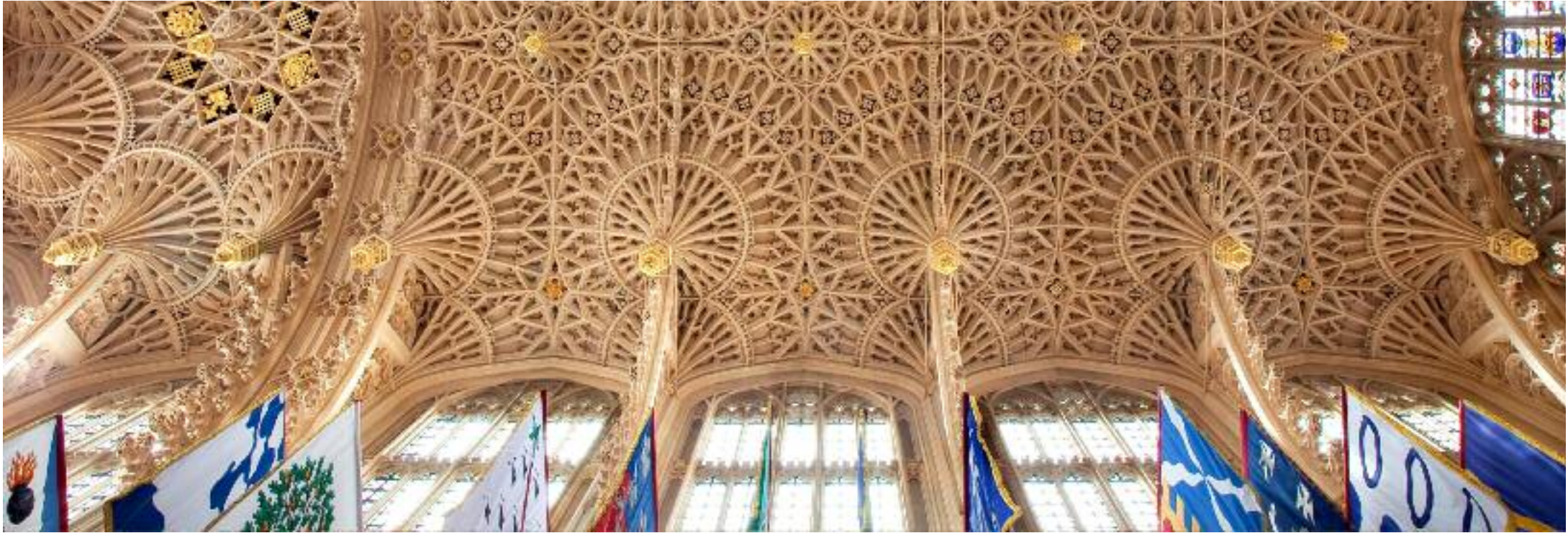


SAFEGUARDING WESTMINSTER ABBEY...



Your Legacy for its future

LEGACIES: YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

Legacies and vision. These are what have provided the foundations for the Abbey's development over the centuries. From St Dunstan's establishment of a Benedictine monastery here in the 10th century to our 21st century additions of an education centre (opened in May 2010 by HM The Queen), a first ever restaurant for visitors (2012) and the conversion of the triforium level of the Abbey into new gallery and exhibition space (2018), the Abbey's development as a place of worship and wonder for all never stops.



St Edward the Confessor refounds the 10th century monastery of St Dunstan in 1065.

11th Century



Henry III begins to rebuild the Abbey in 1245.

13th Century



Henry VII completes the nave and builds the awe-inspiring Lady Chapel.

16th Century



Nicholas Hawksmoor's West Towers are completed in 1745.

18th Century



21st Century additions of an education centre, a restaurant and Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries.

Today

But what next?
How do we maintain this special place, its worship and its fabric, yet at the same time help it continue to evolve?

Your legacy, as part of a centuries-old tradition of giving, can help to make that difference.

The Future



The Abbey receives no funding from the Crown, the Church of England or the Government.

Why leave a legacy to Westminster Abbey? Does it really need it?

The most common misconception about the Abbey is that it is wealthy. The most commonly asked question is 'Why do we charge visitors to come in?' For many the idea of paying to enter a place of worship does not seem right. The answer is quite simple. Although the Abbey is one of the country's most famous and iconic buildings, it receives no funding from the Crown, the Church of England or the government. It is entirely self-supporting.

Whilst the Abbey is always free to enter for anyone who wishes to pray or worship, our visitors who pay to come to the Abbey as a tourist attraction produce sufficient funds to meet our everyday running expenses and support

a limited programme of routine conservation and maintenance work on the fabric of the Abbey. But no more. To safeguard our future, to carry out any major restoration work, planned or not, and to improve and enhance the experience of visitors and pilgrims to the Abbey, we have to find other sources of additional funding.

