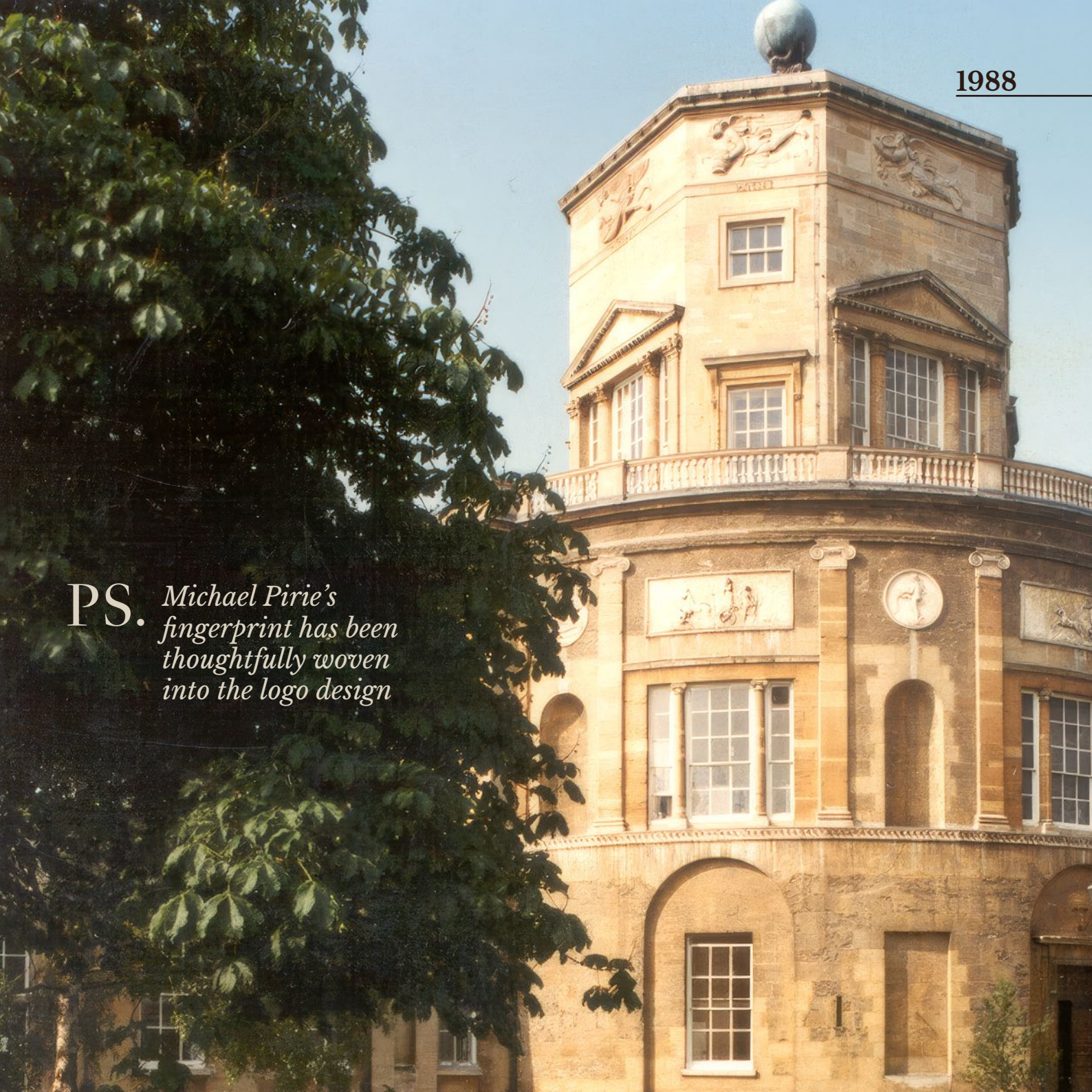




PIRIE SOCIETY
Legacy

1988

PS. *Michael Pirie's
fingerprint has been
thoughtfully woven
into the logo design*



A Legacy Rooted

The Pirie Society

For our community, every contribution matters – not only academic or financial support, but the quiet, sustained care that shapes the character of this place over time. Few people embody this spirit more clearly than Michael Pirie, our Head Gardener.

