Exhibit D6 to CLAG's alternatives, justification and public benefits paper (24 September 2026): pages from the College's own publications and web pages

Filed with CLAG's alternatives, justification and public benefits paper, for the public register of application 26/02109/FUL.

Each page is reproduced as published or as captured on the date stated; web pages read on 9 September 2026 are reproduced as their text, navigation and menus omitted. Each page carries its item number, its source and its page in this exhibit. The items:

1. Item D6.1: Pieces 48 (Autumn 2025), the College's newsletter, page 2: a 100% increase in study space compared with the current Working Library (page 3).
2. Item D6.2: Pieces 49 (Lent Term 2026), page 2: one motivation for replacing the library; the Y Building, Lloyd Room and Plumb Auditorium; "safe, clean, and vacant" (page 4).
3. Item D6.3: the College's Annual Report 2023 to 2024, page 21: the Governing Body considered two options for the location of a replacement library (page 5).
4. Item D6.4: Christ's College Magazine 2025, page 4: the 2011 design rejected because it included a basement (page 6).
5. Item D6.6: the MICA Architects page for the Christ's College masterplan, captured 25 July 2026, page 5 of the capture: a new library and study constellation (page 7).
6. Item D6.7: the Third Court Library page, christs.cam.ac.uk, captured 29 October 2025, pages 1 and 2 of the capture: more than 50 study spaces; in use for the next three years (pages 8 to 9).
7. Item D6.9: the Plumb Auditorium page, christs.cam.ac.uk/facilities/plumb-auditorium, text as read on 9 September 2026: additional quiet study space in the summer term; the lift in Yusuf Hamied Court (page 10).
8. Item D6.10: the Bursar's published answers, 24 July 2025, christs.cam.ac.uk, Library+ questions and answers, captured 25 July 2026, page 3 of the capture: no new basement space; the nature of the required space has shifted (page 11).
9. Item D6.11: the College's visiting page, text as read on 9 September 2026, and the College Guide of July 2026, page 4 (pages 12 to 14).
10. Item D6.12: the Internet Archive captures of the College's visiting page, 20 July 2019 and 5 July 2022, text as read on 9 September 2026: grounds open 09:00 to 16:00; the Old Library open on Tuesdays and Thursdays (pages 15 to 19).
11. Item D6.13: Cambridge University Libraries, LibGuides, the colleges with libraries regularly open to the public, text as read on 9 September 2026 (pages 20 to 22).
12. Item D6.14: Trinity College Library, Visitors: the Wren Library open to visitors since 1695, weekdays, free, text as read on 9 September 2026 (page 23).
13. Item D6.15: Open Cambridge, Tour of the Bodley Library, Friday 11 September 2026, text as read on 9 September 2026 (pages 24 to 27).

14. Item D6.16: Rick Mather Architects, feasibility study for the College (2010), pages 12 to 14: the shop option rejected for dwarfing Christ's Lane; the library option lower and clear of the sight lines from First Court (pages 28 to 30).
15. Item D6.17: the College's Library+ fundraising page, captured 14 January 2026, page 2 of the capture: the Upper Hall extension as additional study space at peak demand (page 31).

welcome

FROM THE MASTER

Welcome to the Spring issue of *Pieces*.

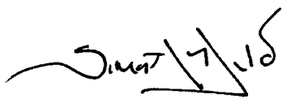
It turns out that the most exciting event at Christ's in 2025 actually took place at Easter last year. These days the BBC record a series of *University Challenge* in three mammoth sessions to broadcast at their extended leisure. In the spring of 2024, various people around College had an inkling that our team had progressed to the final session of the series, because the four contestants needed permission to absent themselves from Cambridge and, when quizzed, spilled the beans to their supervisors.

By the end of January, the episodes showing Anniko, Brendan, Linus and (captain) Oscar win their first and second round matches had aired. Christ's proceeded smoothly through to the semi-finals having seen off Warwick and Imperial (for my money the second best team in the competition). Bristol put up only token resistance to the Christ's juggernaut in the semis.

At no point did any team member betray the result to me, but I noted that they all responded with alacrity when I suggested a College screening of the Grand Final. On 12 May, I joined about 200 students and Fellows, crammed into the Yusuf Hamied Theatre. The team sat on the front row in the same order they appeared on screen, all as cool as cucumbers. After the first 'starter for ten' and three bonus questions, Christ's had 25 points, Brendan's knowledge of Sardinian history helping us to a perfect start. I settled back to enjoy a rout; after all, we'd already beaten Warwick.

The next twenty minutes didn't go according to plan. With four minutes to go, Warwick had 175 points to the 115 of Christ's. I began composing a speech of consolation in my head: "amazing achievement even to reach the Final, first time since 1970… a series of dazzling performances but pipped at the post." But then something extraordinary happened. With hundreds roaring their support, the Christ's team answered every starter and racked up the bonus points, while the Warwick captain also incurred a five-point penalty.

With seconds left, the score stood at Christ's 170, Warwick 170. Anniko had just identified Agamemnon as Menelaus's brother and the team moved on to the bonus questions, all about royal names. Brendan unerringly identified 'Frederick' as the given name of George II's eldest son, and whispered the answer 'Alexandrina' as Queen Victoria's first name. Answering for the team, Oscar corrupted that slightly to 'Alexandrine', and we all groaned when Amol Rajan refused to accept the mispronunciation. What we didn't appreciate was that at this point in the taping there was a lengthy pause as the boffins argued whether the answer was close enough. We heard only the unfavourable outcome. The last bonus question listed a king's seven Christian names, but the gong sounded before anyone could answer. Christ's had won *University Challenge* for the first time in 54 seasons. Wonderful!



McDonald of Salford

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FRONT COVER IMAGE: Paul Everest

PHOTOGRAPHY:
Pages 5 and 10: Stephen Bond
Page 8: ITV-Lifted Entertainment
Page 15: Paul Everest

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DESIGN AND PRINT MANAGEMENT:
Andy Harvey Design Limited

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news

The planning application for our newly configured library space was submitted in May. If approved, the project will transform an unsightly and impractical part of the College into a beautiful, light-filled library within an inclusive and fully accessible environment in which our students can thrive. It will provide a 100% increase in study space compared with the current Working Library, as well as help meet the College's sustainability and environmental targets on the pathway to net-zero carbon emissions. More information can be found on the College website!

