A Gift of a Lifetime

Making a lasting impact through your legacy

St Hilda’s College
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
Legacies and bequests have made St Hilda’s what it is today, and what it can be tomorrow.

St Hilda’s College was founded in 1893 to provide talented women with the opportunity to make the most of their intellect and establish a potentially more fulfilling life than social norms usually allowed – a radical idea ahead of its time. Despite resistance, the early leaders of St Hilda’s persevered and ultimately enabled generations of young women to receive an education which would not otherwise have been available to them at that time. Today, St Hilda’s continues this practice of leading the way to ensure inclusion of all academically gifted students, regardless of their circumstances.

None of this would have been possible without philanthropic support, which has allowed the College to maintain and enhance its tradition of excellence and equality. Remembering St Hilda’s in your Will is a truly meaningful way of helping to secure the future of the College that had a transformational effect on so many lives, and of sustaining this vital work. The bequest you arrange today will have a lasting impact on the St Hilda’s community for many future generations.
How you can make a difference

For over 125 years, St Hilda’s has shaped the lives and opportunities of thousands of talented young women and, more recently, young men.

During their time in College, under the academic guidance of world-class researchers, St Hilda’s students are expected to challenge and question the received wisdom, and to develop into pioneering, independent thinkers who will go on to shape their generation.

Supported by the first-class education we provide, our graduates go on to excel in many fields and their achievements benefit communities across the globe in medicine, law, academic research, arts and humanities, sciences, education, engineering and business.

Since the founding of the College, we have built up and managed our endowment carefully to provide a sound financial base for our community to thrive, but it has been legacies from alumnae and friends of the College that have made it possible for St Hilda’s to be ambitious for the future. Legacies have enabled the College to secure key tutorial teaching and research posts, to construct new buildings and fund the programmes, scholarships and bursaries that underpin our commitment to access, excellence and equality.

I am deeply grateful to all who have responded so generously to our legacy appeals in the past. I very much hope I can inspire you to join the alumnae and friends who have helped make St Hilda’s what it is today and support what it can be tomorrow.

Sir Gordon Duff
Principal

“I very much hope I can inspire you to join the alumnae and friends who have helped make St Hilda’s what it is today and support what it can be tomorrow.”
Developing the potential of exceptional people

Legacies and bequests play a vital part in creating the exceptional opportunities and environment St Hilda’s offers its students and Fellows. While you may wish to specify how your legacy benefits the College, it is most helpful if your wishes allow for flexibility as circumstances and priorities may change over time. The following broad areas are the core activities of the College to which funds are usually directed.

**Widening Access**

Excellence and equality of opportunity are central to the College’s mission. Our school outreach programme seeks to raise the aspiration and attainment of potential applicants. Travel to schools, recruitment materials, supporting participants to attend summer schools, and providing open days add up to a significant investment of funds. Your legacy gifts can help St Hilda’s maintain and enhance this vital work, and ensure that the most academically capable students can gain access irrespective of their financial background.

“I have received the Dr Suzanne Dow Bursary and the extra help has taken a huge weight off my shoulders. Thank you so much!”

Yinka Eseku, Modern Languages undergraduate
Student Support

Compared to previous generations, our current students receive less government support and must therefore take on increasing levels of debt to finance their studies. We are committed to supporting our students and ensuring that they can flourish academically once they arrive, without distracting financial pressures. Bursaries help students from financially disadvantaged families to cope with the costs of their education, and travel and research grants allow them to make the most of their time at Oxford. Graduate scholarships make St Hilda’s a destination of choice for exceptional postgraduate students. Legacy gifts are one of the key sources for funding bursaries, grants and scholarships.

“St Hilda’s has a great dynamic between all groups of people, including students, tutors and College staff. Everyone here genuinely cares about each other. There’s no other college I would more proudly call my home.”

Georgina Findlay, JCR President
Securing the future

Teaching and Research

St Hilda’s continues to blaze a trail in academic initiatives. The Climax Centre for Therapeutic Innovation is making waves globally with its revolutionary approach to translational medicine; groundbreaking work by Professor Susan Jones to establish dance scholarship (DANSOX) has gathered international partners from major dance companies and universities; and our Brain and Mind research group gathers philosophers, neuroscientists and experimental psychologists in workshops exploring areas as diverse as criminality, dementia and creativity.

Oxford’s unique tutorial system gives our undergraduates direct access to world-leading academic minds. However, this system is costly to maintain. Endowing Fellowships in perpetuity increases our ability to maintain the highest standards of teaching and allows greater financial agility so that we can meet new challenges. Legacies help to secure the financial bedrock for an outstanding academic community.

College Life

The College buildings, facilities and riverside gardens provide a welcoming environment that helps new students settle quickly into their studies. Recognising the importance of this to the academic progress and wellbeing of our students, we began an ambitious building programme in 2017 to provide all undergraduates with a College room throughout their course. Legacies helped to lay the very foundations for our new buildings and will continue to be central to our plans for future capital works on our unique site.

