The editors of CCM 47 are Dr Anna Port and Simon Offen.

With thanks to the following for their contribution of photographs for this edition of Christ Church Matters: Danielle Czerkaszyn, Micah Haynes, Duncan Murdock, Ellee Su, Jannis Tiede, Hugh Warwick and Revd Ralph Williamson.

CCM online...
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Cover image: Detail of the 'Alice’ window in Hall.
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Editorial note
The Archivist apologises for misrepresenting the Governing Body (GB) which voted for the admission of women to Christ Church: ‘In my article in CCM46 (pages 4-6), I stated that the vote in GB was close, while this was true in Congregation, at University level, the Students of Christ Church were far more positive and enlightened. In 1978, the Tutors voted by 21 – 7 to admit women as undergraduates, and then the whole Governing Body concurred with a vote of 31 – 9. An earlier vote to admit women to senior posts was won by a similar margin.’
of Works department, in the gardens and on the Meadow – have been magnificent. A huge thank you to them all.

As the pages of this edition of Christ Church Matters testify, we have still been able to mark anniversaries and celebrate accomplishments. Several hundred members were entertained at no fewer than three Gaudies before Michaelmas Term began. Most gratifyingly, we marked four decades since the admission of women to the House with a showcase of the research achievements of our women academics, and the formidable careers of many of the alumnae who have passed through the House since 1981. Since Covid-19 has thrust the Life Sciences to the forefront of our attention, let us recommend especially the articles in this edition on research, on women scientists, on the potential for Parkinson’s Disease breakthroughs, and on the 40th anniversary itself. Finally, whilst nothing about Covid-19 has been welcome, may we commend the note from Jon Down, the House Surveyor about how he seized the unexpected opportunity to advance various much-needed improvements to college buildings.

This edition of Christ Church Matters is the 47th to date. We send most of you electronic updates in the shape of e-Matters, as well as the more traditional Annual Report. We are pleased to welcome Sarah Budzier as our new Head of Communications, with whom we will explore new ways of communicating, not only with you, our immediate community, but also with the next generation, and especially, within it, those from less privileged backgrounds whose horizons and aspirations to higher education, to Oxford, and to Christ Church are one of our ever-present priorities.

It is over a year now since the Dean has not been performing his duties. The issues to be resolved are painful for all concerned and at this stage the details should continue to remain confidential to protect those most closely involved. We are able to report, however, that Christ Church and the Dean have agreed to enter into mediation towards the end of January, and we welcome this positive development.

As we write this introduction the whole House continues to be wary of the omicron variant, and certain precautions are still in place. However, might we dare hope that we are nearing the end of the pandemic? We would certainly encourage you to book one or more from the extensive list of events on offer (see the inside back page) and we hope to see you back at Christ Church soon.

Finally, we would like to offer a heart-felt thank you to all who supported the work of the House during Covid-19, and all whose names appear in Development Matters, at the end of this issue. Whether your support comes through giving time, advice, or financially, we are most grateful.
The Gaisford diaries

Judith Curthoys, Archivist and Data Protection Compliance Manager

**Thomas Gaisford** (1779 – 1855) was a classical scholar of the highest order. He came up to Christ Church in 1797 as a commoner and three years later he was elected to a Studentship on the nomination of Dean Cyril Jackson, who must have recognised Gaisford’s talent. He was single-minded in not allowing his roles as tutor or University examiner to interfere – too much – with his own studies. In 1812, amid a little controversy and some neat diplomacy by Jackson, Gaisford was offered the Regius Professorship of Greek. Alongside the chair, Gaisford was climbing the clerical ladder: he was rector of Westwell (in Christ Church’s patronage), and held canonries at Llandaff, St Paul’s, and Worcester cathedrals. It seems he was not particularly active in any of these posts; when offered the bishopric of Oxford, he turned it down as he considered it would interfere with his classical research and, although he retained the Chair, Gaisford left Oxford in 1815 not to return for another 16 years. After two years in the lucrative ‘golden’ canonry at Durham (worth over £3,000 per annum), he swapped it for the deanship of Christ Church.

He was not, perhaps, the greatest dean Christ Church has ever known, at least administratively. At a time when the University was undergoing a period of rapid reform, he was a conservative voice, hating the changes and using Christ Church’s dual identity to battle both the government forces on one side and the ecclesiastical reformers on the other. But his contributions to the world of classical learning were, and still are, extraordinary and important. As a delegate of the Clarendon Press and a curator of the Bodleian Library (posts that came with the professorship) he did much to acquire and catalogue collections of Greek books and manuscripts. He published numerous works and editions of his own, on both classical and patristic texts, and encouraged others to do the same. It was during Gaisford’s time as dean that the regius professorships of Ecclesiastical History and Pastoral Theology were created.
Whilst managing his affairs as dean and working on his own projects Gaisford produced considerable correspondence, and it is with the exceptional generosity of the Gaisford-St Lawrence family, who have recently sold Howth Castle, that we have been able to obtain for Christ Church Gaisford’s letters which deal with college and university affairs, as well as personal matters. Correspondents include Cyril Jackson, Gaisford’s mentor as a young man; Robert Peel, Student of Christ Church and later Prime Minister; Charles Lloyd, bishop of Oxford; the Duke of Wellington; and many scholars in the UK and abroad who shared his interests.

At the time of writing, the letters have not yet arrived at Christ Church from Ireland. It is hoped that, once they do, we can make at least some available for exhibition online and physically.

“Nor can I do better, in conclusion, than impress upon you the study of Greek literature, which not only elevates above the vulgar herd, but leads not infrequently to positions of considerable emolument.”

Roger Davies, Philip Wetton Professor of Astrophysics and Director of the Hintze Centre for Astrophysical Surveys, has been awarded the Institute of Physics’ Fred Hoyle Medal and Prize 2021 for his seminal contributions to understanding the nature and evolution of early type galaxies and developing their use as cosmological probes. The Fred Hoyle Medal recognises distinguished contributions to astrophysics, gravitational physics or cosmology.

Professor Davies, who is the Dr Lees Reader in Physics, has made fundamental contributions to understanding the nature of galaxies and is an international leader in the study of early-type galaxies. They are the galaxies that are no longer forming stars but nevertheless contribute about half the stellar luminosity density of the Universe. His work provides the fundamental data against which theories for the origin and evolution of these galaxies are judged and his detailed observations are the foundation for the widely-accepted view of how they assembled. He did the groundwork that led to the idea that these massive galaxies formed early, in short bursts of star-formation, whereas in less massive galaxies star-formation was sustained for much longer.

Professor Davies’ work has also been influential in studies of large-scale distribution of mass in the Universe. As part of the ‘Seven Samurai’ team, his expertise was critical in discovering the Fundamental Plane that can be used to measure the distances to galaxies independent of the expansion of the Universe. Davies and his collaborators used this to discover large-scale flows of galaxies that were induced by huge mass inhomogeneities, such as clusters and groups of galaxies, leading to the first comprehensive maps of the local density field.

‘It is a tremendous honour to have my work recognised through the award named after Fred Hoyle, one of the greatest astrophysicists of the twentieth century,’ comments Professor Davies. ‘It has been a wonderful journey of discovery to understand how galaxies assemble and evolve, and apply that understanding to cosmology.’

Professor Davies has served as president of the Royal Astronomical Society as well as Head of the Department of Physics from 2005-2010 and is a Fellow of University College London. He is currently President of the European Astronomical Society and was recently elected to the AURA Board of Directors.

Above: The Hydra Cluster, is a cluster of over 100 bright galaxies about 200 million light years away. The centre of the cluster is between the two bright stars but galaxies belonging to the cluster are found across the image.
Professor Jonathan Cross, Official Student and Tutor in Music, has been awarded a British Academy/Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowship 2021-22 for a project entitled ‘Modernism in Ruins: Tristan Murail’s Winter Fragments’. The principal outcome will be a book written in French, commissioned by Editions Contrechamps. Jonathan will also be keynote speaker at a conference at the Paris Conservatoire in February 2022 as part of the Radio France ‘Présences’ Festival featuring the work of Murail. Tristan Murail is one of Europe’s most influential living composers, a leading exponent of so-called ‘spectral music’ since the 1970s, and for whom music is made, in his own words, not with notes but with sounds.

Associate Professor Sarah Mortimer, Student and Tutor in Modern History, discusses her recent book:

What makes a political community flourish – even in a time of religious conflict? In my recent book, Reformation, Resistance, and Reason of State (OUP, 2021), I explored some of the answers developed by scholars and statesmen in the sixteenth century, a time when religious ideas were contested and debated, and when Empires were expanding and being vigorously challenged. I argue that what was distinctive about the sixteenth century was a new focus on understanding political or civil societies in their own terms, as distinct from churches or religious communities, and a new emphasis on their location in a particular geographical space. Indeed, there was vibrant and often heated debate about the scope and nature of the ‘political’, making this a foundational period for any study of political thought and its history.

Histories of political thought have tended to focus on North-West Europe, and one of my aims in this book was to expand the conversation and engage with the political thinking of places and people beyond the standard canon. One of the most exciting aspects of writing it was the opportunity to make connections between Christian Europe and the Muslim societies that lay to its south and east, and to show the extent to which concerns about the legitimacy of political power were shared across those communities. Many of the questions they were asking are still with us today, and I hope that my study will not only be of interest to historians but also to anyone wondering how we can create stable societies in which people hold different values.


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An ASAP initiative
Oxford-led team given £6.6m to map uncharted networks in the progression of Parkinson’s

Stephanie Cragg
Professor of Neuroscience

Christ Church’s Stephanie J Cragg, Professor of Neuroscience, leads international collaboration between Oxford, Boston and the Karolinska Institute.

Article reproduced from the University of Oxford website: https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2021-10-27-oxford-led-team-given-66m-map-uncharted-networks-progression-parkinson-s

A major new $9 million (£6.6 million) University of Oxford-led project funded by the Aligning Science Across Parkinson’s (ASAP) initiative will map the original brain circuits vulnerable to Parkinson’s on an unprecedented scale. It is the only UK-led ASAP project this year, and the first ever to be led by Oxford.

The project is a landmark collaboration between Stephanie Cragg (Christ Church), Richard Wade-Martins (Christ Church) and Peter Magill at Oxford; Mark Howe at Boston University; and Dinos Meletis at the Karolinska Institute, as well as collaborators Yulong Li at Peking University and Michael Lin at Stanford University.

ASAP is a coordinated research initiative to advance targeted basic research for Parkinson’s. Its mission is to accelerate the pace of discovery and inform the path to a cure through collaboration, research-enabling resources, and data sharing. The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research is ASAP’s implementation partner and issued the grant.

The Oxford-led team will aim to fully map out a key set of the neuronal circuitry relevant to Parkinson’s. To do so, they will (i) assess how circuit activity changes during progression of Parkinson’s in vulnerable compared to resistant circuits and (ii) define how dysfunction in vulnerable circuits relates to disease symptoms.
In particular, the team will focus on studying the circuits that govern dopamine output. The loss of dopamine in Parkinson’s is understood to be primarily responsible for increasing inability to select, tune, and produce movements.

Lead researcher Professor of Neuroscience Stephanie Cragg said: ‘We know dopamine neurons die, and that the messages they transmit to other cells are lost in Parkinson’s, but we don’t really understand how all the other interacting circuits contribute to that and either make it worse or attempt to offset it. So we are looking to identify the sequence of dysfunction.’

Strikingly, research has shown that affected dopamine neurons have uniquely large axon arbours, the main branching structures stemming from the neuron cell bodies. Professor Cragg said: ‘They form the most branched of all central nervous system neurons documented to date, which makes their physiology particularly interesting. It means that these axons have huge biological relevance in dopamine signalling because a large number of other systems can talk to these axons with the potential to powerfully transform dopamine output. The message emerging from dopamine axons can be tweaked along the way by lots of different things acting on these incredible axons.