A portrait of Professor Margaret Stanley was unveiled in the Hall in July. The portrait was painted by Miriam Escofet, a member of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters who painted the late Queen Elizabeth II in 2019. This is the first time Professor Stanley has had her portrait painted, and after the unveiling she remarked: "I think that it is a stunning portrait, I look happy, and I am delighted that the artist saw me this way. It was made very enjoyable by Miriam who was so easy to talk to, funny, interesting and totally engaging. She made the sittings a positive experience." Professor Stanley was awarded an OBE in 2004 for services to virology in honour of her research into human papillomavirus (HPV), the cause of cervical cancer, and vaccines to prevent HPV infection.

It was a pleasure to welcome alumni back to College in March for a *Treasures of the Old Library* event, showcasing some of our recently conserved Coptic manuscripts. Conservator Flavio Marzo was on hand to talk about the process and techniques involved, and we were also joined by Egyptologist Dr Alex Loktionov who spoke about his research into Ancient Egyptian justice and religion. Another *Treasures of the Old Library* event is lined up on 4 December – all welcome!

welcome

FROM THE MASTER

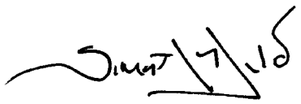
Welcome to Issue 49 of *Pieces*.

After visiting alumni in the US, I returned to the finest sight Cambridge has to offer – the wisteria in full purple bloom on the front of the Master's Lodge. If ever you need your spirits reviving, I recommend a quick trip to Christ's in springtime. This year the flowering wisteria is the finishing touch to a newly resplendent First Court: work which started before my time has come to a head. The third and final stage of roof replacement is complete, gleaming Collyweston tiles – some new, others renovated – adorn all of the Court. The beautiful Bodley Library, housing our manuscripts and early printed books, has been restored and the book stacks replaced. The refurbished Porters' Lodge looks wonderful; the fragrance of new oak will be fleeting but the shelves, stone floor, parcel room, and upgraded facilities will last for generations. The last piece of the jigsaw is the Chapel, where all the carpentry in the vestry has been replaced. The memorial to Finch and Baines next to the altar is still swathed in scaffolding; the marble will emerge in a few weeks' time, restored, and cleaned. Come and see!

In College, as in life, good news is balanced by… not so good news. Having secured planning permission for our new working library in November 2025, the opponents of our design took Cambridge City Council to a judicial review for alleged shortcomings in the process. The High Court accepted that the Council had a case to answer in February, and after several twists and turns, it seems that – even if everything goes smoothly from here – we are unlikely to be able to start work in 2026. The judge who accepted the request for review reminded us that we've been here for more than 500 years; we are used to occasional adversity, we will cope with delay. But it would have been better for our students (and, frankly, cheaper) if we had been able to demolish the 1970s building this summer.

One motivation for replacing the library is to increase study space for students. Among the learnings from the pandemic is that young people do not thrive when they study in isolation; they learn better and are happier when they study with others. Until the new library is built, temporary study space is available in the Y Building, Lloyd Room and Plumb Auditorium; to that we now add… the existing library, months after it was closed for demolition. The structure is safe, clean, and vacant; we might as well use it. Members of Christ's are known for their resilience, flexibility, and imagination. In the library saga, we are drawing on all our virtues!

Last, one of this issue's interviewees is Vis Navaratnam. Thanks to the generosity of alumna Sukanya Rajaratnam, a portrait of Vis by Rosie Phillips will soon join the new portrait of Margaret Stanley on the walls of the College. Portraits of Susan Bayly and Theresa Marteau will follow.



McDonald of Salford

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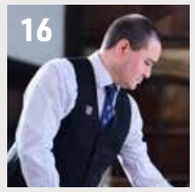

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FRONT COVER IMAGE: Paul Everest

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news

TAKING SILK

© RORY LINDSAY

Back in March, 96 barristers were formally bestowed the title of King's Counsel (KC) at a ceremony at Westminster Hall. Of the 96 'taking silk' that day, four happened also to be Christ's alumni – **Richard Mott** (m. 2000), **Anna Pope** (m. 2001), **David Lowe** (m. 2003) and **Gareth Weetman** (m. 1995) – congratulations to all.

NOBEL NUMBER FIVE

© UC BERKELEY

In December, alumnus and Honorary Fellow **John Clarke** (m. 1961) received the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics alongside Michel Devoret and John Martinis, in recognition of "the discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit". John studied Natural Sciences at Christ's before undertaking much of his PhD research at the Royal Society Mond Laboratory on Free School Lane. Although born in Cambridge, since 1968 he has been based at the University of California, Berkeley.

John is the fifth Nobel laureate with a connection to Christ's, following in the footsteps of Alexander Todd (Fellow and Master), who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1957; James Meade (Fellow), awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1977; Martin Evans (m. 1960), awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 2007; and most recently Duncan Haldane (m. 1970), who also received the Nobel Prize for Physics, in 2016.

A TRIPLE CENTURY!

Since our last edition of *Pieces*, three Christ's alumni have celebrated reaching the age of 100! **David Ashburner** and **John Jervois**, who both joined the College in 1948, reached their centuries on 21st April. They share their birthday with the late Queen Elizabeth II, who would also have turned 100 this year. To mark the occasion, John attended a reception at Buckingham Palace where he was presented with a card from King Charles and met with other members of the royal family, including Catherine, Princess of Wales.

Beating them to the milestone was **Gabriel Roth** (m. 1950), who turned 100 in February and to the best of our knowledge is our oldest living alumnus!

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2. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The College is currently reviewing its plans for the future and a refreshed strategy will be considered by Council and Governing Body during 2024/25. However, no major changes to the scale or nature of its education and research activities are anticipated in the foreseeable future. Activity will continue to support the University's Access and Participation commitments. The demand from students for pastoral care continues to grow and the College will continue to prioritise the provision of strong tutorial support, enhanced well-being provision, and specialist counselling and mental health services. It is increasingly difficult for those of our postgraduates who cannot be accommodated in College-owned properties to find decent and affordable rooms in Cambridge's over-heated private rental market; we continue to look for opportunities to purchase additional properties near to the main College site suitable for postgraduate accommodation.

Current tuition fees fall well short of the cost of educating our undergraduates and the shortfall increases with each year that the home fee is frozen by Government. As a consequence, our reliance on commercial income and philanthropic support continues to increase.