For almost half a century, Michael has cared for the college with consistency and dedication. In doing so, he has helped create an environment in which students can feel at ease, fellows can reflect, and the wider community can come together. His work has supported daily collegiate life in ways that are not immediately noticed, but deeply felt.

Naming the Pirie Society in his honour is more than a personal tribute. It reflects the values that sustain Green Templeton College – commitment, humility and foresight. In much the same way, those who choose to remember the college in their wills demonstrate care for future generations, helping to secure long-term strength and independence.

The Pirie Society speaks to what legacy means at Green Templeton. It is not only about financial provision, but about continuity, responsibility and belief in the future of this academic community. We invite you to consider how your support for the college might continue beyond your lifetime.

A message from *the Principal*

At the heart of the college stands the Radcliffe Observatory – built for exploration and still inspiring curiosity centuries on. It reflects the values that continue to shape the college today: intellectual openness, careful stewardship and a commitment to the public good.

We are an international graduate community focused on some of the most important challenges of our time, from health and medicine to business, social care and the future of work. Our strength lies in the breadth of disciplines we bring together and the shared purpose that connects them.


Legacy gifts play a vital role in sustaining this work. A gift in your will helps ensure that talented students, whatever their background, can study here. It strengthens our ability to attract outstanding

scholars and to support teaching and academic initiatives that contribute meaningfully to society, now and in the future.

The Pirie Society reflects an understanding of continuity and care. By choosing to leave a legacy, you help ensure that the college can plan responsibly for the future to sustain and grow its community.

If you are considering remembering the college with a legacy gift, thank you. Your generosity and foresight will have a lasting impact, supporting our students, caring for our heritage, and helping Green Templeton to continue its work for generations to come.

Sir Michael Dixon
Principal
2020 – present

A man with short, graying hair and blue eyes is seated, looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a dark, textured blazer over a light-colored, button-down shirt. The background features a wall with a light-colored, floral-patterned wallpaper. To the left, a framed picture is partially visible, showing a building and some text, including the word 'ORDALMANACK'. To the right, a tall, gold-colored floor lamp with a white, pleated shade stands next to a white door frame. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a professional yet intimate atmosphere.

‘We are an *international graduate community*, focused on some of the most important challenges of our time’

2005



1990



1988



1998



2018

Growing *together*



Michael Pirie
*Head Gardener,
1980 – present*

Since I became Head Gardener in April 1980, I have seen the college evolve steadily over time. What was once a small community has grown into a diverse and outward-looking one, shaped by successive generations of students, fellows and staff.

Over the years, I have learned that institutions thrive through careful attention and long-term thinking. Their strength lies not only in moments of change, but in continuity – in the way people are welcomed, supported and encouraged to form lasting connections. These qualities have defined my experience of the college and remain central to its character.

I am honoured that the Society bears my name, and deeply grateful to those who choose to support Green Templeton in this way. Through such generosity and far-sightedness, it can continue to be a place where people feel valued, supported and connected, both during their time here and long after they have graduated.

I look forward to welcoming many of you to this community, committed to furthering shared objectives long into the future through a legacy gift.



2014



College priorities supported by *legacy gifts*

Legacy gifts play an essential role in sustaining the college over the long term. They provide stability, enable flexibility and foresight, and allow the college to support its people, care for its buildings, and invest in academic life.

