



Christ's College Gardens

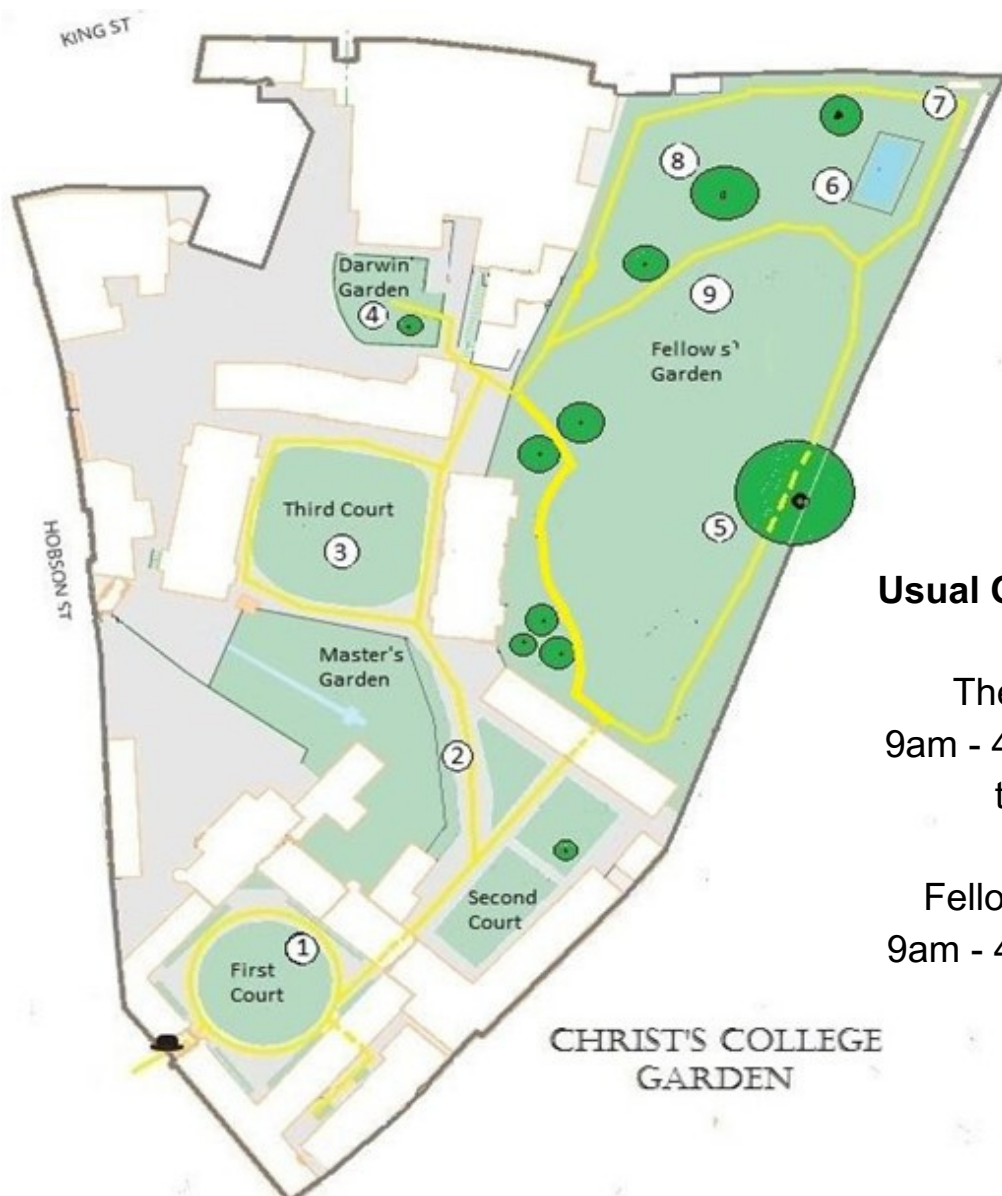


Visitors' Guide
Spring - Summer

Welcome to the Gardens

Welcome to Christ's College
A place full of history and beauty.

Christ's College Gardens are open to the public free of charge. Entry to the College is through the Great Gate on St Andrew's Street. The Gardens include botanically important trees, shrubs, and borders, as well as sculptures and artwork.



Usual Opening Times

The College:
9am - 4pm throughout
the week

Fellows' Garden:
9am - 4pm Monday to
Friday

First & Second Court

First Court

This court, the oldest part of the College, was mainly built around 1505, and surrounds a circular lawn - the only one of its type in any Cambridge College. The enclosed nature of this court creates a microclimate that allows us to grow tender specimen plants. The court is bordered by a variety of shrubs.

