



# The Christ Church Library

Fabric, Function, Future

## The Christ Church Library: background and perspective

*“Supporting the library is part of a financial plan for the whole House. It is a plan that seeks to secure the identity of collegiate education; the tutorial system for generations to come; open access on ability and potential alone and the best conditions in fabric and facilities for undergraduates to live and learn”*

THE LIBRARY EMBODIES ALL THAT IS SPECIAL, but financially demanding, about the fabric of Christ Church. It is no ordinary college library. It is precious both for its architecture and contents; but it is large and expensive to run.

This project consists of two parts that together bring about a complete resolution. First, it is a restoration challenge, which must be met if the contents and fabric of the building are to be secured. Secondly, there is a more enduring requirement to endow permanently the Library’s expenditure costs, and to contribute thereby to the long term preservation of collegiate education.

The success of a similar project specifically for the Law Library has encouraged the decision to ask old members from all subjects to support this initiative.

The Library is one of several special features of the House – the Picture Gallery, the Meadow, the Cathedral and the Cathedral School – which, along with the sheer size of the college’s buildings, define its special identity but add approximately £1.75 million annually to operating costs compared to most colleges.

To ensure that Christ Church is able to go on providing a first-class tutorial education and a secure and special place for graduates and undergraduates to live and study, the college has planned with great care a long-term programme to ensure that the endowment is adequate, in perpetuity, to meet such demands, and that the fabric is looked after and maintained with the care that such a historical treasure deserves. The Library project is a key element of that whole-House programme.

CHRISTOPHER PELLING  
*Regius Professor of Greek and Librarian*



[2]



## A feature of the House: its history, architecture and contents

ONE OF THE LARGEST 18th CENTURY BUILDINGS in Oxford, the Library was begun in 1717 and completed in 1772. The inspiration for its design was Henry Aldrich's, but the building we know today was designed by Dr George Clarke of All Souls. The Upper Library is nearly 150 feet long, and contains around 40,000 books. It is lit by large Venetian windows at either end, and by sash windows facing onto the Peckwater Quadrangle.

The interior and fittings mostly date from the 1750s, and the plasterwork is by Thomas Roberts of Oxford. The names above the books commemorate donors of large collections.

The Upper Library retains most of its original furnishings, including the stools made by Thomas Chippendale, the library steps, and the wrought iron charcoal braziers, which were once the only heating.

[3] The collection of early printed books is, after the Bodleian, the finest in Oxford: there are over 100,000 books printed before 1800, the oldest printed in 1468. There are several hundred medieval manuscripts, over 100 incunabula (books printed before 1501), tens of thousands of rare early pamphlets, and an outstanding collection of manuscript and printed music.

**The chief function of the Library, however, is to provide books, journals and audio-visual materials for undergraduates and postgraduates. In excess of 15,500 loans to our members were made in 2007/8. The Library also provides a working space for students to study, with access to computers linked to the electronic resources networked by the University.**



### Cataloguing: a long term ambition

Antiquarian cataloguing of the library's early printed books has been underway now for nearly two years. If completed, it will be of major significance to early manuscript research. This is a long-term project and it is estimated that a further 8-10 years of full-time work will be needed to complete the task at a predicted cost in excess of £500,000. If sufficient funding can be found early on however, two cataloguers could be employed, allowing faster progress through the library's collections, reducing the overall time to completion, and effecting a considerable financial saving in the longer term.



## Restoration of the fabric: a matter of urgency

### The task

THE MOST URGENT NEED for funding is to re-roof the building and rewire both the Upper Library and the East and West Wings. Whilst much of the benefit of restoration will not be visibly apparent, a failure to address these problems early enough could be catastrophic. Rounded cost estimates are summarised in Table 1:



Table 1 **First estimate restoration costs**

	<b>£k</b>
Roofing	1,250
Electrics and heating	600
Stonework	800
Other internal (including lighting, redecoration, book security)	400
Professional fees	450
<b>Total (incl VAT)</b>	<b>3,500</b>

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After generous donations in 2006/7 a balance of £2.15 million remains to be raised to safeguard the contents, including the priceless collection of ancient books on the upper level.

*"A donation to the Library of £5,000 spread over four years has a net cost of less than £750 per annum after higher rate tax relief. A gift of £20,000 over the same period qualifies for membership of the Board of Benefactors".*

### The plan

Although the restoration requirements generally apply to the building as a whole, the project, for development and recognition purposes, may be divided into the key functional areas of the building as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 **Building and restoration costs by area**

Area	Cost	Requirement
<b>The Upper Library</b>	£1 million	<b>Already raised:</b> Single donation
<b>The Central Hall and Grand Staircase</b>	£1 million	<b>Still needed:</b> Single donation
<b>The Far East Wing</b>	£375k	<b>Already raised:</b> UK giving circle (matric. 1982-5)
<b>The Near East Wing</b>	£375k	<b>Still needed:</b> US giving circle (East Coast)
<b>The Near West Wing</b>	£375k	<b>Still needed:</b> UK giving circle (matric. 1980-95)
<b>The Far West Wing</b>	£375k	<b>Still needed:</b> US giving circle (West Coast)
<b>Total Project</b>	<b>£3,500k</b>	<b>£2.125 million</b>

The Upper Library has already received £1 million from a single UK donor. Similarly the Far East Wing target has been reached by a group of 27 old members from the years 1982-5, galvanised by Kate Bingham, Simon Warshaw and James Reed.