Gifts remembered in wills may support a range of priorities, including:



Supporting students

Scholarships, bursaries and financial assistance that ensure talented students can study at Oxford regardless of personal circumstances



Sustaining academic initiatives

Teaching, research and interdisciplinary work that contribute to society, particularly across medicine, health, business and the wider social sciences



Caring for our heritage and shared spaces

The conservation and renewal of the Radcliffe Observatory, the gardens and the spaces that support community life



Strengthening community and belonging

Activities, facilities and programmes that bring people together and support their wellbeing

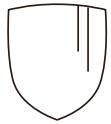


‘With legacy support, the Management in Medicine Programme is able to bring together speakers and participants in a setting designed for reflection, discussion and leadership development.’

Dr Nicholas Hicks

Associate Fellow and Programme Director

2017



Supporting students

Green Templeton is a vibrant graduate community of 650 students from more than 70 countries. Many pursue demanding programmes in medicine, health and the social sciences, often alongside professional and family responsibilities.

The college supports students through a range of scholarships, grants and bursaries, and provides assistance when unexpected financial difficulties threaten continued engagement with their course. In an average year, up to fifty individuals may require urgent financial assistance. While those in NHS-funded medical programmes are often particularly affected, financial difficulties can happen to anyone. Legacy gifts make it possible to provide vital support at what may be a very difficult time.

Gifts also indirectly ensure that the benefits of college and Oxford life remain accessible to all. They help keep accommodation, meals and communal activities as affordable and inclusive as possible, and sustain academic opportunities such as access to conferences, fieldwork and wellbeing initiatives that make an Oxford education transformative. By remembering the college in your will, you can help talented individuals focus on their studies, build confidence and carry the college's values into their future careers.

Dr Alison Stenton

*Senior Tutor and Governing
Body Fellow*

2015

“The scholarship has allowed me to receive “proper training as a scientist” while remaining closely connected to patient-centred care. It is shaping my future as a clinician-scientist.’

Felix Radtke

(DPhil Medical Sciences, 2022)

Sir David Weatherall Scholar



‘There is no way I could have come to Oxford without the trust and support this scholarship provided. It has changed what I believed was possible for me.’

