Welcome to the 22nd edition of Christ Church Matters which boasts an eclectic mix of news and stories from every corner of the Christ Church community.

In our main feature Howard Goodall (1976) talks about his ground breaking new recording ‘Eternal Light: A Requiem’ and the emotional, literary and musical journey he undertook during its creation. The Development Office is delighted to be able to offer a limited number of ‘Eternal Light’ CDs signed by Howard Goodall and Stephen Darlington, the Director of the Cathedral Choir, who feature in the recording. More details are available on page 4.

In June this year Christ Church witnessed a spectacular Commemoration Ball attended by 900 undergraduates and graduates as well as over 150 old members. The Ball was organised by a dedicated and hardworking committee of junior members and on page 6 Annabel Walker, the 2008 Ball President, gives us an insight into what went behind the scenes with extracts from her diary. The Ball itself has been beautifully captured in photographs taken by our resident photographer Ralph Williamson, the College Chaplain.

2009 will mark 500 years since the accession of Henry VIII to the throne and Christ Church will be celebrating in style next autumn. On 25-27th September you are warmly invited to ‘Henry’s House Party’, a three day residential conference with talks by some of the best minds on the subject and a behind the scenes tour of Henry’s other house, Hampton Court Palace. Old members attending the Oxford Alumni Weekend (taking place on the same dates) can join in the fun on the Saturday evening by attending the old members’ dinner which will be combined with the Henry VIII Gala Banquet taking place in Hall (a booking form will be included in the next edition of Christ Church Matters). David Starkey will be the guest speaker for the evening.

I hope you will be able to join us for this exciting anniversary next year. In the meantime, on behalf of everyone here at the House, I would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.
Soon after 10am on Monday, 17th February 1828, Edward Goodwin, the Deputy Treasurer opened the strong room to take out the money needed for the day’s business. He was greeted by a grim sight. Open in front of him was a chest belonging to one of the canons, broken and empty, the baptismal plate had gone, and armfuls of bank notes. Goodwin was not only horrified, but completely bemused as well. The Treasury was a pretty secure place, with a stone vault, three locks on the outer doors and a further lock on the door to the strong room. Only three men had keys: Dean Smith, the Treasurer, Dr Pett, and Goodwin himself, and only Goodwin's set was a full one. It had to be an inside job.

Goodwin faced interrogation by the Vice-Chancellor, and explained all his movements in and out of the Treasury for the previous two days. At 7.30pm on Saturday he went to the Treasury, locked the strong room, every padlock and all the doors, and then put the keys in his desk which was locked separately. On Sunday he had been into the Treasury twice, once in the morning and once early evening, but only into the outer office, and then on Monday he had popped in again, just half an hour first thing before going to the Deanery. It was on his return to his office later than morning that things were found to be wrong.

The first thing he noticed, said Goodwin, was the damage to Dr Woodcock’s chest which contained his plate and that the strong box had been opened. Dr Woodcock’s chest had been forced but the strong box opened with a key. The outer doors showed no signs of violence. The corridor to the strong room was constantly watched, and the lock of that door showed no signs of force either. Even the desk where the keys were kept was undamaged. Lying on the floor beside the chest which had held the cathedral’s plate were a chisel and a fine long screwdriver. Someone must have had access to keys.

The Treasurer, Phineas Pett, explained that he kept his keys wrapped in newspaper in a small red box on his desk in his study. The box wasn’t locked but, if he went away, he locked the box in a drawer. However, he had only used the keys once himself, and had never sent anyone else to fetch anything from the box. No-one, he suggested, would have known that his keys were there.

College servants were interrogated, and one stated that he had seen Rose with the screwdriver. Dr Pett’s and Goodwin’s personal staff said that they didn’t know where any keys were kept.

In the meantime, searches had been afoot, both for the silver and for the burglars. A reward of £200 for information leading to the arrest of the culprits and the recovery of the silver was announced and Plank of the Yard was dispatched from London to help solve the crime. Unsurprisingly, information immediately began to arrive. Some much damaged silver was traced to a traveller in Hereford, when an anonymous letter arrived accusing John Rose, one of the college carpenters, and another man called Maddox of the crime, and announcing that they had fled north. Thomas Wheeler, Rose’s apprentice, stood up for his master, swearing that the chisel and screwdriver did not belong to him. Much more dramatic was a confession from two men held in Warwick gaol, Sumervile and Beats. The men said that they had broken into Christ Church on Sunday morning, with Mr Sollomans, the fence, and three others from Birmingham and Lichfield. James Rose, the insider, was named as the ‘putter-up’. Some of the silver had been fenced, the notes already cashed, and the remaining silver melted down in a crucible to found at the thieves’ house. Rose was arrested, and thrown unceremoniously into the Castle prison, but none of the silver or the cash was ever recovered.
Last year I was approached by the artistic director of the orchestra London Musici, Mark Stephenson, to compose something to mark its 20th birthday, a work that would also be a new dance piece for the Rambert Dance Company, to be choreographed by Mark Baldwin. Because each year Musici also performs a Passion Oratorio with Stephen Darlington’s choir of Christ Church Cathedral Oxford, a piece with some kind of devotional or spiritual component seemed appropriate. We agreed that I would write a requiem, bringing these partners together.

A bespoke requiem for choir, orchestra, soloists and dance is, I believe, a world first and, unsurprisingly, it has not been without its challenges. For me the most fundamental of these are, what - in the 21st century - is a requiem for; who is it for; and what does it mean?

In an age in which the “sea of faith” has been “retreating to the breath of the Night Wind” - in Matthew Arnold’s prophetic words - the old religious reassurances and orthodoxies can sit uncomfortably with our modern experience of loss. Anyone who has witnessed the funeral of a child will have wondered why, in the words of the 1928 Anglican prayer book, “it hath pleased Almighty God of his great mercy to take unto himself the soul of this child here departed”, or in the doctrine of the Catholic Mass for the Dead, what “sin” the child may have committed to be sent to purgatory awaiting judgment. Most of the famous requiems of the past follow loosely the structure and language of the Catholic Missa pro defunctis in emphasising the torments of hell, the natural wickedness of humankind and the urgent need to pray for the salvation of the departed. These requiems dangle the carrot of heavenly paradise and wave the stick of damnation in fairly even measure and seem to offer a mysterious, often haunting, but ultimately quite bleak, medieval way of looking at death, never mind the unbearable pain it causes for those left to mourn. I could not sincerely have adopted this approach to the writing of my requiem and looked for ways to reinterpret the...
form, with the help of my collaborative partners, Mark Baldwin and designer Michael Howells.

I stripped the Latin text down to a handful of resonant phrases and went in search of poetry, some sacred, some secular, to shed new light on the various requiem concepts: peace, everlasting light, grief, comfort, and, most controversial of all, faith in an afterlife. The purpose would be to reconfigure the words to underline a sense of solace for the grieving, compassion for the despairing and some attempt - however modest - at assisting in the process of recovery. There could be no glib reassurances about death being freedom or a passage to a “better place”, but there could be a recognition that the departed do live on in the minds, hearts and memories of others, that the love that existed between them and others is unbroken by death, and that the little we do know from those who have experienced near-death is that light is a powerful and universal sensation. To embrace a view of death as a passage towards light of some kind neither contradicts the teaching of the world’s religions nor what we have been told from description. Most importantly, it is what all those who have lost a loved one want to feel.

One poem I studied for the piece was Ann Thorp’s Belief, written from the mourner’s perspective, asserting: “I have to believe/ That you still exist/ Somewhere.” In this poem, as in the Requiem as a whole, faith is seen as the antidote to despair, a pilot in rough seas, a deliberate hanging on to the possibility of hope, however awful the path ahead. As for that path, the slow, day-by-day agony of carrying on, it was again light that provided the central image. John Henry Newman’s hymn, Lead, kindly light, amid th’ encircling gloom is set twice in the piece, with its return at the very end reiterating the words “I do not ask to see the final scene, one step enough for me.” This idea of being able to get through one hour, one day, one week at a time in the wake of debilitating grief seemed to me an authentic and practical expression of faith that would make sense.
Music’s ability to transport us from the everyday, to evoke some other, peaceful place is one way we can offer any crumb of comfort. In the case of a work that will also be danced, it might also be possible to convey a sense of the flight of the soul. The music for Eternal Light: A Requiem flooded into my head in a great rush, confirming the suspicion that I had been nudging towards something addressing grief for some time. It had probably been triggered by a commission I completed in 2005 for the choir of King’s School, Canterbury, in memory of a student, Lucy Holland, who died with members of her family in the Indian Ocean tsunami. Nothing can alleviate the suffering of losing a child, but perhaps some things - kindness, the refusal to forget, and even, in this instance, a piece of choral music sung by young people - could mark the passing of a precious life and honour it with dignity, compassion and beauty. I do not make any claims as composer for Eternal Light, other than this: if my new Requiem can do that for one person or one family, somewhere, someday, it will have been worth writing. For me that is what a modern Requiem is for, who it is for and what it means.

