“History illuminates the soul…..”

The globe lamp by Richard Morin, photographed by the Chaplain on the front cover, is both a first rate piece of craftsmanship and a striking symbol for Christ Church Matters.

Welcome to the 25th edition in which the Dean writes about the grip of history, religious pilgrimage and using ones imagination in the search for meaning. The archivist portrays Dean Aldrich, on the 300th anniversary of his death, as an enlightened man of the Arts, and the Choir School Headmaster elucidates how important the vital flame of the Arts remains in education today.

We have new research shedding light on the 71 Garter Knights who were or are Members of the House, the Curator of the Picture Gallery has written about the travels of Wolsey’s Hat; it was Lord Acton who pointed out how history illuminates the soul; and the Assistant Librarian seeks support so one of the House’s most interesting portraits of Wolsey can see the light of day.

In the modern world Lord Lawson seeks clarity and truth regarding Global Warming; suggesting we focus on mankind’s real problems; exciting research by Dr Wade Martins aims to understand the very earliest stages of Parkinson’s disease and thus create a greater understanding of that most debilitating of diseases; and the Regius Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology highlights possible paths for us through difficult and seemingly impenetrable moral issues. Old Member Peter Bebb (1965) wants to spark the light of reform in the way we are governed, and in bringing about greater economic growth and social stability.

Our eyes are opened to the joy of reading the Bible by the Tutor in Theology, a piece illustrated by two beautiful illuminated images from Wolsey’s epistle, and the 101 photos by Bettina von Kameke explore the Christ Church community and illuminate the sitters in a multitude of ways.

Within the magazine is a flyer inviting you back to the House for the Association weekend and GCR 50th anniversary celebrations. It promises to be a splendid few days and we hope as many of you as possible will make the effort to attend all or part of the festivities. Please book as soon as possible. There are many other events listed on the inside back cover, which we hope both appeal to you and on which the sun will shine.

Simon Offen
Christ Church Association
Vice President and Deputy Development Director
simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk
+44 (0)1865 286 075

Emma Sinden
Alumni Relations Officer
emma.sinden@chch.ox.ac.uk
+44 (0)1865 286 598
Living in the Deanery gives us, I suppose, a certain proprietorial attitude to Alice. After all, here is ‘Alice’s nursery’, still in use for play and still in its dark-panelled Victorian state. Then there is the chess-board tiling in the hall-way, the famous door leading from the Deanery garden to the one next-door (‘the loveliest garden you ever saw’), and the tree in which Alice’s cat used to sit, now much propped.

The somewhat possessive feeling shows itself in the belief that Harry Potter is an upstart who has unfairly invaded Christ Church, not to mention people’s imaginations. Maybe he will pass and Alice will, once more, ascend the throne. Possessiveness also leads to the belief that people should not mess too much with the story. We took ourselves off to the recent film and reckoned it good in parts. There was a splendidly hi-tech rabbit-hole, a superb rendering of Tweedledum and Tweedledee, a good mouse and a grand-paternal caterpillar. The jabberwocky, however, looked like all those other run-of-the-mill computer-generated monsters (not nearly up to Tenniel’s standard) and for some reason Alice had reached about the age of twenty, presumably so that she could have a Hollywood romance of a sort with the Mad Hatter, refuse the hand of a brainless suitor and (improbably) sail off to the East. Ah, well.

For the last three years, I have been the host to largely American groups who have been learning about developments in world religions. When in Oxford, I have taken them to Binsey as a place of religious pilgrimage and a proper country church. To me at least, it has been a short leap to do a reading in parts of the story of the Mad Hatter’s tea party, with the addition of a few simple items of fancy dress: the odd pair of ears, a mouse-bonnet and a top hat. For those who do not know Binsey, it is an enchanting place, with a well in the churchyard associated with the story of Frideswide – the patron saint of Oxford – and known for its healing powers. To understand the part played by the well in ‘Alice in Wonderland’, it is necessary to know that ‘treacle’ once referred to medicines given for various diseases and by extension to healing waters. So the Binsey well is a ‘treacle well’; hence the Mad Hatter’s immortal lines: ‘You can draw water out of a water-well, so I should think you could draw treacle out of a treacle-well – eh, stupid?’

The Alice stories are sometimes rather frightening for younger children (‘off with his head’), but continue to fascinate other children and adults all over the world. One of the great Lewis Carroll experts is an Old Member of the House, Edward Wakeling (1981) and it is he who organises the Universal Snark Club which has a meeting and dinner here at Christ Church on a date near to Carroll’s birthday: 27th January. The assembled company is given soap and railway shares, and join in an animated reading of ‘The Hunting of the Snark’.

Christopher Lewis
Dean

‘You can draw water out of a water-well, so I should think you could draw treacle out of a treacle-well – eh, stupid?’

To Alice endures, why is a raven like a writing desk?
December 1710, that Christ Church was “miserable, only as we have lost our old head, not for want of a new one.” He had been an extraordinary dean, a learned polymath but comfortable, too, with a pipe, popular music, and a pint of good ale. Perhaps he is best known for designing the New Library, a project he didn’t see even begun, but he was also responsible for the complete reconstruction of Peckwater Quad in the first years of the eighteenth century.

The old Peckwater Inn had been revamped completely during the Tudor period under Dean Thomas Ravis, a born administrator and committee man. The Peckwater project would have been right up his street. It was a quick job; finished in time for the start of the 1601/2 academic year, a decree was issued that the new rooms were to be used primarily for the ever-increasing numbers of gentlemen commoners. The Inn had been given a completely contemporary look with beautiful bay windows all round, castellations, and attic rooms with dormer windows on the north side. A Tudor manor house in all but name.

By Aldrich’s time in the Deanery, though, the Elizabethan look was a bit tired, and hardly suitable for the sons of the rich and influential whom Aldrich was encouraging into Christ Church. The dean put pen to paper, and came up with a new design. The grand Palladian edifice, rather out of step with the Baroque style that was popular at the time, was to be stern and strictly classical. Seizing upon the bequest of...
nearly £3000 from Anthony Radcliffe, he began to build. Three foundation stones were laid on 25 January 1706, and all of the Chapter and noblemen in residence at the time each added a stone to get the building off to a fine start. The dean kept a close eye on the works, and signed articles of agreement with William Townesend, master mason, and George Smith, the carpenter. Each side was done separately, allowing accommodation in the other two sides to remain in use, and for money to be collected. Most of the stone was from Headington, but accounts show that “fine Barnsly stone” from Gloucestershire was purchased for capitals and pilasters. Townesend’s contract for the construction of the west side of the quadrangle is detailed and precise. Cellars, dug to be used as wine-cellars for the undergraduates, were to have walls made of common walling stone 4’ 3” thick except under the columns where they were to be 5’ 9”.

The walls of the first storey were to be of fitting stone, to match the north side, and 3’ thick. Those of the second and third stories were to be 2’ 3”. Walls between the bed chambers and general room were of brick, and of one brick’s length, and walls between bed chambers and studies, one brick’s breadth. Everything was set out to the same detail including the projection of the pilasters and columns, the numbers and positions of chimneys. One chimney stack was to be large and fit for use in the kitchen marked on the plan. Smith’s contract, for all the woodwork, was equally precise. All the woodwork was to be of oak, except for the three upper flights in each staircase, which would be of elm. The rooms were, on the whole, rather grand. On the first floor were large double sets suitable for gentlemen. In the attics were more fundamental rooms for servants or for servitors.

Aldrich did not see his design completed – the final bill from the external contractors was not paid until 3 January 1712 – and it was then that his successor, the less than successful dean, Francis Atterbury, tried to take the credit. He decided to erect a statue of himself, holding a model of Peckwater, in the centre of the new quadrangle. Just for once, the dean must have noticed the grimaces of disapproval across the Chapter House, and thought better of it.

The Elizabethan look was a bit tired, and hardly suitable for the sons of the rich and influential whom Aldrich was encouraging into Christ Church. The dean put pen to paper, and came up with a new design.
Many readers will know that Christ Church can boast thirteen Prime Ministers and eleven rulers of India amongst its Old Members, but you might not know the House has had 71 Knights of the Garter.

The latest invested was Sir Antony Acland KG GCMG GCVO. These pages list those Knights, and displays the Shields of the 25 Founder Knights of the most Noble Order of the Garter, appointed in 1348 by the Founder of the Order, King Edward III.
The Order of the Garter

The Order of the Garter was founded by Edward III in 1348. The Garter ceremony, involving The Queen, The Duke of Edinburgh, other members of the Royal Family and the Knights of the Garter, still takes place every year in St. George’s Chapel, Windsor.
The offering of daily worship is at the heart of Cathedral life. It often comes as a surprise, even to those who know Christ Church well, to learn that during term-time there are normally twenty-six services held in the cathedral each week. These include Morning Prayer, where the clergy and a few others gather in the Latin Chapel at 7:15 am, Choral Evensong at 6pm, which can draw hundreds, particularly during the height of the tourist season, the informal College Eucharist at 9am on a Sunday morning, and the new Sunday evening After Eight service, with high-profile visiting speakers.

Daily worship provides an important way of linking the cathedral and college. Every day, different parts of the institution are remembered in prayer; students with a capital and small ‘s’ read lessons at Sunday Matins and Evensong; the College Choir sings Evensong on Mondays during term, and members of Christ Church Music Society take part in After Eight. Many members of Christ Church attend services, and it’s always good to welcome former members who attend Evensong and College Prayers before a Gaudy. The cathedral is open daily from 7am to 7pm, and provides a haven for students and others in need of a peaceful, prayerful environment. In our supposedly secular society, it is interesting to note how many people come to this and other cathedrals. During Advent and Christmas 2009, attendance at services and other events in Christ Church increased by 7,000 on the previous year.

As well as the constant offering of worship, many special events take place in the cathedral. On 17 March, Lord Harries of Pentregarth (a former Bishop of Oxford) delivered the inaugural Richard Harries Lecture, on behalf of the Council for Christians and Jews. The theme of the lecture was ‘Who do we think we are? Jewish, Christian, British and Human Identities’, and involved a lively discussion with Dr Tony Bayfield, Head of the Movement for Reform Judaism. The interfaith dimension was continued when Elias Chacour, Melkite Archbishop of Galilee, delivered the first BibleLands lecture on 13 April. The Archbishop, who has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize on three occasions, drew a large audience who came to hear him speak powerfully and movingly on ‘Educating for Peace in Israel and Palestine’, with responses from Jewish and Muslim speakers.

In a rather different vein, the Sub-Dean, Edmund Newell, joined up with actress Jeany Spark, of BBC TV’s Wallander, to present Grimm Tales on 27 March as part of the Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival. The production explores the spirituality of brothers Grimm’s fairy tales, using Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy’s adaptations of Cinderella, Snow White and Little Red Riding Hood, with original songs by composer Nick Bicât and writer/film director Philip Ridley.

As ever, the cathedral musicians continue to provide music of a very high quality. Recent highlights include two Holy Week performances: Dupré’s organ meditation ‘Chemin de la Croix’, given by Organ Scholars Ben Sheen and Michael Heighway, and Buxtehude’s Membra Jesu Nostri, performed by the Cathedral Choir. This followed soon after the choir’s sell-out performances of Haydn’s Creation in the Mercatorhalle, Duisburg.
The concepts of multiple intelligences and multi-sensory learning have on the one hand passed from fashionable educational theory into daily mainstream classroom practice and on the other have begun to look in many cases less like revolutionary innovation and more like the systemisation of things everybody had always known. It does not take long for any teacher worth her or his salt to realise that different children learn best in different ways, and that these differences are often clustered around, for example, a preference for visual, auditory or tactile cues – or a combination of any or all of these.

It does not take long for any teacher worth her or his salt to realise that different children learn best in different ways, and that these differences are often clustered around, for example, a preference for visual, auditory or tactile cues – or a combination of any or all of these.

It would not, therefore, have been difficult to justify this term’s Arts’ Day at Christ Church Cathedral School on educational grounds, despite the fact that for pupils aged seven and above the “normal” subject timetable was completely dropped. Instead, boys participated in three styles of workshop: Music, Poetry and Art. The internationally renowned violinist Tasmin Little engaged in an exploration she calls “The Naked Violin” which aims both to demystify aspects of this extraordinary stringed instrument whilst celebrating the beauty and versatility of its sound. The boys’ reaction was immediate and enthusiastic: “I really liked it – I learned all sorts of things I didn’t know”;

A musical masterpiece”;

“I didn’t expect to be moved – but I was”. With the school’s advanced violinists Tasmin was able to explore some of the subtleties of the bow hold (crucial, apparently), bowing itself and various other techniques. Mr Little is a born communicator and had the gift of swiftly putting boys at their ease. What a wonderful opportunity to learn from someone at the top of her profession.

The poetry workshops were led by Kenneth Steven, writer and poet frequently to be heard on Radio Four. Here the boys were, perhaps, in more familiar territory – we use words in school every day and everyone is encouraged both to read and write poetry. Kenneth’s strength was his quiet knack of showing to his young writers not only that they had wonderful ideas but that these ideas could be taken further and, with work, turned into poems. He stayed the whole day in school, judging in the afternoon the annual Poetry Reciting Competition that has a long tradition at Christ Church. We believe that the dual skills of learning poems by heart and speaking them aloud (from the heart) are really important. Anyone listening to the older boys speaking the words of Wilfred Owen or John Keats or the younger ones with their Roald Dahl and A A Milne would surely be convinced of this belief as well as appreciating the enthusiasm that only children can bring to this sort of activity.