Ramsha Fatima

(DPhil Education, 2025) Oxford

Clarendon Sir David Watson Scholar

2003



Sustaining academic initiatives

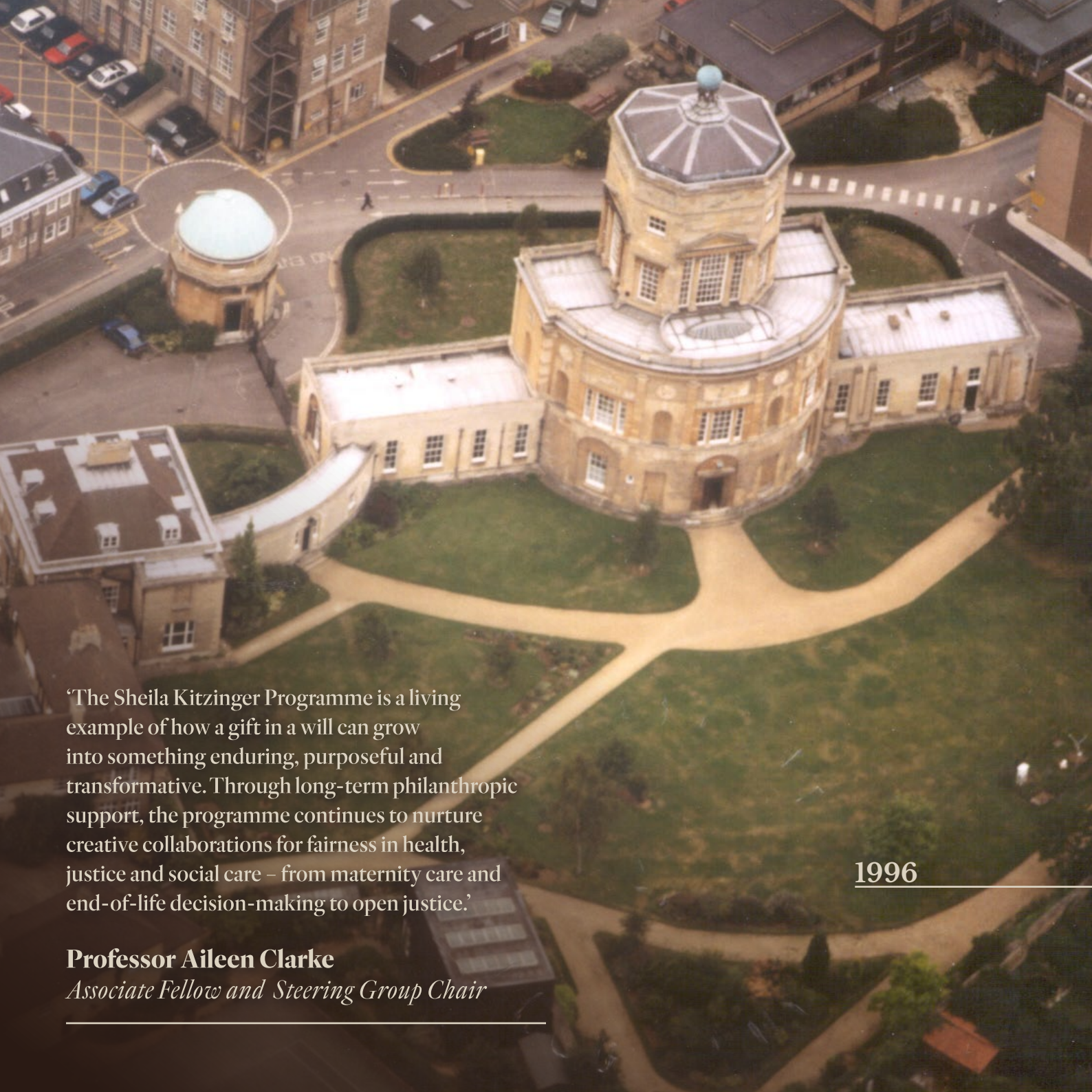
Green Templeton has a strong tradition of interdisciplinary research that addresses real-world challenges. One area of growing importance is adult social care, where demographic change and increasing demand place significant pressure on families, professionals and public services.

The college is developing a centre on the future of long-term care to support research, policy engagement and collaboration across disciplines including social science, medicine, public health, economics and ethics. Building on the Care Initiative, the centre will convene practitioners and

researchers, support fellows working on applied challenges, and contribute evidence to national and international debate.

Philanthropic support allows the college to develop this work carefully and credibly, ensuring that research is grounded, collaborative and responsive to lived experience. Legacy gifts provide the long-term perspective needed to sustain such work beyond short-term funding cycles.

Professor Mary Daly
*Emerita Fellow and Founder
of the Care Initiative*



'The Sheila Kitzinger Programme is a living example of how a gift in a will can grow into something enduring, purposeful and transformative. Through long-term philanthropic support, the programme continues to nurture creative collaborations for fairness in health, justice and social care – from maternity care and end-of-life decision-making to open justice.'

Professor Aileen Clarke
Associate Fellow and Steering Group Chair

1996

2025



2011



2018

‘A legacy gift made it possible to ensure the restoration of the Rewley Abbey wall. It is a reminder that our historic spaces endure because someone chose to care for them beyond their own lifetime with the attention and respect they deserve.’

Teresa Strike
Domestic Bursar





Caring for our heritage and shared spaces

The Radcliffe Observatory is one of Oxford's most recognisable landmarks and a defining part of this college's history. For more than 250 years, it has been a place of learning, reflection and community life – a role it continues to play today.

With Phase 1 of the Observatory project now fully funded, attention has now turned to Phase 2: the careful conservation and environmental renewal of this Grade I-listed building. This next stage is essential to securing the Observatory's long-term future and ensuring it remains fit for modern academic and community use.