A limited number of signed copies of Howard Goodall’s ‘Eternal Light’ are now available for old members and Christ Church Family Programme members to purchase from the Development Office. Please send your address details and a cheque payable to ‘Christ Church, Oxford’ for £12.00 plus p&p (UK £1.50, Europe £2.50, Worldwide £3.50) to:

Development & Alumni Office
Christ Church
OXFORD, OX1 1DP
The Very Reverend Nicholas Coulton, Sub-Dean of Christ Church retires from his position as Sub-Dean at Christ Church on November 30th 2008, at the age of 68, having held the position since January 2003. Nicholas and his wife Edith will continue to live in Oxford, and Nicholas intends to spend more time enjoying his garden, art, travel, music and books, as well as catching up on his sleep, after the busyness of life as Sub-Dean. Nicholas and Edith have one son Andrew, and two daughters, Katherine and Sarah, who have been resident and frequent visitors to Christ Church.

Members of the Cathedral congregation gathered after Evensong on Sunday the 28th of September to say goodbye and wish the Coultons well. The Dean, the Very Revd Christopher Lewis, thanked Nicholas for his contributions to the life and ministry of the Cathedral and presented gifts on behalf of the congregation and Cathedral Friends. Among the gifts were a cartoon by resident cartoonist Jim Godfrey, a picture of part of a Cathedral window by Matthew Power and a plastic play house, to represent the gift of a garden shed for their new home, which was too large to hand over in the cathedral!

Nicholas was ordained in 1967 and worked as chaplain to Robert Runcie (later Archbishop of Canterbury) when the latter was Bishop of St Albans. He was Vicar of St Paul’s church in Bedford from 1975 to 1990, and from there he went to serve as Provost and then Dean of Newcastle upon Tyne, where he chaired the North East Council of Christians and Jews and represented the Faith Communities on the North East Regional Assembly. He has also been a Director of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group. He has been a member of the Church of England Legal Advisory Commission, has served on the Executive of the Association of English Cathedrals and has been a Governor of Ripon College, Cuddesdon.

One of his deep concerns has been the issue of justice for asylum seekers. He has led a group which represents the Churches in discussion with the Home Office and Ministry of Justice with regard to asylum issues, and will continue to do so in retirement. In a letter to The Times newspaper in 2007 he wrote that “all across the country Christian people have lost faith in a government now obsessed with currying popularity rather than standing for justice”. Nicholas also has links with the Province of the West Indies, having worked briefly in Guyana on two occasions.

His demanding job has entailed the oversight of many aspects of the cathedral’s life, such as its staffing, volunteers, shop, charitable giving and Chapter business. In addition to this, Nicholas has been extraordinarily creative and has overseen a number of important projects. Among them are the new glass doors at the West end of the building and the replacement of pews in the crossing with chairs which allow for more flexible use of the central area. He has organised two excellent Open Days for the Cathedral, a number of valuable student and ministerial placements, and the installation of our new Bishop of Oxford in 2007. He has also been Vice Chairman of the Governors of Christ Church Cathedral School, and has found time to edit a collection of important essays published as “The Bible, the Church and Homosexuality”.

The last major project in the cathedral with which Nicholas has been closely involved has been the creation of new work of art in the medieval cloister, comprising a fountain together with an olive tree, expressing the message of life, peace, and the praise of God to the hundreds of thousands of people who visit Christ Church every year.

Nicholas leaves behind a rich legacy of work completed and tasks fulfilled. Some warm friendships and very happy memories as he and Edith leave Tom Quad. We wish them happiness and health in their retirement.
A few recollections from the President

1865. A young maths lecturer at Christ Church writes about a mad tea party in Wonderland, to which Dean Liddell’s daughter, Alice, is invited:

‘Have some wine,’ the March Hare said in an encouraging tone.

Alice looked all round the table, but there was nothing on it but tea.

‘I don’t see any wine’ she remarked. ‘There isn’t any,’ said the March Hare. ‘Then it wasn’t very civil of you to offer it,’ said Alice angrily.

Memo to wine rep: Order well in advance to avoid disappointment

Early Michaelmas 2007. First informal Committee meeting takes place and my agenda is packed full of important issues... but we divert into the tricky field of nomenclature. Options tabled: “2008 Christ Church Commemoration Ball” or “Christ Church Commemoration Ball 2008”. Clearly a complex topic. With two members of the Committee originating from across the water, the conversation lasts an impossibly long length of time.

First executive decision made: British grammar prevails

Flashback to 1978. Speaking to my father who helped to organise the 1978 Commemoration Ball,
I relate how I thought we had finally chosen caterers and a production company. He ripostes (with many references to the good old days…) how they hadn’t had a production company, and that he had been responsible for rigging all the lighting himself, with the help of the college electrician.

_Private thought_: Health & Safety rules do have certain advantages …

**Depths of Winter, 2007.** We have a meeting scheduled with a Senior Member on the Committee, Dr Judith Pallot (Tutor in Geography). Recurring topic of discussion: the weather. Dr Pallot adopts the role of professional weather forecaster and convinces us that tropical storms are almost inevitable on the night, so we should plan for torrential downpours. We – grudgingly – have to admit that this is prudent planning.

_Committee decision_: Budget for 250 umbrellas

_Review of decision (after the event)_ : Umbrellas not needed on the night, so we sold them onto Worcester for their Ball the following weekend. Unfortunately they weren’t so lucky with the weather…
Evening of the Ball and the first minor hitch occurs. Current members of the college punting to the Ball have failed to arrive on time. It turns out that the ‘chauffeurs’ punting the punts weren’t quite as experienced as I had expected. One punt had a completely novice punter who took a route that encompassed both banks of the river, rather than the traditional straight down the middle approach. Another didn’t seem to know where he was going - despite the fact that Magdalen Bridge Boathouse to Christ Church isn’t exactly tricky navigation. Luckily, the students had passed their Trinity weekends in style and were able to show him the way.

Memo to successor: compulsory punting ability tests

2.00am 15th June 2008. Everything now running smoothly and guests seem to be enjoying themselves. Fairground rides and old-fashioned coconut stalls look beautiful on the Broadwalk, and the dodgems in the Masters’ Garden are proving a great success. People are dancing off the morning chill in the main marquee, relaxing in front of jazz and dance performances in the Cathedral Garden, or gorging themselves on the World’s largest chocolate fountain and other gastronomic delights on offer through-out the college gardens.

Note to next Committee: You have a lot to live up to!

5.30 am 15 June 2008. As the sun rises, guests are served breakfast and the Survivors’ photo is taken. All has gone smoothly, and everyone is happy.

Think to self: Not a bad effort
For the last eight years, foreign journalists have been banned from Zimbabwe. For the last eight years orphaned Zimbabwean children have written to the playwright Gillian Plowman.

When Gillian Plowman approached Oval House Theatre for help with the development of her latest play, *Yours Abundantly, From Zimbabwe*, we knew this was a play for us. As a theatre truly representative of contemporary London, Oval House has continually strengthened the internationalism of its work. Artists from around the world have made work in our building, developing collaborative artistic relationships spanning continents and cultures. Our theatre has also established a strong reputation for presenting work that creatively explores some of the world’s most intractable political problems. A creative hub for exiled South-African artists during Apartheid, our relationship with Southern African artists has also been seminal – resurfacing recently in a Southern African Season in 2006, and in our Southern African tour of the production *Maj of the Antarctic* which toured Botswana, Malawi, South Africa and Mauritius in July 2008.