Rounding off our kinaesthetic carousel was our own Head of Art, David Cotterill, whose workshops led to a number of multi-media works inspired by the graphic word. This work has led to and inspired a larger, collaborative piece which now dominates the floor space in one of the Art Rooms.

You could say, then, that there was something in Arts’ Day for everyone’s style of learning: or you could more simply conclude that an understanding and enjoyment of music, poetry and painting lie at the heart of any attempt to create a civilised society.
When Thomas Wolsey was created cardinal by Pope Leo X on the 10th September 1515, he also received the scarlet hat (galero) – the crown that the papacy gave to its princes, the cardinals. Wolsey could not travel to Rome to be vested by the pope, therefore, the scarlet robes and more importantly the hat, this insignia of Wolsey’s newly obtained power and status had to be sent to London. This was no small matter and the hat travelled over the Alps with a protonotary of the papal court. It arrived two months later and was carried through London on the 15th November 1515 in a lavish procession, ending at Westminster Abbey where Wolsey was ceremoniously crowned cardinal on the following Sunday, the 18th November 1515.

We can assume that in the fifteen years until Wolsey’s death in 1530 the hat accompanied him on all his travels. Extraordinarily, the hat’s journey did not seem to have ended then. Wolsey died a prisoner, while on his way to London to face the charges of high treason. He was buried in Leicester Abbey without a monument, his grave now unknown. It was the custom, however, that upon the death of a cardinal his galero would be placed on his tomb where it would slowly and visibly decay. Given Wolsey’s status at the time and the way he was buried it is highly possible that this did not happen.

In 2009 the Governing Body of Christ Church agreed to send the galero on another journey to feature in an exhibition at the Center for British Art at Yale. It fell to me to accompany it over the Atlantic to New Haven, Connecticut, 494 years after its arrival in London.

The hat and I were picked up by a truck on a cold and wet October morning at five. We had packed it the day before in tissue paper and three custom-made boxes fitting together like a Russian doll. That morning we had only to strap the crate into the climate-controlled back of the van and drive to the airline’s warehouse at the airport. Eight couriers from other British institutions had already arrived and stood there shivering next to their climate controlled boxes containing all kinds of treasures. I knew some of the other couriers, fellow curators and conservators with whom I already bonded during many hours spent together at airports and in warehouses.

In situations like this the etiquette of introduction demands one reveals one’s institution and freight, which immediately establishes the hierarchy of the group. Normally I am up there with the Michelangelos and Leonards, but this time I accompanied an old, greasy and moth-eaten hat, whose sole importance and aura derived from its previous owner (real or assumed). It was neither the precious material nor the intrinsic beauty; it was just the concept, the idea, of history and fame that I guarded. Not that this is less important, Napoleon’s socks and Jackie Kennedy’s Chanel dress have...
prominent places in world-renowned museums, but it somehow made me the jester of this group, whilst the king and queen were the two couriers from the British Museum.

After hours in the fresh air of the breezy warehouse during which we supervised and helped secure fourteen crates of all shapes and sizes into flight containers (fig 1) we finally could leave for the lounge, but only board the plane when loading was finished. It has happened that cargo was bumped to a later flight and the couriers separated from their charge – a courier’s worst nightmare.

Landing in Boston, three films later, the whole procedure was reversed, magnified by the lack of sleep and the fear that one’s fingerprints and iris have somehow mutated creating problems at immigration. However everything was fine and the waiting started again – waiting for the plane to be unloaded, for customs to be cleared, for the air containers to arrive in the warehouse and for the fourteen crates to be carefully arranged into a specialised van. After each box was individually and satisfyingly strapped in and the couriers packed into a minibus the convoy set out from Boston for the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven where our treasures were stored in the vaults overnight.

The next day the exhibition installation was in full swing with complicated structures and hanging mechanisms being patiently secured by curators, conservators and technicians. I, however, only had to retrieve my hat-box from the vaults, break the seals and with heightening anticipation only had to retrieve my hat-box from the vaults, break the seals and with heightening anticipation have somehow mutated creating problems at immigration. However everything was fine and the waiting started again – waiting for the plane to be unloaded, for customs to be cleared, for the air containers to arrive in the warehouse and for the fourteen crates to be carefully arranged into a specialised van. After each box was individually and satisfyingly strapped in and the couriers packed into a minibus the convoy set out from Boston for the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven where our treasures were stored in the vaults overnight.

The next day the exhibition installation was in full swing with complicated structures and hanging mechanisms being patiently secured by curators, conservators and technicians. I, however, only had to retrieve my hat-box from the vaults, break the seals and with heightening anticipation un-wrap its content. I fear it must have been an anticlimax to the exhibition curator and textile conservator when we finally lifted the tissue paper of the last box to reveal – an old hat.

Never have I had such a simple trip with an art work. Never was I so relaxed when the forklift truck came close to the ‘hat-box’ and never did I feel so pretentious in my role as curator. However, it is vital to accompany these works for insurance reasons, as many things can go wrong, and because contact with far travelled colleagues and sight of the works in their care is always beneficial.

2. A description of this magnificent event can be found in J. H. Lupton, A Life of John Colet, 486 pp. 1987-88.
3. The magnificent tomb worthy of a cardinal that Wolsey had planned for himself was never realised. The monumental black sarcophagus which he had already ordered himself now awaits in the vault of Lord Nelson at St Paul’s Cathedral.
4. “Horace Walpole and Strawberry Hill” the exhibition is now at the V&A until the 4th July 2010.
5. The hat is a genuine cardinal’s hat made of rabbit fur felt and silk in Italy at around 1535. We cannot be sure that it was Wolsey’s but it is not unlikely.

HELP SAVE CARDINAL WOLSEY

If you enter the Library at present none of the familiar statues and paintings is anywhere to be seen; they have all been sent into storage for the duration of the building works. Although disconcerting, their absence this academic year has had the advantage of providing a blank canvas, enabling us to become more aware of the architecture and the impact it was meant to have on the viewer. Recovering some of this space’s former glory is an important part of what is going to happen in the Library during the summer of 2010.

Our aim to be able to bring to the Library a rather unusual portrait of Thomas Wolsey would aesthetically enhance the entrance hall with a painting deeply relevant to the setting.

In Christ Church alone there are eight versions and copies of Wolsey’s image, and at first light the one we have in mind for the Library does not appear to be very different. The portrait shows him at the height of his power. He is wearing the scarlet robes of a cardinal and his face is turned in profile. However, looking more closely one notices that this is Wolsey as we have not seen him before; unlike the other images the body of the Cardinal is pictured frontally. He is sitting on a carved chair wearing a white collar and cape edged with elegant and intricate patterns of lace. Instead of gripping a scroll in one hand, he holds an unfolded document. Echoing the fine goosamer lines of the lace immediately beneath, the writing, although up-side-down, faces the viewer and is clear enough for us to be able to start reading it: “Rex omnibus ad quos...”

Unusual and intriguing this painting is, sadly, too fragile now to be viewed. It requires restoring to a stable condition. A discoloured film of varnish needs removing, losses of paint and ground need filling and retouching invisibly, and an isolating varnish applied. Weak areas of wood on the frame need consolidating.

The estimated cost of this work would be some £5,000. If you are interested in donating to this project please contact Simon Offen at Christ Church. It would be wonderful to have the portrait in place for the reopening of the Library in Michaelmas, and restoration can commence immediately we have raised the money.

Dr Cristina Neagu, Assistant Librarian
It is a truth universally acknowledged that actions speak louder than words. Nowhere is this truer than in global warming policy.

The world’s political leaders are ostensibly agreed that, if the planet is to avoid what is customarily misdescribed as ‘catastrophic climate change’, our economies and lifestyles will have to be decarbonised in short order.

At the same time, the major oil companies are devoting roughly 95 per cent of their massive capital investment spending to future oil and gas supplies, which they would scarcely be doing if they felt the future for oil and gas were in any doubt. And China, while busily building new coal-fired power stations at the rate of one a week (it has already overtaken the US as the world number one CO2 emitter), has become the new imperial power in sub-Saharan Africa, using its substantial political and economic muscle to secure control of the raw materials needed for its future growth, in particular African oil and gas reserves.

The Chinese are not stupid. With tens of millions of their people still suffering from acute poverty, and from the dire consequences of poverty such as preventable disease, malnutrition and premature death, it is understandable that their overriding priority is the fastest feasible rate of economic development. And this means, inter alia, using what is, and for the foreseeable future will remain, by far the cheapest available form of energy: carbon-based energy. For India, whose population is set to overtake even that of China, the priority is inevitably the same.

So it was no surprise that last December’s UN climate change conference in Copenhagen, which was intended to secure a binding global decarbonisation agreement, ended in complete failure. True, there was a Canute-like agreement that the temperature of the planet ought not to be permitted to rise more than 2ºC above the estimated 1850 level. But this was simply a figure plucked from the air, devoid of either scientific basis or the slightest operational significance.

The future, then, is one of steadily rising carbon dioxide emissions leading to steadily increasing amounts of CO2 in the atmosphere. Does this matter? And, if it does, what will we do about it?

Whether it matters depends partly on how much warmer it is likely to make the planet, and how much harm any warming may do. Both these things are far from clear.

The first is unclear because climate science remains a particularly uncertain science. While CO2 is indeed a greenhouse gas, increasing concentrations of which may be expected to have (other things being equal) a warming effect, scientists disagree about how large that effect may be (this is particularly affected by ignorance of the effect of clouds). And, of course, other things may not be equal: there is much in climate science that remains unknown. Nor can the
massive computers now used to provide temperature projections reduce the uncertainty one whit. All they can do is process the data fed into them (much of which, it is generally agreed, is of pretty poor quality) using models based on theories which may or may not be correct.

No doubt that is why, although the models predicted that global warming would accelerate during the first decade of the 21st century, so far this century there has been no recorded global warming at all.

But of course there may be in the future. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), set up under the auspices of the UN to advise the world’s governments, suggested in its most recent Report that, by the end of this century, the mean global temperature would probably rise to between 1.8ºC and 4.5ºC above estimated 1850 levels – that is, to between 1.1ºC and 3.3ºC above today’s level.

Would that matter? Hard to say. There are considerable benefits, as well as costs, from a warmer climate. The IPCC has somewhat discredited itself by predicting a number of specific negative impacts which have subsequently been found to be wholly devoid of any scientific or empirical basis. And it was conspicuously reticent about the positive impacts.

Overall, it concluded that it would be in the developing world where the net adverse effects would be greatest, and that, as a consequence, by the end of the century, if nothing was done to stop the warming, living standards in the developing world, instead of being rather more than nine times as high as they are today, would ‘only’ be rather more than eight times as high as they are today.

Unfortunate, but scarcely catastrophic, one might think. Perhaps this is why, in the most thorough opinion survey so far conducted among climate scientists, when they were asked what they considered ‘the most pressing issue facing humanity today’ only 8 per cent answered either ‘global warming’ or ‘climate change’.

It is, of course true that the IPCC may have been too optimistic in their developing world growth projections. But it was those growth projections which drove their CO2 projections which in turn determined their temperature projections.

So, what to do, should this warming occur (which it may or may not do)?

The answer is obvious: adapt. This is what mankind has always done, throughout the ages, and what we do today around the world, where temperature varies very considerably between, for example, Finland and Singapore, both of which seem to manage pretty well. And modern technology, which is developing all the time, means that our capacity to adapt is greater than ever before.

Unlike decarbonisation, which is prohibitively expensive and is not going to happen, adaptation is relatively cheap and will happen. It enables us to pocket the benefits of a warmer climate while reducing the disadvantages. And, perhaps even more important, it forces us to focus on the real problems afflicting mankind. For the harms produced by warming are not new problems, but the possible slight exacerbation of existing problems, such as tropical diseases, droughts, tropical storms, and so on. These are what need to be addressed in any event, warming or no warming.

And this, I am confident, is what we – with one exception – will do. That exception is this country. The UK, alone in the entire world, has enacted climate change legislation obliging us, unilaterally, at very heavy cost, to carry out a programme of rapid and complete decarbonisation. Since we account for less than 2 per cent of global emissions, it can have no relevance whatever to the temperature of the planet. But it is, bizarrely, touted as world leadership: Britain leading the rest of the world by its example.