The works ahead are substantial. They include the restoration of historic roofs, doors, windows, and staircases; significant improvements to environmental performance and accessibility; and the sensitive renewal of internal spaces. Improving the acoustics of the dining hall is a particular priority, so that this central communal space can better

support life here, shared meals, and formal occasions.

Care for heritage and shared spaces extends beyond the Observatory to the buildings that support daily academic and residential life. These include 13 Norham Gardens, formerly the home of Sir William Osler, and accommodation on Observatory Street and St Margaret's Road, where careful stewardship preserves historic character while supporting contemporary living.

As Principal Sir Michael Dixon has noted, *'Those who want to be the change, learn here. Those who want to make change, invest here.'* Legacy gifts play a vital role in this shared responsibility, underpinning the next chapter of care. They enable long-term planning, careful stewardship of buildings, and investment in spaces that will support students, fellows and visitors for generations to come.

Maren Florenz
Head of Development

Pirie Society

Those who choose to include the college in their will are invited to join the Pirie Society.

Membership of the Society offers an opportunity to remain connected with the life of the college in ways

that reflect individual preferences. This may include receiving updates, invitations to occasional events, and appropriate acknowledgement of support. Participation is entirely optional, and all wishes regarding privacy and recognition are respected.

Making a legacy gift

Your solicitor or professional adviser can advise you on the form of legacy gift most appropriate to your circumstances and intentions.

Maren Florenz, Head of Development, is available to provide general information about legacy giving, including common types of legacy and example wording that

may be helpful when speaking with your adviser. The college is not, however, able to offer legal, tax or financial advice.

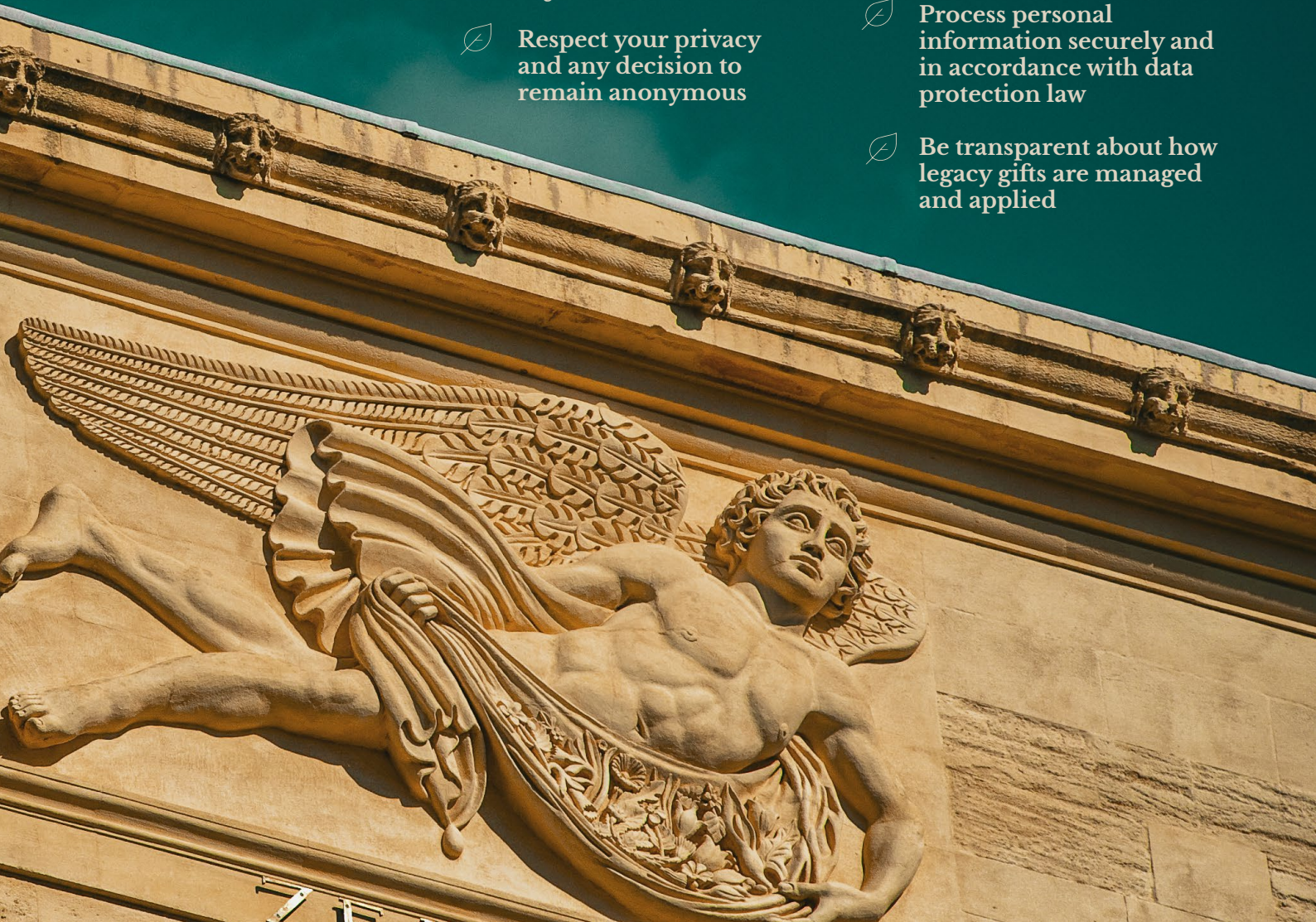
We are committed to recording and respecting your wishes, including any preference you may have regarding how your gift is used, subject to the college's charitable purposes.