It was during our Southern African season that I first met Plowman. I was directing a production about Zimbabweans-in-exile, and had cast several Zimbabwean actors. Plowman was intrigued at who might play the roles she was only just imagining at the time. When Gillian explained that not only was the play to be constructed around real letters she had received from villagers in rural Zimbabwe, but also that she was already working with one of Britain’s great theatre directors, Annie Castledine, no further explanation was needed – we knew the production would be one for us.

Two years after that first meeting, and after Oval House Theatre supported a rigorous script development process, the creation of a new production company, and various funding applications, *Yours Abundantly, from Zimbabwe* was realised. The play revealed a truth about how we, in Britain, relate to global issues, unpicking where western guilt, philanthropy, and self-interest meet, and questioning the nature of beneficent liberalism. Now, after playing to packed houses of Britons and Zimbabweans-in-exile, and receiving popular and critical acclaim, the production has closed, and the search for more insightful, entertaining, and dynamic work for our theatres continues.

Wish us luck!

Ben Evans
Head of Theatre Programming
Oval House
Perhaps with the financial crisis, people will become even more risk-averse. That would be a good thing when they are handling other people’s money, but not when we are arranging ourselves or the world.

Oh dear, for I may have to sit through even more meetings at which we wade through risk-registers and try to make everyone’s lives risk-free. The accident record for the House still tells of someone who dropped a Champagne bottle on his own head, which sounds difficult, so we only have partial success pitted against the wonders of human ingenuity. Of course some of this safety-consciousness is right; it is reasonable to be fairly healthy and safe. Yet it is the unintended consequences (as always) which get you in the end: the dull culture where children of all ages are prevented from playing because they might hurt themselves. Throwing people into Mercury rarely did any harm and the £50 fine to both thrower and thrown (collusion is rightly assumed) restocks the student hardship fund admirably.

Maybe the rather sordid sights of Friday and Saturday nights in Oxford would be fewer if the characters involved had had some real adventures during the week. I am a little proud of the fact that all the members of my immediate family have now been parachuting in exotic places like Norfolk and Argentina: not particularly dangerous but certainly a small adventure.

Which brings me to the Trill Mill Stream which travels under Oxford from near the College of Further Education (Paradise Square) to Christ Church’s Memorial Gardens and then to the Thames. The entrance to the ‘egg-shaped culvert’ is now carefully locked up, although the stream is still happily flowing. Navigating it by canoe used to be an Oxford adventure of a subterranean kind. There was a fair amount of risk, for one might get stuck, especially in the light of the story – probably apocryphal – of the remains of a Victorian punt containing three skeletons being found in the stream. T.E. Lawrence said that he made the journey in 1908 and I have two more contemporary accounts from Philip Wetton (ChCh 1955) and Roger Wildblood (Pembroke 1947).

Roger had had some practice in a canoe made of laths and covered with barrage balloon fabric, but the one that he and a friend used in order to ‘go down the drain’ was bought in an army surplus auction. He says that an unexpected proportion of those who made the journey ended up as clergy, and that he had one poignant letter from a drain-traveller who wanted to contact the female companion with whom he did the trip so that he could bid her goodbye before he died.
Christ Church has a very strong tradition in music, taking more undergraduates to read the subject than any other college. The Christ Church Music Society is one of Oxford’s most active student-run music organisations, showcasing some of the University’s finest musicians, while also arranging for world-class professionals to perform on the same platform. All the concerts at present are held in the stunning setting of Christ Church Cathedral, although the new Lecture Theatre opening in Blue Boar Quad will present another exciting venue possibility. There are weekly evening concerts, including a concert given by the college orchestra each term, and the highlight of the year is the Festival Week in Hilary, in which several large concerts are usually staged. The 2008 Festival included a performance of Brahms’s Requiem by outstanding University and young professional singers, a song recital by the baritone Njabulo Madlala, and a Christ Church Orchestra concert with Vaughan Williams’s The Lark Ascending. We have been privileged enough in the past to play host to musicians such as Julian Lloyd Webber, The Agon Piano Trio and Ensemble 45, managed by Christ Church Lay Clerk Will Dawes.

Admission for individual concerts is £3 for students, £5 for non-students and free for CCMS members. Membership for students costs £10 annually and £15 annually for non students. If you would like any information about the society, how to become a member or forthcoming concerts, please do email the current President, emma-jane.willan@chch.ox.ac.uk, or alternatively all listings of upcoming concerts are to be found on our website, http://chchmusic.co.uk.

Hugh Trevor-Roper

I am writing an authorised biography of the late Hugh Trevor-Roper (Lord Dacre), and I should be grateful to hear from anyone who remembers him as an undergraduate, or indeed in his early years as a Student of the College. Please contact Adam Sisman, Lipyeate House, Holcombe, Bath BA3 5EN, or telephone +44 (0)1761 233 589 or email as@adamsisman.com.
Some of you may already know that, since the millennium, one of the most exciting Christ Church initiatives funded by an old member has been the establishment of Tower Poetry.

Under the terms of the legacy, this is an organization set up to offer opportunities and resources to young British poets. The aim is to develop the role of poetry in education and enable new poets to showcase their talents through a series of initiatives.

- **Annual Christopher Tower Poetry competition** – open to any 16-18 year-olds in UK schools or colleges with a first prize of £3000 (the 2009 winner will be announced on 23 April 2009 and the judges for the 2009 prize are Fiona Sampson and Daljit Nagra). This year’s theme will be *doubt*.

- **The annual 3 day Summer School** held at Christ Church for 18-23 year-olds from any university. The tutors for August 2008 were Jane Draycott, a UK-based poet with a particular interest in sound art and collaborative and digital work; Frances Leviston, whose first volume of poems was short-listed for the 2008 T.S.Eliot Prize; and a poetry reading was given by Professor David Morley from Warwick University. This year the ten students aged 18-20 were from Durham, Oxford, Cambridge and Warwick Universities, as well as Tonbridge School, Kent, Northgate High School and King’s School, Manchester. David Morley’s blog at [http://blogs.warwick.ac.uk/morleydentry/poetry_reading_at/](http://blogs.warwick.ac.uk/morleydentry/poetry_reading_at/) gives an entertaining account of the poetry reading evening. In the words of one of the students, ‘it was a really fantastic week. I hadn’t really come across Tower Poetry before I saw the Summer School advert but it is clearly a marvellous institution. These worlds can feel very off-putting (i.e. cliquey and closed) to a lot of young people, and it’s wonderful there are people out there prepared to stretch out a hand. Please pass on my thanks as well to Jane, Frances and Peter who were all magnificent and kind.’ An anthology of the students’ poetry will be published in January 2009 (*Jitterwhirring* is last year’s anthology and is available from the Tower Poetry office at Christ Church or bookshops).

- **The Tower Poetry Review**, published from the website [www.towerpoetry.org.uk](http://www.towerpoetry.org.uk), three times per annum.

- **Planned Teachers’ workshops** – one in association with the Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival in April 2009.

- **Anthologies from the Summer School** and publications to mark special events e.g. *Lines for WH Auden* by Peter McDonald in 2007.

The Director of Tower Poetry is Dr Peter McDonald, Christopher Tower Student and Tutor in Poetry in the English Language. Dr Mishtooni Bose is the Christopher Tower Student and Tutor in Medieval Poetry in English. Further details about Tower Poetry activities and events can be found at [www.towerpoetry.org.uk](http://www.towerpoetry.org.uk) or on the Tower Poetry Facebook group.
2008: A notable year for Christ Church scientists

As with all the older Colleges in Oxford Christ Church has had a long and more-or-less continuous connection with the Royal Society since its foundation in 1660. This year, 2008, appears to be unique in the history of the House in that four Christ Church names were elected simultaneously on the same day; all to be much congratulated.

Professor Philip Stephens FRS, now at the University of Southern California, came as an undergraduate to Christ Church in 1958 to read Chemistry with David Backingham and Paul Kent as his tutors.

Sir John Bell FRS, Regius Professor of Medicine, is a Student of the House.

Claudio Stern FRS, now Professor of Anatomy at University College London, was a Student and Medical Tutor.

Matt Rosseinsky FRS, now Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at Liverpool University, also was a Student and Tutor.

Amongst the list of earlier members of the House were Robert Hooke, Secretary of the Royal Society (1677-1681) and Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society (1778-1820), the longest serving president then or since.

On Tuesday 14 October 2008 the McDonald Centre for Theology, Ethics, and Public Life was officially launched in the Examination Schools.