The major project to replace the First Court roofs with new Collyweston tiles, improve insulation, and renew mechanical and electrical installations, is now moving into its final phase (between the Great Gate and the Chapel). This work will continue for the next 2 years and includes preparing for low temperature heating systems to accommodate future heat pump plans for the domus site. During this time the Porters' Lodge will be relocated temporarily to the old Law Library. A rolling programme of refurbishment work in the College's hostels, including improving insulation and replacing gas boilers with air-source heat pumps, continues with work underway on 3 further hostels in Jesus Lane and Willis Road. These projects across our built estate will contribute to reducing our energy usage and carbon emissions – a vital contribution to the College's approach to sustainability.

A comprehensive space planning exercise for the domus site was undertaken last year, with recommendations presented to Governing Body in autumn 2023. The masterplan confirmed the need for a significant expansion of flexible study space and the Governing Body re-affirmed its commitment to replacing the existing working library. The Governing Body considered two options for the location of a replacement library and decided it should be built on the site of the current working library. A design competition was held in early 2024 and Grafton Architects have been appointed to design the new library. The Project will also include connection to the Bodley Library (and through it to the Archives and Muniments Room), a revitalised Bath Court, an expanded and improved Upper Hall, and refurbished and electrified Kitchens. Other opportunities emerging from the space planning activity will inform future development priorities.

Fundraising to support College operations, enhance student welfare, and deliver our development priorities will be a focus over the coming years. I am grateful to our generous alumni donors for their ongoing support.

Simon McDonald

The Lord McDonald of Salford
Master
Christ's College
Cambridge

College news

Letter from the Master

Lord McDonald of Salford

Three years in, three thoughts are uppermost in my mind as Master of Christ's.

First, is the idea of custodianship. The Master, Fellows and staff are custodians of an ethos which stretches back five centuries. We want to be the best at everything that matters. The fact that Milton, Darwin, Oppenheimer, and Todd were here before us makes that ambition plausible.

Second is the idea of renewal. We are not simply trying to keep things ticking over, we are trying to improve them. This year, Governing Body agreed a refresh of our College strategy, which aims to make Christ's (a) greener, (b) more accessible to excellent candidates from under-represented backgrounds, (c) better for postgraduates, and (d) a haven for students fleeing conflict. We recommitted ourselves to academic excellence and to equality of opportunity.

Our building priorities derive in part from the 'green' objective. In the mid-1970s (in the teeth of opposition from Jack Plumb) the Fellowship chose to build a new student library. Talking to returning students at reunion dinners this autumn, it is clear that the building suffered problems from the start. Fifty years later, it is falling down. In my first year, we decided to replace it; in my second, we ran a competition to choose architects to design the replacement; and in my third year, Grafton have produced a beautiful design, which we submitted for planning permission before the summer break. That process is reaching its climax.

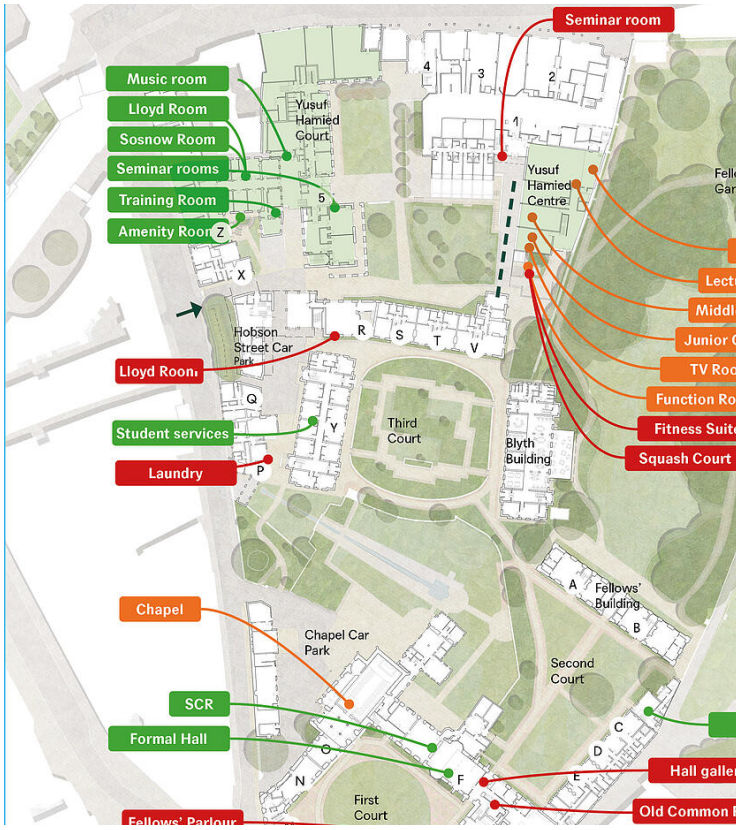
At the Planning Committee meeting on 23 October, I had three minutes to make our case. I said: 'We need this building. We have over 700 students and right now offer them inadequate study space. We considered carefully all possible options within our Domus site and concluded that by far the best was to replace the existing and crumbling library, which – among its many shortcomings – cold shoulders the city. The ugliest part of our perimeter is the unbroken brick of the library wall along Christ's Lane. We rejected the design given planning permission in 2011 because it included a basement. These days we are more aware of the disruption to a historic site that digging entails, and the massive extra carbon. The new design is just eight feet taller than the old one, and still not quite as high as the building on the other side of the lane. We can build now because of the generosity of our principal donor. He asked just one thing of us – to get cracking. With your help, we'll do just that and enhance the built environment of Cambridge with the loveliest library of the twenty-first century.'

Third is the realisation that academic rigour must be defended in the 2020s. Facts matter. The truth must be tested; it can be argued over but never simply asserted. This is what students learn at Christ's. No matter what they do next, the lessons learnt here help them. Of course, every college and university would claim that, but – three years in – I think we fulfil that requirement particularly well. I'm biased, but our results speak for themselves: 91% of finalists achieved good honours (Firsts and 2:1s) – the best result in Cambridge; and for the second year running, we came second to Trinity in the Tompkins Table. To quote one of my favourite correspondents: 'Onwards!'

Simon McDonald of Salford

Grafton Architects

Impression of the new Library



Access plan

Spatial Efficiency

Improvements are put forward that improve efficiency of space, provide new space including a new library and study constellation, consolidate uses and--above all--improve the quality and environment of a number of important existing spaces in College. Improving teaching, Fellows' accommodation, support, and study provisions are balanced with improvements to social, communal and opportunities to improve wellbeing.