This is where a legacy from you could make a real difference.



Why it is important to make a Will

A misconception by many people is that they don't need a Will. Some think they don't have very much to leave so it is not worth it, or that, even if they don't have a Will, their money and other assets will automatically go to their family. The simplest thing to say about this is that **everyone should have a Will** as it is the only way to be sure that your wishes are fulfilled after your lifetime and that your estate and assets go to the people or organisations you wish to remember or to benefit.

Is it complicated to make a Will?

In fact, to make a Will is a simple process provided you follow a few basic steps:

- 1) Always use a professional advisor or solicitor;
- 2) Determine the value of your estate and who you wish to benefit;
- 3) Choose executors, people you trust, to discharge your Will and your wishes;
- 4) Keep your Will in a safe place and always make sure to keep it up to date.

Can you specify where your legacy is to be used?

A legacy may be specified for any area of the Abbey's work that you choose. But the gifts most useful are those with the least ties and restrictions. Inevitably, the Abbey's needs and priorities change over time. A legacy limited to a specific purpose may not, in fact, meet the Abbey's particular needs at that time. That is why it is often most helpful to leave a general legacy to allow the Abbey to use your legacy wherever the need is greatest at the time of receiving your gift.

Can you leave an item or property to the Abbey?

Of course. The Abbey would be pleased to accept individual items or property, but for either of these we would suggest that you speak to the Abbey first to ensure that your wishes can be fulfilled. It would be sad if you wished to leave a piece of jewellery, a painting, books or something very special to you and then, for whatever reason, the Abbey were unable to accept or use the item. It might possibly have to refuse the gift, or in some circumstances sell it.



In addition to being the Coronation Church, the Abbey is also the Church of the Commonwealth.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A LEGACY TO WESTMINSTER ABBEY?

Whatever your area of interest or passion for the Abbey, a legacy of any size can make a difference. Please remember that bequests left to registered charities are exempt from inheritance tax. The following are examples of the areas to which a legacy could be applied.



Mission & Worship

Westminster Abbey is first and foremost a Christian place of worship; that is why it was built and has been cherished over the years. Over one million visitors and 500,000 worshippers come to the Abbey each year, to whom we minister through public daily services and by providing places for private prayer. The Abbey is also the place of numerous special services and events. Some, like the Remembrance Day service and the Commonwealth Observance, are held annually; others, such as **the 2011 memorial service for victims of the Japanese Earthquake**, are a direct response to national or international events. A legacy left to the area of Abbey mission will help make sure that the Abbey is always here to serve visitors, worshippers, and the nation as a whole.



Music

Since the Abbey's foundation in 960, music has been integral to its life and worship. Choral services, open to all, take place nearly every day throughout the year, and some of the nation's greatest musicians – including Henry Purcell, Orlando Gibbons and George Frederic Handel – have worked here, or been closely associated with the Abbey. We need to safeguard the continuation of this great tradition, and maintain its quality and range. A legacy to support the Abbey's music will help us to do this, and also enable us to continue commissioning new works, help provide bursaries for the young choristers of the Abbey's small and unique choir school, and help develop the Abbey's programme of concerts and other musical activities.



Fabric, Conservation & Collections

We all know the costs of maintaining our own homes so you can imagine the costs of the on-going care and maintenance of the Abbey's fabric and collections. Whether medieval mosaic pavements and tombs, stone work, roof repairs, stained glass, rare textiles, or our collection of over 14,000 books and illuminated manuscripts, there will always be a great need in this area. Any substantial work to the fabric is immensely costly, and cannot be made out of annual revenue.

A legacy to this area could also support apprenticeships, internships and the training of future generations of conservators, librarians, archivists and craftsmen to care for our great heritage.



Education

Providing educational opportunities for children, students, adults and visitors which bring the Abbey, its history and its role to life is of key importance to us.

Support for our educational programmes, and active work and upkeep of our Education Centre would be greatly welcomed. For example, a legacy to support educational bursaries would ensure that children and schools in deprived areas are able to come and visit the Abbey. The Abbey subsidises the majority of the costs of these visits but some students and schools are unable to afford even a few pounds as a small contribution to help cover costs.

