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Welcome to *Christ Church Matters* 49 and to 2023. Hilary term is now well underway and offer letters have recently been received by the fortunate applicants who will follow in your footsteps next October. We wish them every success with their exams.

We were delighted during the course of 2022 to be able gradually to return to normal college life after the disruptions of the pandemic, and to see our students enjoying the whole range of opportunities that Oxford can offer. Some of the different ways of working that we adopted during Covid-19 have endured, notably the holding of meetings in hybrid form, with some members participating on MS Teams, while others are present in person. This has made life easier for external members of our committees, but also for those in Oxford who have offices and labs at some distance from Christ Church. Teaching, however, is now all face-to-face again, to everyone’s relief.

Christ Church welcomed the Rt Hon. Dominic Grieve KC last term to undertake his review of the foundation’s governance. He spent several days each week meeting current members of Christ Church and alumni, and getting to know the College, Cathedral and School. He has also had meetings with representatives of the Church, the Charity Commission, the University, and representatives of other colleges in Oxford and Cambridge. He is now beginning to draft his report and recommendations which we look forward to receiving in due course; we will of course keep you updated.

Those of you have returned to visit in recent months will have noticed the absence of Mercury in Tom Quad. His jaunty angle had become a matter of concern and, with work already planned for the pond, we decided that he needed some TLC. He will be back in place later this term. Those of you coming over the next few months will be confronted with scaffolding in Tom Quad. Vital work on the Deanery is now underway, which will include repairs and updates to the roof, electrics and plumbing.

It was a great pleasure to welcome back to Christ Church so many of the 1990-1993 cohort in September, and to have the chance to thank donors in person at the Board of Benefactors Reception at the House of Lords in October. We look forward to seeing many of you at events during 2023.

This edition of *Christ Church Matters* includes Development Matters, our annual report to donors. It comes with our heartfelt thanks for everything that you do to support the House, but also includes very sad news about the death of Simon Offen, of which we were notified as we went to press. We will write to you at more length in due course, with details of funeral arrangements and you will find a brief obituary on page 57.
It is astonishing that the records of a college with an attached Anglican cathedral say almost nothing about the lifting of religious ‘tests’ for junior members (in 1854) and then senior members in 1871. Or is it? Dean Gaisford, Head of House, in post until the summer of 1855, was adamantly against reform of either Church or University. Reforms to the examination system some fifty years before were anathema to him, and he was determined to retain the distinctions between poorer and richer members of college, and refused to allow servitors (the lowest rank of undergraduate who undertook menial tasks in exchange for tuition) to become Students (stipendiary members). The idea that the University should accept men who were non-Anglican probably never crossed his mind.

However, in spite of Gaisford’s refusal to answer any of the questions sent out by the Royal Commission of 1850, reform was inevitable. The Dean must have felt that Gladstone, one of the drivers of University reform, was stabbing his alma mater in the back. The 1854 Act – aided and abetted by the 1840 Cathedrals Act – began the gradual demolition of three hundred years of Dean and Chapter control.

Perhaps to the relief of the University Commission, whose task it was to put the 1854 Act into effect, Gaisford died in June 1855 to be replaced as Dean by one of the Commissioners, Henry Liddell. He had diligently attended all but one of the 87 meetings. Liddell was not an out-and-out reformer but he understood that the winds of change...
were upon Christ Church, and was sympathetic to the proposal that Students would not have to be in holy orders. That it was Liddell who was appointed Dean may be another explanation for there being no records here, particularly concerning the 1871 Act; his discussions about Christ Church and its response to the proposals were probably conducted beyond the walls of the college and cathedral.

A third reason for the apparent lack of debate may be that Christ Church was, between the mid-1850s to the 1870s, suffering a constitutional crisis of its own which focused on matters beyond those of the 1854 and 1871 Acts.

Even so, while money and the dilution of governance seem to have been the biggest hurdles for the reform of Christ Church, it is still strange that a college so entirely governed by clergymen should barely have noticed or commented upon the proposal that the University should admit non-conformists. Christ Church had used (and continued to use) its dual nature to exempt itself from any legislation relating to colleges or cathedrals of which it did not approve, but these two reforming Acts anticipated this and specifically declared that Christ Church was to be considered a college. Opening up the University to undergraduates of all religions and beliefs, seems to have been adopted without so much as a murmur, although the 1858 Ordinances expected all junior members (those with MAs and below) to attend Divine Worship in the cathedral; a significant departure from the University’s decree that Anglican worship should be merely be available for all, rather than compulsory. There were those who were vehemently against such changes, like Pusey and Liddon. Pusey had washed his hands of the 1858 Ordinances – “I have done what I could towards retaining the old Christ Church”, he said in a letter to the Dean, “I shall not keep up an ineffectual struggle.” Liddell replied cheerfully that “Old Christ Church is … in a state of decay and must (if not restored) fall into decrepitude. But I … accept the responsibility.”

While Liddell had battled through the 1854 Act before he became Dean, by 1870 he was Vice-Chancellor of the University and in an even stronger position to influence the debates around University Tests and the proposed Act of Parliament designed to tidy up issues still outstanding from 1854, not least the opening up of fellowships and other senior posts to non-Anglicans. This time it would appear that the new Governing Body – created in 1867 – dragged its feet. They had banked on support from old Housemen in Parliament, not least William Gladstone, but he now considered himself free of Oxford, having taken a seat in Lancashire, far away from the machinations of the University, and declared himself to be ‘unmuzzled’. Lord Salisbury was an ally, appointed as University Chancellor in 1869, and against the de-Anglicisation of the University. Christ Church felt it would be safe from further reforms. But their complacency was short-lived; in 1880, the Liberals swept back into power and any notion that denominational privilege was acceptable was shattered. In 1882, the third iteration of Christ Church’s new statutes (only ratified in 1867) required only three Students (Fellows) to be orders. Governing Body slowly became increasingly secular or non-conformist, catching up with its undergraduates whose numbers included or soon would include, among others, Scottish Presbyterians, Greek Orthodox, Congregationalists, Parsees, Methodists, Buddhists, Jews, and Catholics.
The bust was expected in 1957, but it took until 1962 for Christ Church to receive the finished work.

The Queen gave Oscar Nemon fifteen(!) sittings – an unimaginable time commitment by any standards. Even after this exceptionally high number of sittings, an arrangement was made whereby Nemon was installed in a bathroom near the Queen’s audience rooms in Buckingham Palace “and she often looked in and sat for some minutes to help him finish the portrait”.

