REMEMBERING
ST JOHN’S
IN YOUR WILL

SOUVENT ME SOUVIENT
A living legacy

It is now more than five hundred years since Lady Margaret Beaufort, through the tenacious offices of Bishop Fisher as her executor, founded St John’s. St John’s has been described as a great college rather than a grand one, and the achievements of Johnians over the centuries are testimony to that. Many benefactors have followed the example of Lady Margaret, and their generosity has helped St John’s acquire its reputation for welcoming the most able students irrespective of their financial means, for attracting world-class scholars into its Fellowship, and for providing an educational environment – the beautiful working buildings, a brilliant choir and music, a tradition of sporting excellence, and a host of clubs and activities – that is second to none and which has inspired Johnians to rise to leadership positions in every walk of life both in this country and abroad.

The Beaufort Society, named in honour of our Foundress, was set up in 2009. Its members have pledged to make a gift to St John’s in their wills and signified their wish to help endow one or more of a wide range of activities: bursaries, scholarships, refurbishing of College buildings, and so on. Such commitment to the future of St John’s is as impressive as it is inspirational, and the Society is seen as a growing source of strength and support to the College.

Whatever you feel able to spare in making your will, be it small or large, your bequest will contribute to the long-term financial security of St John’s and help enable the College to offer young people the kind of education that their predecessors were so happy to receive. At a time of financial upheaval and uncertainty, the support provided by the Beaufort Society is both a comfort and a necessity. Rarely could it have been needed more.
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO SUPPORT?

Bequests totalling over £5 million contributed more than 10 per cent of the College’s recent £50 million Campaign achievement. This is a testament to the vision and foresight of Johnians and other friends who remembered St John’s in their will. Their gifts are supporting teaching and research, maintaining the fabric of the College, and enabling bright students who are disadvantaged financially to enjoy a world-class education.

You can make a similar contribution by making a gift in your will, and there are four vital areas that would benefit greatly from your support:

1. PROVIDING FOR THE FUTURE
Increasing the College’s financial agility and independence so that it can meet new challenges as they arise.

2. STUDENT SUPPORT
Attracting the brightest and best undergraduate and graduate students regardless of their background and financial means.

3. TEACHING AND RESEARCH
Continuing to promote excellence in teaching and research, and providing an environment conducive to the highest levels of intellectual activity.

4. COLLEGE LIFE
Providing first-class facilities for academic, cultural and sporting activities in order to offer an exceptional collegiate experience to future generations of Johnians.

The following stories illustrate the impact that legacy donors have made, and the vision of those who are planning to follow their example.

REMEMBERING ST JOHN’S IN YOUR WILL
Noël Marshall's generous legacy has made it possible for the College Library to acquire some rare, handsome and very special items that fill gaps in our Old Library collections.

Dr Mark Nicholls, College Librarian
NOËL MARSHALL, CMG (1934-2008)
(BA 1957)

Noël Marshall never forgot his time at St John’s, where he was inspired by the examples of polar explorers Colin Bertram, his tutor, and James Wordie, then Master of the College. In later life he followed in his heroes’ footsteps and, after a successful career in the Diplomatic Service, enjoying senior postings in Europe and the Soviet bloc, Noël had time to devote himself to his twin passions of sailing and exploration. He died not long after his return from a sailing trip to the Antarctic that fulfilled a lifetime’s ambition. At the end of his life Noël remembered St John’s and its formative influence, and made generous provision for the College in his will.

Noël’s bequest was primarily to the Library, and Dr Mark Nicholls, the College Librarian, knew Noël well. Mark comments:

_In these days when everything nice has its price, handsome works by Johnians or with Johnian themes published in centuries past do not come cheap. Noël Marshall’s generous legacy has made it possible for the College Library to acquire some rare, handsome and very special items that fill gaps in our Old Library collections._

_From eighteenth-century works highlighting the evils of the slave trade to a ‘souvenir’ map of 1666, plotting the destruction caused by the recent Great Fire of London, these publications provide research materials of great value, as well as educational resources for College supervisors and visiting school groups. They enhance the Library as a wonderful resource for all those interested in the history of St John’s, and in its members and their varied activities._
During his lifetime Sir Christophor established the Hugh, Patrick, Walter and Charles Laidlaw Bursary in memory of his father and three uncles – four distinguished Johnian brothers. Sir Christophor’s vision was to help ensure that no bright student should be prevented from studying at St John’s through financial need, and the Laidlaw Bursary Fund has enabled students such as Hazel Lindsey (BA 2011) to pursue their studies without the burden of financial worries.

