

Can you help us...

to secure the future of the Church of St John the Evangelist and to raise £2.2 million of core funding?

This project is intended to provide Oxford with an outstanding new public venue and enable St Stephen's House to secure the Church's future. We are looking for partners to **help us raise £2.2 million of core funding** needed for the urgent restoration of this outstanding historic building and for making St John's Church and the Cloister a facility of exceptional quality. Our business plan is strong, thorough and well researched and our goals are realistic, cost-effective and achievable.

We warmly invite your support for any aspect of the project: the preservation of this exceptional work of Victorian church architecture and the installation of everything needed to adapt it for our new vision for its future.

Detailed information on every aspect of the project is available from the Bursar, Mrs Michèle Smith (contact details below).

What your help could achieve

Total project cost: £2,226,131

Restoration of stained glass windows	£29,292
Gutters and downpipes including rainwater hoppers	£28,800
Stonework restoration and cleaning	£62,400
Stone restoration, glazing, heating and lighting of the Cloister	£232,446
500 chairs (£150 + VAT per chair)	£90,000
Restoration of the painted ceilings	£600,000
1 concert grand piano	£100,000
Restoration of the existing organ	£32,400
Building of a toilet block and storage	£180,000
PA sound system	£7,200
Demountable staging	£24,000

St Stephen's House welcomes donations given either as a single lump sum or spread over a number of years and there are many naming opportunities available in recognition of support for this project. Every gift of any size will make a difference and contribute towards restoring the Church and realising the vision for its future.

St Stephen's House is a registered charity and all gifts made towards the St John's Church project by UK, US and Canadian taxpayers qualify for tax relief. There is a wide range of tax benefits available to individuals and to businesses wishing to donate to this project.

To discuss or make a donation, please contact:

Michèle Smith, Bursar, St Stephen's House,
16 Marston Street, Oxford OX4 1JX

Tel: 01865 613500 Email: michele.smith@ssho.ox.ac.uk

Preserving our *heritage*,
transforming our future

Help us create a versatile new concert venue and art gallery for the city of Oxford and the wider community, while guaranteeing the future of one of our noblest churches



The Church of St John the Evangelist
St Stephen's House, Oxford



Our vision

to preserve our heritage and guarantee the future of The Church of St John the Evangelist

The Church of St John the Evangelist is the outstanding masterpiece in Oxford of the great Victorian architect George Frederick Bodley. The grade 1 listed Church with its distinctive landmark tower facing the Iffley Road was built between 1894 and 1902, to serve as the spiritual home of the Cowley Fathers, an Anglican religious order for men.

The Cowley Fathers exercised a remarkable ministry in the local area and among members of the University, and former worshippers in the Church include Sir John Betjeman and C S Lewis.

The interior of the Church reflects this austere monastic ethos, but with fittings and decoration of the highest quality still in place and in use. The stained glass by Bodley himself and his collaborator Charles Kempe is particularly remarkable.

The Church is part of a range of monastic buildings designed as a unique ensemble by Bodley, including a cloister and a domestic chapel which contains outstanding work by Sir Ninian Comper.

Since 1980 the Church and its adjoining buildings have been the home of St Stephen's House, an Anglican Theological College in the tradition of the Oxford Movement founded in 1876, and a Permanent Private Hall of the University of Oxford since 2003. We use the Church for regular worship and it is a greatly-loved part of our student experience.

However, the income of the college as a charity is intended for the training of new clergy for the Church of England, and we are unable to dedicate sufficient funding from our existing resources to ensure the secure future of the building.

Recent investment of over £400,000 from our income and endowment has replaced the inadequate heating system with an efficient modern one and removed substantial amounts of concealed asbestos. However, to preserve the fabric of the Church from the consequences of age and the weather, and to increase public access by opening it to a variety of fresh uses, we are looking for the support of funding partners who can contribute to realising a new vision for St John the Evangelist.



to become an exciting and versatile new concert venue and art gallery for the city of Oxford and the wider community

The college has already implemented a successful policy of raising significant income from the use of its buildings outside term-time, and it is now our intention to do the same with the Church, guaranteeing its future and increasing public access significantly.

The Church of St John the Evangelist has superb acoustics and is beautifully proportioned. The floor space of the central area is 8,611 ft, the adjoining sacristies have 1,821 sq ft of floor space and the former Song School, which is situated next to the Church, offers a further floor space of 826 sq ft.

In 2009, the Governing Body of the college commissioned a study to assess developing St John's Church into a public concert venue, and the adjoining cloister into an exhibition display area for the benefit of the local community. This study concluded that there is outstanding potential for taking forward this development:

- the excellent acoustic in the Church
- the availability of on-site parking
- the location of the building near to the centre of Oxford and also easily accessible to London transport links
- the availability of a number of rooms attached to the building to support concert needs
- a potential seating capacity of 500

Oxford has only a small number of existing concert venues which can seat 500 people and our research has identified a demand for an arts venue of this size, particularly in the south east of the City. The only other nearby venue is the Jacqueline du Pré Concert Hall which seats 200 people.

St John's Church has the potential to make an excellent venue for rehearsals, teaching, dance classes, examinations, recordings and artistic festivals. The Cloister is an ideal and very attractive setting for exhibitions and the display of paintings and sculpture, and once glazed and heated the area will add real value to the project as a whole. A trial exhibition was successfully held in the Cloister in the summer of 2009.

St Stephen's House is well placed to support the accommodation needs of the growing numbers of courses focusing on the arts which take place during the vacations. However, before this can happen, the Church needs to be made watertight and equipped with comfortable and flexible seating, toilet facilities and the necessary health and safety features to equip it for regular public use.

The artistic life of Oxford has never been more vibrant. Our project represents a unique opportunity to guarantee the future of one of our noblest churches, preserve our heritage for future generations and at the same time make a lasting difference to the cultural life of the broader Oxford community and far beyond.