Still, in 1958 the project had not been completed and, in a letter from the then Dean of Christ Church, John Lowe commented that Nemon “finished heads within a few weeks in the case of such people as Harold Macmillan, Eisenhower and Lord Beaverbrook”. The impression was that Nemon was star-struck by Elizabeth II and therefore unable to find the right tone to be able to finish the portrait. This is not surprising: there was little precedent in the visual language of how to combine individuality, beauty and statesmanship within a female portrait. While the aisles of power were filled with portraits, they were almost exclusively of older men. These had agreed iconographic standards, with easily readable idiosyncratic features that were to express experience, wisdom and power. The female equivalent did not exist. There was a matronly Victoria or a spinsterish Elizabeth I, both overladen with insignia and smothered by signs and symbols of their status and power. Or there were youthfully-idealised allegories of Truth, Justice or Britannia. How could one portray Elizabeth II, the newly ascended Queen, in the changing Britain of the late 1950s? How to combine her youth and glamour with being the Supreme Governor of the Church of England? How the warmth of motherhood, with her role as the Head of the British Armed Forces? Or her status as a wife with being the Sovereign and Head of the Commonwealth?

By November 1960, Nemon had found a way to marry power and female beauty with the individuality of a portrait (perhaps with a glance at the marvellous bust of the Egyptian Queen Nefertiti). In a letter from the Palace of that
Finally, the new Dean, Cuthbert Simpson – John Lowe, the Dean who had begun the process of this commission had died in 1960 – unveiled the portrait at the summer Gaudy in June 1962.

In a letter from Buckingham Palace that year, Martin Charteris, the Queen’s Secretary, describes the portrait as “certainly the best head of the Queen yet done”. In my view, it has never been surpassed – certainly not by another sculpted portrait of Elizabeth II.

He delivered two clay models of which one was chosen for the final version. Originally – and as expressed in an article in *The Scotsman* in 1957 on the sculpture – the “first portrait head of the Queen since her accession […] would be in specially-imported Carrara marble”. However, the delay in the execution reopened the “vexed question of marble versus bronze”. Bronze was ultimately chosen, mainly due to concerns that allowing Nemon to carve his clay model in marble would delay the project even further. The choice compromised the visibility of the work – a white marble bust in front of the wood-panelled Hall would have been more striking – but bronze was iconographically the more powerful material.

How could one portray Elizabeth II, the newly ascended Queen, in the changing Britain of the late 1950s? How to combine her youth and glamour with being the Supreme Governor of the Church of England?
On Monday 24 October 2022, Christ Church welcomed speakers, delegates, funders, and generous donors from Oxford, as well as further afield, to enjoy a day conference marking 500 years of Hebrew teaching, studies, and collecting at Christ Church. The hybrid event also attracted an online audience of several hundred people who attended virtually and watched the recording of the proceedings. The conference was a celebration of the some of the key achievements of the project to catalogue and digitise Hebrew material at Christ Church. Phase two of the project started in January 2019 and was made possible by generous support from the Polonsky Foundation, Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe and generous other donations, many from alumni. The project has made Christ Church’s Hebrew collections much more accessible. It has also made it possible for researchers to study the material and identify links between aspects of the collections and the provenance of the material in Christ Church Library. The event followed ‘Jewish Books and their Christian Collectors in Europe, the New World and Czarist Russia’, a conference held at Christ Church in May 2017.

The conference brought together colleagues to share knowledge about a number of themes relating to the Hebrew and Jewish collections in Christ Church Library. Hebrew teaching, studies and the acquisition of Hebrew books and manuscripts have been a constant activity throughout Christ Church’s history, and this activity gained momentum after the position of Regius Professorship of Hebrew was established by King Henry VIII. This collecting activity makes Christ Church unique among Oxford colleges. During the seventeenth century, Oxford developed into a major centre for the study of Hebrew and Arabic, attracting students and visitors from across Europe who were eager to study with local scholars and use the rich resources of the Bodleian and other libraries. In 1630, through the influence of William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, a canonry of Christ Church was perpetually annexed to the Regius Professorship.

The focus of Christ Church Library’s collections shifted from Hebrew philology and Biblical literature to broader themes of rabbinic material during the second half of the seventeenth century, when contacts with new markets of
Hebrew teaching, studies and the acquisition of Hebrew books and manuscripts have been a constant activity throughout Christ Church’s history.

Hebrew books and manuscripts in the Ottoman Empire opened up. During the nineteenth century, the Library enhanced its holdings through the acquisition of books from large private libraries of German Christian-Hebraists including Oluf (Olaus) Gerhard Tychsen (1734-1815), Jacob Georg Christian Adler (1756-1834) and Anton Teodor Hartmann (1774-1838).

The conference speakers explored the context in which the Library’s collections of Hebrew and Jewish material developed, as well as the importance of Christ Church and Oxford in resources for Hebrew studies. Speakers from Israel, the United States, and Europe gave stimulating papers which provoked a lot of discussion. Speakers included Professor Yossi Chajes (University of Haifa) speaking on ‘Visual Kabbalah in the Bodleian Library’; Dr Hananel Mirsky (Hebrew University) on ‘Missing letters in the Bible according to Menahem Ben Saruk and Rashi’; Dr Jay Morgenstern (Bar Ilan University) on ‘Rashi’s Torah Commentary in the Age of Print – Rome circa 1470: Exegetical, Textual, and Historical Dimensions’; Dr Olga Sixtova (Charles University, Prague) on ‘The Bodleian Collection of Chapbooks of Popular Yiddish Songs Printed in Prague’; Brad Sabin Hill (George Washington University) on ‘Unica & Fragmenta’; and Dr David Sclar (Princeton) on ‘News of a Jewish Messiah: The Appearance, Death, and Reappearance of Sabbatai Tsevi in The Oxford Gazette’.

The day also saw the launch of the exhibition ‘Quenching Curiosity: Unusual Hebrew Books at Christ Church’, curated by Dr Rahel Fronda, our Hebrew Cataloguer. The exhibition showcases some unusual Hebrew and Yiddish books which have found their way to Christ Church, and help tell the story of some of the places, themes and people connected with Jewish printed texts from the fifteenth century to c.1800. Many of the books have not been displayed in Oxford before.

The day was a great success and provided a wonderful opportunity for people to come together and to learn more about Hebrew collections in Oxford – as well as their history. We are very grateful to all who came and to all who made it possible, as well as to supporters of the Hebrew cataloguing and digitisation activities since the start of the project.
Scientific revolutions often happen when we find a new way of looking at the natural world or a new theory that explains our observations. Our knowledge of the Universe and our place within it is driven by innovations in technology that provide a glimpse of the previously unknown. In astronomy and physics, we have a model of the expanding Universe that can explain, reasonably well, the observations from all our ground and space based observatories. However, there are a number of irritating problems, the biggest of which is that 98% of the Universe is made of quite unknown stuff, which we have labelled dark matter or dark energy. More than an irritation, you might reasonably contend. Over the next few years, we are about to commission a remarkable range of new observatories and experiments that may revolutionise our understanding of the Universe. Scientists are bristling with anticipation that the data could broaden the cracks in our current model or break it altogether.

The James Webb Space Telescope is a scientific and engineering marvel, which is only just beginning its quest to search for the very first galaxies to form after the Big Bang. We will measure how big those galaxies are, what they are made of and how
Finally, the monster. The Extremely Large Telescope is being constructed in Chile and will be working by the end of the decade. With a 39-metre mirror housed in a dome the size of a sports stadium, and incredibly precise optical engineering, it will probe evidence for extra-terrestrial life on planets beyond our solar system.

