



St Hilda's College
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The St Hilda's Legacy

An opportunity to make a difference
beyond your lifetime



Shaping the future of St Hilda's

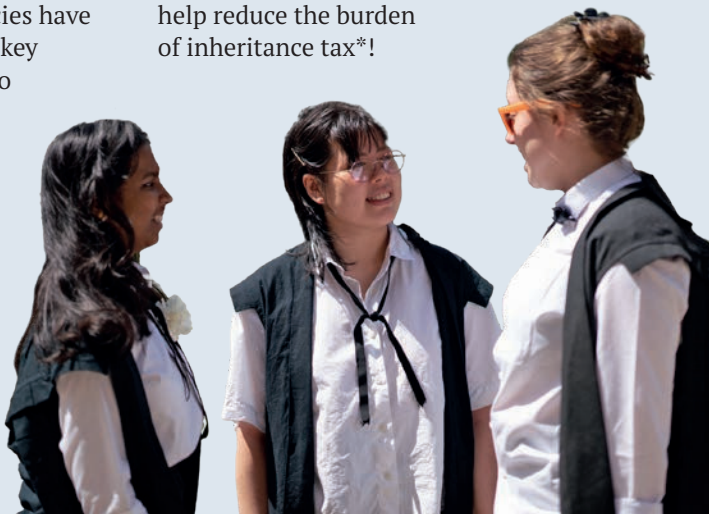
St Hilda's College was founded in 1893 to educate talented women and to give them the same academic opportunities as their male peers, opening up many possibilities which would not otherwise have been available to these young women. This focus on enabling people to make the most of their intellect has remained at the heart of the College ever since, and in recent decades emphasis has rightly shifted towards ensuring inclusion of all academically gifted students, regardless of their circumstances.

None of this would be possible without over a century of philanthropic support, often in the form of bequests that have altered and improved the College in enduring ways. Alumnae and friends have allowed St Hilda's to achieve many goals and to be ambitious in setting new ones for the future. Legacies have enabled the College to endow key teaching and research posts, to construct and purchase new buildings, to enhance our

existing site in order to reduce our environmental impact, and to fund the programmes, scholarships and bursaries that underpin our commitment to access, excellence and equality.

St Hilda's graduates are proud to be 'members for life', remaining a part of the College community, maintaining old connections and forging new ones for many decades after leaving. Making a bequest to St Hilda's allows you to go beyond that lifelong connection and leave something permanent behind. You may feel, like so many Senior Members, that St Hilda's has played a great role in shaping your life – this is an opportunity to express your affection for the College and your appreciation of the difference it has made, in a way that may not be possible during your lifetime. As an added incentive, this can also help reduce the burden of inheritance tax*!

* Tax law varies between countries – we strongly recommend that you seek legal or financial advice if this is a factor in your decision to leave a bequest to St Hilda's.





Virginia Crowe (History, 1959 and former Chair of the ASM Committee) kindly remembered the College in her Will, and her bequest was used to set up the Virginia Crowe Bursary Fund. With the addition of memorial donations from her family and friends, this legacy has already improved the lives of the fund's recipients and will continue to do so for years to come.

"I am a recipient of the Virginia Crowe Bursary, which really alleviates the financial pressures of studying in an expensive city such as Oxford. It allows me to participate in all parts of student life without having to worry about money, and I am so grateful."

Zaynab Ahmed (Law, 2019)



A personal connection to St Hilda's

We know how personal a decision it can be to make a gift in your Will, whether to a family member, friend, or much-loved College. No matter the size of the bequest, we are always very moved when we receive it, particularly as so many Senior Members are known personally and held in high esteem and great affection by the longer-standing members of the Fellowship and the Development Office. As a relatively small organisation, it is our privilege to get to know a large proportion of our Senior Members through decades of events,

telephone conversations, and informal visits. Our students, too, greatly value that connection with their predecessors, and are always grateful when a Senior Member takes the time to speak to them or is kind enough to make a gift to benefit the College and its community.

