

ALL SOULS COLLEGE

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 July 2006

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ALL SOULS COLLEGE

Report of the Governing Body

The Governing Body of All Souls College presents the annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st July 2006.

Status

The College of All Souls of the Faithful Departed of Oxford, commonly called All Souls College, was founded by King Henry VI, by a Patent of Foundation bearing the date 20th May 1438. With him as co-founder was Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury, by whom the College was endowed and its Statutes issued on 20th April 1443. The College is an exempt charity under section 3(5a) of the Charities Act 1993 (as listed in Schedule 2(b) to the Act).

Objects

The College was originally a foundation designed in part for the offering of prayers for all the souls of the faithful departed who died in the French wars and in part to promote the study of philosophy and arts, theology, and civil and canon law. Today the College is dedicated to academic research and teaching, with emphasis on the humanities, social and theoretical sciences. Its Fellows are committed to the interests of the College as a place of learning and to the promotion of the highest standards in scholarship, in education and in ways that may include service outside the University, in society generally.

Governance

The Governing Body of the College comprises the Warden and Fellows. The Warden is the head of the College and superintends the government of the College and the management of its assets, but may not act in important matters without the authority of a College meeting. The Bursar is responsible for overseeing the College's financial affairs and domestic arrangements, taking guidance from the relevant College Committees and Sub-Committees on most matters. The Governing Body is constituted and regulated in accordance with the College's Statutes. The Visitor of the College is the Archbishop of Canterbury. The College Statutes are as approved from time to time by order of Her Majesty in Council in accordance with the Royal Charter of 1438 and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act 1923.

The Warden and Fellows, at the Stated General Meetings of the College held at least once each term, undertake overall responsibility for the ongoing strategic direction of the College, for its administration and for the management of its finances and assets. Advice is given to the Warden and Fellows by a range of committees including the Academic Purposes, Benefices, Domestic, Estates & Finance, General Purposes, Library and Visiting Fellowship Committees.

Scope of financial statements

The financial statements consolidate the accounts of All Souls College and its sole subsidiary undertaking, the Chichele Property Company Limited. The latter owns property in Stanton Harcourt, Oxford, the income from which is used exclusively for charitable purposes. The Chichele Property Company represents the only factor which distinguishes 'College' and 'Consolidated' figures in the financial statements.

Review of operations and finance

All Souls College is unusual in that virtually all of its income is derived from its endowment. The College has no junior members, and therefore attracts no income, either from government or private bodies associated with the provision of teaching for graduate or undergraduate students.

The Estates & Finance Committee, with assistance from its Investment and Property Sub-Committees, oversees the management of the endowment and the finances of the College. It meets once a term, and reviews an investment report and management accounts prepared by the Bursar and Accountant. The endowment is managed on a "total return" basis, and the College is indifferent to whether gains are achieved through capital growth or income. College expenditure is budgeted according to a programme of sustainable spending, derived from a formula based on the size of the College's endowment over a number of years.

The College maintains cash balances sufficient to enable it to operate flexibly at any point in time. It has undertaken one major project involving capital expenditure in the past five years, namely the renovation of the Codrington Library in 2001 and 2002, at a cost of nearly £3 million. In January 2004 it purchased four new flats for a consideration of approximately £1.7 million in order to house its Visiting Fellows, and in May 2006 it spent another £1.6 million to acquire a house near the College which will be used for more studies for Emeritus and other Fellows. Such capital expenditure is depreciated over a 20 year period.