6 captures
8 Oct 2025 - 29 Oct 2025
2024 29 2025 2026
About this capture

CHRIST'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Third Court Library at Christ's is open, located on the ground floor of the Y Building.

It is a working Library for students, Fellows, and staff of the College. It contains approximately 30,000 books and provides more than 50 study spaces.

We use cookies and process personal data for the following purposes: **Functional, Embedded external content & Analytics**.

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6 captures
8 Oct 2025 - 29 Oct 2025
2024 29 2025 2026
About this capture

CHRIST'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

…elcoming Library for the C… …spect."

Induction tours for new and returning students will take place over the next fortnight.

Students in the Library Reading Room © Daniel Oliver Photography

The Third Court Library will remain in use for the next three years while the College realises its ambitious plans to build a new Library designed by award-winning Grafton Architects.

The College currently awaits planning permission for the Library+ project.

Michael Parsons, Bursar, said:

> *"Christ's College is proud of the Library+ Project which will provide a fully accessible modern Library building with increased study space for students.*
>
> *We are committed to working with all partners to implement this exciting initiative fit for the 21st century."*

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The Plumb Auditorium (christs.cam.ac.uk/facilities/plumb-auditorium)

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The Plumb Auditorium | Christs College Cambridge

Skip to main content

T he old Cambridge County Hall on Hobson's Street was built in 1913. After the Council moved out, it was purchased by Christ's and refurbished (as part of Z staircase / the Todd Building) in 1985-86, and this included the Plumb Auditorium. You get quite a surprise when you walk into the Plumb Auditorium as this is a large, ornate (and colourful!) room, having originally been the Council Chamber.

As a student you don't tend to use the Plumb Auditorium much in day-to-day life, however it's used for events such as the freshers' fair and during the summer term it is important as the room is normally made available as an additional quiet study space. This is particularly valuable for students with accommodation in the same building or those looking for a change of workspace to mix things up a bit. Sometimes large meetings may scheduled in the room too, as it is a usefully large size.

The Plumb Auditorium was named in honour of Sir John Plumb, FBA (1911-2001), eminent scholar, Professor of Modern English History, Fellow of Christ's (1946-1978), and Master (1978-1982). During the Second World War he worked as an analyst on the ULTRA signals intelligence operation at Bletchley Park. Plumb was a prolific writer, and a major authority on the Stuart and Georgian periods of English history.

How to find the Plumb Auditorium

The Plumb Auditorium is in the Todd Building (also known as Z staircase).

Here's a College map showing the way from the Great Gate (our main entrance) to the Todd Building. You'll walk through First Court, Second Court, Third Court and be careful as you cross the little staff car park.

The entrance to the Todd Building is via a path from the small car park, seen here.

You go up a few steps and in the red door.

If you have a mobility difficulty and need a route to the Plumb auditorium that does not involve stairs, see section about using the lift on this page.

Once inside the Todd Building (Z), you'll find the stairs through the glass doors at the end of the corridor. The Plumb Auditorium is on the top (third) floor so please go all the way up the stairs.

If you need to use a lift

If you cannot manage stairs and need a lift, please instead go to the Yusuf Hamied Court entrance (it's number 5 on the College map). As Yusuf Hamied Court is joined to the Todd Building, it is possible to get to the Plumb Auditorium that way.

You'll find a lift straight in front of you as you enter Yusuf Hamied Court. Please go up to level five, and you'll find the Plumb Auditorium through the double doors into the Todd Building.

Freshers' Societies Fair

Facilities page / Hall / Function Room / OCR / Theatre / First Court / Second Court / Third Court / New Court

-->

Related

Grounds and Facilities

CHRIST'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Artistic impression of Christ's Lane with new Library facade from St Andrew's Street © Hayes Davidson.

How long will the Project take?

The scaffolding on Great Gate will come down in early 2026 which means the end of our careful refurbishment of Grade 1 listed First Court. Over the past five years, it has been completely re-roofed using Collyweston tiles, with improved insulation, fire-proofing and upgraded services throughout.

Subject to planning permission, this will enable us to begin demolition of the existing Library in July 2026 and we hope to open the new Library in October 2028.

The College submitted plans for a new Library back in 2011 and 2016. What has changed?

Our needs and priorities have changed over the past decade in line with the wider society, with greater focus on being an accessible, sustainable and environmentally-aware College. As a result, the new plans do not include any new basement space. And although the need for additional study space has not diminished, the nature of the required space has shifted, particularly since COVID.

Our unique location in the heart of the historic city makes this ambitious project a logistical and technical challenge but we are confident that these plans make the best use of the space in College and enhance the experience of Christ's Lane.

Related

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Visiting Christ's (christs.cam.ac.uk/about/visiting-christs)

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Visiting Christ's | Christs College Cambridge

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In this section

How to get to Christ's

Group Visits

Visitors are welcome to explore the College and its grounds. Apart from the Chapel, visitors are not able to enter any College buildings. Please note that these details are subject to change at any time; in particular, the College or the Fellows' Garden are sometimes closed for functions and other events.

PLEASE NOTE: The College may be closed to visitors at short notice.

Opening Times:

College Grounds 09.00-12.00, 7 days a week

Fellows' Garden 09.00-12.00, Monday to Friday

Download the College Guide & Map .

Visitors are also welcome to attend the Choral Evensong services held in the College Chapel - these occur during term, on Thursdays at 6.45pm and on Sundays at 6pm. See the Chapel pages for more details.

The College is open all year round, except during the Christmas close down and during the Quiet Period. During the Quiet Period, prior to and during the University examinations, the College is closed to all visitors, including other members of the University, unless they are on College business. The exact dates of the Quiet Period vary from year to year, according to term dates but as a rough guide, the Quiet Period runs from early May to the end of June.

For further information about visiting, please see:

Group visits

Visiting as a prospective undergraduate student

Bed and Breakfast Accommodation

The College Gardens

Visiting for a conference

-->

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The Bodley Library and Exhibition Space

The original College Library was extended by GF Bodley in 1895–97. It houses books from our special collections ranging from medieval herbals and psalters to 20th-century letters. Part of the space has been recently redesigned to create a new exhibition room which is open by appointment to the public. There are sometimes opportunities to drop in so you may find that it is open during your visit.

In 2023, builders working on the renovations rediscovered an early 16th-century wall painting with royal symbols including a crown above the Beaufort portcullis.

The six-metre-wide design, which is partially obscured by a wooden joist, is located in the roof space of what probably formed the north-west wall of the original Library. It has been carefully preserved but remains hidden from public view.