Please consider joining the growing number of Senior Members and friends who are remembering St Hilda's in their Will and playing a vital part in the College's future.



The St Hilda's Society meets regularly, both in College and online



Recognising your commitment

Any bequest to St Hilda's means a great deal to the College, and so we are always keen to show our gratitude to those leaving a gift in their Will by inviting them to join the St Hilda's Society. This group traditionally meets once a year in College for the Society Feast, and in recent years we have also hosted online 'virtual afternoon teas' and other events, as a further token of our appreciation.

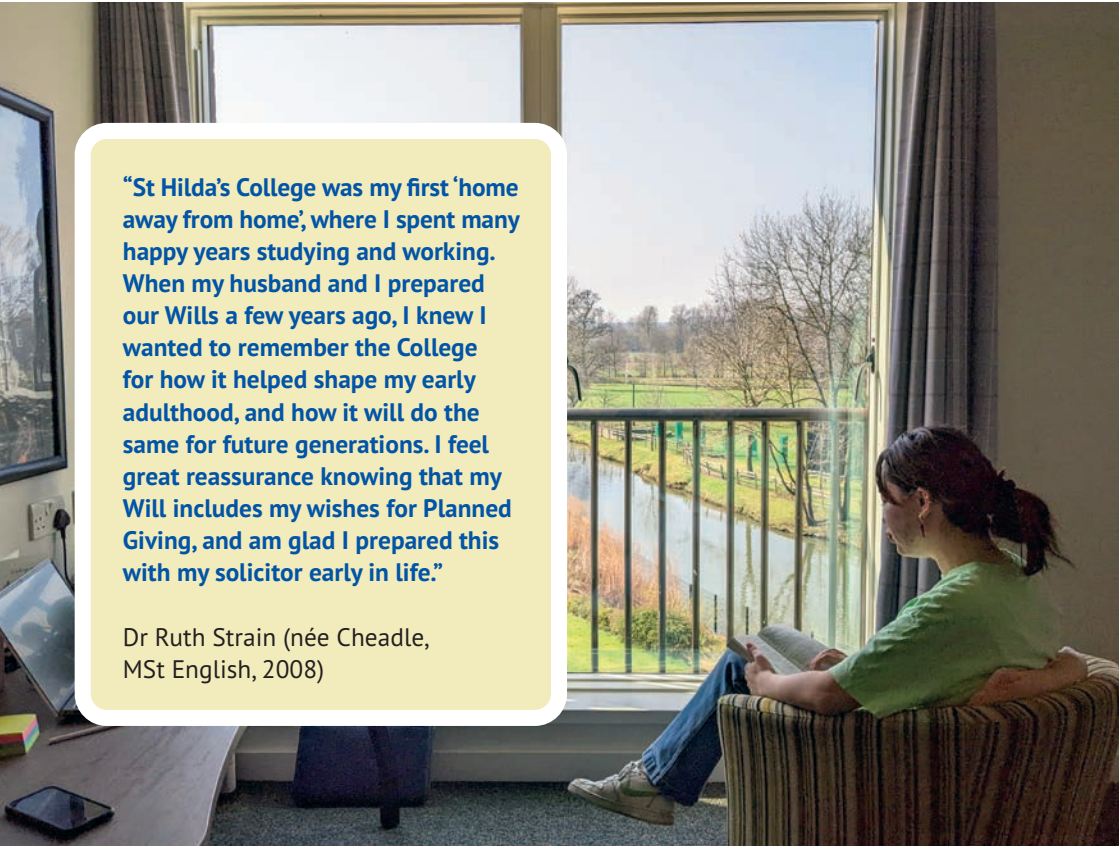
The St Hilda's Society has members representing many careers, backgrounds, ages and countries, and we hope you will consider joining them. This is an excellent way of keeping in touch with the College's progress, and the Principal and Fellows are always pleased to meet Society members and share the latest news from St Hilda's.