It is indeed an example to the rest of the world. An example of what not to do.
Once again a very good year for the Club; the men retained the Headship won last year and, while the ladies’ 1st Boat lost a couple of places, other crews rose, gaining valuable experience. Just how valuable this experience can prove to be was amply demonstrated by the performance of the men’s 1st Torpid. In 2009 there were four members of the 2008 2nd Summer Eight aboard when the Headship was won with bumps on Oriel and Pembroke; this year only one man from last year’s 1st Summer Eight was available. Thus the Torpid was made up once again largely of men who had come through the novice programme at Christ Church and who had learned their bumps racing in Lower Boats. It was always going to be difficult to hold this prize in the face of a strong Pembroke Torpid; not one of their crew had learned his rowing in Oxford and on paper this was truly David and Goliath. Coach Ben Reed began with a small squad and the hope that we might gain some returners from OUBC and OULRC. This did happen in the end but not until the eleventh hour when injury and illness had depleted the tiny squad to the extent that long and gruelling outings at Wallingford were conducted with only six men. Hard and unremitting land training from October onwards turned these young men into fighters; the knowledge of the strength of the enemy kept them to task throughout. Augmented by one Norse newcomer and by two returners from OULRC this fairly inexperienced crew raced as underdogs and held public sympathy throughout the four days. Not only that, but they raced hard and well under pressure. Pembroke closed each day in the Gut – and each day the House drew away to finish clear, culminating on the Saturday in a prolonged and bitter fight in which the enemy were seen off only at the end of the boathouses. Great celebrations resulted, with a boat carried back to the House, dinner in Hall with the Trophy and the boat then burned and leapt in traditional style – our third burning in a year. Given that the men’s 2nd Torpid gained a great deal from racing and rose one place, then the example lies before them; it is in their hands to follow where others have led. Congratulations are due to Coach Ben Reed, borrowed cox Zoe de Toledo and to David Brock, James Fifield, Tom Montgomery, Magnus Proesch, Ian Maconnachie, Thomas Hine, Tom Smith and Captain Guy Arnold. The ladies also raced valiantly but were rather outpowered by their opponents – Magdalen went on to take the Headship from St Catz – and a strong SEH crew. Coach Karl Offord is determined, as are the girls themselves, to put this slip right come Summer Eights. The Ladies 2nd Torpid, coached by Old Member Lenny Martin, were only allowed two days of racing owing to the prevailing water conditions – but nevertheless gained a bump and also have plenty to look forward to in Eights. With six men set to return from OUBC (three Blues, three Isa) the outlook for Trinity Term is excellent at all levels. It was splendid to see so many Old Members present to cheer on our Torpids (despite the bitter cold) and we hope that May 26 – 29 will bring both the sun and many more former ChCh oarsmen and women: we hope to be able to put on a show well warranting your journey!
Joe Lau (1999) and his wife Jen recently funded the purchase of a new scull, which Joe asked to be named after Professor Anthony Hopwood. Regrettably Professor Hopwood was too ill to attend the Boat naming but his wife Caryl gave us these words which he had dictated.

“I have always been honoured and privileged to have been both Dean of the Said Business School and a Student of Christ Church. From the beginning I always thought it was important to have a close working relationship between the colleges and the Business School and I worked hard to achieve this. I’m sure that it helped that there was a shared sporting interest, i.e. boats; something that certainly provides a rationale for today’s celebrations. So I would like to thank Joe and Jen Lau for their generosity in funding this splendid new scull, and for providing the contact to celebrate our mutual successes on the river, at the House and at the Said. It has been good working together and I hope that it will continue. Thank you!”

As CCM was going to print the sad news arrived that Professor Hopwood died on 8 May at his home in Henley.

Sir William Gladstone has made a most generous donation to the Boat Club. This had been used to purchase a new four and to finance in part the purchase of the eight in which the House went Head of the River last summer. The Gladstone family has played an important part in the history of the Boat Club. Sir William himself stroked the 1st Torpid to the Headship of the River in 1948 and served as President of the Boat Club in 1949. His great grandfather was W. E. Gladstone (also of course a House man) who, so far as is known, never pulled an oar in anger.

Sir William’s uncle, A.C. Gladstone, rowed four times for Oxford between 1906 and 1909. He was in the House crew that went Head of the River in Summer Eights in 1907 and with Sir William’s father, C.A. Gladstone, he was in the crew which retained the Headship in 1908 and went on to win the Grand Challenge Cup at Henley that year – the College’s only victory in this event to date. A.C. with another House man, H.K. Barker, also won the Silver Goblets at Henley that year. He rowed in the winning British eight at the 1908 Olympic Regatta and won the University Pairs three times (in 1908 with his brother C.A.) and the University Silver Sculls once.

Sir William’s brother, Peter, rowed for Oxford in 1950 and 1952, winning in the latter year and was President of the College Boat Club in 1952.

Another brother, J.F., who was President in 1962-63, stroked the House to the Headship of the River in 1962. This crew was coached by the brothers’ father, C.A. Appropriately the four purchased by Sir William is to be named “A.C. and C.A. Gladstone”.

Sir William’s brother, Peter, rowed for Oxford in 1950 and 1952, winning in the latter year and was President of the College Boat Club in 1952.

Another brother, J.F., who was President in 1962-63, stroked the House to the Headship of the River in 1962. This crew was coached by the brothers’ father, C.A. Appropriately the four purchased by Sir William is to be named “A.C. and C.A. Gladstone”.

Sir William’s brother, Peter, rowed for Oxford in 1950 and 1952, winning in the latter year and was President of the College Boat Club in 1952.

Another brother, J.F., who was President in 1962-63, stroked the House to the Headship of the River in 1962. This crew was coached by the brothers’ father, C.A. Appropriately the four purchased by Sir William is to be named “A.C. and C.A. Gladstone”.

Sir William’s brother, Peter, rowed for Oxford in 1950 and 1952, winning in the latter year and was President of the College Boat Club in 1952.

Another brother, J.F., who was President in 1962-63, stroked the House to the Headship of the River in 1962. This crew was coached by the brothers’ father, C.A. Appropriately the four purchased by Sir William is to be named “A.C. and C.A. Gladstone”.

Sir William’s brother, Peter, rowed for Oxford in 1950 and 1952, winning in the latter year and was President of the College Boat Club in 1952.

Another brother, J.F., who was President in 1962-63, stroked the House to the Headship of the River in 1962. This crew was coached by the brothers’ father, C.A. Appropriately the four purchased by Sir William is to be named “A.C. and C.A. Gladstone”.

Sir William’s brother, Peter, rowed for Oxford in 1950 and 1952, winning in the latter year and was President of the College Boat Club in 1952.

Another brother, J.F., who was President in 1962-63, stroked the House to the Headship of the River in 1962. This crew was coached by the brothers’ father, C.A. Appropriately the four purchased by Sir William is to be named “A.C. and C.A. Gladstone”.

Sir William’s brother, Peter, rowed for Oxford in 1950 and 1952, winning in the latter year and was President of the College Boat Club in 1952.

Another brother, J.F., who was President in 1962-63, stroked the House to the Headship of the River in 1962. This crew was coached by the brothers’ father, C.A. Appropriately the four purchased by Sir William is to be named “A.C. and C.A. Gladstone”.

Sir William’s brother, Peter, rowed for Oxford in 1950 and 1952, winning in the latter year and was President of the College Boat Club in 1952.

Another brother, J.F., who was President in 1962-63, stroked the House to the Headship of the River in 1962. This crew was coached by the brothers’ father, C.A. Appropriately the four purchased by Sir William is to be named “A.C. and C.A. Gladstone”.
For an American medievalist, life on Tom Quad never ceased to amaze. Most of my life I would not have imagined that I would live literally a minute away from the doors of a medieval cathedral, or that it would be my job as canon of Christ Church to be part of its services. I studied and restudied its corbels and carvings, its windows and choir ceiling, although I admittedly gave less attention than Edward Evans did to the seventeenth century monuments. I enjoyed being wrapped in the depth of its silence during early mornings or said evening offices in the latin chapel, where centuries of prayer seemed to linger as we took our turn. The soaring choral services were consistently transporting. Contemplative worship was the framework and foundation of our outreach to the quarter of a million tourists who passed through every year, although some of them thought they had come only to see (in the words of one Italian teenager) “the Harry Potter university”! Out of my back window I could see the tower of St Mary’s Church, where –

Not all of Tom Quad’s charms were medieval

Besides the memorials of Cranmer’s trial and burning – is a plaque to John Duns Scotus. Exiting the back gate, I could stride down Merton Street where Thomas Cromwell took delight in burning manuscripts of Scotus’ works, thereby creating employment for Scotus scholars who have to piece the texts back together again. Nor could I forget how an Oxford chancellor, who had lost his job when he fell out with the dons, used his critique of Ockham’s writings to forward his career with the Avignon pope John XXII. (My first book was on William Ockham.) During my second or third year, college maintenance decided to repair the gas and water pipes. Up came the flagstones, and out came the archeologists, who had to oversee any digs for possible historic finds. Their expectations were not disappointed. One day, as I was headed for my class in Lecture Room 2, I was taken aback. In the digging near the steward’s office door they had uncovered medieval graves, one of a woman, whose skeleton was in almost perfect condition. Something about the bones enabled them to tell her age. Her teeth were perfect. I joined Rhona Lewis in wondering whether it would be disrespectful to take her picture. In the end, I thought not. How amazing that human beings could continue to mean something to one another after all these years! And I went off to teach my class on Duns Scotus. Later they found a hoard of unusual coins. I concluded that we should all be buried with pockets full of change, for the benefit of future scholars.

Not all of Tom Quad’s charms were medieval, nor even sixteenth and seventeenth century. There were the resolutely cheerful custodians, smiling and helpful in all weathers, teasing me in gray skies and down pours that we should put in a word with ‘the man upstairs’. The custodians were also my source for explanations of why we were flying which standard on any given day. The porters were also unusually resourceful, as ready to provide first aid to those who stumbled and fell on the cobbles, as to Fed-Ex a package. In the cathedral, our vergers were simply the best! My five and a half years at Christ Church has given me much to remember and much to ponder. My husband Bob and I are grateful for our time with the House.
20th anniversary of the Association

To mark the 20th anniversary of the Association, in this issue we hear from five Old Members who have been involved with the Association Committee at some point since its inception.

CONSTITUTIONS DON’T MATTER

I was delighted to receive an invitation to dinner in Christ Church to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the formation of the Christ Church Association. But I was puzzled. What had I done to deserve this honour? I had never been a member of the Committee of the Association. In fact apart from attending a number of drinks receptions in London and the odd garden party in Oxford, I had hardly participated in the affairs of the Association at all. And then I remembered. I had drafted its constitution. Even this seemed a rather flimsy connection, as I distinctly recalled having told Nick Alexander (1973) that I would draft it, but only on condition that once it had been adopted, it would be put away and never looked at again. (Looking at the rule book often means trouble.) Still, I accepted the invitation and despite feeling a little nervous about being something of an interloper much enjoyed the meal.

CONSTITUTIONS DON’T MATTER

At first it seemed a fairly unpromising topic. But on thinking back, I recalled that framing a constitution had not been an altogether easy task. I was not a member of the organising committee and the original project, as relayed to me and contrary to what had actually been decided, was to create a body with the twin objects of fund-raising for the educational purposes of the House and old girls’ club, and of fund-raising for the educational purposes of the House. This gave rise to two problems. First, I needed a crisp statement of what the educational purposes of the House actually were. And secondly, I needed to show that this new body would have some point since its inception.

Editorial

In this edition we mark the 20th anniversary of the Christ Church Association. I remember being involved in the very early days and being impressed by the energy and drive generated by just a few founding members. I had wanted to do more to help launch the Association, but work commitments got the better of me and so I dipped out for a number of years. Then, in 2002, I returned to help out by agreeing to edit Association News. It’s a role that is as time consuming as it is enjoyable. I am not fortunate enough to be in a position to give a large amount of financial support to the college, and so no invitation to the Board of Benefactions has yet been forthcoming, but the work I do with the committee is my way of giving back to an institution which has given me so much. Like many Old Members, I had a wonderful time during my four years at Christ Church. My years at the House enabled me to launch into my career and led to my subsequent marriage to a fellow House chemist, Richard Marsh (1986).

Reading the articles submitted by other Old Members made me understand just how much Christ Church has meant to them and how willing so many are to help with the committee. Old Members have been instrumental in organising some of the marvellous events which have been laid on for us. We are very lucky to have such variety and creativity in these events. In the past few months we could have tasted Cambridge Boat Race from the London Rowing Club, or headed off for a Schubert recital at Wigmore Hall or joined a reception for finance professionals, to name but a few. There is much variety too in the books written, edited or published by Old Members. The books we have chosen to highlight in this edition cover 1000 years of annoying the French, a non-clubber’s guide to Ibiza & Formentera’s heritage and the history of the Christ Church College London Boat Race. The books we have chosen to highlight in this edition cover 1000 years of annoying the French, a non-clubber’s guide to Ibiza & Formentera’s heritage and understanding how parables work. David Bond (1986), in his ingenious film, Erasing David, demonstrates the scary truth about just how much information people can find out about us through data mining.

I am delighted that Association News now has an additional help. Freya Howard (1998), pictured on page 17, has kindly volunteered to work with me on Association News. Her enthusiasm and application have been wonderful. And it is always handy working alongside someone with the same initials, so you can duck out of action points!

