The Howe 40/4 chair was created by American designer David Rowland in 1962 and has been in continuous production since 1964 with over 7 million chairs sold worldwide. It has been bought in this country by, among others, St Paul’s, Ely and Salisbury Cathedrals and more locally, by St Aldate’s Church. The Howe 40/4 has won many design awards and is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Comfortable with good lumbar support

‘Waterfall front’ the flow of blood to the lower limbs is not restricted

Elegant clean design

Oak and Brushed Steel

Seat slopes from front to back

120 chairs stacked on a dolly

Your opportunity to support Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford by naming a chair and/or by making a donation to this major project.
Christ Church Cathedral has for almost five centuries been a venue for major services. More recently, we are able to take pride in using flexibly the relatively confined floor space to hold musical and dramatic events for large audiences.

It has therefore been necessary to find a chair that fulfils a range of requirements. It must be comfortable. It must be aesthetically pleasing in itself, while being compatible with the marvellous architecture of the building in which it is to be placed. It must be light and manoeuvrable enough to be stacked and stored, and it must be safe.

Chapter, after taking advice from other cathedrals who had undertaken this exercise, decided on the Howe 40/4 chair (so named because forty can be stacked in a space no more than four feet high). They are made in oak and brushed steel. Purpose built trolleys, movable by one person, accommodate up to 160 chairs, stacked in linked rows of three or four. This is an important consideration for our vergers and storage space is kept to a minimum. These carefully designed and comfortable chairs have revolutionised the way we use, move and store our supply of seats for services and events and for the many organisations that use Christ Church Cathedral.

Each chair – or more than one if you wish – may bear an aluminium plaque inscribed with the name requested by the sponsor. This could be your own name, the name of someone you wish to commemorate, the name of a church or parish, club, school, company, local authority or any similar organisation. The cost of naming a chair has been set, for this campaign, at £125 per chair. The actual cost of each chair was £171.

If you would like to support the project but can only donate a small amount, this will be equally welcome. Small donations will not entitle the sponsor to name a chair. However, chairs purchased from such donations collectively will bear a ‘Friends of Christ Church Cathedral’ plaque.

If possible, please make your contribution under the Gift Aid scheme by completing the appropriate box on the form. This will enable the Friends to reclaim basic rate tax on the amount you give. To qualify, you must pay an amount of UK tax and/or capital gains tax equal to the tax which we will reclaim.

Should the total of funds subscribed to this campaign exceed the total cost of the project, any excess will be added to the Friends’ funds for the benefit of Christ Church Cathedral.