To complete the task we are now seeking a major donor of £1 million for the Central Hall and Staircase and three giving circles of old members with a target of £375k each, to complete the East and West Wings.

Old members from the East and West Coast of North America have undertaken to raise £375k each for their respective wings, whilst a broad UK group from the 1980s and 1990s will form a giving circle to complete the Near West Wing.

Their names will be recorded in the Central Hall, offering enduring recognition and gratitude for the contribution they will have made to collegiate study at Christ Church



## Endowing the Library: the enduring solution



[5] *“Christ Church has a coveted individual identity. The joint foundation, the grandeur of its architecture, idiosyncratic names of its officers as well as the Meadows, Cathedral, Picture Gallery, Ancient Library and Archives, together create a distinctiveness that permeates through to those who work and study there. But they come at a price.”*



AN ENDOWMENT OF AROUND £4 MILLION will not only secure the library’s long term future as a working facility, but also release £127,500 annually towards the House’s overall financial requirements.

The main associated costs comprise book purchases, staffing and conservation. These expenditures have, in Appendix 1, been allocated to the main academic subject areas, allowing old members either individually or in small groups to sponsor or endow their own subject area in perpetuity.

Their names will be recorded in the Central Hall, offering enduring recognition and gratitude for the permanent contribution they will have made to those who will be reading that subject at Christ Church in the years ahead.

As the library already benefits from some general funding from trusts and other endowment, the amount required has been computed net of that income and general maintenance and administration costs.

The endowment for the whole library can be usefully divided into three target stages to cover books purchases, conservation costs and three librarians. These, and the total requirement, are shown in Table 3.

For individual subject areas and associated gift calculations, please see Appendices 1 and 2 on

page 6. Apportionment of endowment costs between subjects has been calculated according to the proportion of books purchased annually for each.

Donations are sought from between one to four donors per subject stage to endow the full cost of the Library in perpetuity.

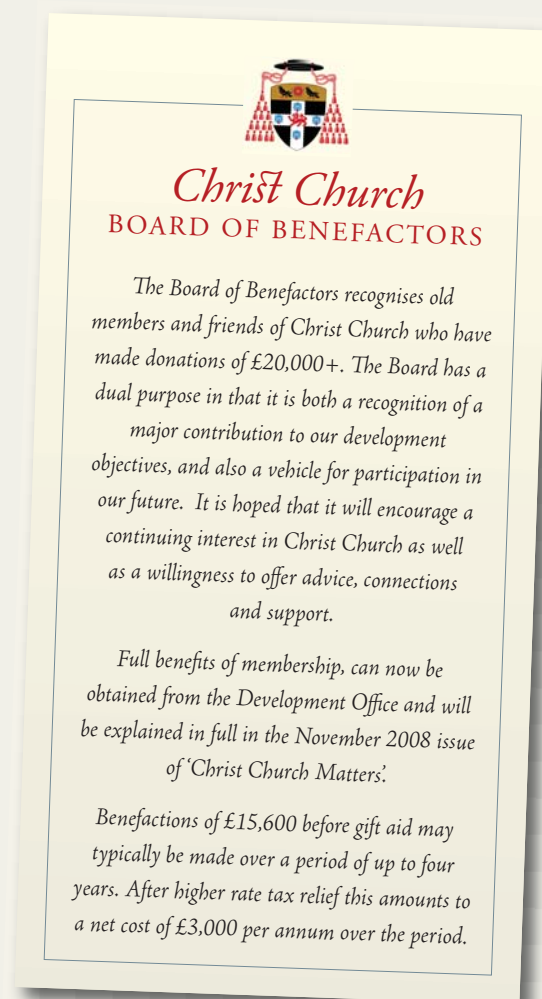


Table 3: **Library costs and endowment by target stage**

	Stage 1 Books plus Librarian 1	Stage 2 Conservation plus Librarian 2	Stage 3 Librarian 3	Total Books, conservation plus 3 librarians
<b>Annual cost (all subjects)</b>	£74,500	£32,960	£20,050	£127,500
<b>Target endowment* (all subjects)</b>	£2,292,080	£1,014,290	£617,300	£3,923,670