‘With more than 99 percent of the neuron comprising these unusually large axon trees, we focussed our ASAP grant on systematically defining the neuromodulators and circuits that are talking to dopamine axons. We will also compare whether these mechanisms are different in brain regions that are dying in Parkinson’s compared to brain regions that are resistant, to see if there are circuits that might make good targets for future therapies that could fix the vulnerable neurons but leave the resistant ones unaffected.’

With the advent of new and improved cutting-edge technologies that have revolutionised neuroscience research, the collaborative team will together have an unprecedented ability to research how these circuits talk to each other and become dysfunctional in disease, at levels spanning from molecules to behaviour.

The ASAP funding will enable the team to work on an extraordinary international collaborative scale. The ASAP Collaborative Research Network of funded scientists will work together by interacting at regular virtual meetings, sharing unpublished data and protocols, and publishing in gold standard open access journals.

Ekemini Riley, PhD, ASAP Managing Director, said: ‘Each team selected for the Collaborative Research Network brings unique expertise and perspective to ASAP’s mission of tackling key knowledge gaps in disease understanding through open science. We are proud to partner with the University of Oxford on this innovative and impactful project that will position the field closer to new treatments for the millions living with and at risk of Parkinson’s disease.’

‘We know dopamine neurons die, and that the messages they transmit on to other cells are lost in Parkinson’s, but we don’t really understand how all the other interacting circuits contribute to that and either make it worse or attempt to offset it. So we are looking to identify the sequence of dysfunction.’

Left: Fluorescently labelled dopamine axons in the mouse striatum.
Making Madame Bovary’s Wedding Cake

(...or Edible Lit Crit?)

Jennifer Yee
Professor of Literature in French

During the 2020 Covid-19 lockdown, when many people took to baking banana bread, I decided to pursue a rather atypical project. Combining my research on nineteenth-century French literature with a long-term fascination for the artisanry of the Cake Shop in Oxford’s Covered Market, I commissioned a real-life, 3-dimensional, edible version of Madame Bovary’s Wedding Cake. Somewhat to my surprise the project was supported by TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities). It has proved to be a highly original way of marking the 2021 bicentenary of the birth of Gustave Flaubert.

Flaubert’s novel Madame Bovary (1857) follows the story of Emma, a country girl who reads Romantic novels. She would have liked to be married at midnight, by the light of flaming torches, but instead she has a rustic wedding in which the only highlight is a magnificent cake. The cake combines her dreams of classical elegance (the base level is in the form of a blue classical temple spangled with gold stars), Romantic medievalism (the second tier is a fortress decorated with almonds and orange quarters), the sublime (the top tier is a meadow with a jam lake and rocks) and, of course, love (the cake is crowned with a chocolate cupid in a swing, with real rosebuds). Plot spoiler: married life is not going to fulfil Emma’s vague but passionate aspirations.

The cake has been described as an ‘impossible object’, and I may have proven that to be untrue. More importantly, it is an example of Flaubert’s interest in clichés and in what was not yet called kitsch. I will be presenting some of my current research on Flaubert and kitsch at the Musée d’Orsay in March. Meanwhile you can find out more about the cake on my blog (https://www.torch.ox.ac.uk/making-madame-bovarys-wedding-cake).
“The cake has been described as an ‘impossible object’, and I may have proven that to be untrue. More importantly, it is an example of Flaubert’s interest in clichés and in what was not yet called kitsch.”
Meet the graduates

Two graduate students, who matriculated in Michaelmas 2021, discuss their research and becoming members of the Christ Church community

Dayana Sarova (2021), MSc in Economic and Social History, recipient of the Wellington History Scholarship

Having spent my undergraduate years in Washington, DC, I was struck by the impact the discipline of economic history had on our understanding of appropriate policy responses to crises and, more generally, on our interpretation of contemporary economic events. My prior academic background in international relations and finance cultivated a particular curiosity about the interplay between institutions and economic outcomes. Oxford’s MSc in Economic and Social History appealed to me as the perfect opportunity to explore this longstanding interest and further my knowledge of the fiscal and financial implications of the Glorious Revolution, which will be the focus of my dissertation.

I plan to spend the next 11 months of my programme examining the secondary market for British sovereign debt post-1688, with a particular emphasis on measuring the liquidity of government bonds in the immediate aftermath of the profound political and institutional change that took place at the time. Outside of my dissertation, I am broadly interested in long-term patterns of economic growth and development and the causes behind divergent levels of prosperity, both within and between countries.

This course is a thrilling opportunity to investigate one of the most consequential periods in economic and financial history, and it is especially exciting to be a part of the Christ Church community while undertaking it. In the short time I have been at Oxford, the college has already proven to be a wonderfully supportive network, and I very much look forward to finding ways to give back and making it a better place for everyone.
My curiosity about the intersections of feminism, gender-based violence and institutionalised racism truly manifested during my undergraduate degree in Law which I read at St Mary’s University Twickenham, London (with First Class, 2017-2020). In my second year I volunteered to organise and lead a seminar at St Mary’s that focused on the AM-I-NEXT? Movement and forced sterilisations of HIV-positive women in Southern Africa. It was this experience that motivated my decision to continue challenging sexual violence and the State’s tolerability for unwanted harmful practices performed upon women and girls in the guise of healthcare. After finishing my degree with an extended essay on whether the law on obscenity is a misogynistic representation of power and a legal research project on whether court-ordered caesarean sections are in the best interests of pregnant women, I then pursued an MA in Bioethics and Medical Law at St Mary’s (2020-2021). There I produced a dissertation examining ‘To what extent should it be permissible for healthcare professionals to perform “virginity” testing and hymenoplasty in the jurisdiction of England and Wales?’ (2021).

In the early stages of writing this dissertation I had been approached by the Professional Policy Advisor at the Royal College of Midwives to contribute my research towards the ongoing campaign to ban virginity testing and hymenoplasty in the United Kingdom. The research that I collected on female genital cosmetic surgery, sexual purity and the law led me to consider two questions in relation to female genital mutilation: 1) do all reconstructive or restorative female genital surgeries affect the eradication of female genital mutilation? And 2) does the law in the jurisdiction of England and Wales establish clear differences between acceptable/unacceptable traditional practices and acceptable/unacceptable healthcare practice? I have the special opportunity to now explore these important questions as a DPhil in Law student at the University of Oxford.

My doctoral research, under the supervision of Jonathan Herring and Dr Imogen Goold, explores feminist critiques on the legal responses to female genital mutilation and female genital cosmetic surgery in the jurisdiction of England and Wales. I cannot explain my project without also emphasising how unequivocally grateful I am to be the recipient of the DPhil Law BAME Scholarship in conjunction with Christ Church; the award that turned the presented opportunity to pursue my project into a reality. Since arriving at Christ Church, I have felt comfort, support and generosity. I have already grown far too attached to the Christ Church Library. All of which make me feel honoured to be a new lifelong member of the House.

Saarrah Ray, (2021) DPhil in Law, recipient of the DPhil Law BAME Scholarship in conjunction with Christ Church
I am now a third year (finalist) law student at Christ Church who has been a student ambassador since freshers. Being a student ambassador is a really rewarding experience as I have the opportunity to engage with students across the country who are interested in applying to university, perhaps even to Oxford or Christ Church.

The work we do is incredibly varied, ranging from giving tours of the House to primary school children, to hosting question & answer sessions with sixth form students who are starting to think about applying to university. I particularly enjoy the fact that we have students from such different ages, as it means no session is ever the same. Whilst the older groups of students have quite practical concerns, such as finance, workload and having fun in Oxford; the younger groups love to hear about the wonders of Harry Potter and Alice in Wonderland so, fortunately, the Access Office, Porters and Custodians have helped me brush up on all things fantastical in Christ Church.

My favourite activities to run as a Student Ambassador are definitely the tours of college. They’re a great way to explain to prospective applicants how colleges work, how university students live, and it’s also really nice to show off my home.

Meet the Student Ambassadors

Amelia Seymour (2019) and Benjamin Nabhian (2020) discuss their roles as Student Ambassadors

Amelia Seymour (2019, Law)
I have worked on the JCR Committee as Fresher’s Representative in first year and as Vice-President in second year, giving me great insight into the inner workings of Christ Church and the college systems generally. Paired with my experience as a University of Oxford Ambassador, working particularly on the UNIQ summer school programmes, I am in a strong position to answer any and all questions potential applicants may ask. My favourite question I was recently asked by a primary school child was ‘where is your playground?’ Quite a hard one to answer but I think I managed well!

My favourite question I was recently asked by a primary school child was ‘where is your playground?’

My drive for becoming a student ambassador really came from my own experiences of applying to Oxford. I attended a state school in a rural area where information about Oxford wasn’t readily available. There were certainly some rumours I’d heard that put me off from applying, which fortunately have been just that: rumours. But, due to this, I really feel that demystifying Oxford is still an incredibly important task for Student Ambassadors to be involved with.

I've really enjoyed working for the Access and Outreach Office as a student ambassador, we have a really strong team and I know the good work is going to continue!

Benjamin Nabnian (2020, Languages)

I worked in the Development Office as a Student Ambassador, both in the office helping with event planning and as a Student Ambassador at the events that the Development Office put on for alumni over the summer. Aside from the great spread of events that were arranged for alumni – from wine tastings and dinners to lectures and tours – one of the great pleasures of being a Student Ambassador was seeing the friendships that were formed at Christ Church and how well they have endured through the years. To see old friends slipping seamlessly back into what were clearly very strong friendships – catching up and reminiscing – was lovely and my fellow Student Ambassadors and I are very much looking forward to doing the same when the time comes to be invited to our own Gaudies.

It was a delight to talk to the alumni about their time at Christ Church and the amazing range of what they have gone on to do since. What really shone through for me was the fondness that the alumni clearly held for Christ Church and the stories and many anecdotes that they told. The interaction between the alumni amongst each other and with the Student Ambassadors was a testament to the long-lived and timeless nature of the community that Christ Church fosters through our collective shared experience of the place.

The Gaudies themselves, and the many events offered, really showcased the best of Christ Church and its world-class expertise. At the Board of Benefactors Gaudy, alumni heard about the incredible work developing the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine by Christ Church’s own immunologists, including Professor Sarah Rowland-Jones and Professor Dame Sarah Gilbert, and the exciting possibilities that this new technology might unlock. Concerts were held in the Chapter House and Upper Library by current students, such as concert pianist Judith Valerie Engel. Emily Robotham took alumni on an exciting journey through the power of ageing wines and unveiled the incredible new English Sparkling Wine that she helped to create on behalf of the college. It was a genuine pleasure to see Christ Church and its community past and present coming together and flourishing.
A sustainable House

James Lawrie, Treasurer

Christ Church has for many years been acutely aware of its potential impact on the environment and taken steps to reduce its carbon footprint, both in its operations and in its investment approach. However, the unarguable confirmation that humankind’s current lifestyle is not sustainable has brought renewed vigour to the House’s efforts and commitment. There is much more we can do, but this article seeks to outline some of the steps being taken.