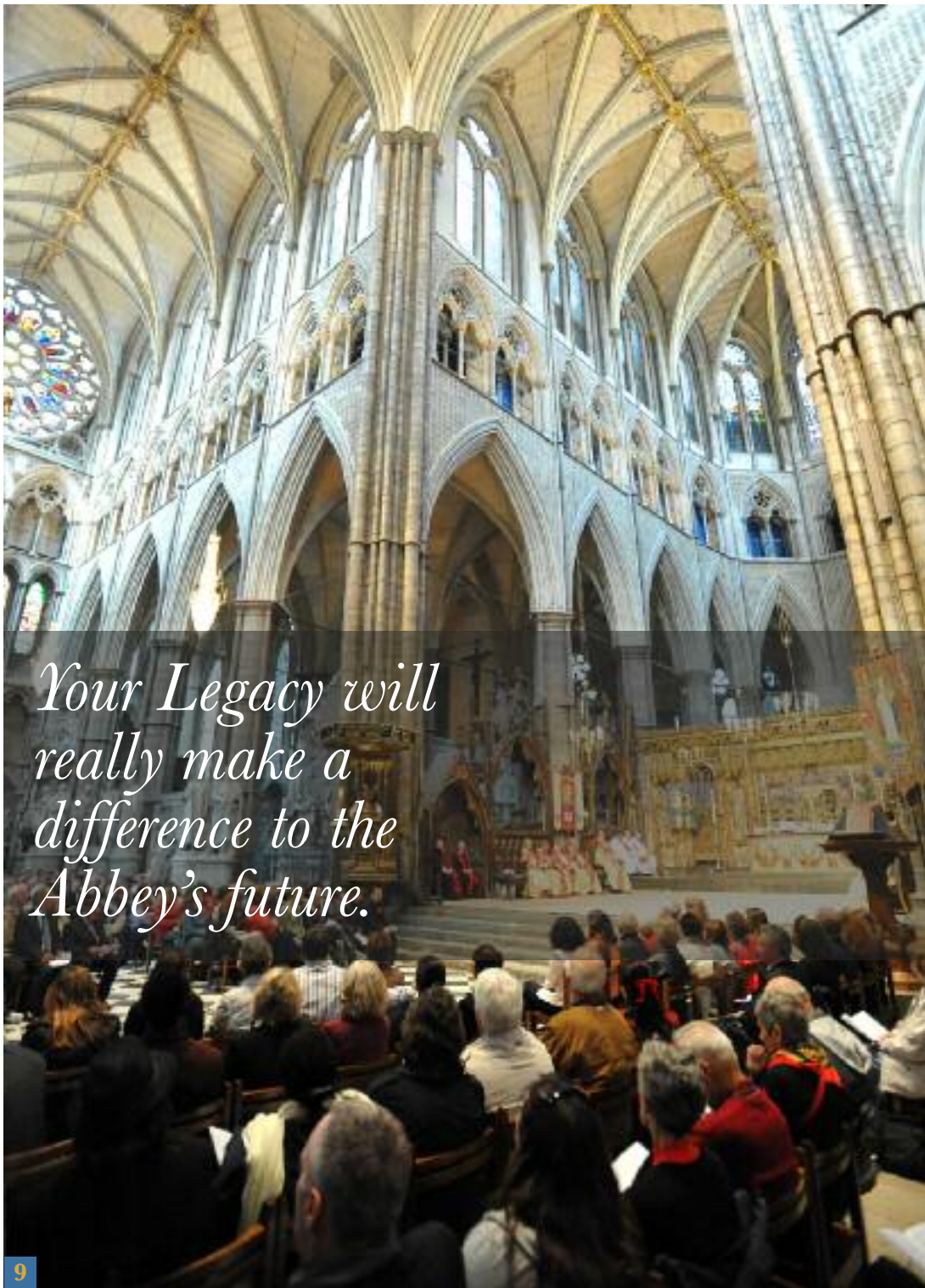


St Margaret's Church

St Margaret's Church and Westminster Abbey have been closely linked for many centuries. The Benedictine monks of the Abbey built St Margaret's as a parish church to serve the spiritual needs of the local community that had grown up around their monastery and the nearby Palace of Westminster.

St Margaret's has also long been known as the 'parish church of the House of Commons'. Over the past 400 years, Parliamentarians have valued it as their local church and members of both Houses of Parliament attend the regular and special services there.

In 1972 an Act of Parliament placed St Margaret's under the governance and care of the Abbey and with that comes responsibility for its fabric, maintenance and well being. Support for St Margaret's would help to ensure stability of the fabric, its music programme and the various aspects of community and government outreach.



Your Legacy will really make a difference to the Abbey's future.

LEGACIES: IN DETAIL

If you would like to be a part of the centuries-old tradition of supporting Westminster Abbey^{††}, there are two basic ways in which you can leave a legacy to the Abbey in your Will.

1) A GIFT FOR GENERAL PURPOSES

The most useful legacies received by the Abbey are those for general purposes, enabling us to direct your gift wherever the need is greatest at the time your gift is received. You can either leave a specific amount of money (a Pecuniary Bequest), or a percentage/share of the remainder of your estate after all your other bequests have been distributed (a Residuary Bequest). For legacies of either type, the suggested wording below may be helpful for your solicitor.