Commenting on the impact of the Laidlaw Bursary, Hazel said: *Thanks to the generosity of Sir Christophor and Lady Laidlaw I have been able to really focus on my studies. Instead of having to seek out the highest-paid work available, I was able to do veterinary work experience at a beef cattle farm in the summer vacation, which allowed me to concentrate on the practical elements of my studies. Having bursary support also meant I had time to participate in all the additional activities that make life at St John’s so special, and I was a member of the hockey, football, squash and tennis teams. Having this support has made a huge difference and I am incredibly grateful to the Laidlaws for making it available to me.*

Sir Christophor enjoyed a long and eventful life. After his father Hugh’s untimely death, when Sir Christophor was not yet ten years old, the family moved to Cambridge to be near his grandmother and uncle. Later he saw active service in World War II, returning to St John’s to complete his degree before pursuing a successful career as a leading industrialist, most notably as Managing Director of BP. In 1952 he married Nina, his lifelong companion and mother to his four children.

With characteristic thoughtfulness Sir Christophor made plans to add to his bursary fund after his death, and on his passing at the age of 88 Lady Laidlaw made a generous gift to ensure the Laidlaw Fund would continue to support students in perpetuity.

Lady Laidlaw said of Sir Christophor: *Helping young people achieve the best of their potential was a large motivation in Christophor’s work and charitable giving. He felt himself very much a Cambridge person (although this did take second place to being a Scot!) and despite the interruption of his time at John’s, caused by the War, he was very happy to be able to return to the College, with which his connection remained close and happy.*

After his death the title of the bursary Sir Christophor so generously endowed was amended to include his name, so that it is now the Christophor, Hugh, Patrick, Walter and Charles Laidlaw Bursary. Sir Christophor’s vision has been fulfilled through his legacy, and the lives of generations of young men and women studying at St John’s will be inextricably linked in gratitude to the Laidlaw family.
Instead of having to seek out the highest-paid work available in the summer vacation I was able to do veterinary work experience at a beef cattle farm, which allowed me to concentrate on the practical elements of my studies.

Hazel Lindsey (BA 2011)
MARK WOODHOUSE  
(MPHIL, 1988)

Arriving at St John’s as a financially challenged postgraduate student, I was fortunate enough to be awarded a Keasbey Scholarship, which allowed me to take advantage of so many aspects of St John’s life – and that of the wider University.

Having reflected in subsequent years on my experiences at St John’s, I was minded to establish an award to help other postgraduate students who have found themselves in similarly challenging circumstances. To date, recipients of the award have variously comprised individuals from Germany and China, as well as the UK.

I was also driven by a belief that we can all play our part in helping determine the long-term future of the College, particularly at a time when we can no longer rely upon the benevolence of government and the wider corporate world in general. A willingness by Johnians to contribute, in small or large ways, will doubtless be critical in ensuring the continued independence and self-determination that St John’s has enjoyed over the last 500 years.

That is why I have made a gift to St John’s in my will, to ensure that the Woodhouse Award will continue to enable postgraduate students to enjoy the same wonderful experience at St John’s as I did, and to help secure the College’s world-class standing for future generations following in our footsteps.
I was driven by a belief that we can all play our part in helping determine the long-term future of the College.
ANNE MATTHEWMAN

My introduction to St John’s College came through my husband John, who spent the majority of his life in Cambridge and as a member of the College: first as an undergraduate engineer, then postgraduate research student and finally as a Fellow, from the early 1970s until his death in 2010. I am not a Cambridge graduate but studied Natural Sciences at the University of Sheffield and later undertook research in Ecology at the University of Birmingham.

Both John and I worked for the majority of our professional lives with undergraduates. It was this experience, combined with an understanding of the support that young people, from all walks of life, were given at St John’s, which led us to decide to leave a legacy to the College. During the latter years of John’s life, and following his death, I have come to know the College better, in particular through its outstanding music and the friendships I have made there, and I have recently decided to increase the value of our legacy.

It was an understanding of the support that young people, from all walks of life, were given at St John’s, which led us to decide to leave a legacy to the College.
St John’s has a tradition of recognising its benefactors, whose support has allowed the College to flourish over five centuries. Lady Margaret Beaufort was the first of these, but we also wish to recognise the contribution made by our living benefactors. With this aim in mind we offer membership of the Beaufort Society to those who have promised a gift to St John’s in their will. The Society hosts events for its members, enabling us to meet and thank personally those who plan to support the College in this way.

SOUVENT ME SOUVIENT

_Souvent me Souvent_, usually translated as ‘I often remember’, is the Beaufort family’s motto, and can also be thought of as ‘Forget me not’, which is why a tiny blue flower appears with Lady Margaret’s white daisy – the marguerite – in the decoration surrounding the College arms on the Great Gate. It is an appropriate motto for the Beaufort Society: celebrating and remembering our connections with St John’s, whilst at the same time looking forward to the future.

