I have set an Acorn, which when it becomes an Oake, God alone knows what will be the fruit thereof. - Sir Walter Mildmay
A TRADITION OF BENEFACTION
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From the earliest years of the College, legacies have played an important part in building it up as a place of outstanding research and education.

Each November, Emmanuel holds a service and dinner in commemoration of its benefactors. The occasion itself is the result of a legacy from George Thorpe, Fellow 1663–67, who left the College property in Ash, Kent, to provide income for five scholarships in divinity and an annual commemoration service and dinner. As the Recitation of Benefactors at the service demonstrates, Thorpe was continuing a tradition of benefaction started by Sir Walter Mildmay in 1584.

Bequests from John Barnes, Joyce Frankland and Sir Wolstan Dixie in the sixteenth century gave Emmanuel valuable landholdings in Threadneedle Street in London, at Hyde Farm in Surrey and in Sutton Coldfield in Warwickshire. Just a few years later Edmund English bequeathed money to found two fellowships and six scholarships, which was invested in tithes at Pinchbeck in Lincolnshire and later became three large and profitable farms. William Sancroft and his successor as Master, John Breton, both left legacies for the Chapel and, in Sancroft’s case, the Library.
THE TRADITION CONTINUES

Thorpe’s example has been followed since his death in 1719 and legacies over the past three centuries have continued to benefit the generations who live and study here. Bequests have been made for specific purposes – buildings, the grounds, Fellowships, scholarships and prizes, hardship and support funds – and none. Some have left the College their entire estate, others have remembered Emmanuel amongst many other beneficiaries with modest gifts.

The happy, successful and thriving college that Emmanuel is today is a living testimony to the commitment and generosity of past Members and friends. The College is determined to preserve the excellence of the distinctive educational opportunities offered by the collegiate way of life, irrespective of political pressures, and to ensure that no-one is prevented from coming and playing a full part in life here through a lack of financial means.

Legacies help future generations to benefit from their time at Emmanuel. Some cannot make a gift to the College in their lifetimes because of other commitments, and a legacy provides a
way for them to help. Others wish to continue the support they have been providing over the years. Some ask to be remembered by name. Others prefer to remain anonymous. Some nominate the part of College life they wish to support. Others are happy to leave the use of their gift to the discretion of the Master and Fellows. All legacies, of whatever kind, are extremely welcome.

INCLUDING EMMANUEL IN YOUR WILL

There are several ways to include Emmanuel College in your Will. If you wish to do this, we suggest you consult your solicitor, who can advise you. The College can be included when your Will is first drawn up, or it can be added as a codicil to an existing Will.

WORDING

The formal name of the College is ‘The Master, Fellows and Scholars of Emmanuel College in the University of Cambridge’.

To safeguard your intention and the position of your Trustees, you might wish to include the wording: ‘I direct that the receipt of the person appearing to my Trustees to be the Bursar or other proper officer for the time being of the College shall be a full discharge to my Trustees, who shall not thereafter be concerned as to the application of this gift’.

If you would like to direct your bequest to a specific purpose, you or your solicitor might like to contact the Development Director to discuss wording.
TYPES OF LEGACY

Residuary legacy  This involves leaving all or a percentage of the residue of your estate, after all other bequests have been paid and expenses have been met. This way the real value of your bequest is protected.

Pecuniary legacy  This enables you to leave a specified sum of money. The real value of the gift can be protected if you link it to the Retail Price Index.

Reversionary legacy  This involves leaving assets to a named beneficiary (for example your spouse) or beneficiaries for them to enjoy in their lifetime; on their death, the whole or specified proportion reverts to the College.

Specific legacy  This is the gift of a specified possession – such as property, valuables, works of art, or stocks and shares – to the College. The legacy can be kept, or sold and the proceeds used for College purposes, as you direct. If you are considering leaving non-monetary items to Emmanuel, it would be helpful if you could contact the Development Director so we can discuss what you have in mind.

Conditional legacy  This involves leaving all or part of your estate to a particular person, but in the event that they die before you then the legacy would come to the College.

If you are a beneficiary under a Will, you can transfer all or part of your inheritance to the College under a Deed of Variation. Gifts thus transferred are free of Inheritance Tax.
INFORMING THE COLLEGE OF YOUR INTENTIONS

We realise that making a Will is a personal matter and you may wish to keep your intentions private. If, however, you were willing to let the College know that you are intending it to benefit in due course, then we would be extremely grateful.

We understand that a pledge is not binding; it is simply a statement of your present intentions, and that circumstances and provisions in a Will might change.

If you were to inform the College of your current thoughts, then it would help us in our planning for the long term; enable us to discuss with you any wishes you have about how your legacy is used, to ensure we meet them as you intend; and let us say thank you to you in your lifetime. All potential legacies are kept strictly confidential, but being able to demonstrate that unnamed Members are remembering us in this way encourages others to do so too.

WE ARE IMMENSELY GRATEFUL to the many Members and friends of Emmanuel who have already made provision for the College in their Wills and thank them all most warmly.