Building the Future
Thanks in large part to the generosity of our alumnae and friends, St Hilda’s has made outstanding progress towards our long-held goal to create the facilities for our students and Fellows that match the world-class education we offer.

In October 2020, with the completion of our award-winning Anniversary Building and Pavilion, St Hilda’s was closer to fulfilling a long-held promise to our undergraduates, to be able to offer them all a College room throughout their time at Oxford. Planning continued for further construction on site to achieve the balance of rooms needed, while we also explored options to purchase off-site residential properties in Oxford. These represent a timely as well as a more cost-effective alternative, allowing us to accommodate our students far more quickly than building on site.

As you will know, our efforts met with success in October 2022, with the purchase of two significant buildings in central Oxford. These not only have the capacity to meet our target for College rooms, but represent an excellent investment for the future. Details of the new properties, at 38 St Giles’ and 11 Norham Gardens, are included overleaf, and we now invite your support to help us to bring these up to the standard of our on-site accommodation.

Our transformation of the College site and our satellites will not be complete until we can carry out the work needed to offer all members of our community access to the range of facilities that they need, as well as to make our buildings more environmentally sustainable. We are currently working on a number of measures to decarbonise our site at present. While this will require significant investment, there are also projects that can be sponsored to help the College to advance its sustainability agenda.

Another major focus of our work is the Kathleen Major Library, which lies at the very heart of the College and serves all our students. Not only will the planned redevelopment of the entrance to the Library provide step-free access from Hall Garden, but the change in the layout of the study spaces will ensure that the College is supporting the study preferences and project work of today’s students.

Positioning St Hilda’s as a college of first choice requires a comprehensive access, bursary and graduate scholarship scheme to provide pathways for talented students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds. Alongside these initiatives for students, we must expand on the existing range of world-class education and research taking place at St Hilda’s, and fund two new key posts in fields that are experiencing high demand from students: Biomedical Sciences and Quantum Computing.

As you will know, our Giving Day met with success in November 2022, with the purchase of two significant buildings in central Oxford. These not only have the capacity to meet our target for College rooms, but represent an excellent investment for the future. Details of the new properties, at 38 St Giles’ and 11 Norham Gardens, are included overleaf, and we now invite your support to help us to bring these up to the standard of our on-site accommodation.

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Our Giving Day in November was a joyful example of how our whole community can come together to achieve a shared goal for the College, and I ask all our alumnae and friends to join us in building a bright future for the next generation of students at St Hilda’s. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Professor Dame Sarah Springman DBE FREng Principal

Welcome from the Principal

With the purchase of 11 Norham Gardens and 38 St Giles’ (buildings with a long tradition of housing St Benet’s Hall students), the College gained an additional 52 and 29 student rooms, respectively. Over time and with appropriate permissions and funding, there is scope to convert some communal rooms within the buildings, and upgrade larger existing bedrooms to create single accommodation for around 80 students.

Such is the demand for affordable student accommodation that the College was able to let the majority of the rooms from the start of Michaelmas 2022. Alongside the obvious benefits to our students in the future, there are also clear financial advantages for the College too in investing in residential off-site properties. These valuable buildings in the centre of Oxford are likely to appreciate significantly over time, allowing the College both to diversify its investments and provide options in the future – should it wish to sell one or both of the buildings. In the meantime, the St Giles’ property in particular is well placed to host conferences, weddings, and similar income-generating events during the vacations to contribute to the College’s financial security.

“I am delighted that St Hilda’s has found such an elegant solution to our lack of undergraduate accommodation. Our students will benefit immediately, and the future of the College has been made more secure than ever.” – Principal

New ground

Norham Gardens

St Giles’ (Grade II Listed)
Some communal areas may be converted to additional accommodation in due course, while some of the larger rooms can be made into two single bedrooms.

Both properties come with attractive outdoor spaces where our students can relax, as well as a variety of indoor areas for studying and socialising.

