

Charity

A gift for everyone

Your quick guide to leaving a gift
in your Will

For almost 100 years, St Martin-in-the-Fields has supported people away from homelessness.

Because we know that with kindness,
compassion and the right support, lives
can always change for the better.

Start

Will you leave a gift in your Will to St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity?

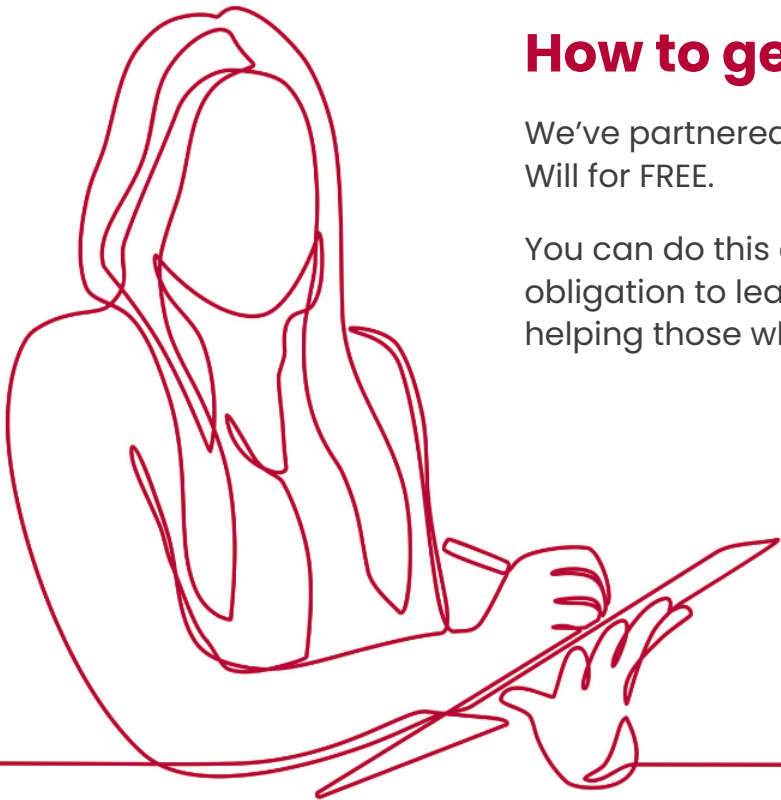
Your gift will be a gift for everyone. It will help us to provide the best possible support, so that more people can secure and keep a safe place to live. And it begins right here.

How to get your free Will

We've partnered with expert Will writers **Guardian Angel** to give you the chance to write your Will for FREE.

You can do this online, in-person or over the phone – in as little as 20 minutes. There's no obligation to leave a gift to us when you do. But if you do think of us, just know that you'll be helping those who need it most.

Go online at **www.smitfc.org/leave-a-gift-for-everyone/** to get started online today. Or call the **free Wills hotline** on **0800 773 4014**.



It started with St Martin-in-the-Fields' Revd Dick Sheppard... but it can continue with your gift.

St Martins' support for people in need began over one hundred years ago, in 1916, when conscription was introduced. The vicar at the time, Revd Dick Sheppard, allowed the young men headed to France to shelter from the cold in the famous church – on their last night before leaving from Charing Cross station to fight on the front.

Since then, St Martin-in-the-Fields' work has continued to evolve and grow – from being there for those who had lost loved ones in the war, to helping families in financial hardship, to the

wide-ranging assistance for people experiencing homelessness today.

Since 1927, the BBC Christmas Appeal (now called the BBC Radio 4 Christmas Appeal with St Martin-in-the-Fields) has supported us in raising the funds we need to continue our work. We now work with thousands of people experiencing or at risk of becoming homeless across the UK. People such as Aaron and Louise and her partner Jason, who were all helped by St Martin's Charity – read what they have to say on page 6.



The Reverend Dick Sheppard



St Martin-in-the-Fields Church

With the help of our supporters, St Martin's Charity, through its programmes:

- **Provides** direct support through the Vicar's Relief Fund (VRF) to people across the UK who need funds to secure or keep a home – with grants for people to pay for a rent deposit or clear rent arrears.
- **Delivers** targeted grants to organisations nationwide that are working with people experiencing homelessness to support them to find shelter and rebuild their lives.

- **Develops** and encourages innovative solutions to prevent people from losing their homes in the first place.

Much has changed in the UK since those early days, but homelessness is still a pressing issue that needs to be addressed – and thousands of people in the UK need your help. Indeed, due to the current economic challenges, the need for the support we provide has never been greater.

A gift left in your Will to St Martin's Charity can help us to change the lives of those experiencing the challenges of homelessness both today and for the years ahead.

Next

The essentials for Will writing

Legal support

We always recommend seeking the advice of a qualified solicitor or trusted Will writer. We've partnered with expert Will writers, **Guardian Angel**, to help you do this.

The details

If you've kindly decided to leave a gift to St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity, it's vital you include our correct name, address and charity number to make sure it goes to the right place:

St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity,
5 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4JH

Registered charity number 1156305

Types of gift

A percentage of your estate

You can choose to leave a percentage of your estate, known as a residuary gift. Just 3% of your estate could make a huge difference.