2009

Our commitment to you

We will:

- Use legacy gifts carefully and in furtherance of the college's charitable objectives
- Respect your privacy and any decision to remain anonymous
- Respect your right to change your intentions at any time
- Process personal information securely and in accordance with data protection law
- Be transparent about how legacy gifts are managed and applied



2014



Letting us know

If you wish to inform us that you have included Green Templeton College in your will, or that you are considering doing so, the following non-binding form provides a simple way to let us know. This form is an expression of your present intentions only.

Completing the form is entirely optional and helps us to thank you appropriately and plan responsibly for the future. You are also very welcome to contact us at any stage for a confidential conversation.

Legacy Pledge Form – The Pirie Society

Your details Title and name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Telephone: _____
Date of birth (optional): _____

Your legacy intention (please tick as appropriate)
 I have already included Green Templeton College in my will
 I intend to include Green Templeton College in my will
 I would like general information about adding a codicil

Type of gift (please tick one)
 Residuary – a percentage of my estate _____
 Pecuniary – a fixed sum _____
 Specific – a particular asset _____
 Other (please specify): _____

Purpose of your gift
 Unrestricted I would like my gift to be used where the college's need is greatest
 Restricted I would like my gift to be used for: _____
 If this is no longer possible due to changed circumstances, I am happy for the college to apply my gift to a similar purpose in furtherance of its charitable objectives

Recognition I am happy to be acknowledged as a member of the Pirie Society
 I prefer to remain anonymous

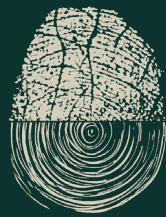
**Launch of Pirie Society and Afternoon Tea at Green Templeton College,
Thursday 23 April 2026, 15:00**

- I would like to attend
 I would not be able to attend
 I would like to receive information on future Society events









Signature: _____ Date: _____

If you would prefer to complete this pledge form digitally, click the QR code below