For £4,100,000 you can name the Norham Gardens building, while £5,100,000 is needed to sponsor 38 St Giles’. There are opportunities to name rooms and study and social spaces in the new buildings. Prices for student rooms range from £12,000 – £25,000.

All donations are very gratefully received. Other items needing funding, at any level, are listed on the enclosed donation form. Many come with naming opportunities, including SCR guest rooms and selected Tutors’ rooms in College – details are at the back of this brochure.
A sustainable future

We welcome the University’s world-leading environmental sustainability strategy, and are discussing feasibility and costs involved in the College’s matching the commitment to bring carbon emissions to net zero by 2035. Much of this will be achieved by major works to improve the energy efficiency of our existing buildings, while ensuring that any new construction has minimal ecological impact. In addition, we have already taken several actions to start the process of de-carbonising the College and to increase biodiversity across all of our sites. A significant milestone in early 2022 was the acquisition of Radley Large Wood, a 55-acre area of ancient semi-natural woodland to the south of Oxford. By active woodland management, we plan to protect the biodiversity and manage the embodied carbon in this site. Our ownership of the wood will ensure that it is enjoyed by our students and staff as well as the local community for many years to come.

On a smaller but still significant scale, the College is improving its daily practices to minimise food and water waste, paper and plastic use, and energy consumption. Our catering and gardening teams have worked particularly hard on this and have many innovative ideas for future improvements to help members of the College community make these small changes that add up to make a big difference.

While the College does more work to summarise and differentiate the costs of decarbonising our various properties to achieve net zero carbon and biodiversity net gain, we are very keen now to empower and support our students to engage in interlinked ‘student-science’ (our community version of citizen-science) projects about sustainability and biodiversity matters. We welcome support at all levels from alumnae to help the College educate future generations to take action.

Our academics, too, are doing their bit by turning their formidable research skills towards this vital field. For instance, Professor David Howey, Fellow in Engineering, is passionate about applying his research to the ‘real world’, and his spin-out company Brill Power is working on many projects that have the potential to change how the world uses energy, including advanced battery management systems and electric vehicles.

Sponsorship of a range of projects is available, from improving building insulation through to maintaining our beautiful gardens as well as supporting our data gathering and student-science activities on our sites. Further details are available at the back of this brochure.
St Hilda’s has offered more undergraduate bursaries over the last two academic years than ever before, but the demand for them outstrips the funding available. The economic impact of recent world events and the financial crisis is becoming increasingly apparent to our students, as they find their limited funds are stretched further than ever before. Over 25% of our current undergraduates have received bursaries or hardship grants, and we expect this number to continue to rise. Talented prospective students from lower-income families are having to base their college choice largely on the availability of additional financial support. At St Hilda’s, we know we can offer outstanding teaching as well as welfare and pastoral support, and first-class facilities. We therefore urgently seek greater support for bursaries to provide the financial underpinning that allows us to live up to our ethos of ‘Excellence and Equality’. With this in mind, we have recently expanded our Outreach team, enabling us to reach more prospective students and show that we are a viable option for them.

My bursary really encouraged me to apply to Oxford in the first place. It allows me to focus on my academics rather than having to worry about funding my education. Bursaries also impact the College as a whole, enhancing diversity by making sure that wealth differences are not a filter that limits anyone from coming to University. They really go to the core of the College’s values.”

Juan Valencia, 3rd year Geography

Bursaries level the playing field for a lot of students – it means you can get the most out of Oxford without worrying about whether differences are going to hold you back, even before you apply. Having that support gives you the chance to feel like you do belong and you do have a chance to succeed as much as anyone else.”

Tumi Ogundamisi, 3rd year Psychology & Linguistics

The next financial pinch point for students comes when they consider graduate study. They face the additional burden of higher course fees, full-time accommodation needs rather than just the nine-month academic year, and requirements to attend conferences and seminars. We are pleased to be able to offer a range of scholarships, travel and clinical elective grants, and research grants to our graduate students but, as with our undergraduates, a more comprehensive scholarship programme is needed to ensure that we can attract the most talented applicants from around the world and support them to make the most of their postgraduate course.