A fixed sum or 'cash' gift

You can choose to give a specific amount, for example, £5,000. This is known as a pecuniary gift.

An item or treasure

Some people decide to leave a specific item of value, such as a piece of jewellery, furniture or even property. If you plan to do this, it's best to check with us first, to make sure it's a gift that can be accepted.

Still not sure you need to write a Will? The following frequently asked questions may help...

Q. Why should I write a Will?

Making a Will and keeping it up to date is one of the most important things you can do. It makes sure that your decisions are carried out, puts you in control of your estate and makes things much easier for your loved ones. You will be surprised at how easy the process is and how freeing it is to know that it's done and knowing that the people and things that matter most to you are remembered.

Q. Why use a Solicitor?

To be certain that your wishes are recorded clearly and with the correct wording it is advisable to use a solicitor. Some 'homemade' Wills may not follow the correct procedure and as a result can be challenged and declared invalid. Costs of making a Will through a solicitor will vary – often on the size of the estate.

St Martin's Charity has partnered with Guardian Angel and a network of local solicitors to offer a free Wills writing service. See details below.

Q. I don't have much. Is it still worth me making a Will?

You might be surprised about your wealth, especially if you own your own home, have life assurance or savings. But wealth aside, writing a Will ensures that your loved ones and the cause most dear to you, benefit from your estate and your wishes are carried out as you want.

Q. What is a reversionary gift?

This gift enables you to pass your estate, or specific assets of your estate, to individuals who will benefit throughout their lifetime. Following their deaths, all or some of the estate is then passed to the beneficiaries, as specified in the reversionary legacy. For example, property may be left to a spouse for his/her lifetime and then bequeathed to St Martin's Charity after his/her death.

To write your Will for FREE call our free Wills hotline on 0800 773 4014 or go online at www.smitfc.org/leave-a-gift-for-everyone/ to begin drafting your Will today.



Next

Gifts in Wills to St Martin's Charity make a real difference to those experiencing homelessness – read their stories here.



Aaron, helped out of homelessness by St Martin's Charity.

"For me, it took a matter of weeks for my whole life to fall apart. I spent

seven years moving between friend's places and sleeping rough in a tent.

That's when I got Rex, my dog. He kept me company and made me feel safe. I managed to find a home for us to live in, but I didn't have enough money to cover the advance rent. It's thanks to St Martin's Charity and people like you that I could secure this house I live in now.

I still feel I'm going to wake up one morning and I'm going to be back out there somewhere. But I have this home and a part-time job to get me started. I'm more hopeful about the future than I've been in a long time, and I want to thank you for your part in that."



Jason and Louise, also helped by St Martin's Charity.

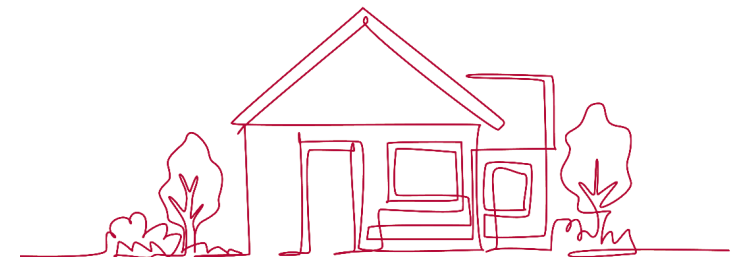
In 2021, Jason and Louise were suddenly forced out of their home – and found

themselves with nowhere else to go, having to sleep in a car just to make it through the night. That's when St Martin's Charity – and our supporters – stepped up. With the help of local support, they received at the time, they applied for a grant from St Martin's Charity, covering their first month of rent in a new bungalow. Finally, the couple had a safe, comfortable place to call home.

"It was really important for you to help us because, if it hadn't been for you, who knows where we would be now."

"I have supported St Martin-in-the Fields Charity for some years now...I'm always impressed by the difference the Charity is making to so many lives in communities around the country. We all want to be confident that any gift, and especially those left in Wills, however small, is put to the best possible use – and makes a difference to those who need it. I believe that St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity makes sure all gifts are used to the maximum benefit of those in need. That's why I've remembered them in my Will – so I can continue to support the wonderful work they do, now and long into the future."

Rachel, who has left a gift in her Will to St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity.



If you want to 'be there' for other people facing homelessness, please remember St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity in your Will. Thank you.

What your gift could do:



A home

You could help people experiencing homelessness find a place to call home, thanks to one of our grants.



A safe place

You could help fund organisations working to address homelessness right across the UK: from providing services for young people to working with people who slip through the net of mainstream support.

This is what gifts in Wills helped us to do in 2021/22:

7,183 people supported away from homelessness.

4,582 support grants awarded across the UK

£1,820,134 given in grants to help people to better their lives



A way out

You could help us to invest in frontline workers, bringing them together to share their expertise. By doing that, your gift will help more people to access the long-term support they need to find a way out of homelessness – and rebuild their lives.

Next

Want to talk?

If you'd like to talk to us about leaving a gift in your Will, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Give us a call on **020 3795 5745** or email

info@stmartinscharity.org.uk

(Please note that we cannot provide legal advice).

A gift in your Will to St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity could help someone to transform their life and create a brighter future.

Everyone should have that chance.

Get started now

Registered charity no 1156305

St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity, 5 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4JH