Fiona Holdsworth (1981), Editor of Association News. On learning of my limited role in the creation of the Association, she insisted that I should write an article about it. At first it seemed a fairly unpromising topic. But on thinking back, I recalled that framing a constitution had not been an altogether easy task. I was not a member of the organising committee and the original project, as relayed to me and contrary to what had actually been decided, was to create a body with the twin objects of fund-raising for the educational purposes of the House and old girls’ club, and of fund-raising for the educational purposes of the House. This gave rise to two problems. First, I needed a crisp statement of what the educational purposes of the House actually were which I could adopt or adapt for inclusion in the objects clause of the draft constitution. You would have thought that such a statement would be readily available. You would have been wrong. In an effort to be helpful, Edwin Simpson supplied me with copies of the college statutes, unhelpfully adding that I would not find them the slightest bit of use. How right he was! We all know of course that the institution that is Christ Church defies description. But the college statutes were completely silent except about important matters such as the maximum number of honorary students. So I devised my own formula. This, I admit, was not difficult...
CHRIST CHURCH ASSOCIATION NEWS / 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION

But the second problem was very much more difficult to resolve. To be an effective fund-raising body the Association would need to qualify for charitable status. For this purpose its objects would need to be exclusively charitable. There was no problem with the fund-raising activities. But to marry the social activities with the charitable objects and present them as exclusively charitable was a tall order. (Of course Christ Church had been getting away with it for years, but that did not mean that we would!) In reliance on an old authority in which it had been held that the provision of an annual dinner for the Aldermen of the City of London as trustees of a charity was conducive to the better administration of the charity and therefore charitable, I cobbled together a formula which subordinated the social functions of the proposed new association to its charitable fund-raising purposes. According to this formula having a glass of beer with one’s mates was not simply a social event, in fact it was not a social event at all; it was an essential – indeed indispensable – part of the charitable activity of promoting the educational purposes of the College! I cannot now remember exactly what form of words I used, but I was not at all confident that my attempt to square the circle would pass muster with the Charity Commission.

At this point Divine Providence, in the shape of the Dean and Governing Body, intervened and I was put right as to what the objects of the new association were to be. There had apparently been an unfortunate precedent. A recent appeal for funds by an Oxford college had flopped because, unbeknownst to the college, its Old Members had shortly before been approached for donations by the college’s Old Members’ association and in consequence they were suffering from “charity fatigue.” I happily jettisoned the fund-raising element of the objects clause of the Association in favour of the purely social or “friend-raising” element and in order to assure the college authorities that there would be no unwelcome change of direction I included in the draft constitution a provision that it could not be amended without the Governing Body’s consent. The friend-raising activities of the Association have been remarkably successful. There have been numerous receptions and lectures in addition to the annual garden party in the Masters’ Garden in June. The success of these activities owes an enormous amount to the comprehensive data-base of Old Members’ contact details which Robert Rice (1965) had worked so hard on. We all; it was an essential – indeed indispensable – part of the charitable activity of promoting the educational purposes of the College! I cannot now remember exactly what form of words I used, but I was not at all confident that my attempt to square the circle would pass muster with the Charity Commission.

The friend-raising activities of the Association have been remarkably successful. There have been numerous receptions and lectures in addition to the annual garden party in the Masters’ Garden in June. The success of these activities owes an enormous amount to the comprehensive data-base of Old Members’ contact details which Robert Rice (1965) spent so much time and effort in setting up. In fact the constitution doesn’t matter: it is the database which has been the Association’s most significant contribution to the fund-raising activities of the House. It has provided the House with a very useful tool for extracting money from its Old Members which it has not hesitated to use in the most shameless fashion. Early this year some of you will have received an invitation to join the newly created 1946 Society for those of you who have not received an invitation I should explain that membership of this society is absolutely free. There are only two conditions. All you have to do is (1) make a will leaving a legacy to the House and (2) die. If you have any difficulty fulfilling either of these conditions the Alumni and Development Office will be very happy to assist.

I took on the treasurer role at the suggestion of Robin Gilles (1965), my predecessor, who I had known at Christ Church and at Coopers and Lybrand where we both worked at one time. The main change was to agree that the Association should be self funding: in other words that we should not have to go cap in hand to the College on an annual basis but that everything we did should have a ticket price to cover its costs. Initially the College provided staff but eventually this was combined with the appeals department for administrative purposes while keeping the two activities separate. The college also provided support when events were held on the premises (eg the summer marquee) – and indeed still does.

The main change was to agree that the Association should be self funding: in other words that we should not have to go cap in hand to the College on an annual basis.

We did consider moving to a subscription model – Robert Rice (1965) who had done so much to set the Association up strongly supported this. At the time the majority felt that this was a step too far as the active membership was still quite small and the potential cost considerable. One thing which helped me reach the conclusion on funding was when I asked the then Dean what the College’s view was on the matter; he replied “The college has as many views as there are Dons – we have found over the last 500 years that it works better this way!” We settled on two core events – city and lawyers – which are identifiable alumni groupings – others are hard to find – getting country clergymen together was felt to be a step too far. I was time barred eventually and handed over to Philip Wright (1972) – another alumnus from what is now PwC. I enjoyed the opportunity to keep in touch with the college – a good mix of people. I think there is an opportunity to do a lot more with the alumnus body and I predict that it will become the norm as education budgets get cut. Christ Church is well placed to lead this movement but it needs real vision, enthusiasm and investment from the College. Perhaps things have moved on since my day!

Robert Boyle (1966)
At a Dinner in Hall at the end of February to celebrate 20 years of the Christ Church Association we were reminded that on October 27th 1989 the then Dean, Eric Heaton, had called a meeting at Christ Church of a wide range of Old Members to discuss the setting up of an alumni organisation, something that many other colleges had already done. Many of those who attended the original meeting and who have helped The Association over the years were present at the Dinner.

Very explicitly the original purpose of this body was not fundraising, but what has subsequently become known as “friend raising”. I think it might have been Simon Offen who first coined that entirely appropriate term.

Very explicitly the original purpose of this body was not fundraising, but what has subsequently become known as “friend raising”.

At the end of the meeting, much to my, and I suspect, everyone else’s surprise, Eric asked if I would initially lead this initiative, which I was only too happy to do.

A smaller group of around a dozen of us met several times in the following months to discuss how best to achieve this. We canvassed Old Members about what might attract them most and concluded that a summer garden party, to be held in the Masters’ Garden, would be a perfect first event.

This duly took place on 6th July 1991 with nearly 300 people attending. Unsurprisingly this remains our biggest event to date.

At the time the College had no Development Office or Director. It was entirely The Steward, John Harris, and his excellent staff who actually made it all happen, and continued to do so, though with increasing help from an embryonic Development Office as the years went by.

In those days as Old Members (so much less offensive a term in one’s 30s than in one’s 50s) we received one mailing a year; The Annual Report, and I try to get about!

As the years have gone by and the Development Office has bloomed the fundraising agenda has become ever more urgent. This remains the preserve of The Development Office rather than of The Association, but, I suspect there are few Old Members who resent any blurring.

The best thing that I have learnt from my mother, so far, is “to count your blessings!” One of the biggest and best was to go to Christ Church. I doubt I am the only OM to believe that!  

Nick Alexander (1975)

I read English at Christ Church before setting off on my travels around the world followed by further study in London. I really enjoyed my time at the House and reading Christ Church Matters one day I was attracted to the idea of becoming a ‘year representative’ and encouraging everybody to keep in contact with each other. October 2010 will be our first Gaudy and the year representatives are currently putting their heads together to arrange further events. I recently accepted with great pleasure an invitation to help with the Association and earlier this year became secretary. I am also helping Fiona Holdsworth edit the Association section of Christ Church Matters.

Freyja Howard (1998)

Most Christ Church undergraduates in recent years will be familiar with the Association for its role in supplying the Old Members who speak at careers evenings and give invaluable advice and contacts across a range of professions. As Careers Rep in my final year at college, I got to know the members of the Association who dealt with the careers side of things very well, and came to appreciate the tremendous help they provide to students. I therefore already knew a number of members of the Association Committee when, upon finishing my undergraduate degree, I was invited to join. This made it an easy decision.

I was by far the youngest of the Committee members when I joined, and the fact that there was such a spectrum of ages on the Committee was part of
the appeal, as it provided a link to the College’s past and an insight into what being a student there was like in previous years and even decades. Becoming a member of the Association Committee gave me the opportunity to both keep in touch with Christ Church and gain a new perspective on its operations. The close relationship between the Committee, the Development Office and the Steward affords us a better understanding of what goes on behind the scenes to keep a college like Christ Church running, and also the financial burdens it faces – something I hadn’t really concerned myself with as a student.

During my time on the Committee I have organised two events for recent leavers, joined the new Year Rep Scheme witnessing its development first hand, and more recently taken on some responsibility for the Vacation Placement Scheme. I have thus had the opportunity to meet Old Members I didn’t know during my time at college, keep in touch with some that I did through the events and Year Rep dinners, and finally to take on some of the support role that Committee Members provided for me when I was Careers Rep.

My time as an undergraduate at Christ Church was incredibly special and memorable, and I was sad to leave it behind. By joining the Association Committee I have been able to build a new and different relationship with the College that will go on into the future, so that, for me, Christ Church isn’t just a piece of my past. 

Annabel Charnock (2001)

The Wigmore Hall, Schubert recital

The period between Christmas and New Year is hardly the best time of the year to organise a concert in London. On the other hand, competition for Wigmore Hall dates is fierce. So, the Christ Church Association and I plunged in and accepted the Wigmore Hall’s offered date - right in the middle of London’s ‘dead period’, on 27 December.

All the more satisfying it was, therefore, that we attracted an enthusiastic audience of over 200 to attend an all-Schubert song recital.

The soloists were soprano, Dorothee Jansen, my wife, and pianist Francis Grier and this was their second 2009 all-Schubert recital at the Wigmore, the first having been on 13 July. Both recitals were generously attended and patronised by members of the House.

2009 was my Gaudy Year and it seemed a good idea to invite, to the first of these two recitals, all my contemporaries from the 2009 June Gaudy. Many of these Housemen took up the invitation and contributed to a delightful and spirited audience at the July recital.

The Perpetuity dinner for 1984-1995 year groups

In 2006 a group of Old Members from 1980-83 held a dinner at the Ivy Restaurant, which raised £375,000 towards the restoration of the East Wing of the Library. Since then the development programme has moved on, horizons have broadened, and it is recognised that giving to any part of the House is ultimately, through financial independence, to guarantee our core values. There is no doubt that there are troubled times ahead and the support of Members of the House will be crucial.

The dinner at Bentley’s Oyster Bar and Grill in Swallow Street on 21st January was kick started by Luke Chappell (1986) and me. We had the support of an organising committee and the Development Office, with an aim to focus in particular on the Library West Wing and the Sports Pavilion, but in reality on whatever has a special meaning for the donor. It was to be a celebration of our
The second of the two recitals, last December, by contrast, was conceived as a fund raiser for the recently established Wakefield Scholarship at Christ Church. The evening had a beautiful atmosphere, with the Christ Church members of the audience also attending wine receptions, before and during the interval of the recital in the well-appointed Bechstein Room.

The programme for the December recital was composed exclusively of songs associated with Schubert’s youthful romance with the singer, Therese Grob.

The Wakefield Scholarship is named after that doyen of 19th century colonial reform, Edward Gibbon Wakefield and, in commemoration of Wakefield’s seminal role in the founding of European New Zealand, the Wakefield Scholarship provides, triennially, for a graduate scholar from our eponymous Christchurch, New Zealand, to study for a year at the House.

To have been able to connect with Christ Church and Housemen in the context of these two recitals has been altogether a joyous new departure for me in my work as an impresario. So it was with pleasure that I accepted an invitation, at the beginning of 2010, to join the Christ Church Association as music representative. I have my thinking cap on for what might be possible in 2011, and beyond.

Haydn Rawstron (1968)

Our initiative was further spurred on by the Moritz Heyman Gift, in which there was a proviso that 1/8th of the income could only be released when matched by donations from those matriculating after 1983. Michael Moritz even made an inspiring DVD especially for the occasion, which he sent over from California, to be shown at the start of the meal.

The Dean presided, with senior Members of the House and the Development office in attendance, but whilst they were certainly present ‘to teach the joy of giving’, the evening was a great success socially too; just ask how many of the sixty who attended had sore heads the following day! The wine and champagne flowed; we had an excellent dinner of fresh crab and prawns, roast halibut, and chocolate and hazelnut terrine; and conversation took us all back to evenings in Hall, the Undercroft and the Bear. Michael Dobbs (1968) gave a witty talk alluding to his career as both politician and novelist.

Many thanks to all who helped organise the evening, to all who attended and who have pledged to give to Christ Church and particular thanks to Luke Chappell, without whom the evening could not have happened. Our age cohort has pledged in excess of £750,000 to date.

Christophe Egerton-Warburton (1989)
Game tasting in Scotland

Twenty Old Members and spouses/partners gathered in March at Reediehill, Auchtermuchty for the first Christ Church Scotland event. Whilst the dining room of the Fletcher’s farm house might not rival Hall the amount of game we ate and the quality of the wines drunk would have made our Founder proud.

Nichola Fletcher is an expert on game cookery having written five books and lectured on the subject all over the world. Her tutored game tasting was fascinating, informative, delicious and fun. To taste and compare nineteen different types of game, both feathered and furred, some very fresh, some hung, some smoked, some cured, and some marinated was a treat. The ability to match them with whites and reds from the Christ Church cellars made for an even greater indulgence.