I moved here to take up the Philip Wetton Professorship in Astrophysics at Christ Church in October 2022 as I feel Oxford will be a pivotal place in this decade of scientific discovery. The Department of Physics is at centre of every one of these projects, with our staff and students leading scientific programmes or building the instruments and infrastructure to make them work. In the January night sky, Jupiter sparkles magnificently above Tom Quad. Galileo’s first view of the planet through a telescope showed that it has moons and that they orbited around Jupiter. The Earth was proven to be no longer the centre of the Universe and revolution ensued. Perhaps we may witness similar upheaval in this decade, perhaps Oxford scientists will make the breakthrough, which I shall joyfully embrace from this historic college.

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Many harbour massive black holes. These measurements, along with many others from James Webb, may cause a scientific insurrection. This incredible, complex, inspiring machine is working faultlessly in its solar orbit at 1.5 million kilometres from the Earth. But it is only the beginning of a new generation of mega-facilities. In 2024, the Vera Rubin Observatory will start its mission of surveying the whole southern sky every night, on repeat for ten years. Built in Chile’s Atacama Desert, it is a truly novel telescope concept which will find everything that moves, changes or explodes. We will link Rubin’s discoveries of flashes of light with gravitational wave sources to find black holes and neutron stars crashing into one another. The European Space Agency will launch the Euclid telescope on a SpaceX rocket this year, to probe the geometry of space time with unequalled precision. The Square Kilometre Array is a giant radio telescope array being constructed in South Africa and Australia during the next five years. It will seek the origins of planets and life in the Universe, and challenge physics in the densest environments.

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American Friends of Christ Church Scholars

The American Friends of Christ Church offer financial assistance for students who complete their undergraduate degree at an American university and join Christ Church for their postgraduate studies. Here, two current Scholars share their research interests.

Paul Ulishney (2020, History)
I am the Stavros Niarchos Foundation DPhil Scholar at Christ Church, where I started life as a theologian and ended up a historian of Late Antiquity and the Byzantine Empire. My first two degrees (BA and MPhil) were in Theology/Biblical Studies and Patristic Theology, respectively, where I specialized in the intellectual history of Late Antiquity (in particular, the intersection of Christian theology and Hellenistic philosophy). From there, I expanded my scope towards the broader history of Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages by switching into the field of History, and undertaking an MA in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies at University College London. I am now back at Oxford working on the third year of my DPhil in History, where I aim to unite the diverse strands of my previous graduate training by writing a thesis on the religious, political, and social history of the post-Byzantine Christian communities living under the Marwânîd dynasty of the Umayyad Caliphate. In particular, I contextualize key Byzantine religious texts from Egypt between c. 680 to c. 710 CE within the new political regime under which they were composed. My thesis is largely – but not exclusively – dedicated to understanding the extant literary output of an itinerant monk who flourished during this period named Anastasius of Sinai. Anastasius was a Greek-speaking controversialist and raconteur who spent the first half of his life within the Byzantine Empire on his native Cyprus and the second half in Umayyad Egypt, which makes him uniquely well-positioned as a witness to life in the emerging caliphate but from the perspective of an outsider loyal to the Byzantine emperor. Despite serving as a crucial source linking the Byzantine and Islamic worlds after the Arab conquests of the mid-seventh century, historians have yet to subject Anastasius and his writings to a sustained historical contextualization. His writings bear witness to life in the ex-Byzantine provinces of Egypt and Palestine in the decades following the Arab conquests: he took a variety of questions from average folk who experienced the transition from Roman to Arab rule in the Eastern Mediterranean, he engaged in elite religious disputations in Alexandria, and even debated the top fiscal administrator of Egypt on religious matters in the presence of ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz, the emir of Egypt, at his new capital of Fustāṭ (modern Cairo). His writings thus offer us a unique window into the loss of Byzantine hegemony in Egypt, as well as the earliest sustained evidence for Christian-Muslim relations that survives today.

© Paul Ulishney with his wife and daughter.
extraordinarily popular form of leisure amongst the British middle class. Several historians have claimed that roughly half of excursionists that travelled from the UK to continental Europe during this period were women, yet extremely little is known about their lives or experiences. Friends and family often travelled on Cook’s excursions together; however, there was a significant degree of social interaction between all excursionists, most of whom had no prior acquaintance. There was also little to no difference in the activities men and women participated in, and depending on the destination, women sometimes rode horses for up to nine hours a day, or navigated through difficult mountainous terrain by foot. Excursions were sometimes paid for by family members, but often female excursionists were self-supporting and earned wages through paid work and a variety of business endeavors. I draw from a combination of diaries, census records, newspapers, and company publications to better understand these phenomenon, with a particular interest in the gender dynamics of excursions.

Jenna Zmrzel (2020, History)

I am a third-year DPhil student studying history and I am grateful that my research is supported by the American Friends of Christ Church. My research interests are primarily situated between gender history and nineteenth-century travel history. In 2019 I completed an MPhil in Modern South Asian Studies at the University of Cambridge where I looked at the published diaries of two British women who travelled to India in the 1890s, and the various ways in which they were connected to the British Raj in an unofficial capacity. Although a slightly different scope, this set a foundation for my DPhil research as I now focus on gender and British tourism in the Victorian era. Specifically, my project analyses female participation in personally-conducted excursions led by the travel agency Thomas Cook & Son in the mid-to late nineteenth century. For a fixed sum, participants could travel in a group led by a conductor, often Thomas Cook himself, with transportation and accommodation arranged by the company. By eliminating much of the hassle associated with conventional travel, excursions emerged as an

Jenna Morrell and others on Cook’s first excursion to Switzerland, Thomas Cook Archive, 1863.

Thomas Cook, National Library of Wales, 1880.
‘The light shines in the darkness: and the darkness will not overcome it’. (John 1.5)

It’s the most intense week in the life of the Chapel, where we race headlong from Advent to Christmas in a matter of hours. The week begins in literal darkness at the Advent Carol Service, where over 800 Christ Church members with their family and friends gather to hear the Cathedral Choir and listen to poignant readings as the Cathedral (our College Chapel) moves slowly from darkness until it ends bathed in the light of myriad candles. It’s my favourite service of the year; partly because it’s a chance to welcome the whole community and meet so many of our students’ parents, but also because the theme of darkness and light is so evocative and in many ways descriptive of my role. This week, like many others, involves an eclectic mix of conversations, encounters and services, some of which will be painful and difficult, and others joyful and celebratory. During the days I will sit with students who are struggling with mental ill health, relationship breakdowns, future uncertainty; I will speak to a young alumni couple hoping to get married here in the summer; I will take the funeral of a prominent academic member of the House; and I will cram my study full of students to host my weekly ‘Brain Strain Tea and Cake’. In the evenings I will join the community as we turn on the Christmas lights and celebrate the end of term with various dinners; and I will take our College Choir to the tiny, electricity-free church in the hamlet of Binsey where we will light candles, pray for peace, and sing carols that speak of hope – ‘The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight’.