THE MARGUERITE

This simple white and gold flower appears throughout the College, from above the Front Gate to the drainpipes in Chapel Court. In honour of Lady Margaret and her special connection to St John’s it forms the Society’s badge.
BECOMING A MEMBER

Please let us know of your gift to St John’s by returning the pledge form at the back of this brochure. This will enable us to fully understand your wishes and to thank you for your support by welcoming you as a member of the Society.

DAVID LIVERMORE
(BA 1961)

Having spent three of the most formative and enjoyable years of my life in Cambridge, specifically at St John’s, and made there my most enduring friendships, I have always wanted to ‘give something back’. I was therefore delighted to be invited to join the Beaufort Society, which has provided such an enjoyable means of staying in touch with the College and helping me to identify how I can help future generations of Johnians.
LEAVING A LEGACY TO ST JOHN’S: PRACTICALITIES

SUGGESTED WORDING

We suggest you use the following wording when donating to St John’s via your will:

I give to the Master, Fellows and Scholars of the College of St John the Evangelist in the University of Cambridge [the residue] / [% of the residue] of my estate [or] [the sum of £x] free of tax as permanent endowment for the general purposes of the College. I direct that the receipt of the Senior Bursar or other proper officer for the time being of the College shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my Executors.

We encourage you to leave money for ‘general purposes’, as this will allow the College to use the money in the areas of most need at the time. However, we also welcome bequests for specific areas of College life and we will be glad to discuss the terms of any proposed bequest. Consultation helps to ensure that there is a clear understanding by the College of the wishes of the donor, so that they may be faithfully observed.

TAX BENEFITS

Our charitable status means that there are financial benefits to leaving a legacy to us. By remembering us in your will, you can reduce the taxable value of your assets, and so cut the amount of inheritance tax (IHT) on your estate. Any estate that leaves at least 10 per cent to a charitable cause will be able to take advantage of a reduced rate in IHT, from its current level of 40 per cent down to 36 per cent. Gifts may be in the form of money, property, or other valuables.

TAKING CARE OF YOUR FAMILY

It is natural to want to provide for loved ones in your will and it is possible to leave a gift to St John’s whilst still looking after your family. There are types of legacy that allow you to put your family first whilst also benefiting St John’s, and your solicitor can advise you on the best way to record your intentions. Should you wish to make a change to an existing will, a solicitor can advise on using a codicil.

NEXT STEPS

If you decide you would like to remember the College in your will, please let us know by completing and returning the form at the back of this brochure. This will enable us to keep you informed about new developments and will also help us to plan for the future. Any information you give us will be treated in confidence and does not involve you in any binding commitment.
LEGACY GIVING IN THE USA

For US residents a planned gift can offer significant tax benefits, substantially reducing capital gains and estate taxes, and providing immediate income to you or a beneficiary. US taxpayers wishing to support St John’s through an estate plan may do so through Cambridge in America (CAm).

An outright bequest to CAm is not subject to federal or state inheritance or estate taxes, and the value of your bequest is deductible in determining the value of the estate for estate tax purposes.

If you would like to leave a specific bequest to Cambridge in America in your will, we suggest the following wording:

*I bequeath to University of Cambridge in America, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the District of Columbia with the business address of 292 Madison Avenue, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10017, the sum of __________ [dollars or percentage of estate], to be used exclusively for its charitable purposes. It is my wish that these funds will be utilized for the support of St John’s College, Cambridge.*

Under its charter and in accordance with US tax law, Cambridge in America may not receive restricted gifts. However, the CAm Board gives every consideration to donors’ requests when allocating gifts to Cambridge and its colleges.

There are many other ways of giving in a tax-efficient way, including retirement plans, life income plans and life insurance policies. CAm would be delighted to discuss the options with you and recommends that you also seek the advice of counsel when preparing your will or codicil.

THE 1209 SOCIETY

Individuals who let the College know they have made a gift to St John’s in their will are cordially invited to join the Beaufort Society. Those living in the US are also eligible to become members of The 1209 Society.

The 1209 Society honours and acknowledges the many generous donors living in the US, who recognise the importance of the University of Cambridge and its 31 colleges through their estate planning. Society members enjoy an annual newsletter, an invitation to a special event, a membership certificate, and formal listing in the *Roll of Honor*, a leather-bound volume kept in The Old Schools, Cambridge.

NEXT STEPS

To notify Cambridge in America of an estate provision, or to obtain further details about planned giving options available to you, please contact: Eliza White, Director, Major Gifts & Planned Giving, Cambridge in America, 292 Madison Avenue, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10017. Tel: 212-984-0966  Fax: 212-984-0970  Email: eliza.white@cantab.org  Website: www.cantab.org
Whatever you feel able to spare in making your will, be it small or large, your bequest will contribute to the long-term financial security of St John’s and help enable the College to offer the young people who will succeed us here the kind of education that we were so happy to receive.

Professor Richard Perham
President of the Beaufort Society