The highlights? The Goldeneye (duck) with the Vielles Vignes Macon, the Grey Squirrel with the Sicilian Fiano, both the Grouse and Woodcock with Chateau Beaumont 2000 and the Red Venison with Cornas 1995. But above all the chance to meet other Housemen and women in new and stunningly beautiful surroundings.

Simon Offen (1986)

Behind the scenes at Sir John Soane’s Museum

At the end of March thirty lucky Old Members, with their family and friends, enjoyed a marvellous after hours exploration of the Soane Museum, the supreme example of a house museum in the world. Led by Helen Dorey (1982) the Deputy Director and inspectress, the group mingled over a glass of wine in the library before the candle lit guided tour of the Museum. The tour was illuminated further by Helen’s unsurpassed knowledge of the collection, which is still educating and inspiring ‘Amateurs and Students in Painting, Architecture and Sculpture’.

Soane bought and rebuilt 12 Lincoln’s Inn Fields as his family home in 1792. Twenty years later he moved into No. 13, where he designed a sequence of romantic and picturesque interiors which demonstrate how an architect can create the ‘poetry of architecture’ by a combination of light, clever spatial planning and decoration. Here he displayed his collection of paintings, sculpture, architectural models, and other diverse artefacts including the Egyptian sarcophagus of Seti I, excavated in the Valley of the Kings in 1817.

Soane lived alone after his wife’s death in 1815, devoting himself to the constant improvement and expansion of the Museum as a striking setting for his collections. In 1833 he had a private Act of Parliament passed bequeathing his house and Museum to the nation on his death, on condition that they be preserved in an unaltered state.

Having marvelled in particular at the Picture Room with its hinged screens and the Breakfast Parlour we had time to talk with Helen over another glass of wine in the library/dining room. The incredible “Pompeian red” of the walls, the ingenious use of mirrors and the rich woodwork makes the room perfect for evening entertaining. Candle lit dinners can be held for up to 30 as well as receptions for up to 80.

You could visit the Soane a hundred times and still see something new and exciting; I urge you to support it and go. www.soane.org

Simon Offen (1986)
The 2010 Xchanging Boat Race

Some one hundred Members of the House, mostly from the Boat Club Society, gathered at the London Rowing Club on Saturday 3rd April for the 156th Oxford Cambridge Boat Race. Many thanks are owed to Chris Sprague, Chairman of the Christ Church Boat Club Society, and also Chairman of the LRC Committee for providing the venue.

Seasoned wet bobs with ruddy complexions and blister hardened hands regaled the younger members with stories of sinkings, mutinies and victories by canvas widths or many boat lengths. Most were enjoying the facilities and looked as if they might be in need of Jeeves’ tonic the next day. Dry bobs like myself were politely received, encouraged to make full use of the bar if in a dispensing mood, but made to realise that real athletes row, whilst everyone else just plays games.

The LRC is a superb vantage point from which to observe the start at Putney Bridge, so pints in hand we crushed onto the balcony to see Oxford take an early lead. Those in the know were pretty confident that the Dark Blues would win and the Boat Club was justifiably proud of having three Christ Church/Kellogg rowers in Isis, and three in the Blue Boat, The Joy of Six.

Within a few minutes the boats disappear from view so inside we rushed to top up the drinks and take up position watching the big screens. News filtered through that Isis had not quite beaten Goldie; grimaces all round. Unfortunately Oxford could not put clear water between themselves and the Tabs and gradually, tragically, yet almost inevitably Cambridge drew level then took the lead. I asked what was happening and was told that the drinks needed refilling.

I’m afraid I still can’t explain why Oxford came second, but I am nonetheless in awe of the six Christ Church/Kellogg rowers who made it on to the river that day. Seeing their efforts first hand was a privilege. Hopefully most of them will not look back, but forward to next year and be able to compete again with greater success. I’ll raise a glass to that!

Simon Offen (1986)
Reception for finance professionals

On 5th May, the eve of the election, seventy Old Members gathered at PWC on Embankment for a drinks reception. Writing this report a week later it is true to say that despite all the opinions on offer about what might happen the following day nobody that evening foresaw what lay in store.

Perhaps the timing of the gathering was not ideal, but Philip Wright (1972), our host, warned us to avoid the year end, and the month end, if we wanted any accountants to attend. Given that warning, despite the heading, we stressed that one neither needed to be a financier nor a professional to come; we were not disappointed.

Some actuaries turned up to invigorate proceedings and as the evening got darker we even welcomed a few bankers as they slipped in. One very young Old Member in banking looked in quickly whilst “at the gym” to say hello, grab some sustenance and a dose of reality before returning to his desk. There were Hedge Fund managers who had bet both ways on the election result, and analysts picking apart the canapés. An auditor asked about the event’s cost and was relieved to hear that we hadn’t actually overspent our budget; it was just the allocation that fell short of our expenditure.

Some speakers followed. Peter Oppenheimer (above) followed up with a masterful paper on Oxford University Fundraising and why the Colleges must show the way. A series which already boasts an impressive set of performances by some of the country’s top organists: Thomas Trotter FRCO, Simon Preston OBE HonFRCO and Dr Jennifer Bate OBE FRCO. Dame Gillian magnificently performed an eclectic range of sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth century pieces in chronological succession by Rossi, D’Attaignant, Pachelbel, Buxtehude, De Grigny, Schnizer and Bach. Of particular note was her commanding rendition of Bach’s Passacaglia BWV 582, the penultimate piece in an exciting programme, before she concluded with Bach’s Fugue in Eb major BWV 552b, earning rapturous applause from the audience.

Prior to the start of the concert Clive Driskill-Smith (1996), the Cathedral’s Sub-Organist, recounted to the assembled audience Andrew’s passion for the organ and his accomplished career as a theoretical physicist. Andrew, a native of the city of Amarillo in Texas, had studied both the organ and the harpsichord. He came up to Christ Church in 1991 as a postgraduate to study mathematical physics under the supervision of Professor Sir Roger Penrose before being invited to move to the University of Cambridge to study theoretical physics for his doctorate under Professor Stephen Hawking. In conjunction with the annual Memorial Concert at Christ Church, the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at the University of Cambridge holds an annual lecture in cosmology in Andrew’s memory. More details about the Memorial Concert series can be found at www.chch.ox.ac.uk/development/old-member-charities/andrew-chamblin-fund.
1000 Years of Annoying the French

I'm pretty sure I got into Christ Church thanks to a joke. I'd applied to read French and German, and my trio of interviewers – David Luke, Allan Krakshemer and Christopher Robinson – were rather dismissive of the third A level I'd taken.

"What on earth did you learn from Geography," Christopher asked. I'd enjoyed doing Geography, but guessed that it wasn't going to win any points for me. "How to write with enthusiasm about things that don't interest me at all," I replied, and got a laugh.

I must confess that some of the essays I later submitted to the trio also followed the "enthusiasm about things, etc." model, although by the time it came to Finals they'd shown me that it was far more productive to write about things that did interest me. And they'd also trained me how to stand up for my ideas, even if these didn't particularly enthuse the unfortunate tutor having to listen to them.

At the time, however, I didn't realize that this was what I'd learnt. I thought that all I'd acquired was a short-lived acquaintance with the likes of Rabelais and Thomas Mann – as well, of course, as a pretty useful degree contact.

It wasn't until 2004 that I understood I'd done various starts in language-teaching, lexography and journaling, and had written the odd novel that no one except paper recyclers was interested in. In 2004 I began writing one about a subject that really interested me: I'd been working in France for ten years, and shoe-horned all my experiences into a comedy called A Year in the French Countryside.

It could be a useful skill for today's students, though they might not appreciate its value until much later in life.

Stephen Clarke (1978)

1000 Years of Annoying the French is published by Bantam Press.
The cover price is £16.99.

Ibiza & Formentera's Heritage: A Non-Clubber's Guide

Whether architecture buff or secret week-end clubber, this is a useful companion for getting to grips with a small archipelago that has not received a very fair press of late. Before becoming the Med's glamour-and-sensation capital, Ibiza was known to artists and architects for ravishing farmhouses and pre-Roman treasures, including the largest Punic necropolis in Spain, and a cell cave sanctuary to Tanit, hidden deep in the northern wooded hills. Among other cultural surprises are Moorish watermills, fortified churches, refuge and defence towers, and the show-stopping Renaissance walls, completed in 1565 during the reign of Philip II. — invictissimo (invincible) as Davis wryly notes.

The present book is the result of fifteen years' investigation, with a wealth of drawings by the author that highlight cultural must-sees in both Pityusan islands — the Greek name that evokes the dense pine forests still to be found on both of them. Three recreations show Dalt Vila (the Upper Town) at various stages of its development, with a magnificent double-page spread of the completed town walls. Equally delectable are bird's-eye views of the flat-roofed hamlet of Balaia, and cutaways of a windmill, a town palazzo and country farmhouses — to name just three special monuments. Davis's jargon-free text is packed with lively anecdotes and is a pleasure to read from beginning to end. Among the maps is a rare 1765 treasure from Kew, the first accurate delineation of the island's coast, while a section of colour photographs shows the island as it is today. Generous coverage of Formentera includes recreations of a megalithic burial chamber, a Bronze Age settlement and a Roman fort, while the Ibizen casa payesa basks in a well-illustrated chapter all to itself. The final section deals with salt-extraction and traditional irrigation, with captivating drawings such as a cutaway of a mule-powered waterwheel (noria) which explains the incongruous site of How Parsons Work. All in all, a unique guide, reference tool and graphic compendium. Full marks to Bantam for this long overdue tribute to the local heritage of these unpolished Balearic gems.

Martin Davies (1979)


This title and others about Ibiza published by Bantary Press can be ordered direct from marin@delteliciona.net, or through amazon.co.uk. For a full range of titles, see www.liveibiza.com

How Parables Work

Humphrey Palmer (1949) took Gnats, and later Theology, taught briefly at Christ Church College, Kzurk, and Madras Christian College, and mainly at Cardiff University in retirement he has published a book, How Parables Work. The book is about Jesus' parables, and how he set them to work. A parable offers a comparison between two items (here called Verdict and Judgment). The Verdict was something that Jesus' hearers knew all about, and could readily agree to, like Only Sick People need Doctoring. Aparable is that agreement he then came up with a Judgment. Only Sinners need Helping to Repent, implying that they had agreed to this as well, as this Judgment and that Verdict 'run parallel'.

Is that a tall order? Taller in some parables, perhaps. But it was a well-known way of arguing. Any parable-hearer realized that agreeing to the Verdict was going to let him in for something more. What more, he did not know — yet.

To check this theory, consider some parables which have reached us complete with Judgment.

For those told without, the theory can at most help us to guess.

Humphrey Palmer (1949)

Further introduction is attempted in www.palmerparables.co.uk

the book was printed by Lulu, Incaridina and published by the author in 2008. Price about &10 post free from Alphahead.com (search on Humphrey parables).
CHRIST CHURCH ASSOCIATION NEWS/ FILM REVIEW / EVENTS

Erasing David

At 12 noon on Monday 10th January 2009 I left my house in Hoxton, London, waved goodbye to my pregnant wife and toddler and went on the run. I knew that two very experienced private investigators were out to get me. They had my name and a recent photograph. I assumed it would not take them long to discover where I lived so I felt an urgent need to get as far away as possible. There are 250 CCTV cameras within a mile of my house. Did they have access to them? I drove to St Pancras. I passed four sets of automatic number plate recognition cameras. I checked in to Eurostar and headed to Brussels. I had booked an open ticket in a different name, which I changed into my name at the station. How long would it take them to find that?

I had hired Cerberus, the private investigators, well known as the best in the business. I was on the run and making a feature length documentary called Erasing David for the Channel 4 BRITDOC Foundation and the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust. A crew was filming Cerberus as they tracked me down. I was filming myself as I ran away. I wanted to know what other people can know about me. What is out there in the public domain? Can it be used to profile me to the extent that a determined investigator, or identity thief or stalker, could know what I am likely to do in the future – and grab me? Where should we draw the dividing line between the state and the individual?

Was I caught? Forgive me for not saying. When the month was up and Cerberus showed me what they had been able to dig up and extract from friends and family (all of whom I had warned to watch out for people fishing for information about me), my life changed. If they had shown me any one piece of the information they had found, I would have felt it pretty insignificant. In combination, though, it painted an incredibly highly resolved picture of a man who had not been particularly careless with his data but nonetheless was utterly trackable and predictable.

I am now determined that my children should have the chance to sidestep this massive data trawl. Am I paranoid? No – being paranoid means that they are not really out to get you.

For more information on the film and to view the trailer: www.erasingdavid.com

Robert Seward (1965)

The Oxford University alumni inter collegiate golf tournament

A grandiloquent title for an enjoyable day.

Two colleges, St Catherine’s and Pembroke, held a regular golf match between their two golfing societies. In 1997 they decided to extend their match and invited Merton to join them. The contest was moved to Frilford the following year. The number of colleges grew gradually until 2006, when the decision was made to extend the tournament over two courses and invite more colleges. Christ Church was one of those and we succeeded in being third. The following year we won and since then have been 4th, 3rd and this year third again. We claim, though with no statistical proof, that this makes us the top college over our period of play. Certainly we have always ‘been in the mix’, as the professionals would say.