I’m often drawn back to William Blake’s words ‘Joy and woe are woven fine, A clothing for the soul divine. Under every grief and pine. Runs a joy with silken twine’. The intricate weave of joy and woe is what I love about the role as Chaplain, and what makes every week uniquely interesting, challenging, and an enormous privilege.
Even before I came up to Christ Church, I knew I wanted to be part of its musical life and sing with the College Choir. The Choir is one of four incorporated into the Foundation, alongside the Cathedral Choir, Frideswide Voices, and Cathedral Singers. Whilst performing to a high standard at regular weekday Evensong, as well as termly choral Eucharists and external engagements, the ensemble is more relaxed and non-auditioning by design to be accessible to all students – even busy postgraduate research scientists like me. It comprises a dedicated core of undergraduates and postgraduates from across the University and is occasionally joined by members of staff and the SCR. As the only student-run choir at Christ Church, we are privileged to sing in the beautiful surrounds of Cathedral to carry on its centuries-long tradition of choral worship.

In addition to singing for College-wide services, such as House Communion and College Compline, some of the highlights of the Choir’s diary include going out to sing in the local community. Personal favourites include the annual trip to St Margaret of Antioch in Binsey, to sing a candlelit service of lessons and carols in the final week of Michaelmas, and a more recent tradition of singing Evensong at the parish church of Cowley St John. In pre-pandemic years, the Choir has also ventured farther afield, singing at Winchester, Salisbury, and Gloucester Cathedrals.

Beyond the standard repertoire of the Anglican choral tradition, the Choir maintains a concert repertoire that features in special annual concerts. Most recently, after our popular candlelit Advent carol concert, we took a retiring collection for the final leg of the House’s first-ever Giving Day, in support of a Refugee Academic Futures Scholarship.

The College Choir has provided me with a wonderful, close-knit community of scholars who are united by a shared love of choral singing. Most of us are reading for degrees completely unrelated to music, which makes this extracurricular involvement in music all the more valuable. And I know my experience is not unique. At a recent gaudy, an Old Member recounted to me how the College Choir might have been the highlight of her time at the House because music – especially singing – has remained an important part of her life ever since. I hope for it to remain equally important in mine.
This term has been an excellent one for Christ Church sport, with the introduction of new college sports teams, and great sporting success in intercollegiate leagues and cup competitions.

This academic year has seen the introduction of a Christ Church badminton team, entering men’s and women’s squads into both cuppers and league competitions. They have exceeded expectations, winning four out of six fixtures so far this term. Hats off to captain, Leonardo Zang, a fresher who has taken on the role and performed with flying colours!

The Christ Church rugby team has also been on top form, reaching the semifinals of the bowl. We wish them the best of luck for their upcoming match in Hilary and hope to see them in the finals!

At the beginning of this term, we ran a hugely successful netball tournament, with around thirty students taking part in a (very competitive) morning of matches. This has encouraged many people to join the college netball team, which has since gone on to do extremely well in the intercollegiate netball leagues. This term the team, led by captain Katie Tootill, has won an amazing five out of six matches, scoring 110 goals in total!

This term has also seen the reintroduction of a Christ Church squash team, with five players joining together to reinstate training using our squash courts and we hope that, over the next year, we can amass more players to join the collegiate leagues and eventually cuppers.

© The JCR 2nd XI celebrate after a big cuppers win!
The women’s football team has also been set in motion once more this term, again with a fresher, Gabrielle Moran, taking the captaincy. The Women’s team has continued their ventures jointly with Oriel, competing in three games across the term and showing marked improvement. It’s fantastic to see this up and running again, and we hope attendance only continues to grow in the coming terms and years.

Men’s football this year has had a steady but exciting start, with the JCR 1st XI once again competing in the top division. Although results have been undesirable at times, the team has begun to gel and are finding their feet, with recent performances indicative of a rally come Hilary term. The JCR 2nd XI took part in what can only be described as sporting folklore, performing an astonishing comeback against Balliol 2’s to win 3-2 in the 92nd minute in their first round cuppers match. Although few and far between, football has once again provided some brilliant moments for all involved and a Hassan’s cup run in Hilary could put an end to our silverware drought!

More than anything it is fantastic to see students giving up their time and really making an effort to get involved with sport wherever possible, be that filling in at last minute for a fixture or throwing themselves into brand new sports. We thank Carl our groundsman and all the captains for ensuring this experience is accessible for all, and for their perseverance organising and rearranging fixtures throughout the year. Up the House!
While still an undergraduate, Hooke came to work with Robert Boyle, the chemist and son of an Irish Earl, who lodged with the apothecary John Crosse, whose laboratory was on the High. It was there, on the site of what is now University College’s Shelley Building, that Boyle and Hooke effectively founded gas, atmospheric, and meteorological chemistry in the early 1660s. One of Hooke’s major discoveries was that ‘air’, as gases were then collectively termed, contained a ‘fiery’ component along with an inert one. Hooke related this to the invisible ‘fiery air’ given off by toasted saltpetre or potassium nitrate, which we now identify as oxygen.

Around 1660, Hooke and Boyle built the world’s first air pump, a glass vessel from which the air was evacuated by a pump, with which they conducted a series of experiments...
that would transform our knowledge of respiration, blood circulation, and combustion.

And of course his *Micrographia* (1665), richly illustrated by Hooke’s own artistic skill, introduced the world’s eyes to microscopic forms, from crystals to the anatomy of the flea, and on to ‘animalcules’ and bacteria. And all of this before he was thirty.

Robert Hooke was also, like his friend Sir Christopher Wren, a builder and user of large telescopes. He recorded (later confirmed by modern photography) spots and horizontal belts on the planet Jupiter, and was one of the first scientists to argue that comets were icy balls, their tails being made of melting water vapour as they approached the sun, rather than being harbingers of disaster. His technological optimism did occasionally run away with him, however, as when he proposed that a monster telescope would enable us to see the inhabitants of the moon (which everyone then assumed existed) with the same clarity as one could see sheep grazing on Salisbury Plain!

Hooke was, too, a pioneer of mechanical flight, devising what seems to have been a spring- and clockwork-powered ‘model aircraft’ that ‘raised and sustained itself’ in the air, before coming down again. He appears to have done this along with the Revd Dr John Wilkins, Warden of Wadham and founder of the Oxford Experimental [Scientific] Club, which in 1660 would be re-created as The Royal Society by the new King Charles II. And could not his ‘Flying Chariot’, Hooke speculated, be upgraded to the size of a small ship, with clockwork-powered wings, capable of flying to America, the East Indies, and, hopefully, the Moon?

Following the Great Fire of London in 1666, Hooke was appointed Surveyor to the City of London, responsible for the overall ground plan of the ‘New Jerusalem’ and its new private and commercial buildings. And, as everyone knows, his good friend Sir Christopher Wren was to design all the new royal buildings and churches. Surviving diaries, notebooks, and letters show that the men worked closely together on the plans for the new London. The dome of St Paul’s, for example, with its complex system of supporting internal arches, drew heavily on Hooke’s experiments with ‘catenary’ arches, as geometry was translated into stone curves supporting stone curves.