Photography: Helen Hooker Photography / Tobit Curteis Associates LLP

Internet Archive capture of 20 July 2019 of christs.cam.ac.uk/visiting-christs

Text of the page as read on 9 September 2026 at https://web.archive.org/web/20190720012438/https://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/visiting-christs. Reproduced for Exhibit D6 (CLAG, application 26/02109/FUL). Navigation and menus omitted.

Visiting Christ's | Christs College Cambridge

37 captures

20 Jul 2019 - 28 Jun 2026

Jun

JUL

Aug

20

2018

2019

2020

success

fail

About this capture

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Home

Admissions

Undergraduate Admissions

Visiting Christ's

Visiting Christ's

Visiting Christ's

This page sets out the details for prospective students visiting alone or with a family member or two.

Wisteria and the circular lawn in First Court.

Credit: Sir Cam . If you are visiting Cambridge as a prospective student, do come and visit Christ's College! We encourage you to walk around the grounds here, and see what you think. Can you imagine yourself living and studying here as a Cambridge University student?

The entrance to Christ's is on St Andrew's Street, so we are quite easy to find once you're in the city centre. If you arrive at a time when there is a notice displayed saying that the College is closed, please introduce yourself as a prospective student to the College porters, as they will normally allow you to come in and look around the public areas wherever possible.

As Christ's is an active place of learning and research, we don't allow visitors to enter any of the College buildings. Thanks for your understanding on this - we run a number of open days through the year if you would like a more detailed visit and a guided tour.

Christ's is open at the following times all year, except during the Christmas close down and during our Quiet Period:

College Grounds

09:00 - 16.00

7 Days a week

Fellows' Garden

09.00 - 16.00

Monday to Friday only

The Christmas close down is just a few days at that time of year, and our Quiet Period is for students before and during their end-of-year University exams. At this time, the College is closed to all visitors, including other members of the University, unless they are on College business. The exact dates of the Quiet Period vary from year to year, according to term dates but as a rough guide, it is normally from early May to mid-June.

Please bear in mind that the details here are subject to change at any time, as the College or the Fellows' garden are occasionally closed for functions and other events.

Self-guided tour

You may find this self-guided tour of Christ's helpful to give you a bit of information about College life and the facilities here as you walk around the grounds.

Second Court, walking towards the Fellows' Garden If you would like to speak with an Admissions Officer

If you are in Year 12 or 13, are not able to attend an open day and would like to request a meeting with one of our admissions officers on the day of your visit, please email us in advance to request this. In your email, it would be helpful if you could let us know:

-- what year you're currently in.

-- the name of your current school or college and, if you are an international student, which country you are studying in.

-- which A level, IB or equivalent subjects you are taking.

-- which course you are interested in studying at Cambridge.

We are often able to arrange appointments on weekdays but are not available at the weekends.

If you would like to bring a school group to visit the College

We are always keen to hear from school staff. Please see our outreach and access section for information about our work with schools.

Useful links

Christ's College map

Cambridge University map (online version with search function)

Printable Map of Cambridge

How to get to Christ's

Back to Undergraduate Admissions main page / Why choose Christ's? / Subjects at Christ's / Facilities

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Internet Archive capture of 5 July 2022 of christs.cam.ac.uk/about/visiting-christs

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Visiting Christ's | Christs College Cambridge

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In this section

Group Visits

How to get to Christ's

Visitors are welcome to explore the College and its grounds. Apart from the Chapel, visitors are not able to enter any College buildings. A guide to our opening times is below. (Please note that these details are subject to change at any time; in particular, the College or the Fellows' Garden are sometimes closed for functions and other events.)

Visitors are also welcome to attend the Choral Evensong services held in the College Chapel - these occur during term, on Thursdays (6.45pm) and on Sundays (6pm). See here for more details.

College Grounds

09:00 - 16.00

7 Days a week

Fellows' Garden

09.00 - 16.00

Monday to Friday only

Old Library

14.00 - 16.00

Tuesdays and Thursdays only

Quiet Period, prior to and during the University examinations, the College is closed to all visitors, including other members of the University, unless they are on College business. The exact dates of the Quiet Period vary from year to year, according to term dates but as a rough guide, the Quiet Period runs from early May to mid-June.

For further information about visiting, please see:

Group visits

Visiting the Old Library

Visiting as a prospective undergraduate student

-->

Cambridge University Libraries, LibGuides: Cambridge colleges library and archive exhibitions and events (libguides.cam.ac.uk/collegeexhibitions)

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Regular exhibitions and public opening hours - Cambridge colleges library and archive exhibitions and events - LibGuides at University of Cambridge Subject Libraries

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Cambridge colleges library and archive exhibitions and events: Regular exhibitions and public opening hours

Regular exhibitions and public opening hours

Events and temporary exhibitions

What's on in Cambridge college libraries and archives

This guide features regular and temporary exhibitions in Cambridge colleges and will be updated as new exhibitions and events are announced.

Find more information on the colleges with libraries that are regularly open to the public.

You can also find our more about college libraries and archives that are hosting general events and temporary exhibitions and also exhibitions and events for the Cambridge Festival in March.

-->

Wren Library, Trinity College

https://www.trin.cam.ac.uk/about/visiting

01223 338488

wren.library@trin.cam.ac.uk

Opening hours:

Monday-Friday 12pm-2pm (last admission 1.50)

all year round (except for Christmas: closed 24th December-1st January inclusive ; and the Easter and August bank holidays).

In addition: Saturday 10.30-12.30 (last admission 12.20) between these dates: 17 January – 21 March 2026;

25 April – 20 June 2026

Free

The library is situated on the first floor of an historic building. Regrettably, due to the age of the building, there is no lift access to the library.

Old Library, St John's College

https://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/research/library/old-library

special.collections@joh.cam.ac.uk

Opening hours: Every Wednesday during Term Time, 2-4pm (University members only); entrance via first floor of E staircase, Second Court (see St John's College map). Every year, the Old Library is open to the members of the public for Open Cambridge and the Cambridge Festival.

Free entry

Discover St John's College's 17th-century Old Library, and explore an exhibition of treasures including medieval manuscripts, rare printed books, peculiar artefacts, and personal papers from the Special Collections.

Old Library, Trinity Hall

https://www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/about/library/old-library

01223 332546

library@trinhall.cam.ac.uk

Opening hours: By prior appointment only.

£7.00 per person

There are no regular opening hours, but visits can be arranged by contacting the library with at least 7 days notice. There is lift access to the library.