1. Investment and Property

Christ Church published a Responsible Ownership Policy for our investable assets in 2019, which can be read at https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/responsible-ownership-policy. We are now publishing a Responsible Ownership Policy for Property, which represents about half the endowment. Based around seven key principles, this provides a framework against which our stewardship of property will be reviewed. We are currently using a housing development project near Oxford and the redevelopment of Beaver House in Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford, as test cases for the application of these principles. A Challenge Group of academics has been established by Governing Body, which will monitor and vet the implementation of this policy. An initial summary of the policy can be found at https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/responsible-ownership-policy-property

2. Operations

John Harris, the former Steward, set up a Sustainability Sub-committee over a decade and half ago. Working closely with the JCR and GCR, it has, for example, spearheaded drives to reduce energy consumption and introduce fairtrade goods. After some technical teething problems, we now have a buildings management system that can measure energy and water usage building by building on a remote basis, enabling Professor McCulloch’s research group to analyse our data and suggest quick wins against verifiable benchmarks.
Christ Church and other colleges are working closely with Oxford University, with experts in the field, and with the undergraduate and graduate communities to set policies on sustainability, including through our Sustainability Working Group. Current efforts are focused on agreeing a common way to measure and report on our energy and water use and our biodiversity, and we plan to report on these using an agreed common approach early next year. How do you account for professorial air mile carbon, for example, when most academics are on joint contracts? Meanwhile, there is information about what has already been achieved in a report from May this year, at Sustainability work group report Existing initiatives May2021.pdf (ox.ac.uk) and on the University’s policy, at Environmental Sustainability Strategy | Sustainability (ox.ac.uk).

Christ Church has been progressively introducing sustainability measures into our building refurbishments. Improved insulation, better fitting windows with refurbished and operational window shutters, draught strips and secondary glazing where permissible and, as appropriate, electric boilers or air source heat pumps are now the preferred options to reduce our use of fossil fuels. Liddell Building is about to be heated using a ground source heat loop installed in the Sportsground. Smart radiator valves monitored via the Cloud now enable the Clerk of Works to fine tune heating around the site by wire. Photovoltaic panels on the Compound roof next to Meadow car park power our growing fleet of electric lawnmowers and an electric van. We have also installed four electric car charging points in Meadow car park if you are parking your electric vehicle at the House and suffer from range anxiety!

The Head Gardener has been actively promoting biodiversity in the gardens and Meadow for many years. He has surveyed the Meadow species and last year spread seed-rich water meadow hay to encourage greater plant diversity. He has also been addressing animal habitats in the Meadow and harvests rainwater in the nursery where the recently constructed greenhouse is heated by an air source heat pump. New composting facilities in the Meadow have greatly increased the re-use of green waste material. Decreasing the frequency of mowing the verges in the Meadow to an annual cut from weekly, has not only significantly reduced the use of petrol engined machines, but has allowed the natural return of species such as Common Spotted and Pyramidal Orchids, which had been thought to have been lost. The gardens team plant around 15,000 native bulb species such as Snake’s Head Fritillaries, Wild Daffodils and Wild Tulips every autumn.

The current Steward, Pauline Linieres-Hartley, has followed her predecessor’s lead. Christ Church has been at the forefront of promoting recycling with collegiate waste service providers. With the JCR and GCR we have promoted meat free days in Hall and the SCR, and have sought where possible to limit and reduce our food miles.

Our wonderful collection of listed buildings does not always lend itself to energy efficiency, but we are certainly seeking to deliver measurable reductions in the House’s carbon footprint in the near future.
Cardinal Sins

Reyntiens’s windows were usually modern in design – there are lots of examples close to Oxford which the Governing Body were shown – but it was decided that something more in keeping with the Tudor Hall would be better, especially as the few remaining fragments of Nicholson’s glass were to be retained. Something more modern would also clash with the Victorian glass made by Burlison and Grylls.

Reyntiens came up with a scheme that would include Tudor strapwork, to complement Nicholson’s designs, and Baroque borders in muted shades. Each of the new windows would celebrate the founders with a monogram and crown representing Henry VIII and our familiar red hat for Wolsey. Each would also feature portraits and coats of arms (or a modern monogram) of each of the deans or famous old members. The Governing Body drove Reyntiens mad with their obsession with the accuracy of the heraldry, even maintaining a steady correspondence with the College of Arms, and with the likenesses. But the final scheme was much appreciated and the dean wrote to Reyntiens that he should be ‘aware of the House’s gratitude and admiration.’ On the north side, the windows are divided roughly by career of some of our celebrated alumni (clergymen, statesmen, medics, scientists, and artists). On the south are the deans from Henry Aldrich to Cuthbert Simpson, along with Joseph Banks, John Guise, and W.H. Auden. One whole window is devoted to Alice, Charles Dodgson, and the Wonderland characters. While the loss of Wolsey’s original glass is sad – no record survives of the reason for its removal in 1740, Reyntiens’s designs are both contemporary and appropriate.

Patrick Reyntiens, one of Britain’s most respected stained glass artists, died in October 2021. His works included glass for Coventry and Liverpool Metropolitan cathedrals, for Southwell Minster, for Eton College, and for numerous parish churches. Examples of his glass are exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum. At Christ Church we are fortunate to have examples of his wonderful work in the Hall.

When the Hall was built, as part of Thomas Wolsey’s great scheme for Cardinal College, the huge Perpendicular windows were decorated with the arms and emblems of the founder and of King Henry VIII. Wolsey turned to the best in the business, James Nicholson, who was paid £28 in 1529 for 47 sets of Wolsey’s coat of arms and 246 ‘bends or poses’ with the motto ‘Dominus Mihi Adjutor’. Only the huge west window now contains any remnants of Nicholson’s work including the arms of Durham, York, Lincoln, Bath and Wells, and St Albans with those the King and of the Clare family. In 1740, the Hall was completely reglazed and, at the same time, the steps between the kitchen and the Hall were given glazing for the first time, which must have helped a lot keeping food warm during its passage from the kitchen.

In 1872, the windows on the north side were changed again and given rather sickly painted green glass installed by Horwood Brothers, and in 1878, the south oriel window received new stained panels, the gift of Herbert Salwey. By 1900, only the south oriel and the west window included any sixteenth-century glass at all. Archdeacon Clerke presented the window on the south side of the dais and Edward Sampson that on the north.

Thomas Vere Bayne, Student and Dean Liddell’s right-hand man, suggested in 1905, not long before his death, a new scheme to include the coats of arms of all the deans, four to each window, to be installed all the way down the south side. The scheme was taken up but only two (one on either side of the east entrance to the Hall) – the two that Vere Bayne paid for – were installed. These include the shields of the first twenty deans. It was not then until 1980 when John Mason (Student, Tutor in History, Librarian, and Curator of Common Room) proposed that the glass in the Hall be completely overhauled.

Reyntiens’s windows were usually modern in design – there are lots of examples close to Oxford which the Governing Body were shown – but it was decided that something more in keeping with the Tudor Hall would be better, especially as the few remaining fragments of Nicholson’s glass were to be retained. Something more modern would also clash with the Victorian glass made by Burlison and Grylls.

Reyntiens came up with a scheme that would include Tudor strapwork, to complement Nicholson’s designs, and Baroque borders in muted shades. Each of the new windows would celebrate the founders with a monogram and crown representing Henry VIII and our familiar red hat for Wolsey. Each would also feature portraits and coats of arms (or a modern monogram) of each of the deans or famous old members. The Governing Body drove Reyntiens mad with their obsession with the accuracy of the heraldry, even maintaining a steady correspondence with the College of Arms, and with the likenesses. But the final scheme was much appreciated and the dean wrote to Reyntiens that he should be ‘aware of the House’s gratitude and admiration.’ On the north side, the windows are divided roughly by career of some of our celebrated alumni (clergymen, statesmen, medics, scientists, and artists). On the south are the deans from Henry Aldrich to Cuthbert Simpson, along with Joseph Banks, John Guise, and W.H. Auden. One whole window is devoted to Alice, Charles Dodgson, and the Wonderland characters. While the loss of Wolsey’s original glass is sad – no record survives of the reason for its removal in 1740, Reyntiens’s designs are both contemporary and appropriate.

**The Reyntiens window**

**Judith Curthoys, Archivist and Data Protection Compliance Manager**

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The Governing Body drove Reyntiens mad with their obsession with the accuracy of the heraldry, even maintaining a steady correspondence with the College of Arms, and with the likenesses.

**Right:** Reyntiens’ Alice in Wonderland window in Hall.
Old Library staircase had not been renovated since the 1970s and was beginning to look very tired so refurbishment was very high on the Steward’s wish list.
It seemed sensible, while rooms were empty and there were no examinations or interviews, or students studying in the library, or tutors trying to teach, to make the most of a rare opportunity – one of the few silver linings of the pandemic – to catch up on the mundane housekeeping tasks for which there is never a good time, and also to get planned larger projects underway. There was general refurbishment, including much decorating inside and out, and repairs and maintenance.

The entire St Aldates frontage of Tom Quad has been redecorated along with Meadow Buildings and Killcanon. A small extension has been built into the Brewhouse archive which has both expanded its storage capacity considerably and tidied up a difficult space. The Picture Gallery heating system, which we have been nursing along for several years, is currently being renewed with a comprehensive refit of the plant room equipment, including the replacement of the gas boiler which previously provided warm air for the system with an air source heat pump.

Two of the major schemes begun during the summer were the refurbishment of staircases 1 & 2 in Canterbury Quad, and Old Library Staircase, both of which continue the rolling programme of modernisation of student and tutors’ rooms, improving facilities, making them more environmentally sound, and bringing them up to twenty-first century standards. The Canterbury 1 & 2 project had been deferred from a planned September 2020 start to September 2021 as part of Covid-19 financial planning but then actually started in July to take advantage of the lack of conference business and other calls on the accommodation over the long vacation. Similarly, the Old Library project has been brought forward by a whole year!

The work on Canterbury 1 & 2 is the final phase of Peckwater/Canterbury Quad refurbishments and follows the same basic specification but in this case the old and inflexible electric night storage heaters are being replaced with a “wet” central heating system controlled for the first time in College by electric boilers. The project will provide updated Senior and Junior member accommodation mostly with en-suite facilities and a remodelled rest room for the Custodians.
The contractor inadvertently trialled a new Mercury in Canterbury Quad when the ground workers struck an old cast iron water main.

Old Library staircase had not been renovated since the 1970s and was beginning to look very tired so refurbishment was very high on the Steward’s wish list. As one of our oldest buildings – originally the refectory of St Frideswide’s priory built in the fifteenth century which then served as the first library of Christ Church from the sixteenth century to the end of the eighteenth century – the challenges are greater than usual as the ancient fabric – including the painted ceiling at the west end, the medieval pulpit in Room 10, and the blind arcading on the north wall – needs to be protected and conserved.

The projects involve the usual repairing and upgrading of elements of building fabric and building services; the “ensuiting” of student study bedrooms, some of which had been taken out of “sleeping use” since the 2009 Fire Risk Assessment deemed means of escape from the upper floor inadequate. This will be addressed by extending the 1970s staircase at the west of the building up an extra storey.

The Art Room is being upgraded and has been temporarily relocated to the Brewhouse for the duration. The Art students have been offered the opportunity of decorating the blank face of the hoarding which encloses the site. Opening-up work in the early stages of the contract revealed many historical details covered up since alterations works carried out by James Wyatt in the eighteenth century. These are causing much interest in the Archaeological community. Being in the middle of Christ Church, the logistics of servicing the project has been a challenge. Much time and effort has been expended in placating the Head Gardener in his requirement to protect the huge rosemary bush which flourishes against the warmth of the south side of Old Library. Great ingenuity was shown by the scaffolders.

Decorated timber panelled ceiling rescued in the 1950s.
An associated project being managed alongside the Old Library refurbishment is the creation of a choir library in the cramped rooms above the east cloister walk. This will be accessible from both the Old Library and from the Chapter House which has recently undergone its own restoration following the relocation of the shop to its new home in the Visitor Centre – recently the recipient of an Oxford Preservation Trust Award – and the diocesan and parish silver being safely stored elsewhere. The fabric of the Chapter House has undergone specialist conservation work and it now sports a new heating and electrical system, including new light fittings and an audio visual system. Specialist advice is being sought on how best to improve the acoustic performance of the space so that the Chapter House can revert to its original function as a meeting room and as a small concert venue.