The tournament is now held on two courses at Frilford and involves 18 colleges and 160 competitors. Each college can field a team of 10 (with four reserves, if available) with the best 6 to score over a single round of stableford followed by lunch. In the evening an optional dinner (wives are also invited) is held in one of the college halls. The event takes place in the end of March or early April and most colleges are able to provide bed and breakfast if required.

Why not come and join us?

Robert Seward (1965)
Kilimanjaro climb in aid of Help for Heroes

The climax of Isla Kennedy’s story of her climb for Help for Heroes, to raise funds for Headley Court as thanks for their help after her accident.

"The big rucksacks and Help for Heroes clothing gave away the other team members as we met at Heathrow on 3rd December to fly with Ethiopian Airlines to Kilimanjaro.

We set off at 8am on day one with the porters leading, our bags on their heads. The pace was slow through dense jungle and we took short breaks every few hours with a longer stop for lunch. We arrived at Machame camp (3000m) in daylight and were welcomed with popcorn and tea. Our sleeping tents had already been set up and after a rest we had dinner, usually soup and bread followed by a pasta or potato dish and then fruit. Bed beconed by 9pm, we woke daily at about 6.30am with tea, coffee or hot chocolate, and breakfast was at 7am, usually porridge and fruit.

Day two took us on moorland up to the Shira Plateau and day three was moorland and rocky semi-desert up to Lava Tower. It is better to walk high then camp lower to help prevent mountain sickness, so we descended to Baranco camp (3,950m) with some beautiful views. Day four was tough trekking across Baranco Wall; I was beginning to struggle, but the support from the others was brilliant. The Karangu Valley is the last water stop on the route up to the summit and the altitude left me more breathless than usual. We finally arrived at Barafu camp (4,550m) at about 5pm for dinner and a short rest.

We were woken at 1am to start the summit trek at midnight. At this altitude it was cold enough for thermals. I was already tired from the day’s walking and relatively short rest, by 7am I had been sick. The doctor let me carry on but by 9am I was too light headed and wobbly to continue and had to be helped down by one of the porters. It was very disappointing not to reach the summit, but I knew I had tried my best and had reached 4,900m. Three others dropped out but everyone else reached Uhuru Peak (5,895m) before returning to camp at about 8am.

Before returning we had some speeches, thanked and tipped the locals, and joined in some singing and dancing. It was an emotional and lovely end to the trek. Altogether we raised about £50,000 for Help for Heroes after fees and costs. I had a fantastic time, experiencing some wonderful trekking and scenery, meeting some great people and making many new friends. Not only did I help the charity but the trek was also a great personal challenge. Eighteen months before the climb I could not even walk after my brain injury. Many thanks to all who generously donated, and supported both Help for Heroes and me."

Isla Kennedy
(2006)

Casa Alianza charity cycle ride

This summer three Christ Church undergraduates will be undertaking the challenge of a lifetime. Engineering undergraduate Anton Hunt will be leading an expedition to cover the 4,000 miles from San Jose, California to San Jose, Costa Rica by bicycle. He will be joined by two other engineering undergraduates from the House, Ian Mainwaring and Oliver Smith.

The expedition will cross five different countries and will involve three months of cycling through incredibly diverse terrains, ranging from arid deserts to green mountains in Mexico, humid jungles throughout much of Central America finishing with tropical rainforest in Nicaragua and Costa Rica. The journey will be as much a mental as a physical challenge. For more information and a blog of their preparations see: www.sanjosecycle2010.com.

Through this endeavour they hope to raise money for the Central American street children’s charity Casa Alianza which does amazing work with over 12,000 vulnerable street children in Honduras, Nicaragua and Mexico. Any support would directly help with rehabilitation and housing schemes in those areas. Anton says: “Donations of any size are welcome and would really boost our desire and determination to complete this huge challenge. Please visit our fundraising website www.justgiving.com/sanjosecycle2010 and give generously. Many thanks for your support!”

Anton Hunt, Oliver Smith and Ian Mainwaring
(2006)
Christ Church JCR

I

Anton Hunt,
Oliver Smith
and Ian Mainwaring
(2006)
Christ Church
JCR
Oval House Theatre is proud to announce that Zephryn Taitte and Shavani Seth, two graduates of the Oval House Youth Theatre Group, have been awarded GOLD Arts Awards.

The Award is a national qualification that recognises how young people develop as artists and arts leaders, assessing a wide range of arts and wider skills including creativity, communication, planning and teamwork. Zephryn and Shavani represented Oval House Theatre and were two of only twelve participants who prepared and worked towards the GOLD Arts Award between January and September 2009. Prior to this the award had only been achieved by two other people in London.

The Awards programme, planned by Arts Awards and the University of London, and supported by Shoreditch Festival, involved five arts organisations which were each partnered with a Higher Education Institution. Oval House worked with the Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama based in Sidcup. Julian Bryant, Director of Community Outreach said “Working with Oval House on the Gold Arts award project has been a very rewarding experience, both for the College and for the Gold Award students. It was evident from the outset that Oval House was instilling highly positive artistic and professional values in the young people. It was great to see Oval House members identifying career paths for themselves that included higher education as an option.”

Caroline Bray, Arts Award Regional Development Coordinator, London said “Arts Award and University of the Arts London were proud to work with Shavani and Zephryn from Oval House Theatre. Their specially devised piece of theatre, ‘Grandma’s Legacy’, was a huge hit at Shoreditch Festival and their professionalism and dedication made them a real pleasure to work with.”

‘Grandma’s Legacy’ was produced by Shavani, written by Zephryn, and directed by both. They worked with a group of five young actors to develop the piece of part-improvised physical theatre. The story celebrates Grandma’s life through the experiences of a Caribbean family, disjointed from their cultural history; exploring morals, family, celebration, Caribbean folk tales and calypso music. Shavani believes the experience has given her the skills to help her as an artist, and has inspired her to continue learning and creating art. The Award has given her the opportunity to go to university where she hopes to study acting.

Oval House Theatre is proud of the involvement in the GOLD Arts Award as part of an ongoing programme of work supporting artists and arts leaders of tomorrow.

Oval House Theatre celebrates GOLD Arts Award winners

“It was evident from the outset that Oval House was instilling highly positive artistic and professional values”

The origins of Oval House

The foundations go back to the Christ Church (Oxford) Mission in East London, which was formed by Housemen in 1882 to help poor families. The organisation was, in 1931, refounded by John Arkell (1928-31) in Kennington as the "Christ Church (Oxford) United Clubs:" it was a typical boy’s club. Financial and volunteer support from Housemen and their families, and Royal patronage enabled Oval House as it became known in the 1960’s to survive and prosper, developing into a community centre offering drama, dance and music for young people with deprived backgrounds. Peter Oliver was the real artistic founder of Oval House, and under him it became an important centre for fringe theatre. It also helps disabled artists in many fields, advises school leavers, and runs courses for young people excluded from school. To find out more see Bill Rathbone’s piece in “A Portrait of the House” and visit www.ovalhouse.com
On the 23rd April 2001, St George’s Day, I started as Director of Development at Christ Church. Nine years on, the battles with dragons have been few and far between.

Instead I have felt honoured to be working closely with many Old Members, friends and academic colleagues who have immense passion and vision for advancing Oxford, in all of its many forms. At Christ Church I was responsible for heading the Development Office in the largest fundraising campaign the House had ever undertaken – with the magnificent leadership of Sir David Scholey. I am now proud to be supporting the advancement of the whole University, as their Director of Development for the Campaign to raise a minimum of £1.25 billion.

The Campaign for the University of Oxford, “Oxford Thinking”, was launched on 28th May 2008; with £575 million already raised in the private phase which began in August 2004. There are several remarkable elements to it. First is that the Campaign is the result of the colleges and University working together with a set of shared priorities, to raise more financial support than any European university has ever sought to do before. The second is that by the end of January 2010 we had together raised over £817 million towards the goal. The proportion of Old Members contributing to the Campaign in 2008/9 was over 14% with some colleges reaching over 30%. One of the goals for the Campaign is to encourage increased levels of Old Member support across the board. Despite these difficult times the generosity of Old Members and friends continues to demonstrate the high regard that exists worldwide for Oxford, whether for our unrivalled tutorial teaching or for our cutting edge research. With such encouraging progress to date we should be confident in our combined ability to raise the substantial sums still needed to secure the University’s future. Funding for vital academic posts and programmes is one of several key priorities, as is securing financial support for undergraduate and graduate students to ensure ‘needs-blind admission’. There is also considerable demand for investment in infrastructure – from the restoration of Grade I listed buildings to the building of new facilities on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter to house new Institutes for Mathematics and the Humanities.

The ethos of Oxford Thinking is one that encourages donors to support whichever aspect of Oxford they wish to. Furthermore there is the shared understanding across Oxford that a gift to any part of our broad and complex institution supports the whole. To be leading the Development effort for the Campaign is a very privileged role, which allows me to build sustained relationships with those delivering the academic priorities for Oxford and those who generously support them. An Old Member of Christ Church said to me many years ago, when I spoke to him about our fundraising activity, that he was impressed and touched by the care and integrity we took, respecting, above all things, the importance of his relationship with Oxford. I spoke with him again only the other evening. Although in 2006 I swapped the elegance of the Peck 9 rooms for the 1960’s surroundings of the University’s Wellington Square, I am proud still to be a devoted member of the community that is Christ Church.
The Oxford Parkinson’s Disease Centre (OPDC; http://opdc.medsci.ox.ac.uk) is a newly-formed group of scientists and clinicians, with a unique combination of skills, working within the interdisciplinary research environment at Oxford. The Centre was launched in February 2010, supported by the generous donation of the £5 million Monument Discovery Award from Parkinson’s UK, the leading supporter of Parkinson’s disease (PD) research in the country. Two of the founding OPDC scientists are the Christ Church Medical Tutors: Dr Richard Wade-Martins and Dr Stephanie Cragg. Together with nine other Oxford laboratories they aim to create a world-class research centre dedicated to understanding the initial causes of PD with a view towards developing new molecular therapies to halt the disease progression at the earliest stages. The formation of the Centre brings together internationally-leading scientists studying multiple aspects of PD, from the genes which may underlie susceptibility to PD, functional analysis of brain cells (neurons), and the wiring of neuronal circuitry; with leading clinical experts in the diagnosis and treatment of PD. The Centre includes two world-leading Medical Research Council Units in Oxford and the UK’s top-ranked University biomedical sciences department, the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics.

Degenerative disorders of the brain, like PD, involve the loss of neurons that produce the chemical dopamine, referred to as dopaminergic neurons. Various other brain areas are also affected throughout the course of the illness. Our understanding of what causes PD is limited and there is currently no cure or treatment that can prevent or reverse the neuronal cell loss seen in PD. Treatment is made more difficult because the physical symptoms of the disease only become apparent when the underlying neuronal changes are well underway. Research must make every attempt to identify early changes, before the symptoms of this debilitating disorder become apparent. As Richard explains:

“Our aim is to define a three-fold signature of risk using the science of genetics, proteins and brain imaging to understand the very earliest stages of the disease.”

Richard Wade-Martins
Tutor for Medicine

Degenerative disorders of the brain, like PD, are becoming more common as our population gets older. The symptoms of PD include tremor, stiffness, and slowness of movement while non-motor symptoms include memory loss, sleep problems, low mood, anxiety, and constipation. PD involves the loss of neurons that produce the chemical dopamine, referred to as dopaminergic neurons. Various other brain areas are also affected throughout the course of the illness. Our understanding of what causes PD is limited and there is currently no cure or treatment that can prevent or reverse the neuronal cell loss seen in PD. Treatment is made more difficult because the physical symptoms of the disease only become apparent when the underlying neuronal changes are well underway. Research must make every attempt to identify early changes, before the symptoms of this debilitating disorder become apparent. As Richard explains:

“Our aim is to define a three-fold signature of risk using the science of genetics, proteins and brain imaging to understand the very earliest stages of the disease.”

Understanding Parkinson's disease

Degenerative disorders of the brain, like PD, involve the loss of neurons that produce the chemical dopamine, referred to as dopaminergic neurons. Various other brain areas are also affected throughout the course of the illness. Our understanding of what causes PD is limited and there is currently no cure or treatment that can prevent or reverse the neuronal cell loss seen in PD. Treatment is made more difficult because the physical symptoms of the disease only become apparent when the underlying neuronal changes are well underway. Research must make every attempt to identify early changes, before the symptoms of this debilitating disorder become apparent. As Richard explains:

“Our aim is to define a three-fold signature of risk using the science of genetics, proteins and brain imaging to understand the very earliest stages of the disease.”

Understanding Parkinson's disease

Degenerative disorders of the brain, like PD, involve the loss of neurons that produce the chemical dopamine, referred to as dopaminergic neurons. Various other brain areas are also affected throughout the course of the illness. Our understanding of what causes PD is limited and there is currently no cure or treatment that can prevent or reverse the neuronal cell loss seen in PD. Treatment is made more difficult because the physical symptoms of the disease only become apparent when the underlying neuronal changes are well underway. Research must make every attempt to identify early changes, before the symptoms of this debilitating disorder become apparent. As Richard explains:

“Our aim is to define a three-fold signature of risk using the science of genetics, proteins and brain imaging to understand the very earliest stages of the disease.”