A magnificent *Wisteria sinensis* (pictured right), thought to be around 200 years old, covers the south-facing wall.



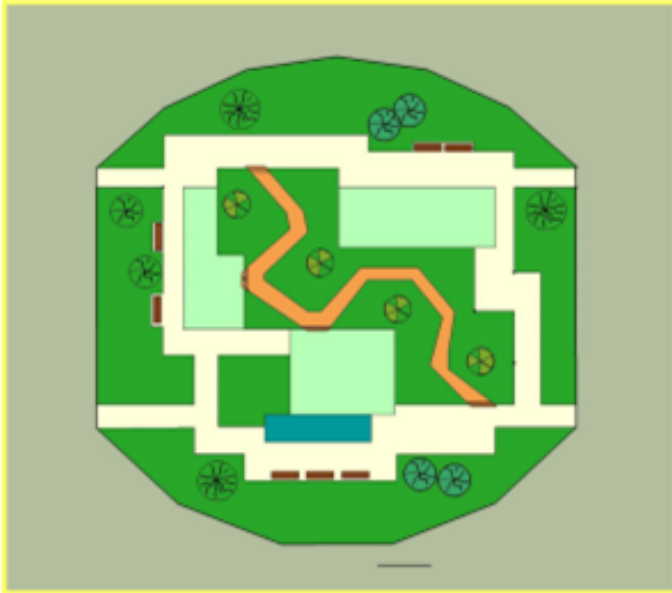
Second Court

Second Court consists of formal lawns bordered by informal planting. There is a long herbaceous border on the western side of the court (pictured left), and the buildings are bordered by seasonal bedding.

In summer fruit and vegetables are grown in the borders against the buildings.



Third Court and the Botanical Collection



The garden in Third Court was redesigned in 2019 to host two botanical collections of Irises and Salvias.

New elements added to the design include a pond and lawns, as detailed on the plan (pictured left).

Irises. The Court features an extensive collection of Irises, started in 1946 when the College received a large number of Irises from Mrs Zeligman. Today, the garden contains more than 60 different Iris species (pictured right, *bearded irises*).



Salvias. A new collection of salvias has been started in recent years to complement the irises in texture and colour.

We currently feature 45 different species (pictured left, *Salvia confertiflora*).

The Darwin Garden

The Darwin Garden, was created in 2009 to commemorate Charles Darwin's revolutionary contribution to the Natural Sciences, as part of the celebrations for the Bicentenary of Darwin's birth.

The garden features a statue (pictured right) of the naturalist by alumnus Anthony Smith (matriculated 2002).



The garden contains a selection of plants that Darwin would have encountered on his voyage aboard the HMS Beagle between 1831 and 1883. Examples include *Kniphofia uvaria* 'Nobilis' and *Echium pininana* (pictured below).



The Fellows' Garden

In 1825 this two-acre plot was redesigned with informal borders, shrubs, trees, and winding paths, reflecting the ideas of Scottish botanist J.C. Loudon, whose intention was “*to display the individual beauty of trees, shrubs and plants in a state of nature.*”



Beside the path, on the east side of the Fellows' Garden, stands a *Platanus x hispanica* (pictured bottom left). This enormous tree is thought to be more than 200 years old, and is one of the largest specimens in Cambridge.

The Malcolm Bowie Bathing Pool (pictured bottom centre) is situated on the north side of the garden. The pool is said to date from the mid-18th century, which would make it one of the oldest swimming pools in the country.

The photo at the bottom right shows *Camassia cusickii* flowering in the Fellows' Garden.



The Fellows' Garden

The Gardeners' Yard is located in the north-eastern corner of the Fellows' Garden. Here the gardeners propagate and store plants for the Garden. Notable features include the Victorian Greenhouse (pictured right) and a fine specimen of *Arbutus x andracnoides*.



West of the Gardeners' Yard is Milton's Mulberry Tree (*Morus nigra*; left), grown from the root of an original Mulberry Tree planted in 1608. The tree has been propped up by large wooden posts since being up-rooted during a great storm in 1795.

It provides a good crop of mulberries each summer. The gardeners pick these and bring them to the College's kitchens, where they are used to make jam.



The Fellows' Garden is home to five bee hives. The bees pollinate the plants and produce honey. Once the honey has been collected in the summer, the Fellows are given a jar each.



Stay in Touch

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