And none of the above touches upon Hooke’s other work as a pioneer organic chemist and anatomist, performed alongside Christ Church’s great neurologist Thomas Willis (of ‘Circle of Willis’ fame), or his skill as a geologist, artist, draughtsman, engraver, horologist, and more!

Although he had several lady friends, Hooke never married. He died on 3 March 1703, worth £18,000. Yet, as he did not leave a valid will, most of the money went to an unknown ‘cane chair maker’ in Charing Cross. He was buried in St Helen’s Church, London.
Charles Stuart before Christ Church

Susan Chater
This is an abridged version of a talk given by Susan Chater, Charles’ daughter, at the C H Stuart Society Dinner on 7 March 2022 to mark the Centenary of Charles’ birth.

Charles Harborne Stuart (1920 -1991) was the second of the four sons of Willoughby Stuart and his wife Ethel (née Candy). All four boys, Douglas, Charles, Richard, and Michael were astonishingly clever and full of humour, each going on to have a distinguished career.

Charles’ mother Ethel and her twin Douglas were the youngest children of Richard Candy, an Indian Civil Servant. Ethel’s family had roots in official India that stretched back to the eighteenth century. She had a huge network of relations, many linked by common service in India. In 1915, Ethel was in London with her widowed mother and unmarried sisters when she met Charles’ father. She may have escaped genteel poverty when she married Willoughby Stuart, an East India merchant or “box wallah”, but, to the “pukka sahibs”, she took a step down by marrying into trade.

Willoughby was the son of Charles Stuart, an official in the Bank of Bengal. Educated in India and then pushed out into the world as soon as he turned 16, Willoughby worked his way up from office boy to Senior Partner of McKenzie Lyall & Co, a firm of auctioneers. He was in his early twenties before he visited the UK for the first time. Successful in business, he was also a skilled linguist, fluent in Hindi and Bengali. In London, he was more comfortable in the cosmopolitan atmosphere of the City than the Clubs of St James’. Although often away in India, Willoughby was a loving and supportive father. Separation meant that letters and telegrams were an important part of family life. An avid follower of horse racing both at home and in India, almost every one of Willoughby’s letters to Charles ends with a racing tip or anecdote. Small wonder then that Charles was both a conscientious letter writer and such a devotee of the turf.
“He filled the hours in form with the excitement of personal discovery… Joined to this power of breathing life into the facts of history was a genius for asking questions of them; this impelled one to think…”

Charles’ appreciation of his close friend and mentor, Leonard Henry, Head of History at Harrow
Both Ethel and Willoughby had lost a brother in the First World War. Douglas, who was just 17 months older than Charles, was named for Ethel's twin who had died of wounds at the Battle of the Somme. Charles was named for Willoughby's brother who was lost at sea when the SS Baku Standard was torpedoed in 1918. Both Douglas and Charles were born at 7 Ballygunge Park Calcutta, a place later to be described by Hugh Trevor-Roper as “that smug suburb”, but they spent only two short periods in India. The second of these began in October 1921, a date engraved in family memory as the occasion of Willoughby's great racing coup. Before sailing from London, he had placed a winning £5 double on Polemarch for the St Leger and Yutoi for the Cesarewitch. The winnings were enough to fund the purchase of his Minerva motor car.

Douglas and Charles left India for good in 1923. When Ethel returned to India, they lived with a selection of aunts in London before becoming boarders at Lynchmere School in Eastbourne in 1926. Lynchmere was spartan, scruffy, and deeply eccentric. Dimitri Obolensky (Student of Christ Church 1950 -1985) gave a vivid description of life at Lynchmere and the headmaster Harry Upfield Gilbert in his Memoir “Bread of Exile”, much of it based on the stories with which Dimitri and Charles would regale the SCR. Gilbert was important: he suggested to Willoughby that Douglas and Charles should be entered for Harrow (rather than Haileybury). In 1933, Charles followed Douglas to Harrow, winning an Entrance Exhibition. In an early Harrow report, Charles’ housemaster, the Reverend E. Malcolm Venables, made an uncanny prediction about the 14 year old Charles: “I much doubt if he is cut out to be a doctor. Why not a history fellowship at a University?”

With four sons to educate, Willoughby told Douglas and Charles that he would support them through university but only if they won scholarships. That they were able to do so was, in no small part, due to the inspired teaching of Leonard Henry, Head of History at Harrow, who became a close friend and mentor to Charles. When, in 1944, ill health compelled Leonard to leave Harrow, Charles recalled his time in the History Sixth in an appreciation published in The Harrovian:

“He filled the hours in form with the excitement of personal discovery... Joined to this power of breathing life into the facts of history was a genius for asking questions of them; this impelled one to think, ... In remembering the polite and gentle irony with which he greeted exuberant generalisations, conceived in ignorance and nourished by prejudice, one marvels at his forbearance while savouring still the delightful humour which taught where drab correction would only have silenced. ... the long line of History Scholars at Oxford and Cambridge is his monument; but it is in the hearts and minds of his pupils that his teaching lives”

The Stuart brothers were among that line of History Scholars: Douglas at New College, Charles at Christ Church, and Richard and Michael at Magdalen. Their achievements are still marked at Harrow, where the Library in The Park, the Stuart brothers’ house, has been known as the Stuart Library since Charles’ death in 1991.

How did Charles come to return to Oxford after the war? After leaving his wartime post (described by Edward Harrison in Christ Church Matters 36), he had joined the Foreign Office in a temporary capacity. He loathed it. Stuck in India waiting for a passage home and increasingly concerned for Charles’ health, Willoughby wrote “I must insist that you resign the Foreign Office at once... Just tell them to stuff themselves. Back to Oxford you shall go to try for an academic post”. Charles took his father’s advice and left behind what he was later to describe as his “sorry three months in the Foreign Office”. He was soon appointed as a lecturer at Queen’s and then at Christ Church in the summer of 1947. ☐
It is roughly 1,900 years since a maverick Roman emperor decided to split Britain in two by imposing the monumental frontier system now known as Hadrian’s Wall. In its developed form this stretched for 117km and comprised multiple obstacles, including a curtain wall studded with forts and smaller posts manned by Roman soldiers. The result is surely still the greatest military fortification ever raised in Britain, but to what end? Our sole surviving Roman statement on the matter is a masterpiece of brevity, expressing a desire to ‘separate the barbarians from the Romans’. What this meant in practice is left unsaid, and modern interpretations range from the Wall serving as simply a rhetorical statement of imperial power, through to it repulsing full-blown ‘barbarian’ invasions. My recent book, Hadrian’s Wall: creating division, builds on research undertaken while I was studying at Christ Church, and examines what Hadrian’s Wall was intended to do, and what it actually did, in the Roman period and beyond.

One challenge for understanding Hadrian’s Wall is that all known Roman-era literature chronicling events in Britain was written from a Mediterranean perspective. The Classical authors display a fondness for stereotyping and develop a narrative that casts the Britons as simple, savage, or strange.