As the world goes from crisis to crisis, St Hilda’s seeks to increase the support it can offer to students whose futures are affected by these events, and to create pathways for them to fulfil their academic ambitions. With this in mind, we are pleased to be partnering with the University’s new Refugee Scholarship Programme to aid graduate students who have been displaced due to conflict or persecution. These scholarships go further than most, as they cover the cost of course fees, accommodation and food, as well as the more usual living cost and study expense allowances.

There are so many brilliant international applicants that are offered a place at the University of Oxford but can’t join because of the increased tuition fees. It would be lovely to have more merit- and need-based scholarships for such students.”

Usama Pervaiz, DPhil Clinical Neuroscience

£14,000 – £17,500 can cover the College’s contribution to the Refugee Scholarship Programme and can provide a named scholarship.

£17,500, paid over two years, can establish a named Graduate Scholarship.

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Graduate support

Clinical Elective Grants provide so many opportunities for students to go abroad to different places and experience different cultures. As a medical student, I would really appreciate the extra funding for the elective to expand the possibilities of where I could go.”

Saarah Karim, Clinical Medicine

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St Hilda’s is planning a significant alteration to the layout of the basement of the Library, allowing all students straightforward access to its facilities and holdings, as well as creating new spaces for study groups.

The only step-free access to the Library in its current layout involves leaving the College site entirely and re-entering further along Cowley Place. Students requiring step-free access are therefore disadvantaged and marked out from their peers. The proposed new entrance to the Library will be at the far end of Hall Garden, via an attractive landscaped ramp that all can use.

An additional benefit of this refurbishment is that the Anne Elliott Garden, currently located in a little-used area between the Library and Cowley Place, can be moved to the new landscaped entrance. This memorial will be re-dedicated and will include the original benches in this more prominent site, creating a welcoming space in the name of this much-loved Fellow.

Equal access to the Library

The estimated total cost of the redevelopment of the entrance to the Kathleen Major Library is £500,000.

The new spaces to be created internally offer excellent naming opportunities for gifts between £15,000 and £200,000.

Five study booths and a Library Office will be created at the new entrance to the Library from Hall Garden.
Quantum Computing

Quantum Computing is a particularly exciting field for research. It is in its early stages and the opportunity is there for talented researchers to make a profound difference. Quantum Computing exponentially increases the speed of data processing and underpins developments in many fields.

We are delighted to have recently established a new Associate Professorship and Tutorial Fellowship in Quantum Computing. The appointee will join Dr Aleks Kissinger, our current researcher in Quantum Computing, and will allow the College to admit three undergraduates per year for Computer Science (as single honours, or with Mathematics or Philosophy) – a first for St Hilda’s!

Quantum Computing is a key research area that is increasing in importance rapidly, as technology becomes ever more demanding. As well as teaching and supervising research in this topic at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, the new appointee will also teach core Computer Sciences to undergraduates, meaning that our students will not be reliant on tutors at other colleges. To allow St Hilda’s to continue teaching and researching at the cutting edge of technology, we seek to make this a permanent post at a cost of £1.5 million. We will be pleased to name the post for the donor.

We seek donors to secure permanent posts in both Biomedical Sciences and Quantum Computing. These each require an investment of £1,500,000 and can be named for the donor.

Breaking new scientific ground

St Hilda’s has long prided itself on its distinction in the sciences, with our academics being at the forefront of some of the most significant recent developments, including the high-profile discovery of the Higgs boson. With our Principal having recently been awarded a damehood in recognition of her work in engineering, this commitment to the sciences goes right to the very top. To expand on the already world-class scientific education and research taking place at St Hilda’s, we now seek funding for two new key posts.

