

**PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup>**  
**CHANGE ATTITUDES.**  
**FIND A CURE.**  
**JOIN US.**



# BE THE CURE

How to leave a gift in your  
will to Parkinson's UK

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If you have any questions about leaving a gift in your will, or how your gift will help, please call our Legacy team on **020 7963 9344** or email **[legacies@parkinsons.org.uk](mailto:legacies@parkinsons.org.uk)**

There's also lots of information about leaving a gift in your will at **[parkinsons.org.uk/legacy](https://parkinsons.org.uk/legacy)**

# WELCOME

One thing is certain. Finding a cure for Parkinson's will come from people like you – people who know how much it matters.

## You are the cure.

Including a gift in your will to Parkinson's UK isn't about helping a charity – it's about doing something meaningful for the whole Parkinson's community. You'll be funding pioneering research into better treatments and a cure. And you'll be helping make sure we're always here for people with Parkinson's, and their family, friends and carers.

People like you, who had the foresight and commitment to include a gift in their will in the past, are helping us today. Their legacies are funding innovative research through the Parkinson's Virtual Biotech, and transforming how we support the Parkinson's community.

Making or updating your will is straightforward, and this guide is a simple introduction to the things you need to think about.



You can also find out how to make a will for free, through our partnership with professional will writing services.

We know including Parkinson's UK in your will is a big decision, and that family and loved ones come first. But all gifts make a huge difference.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. J. Russell".

Caroline Russell  
Chief Executive, Parkinson's UK

# OUR AMBITION

**Our ultimate ambition is to find a cure and improve life for everyone affected by Parkinson's.**

The Parkinson's community is at the centre of everything we do. All our work focuses on the areas that matter the most to people with Parkinson's:

- Accelerating breakthroughs in research
- Better support, every day
- Getting Parkinson's understood

Together we're bringing research breakthroughs closer, funding

important clinical trials with the potential to develop a new treatment in years, not decades.

We're also working on new ways to provide better support to people with Parkinson's, and family, friends and carers, so that no one feels alone with Parkinson's.

And we're helping more people understand what Parkinson's is, so more people care and feel inspired to take action.

By leaving a gift in your will, you can be by our side, helping us as we work to achieve all this.



# YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Gifts in wills, also known as legacies, are a critical source of funding for Parkinson's UK. These gifts fund almost half of our vital work and help us plan for the future.

They've already helped create the Parkinson's Virtual Biotech – the drug development arm of Parkinson's UK – which launched in 2017.

Through the Virtual Biotech we're partnering with institutions and pharmaceutical companies worldwide, fast-tracking the most promising scientific discoveries to rapidly develop and test better Parkinson's treatments.

Legacies have helped us invest over £13m into the Virtual Biotech to date. We're backing carefully selected research with the greatest potential to transform life for people with Parkinson's.

But it's not just research. As you know, having Parkinson's can feel overwhelming if you don't have the right information and support. So gifts in wills help fund our expert health information and



support services, including our helpline and local advisers.

Legacies are also helping fund a comprehensive new support service called Parkinson's Connect. It's for everyone with Parkinson's, and family, friends and carers, bringing together everything you need to live better with the condition.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who includes a gift in their will to Parkinson's UK. We simply couldn't do our vital work without this support. You are the cure.

# WE ARE THE CURE:

## JOYCE'S STORY

Joyce is a Parkinson's UK member and chair of her local support group. She has included a gift in her will to Parkinson's UK to help fund research:

"Research is the key for me and I'd like to think that's where my money would go. What inspired me was the thought of somebody using it for some purpose, even if it's just a small amount.

"I just thought it was where the money needed to be. That's what inspired me – it being used for something good for somebody. There might be people who don't have to go through traumas some of us have had to go through."

Joyce made her will through Parkinson's UK. Her advice is to go ahead and do it:

"I thought carefully about who will act as my executor and administer my estate.

"I then thought about the assets I have. This even included my caravan – if it's still about! And the things that I hold dear, such as my

jewellery and a big collection of craft items.

"As well as including my friends and family in my will, I also decided to include a gift to Parkinson's UK because I hope in a small way, this will help other people with Parkinson's.

"If I can give any advice, I would say, go ahead and do it. Once I'd thought about everything, it was easy to do. It didn't take long and gives me peace of mind. At the end of the day, I feel like I've done something worthwhile."

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**I decided to include a gift to Parkinson's UK because I hope in a small way, this will help other people with Parkinson's."**



# 7 EASY STEPS TO LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

1

**Work out the value of your estate.**

Make sure you include property, investments and any debts.