Dr Matthew Symonds (2001, Classical Archaeology)

© Birdoswald: Not all of the artistry from Hadrian’s Wall is Roman in style. This stylised horse, on a building stone in Birdoswald fort, shows similarities to prehistoric rock art in the Camonica Valley of the Alps.

© Centurial stone: Roman inscriptions record the work of construction teams. This example, on show in the museum at Chesters fort, commemorates soldiers of the Ninth Cohort, under Paulius Aper.
imaginative artistry that playfully conceals stylised creatures within flowing, sinuous motifs. Excavations directly to the north of Hadrian’s Wall have unearthed traces of prehistoric farming communities that surprised by virtue of their size, sophistication, and longevity. Tellingly, perhaps, these populous agricultural groups developed over centuries, before abruptly disappearing from the archaeological record at around the time Hadrian’s Wall became operational. Surviving warrior kit also suggests a capability to wage effective warfare, albeit in a very different manner to that practised by Rome. The Britons seem to have specialised in what we now call guerrilla warfare, with a focus on striking and escaping before enemies could respond in force. Hadrian’s Wall was well calibrated to help suppress such resistance by cutting off warriors to the south from support or safe havens in the north.

This proved so effective that echoes can be found in the English National Curriculum, which, it has been observed, presents the Romans as rather like us, while the conquered Britons appear somewhat alien. Classical authors also relished documenting the cataclysmic defeats that typically befall British warriors when they faced the Roman army in set-piece battles. This portrayal of primitive and military inept Britons casts doubt on them being capable of posing a threat severe enough to warrant the scale of Hadrian’s Wall, let alone the considerable expense that came with manning, supplying, and maintaining it for centuries.

Archaeology tells a different story. It reveals accomplishments by the Britons that are hard to square with Roman prejudices, including the production of elegant and
J The remains of Housesteads fort:
The earthworks visible outside the fort are the remains of an extramural settlement that developed to serve the needs of the market created by the military presence.

K The course of Hadrian’s Wall as it cuts across northern England.
Costume of David J. Breeze.
Despite this violent backdrop, the Wall was not just a place of conflict. Soldiers manning it were recruited or conscripted from across the empire, bringing families, slaves, and gods with them. Among those mingling in these multicultural communities was Regina, a former slave born in Hertfordshire, who married Barates, from Syria, and is commemorated on a bilingual tombstone. Another memorial names Victor, who was also a former slave. He was born in Morocco, and died aged 20 in South Shields. The kaleidoscope of influences at work in the frontier zone made its mark on the archaeology, which allows us to witness the juxtaposition and blurring of mainstream Mediterranean, provincial, and British traditions. This is even felt in the fabric of the Wall, which contained Roman inscriptions, imagery more familiar from northern continental Europe, and broken quern stones that mirror local British superstitions associated with boundaries.

The collapse of Roman control in Britain around AD 410 changed rather than ended the Wall’s significance. One repeated theme in subsequent centuries has been a desire to anchor contemporary worldviews in the Roman past, thereby casting them as the natural order of things. In the 8th century, Bede, a monk based in Jarrow, used the Wall as a vehicle to legitimise the English and the Church of Rome in Britain as the heirs to Rome. The former frontier went on to help forge notions of English and Scottish nationhood as these states emerged. Some early English antiquarians borrowed from the Classical authors to insinuate that civilisation was introduced by the Romans, but only to the lands south of the Wall. Counter narratives highlighted northern forces successfully vanquishing the Wall garrison and tearing down the barrier, with its very scale testifying to Scottish valour. Today, Hadrian’s Wall is still frequently invoked as a shorthand for the Anglo-Scottish border, even though the ancient and modern lines do not touch at any point. The Wall’s continuing prominence 1,900 years after Hadrian’s act of division suggests that the curtain is unlikely to fall on its complex legacy any time soon.
Association News

The Christ Church Association is made up of all Members of the House who have completed one academic year at Christ Church. Overseen by a Committee, it offers opportunities for alumni to maintain lifelong connections with one another, and with Christ Church. Here, two Members of the Committee share some thoughts on the Association.

Simon Mungall
(1994, PPE)

Indeed, things are looking up to the extent that even Mercury has the confidence to take a vacation.

Prior to joining the committee, the last time I was in the rooms now used by the Development Office was when they belonged to the Junior Censor. I was there to be fined for celebrating the start (or was it the end?) of the weekend on the roof of Peck. I like to think that this change of use has partly been made possible by the emergence of a better-behaved undergraduate cohort in less need of day-to-day guidance. But there can be no doubt that it remains in as much need as ever of our support, especially if we are to preserve that which makes the college so special: the dual foundation, the focus on teaching and the tutorial system, and the wide range of academic and extra-curricular opportunities.

At the committee on 1 December, we spent an hour with Dominic Grieve – without the Governing Body members in attendance – and we discussed these concerns and some aspects of his governance review.

We are also keen to hear from you all about how we can increase the activity of the Association, so do let me know if you’d like to see a particular event added to the calendar, or want to be involved.

I wish you all the very best for 2023!
Kimberley Littlemore  
(1985, PPE)

I stood for re-election to the Christ Church Association – after a gap of some decades – on the basis of my communications experience as a BBC documentary producer now running my own digital media business. I’ve used the intervening decades to sharpen my skills as a storyteller and to apply them where I know they can make a difference. My work has included raising funds for Comic Relief and providing information, education, and reassurance to people with chronic conditions such as diabetes and dementia.

It is lovely to be elected – maybe I missed my vocation and rather than changing the world through documentaries, I should have sought a career that involved standing for election on a more regular basis! For now though, I am content to support the Association as it seeks to create a united and forward-looking future for College Members.

As an Association member, I look to support communication between us and those responsible for formulating a positive and constructive future for Christ Church and its institutions. We had a very interesting meeting with Dominic Grieve last week to hear how he is going about his work looking at the governance of the College. He described the challenges he’s facing, the history being considered, the various viewpoints, the possibilities and the impossibilities. I felt reassured that the process is consultative and considered. I look forward to the time when we can share some of this journey with you.

I also look forward to the conclusion of this review so that as Association members we can refocus our attention on the day-to-day life of the College, and continue to develop positive links across the generations of College Members for the benefit of us all. When I was on the committee many years ago, it was full of optimism and ideas for bringing members old and new together in order to enrich the Christ Church family. I look forward to helping regain this momentum.
Pakistan, the world’s fifth most populous country, has been struck by terrible flooding. The deluge has left widespread devastation in its wake, and vast swathes of the country, particularly in the southern province of Sindh, remain under water. Even for a people not unfamiliar with flooding, the extent and magnitude of this episode are unprecedented.

The floods have claimed the lives of almost two thousand women, children, and men as well as those of countless livestock. Physical infrastructure has been washed away, and billions of dollars of damage done to the major commercial crops of cotton, rice, and sugar cane as well as important vegetable crops. Tens of millions have been left without shelter, bereft of all their property and possessions, and facing the prospect of hunger and lost livelihood. The standing water brings with it dreaded disease – particularly dengue and malaria. We may have defeated Covid-19, but dengue remains unconquered.