Parker Library, Corpus Christi College

https://www.corpus.cam.ac.uk/parker-library

01223 338025 or 01223 338000

parker-library@corpus.cam.ac.uk

Opening hours: Mondays to Fridays from 9:45-12:45 and 14:00-16:45. All visits must be pre-arranged.

£10.00

There are regular exhibitions in the Library. General tours may be booked through Eventbrite . Members of the College can visit at other times and bring guests, as long as they arrange this in advance.

Exhibition Area, Library, St John's College

https://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/research/library/exhibitions

01223 339393

special.collections@joh.cam.ac.uk

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm (all year around for members of the University; outside term for members of the public)

Free entry for members of the University; entry included in Admission Ticket for members of the public

Material from St John's College's Special Collections, housed in the 17th-century historic library, is regularly displayed in the Library Exhibition Area, which can be accessed via the ground floor of the Working Library in Chapel Court. On entering the Working Library, turn left and walk through the lobby (see St John's College map). Please check exhibition dates when planning your visit.

Pepys Library, Magdalene College

http://www.magd.cam.ac.uk/pepys

01223 332 115

pepyslibrary@magd.cam.ac.uk

Opening hours:

Closed to the public at present.

Free

The Pepys Library is closed to visitors until 2027 due to refurbishment works to the building. Regrettably, no public drop-in visits, tours or group visits will be possible during the refurbishment period.

address provided. Children under the age of 6 years old are not admitted due to the nature of the library room. The library is situated on the first floor of an historic building. Regrettably, due to the age of the building, there is no lift access to the library. The library also runs guided tours on selected Friday mornings with the Pepys Librarian (booking and payment required).</p>

--->

Old Library, Queens' College

http://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/teaching-learning/library/old-library

http://www.queensoldlibrary.org/

01223 335550

library@queens.cam.ac.uk

Opening hours:

Mondays to Fridays from 10:00-13:00 and 14:00-16:30. All visits must be pre-arranged.

Free

There are regular exhibitions in the Library, open to the public in the afternoon (13:30-16:30) from halfway March to early April for the public, and until May for members of the College. Please consult the website for exact dates. Members of the College can visit at other times and bring guests, as long as they arrange this in advance. The library is situated on the first floor of an historic building. Regrettably, due to the age of the building, there is no lift access to the library. Access through the War Memorial Library.

Contact details

For further details about the exhibitions and events listed above, please use the contact details provided for each college. For more general information about the college libraries in Cambridge, see the Cambridge College Libraries guide .

If you are a Cambridge college library or archive and would like to have your event featured in this guide, please contact: Jenni Lecky-Thompson , Sara Fedeli or Josie Fairley Keast .

Next: Events and temporary exhibitions >>

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URL: https://libguides.cam.ac.uk/collegeexhibitions

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Trinity College Library, Visitors (trin.cam.ac.uk/library/visitors)

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During Open Cambridge, we are open during our standard visitor hours on weekdays as well as 10.00 – 4.00 on Saturday the 12th and 19th of September. No need to book!

Please note that we will be closed to visitors on September 22, 2026.

Visitors and tourists

The Wren Library has been open to visitors since 1695 and so for centuries people have come to admire the beauty of Sir Christopher Wren's architecture and our wonderful collections. In addition to manuscripts and printed books, the Wren houses sculptures, portraits, wood carvings and a stunning enamel-painted window, all of which can be enjoyed by visitors. It is, however, very much a working library at the heart of the College community, and so you will see members of staff and researchers accessing materials at the shelves, sitting in the bays and moving around the space more generally. In May and June, we also host students revising for their exams, and therefore we ask visitors to be mindful and respectful of those using the Library for work purposes.

Opening times for visitors

Monday-Friday 12pm-2pm (last admission 1.50)

all year round (except for Christmas: closed 24th December-3rd January inclusive; and the Easter and August bank holidays).

In addition: Saturday 10.30-12.30 (last admission 12.20) between these dates:

3 October – 5 December 2026

16 January – 20 March 2027

24 April – 19 June 2027

Please note that we will be closed to visitors on 17, 21, 22 and 30 June 2027; and 23 August 2027.

Members of Trinity College are welcome to visit Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

Groups of more than 10 are encouraged to book a visit at a different time.

Accessibility

Visitors should note that the College is an historic site where paths and surfaces may be uneven. The Wren Library is on the first floor and only accessible by stairs; unfortunately there is no lift available. The Wren Library is an historic building and the temperature fluctuates widely across the year; it can be very cold in the winter and very warm in the summer and so we advise you to dress accordingly so that you remain comfortable during your visit. Please also note that there are no public toilets available for visitors. Bags larger than a rucksack (such as trolleys and luggage) will NOT be admitted.

How to get here

Access to the Wren Library is via the Brewhouse Gate at the end of Garret Hostel Lane, just before the Trinity Hall bridge. Sometimes this gate is closed at short-notice and so it may be necessary to access via the Avenue which is just off Queen's Road at the back of the College.

Open Cambridge, Tour of the Bodley Library (opencambridge.cam.ac.uk/events/tour-bodley-library)

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Tour of the Bodley Library | Open Cambridge

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10:00am-10:50am on Friday 11 September

11:00am-11:50am on Friday 11 September

Christ's College Cambridge, Bodley Library and Exhibition Space, St Andrew's Street, CB2 3BU

Visitors will be given a 20 minute tour of the historic Bodley Library by a Librarian from Christ's College. This will be followed by an opportunity to visit a new exhibition displaying the 16th century wallpaper fragments discovered at Christ's College in 1911. These fragments are thought among the oldest known printed wallpaper examples.

Image copyright: Helen Hooker Photography

Booking Information

Pre-book

Please arrive promptly and wait at the Porters' Lodge. We will be unable to admit latecomers. No food, drink or large bags or backpacks may be taken into the Library.