Alongside the Chapter House, the Slype – which many will remember as the dark little room where the video on Christ Church’s history used to be played on a continuous loop – is now being refitted to be a proper vestry/robing room and a new home for the cathedral embroiderers. The work of those talented ladies will now be far better appreciated, too. An empty cathedral allowed the completion of the final two phases of the new lighting scheme in one go with minimal disruption.

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Women’s 40th weekend

Kimberley Littlemore (1985, PPE)

I spent a weekend in September celebrating 40 years of women at Christ Church. It was a good weekend. Friends flew in from North America and drove in from all corners of the UK and whenever I looked around I saw people talking, laughing and generally enjoying being together in some warm, late summer sunshine.

I enjoyed the conversations prompted by the wine tasting, the exhibition in the Old Library, the amazing piano recital, the drinks reception in Tom Quad followed by dinner, the old members who talked to us about the Picture Gallery, their research, and the articles in *Christ Church Matters* leading up to the event. We agreed with some things, argued about others, debated the rest and generally had an energising and inspiring weekend which was wrapped up with a BBQ at the Sports Ground for families with a range of sporting activities on offer and an Alice in Wonderland Tour followed by tea.

The weekend gave us an opportunity to reflect on the experiences of women over the past 40 years, both in Christ Church and over our working lives. We were asked our views on whether there should be a 50th celebration. For those of us who love coming back to college there was a general feeling, amongst my contemporaries, that we would be delighted to return again in ten years’ time, should the invitation be extended. For me, spending time with such a fantastic group of women with whom I have a shared history, away from the demands of everyday life, is a privilege. Like the evenings spent reminiscing with fellow rowers or in our year groups at a Gaudy, that sense of belonging is powerful and uplifting. However this special interest weekend had a notable anniversary wrapper that made it particularly special, especially for those of us old enough to claim “80s original” status.

Simon Offen and the Christ Church family made us very welcome and I think I speak for all of those who were there on the anniversary weekend when I say a big thank you to them all for looking after us so well. We are looking forward to meeting up at our next Gaudy when we will enjoy catching up with our wider Christ Church community.
On being the custodian of images

Jacqueline Thalmann, Curator of the Picture Gallery

On the programme to mark the 40th Anniversary of Women in Christ Church this September was a conversation among the female Curators (past and present) of Christ Church Picture Gallery: Joanna Woodall (Professor in Art History at the Courtauld Institute of Art), Catherine Whistler (Head of Western Art at the Ashmolean Museum), Lucy Whittaker (Senior Curator of Paintings at the Royal Collection, recently retired), Emmanuela Tandello (Tutor in Italian at Christ Church) and me, the current Curator of the Picture Gallery.

It is difficult as participant and incumbent in the role of Curator of the Picture Gallery to write about the significance of this event that brought together some of the leading women in the field of curation and Old Master paintings, drawings and prints.

Naturally we knew each other before this event. Curators in general – and Picture Gallery Curators in particular – are a highly collaborative and very supportive profession and group of people. We had worked with each other before, we had consulted each other, and every newcomer in this role instantly and automatically acquires a support group of predecessors. The role of Curator at Christ Church Picture Gallery is so singular and solitary that the support of one’s colleagues and of curators and other museum professionals worldwide is essential to run the gallery. (And don’t forget, being a Curator, like most academic professions, is not a nine-to-five job, but is intertwined with almost every aspect of one’s life.) This support is happily given. Even decades after people left, the bond between Christ Church curators remains, in part because these are the only other people who know the full scale of the role. A role that means being an art historian in the field of Old Masters, with the academic knowledge, talent to teach, and ability to assess the physical conditions and needs of the collections, while at the same time being a museum professional familiar with the processes and standards required of public museums. If that’s not enough there is also the managerial aspect of the day-to-day running of the gallery – from finding the right security screws and acrylic label holders to being familiar with the gallery’s drainage system, and training and looking after the front-of-house staff. Might this myriad of tasks, for which multitasking sounds like an understatement, be the reason why there was proportionally a higher number of female post-holders than in most other academic or academic-related roles here so far? We won’t know, but what we do know is that the House has an exceptional treasure of international standing in the Picture Gallery. Other great universities exist and Oxford is full of exceptional libraries and their rare books, but the uniqueness of an Old Master collection of this calibre, with its pioneering founding aim to integrate art into the British education – very few can call that their own.
Professor Emmanuela Tandello
University Lecturer in Italian and Student of Christ Church, Professor Tandello is not an art historian but served as the first female member of Governing Body who took on the rotating role of ‘Curator of Pictures’ – the College Officer in charge of the Picture Gallery.

Jacqueline Thalmann
Jacqueline took full advantage of Germany’s free education system, studying for ten years at the universities of Munich, Augsburg, Berlin and London. She has been Curator at Christ Church Picture Gallery since 2003. Before that she worked at Sir John Soane’s Museum in London, at the Humboldt Universität, Berlin, and had a stint as a provenance researcher for looted art in Marburg.

Professor Catherine Whistler
Catherine is Keeper of the Western Art Department at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. She is a Fellow of St John’s College, Oxford and conducts teaching and research in the History of Art and Fine Art. She undertook doctoral research at the National University of Ireland.

Lucy Whitaker
Lucy was, until recently, Senior Curator of Paintings at the Royal Collection. She studied at the Courtauld Institute of Art and was Assistant Curator of the Picture Gallery from 1989 until 1996. She has written several books, including *The Northern Renaissance*, published by the Royal Collection Trust.

Professor Joanna Woodall
Joanna was Assistant Curator of the Christ Church Picture Gallery between 1982 and 1985 and was also a member of the Senior Common Room. She studied history at the University of York and pursued doctoral studies in Art History at the University of Cambridge. She trained as an art historian at the Courtauld Institute of Art where she is now a Professor.

Above (l to r): Professor Emmanuela Tandello; Lucy Whitaker; Professor Catherine Whistler and Professor Joanna Woodall.

Left: The five curators gathered together on the weekend celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Women in Christ Church in September 2021.
Two Early Christ Church Scientific Women:
Martha Isles and Mary Buckland

Dr Allan Chapman, Wadham College

During our marking of forty years of women in the House, it is interesting to remember that Christ Church had two noteworthy scientific women long before 1980. Both were Canon’s wives, and while we would love to know more about the first lady, the second is very well documented.

The first was Canon Thomas Isles’s wife, back in the days of King Charles I. Indeed, we are not even certain whether her Christian name was Margaret or Martha! For Canon Isles married twice, although circumstantial evidence strongly suggests that the scientific lady was his second wife, Martha. Medicine and chemistry were her sciences, and we learn of her because it was she who inspired the career of one of Christ Church’s greatest medical scientists, Dr Thomas Willis, later discoverer of the ‘Circle of Willis’ in the brain, coiner of the term ‘neurology’, and an early organic chemist.

The diarist John Aubrey, who knew Willis well in later years, described Mrs Isles as ‘a knowing woman in physique and surgery and did many cures’. She clearly possessed a laboratory or dispensary in their Canon’s house, for it was here that young Willis, who was Canon Thomas Isles’s ‘batteller’, or pupil-cum-lodger, was first captivated by medical science, as it then existed. For Martha would ‘oftentimes have him to assist her in the making of medicines’.

But how, one might ask, was this lady allowed to practise medicine at a time when women were excluded from higher education and the professions? For what is clear is that the medicine she practised was ‘regular’ medicine, as it was then understood, and not that of the ‘old wives’ tales’ variety. Very clearly, Martha was fully literate, and probably knew some Latin, and by 1640 there was no shortage of serious medical works available to English readers. After all, Robert Burton’s pioneering psychiatric treatise *The Anatomy of Melancholy* (1621) was in English, and had been written within the walls of Christ Church.

Quite simply, if a woman were obviously intelligent, well-read, and ‘a lady’, such as a Canon’s wife, no one would interfere with her practice. Indeed, Martha’s contemporary Lucy, wife of the Cromwellian Colonel Hutchinson, was also renowned for her medical knowledge.

Unfortunately, we do not know what substances Martha prepared and gave to her patients, or what surgical procedures she performed in that pre-bacterial age. One suspects, however, that Martha Isles’s therapeutics were based on those of classical pharmacy, and her surgery probably

and while later re-marrying and giving Mary some half-brothers and sisters, he passed the little girl’s upbringing to his good friends Sir Christopher and Lady Amy Pegge. As Sir Christopher was Regius Professor of Medicine and a Student of Christ Church, it is likely that it was this connection that first fired the child’s fascination with bones, muscles, comparative anatomy, microscopy, and fossil geology. I have often wondered whether Sir Christopher took Mary into the Lee Building, then the Anatomy School, at times when no University teaching was taking place, and taught her practical dissection. The Anatomy School was not without grisly humour, moreover, as there was a pair of articulated skeletons, male and female, that could be made to dance with each other by pulling the ropes on which they were suspended via pulley wheels in the roof!

Skeletons, human and animal, seem to have interested her in particular, and when Georges Cuvier and others began to dig up the fossilised bones of long-extinct creatures, young Mary became especially fascinated. She began to correspond with Cuvier, Europe’s foremost palaeontologist, and sent him detailed drawings of fossilised bones excavated in England. For Mary was a sharp observer, and became skilled in re-assembling broken fossil bones from fragments found in the rocks.

Both Martha Isles and Mary Buckland, I am sure, would have held senior scientific posts had they been alive today ...

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Mary Buckland née Morland, however, unlike Martha Isles, is a very well-documented lady from the time of Jane Austen and the young Queen Victoria. Born in Abingdon in 1797, into the local well-to-do brewing and commercial Morland family, Mary sadly lost her mother while still only a toddler. Her father Benjamin, a successful County solicitor, land agent, and businessman as well as being connected with the family brewery, was a busy man, consisted in stitching cuts, lancing boils, and setting broken limbs – the common surgical procedures of her day. But what we do know is that she was clearly good at it, knew what she was doing, and ’did many cures’. She was also, no doubt, a skilled and inspiring teacher. For when the young Willis’s original ambition of following in the footsteps of Canon Isles as a clergyman was frustrated by Parliament’s execution of Archbishop Laud and the abolition of the Anglican Church, he was clearly guided and inspired by Mrs Isles, to become not just a doctor, but an experimental physician of genius, a pioneer organic chemist studying the nature of fermentation, and a true luminary of the House.

So we should thank Martha Isles for inspiring young Willis, and setting his feet on the path of medical greatness.
One can gauge the seriousness with which her work was taken from Sir Christopher Pegge’s subsequent bequest of major sections of his private museum to her, especially his mineral and geological specimens.

Mary’s meeting of her future husband, Revd Dr William Buckland, was a romance similar to modern stories of couples who accidentally meet on the Oxford Tube bus. Caroline Fox, who knew the Bucklands well, recorded that they happened to be facing one another on a public stagecoach crossing Dorset. Mary drew a heavy volume from her bag, and began to read it. It was one of Cuvier’s treatises – not the sort of book one might expect to see a young lady reading! Knowing of her by repute, Buckland politely inquired, ‘Are you Miss Mary Morland?’ To which she replied ‘And are you Dr Buckland?’ And things went from there.

Then in 1825 Prime Minister Lord Liverpool, supported by King George IV, offered Buckland an *ad hominem* Canonry of Christ Church and Regius Readership in Geology, at a magnificent £1,000 per annum. Mary and William now married, and settled into their spacious home at the north-west corner of Tom Quad, now the Archdeacon’s residence.