Under the direction of Canon Professor Nigel Biggar, the Centre will promote research on the contribution of Christian theological traditions to the understanding of moral life—and especially moral issues of public concern—in conversation with other traditions of religious and philosophical thought. It will also develop collaboration across disciplinary borders, and between academia and those who shape public policy.

Topics for research include: “Ethical realism in foreign policy: is prudence enough?”; “Is Christian forgiveness immoral?”; and “Heat or light? The responsibility of the media for intelligence in public deliberation”.

In June the Centre appointed Dr John Perry to a five-year McDonald Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Christian Ethics and Public Life, which he will hold at Christ Church. Currently Edward Sorin Fellow at the University of Notre Dame, U.S.A., Dr Perry will take up his new fellowship in January 2009.

Among the ninety people who attended the launch were: Jonathan Aitken, Director of the McDonald Agape Foundation; William Chapman, Director of Policy at the Tony Blair Foundation; Major General (retired) Tim Cross; Roger Davies, Philip Wetton Professor of Astrophysics and Dr Lees Reader in Physics at Christ Church; Sarah Foot, Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Canon of Christ Church; Claire Foster, Senior Adviser at the St Paul’s Institute for 21st Century Ethics, London; Jeremy Hill, Legal Adviser to the Consultative Group on the Past in Northern Ireland, and a former British Ambassador to Bulgaria and to Lithuania; Simon Laver, founder partner of the Perrett-Laver Partnership; Robin Lovin, University Professor of Ethics at the Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas; David Loyn, the B.B.C.’s Developing World Correspondent; Charlotte Rendle, Deputy-Governor of H.M. Prison at Wormwood Scrubs; and Dr Edward Skidelsky, Lecturer in Philosophy at Exeter University.

The McDonald Centre is being funded partly by the University’s John Fell Fund, but originally and predominantly by the McDonald Agape Foundation.

Further information may be found at www.chch.ox.ac.uk under ‘College’.
**Reflections on Christ Church, a quartet of screen prints each in eighteen colours in a limited edition of 185** signed and numbered by the artist **Brendan Neild** formerly Keeper of the Royal Academy

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**The Cathedral - The East Rose Window**

**Peckwater - Images in a Library Window**

**Alice's Garden**

**Tom Tower in Mercury**

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Please note that these prints are offered here at considerably less than the regular retail price. In addition, ten percent of the receipts from sales made will be given to the Christ Church Development Fund.

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1) The Steward's Office at Christ Church
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- Alice's Garden @ £190  
- Tom Tower in Mercury @ £190

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Shortly after applying to work on the telephone campaign earlier this summer I was at a dinner party at which a friend’s uncle was airing some views on the matter of college fundraising. “Can you believe they actually get the undergraduates to call you up and ask for money?” he bellowed, his audience piously assuming postures of shock and horror. Little did he imagine that one such was about to ask him to pass the salt!

But who else really could be more suitable for the job? Did the uncle assume that the House would bring in hired professionals, Maureen or the 118 Men, to man its telephones? On the contrary, what is really flattering for the callers is the realisation that old members actually want to speak to us. Far more common than a hostile response is a call in which the curious and garrulous old member bombards the caller with questions, anecdotes and felicitations. On some pleasant occasions they even apologise for taking up our time and bring up the pregnant matter of donation by themselves! Now, the uncle has perhaps conceded that old members might want to know if their old don still forgets to tie his shoelaces or if one still needs to go over a wall and through canonry cellars if one wishes to retire a few minutes later than everyone else. But I have another surprise for him: the undergraduate callers actually enjoy speaking to their forebears! The telephone, because of its very limitations, possesses an intimacy which is not restrained by generational differences, and a good conversation is a mutual pleasure. A place like Christ Church sees a remarkable array of gifted and interesting people pass through its gates in a generation, and the humble talismans of shared staircases and tutors have enabled me to exchange experiences with two eminent historians, a West End musical producer, a journalist, a charity director, a patristic theologian of the Vatican (no need here for questions of tax reclamation), a restorer of ancient buildings, a host of academics and (but for an answerphone) an ambassador. Particularly engaging were stories about Christ Church in wartime, when Einstein was resident in Tom and men brought precious coal instead of champagne to parties. One old member I spoke to recalled the last days of his Navy stint, when a senior officer approached him and asked why he hadn’t put in for an officer’s commission. He was told bluntly: “because I want to get out sooner.” Obviously the officer was not familiar with Christ Church.

There’s a stereotype which goes around at the start of a phone campaign about how retired old members and dons are just itching for a captive auditor onto which to pour the fast-setting toffee of old anecdotes. But after a run of several consecutive answerphones it is really the callers who find themselves reaching out feebly over the fibreoptic network, hoping to hear the reviving tremor of a human voice. Often it brings one rushing up from the seabed of boredom, gasping “aha, waitaminute, you’re not an answerphone are you!” More often, once one’s nerves have settled, it gives a broader perspective to a narrow day. These are the strange meetings that the telethon enables, and they are a gain for the wider ‘student’ body of all generations at the same time as the donations are a gain for those who are lucky enough to currently be undergraduates. ❖
2009 marks the 500th anniversary of the accession to the throne of the man who founded Christ Church, your college! Henry VIII was a man who changed England forever: he dissolved the monasteries, broke with Rome and issued the English Bible. He made the last English conquests in France, fortified the coastline and consolidated the Navy. In the latter part of his life he turned to founding, and generously endowing, enduring academic institutions text change Christ Church. For this reason the House is commemorating the man and the monarch with a weekend celebration to which all members of the House, all who have benefited so directly from his foresight and his legacy, together with their guests, are invited.

His poets, painters and palaces paved the way for the Elizabethan Renaissance, with the English sonnet and the miniature portrait, with Hampton Court, Nonsuch and Whitehall. He broke many of the greatest families in the land and raised up new men to replace them. He gave the Welsh seats in parliament and aspired to rule all of Ireland and devour Scotland by dynastic marriage. Yet much remains open to debate. Was this really all Henry’s work, or that of his ministers? Did he work change in response to popular clamour, or in the teeth of resistance? Did he set his country on a firm course, or bequeath confusion, weakness and debt? On this weekend expert speakers will assess Henry’s reign from many angles to provide a rich portrait of the king and his age. Christ Church Tutors Dr Christopher Haigh and Dr Susan Doran are among the distinguished speakers who also include Dr Steven Gunn of Merton College, and Dr John Guy of Clare College, Cambridge. At the Gala Dinner in Hall (black tie preferred!) under the watchful gaze of Henry VIII himself, we shall welcome Dr David Starkey as the guest speaker. The full programme, including the Sunday visit to Hampton Court Palace, can be found on the booking form at the back of Christ Church Matters.

This event is also Christ Church’s flagship contribution to the University’s Alumni Weekend 2009. Through Christ Church Matters we are offering members of the House an advance opportunity to secure places, at a member price of £295 per member.
Amid the current economic turmoil, it may seem either apt or foolhardy that we dedicate our main feature this edition to looking at five old members who have made their careers in finance. Linked to the same theme, Philip Wright (1972) reports on the City Reception which took place on bonfire night. No effigies of the absent regulator were burnt, as far as I am aware, and it must have been one of the few places in the City where there were no fireworks, but a much needed good time was had by all. Crispin Odey (1977) gave a lively account of the last few decades of economic history and put the current crunch into its longer term historical context.

The day after the City Reception, the year representatives had their annual dinner and meeting, breaking with tradition for once by eschewing Oxford for Brown’s Brasserie in Mayfair. Ideas for interesting events often spring from these meetings. On page 21, Tom Greggs gives us a spirited write up on the 1999 matriculation dinner, held in the Freind Room in May. Still fighting fit, 63 former college rugy players from 1954 to the present day met in Christ Church on 30th September for the first ever rugby players from 1954 to the present day met in Christ Church on 30th September for the first ever rugby Gaudy. No Rugby was played that evening, but you will have to read Reg Clark’s (1976) account to see if there were any scrums over Buttery beer. We are always looking for additional year reps, regional reps and sports reps, so if you are interested do contact Emma Sinden in the Development Office.

Ten days before the Rugby Gaudy we held our annual Association Dinner. This was the occasion to mark the retirement of the pillar of the English faculty and former co-editor of Christ Church Matters, Professor Christopher Butler. In his indomitable fashion and showing true college spirit he turned what could have been a sad occasion into a party. We wish Christopher a long and active retirement, and if he is planning any gardening he may want to take some advice from the column next door and don his guerilla fatigues.