Accessibility

Partial access - please contact us for details

Additional Information

Adults ,

Tour ,

In person ,

free

Event capacity: 10 per tour

Map

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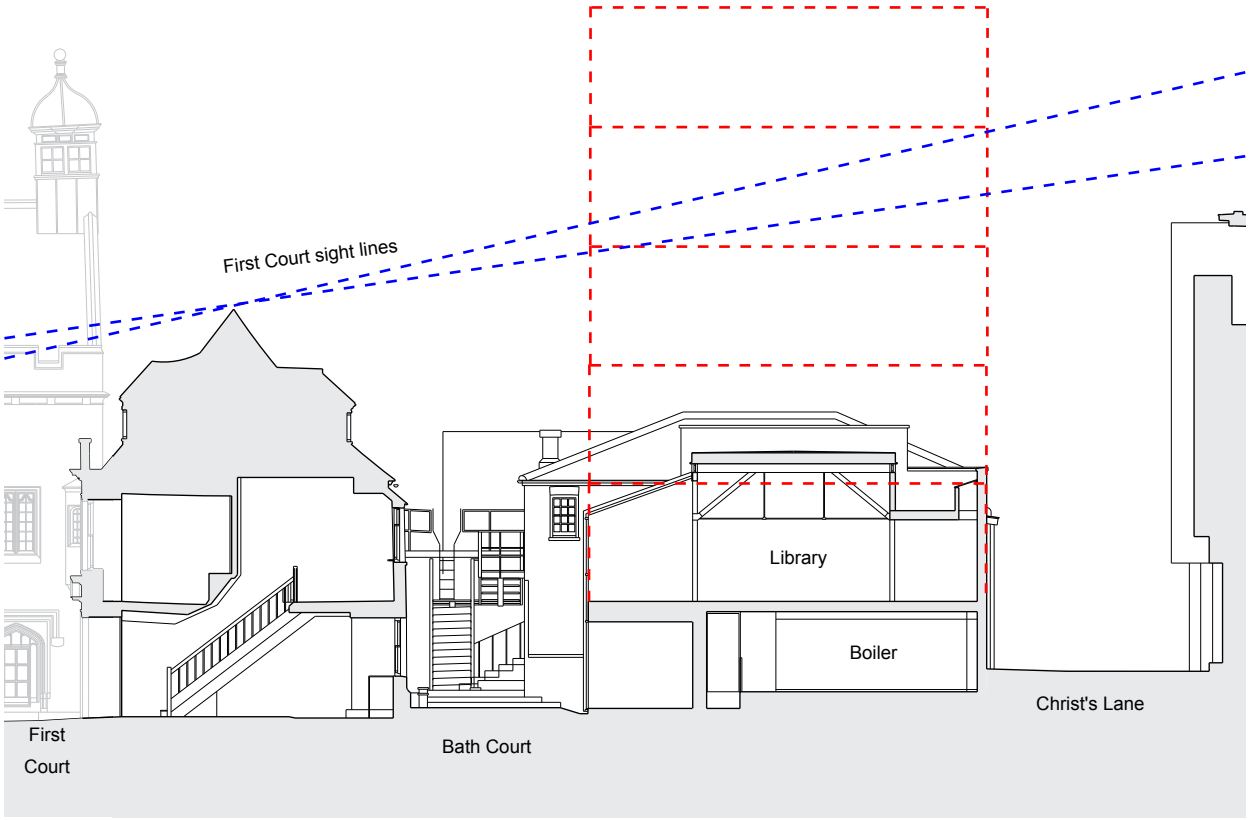
RETAIN EXISTING LIBRARY

The existing library fails to fulfil the needs of the College as outlined earlier in this document.

Refurbishing the existing library and converting the bathrooms into book storage would provide between 1/4 and 1/3 of the stated brief.

The existing library would need to have 4 1/2 floors more to fulfil the brief requirement. However this could not simply be 'added' to the top of the existing structure as it could not support it - it would need to built afresh.

The other issue would be the interruption of sight lines from First Court as shown in the diagram as well as 'overpowering' Christ's Lane.



Section showing existing Library and expansion required to accommodate brief.

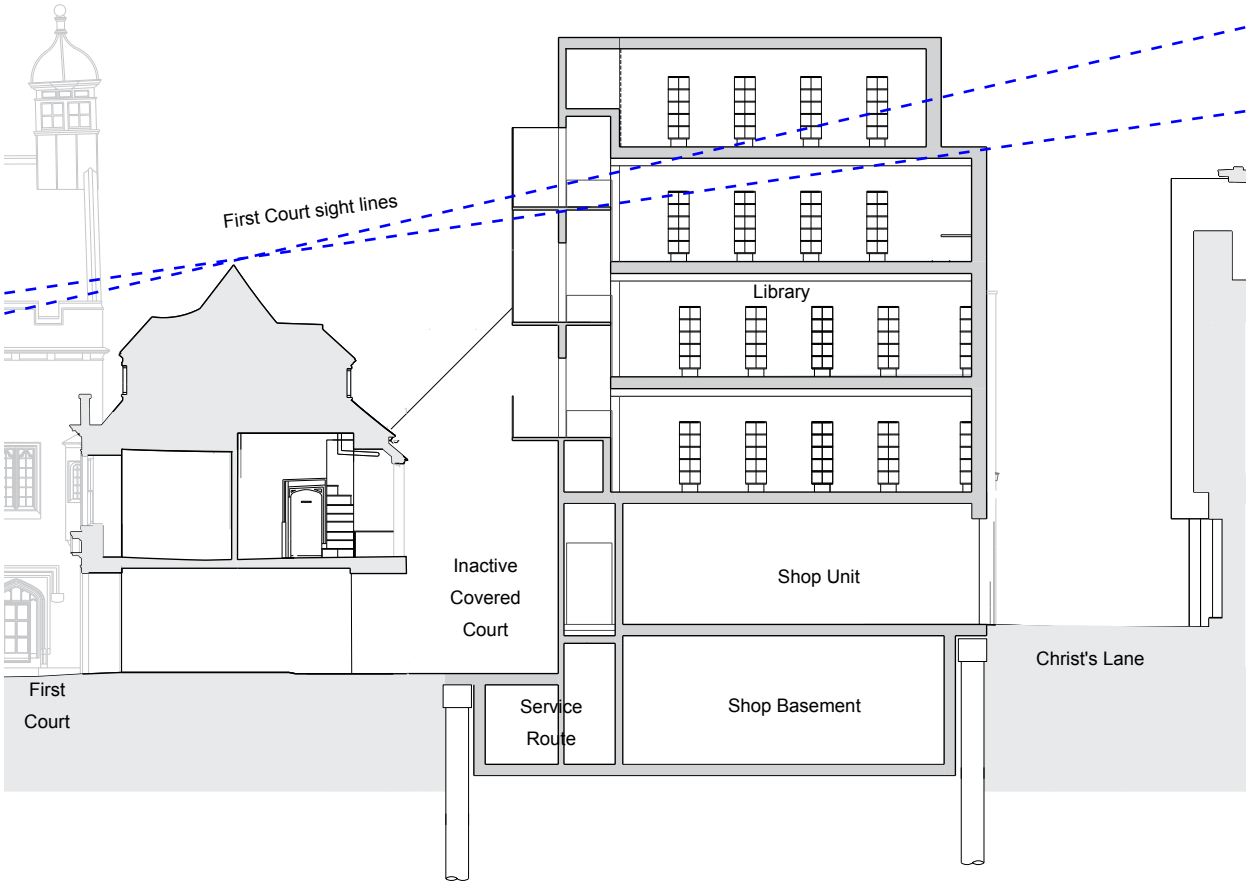
Existing Library facade to Christ's Lane

0 1 2.5 5 10m 1:200

SHOP OPTION

The possibility of incorporating shops into a proposal was explored to help enliven Christ's Lane & provide potential income for the College.