Mary worked closely with her husband, and they made extensive geological tours together across Europe until 1845, when William became Dean of Westminster. And while not specifically geological, the Bucklands threw themselves into a variety of social reform projects, running classes for local artisans and waging war against slum landlords. In Westminster, the Bucklands worked closely with Revd Dr Henry Liddell, then the reforming Headmaster of Westminster School, and later Dean of Christ Church and Alice ‘in Wonderland’s’ father. Among other things in Westminster, the Bucklands and Liddells cleaned up the filthy drains and water supply, in an attempt to overcome cholera and the ‘Westminster fever’, or typhus.

William Buckland died in 1856, but it is clear that original scientific research was never far away from Mary’s mind. In her widowhood she returned to her old interest in marine microscopy: the study of marine sponges and zoophytes examined at high magnifications. In these researches she worked with a medical friend, Dr James Bowerbank FRS. Then one day in November 1857, Dr Bowerbank called at Mary’s house in St Leonards, where she had gone to live with her daughters, for a scientific session with their microscopes, only to be told that Mary had died suddenly the previous evening. She had only just turned sixty.

Both Martha Isles and Mary Buckland, I am sure, would have held senior scientific posts had they been alive today: perhaps as Doctors of Medicine, Doctors of Science, or even Fellows of the Royal Society. So, in this year of celebration of women’s achievements in the House, let us not forget the pioneering work of Martha Isles and Mary Buckland.
Association News

Jacob Ward (2008, History)

This edition of *CCM* sees the return of our regular careers feature. In light of the recent COP26 conference in Glasgow we have chosen to devote this section to members who work in fields relating to climate science, and we hear from three alumni whose work spans activism, academia, and government.

Having been subjected to two years of intermittent lockdowns it is enormously encouraging to know that the House is opening up once again and heartening to see the photos on the following pages from various events held over the last year.

Social media continues to dominate our lives, and provided a lifeline to many when the pandemic precluded conventional social interactions. Members will, therefore, be pleased to know that, thanks to alumna Kate Jillings, there will shortly be a new network purely for members of the House. ‘Christ Church Connections’ will launch in spring 2022 so keep an eye out for an invitation to join in the coming months.

Erstwhile boaties will enjoy the encouraging update from Boat Club President Anna Betteridge, and all will welcome the enormously generous gift from Cameron and Tyler Winkelvoss, which will help to ensure the Boat Club continues to go from strength to strength.

You can also read about the fascinating origins of Champlain National Bank, which has played a key role in the American Friends of Christ Church through the latter’s long-serving President, Peter S Paine Jr.

Lastly our book reviews feature a typically eclectic mix, taking in pandemic-inspired poetry, the women of the Old Testament, and integrated business leadership. Sadly these are three separate books instead of one enlightening tome, but each will make a handsome addition to your bookshelves and will keep you entertained in the next lockdown.

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John Ruskin, *Christ Church from St Aldate’s*, ink, crayon and watercolor over pencil, 1842.
I took up a similar role in a rather smaller EPA in South Australia, which was extremely enjoyable and educational! From there I returned to a more sedate and thoughtful role as part academic part consultant in Glasgow once more and now I am on the brink of retirement. I have written about regulatory practice and governance and advised the World Bank, OECD and Scottish Government and Parliament on issues of environment and climate strategies, air pollution, coal gas exploitation, and post-Brexit environment policy.

With some wonderful colleagues from around the world led by John O’Brien, we have written two volumes – Visions for 2100 and Visions 2030 – telling stories of climate change impacts, hopes and fears and this latter was launched at COP26 in Glasgow. The issues of planetary vulnerability and change are much as they were in my research-informed teaching in 1985-9 and human efforts mostly remain on the debit side. Nonetheless, I would not have achieved my peak learning nor the journey that followed, were it not for those happy, energetic and dynamic days in Oxford.

Doug Parr (1987, Chemistry)
I’ve now worked for Greenpeace for over quarter of a century. Arriving originally as a sabbatical cover as head of a team of scientists, I’ve moved through roles including project manager, campaigns director, and head of political team. Diverse positions, but always bringing with me the thing that I got from gaining a DPhil in atmospheric chemistry whilst at Christ Church – looking to understand issues in depth and translate what that
means to a wider setting. I’m now most accurately described as Policy Director; trying to maintain an overview of policy, especially in relation to UK action on climate change across electricity, transport, buildings, industry and land use.

After a little postdoc work in Oxford I was already planning – and had applied for – further academic postings in USA. However, the ecological concerns that had made me want to look into chemistry of the ozone layer – just as it was facing the threat of chlorine-induced depletion in the 1980s – was pulling in the other direction. I’d already got involved in the local Friends of the Earth group even whilst I was doing my chemistry research. Out of the blue a job came up in London campaigning on ozone layer issues and very late in the day I decided to apply. Obviously having a relevant doctorate helped and I got it. There was no turning back – once I saw up close how political change happened I found it quite hard to pull away and look for work elsewhere. Others have done so, but for me it looks like I’ll have to keep applying analytical thinking to Greenpeace’s outlook for even more years than the 27 I already have.

Paul Monks
(1988, Chemistry)
It is self-evident that Research and innovation will be an essential part of the drive to decarbonise global economies. Research and innovation for the Net Zero transition will involve a complex interaction between technology, infrastructure, people, data, institutions, policy and the natural environment.

Currently, as the Chief Scientific Advisor for the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy much of my work supports the science and innovation required to support the policies and proposals for decarbonising the UK by 2050 alongside working in the global context. This work reflects my journey from my days at Christ Church, which have taken my studies of the atmosphere and climate change from the roaring 40s in Tasmania to some of the most polluted cities in the world and allowed me to look at global change from the ground, air and satellites.

Research and innovation has much to offer in, for example, the enhancement of renewable power, industrial energy, heat and buildings, transport, and natural resources facilitated by developments in, for example, hydrogen and carbon-capture and storage. Innovation is not an excuse for inaction, the next decade is critical to achieving the goals of Net Zero. The scientific evidence is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. With respect to innovation, there is clear recognition of the need to deploy at speed and pace mature technologies, while as the same time accelerate emergent ones.

The greater the international scientific consensus the more effective the solutions are that can be generated.

Beyond innovation there are wider challenges for the science and research that underpins it. Often in recent times climate science has been about measuring and predicting impacts. Now there is a need to move, in my opinion, to science for solutions. Science can embrace the wider challenge of accelerating the social, economic, cultural and political change to reach net zero. We can, in my view, take a too technocratic view of the transition to Net Zero, but the required research and innovation has to be centred in the framework of people. It is people that will make the changes, often adopt the technology and drive the consumer or industrial requirement to change. We do need solution-oriented research that embraces adaptation and mitigation (not or), a recognition that the climate is changing and resilience to that change is important. The solution-oriented approach can embrace the need for a systems approach, as we have in Net Zero a system of systems problem from the underlying physical climate system to the science of mitigation and adaptation in a full socio-economic framework.

COP26 in Glasgow has shown us that research and innovation is a global endeavour that works best when ideas can be pooled, and insights come from a wide disciplinary base. The greater the international scientific consensus the more effective the solutions are that can be generated. Each county will require innovation pathways that reflects its experience and readiness for the Net Zero transition. Those innovation pathways will require academia, NGOs, industry and the public to work together. I do believe there will be a green dividend for the economies that embrace Net Zero, where the savings will in time exceed the costs of the transition. Further, there will be tangible health and environmental benefits enabled by a well implemented transition alongside new jobs.

There won’t be a magic bullet to reaching Net Zero, but research and innovation can help us make real progress in many crucial areas in the UK and globally.
Covid-19 social study

Dr Daisy Fancourt (2008, Music)

Since leaving Christ Church in 2011, I have pursued further degrees in science, completing my PhD in psychoneuroimmunology at UCL in 2016. Over the past 5 years since, I have built up a research team focusing on the role of social factors on health based at UCL. This has included work both on social deficits (such as loneliness and social isolation) and social assets (including social connections, arts and cultural activities, community engagement, and social prescribing). As the Covid-19 pandemic began to emerge it became clear that our social lives were going to be drastically affected, but what was unclear was how we would all be affected by this. Social isolation (whether through gradual social withdrawal over time, incarceration, or quarantine) has been linked to a range of adverse mental and physical health effects, so the prospect of lockdowns and social distancing was already a cause for concern. But the scale, duration and specific conditions of the global lockdowns that were spreading in the early months of 2020 were unprecedented. It became clear that the Covid-19 outbreak was defining a whole new type of isolation; one that drew on previous experiences and conceptualisations, but one that was unique and largely unpredictable in terms of what its effects on mental health will be.

So, with my colleague Prof Andrew Steptoe (Christ Church Lecturer 1975-77), we decided to launch a study into the psychological and social impact of the pandemic on adults in the UK: the UCL Covid-19 Social Study. We launched on 21 March 2020, two days before the first lockdown was announced in the UK, and over the following few weeks we recruited over 72,000 people to take part. Since, our participants have contributed to weekly/monthly surveys on their experiences, yielding a total of over 1.1 million surveys to date. We have supplemented these surveys with over 20,000 written testimonials from participants and 500 hours of telephone interviews. Together, these data have provided unprecedented insight into the individual and societal impact of the pandemic. A key aim of our study was to provide real-time data analysis, so that data from the study could feed into political decisions and inform the support being provided to individuals. So, for the last 20 months, my team and I have undertaken daily work cleaning and analysing data and producing dashboards, reports and papers for cabinet office, multiple government departments, NHS England, Public Health England, the World Health Organisation, and hundreds of community organisations. To date, we’ve produced over 100 scientific publications on topics including mental health, social experiences, pandemic-related adversities, health behaviours during lockdowns, use of health services, compliance with pandemic measures, trust in government, and attitudes to vaccination. The findings have been cited in dozens of SAGE documents and used to inform decisions such as lockdown restrictions, roll-out plans for the vaccine amongst different vulnerable populations, and costings for NHS mental health service demand.

SARS-CoV-2 (CDC-23313).
In addition, I have been collaborating with researchers around the world to understand how our experiences in the UK compare to other countries. In May 2020, I worked with the Wellcome Trust to found the Covid-Minds Network, which is an international network of over 160 longitudinal mental health studies from over 70 different countries. As network Director, I have been working with colleagues in the network to publish resources for mental health scientists working on Covid-19, support the establishment of more longitudinal mental health studies especially in low-income countries, facilitate new collaborations between different universities to pool expertise and skills, and undertake new cross-national analyses of the mental health impact of the pandemic. Our papers are starting to highlight similarities and differences between psychological experiences depending on the different policies governments have put in place to manage the pandemic. Notably, we’re finding that mental health has varied substantially between countries adopting virus elimination vs mitigation strategies. In the summer of 2020, I was invited to join the Lancet Covid-19 Commission on Mental Health and (in February 2021) the World Health Organisation Technical Advisory Group for Mental Health in Covid-19, and through these two groups I’ve been collaborating with scientists internationally to publish synthesis reviews of the global mental health impact and develop policy guidelines for addressing the mental health impact of the pandemic.

Working on the Covid-19 pandemic has been the greatest privilege of my career to date. It has shown science at its best: collaborative, responsive and high impact. The new colleagues I’ve met and worked with are incredibly inspiring and together we’re asking questions I couldn’t have imagined two years ago. But it has also been humbling and at times desperately sad to see through our data the toll this pandemic has taken on individuals and society. So much of that negative impact was avoidable, but I worry that the lessons we most need to take from this pandemic are already being forgotten. With my team, we’re now transitioning our work to focus on how to deal with the long-term psychological and social ramifications of this pandemic and how to ensure that we address the societal inequalities that this pandemic has so viciously exposed and exacerbated.

The Covid-19 Social Study – www.covidsocialstudy.org

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The bank merged with Lake Champlain National Bank of Westport, about 15 miles south, to become Champlain National Bank in 1959, more than a decade after Augustus’ death.

