



ST CROSS COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Opening doors: Your legacy at St Cross



Dear Friend of St Cross,

You may know me as a former Master of the College, but I write now in a different role: as someone who is leaving a gift to St Cross in her will.



Having led the College for six years, I saw the impact of philanthropy very clearly. Audrey Blackman was a pioneer in this respect. The value of the house she left St Cross proved a crucial asset, while her art collection continues to delight everyone who passes through our buildings today. Legacies such as Audrey's helped us construct the new West Wing building, and our scholarship programme has been aided substantially by gifts in wills, too. The effect of that support on individual students is profound.

Those are just some of the ways that legators have shaped the present and future of St Cross. Every legacy makes a difference to the College.

I do hope you will consider sharing this commitment with me and others who feel the same way. By leaving a bequest to St Cross, you will join a circle of dedicated supporters of the College, otherwise known as the Audrey Blackman Society. The Society's annual lunches are really warm occasions, and provide an opportunity to meet students who benefit from donors' support. It is wonderful to learn about the vision and research that are driving the next generation of scholars.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope to see you at one of the Audrey Blackman Society lunches in the future.

With best wishes,

Carole Souter
Master of St Cross College, 2016–2022



The Meaning of Giving

Since St Cross was founded in 1965, the generosity of our donors has helped us go from strength to strength. In an increasingly volatile funding climate, philanthropy has become crucial. With your help, the College will be able to support its students and Fellows and protect its future for generations to come.

Types of Legacy

There are two basic types of legacies:

Residuary Legacy – gifting a percentage of your estate, or all of it. This type ensures that the value of your gift evolves with the value of your estate.

Pecuniary Legacy – leaving St Cross a fixed sum of money. To preserve the value of pecuniary gifts, we recommend index-linking them to protect against inflation.

If you would like to discuss other types of legacies, please contact the Development Office.



How you can make an impact

The Development Team are happy to discuss with you the areas of the College's work you would like to support, including possibilities for naming and recognition.

We are also grateful for unrestricted gifts, which give the College discretion as to how best to use your donation. Legacies of this type can contribute to a bedrock of financial security by, for example, helping to grow our endowment which is one of the smallest among the Oxford colleges.

- + **£15,000** will allow us to convert a room in the Annexe accommodation bloc into an en-suite.
- + **£25,000** will endow an academic prize, helping to reward students' successes.
- + **£170,000** will support two DPhil students' Oxford living costs (approx. 2025 rates) for four years.
- + **£1,700,000** will endow a graduate scholarship, offering a fully-funded place for a St Cross student in perpetuity and attracting the best and brightest from all backgrounds.



Audrey Babette Blackman

(1907-1990) was a distinguished British sculptor and ceramist, connected with St Cross as a former Member of Common Room. Several of her works are displayed at the College (see left).



Tax Benefits

We recommend that you obtain legal advice if you plan to leave a legacy gift, and the Development Office can offer additional support and guidance.

For UK residents, making a bequest to a charitable institution such as St Cross College could reduce the tax liability of your estate. We suggest consulting the UK Government's website and your solicitor for up-to-date guidance.

For US residents, testamentary bequests may be deductible for estate tax purposes. Similar tax benefits may also apply to legacies from other countries. If you live outside the UK, please contact the Development Office to talk about your options.



The Audrey Blackman Society

We are deeply grateful to all who choose to remember St Cross in their wills. Once you inform us of your intentions, we will welcome you to the Audrey Blackman Society.

The Society is named in honour of a dear friend and supporter, who made a remarkable gift to the College in the early 1990s. It celebrates her legacy and expresses gratitude to those who, like Audrey, have pledged to support St Cross through a gift in their will. Society Members are invited to a special annual lunch, receive recognition in College publications, and are provided with updates on the impact of legacy giving.





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The Development Office
St Cross College
61 St Giles', Oxford, OX1 3LZ

development@stx.ox.ac.uk
www.stx.ox.ac.uk
+44 (0)1865 278 467