Biomedical Sciences

Our first Biomedical Sciences students started here in 2016, and have now graduated and gone on to very promising careers in this field. This subject, which complements our pre-existing Biochemistry and Medicine courses, has attracted the very best applicants every year. To ensure that we can continue to offer this subject in the short term, we currently seek funding for a Career Development Fellowship for the next five years. Our longer-term goal is to endow a new post in perpetuity to secure the future of Biomedical Sciences at St Hilda’s. This important post will require an investment of £1.5 million, and can be named for the donor.
Our students have faced a challenging few years, with the pandemic, international conflict, and the financial crisis all contributing to a greater need for mental health support. This support can take many forms, and an area we are keen to expand upon is active wellbeing: the practice of yoga, stretching, meditation, and much more, to allow our students to take some time out of their studies and focus on their mental health and relaxation.

In addition, it is well documented that sport can have a significant positive impact on mental health and academic achievement. Our aim is to increase our provision of sports equipment and funding so that all of our students, regardless of their financial situation, are able to try new sports and make the most of their sporting talent, at any level. Those competing are often at a disadvantage compared to their peers at other colleges, who are supported by generous funding, while those taking part non-competitively can also suffer from lack of access to equipment and kit.

Recently St Hilda’s students have toured Ghana with the OU Rugby League team, set new University records in swimming, and competed in the European University Games in badminton. We wish to help them, and all of our sportspeople, to perform at their best and continue the great tradition at St Hilda’s of encouraging our students to make the most of their time at Oxford. We therefore need to upgrade and source new equipment, as well as hire costly but important venues and tuition such as tennis courts and meditation classes. We seek contributions from our alumnae and friends to provide support for these extra activities that make all the difference to an Oxford education.

### Opportunities for giving

#### Transformational gifts
- £5,500,000 Anniversary Building
- £5,100,000 38 St Giles’ Building
- £4,100,000 11 Norham Gardens
- £1,500,000 Endow a Tutorial Fellowship in Quantum Computing
- £1,500,000 Endow a Tutorial Fellowship in Biomedical Sciences
- £1,500,000 Pavilion
- £500,000 Foundation Fellowship (donors giving at or above this level are invited to become Foundation Fellows of St Hilda’s College)

#### Pace-setting gifts
- £300,000 Double glaze Garden Building
- £270,000 Endow a student scholarship or bursary
- £250,000 Contribution to upgrading insulation of windows to minimise energy waste
- £200,000 Establish a Career Development Fellowship in Biomedical Sciences for five years
- £200,000 Roof Garden Suite
- £200,000 Library floor

#### Leadership gifts
- £80,000 Law Library
- £55,000 Fund the installation of Smart Thermostatic Radiator Valves (TRV) on radiators on our main site
- £35,000 Graduate study area in the Library
- £30,000 Fund the installation of Smart Thermostatic Radiator Valves (TRV) on radiators at St Giles’ / Norham Gardens

#### Special gifts
- £12,000 Student room / public spaces at St Giles’ / Norham Gardens
- £10,000 Fund the student-science projects for a year
- £8,750 Fund a graduate scholarship (contribution) for one year
- £8,000 Visiting Fellowship
- £5,000 Support for the Access and Outreach programme (UNIQ Access scheme)
- £3 – 5,000 Double or triple glaze a window

#### Campaign gifts
- £3,750 Undergraduate bursary (£1,250 per year for three years)
- £1,000 Research and travel award (£500 per year for two years)
- £500 Career Development Grant (for vacation placement or internship)
- £500 Fund a term of yoga classes
- £300 Grant for sports equipment
- £150 Sponsor a Smart Thermostatic Radiator Valve on one radiator

* denotes naming opportunity
● denotes part of our new Sustainability project
If you would like to discuss naming a space, room, or a bursary, please contact the St Hilda’s Development Office.

For information about making a legacy gift and joining the College's legacy society, please contact the Development Office or visit

www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/legacies

development.office@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk
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St Hilda's College
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Including photographs by Jim Stephenson, John Cairns and Peter Cook

Cover image: Oxford in 1906, Wagner & Debes
www.discusmedia.com – The 1900 Map Collection