Today, the bank has 10 locations, 70 full-time employees and approximately $450 million in assets.

“I think he (Augustus) would be proud of the fact that we continued to be independent, invest in our communities, that the headquarters is based in Willsboro and that we’re following a tradition of concern for this community,” Peter Jr. said of his grandfather.

“I think he’d be very pleased with the way things are.”

PRIDE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Peter Jr., born in 1935, grew up around the family business and began working there first as a teller when a late teen.
He remembers old-school machines making a “kachunk” noise and a bank so small he had trouble finding a level surface for his coffee percolator.

“I liked the idea of having coffee... the only level place you could put it was on top of the toilet,” Peter Jr. said with a laugh.

Looking back, Peter Jr. admitted his young self had felt a certain pride when it came to his family’s Willsboro ties, including the bank, but also the Paine Memorial Library, the golf course and other staples.

“And definitely a responsibility to carry this tradition forward,” he added.

**SAVING THE BANK**

Peter Jr. recalled the story of when his grandfather Augustus saved the bank, and likely Willsboro itself, during the Great Depression.

“The bank had invested in $200,000 worth of bonds that turned out to be worthless,” he said. “Grandfather advanced his own money to the bank to keep it solid.”

Noting this was not something the head of a bank could do in today’s world, Peter Jr. thought, “It's a wonderful heritage.”

**NAVIGATING TODAY**

Peter Jr., who has served as board chairman for about 35 years, recently celebrated his 50th year as a Champlain National Bank director.

The bank business has drastically changed since his teen years as a teller, he said, noting technology was now the “lifeblood” of all financial institutions.

The chairman thought the biggest obstacle he helped the bank overcome during his tenure, however, was the 1992 decision to branch out of Essex County and open a downtown Plattsburgh bank in Clinton County, a decision supported by fellow longtime directors Roderic Giltz and John Perley.

“We had excess deposits here that we really couldn’t put to work lending in Essex County, because it was very much smaller and Plattsburgh was the commercial center of this particular area,” Peter Jr. said.

“That was, I think, absolutely the right decision.”

Other Clinton County branches soon after appeared, including Champlain in 1996 and West Plattsburgh in 1999.

**CARRY THE TORCH**

Looking ahead, Peter Jr. believes the bank will continue on its current trajectory by “keeping the bank healthy, attracting quality people to work and plowing money back into the business so that it can continue to grow and serve the community.”

And he saw the Paine family furthering its already century-long legacy.

Peter Jr. is the third generation chairman and expects is son Peter S. Paine III (1985), current co-vice chairman, to become the fourth. His son Alex also serves as a director and the current chairman expects some of his grandkids to join the board “in due time.”

“Carrying the torch forward into another generation,” he said. “We've taken a long-term view. We’re not for sale, we’re not interested in selling the bank. We have, as a result, had a period of steady growth over the years.

“So, keep doing what we’re currently doing and doing it well and doing it efficiently.”
Events review 2021

2020 LEavers’ dinner – 4 September. At long last the 2020 leavers were able to mark their Going Down with a dinner in Hall.

Gaudy – 8 September. The Year Groups 1971-75 were finally able to enjoy their Gaudy, with drinks in Tom and a fine dinner.

Board of Benefactors Gaudy – 11 September. The biennial Gaudy, with some terrific events in the afternoon, took place in order to thank our Board of Benefactors for their generosity.
GAUDY - 1 October. Those in the years 1976-80 were welcomed back to their Gaudy towards the end of a very busy period for the superb college staff.

BOAT CLUB SOCIETY FAMILY DAY – 9 October. The annual Boat Club Family Day was tinged with sadness as Henry Hammerbeck (2001) was remembered with the naming of a new Men’s VIII.

MBA/SCHOLARS’ DINNER – 15 November. MBA students and Graduate scholars are now invited to an annual gathering in the Buttery before a dinner in the McKenna room, in order to get to know their contemporaries better.
The launch of TEC

Ethan Andrews (2019, English)

In October, we launched The Entrepreneur’s Circle (TEC) at Christ Church, with a brilliant lecture from Charles Mindenhall (1990, PPP). Students, alumni, senior members and guests came together to hear Charles talk about his time at Christ Church, and his career since. Having founded the UK’s leading digital venture builder, Blenheim Chalcot, his journey has been a fascinating one, and exemplified how TEC encourages students to think about their world beyond Christ Church.

TEC was the idea of myself, Jack, and Ollie; we’re all undergraduates thinking about our next steps after graduation. We wanted to encourage a stronger sense of entrepreneurialism and innovation in our peer group, and broaden the potential career paths for those graduating from Christ Church. The world of work is changing rapidly, and Christ Church has a responsibility to prepare its students for that change.

So, TEC was born, with the help of Simon Offen in the Development Office, Chris Byrne (2003, History) and Dr Eugene Chang (1970, Physics). We engage students and alumni through talks and events, offering a college-specific careers service that focuses on entrepreneurship. We’re hoping to launch a mentorship scheme later in the year, and to make TEC an online platform.

Charles had a key message in his talk: ‘get on the pitch.’ He encouraged us all to get involved and do, rather than talk: you can’t comment from the sidelines, you need to be playing the game! Here at TEC, we’re excited to spend the rest of the year encouraging students to get on the pitch, and introducing them to Christ Church’s wealth of notable and distinguished alumni.
Christ Church Connections

The Development Office has been hard at work building a new community networking site for current members, alumni, family, and friends of Christ Church alike. Hosted by ToucanTech, a company founded by Kate Jillings (1998, PPE), Christ Church Connections serves as a platform for members and friends to connect with one another, share news among the Christ Church community, offer and receive careers mentoring support.

We are delighted to announce that we are now in the final stages. While we wait for the official launch, here is a sneak preview of some of (the very many) features:

- Events booking and photos galleries
- Alumni directory and direct connection with your contemporaries
- House/alumni news and digitalised publications
- Careers networking and mentoring
- Community groups from matriculation groups to giving societies

Whether you’re based in Oxford, Ottawa, or Osaka, Christ Church Connections will bring the entire College community closer, ensuring a lifelong connection to both the House and each other. Make sure to keep an eye out for our emails about Christ Church Connections. Ensure we have your current email address by emailing development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk.

A word from Kate Jillings (1998), Founder of ToucanTech

Twenty years ago I emerged from PPE at Christ Church to a world in which mobile phones, WiFi, lattes, avocado-toast and Facebook had not yet become mainstream. I look back on my halcyon college days as a pre-digital bubble of precious time filled with impromptu socializing, cozy libraries, tasty cheesy chips, misty views over Meadows and a lot of laughter, fun and new experiences. I worked hard for Finals – I was never particularly academic and knew I couldn’t wing my way through 8 exams. I still wonder how I managed to cram so many references and quotes into my head, most of which I’ve now completely forgotten.

Post-Oxford I navigated through various internships and backpacking adventures before settling on a commercial grad scheme at GlaxoSmithKline, followed by a stint in equity derivatives for BNP Paribas and then set up my first company (a business education media site) with a fellow PPEist in 2009. A decade later I’m on business number three, scaling up ToucanTech, one of the UK’s few female-founded tech companies (female led tech firms get just 2% of VC funding).

Operating a SaaS (software-as-a-service) model, ToucanTech is cloud-based CRM, website and comms system, used by 250 organisations around the world including The Francis Crick Institute, Shell Pensioners Association and The American Institute of Architects.

We offer smarter community management, typically helping organisations switch from multiple softwares to one integrated ToucanTech platform. Anyone who needs to manage a group of people can use the system to streamline all of their data, content and admin in one place.

I’ve come full circle, because Christ Church has recently started using ToucanTech to create a community for all of us alumni – an online home for House news, networking and nostalgia, with an easy events booking system, regional and industry clubs and a private network to make business or social connections.

I look forward to ‘meeting’ lots of you on this new House network – just search for Kate Jillings when you join and connect with me or send me a message!
Boat Club news

Anna Betteridge, (2019, History) President, Christ Church Boat Club

Christ Church Boat Club held a hugely successful recruitment campaign at the start of Michaelmas term, and settled down to training for the 2021-22 season. More than 120 students signed up, to add to our returning 50 members, so it’s safe to say that we have a wealth of talent to draw on ahead of this year’s Torpids and Eights campaigns.

The seniors have been training downriver at our base at Sandford Lock, putting out two men’s and two women’s eights. M1 are also looking forward to christening the new men’s VIII, ‘Hammers’, following the naming ceremony at the Friends and Family day in October. An enormous thank you to all who contributed towards the new boat, in memory of Dr Henry Hammerbeck, who came up to Christ Church in 2001, and was Boat Club Captain in 2003.

The Novice Programme ran out of the boathouse on the Isis, and after a thorough selection and development process, our novices began training hard for Christ Church Regatta. As the first proper ChCh Regatta since 2018, we were especially excited to see our novices compete against those from other colleges. All of the crews did us proud, not only in their performance but also in their dedication and enthusiasm throughout the term. Huge thanks must go out to the Novice Captains, Ben, Ada, Johannes and Yan, and our Regatta Captain, Peter, for all of their hard work this term.

Looking ahead to Hilary and Trinity, we’re excited to have the new pontoon in place to make boating easier from Sandford, and we will focus our energy on an even better performance than at “Summer Torpids 2021”, as this time we aim to bring home even more bumps and blades for the House.
The Winklevoss Boathouse

Christ Church Boat Club is delighted to announce a major gift from Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss (2010) to endow the Christ Church Boathouse. The twins’ remarkable generosity means that the fabric of the building, and the boatman’s costs, are now covered from the endowment.

In the light of this transformational donation, Christ Church has decided to name the Boathouse “The Winklevoss Boathouse.” In addition to their support for Christ Church rowing, Cameron and Tyler will also endow an ongoing Summer outreach programme, whereby our student rowers will help to introduce those less fortunate than themselves to the joys of rowing.

Governing Body, the Boat Club Society, and the Boat Club are all extremely grateful to Cameron and Tyler for their generous support.

Above and below left: The Men’s Eight 2010, Head of the River.
**Book reviews**

**IN THESE TORRID TIMES**
Tim Cawkwell (1966, Classics)

Although 2020/21 was a year to forget, it is most likely to be a year we shall remember more readily than others. In private response to the new public covid reality which has coincided with a sense that politically, socially and culturally we have passed through a watershed year, Tim Cawkwell has written a sequence of poems, *In These Torrid Times*. They are fourteen in number, ranging from poems of one page in length to others of several pages. They include two Covid Odes, plus 'Three Ages of the Nation', 'Empire with Chinese characteristics', a letter to Dominic Cummings, 'In praise of Norfolk', 'Johnson, Our Chief of Men?', and a cricket sonnet.

"A varied and stimulating retrospect of Covid times."
"Another Jonathan Swift . . . wit, wisdom and invention."
"A beautiful way with language. . . Some splendid rhymes, too."
"Much deserves a re-read to savour what you write."
"Much to think about, but also much to enjoy . . . It has stirred up a lot of thoughts and reflections."

Details are: ISBN 978-1-9169062-0-4 / size: 18 x 12 cm / pages: 60 / photographs: 14
r.r.p. £10, available by order through bookshops, including Waterstones.

