. When families receive the devastating news that their loved one needs end of life care, we want to be there to offer our specialist care and support. You have the power to make this possible.

Did you know?

- The care we provide is free for patients and their families but is not free to provide
- We do get some funding from the government but this covers less than one third of our annual running costs
- One in four of all patients are cared for thanks to a gift in a Will
- A gift of any size – maybe just 1% from your Will, can make 100% difference to our patients.

The Hospice's strategy sets out our ambitions for the future and focuses on the needs of local people. Please visit our website for more information. stleonardshospice.org.uk

Chief Executive, Emma Johnson explains:

“We have done a lot of work to develop our vision to ensure we are fit for the future. We want to continue evolving to ensure our care is accessible to all those who need it, to develop services that meet the needs of more people and to improve the quality and co-ordination of care for patients.”



We have cared for people for nearly 40 years and our community relies on us to be here for them in the future.

The importance of making a Will

No one likes to think about making a Will, and people have all kinds of reasons for not making one. They don't have time, they don't believe it's necessary and of course none of us like to think about dying. Yet making a Will is probably one of the most important things you can do to ensure that your wishes are carried out.

Writing a Will...

- 1. Makes your wishes known.** Keeping your Will up to date gives you peace of mind that the people and causes that matter to you will be looked after in the way you want.
- 2. Helps your family and friends.** A Will means your family and friends can administer your estate (that is your possessions and money) knowing that they are acting on your wishes.
- 3. Gives your assets to the people and causes you care about.** Without a Will that sets out your wishes, what happens to your estate when you die will be decided by law. If you have written a Will, you keep control.
- 4. Can minimise inheritance tax.** Having a Will may reduce the amount of inheritance tax that could be payable on your estate.



“We are very proud of the excellent care we provide to all our patients. Our mission is to create a relaxed and supportive relationship where the needs of each individual patient are the priority. This could be in the Hospice itself or in the patient's own home. This is only possible through the generosity of people leaving gifts in Wills. They really do make a huge difference.”

Dr Bill Hulme, Medical Director

What your gift could do

£600 – could care for a patient in the Hospice for a day, providing pain relief to make them more comfortable, as well as emotional support and practical advice to help relieve stress and anxiety.

£1,000 – could provide help and bereavement support for families coming to terms with the death of a loved one.

£5,000 – could allow the Hospice@Home team to care for patients who have chosen to stay in their own homes at the very end of their lives.

£50,000 – could cover the cost of two health care assistants for a year. They ensure patients and their loved ones have the time to focus on what matters to them most.

£120,000 – could pay for up to three specialist nurses for a year. They care for local patients and families with kindness and compassion both in the Hospice and in their own homes.

Our full accounts can be found on the Charity Commission website and are filed at Companies House. If you would like to be sent a copy of the accounts or discuss any aspect of the Hospice's finances in more detail please contact David Jones, Director of Finance.



Ian's story

“My wife Pat and I were married for 46 years when she died in the Hospice in 2018. I can't thank the staff enough for taking care of us both. Pat's end-of-life care was amazing but the staff also took the time to support me too.

It broke my heart to see Pat in such a bad way. After a few days in Hospital, we took the decision to move her to the Hospice on the advice of her medical team. When I first arrived at the Hospice I couldn't believe what a difference the move had made to Pat. After days of not eating, there she was in her room eating a prawn cocktail, something the catering team had made especially for her.

In Pat's final days they made her as comfortable as they could, with specialist round the clock care in a homely environment. I was able to sleep next to her and when the time came the nurses woke me to say goodbye.

The support and care we both received made Pat's death the best it could be, for that I will be eternally grateful. And that's why I've remembered the Hospice in my Will.

Please let care like this be your legacy – you may be so grateful for their support, just as I was.”

Ian, St Leonard's Hospice supporter



Leaving a gift in your Will to St Leonard's Hospice – your questions answered

I don't have much to leave. Will my gift still make a difference?

Absolutely, gifts of all sizes make such a difference to the Hospice. Just 1% of your estate could make a 100% difference. A gift of £600 would cover the cost of care for a local patient in the Hospice for a day. This includes everything from expert care, to meals and medicines. We are incredibly grateful for any amount received. They all add up and allow us to care for hundreds of patients and their families each year.

How will my gift be spent?