\* Assumes 3.25% annual take after 5% adjustment for academic inflation

## Appendix 1: LIBRARY EXPENDITURE AND ENDOWMENT BY SUBJECT

Classification	Stage 1 Book purchases plus Librarian 1		Stage 2 Conservation costs plus Librarian 2		Stage 3 Librarian 3		Total Books Conservation plus 3 Librarians	
	Annual expenditure	Endowment required	Annual expenditure	Endowment required	Annual expenditure	Endowment required	Annual expenditure	Endowment required
Philosophy	£4,600	£141,540	£1,900	£58,460	£1,200	£36,920	£7,700	£236,920
Economics	£3,850	£118,500	£1,750	£53,850	£1,050	£32,300	£6,650	£204,650
Politics	£3,800	£116,900	£1,730	£53,230	£1,200	£36,920	£6,730	£207,050
History	£7,300	£224,600	£3,340	£102,760	£2,000	£61,540	£12,640	£388,900
Theology	£4,950	£152,300	£2,300	£70,770	£1,370	£42,300	£8,620	£265,370
Classics	£6,370	£196,000	£3,040	£93,540	£1,820	£56,150	£11,230	£345,690
Geography	£3,320	£102,150	£1,510	£46,460	£910	£28,000	£5,740	£176,610
Modern Languages	£4,110	£126,450	£1,900	£58,460	£1,220	£37,700	£7,230	£222,610
English	£4,400	£135,300	£2,010	£61,850	£1,210	£37,230	£7,620	£234,380
Mathematics	£3,430	£105,540	£1,570	£48,300	£1,040	£32,000	£6,040	£185,840
Art & Music	£4,670	£143,700	£2,130	£65,540	£1,290	£39,700	£8,090	£248,940
Science & Engineering	£5,300	£163,000	£2,560	£78,770	£1,400	£43,000	£9,260	£284,770
Periodicals	£18,400	£566,100	£7,220	£222,300	£4,340	£133,540	£29,960	£921,940
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£74,500</b>	<b>£2,292,080</b>	<b>£32,960</b>	<b>£1,014,290</b>	<b>£20,050</b>	<b>£617,300</b>	<b>£127,510</b>	<b>£3,923,670</b>

[6]

## Appendix 2: GIVING BY SUBJECT (Tax relief, annual equivalents and small group donations)

Classification	Stage 1 Book purchases plus Librarian 1			Stage 2 Conservation costs plus Librarian 2			Stage 3 Librarian 3			Total Books Conservation plus 3 Librarians		
	Donation required	Net cost of donation	Net annual cost of donation	Donation required	Net cost of donation	Net annual cost of donation	Donation required	Net cost of donation	Net annual cost of donation	Donation required	Net cost of donation	Net annual cost of donation
	Before Gift Aid	After HRT relief	Between 3 people over 4 years	Before Gift Aid	After HRT relief	Between 3 people over 4 years	Before Gift Aid	After HRT relief	Between 3 people over 4 years	Before Gift Aid	After HRT relief	Between 3 people over 4 years
Philosophy	£110,400	£84,920	£7,080	£45,600	£35,080	£2,920	£28,800	£22,150	£1,850	£184,800	£142,150	£11,850
Economics	£92,500	£71,100	£5,930	£42,000	£32,310	£2,690	£25,200	£19,380	£1,620	£159,700	£122,790	£10,240
Politics	£91,200	£70,140	£5,850	£41,500	£31,940	£2,660	£28,800	£22,150	£1,850	£161,500	£124,230	£10,360
History	£175,200	£134,760	£11,230	£80,200	£61,660	£5,140	£48,000	£36,920	£3,080	£303,400	£233,340	£19,450
Theology	£118,800	£91,380	£7,620	£55,200	£42,460	£3,540	£33,000	£25,380	£2,120	£207,000	£159,220	£13,280
Classics	£152,900	£117,600	£9,800	£73,000	£56,120	£4,680	£43,800	£33,690	£2,810	£269,700	£207,410	£17,290
Geography	£79,700	£61,290	£5,110	£36,200	£27,880	£2,320	£21,900	£16,800	£1,400	£137,800	£105,970	£8,830
Modern Languages	£98,700	£75,870	£6,320	£45,600	£35,080	£2,920	£29,400	£22,620	£1,890	£173,700	£133,570	£11,130
English	£105,500	£81,180	£6,770	£48,300	£37,110	£3,090	£29,100	£22,340	£1,860	£182,900	£140,630	£11,720
Mathematics	£82,300	£63,320	£5,280	£37,700	£28,980	£2,420	£25,000	£19,200	£1,600	£145,000	£111,500	£9,300
Art & Music	£112,000	£86,220	£7,190	£51,100	£39,320	£3,280	£31,000	£23,820	£1,990	£194,100	£149,360	£12,460
Science & Engineering	£127,200	£97,800	£8,150	£61,500	£47,260	£3,940	£33,600	£25,800	£2,150	£222,300	£170,860	£14,240
Periodicals	£441,600	£339,660	£28,310	£173,400	£133,380	£11,120	£104,200	£80,120	£6,680	£719,200	£553,160	£46,110
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,788,000</b>	<b>£1,375,240</b>	<b>£114,640</b>	<b>£791,300</b>	<b>£608,580</b>	<b>£50,720</b>	<b>£481,800</b>	<b>£370,370</b>	<b>£30,900</b>	<b>£3,061,100</b>	<b>£2,354,190</b>	<b>£196,260</b>