



St Cross College
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
1965-2025

Exhibition Guide



Exhibition Guide

This special exhibition celebrates sixty years of St Cross College — our history, our people, and our place within the University of Oxford.

As you make your way around College, the map will guide you through four colour-coded sections, each featuring numbered stops that share part of the St Cross story.

You are invited to explore the exhibition in any order and at your own pace, to enjoy discovering the moments and milestones that have shaped six decades of our community.

1 Pusey Chapel

Built in 1918 in Gothic style by Temple Moore, the chapel features later work by Ninian Comper, who in 1935 designed the gilded ciborium in the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, the stained glass, and the figures of the risen Christ and angels above the altar.

2 Pusey Library

Recognised by The National Archives as a leading specialist centre for theology and history. Before the South Wing was built it also served as the College library, and it remains open to St Cross students and the wider community today.

3 Blackman Collection & St Cross Room

Designed as a meeting space for the Governing Body, this room also houses artworks from the Audrey Blackman Collection, donated in 1990. Her legacy adorns much of the College, and a picture and plaque commemorating her contributions can be found just outside the common room.

4 Common Room Gong

The Javanese gong used to summon guests to dinner was donated by Master Dick Repp and his wife Cathy in 2002. Above it hangs a portrait of Per Saugman, after whom the common room is named, linking two symbols of College hospitality.



ABOVE: The Organ in Pusey Chapel

BELOW: The Common Room Gong





ABOVE: The Van Heyningen Room

BELOW: The Armillary Sphere in Blackwell Quad

5 Saugman Common Room

Once a cloister and small set of rooms, this area became the College dining hall after the move to St Giles. Since the South Wing's construction it has been the main common room, named after Per Saugman, Managing Director of Blackwell Scientific Publications and a driving force behind our relocation.

6 Lange Room

Bearing the name of an early benefactor of the College, Fred Lange, this space has had several lives. It was first the College's only common room before construction of the South Wing, and then became the library until the West Wing was built. Since the opening of the new library in 2017 it has served as the College's quiet common room.

7 Van Heyningen Room

One of the College's more intimate spaces, designed in the style of a 19th-century dining room. It is named in honour of founding Master Kits van Heyningen and his wife Ruth, herself a Fellow of the College, commemorating their central role in its early years.

8 Armillary Sphere

A striking centrepiece of the College, donated in 1999 by the family of student Ronald Hurst, who was an intrepid aviator and world-traveller, whose ventures took him to the four corners of the earth. It inspired the College motto and, a year later, was incorporated into the College crest.



9 Blackwell Plaque

This quad commemorates Richard Blackwell, whose generosity enabled the move to St Giles', funded the renovation of Pusey House, and supported the redesign of the space that now bears his name.

10 Four Colleges Arch

The central archway links the quads and is decorated with the shields of four colleges that offered crucial early support to St Cross. Their wish never to be named is honoured here, preserving a quiet but important gesture of friendship.

11 Gargoyles

Two gargoyles depicting Quetzalcoatl, the feathered serpent of Mesoamerican myth, adorn the South Wing. Donated in the 1990s by visiting fellow Fritz Hondius, they resonate with our College motto and are likely the only gargoyles of their kind in Oxford.

12 Mulberry Tree

The College has long been associated with mulberries. A tree still stands at the original St Cross Road site, and another once grew where the South Wing now stands. This tree continues that tradition in the heart of the current site.

13 Bursar's Gate

Created by the first Bursar, Kenneth Knowles, and funded by his successor Desmond Walshaw, the gate incorporates a Latin chronogram reading "A fellow gave this little gate to his College." The highlighted letters form the Roman numerals for 1973, the year it was first positioned at the old St Cross Road site.

14 Wigdor Room / James Currey Collection

Named after alumnus Doug Wigdor and his wife Catherine, in recognition of their support, this room is part of the new library. It houses the James Currey Collection, which enriches resources for students and promotes the study of Africa. The new library is named after alumnus John Moussouris, in recognition of his generosity.

15 Sketches of St Cross – Sybil Dodd Room

This small exhibition showcases designs and models for College buildings that were never realised, from the 1960s to the present day. It illustrates St Cross's constant ambition and willingness to imagine new spaces for its community.

16 Sixty Years of St Cross – Seminar Room

A display tracing the College's journey from its founding in 1965 to today, highlighting key developments and achievements across six decades.



ABOVE: The four crests above the College Archway
BELOW: The Bursar's Gate



To find out more about upcoming events, networking opportunities and ways to support the College, please scan this QR code.