We will spend the money you have donated where it will have the most impact. We will ensure that it is spent responsibly to help care for more patients and families when they need hospice care the most.

Do I need a solicitor?

We recommend that you use a reputable solicitor. To find a local Will and Probate solicitor in England and Wales contact the Law Society on 020 7242 1222 or visit www.lawsociety.org.uk you can take along our information pack, which includes suggested wording, when you meet them.

How can I make a change to my existing Will?

If you are simply adding a gift in favour of St Leonard's Hospice to an existing Will this can be done using a codicil. A codicil can be written by you or a solicitor and must be witnessed by someone who is not a beneficiary. A codicil need not change the terms of your current Will. It can simply add a new instruction. If you wish to make any other changes at the same time, it may be best to have your Will re-written to include all your changes in a new document.

What is the St Leonard's Make a Will Month?

In October we work with local solicitors to give you the opportunity to have your Will written in exchange for a donation to the Hospice. Participating solicitors generously agree to donate their time in return for your donation. Further details are available from August.

I want to find out more before I make a decision. What's the best way to do this?

We are always here if you would like to discuss anything further. Please contact us on 01904 777 777 or email legacies@stleonardshospice.nhs.uk You may wish to come into the Hospice, look around and meet staff in person which we are more than happy to arrange.



Barbara's Story

"My husband, David, died in St Leonard's Hospice.

There are no words which could adequately describe the care both he and I (and our son)

received from the angels (because that's how I see them) at St Leonard's.

While David was in the Hospice he said several times, 'This is costing a lot. They need money here.' And this is why, since then, I have always been keen to support

any fundraising efforts organised by St Leonard's. I am a regular giver, and it's why I became a volunteer. It will be no surprise to anyone that alongside my family, St Leonard's Hospice is remembered in my Will." **Barbara, St Leonard's Hospice supporter**

Our promise to you

If you choose to leave a gift in your Will to St Leonard's Hospice – thank you so much.

In return we promise:

- We will spend the money you have donated where it will have the most impact. We will ensure that it is spent responsibly to help care for more patients and families when they need hospice care the most.
- We understand the importance of family and friends and that these people will always be considered when you are thinking about leaving a gift.
- If you wish, we will keep you up to date about Hospice developments and other ways you may wish to become involved.
- We will answer any questions you have honestly and quickly.
- We understand you may wish to keep your intentions private. If you would like to discuss your decision in more detail we will always be here to talk things through.



“My family and I do all we can to support St Leonard's in the present, but I also want to make sure the Hospice is here in the future – to help those who may need its special care.

So although my husband and I already had Wills, we decided to update them and include a gift to St Leonard's Hospice.”

Liz, Housekeeping Manager

Extending the care

St Leonard's is so much more than a building. The majority of our patients will never enter the Hospice itself as they are looked after in the place they want to be – their own home.

We provide specialist, hands-on nursing care where appropriate, working in partnership with GPs, community nurses, specialist palliative care teams and others. Our **Hospice@Home** team is made up of experienced registered nurses and carers, who are all trained in Hospice or palliative care.

Our telephone support and coordination service is a joint initiative with York Hospital Trust and brings together experts in palliative and end-of-life care from across the community. Initially set up in response to the pandemic to rapidly respond to patient and family needs, it has grown from strength to strength and now handles around 50 calls per day.

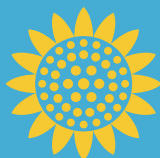


“I need to express to you my gratitude. Whenever I called because of a concern over my late husband, your responses were always attentive and reassuring. You always did what you said you would do. Thank you for carrying out your frontline role with such sensitivity and kindness. It means a lot to feel such kindness when one is having such a hard time.”

A patient's wife

Did you know that we care for patients from as far away as Kirkbymoorside, Allerton, Sherburn-in-Elmet and Pocklington?

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Hospice



Please consider leaving a gift in your Will to St Leonard's Hospice. Your gift will help more people across York and North Yorkshire, who are living with a life-limiting illness, access the best possible care enabling them to die well.

Need help or more information?

If you have any questions please, do get in touch. We aren't solicitors ourselves, but we can answer any general questions you have about Wills and gifts in Wills. We can tell you more about how St Leonard's Hospice supports local people with life limiting illnesses and invite you to visit the Hospice.



Fundraising 01904 777 777



Hospice Main Reception 01904 708 553



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