2

**Choose the people or charities you would like to include in your will.**

Many supporters choose to leave a share of their estate to Parkinson's UK as this type of gift won't lose its value over time.

3

**Appoint your executors.**

Executors are the individuals responsible for ensuring that your wishes are carried out. They will be named in your will.

4

**Use a solicitor or professional will writing service to make your will.**

See page 14 to find out how to make your will for free.

5

**Keep your will somewhere safe.**

Your solicitor or will writing service will often look after it for you, but you may wish to keep your own copy too.

6

**Tell a relative or close friend where the original copy of your will is stored.**

7

**If you have already included a gift to Parkinson's UK in your will, we'd love to hear from you to thank you for your support.**

But that's entirely your decision – we do not need to know.

Gifts in wills fund our vital research and support, and make a huge difference to the Parkinson's community.

“For people like me, research means the world. It's our hope. Every day I wake up and every day there isn't a cure or a treatment that can slow or stop things getting worse. Pioneering projects like this one could change that. That's why I will do whatever I can to support research that could transform my life. If it misses my generation, it could be the next generation that benefits. It is vitally important we continue to fund, support and take part in Parkinson's research.”

Nick was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2019. He recently took part in a clinical study to explore repurposing an asthma drug for Parkinson's.

“The Facebook group has helped me so much. Knowing there are so many people young and old with different symptoms has helped me cope with my diagnosis. Everyone shares their experiences. It's reassuring that I can make connections and new friends from all over the country.”

Sindy was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2020. When she started experiencing new symptoms, she turned to the Parkinson's UK Facebook community group for advice.



# YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

## **What information do I need in order to make a gift to Parkinson's UK?**

To include a gift in your will simply take the following details to your chosen solicitor or professional will writing provider:

- **Charity name:**  
Parkinson's UK
- **Charity address:**  
Parkinson's UK  
215 Vauxhall Bridge Road  
London SW1V 1EJ
- **Charity number:**  
258197 (England and Wales)  
or SCO37554 (Scotland)

## **What type of gift makes the most difference?**

Any gift to Parkinson's UK will have an amazing impact. Many supporters choose to leave a share of their estate, as this type of gift won't lose its value over time.

## **Can I specify that my gift is used for a particular area of work?**

The majority of supporters leave their gift for us to use wherever the need is greatest. This helps

us ensure that a gift makes an incredible difference, however it is spent.

If you'd like to leave a gift to a particular area of our work, please call our Legacy team on **020 7963 9344** or email **legacies@parkinsons.org.uk**

## **How do I choose a solicitor or professional will writing service?**

As a Parkinson's UK supporter you can make your will for free through our will writing partners. For more information see page 14.

Alternatively, you can find solicitors in your area who specialise in wills, probate law and tax law on the Law Society website ([www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk)).

Before appointing a solicitor, we recommend that you confirm what they intend to charge for preparing your will or acting as an executor.

## **Who should I appoint as an executor of my will?**

We recommend appointing a professional executor (for example a solicitor or a bank), as

well as a family member or friend to provide advice and assistance to the co-executor.

Please note, however, that you shouldn't appoint a professional executor without first finding out their fees. We also recommend that you check that they are willing and able to be your executor.

If you do not have a suitable executor, Parkinson's UK can act for you. For more information please call our Legacy team on **020 7963 9344**.

### **Should I put together a new will?**

If a complicated change is involved, it is usually advisable to make a new will. If you want to make a small change to an existing will, you can amend it by preparing a codicil form. This needs to be both signed and witnessed with the same legal formalities as a will.

It is always advisable that a new will should contain a clause revoking all previous wills and codicils. Revoking a will means that the will is no longer legally valid.

### **Can I save tax by leaving a gift to Parkinson's UK in my will?**

A gift to Parkinson's UK in your will is not subject to inheritance tax. This may save tax that your estate would otherwise have to pay.

Inheritance tax is a complicated area and very much depends on your personal circumstances. We recommend speaking to a professional who can advise you on the details as they relate to you.

Further information can be found at **[www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax](http://www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax)**



# HOW GIFTS IN WILLS HELP

## Funding Parkinson's research

People living with Parkinson's are the driving force behind our research. Together, we will find a cure.

But we're not just focused on the future. We're investing in research to improve life for people with Parkinson's right now too.

We're investing more in the Parkinson's Virtual Biotech than any other research programme. It's largely due to legacies from people like you that we are increasing our investment year on year.