Understanding Parkinson's disease

Degenerative disorders of the brain, like PD, involve the loss of neurons that produce the chemical dopamine, referred to as dopaminergic neurons. Various other brain areas are also affected throughout the course of the illness. Our understanding of what causes PD is limited and there is currently no cure or treatment that can prevent or reverse the neuronal cell loss seen in PD. Treatment is made more difficult because the physical symptoms of the disease only become apparent when the underlying neuronal changes are well underway. Research must make every attempt to identify early changes, before the symptoms of this debilitating disorder become apparent. As Richard explains:

“Our aim is to define a three-fold signature of risk using the science of genetics, proteins and brain imaging to understand the very earliest stages of the disease.”

Understanding Parkinson's disease

Degenerative disorders of the brain, like PD, involve the loss of neurons that produce the chemical dopamine, referred to as dopaminergic neurons. Various other brain areas are also affected throughout the course of the illness. Our understanding of what causes PD is limited and there is currently no cure or treatment that can prevent or reverse the neuronal cell loss seen in PD. Treatment is made more difficult because the physical symptoms of the disease only become apparent when the underlying neuronal changes are well underway. Research must make every attempt to identify early changes, before the symptoms of this debilitating disorder become apparent. As Richard explains:

“Our aim is to define a three-fold signature of risk using the science of genetics, proteins and brain imaging to understand the very earliest stages of the disease.”

Understanding Parkinson's disease

Degenerative disorders of the brain, like PD, involve the loss of neurons that produce the chemical dopamine, referred to as dopaminergic neurons. Various other brain areas are also affected throughout the course of the illness. Our understanding of what causes PD is limited and there is currently no cure or treatment that can prevent or reverse the neuronal cell loss seen in PD. Treatment is made more difficult because the physical symptoms of the disease only become apparent when the underlying neuronal changes are well underway. Research must make every attempt to identify early changes, before the symptoms of this debilitating disorder become apparent. As Richard explains:

“Our aim is to define a three-fold signature of risk using the science of genetics, proteins and brain imaging to understand the very earliest stages of the disease.”
We will correlate MRI measures in living patients, relatives and controls with changes seen in post-mortem PD brain.

We will take advantage of the ongoing revolution in DNA technologies to identify changes in the DNA of PD patients, and relate these changes to the dysfunction of neurons in PD. We will use recent advances in stem cell technology to generate neurons from skin cells taken by simple biopsy from individuals in our PD patient cohort who are carrying genetic variations that predispose them to PD. From these stem cells we will generate dopaminergic neurons carrying disease-associated genetic variations in a cell culture dish to understand how and why neuronal function changes. We will then express these genetic variants in mice and rats to mimic what goes wrong in the brain early on in PD. Using the expertise in neuroscience at Oxford we will characterize how the release of dopamine is changed in the brain of our models, affecting electrical communication between brain cells known to be vital for movement, thought and emotion. We will also identify how the physical connections between brain cells are altered, and why certain neurons stop working properly and die. These improved models will more accurately reflect the human disease allowing us to define precisely how, when, where and why brain function is disturbed early on in the development of PD, before obvious symptoms appear.

Working together the scientific and clinical teams in the OPDC aim to uncover molecular mechanisms underlying early stages of PD, thus enabling early diagnosis of PD and the ability to generate models that will allow identification of therapies for treatment before symptoms arise.

The Joan Pitts-Tucker Family Trust

The Joan Pitts-Tucker Family Trust is a small fund named after my mother and has in the past donated on a rather random basis. However when the opportunity to help fund a graduate to study with the new multi-disciplinary Oxford Parkinson’s Disease Centre came to our attention, through the Christ Church Development Office, we were immediately attracted because it is both cutting edge research and multi-disciplinary, just like my mother’s work in Hut 6 at Bletchley Park in the deciphering of Enigma.

It seems to us that this form of funding will become all the more important for researchers in the future as whatever they admit at present the Government has run out of our money for everyone’s sake high-end research must go on at Christ Church and at Oxford thus the opportunity for people like us to get involved both matches a need in the University and fulfils our wishes. Furthermore as the marginal tax rate rises individuals have the chance to become much more active by allocating pre-tax income to charitable activities.

We would like to share our thoughts on this topic with others and have suggested that the Development Office creates a forum for like-minded people and family trusts. This is one of the great privileges of belonging to the House! We would be more active by allocating pre-tax income to charitable activities.

Dr Cragg and Dr Wade-Martins are the two Official Students (Tutorial Fellows) in Medicine at Christ Church. They work together selecting undergraduate medical students at interview, conducting and arranging tutorials and monitoring progress during their three years studying pre-clinical medicine. They are both founding members of the Oxford PD Consortium and their two laboratories are located at the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics.

We share a common interest in understanding the molecular basis of PD and have previously co-supervised several graduate research students. We are now delighted to report that due to the generosity of the Joan Pitts-Tucker Family Trust we can announce the Pitts-Tucker/Moritz studentship in Neuroscience to fund a graduate student to be jointly supervised between our laboratories. The holder of the Pitts-Tucker/Moritz studentship in Neuroscience will be admitted to Christ Church as a graduate student and become a member of the Graduate Common Room (GCR). This will provide them with membership of an active and flourishing graduate student community.

We are grateful to the Joan Pitts-Tucker Family Trust for their support in initiating the studentship and to the Moritz Fund for matching the funding to allow the studentship to happen.
The Chilcot inquiry into the Iraq war has run about half its course. Judging by the dominant reaction of the British press, its sole function is to prove what we all know to be true: that the invasion was immoral and Tony Blair is to blame. The surfet of moral certainty among the commentators is suspect; the zealous clarity of their moral waters needs muddying.

For sure, the invasion and occupation of Iraq was morally flawed. The US administration’s motivation was hubristic and preparation for postwar reconstruction was woefully inadequate. Yet most just wars are flawed. Take the war against Nazi Germany. The RAF’s indiscriminate bombing of German cities was largely driven by “Bomber” Harris’s vengeful hatred. While the destruction of Hitler’s hegemony was very good, the entrenchment of Stalin’s was very bad. Any complex human enterprise will involve moral flaws. What needs determining is whether and how these undermine its justice as a whole.

As proof of the Iraq invasion’s wickedness, critics invoke the civilian death toll, soberly reckoned at 100,000–150,000. But Europe’s liberation from Nazi domination cost the lives of 70,000 French civilians and 500,000 German ones through bombing, and, whereas this was the direct responsibility of the British and Americans, most Iraqi civilians were killed by foreign or native insurgents. Yes, the occupying powers were obliged to maintain law and order, and failed initially. But the insurgents were obliged not to send suicide bombers into crowded market places, and they have failed persistently.

Arguments about a war’s disproportion are often intractable. If one assumes the Iraq war was unjust, then no civilian deaths were worth it. Yet in affirming the justice of the war against Hitler we imply it was worth the deaths of 30m civilians. The loss of 150,000 civilians therefore does not, of itself, make the Iraq war unjust. The invasion would be harder to defend were the country’s new regime to fail. But that has not happened yet, and those critics who care more for Iraqis than they hate the former US and UK leaders George W. Bush and Mr Blair will hope it never does.

If determining the Iraq war’s proportionality is difficult, maybe determining its legality is easier.
It would seem so, given the assurance with which some lawyers have damned it before Chilcot. But such condemnations can only be opinions, since international law can be variously interpreted. However, even if we grant that the invasion was illegal, we still have to grapple with the fact that so was NATO's 1999 intervention in Kosovo, which is now widely regarded as legitimate. The implication? That legality is not the final word. Current international law is morally problematic. It denies the right of states to use military force unilaterally except in self-defence, while reserving the enforcement of international law for the United Nations Security Council, whose capacity to act is hamstrung by the right of veto in the service of national interests.

The decisive issue in evaluating the Iraq invasion is not whether it was morally flawed or disproportionate or illegal, but whether it was really necessary to stop or prevent a sufficiently great evil.

No one disputes that Saddam Hussein's regime was grossly atrocious. In 1988 it used chemical weapons against Kurdish civilians in what, according to Human Rights Watch, amounted to genocide; and from 1988 to 2003 it murdered at least 400,000 of its own people. Critics of the invasion would presumably not tolerate such a regime in their own backyard, and an effective international policing authority would have changed it. Is the coalition to be condemned for filling the vacuum? Yes, there have been similar vacuums that it (and others) have failed to fill – Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Darfur. But is it not better to be inconsistently responsible than consistently irresponsible?

Now add the concern about weapons of mass destruction. This was sufficiently grave to cause the UN to litter the period 1991-2003 with 17 resolutions calling on Saddam to disarm permanently. Given the shocking discovery in the mid-1990s of Iraq's success in enriching uranium and coming within 24 months of nuclear armament, and given the regime's persistent flouting of the UN's will, there was good reason to withhold benefit of doubt and to suppose that it was developing WMDs. It was not just Messrs Bush and Blair who supposed this. So did Jacques Chirac, then French president, and Hans Blix, the UN's chief weapons inspector.

We now know this reasonable supposition was mistaken and that the problem was less urgent than it appeared. But it was still urgent. Saddam was intent on acquiring nuclear weapons and support for containment was dissolving. David Kelly, Britain's chief expert on Iraqi WMDs, famous for being driven to commit suicide, is less famous for being convinced that the problem's only lasting solution was regime-change.

Maybe critics of the war view with equanimity what might have happened without the 2003 invasion, trusting that the secular rationality of Realpolitik would have prevented the rivalry between Iraq's atrocious Saddam and Iran's millenarian Mahmoud Ahmadinejad from turning catastrophically nuclear. In this age of suicide bombers, however, such faith is hard to credit.

Colloquium on the ethics of national interest

On 5 February 2010 the McDonald Centre for Theology, Ethics, and Public Life here at Christ Church hosted a one-day colloquium on the ethics of national interest and British foreign policy. Inspired by Sir Christopher Meyer's book, Getting our Way, the gathering was co-sponsored with the Royal Institute for International Relations at Chatham House, London, and the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law, and Armed Conflict.

The title of the book (and the more recent BBC4 TV series) – "Getting our Way" – is a symptom of the current lurch away from liberal idealism back toward realism in foreign policy. The post-invasion woes of Iraq are widely held to have writ large the imprudent and hubristic folly of trying to 'save the world' for liberal democracy, and to counsel more modest and self-regarding ambitions in the future. In light of this, the Christ Church conference discussed questions such as: What future for an ethical foreign policy? Must the new realism be brutally selfish? Are we forever fated to bounce back and forth between absolutist Kant and cynical Hobbes? Or can national self-interest itself be morally obligatory?

In addition to Sir Christopher Meyer himself, a former HM Ambassador to the United States, the colloquium included Sir Ivor Roberts, former HM Ambassador to Italy, Mr Jeremy Hill, former HM Ambassador to Bulgaria; Major-General (ret’d) Tim Cross; Professors Nigel Biggar (Christ Church), Paul Cornish (Chatham House), Gwyn Prins (LSIE), and Nick Rengger (St Andrews); and serving officials from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence.
In the autumn of 2008, the German-born London-based artist Bettina von Kameke was invited to a residency at Christ Church. 101 Faces of Christ Church presents 101 photographic portraits of the academic and the domestic staff, the choristers, the clerks as well as the Cathedral staff, all of which form the basis of the Christ Church Community.

The strict documentary-like character of these photographs is playfully interrupted by one asset, an old-fashioned giant fob watch, which the sitters hold in their hands. The fob watch provides a surreal element and gives the project a conceptual grounding. Founded by Henry VIII, the dynamic between tradition and change – enabled or disabled by the passing of time – is one of the most important issues at Christ Church.

Von Kameke has worked with a variety of enclosed communities including a circus, a merchant vessel, a monastery and a prison. She began her series of work about enclosed communities in 2001, when she sailed with thirty-one Burmese merchant seamen from England to South Africa over a period of four weeks. 101 Faces of Christ Church is the fifth in series. Through the celebration of everyday rituals, the long-time commitment of the staff and students, and the historical place, with its walls and hidden doors, Christ Church has a unique and enclosed character, which this exhibition seeks to explore.

In her work Von Kameke questions and explores the interior and exterior conditions, means and forces, which make a communal life sustainable.

An enclosed community is generally based on shared religious, commercial or traditional values and aspirations. Von Kameke’s pictures disclose the individual aesthetics of an enclosed community, which she carefully observed through the viewfinder of the camera. Von Kameke states that “the camera, either still or moving, creates distance but at the same time allows me to enter my subjects’ intimate privacy. The camera functions as an interface between myself and the world outside. The camera becomes my second skin.”

For more information about Bettina’s work visit www.vonkameke.com
Effective governance

A proposal to provide effective governance, economic growth, and social stability

This article is a summary. The full article can be read at www.perendie.com.

