



What will my legacy be?

What will I leave when I leave this life?

Will I leave this world a little better, or a little worse, for having briefly had me in it?

Will I leave my family able to keep doing well – and keep doing good – without me?

Will I have strengthened or weakened my personal link in that three thousand year-old chain we call Judaism?

These are not easy times. Over the last ten years, rates of Jewish involvement have continued to decline.

Yet, amazingly, over the same period Masorti Judaism's membership has doubled in size.

If you're one of our members, you'll know why: **we have a unique ability to welcome people, bring them in, and help them build a meaningful, committed and lifelong connection with Judaism.**



What will my legacy be?



We have decided to leave a legacy as it's one of the easiest and most effective ways of supporting Masorti Judaism and our Masorti shul whose values we believe in. Leaving a legacy means the values we want to see supported in the future will be a reality – because we had the foresight to do something about it now.

**Chazan Jacky
and Brian Chernett,**
*Kol Nefesh
Masorti Synagogue*

But if we want to guarantee a Masorti Jewish home for our children and grandchildren, we have to tackle several practical concerns.

- We need to train talented rabbis and communal leaders.
- We need to provide thought-provoking, stimulating Jewish education.
- We need to inspire our young people through the amazing work of Noam and Marom.
- And, no less importantly, we need to ensure our communities have buildings in which to meet, learn and pray.

So when you ask yourself, as we all do, 'What will my legacy be?' please consider leaving **Masorti Judaism** and **your Masorti synagogue** a gift in your will.

Why both?



The shul is the basic building block of community: our Jewish home from home. To sustain this centre, we need rabbis, chazanin and teachers, prayer-books and Torah scrolls, and a well-maintained building. As our community grows, these needs will only increase.

But we can't do this by ourselves – we need to be part of a movement. Masorti Judaism provides the following vital services:

- Training the next generation of Masorti rabbis.
- Inspiring and educating young people through Noam, Masorti Youth and Marom, our organisation for young adults.
- Conversion to Judaism through the European Masorti Bet Din.
- Promoting our communities and the Masorti message across Anglo-Jewry.

Our community needs the movement no less than the movement needs our community.

That's why we're asking you to remember both in your will.

Why leave a legacy?

Benefits for us – and you.



We have been committed members of the New London Synagogue since its founding by Rabbi Dr Louis Jacobs and have always been impressed how our family's involvement with Noam and the Masorti movement has increased their commitment to Judaism. We are leaving legacies to Masorti to ensure that future generations can experience the welcoming, open-minded brand of Judaism from which we have all benefitted.

Cyril and Yvonne Korn,
New London Synagogue

Legacy gifts are vital for the future of our community. Every donation makes a massive difference. But leaving a gift in your will also has important benefits for you and your family:

- **Making a will gives you peace of mind.** It ensures your wishes will be carried out, your loved ones and chosen charities looked after, and your estate taken care of with a minimum of stress.
- **Your generosity will outlive you.** Even a relatively small legacy lets you give meaningful support to a cause you love in the future, even if you may not have the resources to do so in the present.
- **Family still comes first.** You can make sure your loved ones are taken care of and still give to good causes. In fact, leaving a legacy to Masorti Judaism and your Masorti synagogue is one of the most important things you can do for your children and grandchildren's Jewish future.
- **It's your decision.** You can decide whether to leave a gift to your Masorti synagogue, Masorti Judaism or both. If circumstances change, you can always increase or reduce the size of your gift at a later date.
- **It's tax efficient.** Charitable donations are exempt from inheritance tax and if you give 10% of your taxable estate to charity, the inheritance tax rate drops from 40% to 36%. With careful planning, you could make a big difference to Masorti Judaism and your community at very little cost to your family. The beneficiaries of an estate can also change a will to make or increase a donation to charity so the estate meets the 10% test. For advice on tax savings, speak to a solicitor or a financial adviser.

How do I leave a legacy?

Making a will does not have to be complicated. You'll need to list all your assets, plan what you want to leave to specific individuals and charities, appoint guardians for any children, and name executors – the people who will implement your wishes. Since a will is an important legal document, we strongly recommend that you use the services of a solicitor.

What if I've already made a will?

No problem. If you already have a will and would like to leave a legacy to your community and Masorti Judaism, you can add a simple document called a codicil – an amendment which is attached to your existing will. Your solicitor will be able to guide you through this process.

What information do I need to include?

Your will or codicil will need to include the name, address and charity number of each charity you're leaving a gift to:

Masorti Judaism

Alexander House, 3 Shakespeare Road, London N3 1XE
Charity number 1117590

Please check address and charity number details with your synagogue.
For contact details please go to masorti.org.uk/our-communities.

What if I change my mind in the future?

No problem. You can make additional changes to your will at any time – if your circumstances change, for example.

If I'm a beneficiary can I make a donation from the estate?

Yes. The beneficiaries of an estate can change the will to make or increase a donation to charity. This has the same tax benefits as a gift specified within the will.

What kinds of legacies are there?

If you choose to leave a legacy, there are three ways you can do this: a share in your estate (a residuary legacy), a specific sum (a pecuniary legacy), or a specific item. The advantage of leaving a share is that it remains the same over time, and you won't need to change your will to keep up with inflation. For more advice on types of legacy, please speak to your solicitor.

Next steps



I have left legacies to my community and Masorti Judaism to support them in fostering a non-fundamentalist approach to traditional Judaism, open to all scholarship and enquiry, as exemplified in the teachings of the late Rabbi Dr Louis Jacobs.

Michael Rose,
New North London
Synagogue

1. If you'd like to find out more about leaving a legacy, please contact us for a confidential chat. Matt Plen, Masorti Judaism's Chief Executive will be happy to talk you through the process, discuss how your legacy will be used, and answer any questions. *Please note: we are not qualified to give legal advice.*

You can contact Matt at 020 8349 6656
or matt@masorti.org.uk

2. To write a will or add a codicil to an existing will, we recommend using a solicitor. To find a solicitor, contact the Law Society on 020 7242 1222 or go to lawsociety.org.uk.
3. We would like to know if you've decided to leave us a gift in your will. This enables us to thank you, keep you informed about our work, and plan effectively for the future. Letting us know you plan to leave a legacy does not commit you to doing so. You can change your mind at any time. To notify us that you're leaving us a legacy, please contact Matt Plen using the details above.

Our commitment



A legacy to Masorti Judaism and your Masorti community is the best way to guarantee a Jewish future for your children and grandchildren. Thank you for considering making such a generous gift. In return, these are our commitments to you:

- We understand that your children and loved ones come first.
- We know you will want to consider your decision carefully and in your own time.
- We respect your privacy and will treat all communications with you in total confidence.
- We promise to invest every penny you give in the future of the community.
- We will always be on hand to answer any questions.

We make every effort to ensure that the information we provide is accurate and up to date but it should not be relied upon as a substitute for legal and other specialist professional advice tailored to your personal circumstances. So far as is permitted by law, Masorti Judaism does not accept liability in relation to the use of information contained in this publication or in third-party information included or referred to in it.

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In an age of increasingly militant, politicised religion on the one hand and self-assured atheism on the other, Masorti Judaism offers a path which combines openness of mind, heart and soul with the love of and commitment to traditional Jewish learning, practice and values.

We have a spiritual and moral vision rooted in faith, integrity, openness, tolerance and the belief in a just, sustainable, pluralist world in which humanity can live in harmony with itself and all nature. We therefore have a contribution to make not only to the Jewish community, but to today's society, in the UK, Israel and across the world.

**Senior Rabbi
Jonathan Wittenberg**



Masorti Judaism

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