**UNVEILED: Women of the Old Testament and the choices they made**
Revd Clare Hayns and Micah Hayns

Some women of the Bible are well known but many others are barely remembered and even when they are, they are often marginal figures, their lives obscured by the more dominant male characters. The Chaplain, Revd Clare Hayns and her artist son Micah have produced a beautiful book, *Unveiled: Women of the Old Testament and the choices they made*, published by Bible Reading Fellowship in October 2021. The book tells the stories of over forty women from the Hebrew Scriptures and each one is illustrated by her artist son, Micah, who has created forty original paintings and drawings which bring each of the women to life. Clare explains how the book came about. “In 2020 I set myself the challenge of writing about a bible woman a day for the forty days of Lent for a blog. I found that the stories of these women were both mysterious and intriguing but also incredibly current. These are women with relationship struggles, sibling rivalries, financial challenges and fertility issues. They are also women with remarkable gifts, skills, faith and fortitude. Any book about women also had to cover difficult issues such as sexual violence and oppression and the #ThemToo chapter reveals how important it is to listen to the voices of women and survivors.” Each chapter tells the story of one of these women and contains a reflection to bring this into our context and ends with a short prayer.
INTEGRATED BUSINESS LEADERSHIP
Richard Watkins (1970, PPE)

Many (manufacturing and service) managers make running companies much harder than it needs to be. They suffer from a spaghetti of systems, short-termism, fierce internal destructive politics and thus lose sight of giving customers what they want.

This book demonstrates how to integrate functions (Marketing, Operations etc.) and processes. This requires a paradigm shift in performance measurement. Sadly, organisations operate through knee-jerk reactions based on the triumph of hope over realism, driven by a budgetary process that produces more vain ambition than sense. They motivate managers to promise the impossible and blame others when the inevitable failure occurs. It fuels management adrenaline. Panic sets in at quarter-ends when executives report to corporate management and shareholders.

The prerequisites of Integrated Business Leadership are honesty and truth and rewarding the achievement of a realistic plan. A monthly rolling long-term plan replaces the annual budget. The model creates a cadence of monthly meetings, enabling the executive to make balanced decisions. It requires democracy in planning and autocracy in execution and no internal politics.

Many have tried to implement this concept, but they have created an operations led supply chain model. Those companies fail to address Leadership, which should drive the culture of realism, honesty and continuous improvement. The Leadership must eliminate the culture of aiming for the impossible and enjoying the ensuing blame game. Then they achieve the vision based on one truth and one way. Accountability will lie in executing a realistic plan. Unfortunately, it is organised common sense, which is not so common.

A review from Megan Chester (2017, English)

‘It turns out, the Old Testament is packed full of wonderful women. Who knew? Unveiled allows readers to spend time with biblical women, getting to know their stories and learning from their lives. From Eve to Miriam, Abigail to Jezebel – Clare’s words and Micah’s artworks remind us of these women’s realness and relevance. They were powerful, resilient influential and beautiful. They were also imperfect, overlooked, mistreated and discontent. Sound familiar?

The book can be purchased widely including from BRF: https://www.brfonline.org.uk/search?type=product&q=unveiled

Painting and prints can be viewed and purchased here: https://www.micahhayns.com/copy-of-unveiled
By the time this article is published the doors of Brixton House may well have opened to the public, welcoming audiences, friends and communities old and new. At the time of writing in mid-November 2021, the electricity is connected, paint is going on the walls, seats are being installed in the theatres and the building is bursting into life.

The opening of Brixton House at the end of January 2022 is a significant milestone in our ninety-year journey, from the establishment of the Christ Church (Oxford) Club by graduates of Christ Church in the early 1930s, to our evolution into a groundbreaking community-focused theatre in the 1960s, championing and pioneering Youth Theatre, Women’s Theatre, Black Theatre and Lesbian and Gay Theatre from the 1980s to the present day.

Our new building dramatically illustrates the increase in scale of our activities and ambition for the future, with two fully configurable theatres and seven studios, alongside twenty-seven affordable workspaces for our fellow arts organisations and open public spaces for socialising and creativity. Every area of the building is fully accessible for people with mobility issues or disabilities, including the technical and lighting rigs in both theatres. The building will be as environmentally sustainable as possible, with solar panels and green and blue roofs to maximise energy production and minimise water wastage.

Brixton House has not been quiet during the construction of our new home, despite the constraints imposed by Covid-19. To mark the 40th anniversary of the 1981 Brixton uprising, when residents took to the streets to protest decades of systemic racism and social inequality, Brixton House produced two projects bringing together artists, activists and communities to share their personal and collective stories and to examine the impact of the uprisings on today’s political and social landscapes. The first project, Brixton Stand Up, engaged community members, artists and activists in a long-table discussion about the uprising, its effects and its legacy. The award-winning director Adeyemi Michael directed and filmed the long-table discussion, which will soon be streamed and broadcast to international audiences.

On these streets, our second project to examine the 1981 uprising and its aftermath, was an interactive audio...
read this. Alongside a diversity of plays and performances showcasing international creativity across Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia, Brixton House will also launch a busy programme of projects and classes for people of all ages and abilities to explore their creativity – from acting, directing and producing to circus skills, dance, music and the spoken word.

Our vision is for Brixton House to be a flagship for the performing arts, creative learning and community engagement in Brixton, London and beyond; a place where theatre is redefined and traditional barriers are broken down. We aim to build upon our history by producing innovative, relevant and challenging new work for the stage, alongside creative and accessible opportunities to participate in the arts.

We hope that many alumni will celebrate the longstanding relationship between Brixton House and Christ Church by visiting us, seeing our productions and supporting our work. If you would like to find out more please get in touch by email (darryl.deprez@brixtonhouse.co.uk) or visit our website (www.brixtonhouse.co.uk). We look forward to welcoming you soon to the new Brixton House.

experience downloaded as a webapp onto smart phones and tablets. The webapp, developed with partners non zero one and All Seeing Eye, featured ten actors performing the testimonies of local community members who experienced the uprising first-hand in 1981, dramatized by playwright Somalia Nonye Seaton. The voices of the different narrators, accompanied by a soundscape by composer and musician XANA, guided participants on a walking tour across Brixton, pausing at key locations to hear childhood memories, episodes from their lives and their recollections of the events of 1981, as well as their hopes and ambitions for future generations.

During lockdown we maintained as much of our work with children and young people as possible. Our Demonstrate project, fostering creativity and self-expression for children with autism and complex disabilities through physical movement and dance, took place online and was hugely welcomed by participants, their families and carers during this especially challenging time.

We have also completed programming for our first season at Brixton House, as you may have seen by the time you
The Development Office Team

Firstly, I would like to say thank you for the warm welcome I have received since I took up the post of Development Director in early 2021. I joined Christ Church at a time when we were facing a number of challenges, some of which have placed the House very clearly in the spotlight. However, despite these difficulties, it has been heartening to see many alumni continuing to give their support to College.

We are grateful to those of you who responded so quickly to donate funds to help those students whose studies were interrupted by Covid-19. Through offering support to our Junior Members during the coronavirus lockdown and associated restrictions, we have been able to lessen the financial and emotional stress caused by the pandemic, as well as helping to minimise some of the effects of a disrupted period of study.

College life has returned to a more recognisable routine and so our hard-working Alumni Relations and Events team is delighted to be planning a full programme of events for the coming year. We have missed meeting our alumni friends face-to-face and are very much looking forward to welcoming you back to the House for gaudies, dinners and plenty more!

In this Report we bring you an update on our fund-raising, together with brief updates on some of our key initiatives. We enjoy keeping you up-to-date with our Development office activity, via our regular newsletter e-Matters, website and social media. Contributions of the news and accomplishments you would like to share with the Christ Church alumni community are always welcome – do get in touch, we’d love to hear from you.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our fund-raising initiatives over the past twelve months, including all of our alumni who willingly share their time, expertise and experience to help shape and develop our plans. It is a privilege to be a part of this team and I know our efforts make a noticeable difference to all those who benefit.

Philippa Roberts
Director of Development
The headline figure for Gross Income received in the period 01 August 2020 to 31 July 2021 was £1,850,307 of which £1,120,586 (61%) was towards the endowment and £729,721 (39%) towards expendables. The fundraising target was £2M (£1.5M endowment and £0.5M expendable) and whilst the endowment target was not reached, the expendable target was exceeded. This was due to donations towards the Covid-19 Student Support Fund and Christopher Ainsley Memorial Fund which were the main appeals during the year.

Our American Friends, led by Peter Paine Jr (1957), maintain their unwavering loyalty to Christ Church, having donated around $480,000 of new funding in the last financial year. Of this, 26 gifts this year totalled £219,680 to fund American Friends Scholarships, allowing graduates of North American universities to undertake graduate studies at the College in any discipline.

We continue to see donors giving generously to student outreach and support, including bursaries and scholarships. In the current academic year, 23% of our undergraduates were in receipt of a subsidy worth up to 50% of the cost of college accommodation. Donations enable the House to directly support junior members with accommodation, meals, books, summer bursaries and travel grants, all of which allow them to participate fully in Oxford life as well as benefitting from the academic opportunities afforded at Christ Church.

The Cathedral Music Trust, the Boat Club and the Library have all received generous support this year, as has the fund which contributes to the costs of maintaining the fabric of the House.

We are grateful to all of our donors. Your donations underpin a commitment to access to education for any student who merits a place here, regardless of their financial means. With your help, we are able to preserve and develop the teaching, environment and traditions of this unique place. Our annual Roll of Honour is published at the end of these pages and acknowledges our genuine thanks to each and every one of you.

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**Gross income received:**

- Endowment – 61%
- Expendable – 39%

* e.g. Bursary and Student Support, specific scholarship and other tutorial posts, plus various Library and project funds.

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**TOP FUNDS 2020/2021**

- American Friends Scholarship – 12%
- Bursary and Student Support – 11%
- COASTS Endowment Fund – 9%
- COASTS Spendable Fund (Covid-19 Student Support Fund) – 4%
- Boat Club Society – 4%
- Teddy Burn Law Posts Endowment Fund – 5%
- Christopher Ainsley Memorial Fund – 5%
- David Shwayder Philosophy Prize – 6%
- Cathedral Music Trust – 7%
Christ Church Cathedral Music Trust

The Trust was established in 2013 to ensure the survival and success of the Cathedral Choir, and music more generally in the Cathedral. The current major aim of the Trust is to give children from all walks of life the opportunity to be a chorister, thus concentrating on endowing those choristerships which are not already supported.

The Covid-19 pandemic has presented many challenges, and the work of the Music Trust has by necessity been almost exclusively online. The new state-of-the-art recording and broadcasting equipment purchased for the Cathedral has proved invaluable, and recordings usually feature in the regular Music Trust newsletter which goes out to supporters and friends of the Music Trust.

We are grateful to our friends and supporters who help to keep the tradition of musical excellence alive, especially for the latest generous gift from the Fernside Trust. We look forward to the continuing gradual return to normal service, and the events planned for 2022.

KEYBOARD INSTRUMENTS AT CHRIST CHURCH

In addition to the above mission, the Cathedral Chapter and the Organist are launching an initiative to acquire new musical instruments.

Excellence – Education – Access

Christ Church Oxford enjoys an enviable musical tradition, which began with the appointment of John Taverner as the first Organist of the College in 1525, since when numerous musicians of significance have been associated with the College and Cathedral.

Our current collection of instruments

We are most fortunate to have an important and versatile classical organ at the West End of the Cathedral by Rieger Orgelbau of Austria, which was installed in 1979. We also have an outstanding Fazioli grand piano (a gift from the Le Merle Family), a chamber organ by Kenneth Tickell, and a single manual harpsichord.

What is needed:

We are aiming to raise c. £2.5M significantly to enhance the provision of keyboard instruments at Christ Church:

1) A fine new pipe organ to stand at the East End/ Crossing of the Cathedral

A romantic-style instrument, suitable for choral accompaniment and playing organ music of the mid-nineteenth century and later. This would complement our Rieger Organ, which is particularly distinguished in the performance of earlier repertoire.

2) A new pipe organ for the Chapter House

A small instrument with responsive mechanical action for concerts, teaching, and practice in the beautiful surroundings of the Chapter House.