My former tutor’s article, Economic musings (CCM Issue 24), correctly asserted that “the centre of gravity, in all senses, of the world economic crisis, is the North Atlantic area, especially the United States and Britain. That is where the delinquent banks which triggered the crisis are located, and where public finances are in the biggest mess.”

The credit crunch and the disillusion with parliamentary democracy prove that there is a problem with the way we govern ourselves, as organisations and states. I would like to propose a solution which, if implemented, would go a long way to providing effective governance, economic growth, and social stability.

The problem
All our existing institutions and regulations failed to prevent the credit crunch, the Madoff and Stanford frauds, the obvious risk of bankers lending to people who can’t afford to repay, and the collapse of numerous financial organisations. The banking crisis was caused by banks knowingly lending to people who couldn’t repay; therefore the crisis was predictable. So why did they do it? Because current governance processes don’t work. In both the public and private sectors they are unstrategic, disconnected, impersonal, inefficient and reactive.

Lord Digby Jones, former director general of the CBI and Trade Minister, said of the Civil Service, “Frankly the job could be done with half as many. It could be more productive, more efficient, it could deliver a lot more value for money for the taxpayer. And the levers of change, the ability to affect change are so rare, because of the culture.” Waste abounds in the multiple tax, benefits and identification systems.

Political governance
There is a problem with political governance in particular. We live in an oligarchy where our choice in who governs us is effectively restricted to two parties offering similar policies and similar incompetence to govern. We are impoverished by a government which steals taxes to pay the interest on the debt it has assumed without our consent. We are controlled by myriad rules and regulations about what we can say and write and do. Ronald Reagan’s criticism of the USA’s bureaucracy applies to our country: “If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. If it stops moving, subsidise it.”

What have we got in return for these intrusions on our freedom? Net debt of £321 billion (February 2010) and globally the Bank of International Settlements says that the value of outstanding derivatives is $1.114 quadrillion, or $190,000 for every person on the planet. These casino bets, with no underlying asset value, are completely dependent on confidence in the system, a confidence that can easily evaporate. If our governance apparatus doesn’t prevent these risks, what use is it? If our governors don’t prevent these risks, what use are they?

The response to the crisis
The response to the financial crisis has been to increase the same ineffective regulation and to lend public money to the people who caused the crisis without asking the people who own the money but by further separating organisations and processes it increases dysfunctions and diminishes outcomes.

The response to the political crisis has been to tweak the existing system, typified by the document “The Governance of Britain”; which is presented as the first step to “forge a new relationship between government and citizen.” However the paper merely strengthens the present oligarchic system and by moving powers to Parliament disfranchises the electorate further. Politicians still seem to think of the electorate as children who need to be controlled and patronised.

The think-tanks agree that our present approach to governance is broken. Their analysis is impeccable but they lack sustainable solutions. And solutions won’t come from the Civil Service:

A solution
There is both an opportunity and a need to make fundamental changes in the way the public and private sector organisations are governed. The model proposed here is new and renders existing governance obsolete. It is derived from research of 500 private and public sector organisations.


Peter Bebb (PPE, 1965)
An effective governance system
Organisational structures are inherently inefficient because they separate people, processes and information. In an effective governance system everything the organisation needs to do and employ to deliver its required outcomes is causally linked at all levels. Consequently, the probability of achieving the required outcomes is predicted and preventive action can be taken. Existing roles, products, and processes are simplified and costs are reduced.

Everyone is asked to state the measurable contribution they will make to the corporate outcomes. The voluntary approach increases commitment and makes use of unused ability. Everyone sets their own status and rewards through the significance of the outcomes they commit to deliver.

Anyone can see what contribution everyone is making towards the corporate outcomes, and their own progress. Knowing that one’s progress is visible to people up, down, across and outside the organisation is a powerful motivator. The transparency makes governance effective. The consequent productivity increase creates a virtuous circle of happy shareholders, customers, employees and suppliers leading to further productivity increases, which translate into a sustainable 20% increase in stakeholder satisfaction and 20% reduction in costs.

Since none of the 500 organisations I have investigated operates in this joined-up way, the potential productivity improvement is immense. The solution has been applied successfully to several public and private sector organisations. There are four steps:

1. Agree a specific, measurable and joined-up picture of the future with the organisation’s leaders
2. Using the picture of the future as a ‘zero-base’, align the current objectives, deliverables, processes, initiatives and costs with the required outcomes to mitigate the risk of non-delivery (see table below).
3. Invite successive levels of the organisation to say how they will contribute to the future outcomes and deal with risks
4. Using the business management system, inspect the probability of realising the required outcomes and change processes and resource allocations if necessary

As well as delivering significant DCSF cost reductions, the approach would “make this the best place in the world for our children and young people to grow up” (DCSF, The Children’s Plan: Building brighter futures ((DCSF, The Children’s Plan: Building brighter futures (2007))).

There would be improvements in predictability, accountability, transparency, and reporting. The existing cumbersome, expensive and ineffective regulatory framework would be replaced by the business management system.

Making the UK a democracy
A new generation has come of age with the Web and is using its creativity and collaboration to address challenges facing our country and the world. The Facebook Causes application has more than 60 million registered users who are using the power of social networks to raise money for charity. Meetup.com helps interest groups formed on the Web to get together in person – and a remarkable number of groups do so for civic purposes. Twitter and YouTube played major roles in helping organize political protests in Iran’s election.

Many government leaders recognize the opportunities inherent in harnessing a highly motivated and diverse population not just to help them get elected, but to help them do a better job.
President Obama exhorted Americans to rise to the challenge. "We must use all available technologies and methods to open up the federal government, creating a new level of transparency to change the way business is conducted in Washington, and giving Americans the chance to participate in government deliberations and decision-making in ways that were not possible only a few years ago." We are connected like never before and have the skills and passion to solve problems affecting us locally as well as nationally. Effective governance provides us with the ability to govern ourselves and to get government information and services where and when we need them.

In this wiki age, it makes no sense for 649 Members of Parliament who cannot represent the varied views of millions of constituents to travel and sit together to watch the Cabinet’s will become law.

Politicians are the main barrier to this desirable scenario and social progress in general. Their hunger for power and lack of creativity stand in the way. Politicians and senior civil servants have proved their inability to run countries by allowing the credit crunch.

In this wiki age, it makes no sense for 649 Members of Parliament who cannot represent the varied views of millions of constituents to travel and sit together to watch the Cabinet’s will become law.

Parliament is an anachronism. The internet is a more economic, efficient and effective way of gathering the views of the electorate.

Real democracy could take £200 billion (90%) off the cost of running the UK by replacing our unproductive politicians and senior civil servants by a few elected coordinators with emergency powers only. We would be better off in every way by representing and governing ourselves through effective governance. We would, however, need to guard against the folly of crowds, the tendency of human beings to act as herds and follow any leader.

Governance by all

In a BBC broadcast on 15 April 19571 Spedan Lewis (above right), the founder of the John Lewis Partnership, said: "The present state of affairs is really a perversion of the proper working of capitalism. It is all wrong to have millionaires before you have ceased to have slums. Capitalism has done enormous good and suits human nature far too well to be given up as long as human nature remains the same. But the perversion has given us too unstable a society. Differences of reward must be large enough to induce people to do their best but the present differences are far too great. If we do not find some way of correcting that perversion of capitalism, our society will break down. We shall find ourselves back in some form of government without the consent of the governed, some form of police state...the general idea of substituting partnership for exploiting employment...makes work something to live for as well as something to live by. Here may be the new source of working energy of which our country is in such grave need."

Include customers and suppliers in the partnership, and you have a governance structure which practically renders ineffective external governance redundant. The business management system is needed to balance the conflicting interests of these stakeholders since this isn’t possible manually.

Effective Governance Network

If you are convinced the current governance system is not going to prevent future crises, join me in searching for a way to implement the solution I’ve outlined here or propose an alternative at http://openrsa.ning.com/forum/topics/effective-governance-network or to peter.bebb@perendie.com. It is not just at the national level that these ideas could be effective. The "In perpetuity" document defines the Christ Church’s key objectives and the strategy for achieving these objectives: raise money. Obviously, money is a necessary condition of the perpetuity of Christ Church. But is it sufficient?

The credit crunch has verified the following instruction: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal." (Matthew 6:19)

A single strategy is risky. The chance of perpetuating Christ Church could be increased by

- Developing a broader causal strategy using the governance process described above
- Including in that strategy ways of marketing the college2 and exploiting Web 2.0 to extend the education the college offers to a wider audience of fee-payers.

Such an approach would complement the defensive increase in funding with a positive increase in service and income. At least, a decision not to join or exploit the wiki world should be deliberate.

4. www.johnlewispartnership.co.uk/signup/user/ContentDisplay.aspx?&MasterId=947efa13-8aac-47d9-b30a-459a0b02a5c3&NavigationId=548
5. By, for example, linking the website to course information and repeatedly sending (university) Challenge!
“The wife said that it was blasphemy to quote the scriptures out of church” (Henry Fielding, Joseph Andrews, part 4 chapter 11). It can happen by chance, for, as C.S. Lewis says, we use biblical phrases all the time with only a vague sense that they come from somewhere.[1] And it can be done surreptitiously: it is said that an American novelist once threw a group of clergymen into a ferment by reciting seditious passages from Luke’s Gospel without divulging the name of the author. But here are some questions to try out in a pub quiz.

Which of these classic titles are scriptural: Eyeless in Gaza, Lord of the Flies, Where Angels Fear to Tread, For Whom the Bell Tolls, Strait is the Gate, The Last Temptation, The Golden Bowl? Which of the following is not a biblical quotation: “Woe unto them that get up early in the morning”, “Our hearts are restless until they find rest in thee”, “I shall cut off him that pisseth against the wall”?

Scholars can discuss the sublime in literature without remembering that it was Robert Lowth, in lectures on poetry at Oxford, who discovered something loftier than the high style of the Greeks or the orotundity of the Romans in the vertiginous eloquence of the Hebrew prophets. Classicists can expatiate on the Greek origins of western culture without so much as mentioning the New Testament, the book for whose sake the study of Greek was cultivated in early modern England.

Of course there are plenty of atheists who read the Old Testament for ammunition (the King James version is still the bloodiest), and many “apocalyptic” films are spiced with tags from the Book of Revelation, or (like Eco’s Name of the Rose) with lines that purport to be tags but aren’t. But to read the text for a frisson is as limiting as to read it from the pulpit; you must read it like any other book (as Coleridge said) to learn that it is not quite like any other. In its power of saying almost too much in a handful of words, the Old Testament outdoes tragedy and the Norse sagas: think of Jacob’s wrestling with God ("I will not let thee go until thou bless me"), the first circumcision ("a bloody husband art thou to me"), the satiating of Amnon’s passion for Tamar ("the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her"), the confrontation of Ahab and Elijah ("hast thou found me. O mine enemy"!). The gospels are better known, we think, but second-hand acquaintance won’t enable us to enjoy the bittersweet comedy of the woman who sought out Christ because she “had suffered many things from many physicians”; or the pathos of Mary Magdalene’s tart rejoinder when she comes to anoint a body and is accosted by two common or garden angels: “they have taken my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him”. It is fashionable to speak of the role of secrecy and suppression in the formation of Christianity, and it is true: there are lots of things they don’t tell you in The Da Vinci Code.
the weekend of celebrations is
A programme and booking form for
Christ Church
AGM AND DINNER
CHRIST CHURCH ASSOCIATION
25 September
or chchweekend@chch.ox.ac.uk
Contact:
+44 (0)1865 286848/286877
enclosed with your copy of
the weekend of celebrations is
A programme and booking form for
Christ Church
& GCR ANNIVERSARY
24 – 26 September
Relations Officer, +44 (0)1865 286 325
Emma Sinden, Alumni
Contact:
A dinner in Hall to mark the
Christ Church
MATHEMATICS DINNER
18 September
Simon Offen, Deputy
Christ Church
13 September
www.chch.ox.ac.uk/gallery
Contact:
4.30pm; Sunday 2pm – 4.30pm.
Opening times
Monday
Opening times
to Saturday 10.30am to 1pm & 2pm –
1 October 2010 – 30 April 2011:
Monday
2pm – 5pm.
Opening times
to overwhelm and awe the viewer.
impressive in size with the intention
demands monumentality and most of
the painted, woven and sculpted works are impressive in size with the intention
to overwhelm and awe the viewer.
impressive in size with the intention
demands monumentality and most of
the painted, woven and sculpted works are impressive in size with the intention
to overwhelm and awe the viewer.
impressive in size with the intention
demands monumentality and most of
the painted, woven and sculpted works are impressive in size with the intention
to overwhelm and awe the viewer.
impressive in size with the intention
demands monumentality and most of
the painted, woven and sculpted works are impressive in size with the intention
to overwhelm and awe the viewer.
impressive in size with the intention
demands monumentality and most of

Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.
Critical depictions of war, with very few
historical and mythological battles.

Christ Church Picture Gallery
GENERAL JOHN GUISE
CONFLICT IN THE COLLECTION OF
THE FIRING LINE – DEPICTIONS OF
CHRIST CHURCH PICTURE GALLERY:
FORTHCOMING EVENTS
for news and more information about events, please visit our website www.chch.ox.ac.uk/commen.
101 Faces of Christ Church