



CHRIST CHURCH

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

THE CHRISTOPHER LEWIS FUND IN SUPPORT OF

CHRIST CHURCH MEADOW





THE MEADOW

Thanks to a generous donation from Peter S. Paine Jr (1957, Law), we are delighted to announce that the House has established a new fund in the name of former Dean, The Very Revd Dr Christopher Lewis. The purpose of the fund is the management and enhancement of Christ Church Meadow, supporting the site in perpetuity.

Christ Church has the great fortune to be a custodian of Christ Church Meadow, a place beloved by so many alumni and friends of the House. The 46-acre open space is a Grade 1 listed landscape, designating the area as being of “exceptional interest”.

The majority of the Meadow was gifted to Frideswide Priory by Lady Elizabeth Montecute in 1346, and has remained more or less unchanged since medieval times.

Christ Church Meadow provides an attraction and a sanctuary for up to

one million people a year, who enjoy *rus in urbis* during daylight hours 364 days a year free of charge.

The Meadow is home to many protected animal species, including bats, badgers, water voles, otters, reptiles and amphibians, and the lush grass is grazed by the college's herd of Longhorn cattle.

Christ Church has the responsibility to conserve and manage the Meadow, with a commitment to enhancing nature conservation.

The work is undertaken by a team of gardeners, led by Head Gardener John James.

The maintenance programme for much of the Meadow has been changed in recent years, from highly groomed weekly mowing and strimming to a once or twice a year mow. This has given a much softer and wilder appearance and has led to the reappearance of many species that we thought had disappeared including wild orchids.

The costs of maintaining and enhancing the Meadow are just over £200,000 per year, 60% of which is spent on staff costs. Despite the importance of the Meadow as a



historic asset and as a site for visitors and wildlife, there has never been a dedicated endowment fund to cover or contribute to the costs.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Consider making a gift to the Christopher Lewis Fund in support of Christ Church Meadow.

We welcome gifts of any size and gifts can be made tax efficiently through one off, monthly and annual donations. Our donor circles are for thanking our alumni, and provide opportunities to attend events, connect with other alumni, and return to Christ Church. With a regular, monthly gift you would be invited to join TOM or with a larger pledge (a starting point of £10,000 over three years) you would be eligible to join as a Liddell Patron or above.

To make a donation please visit <https://chchconnections.org/fundraising/donation> or contact the Alumni & Development Office.

If you are based in the US, gifts can be made tax efficiently through American Friends. Further information on this, as well as how to give from other countries, is available on our website, <https://chchconnections.org/pages/support-us>.



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