Leaving a Legacy or Bequest to St Hilda’s

A Legacy or Bequest enables your memory to ‘live on’ at College with a gift from your estate. Whether giving in gratitude for your time at College, or to create an enduring legacy, you will ensure that St Hilda’s College continues to thrive for generations to come.

Those who inform us of their intention to leave a Legacy or Bequest to the College are invited to join the St Hilda’s Society, which represents an excellent way of keeping in touch with the College’s progress from year to year and allows us to thank you for your support. Members are invited to an exclusive feast once every year as well as other key events in the College calendar.

How to include St Hilda’s in your Will

Suggested Wording for any legacy or codicil to benefit the College:

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 of 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 legal advice should be sought.

Please contact Bronwyn Travers via bronwyn.travers@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk or +44 (0) 1865 286624 to discuss joining the Society, or fill out the form overleaf and send it to St Hilda’s College, Development Office, Cowley Place, Oxford OX4 1DY.

Types of Legacy

There are two main types of legacy:

A Residuary Legacy
This allows you to leave all or a percentage share of your estate after all other bequests have been made and costs paid. This type of legacy aims to safeguard the value of your donation and is particularly beneficial to charities.

A Pecuniary Legacy
This is a gift of a fixed sum of money. Although this is the simplest type of legacy to administer, the value of the donation may be depleted over time by inflation.

Alternative Legacies:

The Substitutionary Legacy
When considering your Will, you may naturally wish to prioritise providing for your dependants. However, you may wish to direct that where a gift in favour of any intended recipient is not possible (perhaps because they pre-decease you), the value of the gift would pass to College instead.

The Revisionary Legacy
This enables dependants to be put first as beneficiaries of the Will. They enjoy the assets during their lifetime and the Legacy is passed to College only on their death.

A Specific Bequest
A particular named item is left as a gift in your Will. This may be stocks or shares, the proceeds of a life insurance policy, property, a work of art, furniture or jewellery.
Transferring Assets and Information for Beneficiaries

Transfer of Shares, Land and Property

When quoted shares and securities are transferred to the College, UK income tax relief can be claimed by the donor for 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 so we can discuss this in further detail with you.

Deed of Variation

If you are a beneficiary under a Will, you can transfer all or part of your inheritance to the College under a Deed of Variation. Gifts thus transferred are free of Inheritance Tax, affording the opportunity for St Hilda’s College to benefit during your lifetime.

Information for US Alumnae

American Friends of St Hilda’s

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

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