“I always feel like I am living in a dream. St Hilda’s has instilled hope in me that dreams are never too big for you to chase after them.”

Usama Pervaiz, Clinical Neurosciences DPhil
‘PLACE OFFERED ST HILDAS’ read the telegram. St Hilda’s has given me a world-class education and fifty years of support, encouragement and friendship. St Hilda’s is simply my spiritual home. It’s important to me to leave a bequest so that future generations can benefit from the opportunities enjoyed by me and my daughter.”

Jane Broughton Perry, Classics 1972
“St Hilda’s has always championed equal access to the University for women, and this has been the approach we now apply to all applicants, regardless of background.”

Dr Sarah Norman, Senior Tutor
“I was awarded a travel and research grant from St Hilda’s towards my summer internship costs. The most striking thing for me was that I did not need to have any special connections with anyone to receive this grant – my college simply cared about my welfare.”

Kekeli Ahiable, Master of Public Policy
You can choose to make an **unrestricted bequest** which allows the College to direct funds where they are needed most at the time. For this reason, an unrestricted gift is especially valued as it gives St Hilda’s the flexibility to invest where the impact will be greatest. If you prefer to support a particular aspect of the College, you can express a preference for the area you wish to benefit from your legacy. This will be helpful to the College in directing your donation in the most appropriate way.

Alternatively you can make what is known as a **restricted bequest**. This form of gift means your legacy can only be used in the area you specify. To make certain your intentions are fulfilled in the way you wish, it is a good idea first to discuss these plans with a member of the St Hilda’s Development team.
Your bequest to St Hilda’s means a great deal to the College and offering you membership of the St Hilda’s Society allows us to show our gratitude.

By contacting the Development Office or by returning the pledge form enclosed with this brochure, you can let us know of your decision to remember St Hilda’s in your Will.

We will invite you to join us each year as our guest at the St Hilda’s Society Feast. This is an excellent way of keeping in touch with the College’s progress, by speaking with the Principal, Bursar and Fellows at the Feast about the College’s plans. Society membership also enables you to attend key events each year.
How to make a bequest to St Hilda’s

Depending on where in the world you live, there are a number of financial advantages to leaving a legacy to St Hilda’s.

UK Alumnae

St Hilda’s is a registered charity (no. 1137537) and this means that there are financial benefits to leaving a legacy to the College. In the UK, making a bequest to a charitable institution is free of Capital Gains Tax and Inheritance Tax. Any bequest to the College is deducted from the value of the estate before any tax liability is calculated. Gifts may be in the form of money, property, or other valuables.

American Friends of St Hilda’s

US taxpayers can also receive estate tax deductions by making a legacy gift through the College’s 501(c)(3). All gifts made via the American Friends of St Hilda’s are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

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 in your Will to St Hilda’s College.

For further information or if you live elsewhere please contact Bronwyn Travers, Development Director and Fellow, via bronwyn.travers@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk or +44 (0) 1865 286624.
The main types of legacy

Gifting a share of your estate in your Will

A Residuary Legacy allows you to gift all of your estate, or a percentage of it after all other legacies and liabilities have been paid. This type of legacy safeguards the value of your gift and so is especially beneficial to the College.

Giving a fixed sum of money

A Pecuniary Legacy allows you to leave St Hilda’s a fixed sum of money. A gift of this kind is greatly appreciated but has the disadvantage that its value may be eroded by inflation over time.

Leaving assets to the College

If you would like to gift specific personal possessions such as property, stocks and shares, a work of art, or jewellery to St Hilda’s, you can do so with a Specific Legacy. When quoted shares and securities are transferred to the College, you can claim UK Income Tax relief at the full market value of the gift at the time of transfer, in addition to relief on any existing Capital Gains Tax payable. This enables those holding shares with large capital gains to make a major donation to the College extremely cost-effectively.

Please contact the Development Office to discuss this form of bequest in further detail.

A Deed of Variation

If you are a beneficiary of a Will, you can transfer all or part of your inheritance to the College under a Deed of Variation. Gifts transferred in this way are free of Inheritance Tax, and allow St Hilda’s to benefit during your lifetime.
When arranging a gift in your Will to St Hilda’s, your solicitor or attorney will need to have the necessary formal wording. You will find suggested wording for two of the most popular forms of bequest below.

For a Residuary Legacy

I give the whole (or a share, for example a percentage) of the residue of my estate to the Principal and Fellows of St Hilda’s College in the University of Oxford.

For a Pecuniary Legacy

I give the sum of £______ (in figures and words) to the Principal and Fellows of St Hilda’s College in the University of Oxford.

Include the following declaration for your Legacy

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

Changing or updating an existing Will

If you would like to modify an existing Will, 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.

Please contact Bronwyn Travers via bronwyn.travers@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk or call +44 (0) 1865 286624 to discuss your plans. You can also complete the attached pledge form and return it to:

Development Office, St Hilda’s College, Cowley Place, Oxford OX4 1DY
Supporting St Hilda’s

EXCELLENCE & EQUALITY

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Building and student images
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