Sharing your intentions

Senior Members are encouraged to leave an unrestricted bequest – one that allows the Trustees of the College to direct the gift where it can be of the greatest use at that time. This can include, amongst many other things: bursaries and scholarships, access and outreach, teaching and research posts, buildings and gardens, and the College endowment.

The wishes of all of our donors, at any level, are of the utmost importance, particularly in the case of bequests. The Development team would be very

pleased to discuss your intentions with you directly and in confidence, to explore whether there are any particular priorities you wish to support, and how you may wish to be remembered by the College. This will ensure that we fully understand your wishes, and that you in turn know what the College's needs may be in the future. If you would prefer to keep your specific intentions private we will respect that and just ask that you inform us that St Hilda's is included in your Will so that we can show our appreciation.



"St Hilda's College was my first 'home away from home', where I spent many happy years studying and working. When my husband and I prepared our Wills a few years ago, I knew I wanted to remember the College for how it helped shape my early adulthood, and how it will do the same for future generations. I feel great reassurance knowing that my Will includes my wishes for Planned Giving, and am glad I prepared this with my solicitor early in life."

Dr Ruth Strain (née Cheadle,
MSt English, 2008)

Taking the next step

There are several ways in which a legacy gift can be arranged. Your solicitor will be able to advise you in more detail, but here are some of the most common options:

Residuary legacies

This allows you to give any percentage, or all, of your estate once all expenses and other legacies have been paid.

This method is often the most straightforward and beneficial to the College, as any changes – positive or negative – in the financial climate or your own personal circumstances will automatically be taken into account.

Pecuniary legacies

This is a fixed sum of money to be determined at the time of writing your Will. While such gifts are greatly appreciated, they do have the potential to lose value over the years as a result of inflation.

Specific legacies

Some Senior Members choose to leave assets to the College, in particular property, but also stocks and shares, artwork and jewellery.

Dr Margaret Rayner, Emeritus Fellow in Mathematics, often reminded the College of just how much it meant to her, and she was very clear about her wishes (going so far as to write her own obituary for *The Chronicle*, albeit nearly three decades prematurely). Following her death in 2019, St Hilda's was very grateful – although not surprised – to receive the majority of her estate, including her home. Her generosity has enabled the College to provide more student accommodation, about which she cared deeply. She is remembered with great respect and fondness by many at St Hilda's and in the wider College community, and we are pleased that her name will live on for generations to come as her gift continues to have an impact on students.





Suggested wording for your Will

When arranging a gift in your Will to St Hilda's, your solicitor or attorney will need to have the necessary formal wording. We recommend providing them with the following:

I give [detail the proportion of your estate, fixed sum or specific asset] to the Principal and Fellows of St Hilda's College in the University of Oxford with the request that it be used for such purposes in connection with St Hilda's College as the trustees in their absolute discretion think fit [or] with the request that the funds be used for [detail the specific area you wish to support].

I further direct that the receipt of the Bursar or other proper Officer for the time being of the said College shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my executors.

Updating an existing Will

If you would like to modify an existing Will to include or amend a gift to St Hilda's, you can do so by adding a codicil. Although this is a straightforward process, it does need to be formally executed and you should seek the legal assistance of your solicitor or attorney.

Contact us

Please contact the Development Office to discuss your legacy gift plans via development.office@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk or call +44 (0) 1865 276 828. You can also complete the enclosed pledge form and return it to Development Office, St Hilda's College, Cowley Place, Oxford OX4 1DY or send a scan via email.

St Hilda's College is a registered charity: number 1137537.

Senior Members in the US

US taxpayers can receive estate tax deductions by making a legacy gift through the College's 501(c)(3), the American Friends of St Hilda's. When arranging to leave a bequest to St Hilda's, we would recommend taking professional advice from your accountant or attorney. You can also contact the American Friends of St Hilda's on 617-619-8208, via Hemenway & Barnes, 75 State Street, Boston, MA 02109, or at apage@hembar.com for more information on how to leave a tax-efficient gift to St Hilda's College in your Will.



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