Frequently Asked Questions

-  **Do I need to tell you if I have included Green Templeton College in my will?**
No. Letting us know is entirely optional, but it can help us thank you appropriately and plan responsibly for the future.
-  **Can I change my mind?**
Yes. A legacy intention is not binding and you can amend your will at any time.
-  **Can I direct my gift to a specific purpose?**
Yes. We recommend including flexible wording so that your gift can still be used effectively if circumstances change.
-  **Can my legacy commemorate someone?**
Yes. We would be pleased to discuss recognition options that are meaningful to you.
-  **What if I already have a will?**
Your solicitor can advise whether a codicil is appropriate or whether a new will would be better.
-  **What details should my solicitor include?**
The full name, address and registered charity number:
Green Templeton College, University of Oxford,
43 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HG,
Registered charity number 1142297.
-  **Can I leave shares or property?**
Yes. Please speak to your professional advisers. We are happy to work with them to ensure your wishes are understood.
-  **Will my information be kept confidential?**
Yes. We handle personal information in accordance with data protection law and your stated preferences.

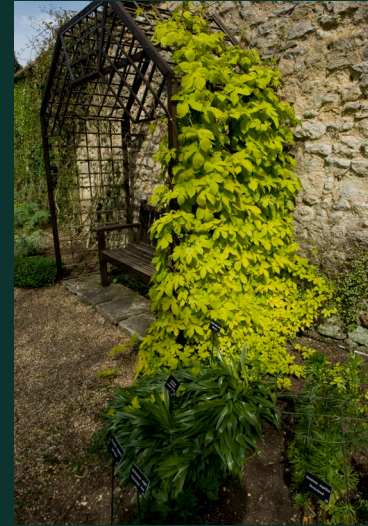
A living legacy - *Michael's imprint on the college*

1980s

Planting for the long term

'My first task was not planting, but understanding how the land worked and how people might move through it.'

- Michael begins work in April 1980 marking the start of four decades of continuous stewardship and creative autonomy
- Cedar of Lebanon planted on the south lawn in 1982
- Medicinal garden created in 1984 with Dr Jeff Aronson, linking planting to medical scholarship; canopy seat designed and built by Michael



1990s

Reimagining Lankester Quad

'One of my proudest early decisions was transforming the former stable yard into a proper entrance to the Observatory. It was about giving the building dignity rather than making a show of planting.'

- Structural failure of limestone paving prompts a full redesign
- Michael's 'Plan C' approved: criss-cross York stone paths with engineering brick edging
- Borders completely replanted, giving the buildings the 'clothed' character seen today



2000s

Opening the garden

- Wisteria arch installed to echo the main entrance and frame seasonal views



2020s

A mature landscape

'What gives me the greatest satisfaction is not any single feature, but the continuity: seeing students pause under trees I planted years ago, and former members recognise something that has endured. Gardening here has always been about thinking beyond yourself – and trusting those who come next.'

- Over forty years of planting achieves a balanced ratio of trees to open space
- The gardens stand as a living archive of care, judgement, and long-term thinking

2010s

Identity and legacy

- Astronomical garden created to mark the transit of Venus, using planting to tell a scientific story
- Michael designs the landscaping of McAlpine Quad
- College heraldic crest recreated in plants in 2018, symbolising the 10th anniversary of the joining of Green and Templeton Colleges
- Garden of ancient Greece installed with Coade stone relics in 2019



The full story with guide photos can be found at:
www.gtc.ox.ac.uk/gardens

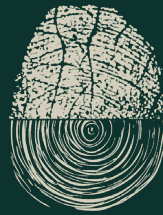




2012

PS. *I had not thought about leaving anything to the college at first, but over time it felt natural to give back to the place that gave me work, purpose, and lasting friendships*





Contact

We would be delighted to speak with you in confidence.

Maren Florenz, Head of Development
Green Templeton College,
University of Oxford,
43 Woodstock Road,
Oxford, OX2 6HG

E: legacy@gtc.ox.ac.uk

Green Templeton College is a UK registered charity – number 1142297. Nothing in this brochure should be taken as legal, tax, or financial advice. Please seek advice from qualified professionals.

PIRIE SOCIETY
Est. 2025
Legacy