All of this has happened in the wake of political uncertainty and an economic and foreign currency crisis. A flood of biblical proportions has been unable to get the politicians to set aside their differences, even if only temporarily. The state of the economy and the fiscal situation imposes, at the worst possible time, a straitjacket on the Government’s ability to help the flood affected. As is usually the case in Pakistan, private philanthropic activity, of which there has been a surge, has attempted to come to the rescue.

Pakistan, and individual Pakistanis in particular, bear very little, if any, culpability for the devastation visited upon them. The country contributes almost nothing to global greenhouse emissions. Yet the impact of climate change, acting through glacial melt and torrential monsoons, has been particularly cruel to the country. Some of the most
awful damage was done in the country’s majestic northern areas, the ancient Buddhist Gandhara region. Swelled by melting glaciers from the Hindu Kush mountains, the raging Swat River washed away anything in its path, including multi-story concrete buildings. Warming seas contributed to monsoons laden with up to 700% of the usual amount of rain, resulting in the flooding seen in the southern parts of Punjab province as well as the province of Sindh.

One would have hoped that Governments over the years would have done something about these massive and repeated calamities. While the country is powerless to control what goes on outside its borders, it can regulate the waters that flow into and through its rivers. Building storage dams at appropriate locations is the one major measure that Pakistan can take to reduce the extent of flooding and resultant damage. Indeed, Pakistan is home to Tarbela Dam, the largest earth filled dam in the world.

Dams are expensive to build and, while fiscal space has proved a challenge, more formidable has been the challenge of overcoming the trust deficit on water rights between the four provinces of the country. While consensus on the construction of two major dams -Dassu and Bhasha – has been achieved, by and large the discourse over dams has been dominated by fearmongering rather than reasonable debate and discussion. The southern province of Sindh sees itself at the mercy of the upper riparian Punjab province, the country’s largest province with a majority of its population. In the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province certain political voices have historically propagated the (unfounded) view that building dams will result in flooding of both fertile agricultural areas, as well as major urban centres.

Building smaller dams is likely to be less contentious, and these small storages will also help. As will measures such as improved forecasting of floods, minimizing urban sprawl in flood prone areas, and better coordination between the provinces.

It is difficult for any of us to imagine losing all our worldly possessions. But this is the terrible reality too many Pakistanis are living. Pakistanis are a resilient people, but they need our help. There are a great many organisations doing wonderful work in the flood ravaged regions.

Members of the House who want to do so can donate via the links below. Even small donations make a huge difference.

https://www.unicef.org/pakistan/
https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/pakistan-floods-appeal
https://edhi.org/donate-us/

Photos credit: Mohammad Adil Safeer
A tale of two scholarships

Haydn Rawstron (1968, Music)

Among the unique features of Christ Church, the most significant is its Twin Foundation, part cathedral, part college. It gives The House its priceless aura. This unique quality was also invested into the name of ‘Christchurch’, the principal city on The South Island of New Zealand, by Houseman John Robert Godley (1832).

The ‘idealism’ behind the 1850 settlement of Canterbury (now the province of Canterbury), with the eponymous Christchurch at its centre, envisaged a settlement around ‘a cathedral and a college’.

Godley proposed both names, ‘Christchurch’ and ‘Canterbury’, in March 1848. The former was named ‘in honour of’ The House and the latter after the archbishopric. The then Archbishop, J.B. Sumner (1780 – 1862) was President of the founding association, whose 76-man membership was initially put together by Godley, with Christ Church alumni making up the largest quorum among its members.

Two scholarships, each with its own expanding endowment, link The House’s Twin to the ‘mirror-twin’ in New Zealand. A travelling scholarship called The Canterbury Association OXFORDS PROJECT (CAOP) links the two cathedrals. A University of Oxford One-Year Master’s Course ‘Wakefield’ Scholarship, at Christ Church, now links The House’s college component with The University of Canterbury (formerly known as Canterbury College). In the years leading up to the launch of this new ‘Wakefield’ Master’s...
Cathedral Choir and presenting exquisite recitals of mostly a cappella renaissance choral music. These Oxford musicians shared their skills not only with the cathedral choir, but also with music making at Christ’s College, the city’s august first school, only a short walk from the cathedral.

The CAOP trips during the Christchurch crisis years of earthquakes (2010 – 2014) were of particular importance in the spirit of cultural exchange. The severe damage to the city’s iconic, neo-Gothic, Sir Gilbert Scott-designed cathedral led to lengthy public debate, the same debate as waged in Dresden, in the early 1990s, over the ruins of its iconic Frauenkirche, and fortunately with the same outcome. Completion of the cathedral’s reinstatement is scheduled for 2027.

Scholarship, the steadily growing Wakefield endowment during that gestation was able to support five PhD scholars from Canterbury, each for a year’s research study in Oxford, as Recognised Students.

The CAOP travelling scholarship is for musicians from the traditional choir of each cathedral. It was begun in 1997, and has weathered earthquakes and a pandemic. The first 19 trips, not quite one a year, were all in one direction, from Oxford to Christchurch.

Each of those first 19 trips consisted of a small group of Oxford adult choristers, principally from The House’s Christ Church Cathedral Choir. Each group spent an average of 4-5 weeks Down Under, singing in the ranks of Christchurch Cathedral Choir and presenting exquisite recitals of mostly a cappella renaissance choral music. These Oxford musicians shared their skills not only with the cathedral choir, but also with music making at Christ’s College, the city’s august first school, only a short walk from the cathedral.

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The Covid-19 years torpedoed the CAOP plans, until October 2022, when a propitious new beginning was able to be made. For the first time since 1997, the CAOP went in the opposite direction: a small party of musicians travelled to Oxford from New Zealand. Dr John Linker, Cathedral Director of Music in Christchurch, accompanied his two ‘Godley’ Scholars on this inaugural trip to Oxford: 19 year-old Timo Niehausmeier, baritone, and 16 year-old Sea-am Thompson, male alto and organist.

Dr Linker spent his time thoroughly observing the work of Dr Steven Grahl (his counterpart at The House), enjoying meetings with numerous persons involved in Oxford choral music, and paying a short visit to the Nottingham organ builders who are constructing a new organ for the restored Christchurch Cathedral.
The two ‘Godley’ Scholars crammed their days with music and visits to Oxford’s colleges and museums. Their rehearsal and performing schedule at Christ Church was extensive, singing 15 services in as many days with the cathedral choir (Evensongs and Eucharists). Sea-am Thompson also took a series of organ lessons from Dr Grahl’s assistant, Ben Sheen, and subsequently was invited to play organ voluntaries at Choral Evensong on his penultimate evening in Oxford, besides singing alto in that Evensong as well.

The trio’s euphoric reports of their 15 days spent at Christ Church, written shortly after their return home to New Zealand, recount the extent of this 20th CAOP trip’s success.