As you start to organise your dates for 2009, I hope you will note that the Association Dinner next year will be on Saturday, 26th September, during Henry’s House Party. But for now may I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Fiona Holdsworth (1981), Editor
fiona.holdsworth@bloomsbury.com

There is an omission from my recent book, On Guerrilla Gardening – A Handbook For Gardening Without Boundaries (Bloomsbury, 2008). Chapter Four is a history of this global movement of illicit gardening, but Christ Church’s part in that history was edited out. So consider this paragraph a summary and addendum to that chapter.

I credit a redundant textile merchant called Gerrard Winstanley as the first guerrilla gardener on record. In 1649 he and other impoverished villagers began cultivating the common land of St George’s Hill in Surrey. His illicit farming encampment and prolific pamphlet inspired the creation of other Digger colonies across the South East but the project could not survive repeated attacks from landowners and their henchmen. By the 20th century St George’s Hill was no guerilla garden but a fortified estate of millionaire mansions and one time home to two of The Beatles.

For the purposes of this summary the history jumps to 1969 and a vacant lot in the university grounds of Berkeley, California. Within a few days in May it was planted by guerrilla gardeners and named The People’s Park. It is still there today despite Governor Ronald Regan’s attempt to quell with the National Guard what he feared was a hippy uprising. Guerrilla gardening’s next most significant flowering was in New York where in 1973 the Green Guerillas were formed. This bunch of students and artists transformed derelict land into community gardens and after thirty sometimes-turbulent years finally secured protection for many of them from the city’s parks department - a victory for guerrilla gardeners.

In ‘On Guerrilla Gardening’ I describe how in 2004 I began transforming some neglected planters beneath my council run tower block in London’s Elephant & Castle, how my activity spread around London and how my blog at GuerrillaGardening.org led to thousands around the world getting involved. When I began I was unaware of the movement’s existence or history and my motivations, like so many I’ve subsequently met, was simply pride for his neighbourhood and a lifelong love of gardening (that for me involved. When I began I was unaware of the movement’s existence or history and my motivations, like so many I’ve subsequently met, was simply pride for his neighbourhood and a lifelong love of gardening (that for me

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I was living in Canterbury 2.2, a ground floor room with large window sills. By my third term I was bored of the view of gravel quadrangle and their henchmen. By the 20th century St George’s Hill was no guerilla garden but a fortified estate of millionaire mansions and one time home to two of The Beatles. I skipped reference to my guerilla gardening at Christ Church in Trinity 1998.

I was living in Canterbury 2.2, a ground floor room with large window sills. By my third term I was bored of the view of gravel quadrangle and the distant Peckwater lawns and my green fingers itched to get busy. So I bought a couple of window boxes and packed them with multi-coloured Busy Lizzies (Impatiens). These sat on my window sill for weeks and did not just improve my view but provided cheer to passers by, particularly those on the tortuous walk towards the examination halls.

My instincts, as now, were that while it was not allowed, it was unlikely to be removed. I was right. If only I could have encouraged a movement back then Christ Church could have been a much more colourful place.

Please visit GuerrillaGardening.org for more information.

Richard Reynolds (1995)


Fiona Holdsworth (1981), Editor
fiona.holdsworth@bloomsbury.com
This issue we hear from five old members working in finance as they reflect on their time at the House and their subsequent careers.

**CHARLES DUPPLIN (1981)**

Another longish day at insurance group Hiscox is over and the tyranny of the email is suspended. It is not normally so busy (I have the twin hats of handling the mergers and acquisitions for our group and chairing the division which insures the art world and private clients), but not only are insurance rivals terribly wounded but also the art market is in the doldrums. Opportunities galore and yet still just 24 hours in a day. In pondering this article I reflect on just what a preparation my life at Christ Church was for my professional career in the City.

I read chemistry and my contemporaries minds were all sharp. We also had 3 engaging and excellent tutors. Academia aside there was a lot of new social freedom to be enjoyed and the wonderful sports facilities meant I wanted to make time for these pursuits too. Thus I sought a work life balance early on.

In order to enjoy the social and sporting wonders of Oxford one had to learn to work rapidly and efficiently on academic matters. The tutorial system was vital here. The potential shame of being embarrassed by lack of having done enough was a powerful stick. The joy of such private learning with such clear minds the carrot. Somehow the reasoning and logic that goes to make the common sense (that is all business really is) was grafted into me. I am fully convinced of the importance of keeping the tutorial system going to maintain the excellence that is Christ Church.

Back to the work life balance and the other great gift of understanding. I continue to strive hard to maintain this. Hiscox is an employer where we try to ensure staff have this. People burn out without it.

The art insurance market is very civilised. People work reasonable hours. Hiscox is the European leader here and we get involved in most major exhibitions, count many major museums and collectors as our clients and battle gangs of baddies such as the Johnson family in England or Serbian mafiosi in Germany. There are lots of improbable characters in the auction houses and among the dealers. It is varied and huge fun. There can be no training to prepare for such a role.

On the mergers and acquisitions side life is less relaxed but deals come along only every so often. Many deals destroy value (Royal Bank of Scotland’s purchase of ABN Amro for example). Unlike in the investment banks where the more deals that are done the better, I spend most of my time saying “no”. When however we come across something good at an attractive price hours are very long and in a heavily regulated environment deals are always complex. Getting a lot done quickly is vital.

Thus tomorrow I will leave the office at 6pm and go and play Real Tennis.

**KATE BINGHAM (1983)**

One of the attractions of Christ Church when I went to look at Oxford colleges to read Biochemistry was the 5:1 male:female ratio, followed by the enormous baths in the basement of Peckwater. Being someone who enjoyed getting wet and muddy running round lacrosse pitches, these hot, gargantuan baths (to fit all size of rugby player) appealed a lot. Conveniently the biochemistry building was located right next to the Parks, so I was able to nip out from practicals to join lacrosse practices and games – before biking back to Christ Church and a total immersion.

Between them, Christ Church and Biochemistry set me up for my career in venture capital. Life at Christ Church was inevitably male-dominated and because I had come from an all-girls school, this gender balance didn’t present any difficulties. Christ Church was very anxious to ensure that women were well looked after, and so I became accustomed to a “can-do”, meritocratic, completely non-sexist approach to life. The careers milk round at Christ Church was inevitably focused on the city, so finance was introduced to me early on in life.

Now my job is to make investments in start-up biotechnology companies in Europe and the US. Needless to say, my biochemistry training has been crucial to this. As Managing Partner in SV Life Sciences (formerly Schroder Ventures) we invest approximately $20m per company, which will typically fund one or more candidate drugs from preclinical research through to early proof-of-concept clinical trials in man. Although we have many people more experienced than I am in the nuts and bolts of drug discovery and development at SVLS, I have found that my basic expertise in biochemistry has been...
sufficient to enable me to ask the right questions and find the right people to come up with the answers.

Avoiding the bad deals which lose all our money is critical! But when we find a new company developing attractive drugs protected by strong intellectual property, the returns on investment can be excellent. For example, we invested in an Oxford-based company called Powdermed (a complicated spin-out from American biotech giant Chiron) and by focusing on the clinical areas that were most in demand, we were able to sell this company to Pfizer, giving us nearly six times our investment three years later.

When I first considered venture capital as a career I thought it would be a glamorous life of meeting super-smart people developing drugs to treat incurable diseases. Given that 90% of drugs that enter human clinical trials will fail to get approved, it isn’t especially glamorous. But the rest is true, and it has been huge fun. And Christ Church—or was it the Christ Church baths?—got me started...

LUKE CHAPPELL (1986)

I was fortunate to stumble into investment management during the course of the ‘milking round’ in 1989-90 with none of the certainty that characterised my application to read Classics at Christ Church. My timing was fortunate as I doubt that anyone with a curriculum vitae as thin as mine when it came to relevant experience would have ever made it as far as an interview in the more difficult job market that prevailed in the early 1990s – but then every fund manager needs a healthy dose of luck in order to be successful. The City then was as daunting as Tom Quad on my first day: ‘Big Bang’ and the crash of October 1987 (what a tame affair that now seems next to recent events!) had made lasting impressions and deterred me from all but a cursory glance at the industry.

