THE STONES OF CHRIST CHURCH

Christ Church, the largest and arguably grandest college in the University of Oxford, has awed visitors ever since its foundation by Cardinal Wolsey in 1525: one seventeenth-century visitor said 'it is more like some fine castle, or great palace than a College'. The already impressive site was further enhanced during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by ever more imposing structures, and building has continued up to the present day, sometimes following fashion, sometimes leading the way with new architectural styles.

_The Stones of Christ Church_ tells the fascinating story of the buildings of this remarkable institution – both college and cathedral – throughout its five centuries, and of those who brought them into being, from the three great 'builder deans', John Fell, Henry Aldrich and Henry Liddell, to the humble slaters, joiners, bricklayers and stonemasons, and the materials that they worked with. The resulting buildings – Tom Tower, Peckwater Quad, Meadow Buildings and many more – are among the most iconic sights of Oxford today.

_Judith Curthoys_, the college archivist, has previously written _The Cardinal's College_, a comprehensive and in-depth history of Christ Church. Her new and impeccably researched study shows how much each generation's buildings, whether grand or humble, can tell us about the history of both the site and those who occupied it.

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