Our Virtual Biotech funds clinical trials, bringing life-changing new

treatments closer. We're fast tracking projects through the research pipeline, like the phase 2 trial of the drug NLX-112, which could reduce dyskinesia (involuntary movements) in people with Parkinson's.

We're also testing whether CBD (cannabidiol) can treat psychosis in Parkinson's, and whether the common anti-sickness drug ondansetron can reduce distressing hallucinations.

We aim to deliver the next new treatment in years, not decades.

**A gift in your will is about uniting with others to find a cure. You are the cure.**





## Funding Parkinson's support

Gifts in wills are also helping fund Parkinson's Connect – a comprehensive new support service for everyone with Parkinson's, as well as family, friends and carers.

Through Parkinson's Connect, everyone will have easy access to the trusted advice and information we've been providing for over 50 years, in one place.

Gifts in wills from people like you have helped to create this new service. With your help, we can be there for every single person with Parkinson's, and their family, in the future.

We'll connect people with a whole network of support, including up to date, reliable health information, and expert tips and guidance on everything from work and finances to relationships and family life.

Support will be available from the moment someone is diagnosed, or whenever they're ready. So that no one feels alone with Parkinson's.

**The gifts we have received from supporters in their wills are helping to fund this vital work.**

**PARKINSON'S  
CONNECT**

# MAKE YOUR WILL FOR FREE

Parkinson's UK has partnered with two professional will writing providers so that you can make a will online, by phone or via a solicitor for free. You can make a single will or joint wills with a spouse or partner.

There is no obligation to include a gift to Parkinson's UK, but we hope it is something you may consider, once your loved ones are provided for. All gifts make a huge difference.

## Farewill



(Online and telephone wills)

Parkinson's UK has partnered with Farewill, the largest will writer in the UK. Write your will online (in England and Wales only) for free by visiting **[farewill.com/parkinsons-guide](https://farewill.com/parkinsons-guide)**

You can also make a will over the phone for free (including in Scotland and Northern Ireland), by calling Farewill on **020 8050 2686**.

You must notify the Customer Service team at the start of the call that you are a Parkinson's UK supporter.

Farewill includes one year of free, unlimited updates and the option to pay £10 per year thereafter to update your will at any time.

## The National Free Wills Network



(Local solicitor-based wills)

Parkinson's UK has partnered with the National Free Wills Network. They have over 800 approved solicitors across the UK, so you can meet with a solicitor who's local to you.

To start, visit **[parkinsons.org.uk/free-wills](https://parkinsons.org.uk/free-wills)** and complete our online form with your contact details, or call our Supporter Services team on **0800 138 6593** (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday). We will then pass on your contact details to the National Free Wills Network, who will send you a pack in the mail containing details of participating solicitors in your area.

# OUR LEGACY PROMISE

These are the promises we make to anyone considering including a gift to Parkinson's UK in their will:

- We know that your family and loved ones come first when writing your will. We would like you to consider a gift once they are provided for.
- We'll use your gift wisely – investing in pioneering projects that could slow, stop or reverse Parkinson's. Discovering life-changing new treatments. Your gift will also ensure we're always here for people with Parkinson's, and their family, friends and carers. For every £1 donated today, 80p is spent on making life better for people with Parkinson's, and 20p is spent on raising the next £1.
- Any gift you leave will be handled with care, sensitivity and respect.
- We would love to know if you have left us a gift in your will so we can recognise your generosity and thank you for your support. However, we will always respect your privacy and you don't have to tell us your decision.
- You have the right to change your mind about a gift at any time and you do not need to tell us of your decision.

If you have any questions about leaving a gift in your will, or how your gift will help, please call our Legacy team on **020 7963 9344** or email **[legacies@parkinsons.org.uk](mailto:legacies@parkinsons.org.uk)**

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We are Parkinson's UK.  
Powered by people.  
Funded by you.  
Improving life for everyone  
affected by Parkinson's.  
Together we'll find a cure.

**PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup>**  
**CHANGE ATTITUDES.**  
**FIND A CURE.**  
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Free confidential helpline **0808 800 0303**  
Monday to Friday 9am–7pm, Saturday 10am–2pm  
(interpreting available)  
NGT relay **18001 0808 800 0303**  
(for textphone users only)  
**hello@parkinsons.org.uk**  
**parkinsons.org.uk**

Parkinson's UK, 215 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1EJ



Parkinson's UK is the operating name of the Parkinson's Disease Society of the United Kingdom.  
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