With the benefit of good advice from friends and some basic research, I began to realise that the skills required to analyse investments and manage portfolios were not so far removed from those I had developed studying History and Philosophy. The latter taught me more about asking the right questions than finding answers which has proved to be an excellent discipline in financial markets where emotions run strong. The former, coupled with the study of the languages, helped me analyse diverse sources, bringing together scraps of information and material to present a complete picture, if only for

The House helped me broaden my horizons and develop a love of other cultures, particularly those with a classical trace

that later to be destroyed under tutorial inquisition. Not all the skills have been transferable so over time I have learned to adapt my written style: a finely-honed essay presenting complex arguments has little place in investment management where the focus is on financial analysis which clearly identifies why we believe an asset is inefficiently priced. It has also taken many years to develop anything approaching commercial awareness and an ability to translate information into monetary value.

The House helped me broaden my horizons and develop a love of other cultures, particularly those with a classical trace: the archaeologist in me still loves to poke around piles of rubble in strange parts of the world such as Yemen, Ethiopia, Iran and, most recently, Libya. My four years provided me with the best possible start to my career; more recently I have enjoyed the opportunity to restore my connections via the Campaign for Christ Church which seeks to provide a strong foundation so that many more of us may similarly benefit from such an outstanding education.

Luke Chappell is currently aManaging Director at BlackRock where he is also co-head of UK Equities; he has been there and its previous incarnations (Mercury Asset Management, Merrill Lynch Investment Managers) for 10 years after leaving Robert Fleming in 1998 where he started in 1990 after graduation; in his first eight years he was a research analyst and then a fund manager.

KARL STERNBERG (1988)

I always thought I was extremely lucky. I was lucky to have chosen Christ Church, with its laissez-faire community and lack of any compulsion to conform. I was lucky to have chosen the right degree. I did not find any aspect of PPE a chore. Whether the essay was on the demand for money, or party systems in Germany, or the nature of causality, I enjoyed every moment of research and marshalling thoughts and writing. And I was lucky to have really first class tutors across the board.

In our first week, we all felt obliged to go to lectures. I went once. It was not for me. Listening to someone drone on about whatever they happened to be writing for their book, which probably bore only tangential relevance to whatever we were studying at the time, was not the way I wanted to learn. The tutorial worked for me. Being left to research something for myself, then present the ideas to an expert, and then debate the topic for half an hour
provided as much framework as I needed. The PPE tutors at Christ Church were just great: all of them dedicated and knowledgeable, but quite different, and differently demanding, from one another. Despite being more impressed by intellect than money, the lack of financial rewards in academia propelled me to the City. I joined Morgan Grenfell Asset Management as a UK equity fund management trainee and stayed there all of my City career. By the time I left in 2004, I was the Chief Investment Officer of Deutsche Asset Management (as we had become). Throughout my career I felt the experience of my three formative years at Christ Church.

The role of fund manager requires really broad thinking, and anticipation. PPE was invaluable in giving me the framework to connect events, meaning, causes and effects. The tutorial engendered self-reliance, self-motivation and old-fashioned hard work: those virtues were perfect training for fund management. Sitting in front of clients and being quizzed, or sitting in front of company management and quizzing them, always reminded me of the tutorial system, as did subjecting all ideas of colleagues to the rigour of the dialectic.

People rarely mention office politics. All successful careers must have involved a reasonable reading of others’ motivations, whether conscious or not; and many senior careers end when the political battle is lost. I am not suggesting that PPE will give you the emotional skills required to read others; but it did give me the curiosity and awareness of the importance of human frailties in determining outcomes.

As it happens, I hated the politics of a big organisation, but I enjoyed the intellectual challenge of fund management. So I came back to Christ Church to run some of the college’s endowment in a small politics-free enterprise...

JULIANE KADEN (2001)

Starting my time at the House, I was confident that, not only did I know myself, but I also knew exactly what I wanted and what life had to offer. I meant to become a Financial Journalist to combine my interest in Economics with my passion for writing. Coming from a totally non-economics related background I perhaps had very naïve expectations as to what a job in Finance would actually entail. In my first year, I battled with the concept of Economics Essays (which still seems a little bit of an oxymoron to me), the multitude of theories and the special way of thinking that probably every Economics student first has to acquire (I remember quite a few lively discussions with my Economics tutor Daniel Zizzo). However, I became to love this world of assumptions and theories and have missed it ever since starting my first job in the ‘real world’.

I have come to realise that ‘Jobs in Finance’ is very much a catch-all, black box concept containing such a multitude of responsibilities and technical expertises that a degree can only prepare one in as much that it can convey a big chunk of theory. What it can’t do is really prepare for the reality of working in Finance which is often much less defined, less ordered and less stimulating and interesting than the theory might suggest.

Starting my working life with Ernst & Young as a Financial Business Advisor and subsequently while working with Barclays Capital in their Product Control & Risk department as well as at present as a Financial Analyst with Standard & Poor’s (a Financial Rating Agency) in London, I realised that the most valuable part of what I had been learning during my time at Oxford and the House was not actually on the academic front, but on the personal side.

Oxford had not only made me more confident and more humble in many ways but had also shaped and opened up a vision for opportunities, possibilities and new discoveries. Confidence to know how to learn and grow, to know how to cope with different kind of stresses, to be able to work under tight deadlines without freaking out, juggling many projects while still enjoying a balance in life, to be able to organise myself and to use my time efficiently (all abilities immensely valuable particularly in the present Financial Market turmoil). Humble with regards to the things that I do not know or do not understand, to accept and to cherish the differences between people and to value real friendship. Opening up vision for opportunity and change to realise that not all things are set in stone and that (self-) discovery goes hand in hand with putting things continuously to test and, if necessary, into question.

Whilst I am enjoying my present position, I still feel very much on my way towards my final destination and am currently in the process of combining my experiences and my academic background with one my biggest passions, photography, in the form of my own photography business.

Oxford definitely shaped who I am in lots of different ways and in that sense it made me a more balanced and also a happier person instilling a deep sense of what it means to see the journey as the goal itself. ■
City reception

A City reception took place on 5 November at The City Club in London against a backdrop of the most momentous events in the City in any Houseman’s lifetime, the oldest present at the occasion having matriculated in 1948.

The reception was the first since 2004 and was well attended by around 100 old members in addition to the Dean, the Treasurer and Marek Kwiatkowski, Emma Sinden from the Development Office. The event organisers were Nick Nops (1968) and Philip Wright (1972) and the splendid setting of the City Club was made available through the kind offices of David Scholey (1955), Chairman of our Development Board.

The reception was very lively with the two main subjects of conversation being the credit crunch and the Moritz and Heyman donation, the largest in the history of Christ Church. There was also discussion of how much more transparent and effective the House was now being at explaining not just how wealthy it was but also what a huge burden of funding it had to bear to keep the fabric and operations going.

The undoubted highlight of the evening was a talk, or rather a tour d’horizon, without a single note by Crispin Odey (1977). Crispin is the founder of Odey Asset Management and has been a successful fund manager for a long period of time. His amusing canter through the last few decades of economic history put the crunch of 2007/08 into its longer term historical context and compared how we had made mistakes and got into, and finally out of, recessions in the past. He made no attempt to disguise that some of his investments had not been successful, particularly with the Swiss, but it is clear that he is an exemplar of sheer animal spirits being a key part of any market.

The event was judged a success by all those who attended and it will certainly be repeated within the next four years.

1999 Matriculation dinner

On Saturday 31st May, over 60 1999 matriculands and guests attended a reunion dinner in the Freind Room at Christ Church. Returning to the heady days of black-tie evenings, the men donned (in some cases now slightly too tight) tuxedoes, while the ladies looked even more elegant than they did in their undergraduate days.

In keeping with many, many formal halls gone by, we made our way (from visits to various local hostelries) to the Buttery, to be greeted by the welcome and friendly face of Cyril; and were delighted to see that inflation had not much affected the prices of gins and tonic in college!

After a quick catch-up, and seeing how people had changed in the six years since leaving college, we made our way to dinner. The usual college hospitality ensued, and good food and wine was enjoyed by all. During dinner, a short toast was proposed by Tom Greggs, who organised the event, remembering absent friends and those no longer with us. However, Tom’s speech (and brevity!) was much outshone by the wit and humour of Simon Conway, former JCR Secretary, who offered a most hilarious after dinner speech completely off-the-cuff, in which he pointed out the successes (and otherwise) of those present. I don’t think many of us had laughed so much in years.