As the section shows incorporating shops means a much larger proposal and also creates a blank facade - the rear of the shops - to College. Because the shops need a large floor-to-ceiling height (higher than a library) in both ground and basement, and the shops' datum is Christ's Lane - 1m above library court - a combined proposal ends up dwarfing Christ's lane and compromising views from First Court.



Section showing combined Shops and Library and relationship to sight lines from First Court

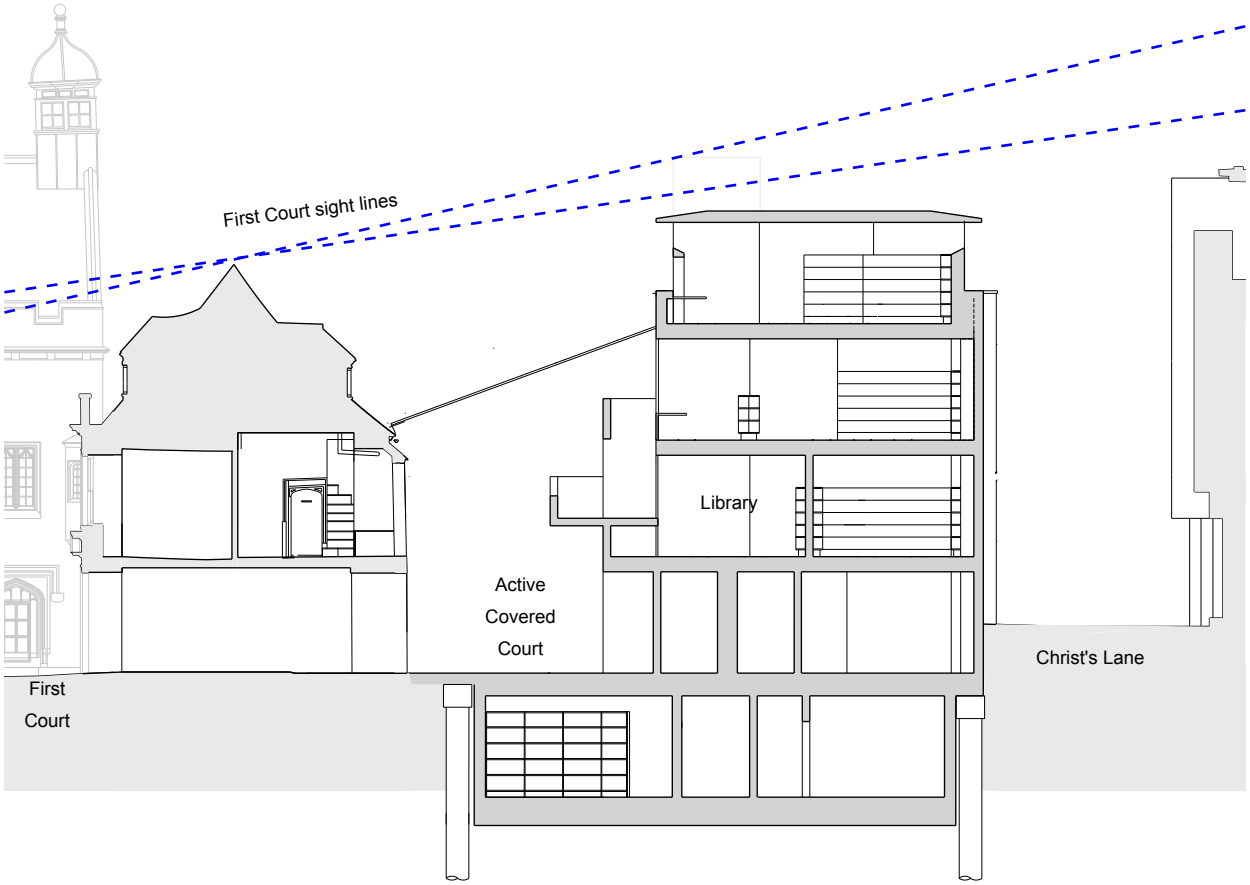
Effect of inserting shops below Library on facade to Christ's Lane

LIBRARY OPTION

The final option places a new build library on the site of the existing library & lecture theatre buildings.

The section shows how the library is lower than the shop option as its datum is library court and the floor-to-ceiling height can be lower. As the library can address library court it is possible to 'activate' this space by covering it and making an interstitial space between the cafe/buttery and the library 'proper' - A new communal space for the College.

It does not interfere with the sight lines from First Court and still provides a level of interaction with Christ's Lane through the use of large bay windows.



Section showing New Library sitting under sight lines from First Court and appropriately scale for Christ's Lane

New Library proposed facade to Christ's Lane

2 captures
26 Sep 2025 - 14 Jan 2026
2025 14 2026 2027 About this capture

CHRIST'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

of Dublin have designed a new Library, Upper Hall,

- A beautiful, light-filled library, with a range of 150 study spaces from an informal 'lounge' to bookable group study, paired desks and individual seats. This represents an increase of 100% on current study space, and includes linking through to the Old Library, to be brought back into everyday use for post-graduate study.
- Outdoor terraces, and a beautifully landscaped Bath Court, including outdoor seating for the Buttery.
- A larger, airy Upper Hall, with an extension that can be, in periods of peak demand such as exam term, opened up as additional study space accessible from the library.
- Lift and step free access to all areas.

Put simply, this project will transform some of the most important central spaces in College to create an environment in which our students can thrive.

The Library+ project is the most significant in our plans and we welcome gifts of all sizes to help us reach the project costs of £29m, with naming opportunities available for a range of spaces.

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