For a General Pecuniary Bequest

'I bequeath to the Westminster Abbey Foundation, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, London SW1P 3PA, Registered Charity No 1116371, the sum of £_____ to be used by the Foundation at its absolute discretion.'*

For a General Residuary Bequest

'I give the whole (or a share, for example one half/one third, etc.) of the residue of my estate to the Westminster Abbey Foundation, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, London SW1P 3PA, Registered Charity No 1116371, to be used by the Foundation at its absolute discretion.'

2) A GIFT FOR A SPECIFIC USE

Should there be a specific area of the Abbey's work that you would like to support such as music, worship, education, conservation, St Margaret's Church – to name a few possibilities – the following wording may be helpful for your solicitor. Please note that it is best to make the use as broad as possible to ensure the gift can be used.

For a Specific Pecuniary Bequest

'I bequeath to the Westminster Abbey Foundation, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, London SW1P 3PA, Registered Charity No 1116371, the sum of £_____, and express the wish that they should apply the money to _____. Should this area of work not be in need at the time of my death, the Westminster Abbey Foundation may use the funds at its absolute discretion.'

For a Specific Residuary Bequest

'I give the whole (or a share, for example one half/one third, etc.) of the residue of my estate to the Westminster Abbey Foundation, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, London SW1P 3PA, Registered Charity No 1116371, and express the wish that they should apply the money to _____. Should this area of work not be in need at the time of my death, the Westminster Abbey Foundation may use the funds at its absolute discretion.'

^{††} The Dean and Chapter of the Collegiate Church of St Peter Westminster (otherwise known as Westminster Abbey).

* The Westminster Abbey Foundation is the working name for the Westminster Abbey Trust which benefits Westminster Abbey.

The image shows the interior of Westminster Abbey, featuring a large, multi-paned stained glass window with vibrant colors. The architecture is Gothic, with high vaulted ceilings and stone columns. In the foreground, several people are visible, looking upwards towards the window. The lighting is warm, highlighting the intricate details of the glass and the stone.

OUR LEGACY

For centuries, the vision and determination of kings, queens, monks, clergy, congregations, and everyday worshippers and visitors have created and continued to sustain the legacy and wonder of Westminster Abbey. Through this commitment, the Abbey has become the special place we enjoy and love today.

There are countless ways in which we can express our affection for this beautiful and precious place, or demonstrate our wish to help safeguard its future.

Leaving a legacy to the Abbey is one very generous – and personal – means of doing so. This booklet is designed to give you a better understanding of the real help to the work of the Abbey which a legacy may provide. I do hope you will find it useful. And whatever your response, be assured that we shall always value your interest in the future of this glorious testimony to the central importance of God in all our lives.

The Dean of Westminster
The Very Reverend Dr John Hall

We want to preserve, enjoy and evolve this inspiring building at the heart of our nation.



LEAVING A LEGACY TO WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Do you need to tell us if you are leaving a legacy to the Abbey?

Legacies are a very personal matter. We do not need to know in advance the details of a legacy, but it is sometimes helpful to know if someone has decided to remember the Abbey in this way.

Choosing Westminster Abbey

Leaving a legacy is always an intensely personal choice. We are grateful to you for having expressed an interest in the Abbey, and hope you will have found this booklet helpful as you reflect on these important matters.





Further information

To ensure that you have everything that you need, or if you still have questions, please contact us directly in confidence via the details below or complete and return this tear-off form to:

Mrs Valerie Humphrey
Director
Westminster Abbey Foundation
Westminster Abbey
20 Dean's Yard
London
SW1P 3PA

Tel:
020 7654 4872

Email:
valerie.humphrey@westminster-abbey.org



What you can do next

Please complete and return the information below to help us plan and to ensure that you have everything that you need.

Title:

Name:

Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

Please tick the appropriate boxes:

- I intend to leave a gift in my Will to Westminster Abbey or St Margaret's Church (Please indicate which.)
- I have already left a gift in my Will to Westminster Abbey or St Margaret's Church. (Please indicate which.)
- I have questions and would like to speak to someone.
Please contact me during the day on phone number:

- I have everything that I need, thank you.
There is no need to contact me further about leaving a legacy.

Your details remain confidential to Westminster Abbey and its associated trusts/organisations and will never be used by or shared with third parties. If you would like to receive further information about the Abbey or St Margaret's and their services and activities, please provide your email address below:

Email:



Mrs Valerie Humphrey
Westminster Abbey
20 Dean's Yard
London SW1P 3PA

Tel: 020 7654 4872

Email: valerie.humphrey@westminster-abbey.org