No true House evening would be complete without the obligatory visit to the Undercroft. Having spent three years trying to get rid of the cave paintings (and succeeding), several of us were worried to see slightly cave-like paintings returning to the white walls we had worked so hard to achieve. However, we were all delighted to see that the Jukebox hadn’t changed at all, and ‘Bird House in Your Soul’ had remained as a college classic. As had been the case on so many occasions previously, the vast majority of us retired to the Purple Turtle in the Union, and danced the night away until the small hours.

The dinner was a tremendous occasion, and a good time was had by all. There have been cries for a repeat event in the near future. Emma Sinden and the Alumni Office should all be thanked for their hard work and efforts in making the occasion such a memorable one.
Hinksey Studio

Tom King (1999) and Matthew Power (one of Christ Church Cathedral’s Vergers) have recently embarked on a new web-based venture - The Hinksey Studio. The studio provides limited edition Gicleé prints of photography from Oxford and around the world via their website, www.hinkseystudio.co.uk.

Tom says, “Nowadays, photography is too often treated as a purely digital format, being displayed on computer screens and not on printed media. We want to redress the balance. Our Gicleé prints feature mainly Oxford shots (with a large number from Christ Church) and are produced with nine archival quality inks, rather than a traditional printer’s four. This means we can get an amazing tonal range from our images, and we really notice the difference.”

Tom and Matthew are particularly interested in working with local artists and photographers. They have recently brought on board the College Chaplain, Ralph Williamson, and they hope to source much more local talent in the future. Ralph’s photography is often seen on the Christ Church website, and he has a rare talent for finding hidden corners of Christ Church, such as staircases and graffiti secreted in Tom Tower.

The artists of The Hinksey Studio are keen not to reproduce tired or clichéd views of Oxford. “We wanted our prints to be that little bit different”, says Tom.

“Whilst there is the occasional ‘Oxford tourist’ type shot, what really caught my eye were images such as Matthew Power’s Christ Church Stained Glass series. Micro photographic techniques have allowed Matt to capture in minute detail the glorious colours of the Burne-Jones windows in the Cathedral. When you enlarge these to A4, a new and beautiful image is born.”

To celebrate their launch, The Hinksey Studio have created some special offers just for Christ Church Alumni - see www.hinkseystudio.co.uk/chch. These will be available for a limited time – perfect for Christmas!

Stem-cell pioneer receives two top research honours

I came up to Christ Church in September of 2003 to start my DPhil project. After spending a few weeks learning the nuances of British culture, I began my studies in the lab of Professor Sir Richard Gardner in the Zoology Department. I was interested in the burgeoning field of stem cell biology and its potential impact on human health. Stem cells are capable of generating more of themselves as well as giving rise to the mature, specialized cell types of the body. Understanding the mechanisms by which mature cells and tissues are normally formed has great potential to translate into clinical therapies for a panoply of human diseases.

My DPhil program was a joint endeavor with the National Institutes of Health in the States. This scholarship program, the NIH/Oxford Biomedical Research Scholar’s Program, was still in its infancy when I was accepted in 2003, but has quietly grown into one of the most prestigious Biomedical Research scholarships in the world.

My DPhil studies produced two scientific publications – one in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and the other in Nature magazine. I was also privileged to receive two top research honors for my work. The first was the Harold M. Weintraub Award which is given yearly by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, Washington and “recognizes outstanding achievement during graduate studies in the biological sciences.” The second was the Beddington Medal which is given yearly by the British Society for Developmental Biology and is “the Society’s major award to a promising young biologist.”

Life in the lab was never easy or straightforward. Science is a never ending puzzle filled with countless failed experiments and dead-ends. Things were also difficult being so far away from my family and my then fiancée. The 3,497 miles that separated Anne and I, paradoxically, brought us closer together rather than farther apart. I was lucky to have great friends both within and outside the House with which I was able to enjoy Oxford. It is essential to balance the never-ending complexity of the lab with outside endeavors. It prevents insanity!

Oxford is a unique place where tradition dominates modernity. It taught me as much about myself as a person as it did about science. Whenever my travels bring me back to Oxford my routine is always the same – morning coffee at Queen’s Lane coffee shop, a baguette for lunch at Taylor’s, spend the afternoon relaxing in the grandeur of Tom Quad and walking along the Thames, a spicy curry for dinner, a few pints at the Royal Oak, and some late-night chips from Ali’s Kebab Van. I eagerly await my next visit…

Paul Tesar (2003)
Christ Church Rugby Gaudy September 30th 2008.

“I enjoyed your rendition of grace – a perfect way to make the point that notwithstanding the location of Hadrian’s Wall the Romans never completely subjugated Hartlepool” (RKM White, 1977).

Having seized the occasion of the first ever Rugby Gaudy to make, as a non-scholar, a very belated middle aged debut on the “Nos miser homines et egeni” front I was somewhat chastened to receive the above comment in an email from an old comrade in arms in the aftermath of a highly successful event. Proof, however, at least that the combative team spirit that swept us to the last House victory in Rugby Cuppers nigh on 30 years ago is still alive and well.

All those attending will join me in thanking the Development Office most sincerely for their organisation of a truly splendid evening. In all 63 former college rugby players made the event, ranging from current members back to matriculands of the 1954 vintage. In particular there was an excellent turn out from the college’s three winning Cuppers sides of the modern era – 12 players from the 1974 and 1975 winning teams and a splendid 10 from the 1979 winning team. The prize for the longest journey to the event went to Paul Dovenor, the 1977 captain, who had travelled from his home in Pittsburgh to join us.

In speeches following the meal, our most recent Blue, Matthew Parker, who played hooker against Cambridge in 1999, recalled the dog days of the college’s successive demotions in his time and Robert Derry-Evans of the 1974 team celebrated his retirement on the very day of the event by recalling the triumph of that side.

The talk as the beer flowed in the Buttery subsequently ranged from the possibility of undergraduates winning Blues in the current era with the University side dominated by graduates in their late twenties or early thirties studying on courses and at colleges that no one had ever heard of (slim), to the chances from the Development Office’s point of view of the Rugby Gaudy matching the recent Loders event in terms of subsequent largesse to the college (even slimmer) and on to the vexed question as to whether it was more important for the House to win rugby Cuppers or University Challenge (no contest).

In summarising the spirit of the occasion I can do no better than quote from another subsequent email from a 1979 team mate:

“To end the evening on the street outside Tom scoffing a ‘deathburger’ alongside our stalwarts as midnight rang was a fitting end to this celebration. I’ll be ready for the next one in another five years” (TJ Harlow, 1978).

Inter-Varsity Cross Channel Relay Race July 2008

Founded in 1998 by Nick Thomas (Christ Church, 1957) and Martin Davies (Balliol, OUSC President, 1995) the bi-annual event was held again in July down at Dover. Captained by Clare Kane (Christ Church, 2006) GB bi-athlete and also captain of the OUSC Ladies Team 2008-2009. The Oxford team arrived at Dover from a very strenuous training camp in Wales where the sea water was nearer 10 degrees than 15! The race was called early on July 2nd and the team were onboard Neil Streeter’s boat and were waved off by Alison Streeter, the world record holder for channel crossings. The race started in fair conditions with teams of six (three boys and three girls) but Cambridge had a 250 yard lead after the first leg. Then Clare dived in to swim an inspired leg, catching up the deficit and giving Oxford a lead. As the race progressed, Oxford increased their lead and finally their last swimmer Rahul Batra (Rhodes Scholar, Herford) butterflied in to touch the very rocky French coast in exactly 10 hours with Cambridge trailing behind by 20 minutes. A great race which puts Oxford ahead in the series. Next up are the round Manhattan Island relays in July 2009 so the team have to keep open water training.
The Association Dinner marking Christopher Butler’s Retirement

When people ask me what my tutor was like I have always usually said “like the BFG” (as all well read students of great literature should know, the Big Friendly Giant, created by Roald Dahl, and a wonderfully kind, long legged illustration by Quentin Blake). When I was invited to the Christ Church Association Dinner to mark the retirement of this irreplaceable force of intellectual nature, wisdom, charm and irrepressible laughter, while of course jumping at the chance to spend an evening in his company, my first thought was that it is absolutely impossible to imagine Christ Church without him. I am sure all of his students over the years would agree. Christopher Butler seems less a part of the furniture and fittings than a guffawing embodiment of the spirit of the college itself: dazzling, eccentric, of the most amazing tradition in education, and yet as worldly and as far removed from any concept of the don in an ivory tower as it is possible to be. [Who can forget Christopher on love – of course as much an undergraduate obsession as anything we were meant to be studying, “that one... only that one will do.” I must think of that seven word explanation a thousand times more often than anything else I quote unquote learnt.]

