A GIFT TO PEMBROKE IN PERPETUITY
I have put Pembroke in my Will.

Being at Pembroke as an undergraduate and then a postgraduate changed my life. I truly loved being part of the College at that time, I held it dear once I had moved away from Cambridge and, now that I am back as Master, I feel its warmth and energy and purpose all the more. And I want to help future generations to have the same chances that Pembroke gave to me.

I have not made this bequest because of the tax advantages of doing so, though these are clear, nor have I done so simply to join the Matthew Wren Society, though the lifetime benefits of being part of it are many.

I have done so because when I have thought about the places and people that have meant the most to me, there is no question that Pembroke is at the heart of these. It is a privilege to be part of a place so ancient and yet now so modern and far-sighted; I am fortunate to be able play my role in shaping Pembroke as it presently stands, so that when my days are regarded as “ancient times”, the College will still be here, still thriving, still leading, still supporting its people and its place.

Benefaction by bequest has always, is now and will ever be vital in that purpose: large or modest, such gifts leave a permanent legacy for the College to cherish and use: to enhance the fabric and facilities of the College; to support teaching and learning, students and Fellows; and to benefit current and future generations, to provide them with the very best education, and to help them go out to change the world.

Lord Chris Smith
Everything the College does is founded on legacies: buildings have been built and are maintained, teaching posts, bursaries and awards are endowed. The history of making a bequest to Pembroke stretches back to the earliest days of the College, and the future will depend on such generosity just as much.

Legacies constitute a vital source of income for the College. Large or modest, all legacy gifts are invested in the Endowment, the capital of which remains unspent. As such, legacies exist in perpetuity, and their value is preserved for future generations.

By making a bequest, benefactors help to secure Pembroke’s financial stability, so that the College can stay true to its values of promoting academic endeavour, a supportive teaching environment and an enriched university experience, whatever challenges are thrown before it.

Today, legacies are more important to the College than ever. The funding of Higher Education has been insecure for three decades and this both underlines the importance of the wise husbandry of our current endowment and highlights the need for it to grow, and grow significantly. Pembroke may be faced with difficult choices ahead, but with your support, we can act with confidence.
In 1637, the lawyer Robert Hitcham (1587), on the advice of Matthew Wren (1601), bought the castle, manor and advowson of Framlingham in Suffolk and left them by Will to the College, at the same time making the College trustees for other charitable bequests which he had planned. Despite the subsequent confusion caused by the English Civil War, Wren was able to ensure that the income from the properties provided for the construction of the Hitcham Cloisters in Old Court and the Hitcham Building in Ivy Court.

Making a Will is an important thing to do for your own peace of mind. At the same time, knowing that people intend to leave a legacy to Pembroke enables the College to plan for the future. Once you have made provision for your family and friends, please consider leaving a charitable bequest to Pembroke. Legacies can be made in whichever way suits your circumstances best, while the benefit to the College is evident. Moreover, simply informing Pembroke that you plan to leave a gift in your Will, even if you are not able to attribute a value to it, is a vital step in helping us manage our long-term finances.

Those who inform the College of their intention to leave a legacy to Pembroke are invited to join the Matthew Wren Society. The Society meets annually in Pembroke for a lunch, when the College thanks its members for making such an important decision.
INCLUDING PEMBROKE IN YOUR WILL

Pembroke is a registered charity (no. 1137492). By remembering the College in your Will you can reduce the taxable value of your assets and so reduce the amount of inheritance tax payable on your estate. Gifts may be in the form of money, property, or other valuables.

NEXT STEPS

1. Make a list of your assets — Estimate the value of your estate including your house, savings, shares and life insurance.

2. Decide who will benefit — Which people and organisations do you want to benefit from your estate?

3. Decide what sort of gifts to leave to whom — When you have this list decide which form of legacy would be most beneficial.

4. Choose your executors — These are people who will ensure that your wishes are completed. You are allowed to nominate up to four executors and they can be beneficiaries of the Will.

5. Choose your solicitors — Although making a Will can be a relatively straightforward process, it is important that you consult a solicitor and arrange for them to:
   i Keep your Will in a safe place.
   ii Review it on a regular basis.

The image of the laurel tree comes from Matthew Wren’s Benefactors’ Book, which he produced to acknowledge the Members and friends who had supported the Library, from the earliest records of the College to his own day. The yellow leaves each bear the name of a deceased benefactor, while the green leaves were inscribed with the names of living benefactors.