3) A grand piano

To accompany chorister rehearsals.

4) A two-manual Flemish-style harpsichord

An instrument suitable for recitals and concerto performances, to stand in the Chapter House.

We are pleased to announce that two generous gifts have already been received. The Friends of the Cathedral have agreed to provide funds for the pipe organ in the Chapter House. And thanks to a gift from Dr Fiona Hollands (1985) and her husband Ethan Berman, the two-manual harpsichord can be purchased. This instrument will be dedicated to Fiona’s Mother: Elza Ayoub Jorge Hollands.

Flemish double manual harpsichord by Johannes Dulcken (Antwerp, 1745).
**Why now?**
As the College approaches its 500th Anniversary, it is a timely moment to examine aspects of our musical provision. The Cathedral’s Choirs have recently made a permanent move to sing in the Chancel of the Cathedral, rather than in the Nave, and there is an urgent need for a new organ in close proximity to their new location.

The Chapter House (below) has been restored, and brought into use as a space for events.

The current Covid-19 pandemic has served to highlight significant challenges faced by the arts, and make it all the more crucial that we develop our educational facilities, and share them with the local community.

**What will these new instruments add to Christ Church?**

**Excellence**
These instruments will enable us further to develop the use of organ music in the worshipping life of the Cathedral, through accompaniment and solo playing. The equipping of the Chapter House will give us a beautiful and versatile space for audiences to enjoy chamber and early music.

**Education**
We will be able to provide world-class facilities for our Organ Scholars, and other keyboard players at Christ Church. The variety of instruments on offer will enable us to give them the best possible preparation for careers as solo performers, and allow them to embrace and experience the widest possible range of repertoire.

**Access**
In addition these facilities will allow us to further develop our access work with local partners. We already have a choral outreach programme where we work with the Oxfordshire County Music Service to provide a termly concert for up to 200 primary school pupils. Our Girls’ Choir, Frideswide Voices, engages twice each week with children from some 20 different schools around the county, and provides singing, theory, and instrumental tuition for its members. Through the work of the Music Trust, we aim fully to endow choristerships in the Cathedral Choir, to ensure that boys can sing with us, regardless of their family’s means. We also wish to endow the work of Frideswide Voices in order to make secure this first-class musical training for our Girl Choristers.

The pipe organ in the Chapter House will be available for rehearsal and teaching. In addition, we propose to use online media as a way to expand our outreach by utilising the recently installed webcasting equipment.

Our existing access work gives us a firm foundation for further development.
LIBRARY

The past year has been a period of change and staff have adapted rapidly and imaginatively to the situation. We collaborated with libraries across Oxford to provide the best possible service for all our library users. After a period of temporary closure because of lockdown, during which we delivered all our services remotely, we reopened the building in Trinity Term. The Library put new systems in place for buying (notoriously expensive) e-books, working alongside the Bodleian and other college libraries to buy extra texts, including a contribution towards a one-year subscription to the LawTrove package of law textbooks. We are grateful to members who helped with this project.

Special Collections continued to serve researchers as best as possible when the Library was closed through an enhanced enquiry service, cataloguing, and a focus on providing access to digitised material for people to access remotely. The second phase of the project, to catalogue and digitise Christ Church’s collection of Hebrew manuscripts and early printed books, is on track for completion later in the year. Funds to match a generous grant from the Polonsky Foundation are still welcome, and we thank those who have already given.

We were able to make a number of significant acquisitions to Special Collections, including a rare early edition of Desiderius Erasmus, Moriae encomium printed in Basle in 1522. In addition, thanks to the support of Dr Fiona Hollands (1985) and her husband, Ethan Berman, as well as the Friends of the National Libraries in the UK, we were able to bid successfully for a book which is of great historical interest to Christ Church; a first edition of the first complete English translation of Geometry – Euclid. The Elements of Geometrie, translated by Sir Henry Billingsley, prefaced by John Dee. The book itself is a landmark of mathematical printing but the compelling reason for us to acquire it was to bring it back home! It was sold as a duplicate by Christ Church in the nineteenth century, but the record of the gift by nine students on receiving their degrees in 1587 is very interesting in terms of Christ Church’s history.

Two stores for Special Collections were upgraded to a high standard with appropriate environmental controls and a number of book moves are planned for 2022.
For the fourth year running, the University of Oxford has been ranked first in the world for Computer Science in the Times Higher Education 2022 World University Rankings, and Computer Science attracts 16.1 applicants per place – the second most oversubscribed undergraduate course after Economics and Management.

In 2022, we will be stepping up our fundraising efforts to expand Computer Science at Christ Church, and in so doing, to play our part in the University’s plans to increase the numbers of posts and places for undergraduates and graduates.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AT CHRIST CHURCH

In the last year, £80,000 has been donated by alumni towards Computer Science, a subject introduced to Christ Church five years ago. Gifts totalling £366,000 over the last five years, when Professor Tim Berners-Lee joined the college, have funded Studentships and bursaries for graduates and have firmly established the subject at Christ Church. We thank all donors to Computer Science for their support.

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Official Student in Computer Science, Professor Yarin Gal, was recently announced as one of five Samsung AI Researchers of the Year. The awards recognise rising Artificial Intelligence researchers globally.
LEAVERS & RETURNERS

The Leavers’ Gift this year raised £3,463.04 with 97% of the year’s cohort contributing. That sum will be matched by two generous alumni and the funds directed towards student support. Thank you all!

The 2021 Leavers were able to have their Schools’ dinners in Hall, albeit socially distanced, and the 2020 Leavers, who totally missed out, were invited back to dine in Hall on 4 September 2021. 120 grateful alumni made the most of it! That cohort also enjoyed a small drinks party in London in December.

We are pleased to be able to announce that our long-desired aim to have a set date for a “Returners’ Dinner” has been realised. The 2021 Leavers are invited back to Hall for the evening of the 26 March 2022. In the future each cohort of Leavers will be invited back to dine in Hall on the Saturday of 9th Week of the Hilary term in the year after they have gone down.

CHRISTOPHER BUTLER 1940-2020

Christopher, Tutor in English at the House from 1964-2007, died just before the first lockdown began and his funeral had to be small. We have been planning a memorial service for a little while, but the chosen date of 16 January had to be postponed. The new date is 12 June 2022.

In the meantime, we continue to fundraise for the Christopher Butler Tutorial Fund for English at Christ Church. For details please email: simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk

LEGACIES

The 1546 Society continues to thrive and now has 208 members. The Society recognises Old Members and Friends of Christ Church who have made bequests to the House. It looks back to the beginning of the Joint Foundation and forward in perpetuity. Members are invited to attend an annual event, such as the very enjoyable lunch held on Sunday 12 September 2021.

A legacy indicates a wish to protect, for ever, what one values most. By its nature, the benefaction comes at a time when the donor will no longer be there to witness its contribution. The compensation therefore must be in the knowledge that it will secure a most worthwhile cause that has been of great personal importance.

We trust that you consider Christ Church to be such a cause, and thank you in advance for considering including the House in your Will.

For details please email: simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk
Your continuing support today ensures the best possible experience at Christ Church for our students tomorrow.

616 members of TOM generously supported Open Doors, Open Minds, and Open Books initiatives last year:

- 11 summer bursaries were provided to low- or medium-income students undertaking an internship, lab placement, or academic course, giving them the best start in their career after Christ Church.
- 218 students received grants for academic books essential to their work.
- 15 students benefitted from travel grants to expand their horizons through research abroad.
- Gifts are building an endowment to protect the integrity of the tutorial system from changes to government funding and central university resource allocation. The current focus is on the Teddy Burn Law Tutorial Fund, but all subjects need support.
- As described elsewhere, the library’s collection of materials for students and academics continues to grow, whilst manuscripts and rare printed books are being digitised to make them available to scholars around the world.

We are very thankful for the support of our alumni, who make our access programmes possible. **Aim for Oxford**, the sustained contact programme we set up in the North East of England together with our colleagues from St Anne’s College, had a remarkable year: 19 students applied to Oxford, 11 were shortlisted for interviews, and seven gained Oxford offers in January 2021 (a success rate considerably higher than Oxford’s average offer rate of 19% for UK students). We continued **Aim for Oxford** in an online format, which culminated in a digital summer school, packed with academic and social activities.

**Christ Church Horizons**, our programme in North London, is growing stronger year by year and we now have Horizons ‘alumni’ both in their first and in their second year at Christ Church (as well as at Oxford). After discussing academic topics ranging from ‘What are the chances of World War III?’ to ‘Cybersecurity’ throughout the year and attending study skills and information sessions online, Horizons participants finally got to see Oxford and Christ Church last summer. We were delighted to welcome them and to celebrate their achievements during a ‘graduation day’ in college.

We are keen for our access work to go beyond our link regions as well: last year we supported the Oxford and Cambridge Sikh Access Conference, we collaborated with DebateMate, The Brilliant Club, and IntoUniversity on digital outreach, and started a new collaboration with Thinking Black. We are also excited to have a new member in our Christ Church Access team: Dr Ben Fernando, our new Access Fellow, who will be focusing on access for students from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic Groups, as well as on academic support for our current students.

Quotes from the participants in our access programmes of 2021:

“It was a wonderful experience that I gained a lot of insight and knowledge from. I am very grateful to have participated, and I’ll miss these sessions.”

“I just wanted to say a final thank you for the experiences you’ve offered over the past year, most of all the Horizons programme, which has been so very helpful in my applications process, and has been vital in making me realise how PPE is the right subject for me.”

Join TOM now at **www.tomsoc.org**
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We are grateful to all donors who have given to the House during the last financial year, which covers the period 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021. Your gifts help make a difference. We are pleased to honour all of you in this annual Roll.

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Names in red
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Forthcoming events in 2022

Please contact the Development Office for bookings and queries:
+44 (0)1865 286325 development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk
www.chch.ox.ac.uk/events/all/alumni-and-development

1 February: TGIF London drinks, London
7 February: Lord Willetts lecture, Christ Church
10 February: Gaudy lunch, Christ Church
15 February: Gaudy lunch, Christ Church
16 February: Launch of Annual Charles Stuart lecture, London
2-5 March: Torpids, Oxford
7 March: C H Stuart Society, 100th Anniversary dinner, London
12 March: Family Programme Lunch, Christ Church
17 March: Christopher Ainsley Memorial event, Christ Church
18-19 March: Mark Sansom Retirement event, Christ Church
19 March: 1960, 61, 70, 71, 80, 81, 90, 91 Reunion Dinner, Christ Church
25 March: 1962, 72, 82, 92, 02 Reunion Dinner, Christ Church
26 March: Returners’ Dinner in Hall, Christ Church
1 April: Intercollegiate Golf, Oxford
2 April: Rugby Varsity Matches, Twickenham
3 April: The Boat Races, London
6-8 April: Meeting Minds Global University event, online
19 April: Development Board and 101 Gaudy, Christ Church
26 April: Morton Hall & White Cottage gardens visits, Worcestershire
3 May: Chapel Royal, Hampton Court/Music Trust event, Christ Church
13, 14, 15 May: Bristol, Hereford & Hergest events
25-28 May: Summer Eights, Oxford
28 May: TOM event & BC Drinks/BBQ, Christ Church
28 May: ChChBCSoc Dinner, Christ Church
1 June: Board of Benefactors’ Reception in House of Lords, London
12 June: Christopher Butler Memorial event, Christ Church
18 June: Commemoration Ball, Christ Church
21 June: Tony Cheetham Event, Christ Church
24 June: Gaudy 1981-85, Christ Church
29 June-3 July: Henley Rowing Regatta (Drinks on Saturday)
“Why, sometimes I’ve believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.”