After a wonderful dinner, the evening continued with some well chosen treats from the Christ Church Cellar in Butler’s rooms, with Mrs Butler providing champagne for our celebration of Christopher. A treat – but I can’t have been alone in really, really not wanting to see those rooms without their own furniture and fittings: books growing on every possible surface and my favourite Beckett line and classic writer’s mantra “No matter. Try Again. Fail again. Fail better”, pinned to the back of the door. I remember looking at this on a weekly basis, and indeed waiting, quaking in my sensible shoes, before my interview. And now I found myself perched on this very same sofa (in my party heels) in the same room where so many groups of friends must have first met – three decades of whom were represented around the table in Hall. As Christopher said in his own speech, for almost the first time in over thirty years, this autumn he won’t say to the first years, something along the lines of “some of you will know each other’s children, your future husband or wife might be in this room.” And five years on, some of my best friends were indeed re-convened. Perhaps as an extra toast to Christopher’s key role in persuading Christ Church to accept female students, there seemed to have been some sort of tacit consensus to dress for the red carpet rather than a formal dinner. Girls, there were some amazing dresses!

As a student, and aspiring poet, I could never get over the fact that Christopher always seemed to think of my essays as far less important than any poetry I was writing. Continuing in this vein, it was, as ever, completely inspiring, to hear him refer to my “proper” job as a journalist, as a mildly diverting footnote to the serious business of being a poet. A nice thought! And it seems so typical of Christopher, too, that he turned a dinner which could have been a horribly sad occasion (even with him approaching gleeful the new phase of his life when he will have time for writing and for being clambered over by grandchildren) into such a lively party. It’s fair to say it was quite an occasion ... but then an hour or two in Christopher’s company – as petrified interviewees, or dreamy-headed students – was never less than that, regardless of how little sleep we’d had to get essays written and books read in time for our tutorials.

Roger Pemberton’s speech was far more eloquent than I can be. He pointed out that when he first arrived in Tom Quad for his encounters with Christopher, there was revolution in the air: Ginsberg was Howl- ing and W.H. Auden and Robert Lowell were to be seen loitering intensely around the place. With Christopher Butler as their tutor, friend and inspiration, I don’t think subsequent generations of English students, have ever had any less of a sense of being in the presence of a (BF) giant, in every sense of the word.
November 2008
1 November – 22 February
CHRIST CHURCH PICTURE GALLERY: HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING – THE ADVENT OF CHRISTIANITY IN ART
Christ Church

To celebrate the spirit of the Christmas season Christ Church Picture Gallery will show a selection of Old Master drawings from the 16th and 17th centuries from its permanent collection. The works on show will depict scenes from the Nativity to the Flight to Egypt and will include drawings by Titian, Correggio and Domenichino.

Opening times: Monday to Saturday 10.30am – 1pm and 2pm – 4.30pm; Sunday 2pm – 4.30pm.

Contact: Picture Gallery +44 (0)1865 276 172 picturegallery@chch.ox.ac.uk

December 2008
16 December
DECEMBER HAPPY HOUR FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS
5.30pm – 7.30pm

Happy Hour for Alumni & Friends (drink specials and complimentary snacks). Organised by The Oxford University Society of Washington DC (OUS DC). No RSVP necessary.

Contact: Oxford Alumni Office +44 (0)1865 616 598 www.ousdc.org

17 December and 20 December
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CHOIR: CAROL CONCERTS
8pm, Christ Church Cathedral

Very special guests Robert Hardy and Jean Marsh bring to life some of the best Christmas poetry and prose to reflect and to amuse as well as a beautiful selection of choral gems performed by one of the UK’s best cathedral choirs.

Contact: Music at Oxford +44 (0)1865 286 848 www.musicatoxford.com

19 December
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CHOIR 7.30pm Christmas Festival: St. John’s, Smith Square

The choir will be performing a celebratory Christmas programme introduced by composer Howard Goodall.

Contact: Box Office +44 (0)20 7222 1061 www.smithsquare.co.uk

January 2009
10 January
OXFORD UNIVERSITY CORNWALL BRANCH: ANNUAL DINNER
Padstow, The Seafood Restaurant

Join the Cornwall branch of the Oxford University AlumniNetwork as they bring in the New Year with The Honourable Michael Beloff QC, former President of Trinity College, Oxford.

Contact: Oxford Alumni Office +44 (0)1865 616 610 enquiries@alumni.ox.ac.uk

March 2009
14 March
FAMILY PROGRAMME LUNCHEON
Christ Church

Parents of current undergraduates are invited to attend lunch in Hall. Booking forms will be sent out in January 2009.

Contact: Emma Sinden, Alumni Relations Officer +44 (0)1865 286 598 emma.sinden@chch.ox.ac.uk

26 – 29 March
SPECIAL INTEREST WEEKEND: HISTORY AND EVOLUTION
Christ Church

The residential Special Interest Weekend is open to all. Guests can choose from two options: 1759 Britain’s ‘Wonderful Year’ or Darwin’s Impact on Science and Culture.

Contact: specialinterest@chch.ox.ac.uk +44 (0)1865 286 482/286 677

31 March – 5 April
SUNDAY TIMES OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL
Christ Church

Christ Church is pleased to announce that the Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival will once again be taking place here in 2009 and we will be offering accommodation during the festival. To register your interest in booking accommodation please email, festival@chch.ox.ac.uk for further information about events during the Festival; please check the Festival website: www.sundaytimes.oxfordliteraryfestival.co.uk

Contact: The Steward’s Office +44 (0)1865 286 648

April 2009
17 April
OXFORD UNIVERSITY INTER-COLLEGIATE GOLF TOURNAMENT 2009
Selborne Heath Golf Club

Old members with a recognised club handicap (with an upper limit of 24) are welcome to take part in this tournament. Please contact Robert Seward as soon as possible if you would like to be considered for the team of 10.

Contact: Robert Seward, Team Captain rseward@blueyonder.co.uk

May 2009
27 – 30 May
EIGHTS WEEK
Christ Church Boat House

There will be a special gathering for old members on the Saturday of Eights Week.

Contact: emma.sinden@chch.ox.ac.uk +44 (0)1865 286 598

June 2009
19 June
BOAT CLUB SOCIETY DINNER
Christ Church

Members the Boat Club Society are warmly invited to their annual dinner.

Contact: The Development Office +44 (0)1865 286 325 development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk

July 2009
4 July
BOAT CLUB SOCIETY HENLEY DRINKS PARTY
Oxford

6.30pm – 8.30pm, Lion Meadow, Henley Royal Regatta (1-5 July)

A Drinks Party for all Christ Church old members and their families at the close of racing.

Contact: The Development Office +44 (0)1865 286 325 development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk

September 2009
23 – 27 September
2009 ALUMNI WEEKEND
Oxford

Oxford University is delighted to invite you back once again for the 2009 Alumni Weekend in September.

Contact: Oxford University Society events@ousoc.ac.uk +44 (0)1865 616 598 or sign up for email updates at events@ousoc.ac.uk +44 (0)1865 611 610

The theme this year is ‘Women at Oxford’. Join fellow alumni and alumnae for three days of talks, lectures, walks, tours and many more activities.

Contact: Oxford University Society events@ousoc.ac.uk +44 (0)1865 616 598 or sign up for email updates at events@ousoc.ac.uk +44 (0)1865 611 610

26 September
CHRIST CHURCH ASSOCIATION AGM AND DINNER
Christ Church

Old members are invited to attend the afternoon AGM followed by the annual Association Dinner in Hall, where we will be joining old members and guests taking part in the Henry VIII weekend (more details on page 16). Booking details will be available in the Trinity 2009 edition of Christ Church Matters.

Contact: Emma Sinden, Alumni Relations Officer +44 (0)1865 286 598 emma.sinden@chch.ox.ac.uk

For news and more information about events, please visit our website www.chch.ox.ac.uk