The Canterbury Association OXFORDS PROJECT will doubtless feature in the twin 2025 celebrations (marking the 500th anniversary of Cardinal College and the 175th anniversary of the founding of Canterbury and Christchurch), and, hopefully, it will play a seminal role in the 2027 celebrations to mark the re-opening of Christchurch Cathedral.

Meanwhile, the newly created ‘Wakefield’ Master’s Scholarship (linked to the Oxford One-Year Master’s Course degree) will help bind the ties between the NZ city and The House still closer. The Master’s Course degree scholarship is being offered for the first time, for the 2023/24 academic year, and coincides with the 150th anniversary of the University of Canterbury’s 1873 foundation as ‘Canterbury College’ (the first constituent college of the historic University of New Zealand).

Although founded on the basis of the Oxbridge college system, Canterbury College admitted women from its very beginning. It produced the British Empire’s second BA female graduate in 1880, Helen Connon. A year later, that same graduate became the Empire’s first female MA with first class honours. Also in its first generation, Ernest (Lord) Rutherford obtained BA, MA and MSc degrees from Canterbury College, and it produced NZ’s first Maori graduate, Apirana Ngata, after having granted him a scholarship to study there. Later, and by then Sir Apirana, Ngata was to be acknowledged as ‘NZ’s foremost Maori politician from the first half of the 20th century’.

To return to the beginning, Peter Oppenheimer kindly draws my attention to the other distinguished Godleys of Oxford: John Robert Godley’s son (John Arthur G., Balliol, the first Lord Kilbracken, private secretary to WE Gladstone, longest-serving Under-Secretary of State at the India Office); JRG’s nephew (Alfred Denis G., Balliol, University of Oxford’s Public Orator, 1910-1920, classics don, author); and JRG’s great-grandson (The Hon. Wynne G., New College, post-1945 Cambridge and HM Treasury economist, professional oboist, son-in-law of sculptor Jacob Epstein, who used him as model for St Michael on the rebuilt Coventry Cathedral).

The western facade of Canterbury College, 1873 – 1961 (the original campus of the University of Canterbury), facing Christchurch’s magnificent Botanical Gardens.

The choir school opened in 1881, six months before Christchurch Cathedral was consecrated. Cathedral Grammar has exclusively educated the cathedral’s treble choristers ever since. New school buildings, post 2011 earthquakes.

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Events review 2022

ALUMNI EVENT - Members, their families, and guests enjoyed a day of activities, and dinner in Hall, during the Christ Church Association 'Open House' event on Saturday 17 September.

GAUDY - Matriculands from 1986 to 1989 returned for their Gaudy on Friday 30 September.
WOMEN’S RECEPTION – Christ Church’s latest portrait series, ‘Women of the House’, was launched in the newly-refurbished Chapter House on 30 September.

BOARD OF BENEFACTORS RECEPTION – The Board of Benefactors Reception was held at the House of Lords on 11 October, hosted by Lord Michael Dobbs (1968, PPE).
NEW YORK DINNER – On 18 October, a dinner was hosted by Peter Paine Jr (1957, Law), President of American Friends of Christ Church, at Anglers Club, New York.

LAWYERS’ LUNCH – Christ Church Lawyers were invited to lunch on Saturday 12 November 2022 to mark what would have been the 100th birthday of Edward Burn, Official Student and Tutor in Law from 1955 until his retirement in 1990.
MBA AND GRAD SCHOLAR DINNER - The Development Office hosted a dinner in the McKenna room for Graduate scholars and MBA students on 17 November.
It was with great joy that the Christ Church Cathedral Choir joined the Choir of HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace for a concert to celebrate St Cecilia’s Day on 22 November with an evening of music. The Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace was founded in 1528 by Thomas Cardinal Wolsey fewer than three years after he established what would become Christ Church. The Chapel was thus a fitting venue as the Christ Church Music Trust Fund and the Chapel Royal’s Choral Foundation continue working together leading up to our proximate quincentenaries. Our first joint event, an historic Evensong at Christ Church, took place in May.

The evening began with special presentations and behind-the-scenes tours of Hampton Court Palace not normally accessible to the public. These offerings included tours of the Little Banqueting House, the Grace and Favour Apartments, and a look at ‘haunted Hampton’, as well as a talk by Tracy Borman FSA, Co-Chief Curator of Historic Royal Palaces, in conversation with the Reverend Canon Anthony Howe FSA, Chaplain of Hampton Court, on the Boleyn Falcon, and a unique copy of the Prayer Book from the Reign of Elizabeth I.

Then, after some warming refreshments in the Privy Kitchen, guests were invited into the Chapel Royal itself, where they were welcomed to the concert by Fr Howe. The programme offered a highlights survey of both sacred and secular music of Henry Purcell (1659-1695), sometime chorister of the Chapel Royal and later its Organist – a post he held concurrently with that at Westminster Abbey. The concert began with Purcell’s musical work of praise to St Cecilia, ‘Welcome to all the pleasures’, originally commissioned by the Musical Society of London for the first of their annual celebrations of her Feast in 1683. Though perhaps less frequently performed than many of Purcell’s
shorter, sacred works, this seven-movement thematic entrée beautifully showcased solos among the clerks, both sets of choristers, and the full combined forces of the two choirs under the direction of Christ Church Organist, Professor Steven Grahl. The combined choirs, conducted in turn by Prof Grahl and Chapel Royal Music Director, Carl Jackson, went on to sing the anthems, ‘I was glad’, ‘Hear my prayer, O Lord’, ‘O sing unto the Lord’, and ‘Rejoice in the Lord always’ – also known as the ‘Bell Anthem’ for the peal-like descending bass of its opening symphony.

The choirs were supported by a quartet of strings from the Oxford-based Instruments of Time & Truth with Christ Church Sub Organist, Benjamin Sheen, joining the continuo at the harpsichord. The instrumental ensemble took centre stage in Purcell’s Chacony in G minor, and Chapel Royal Organist, Rufus Frowde, performed Purcell’s Suite in G minor on the Palace’s own Flemish-style, double-manual Mackinnon & Waitzman replica of a Ioannes Ruckers harpsichord that normally graces the Queen’s Drawing Room.

The concert programme ended with brief remarks from Peter Havelock, Chair of the Choral Foundation, and Philippa Roberts, Development Director at Christ Church. The evening concluded with a lovely reception in the King’s Guard Chamber with gourmet canapés, Chilworth Manor sparkling wines from the Surrey Hills, and elegant mocktails. At carriages, guests of both Christ Church and Hampton Court left echoing the sentiment, ‘let’s do this again soon!’

All photographs of the Chapel Royal or taken in the Chapel Royal are with the gracious permission of His Majesty The King.
Michaelmas was another successful term at Christ Church Boat Club. We kicked off with a strong novice recruitment drive, with weeks of hard training culminating in four novice eights racing at the Michaelmas Novice Regatta. All crews made us extremely proud. In particular, our first women’s crew were knocked out by only the slimmest of margins to the eventual runners-up; and our first men’s crew fell victim only to their own strength, with an unfortunate crab off the start ending their spell of ‘easy’-verdict wins. Other than racing, a particular highlight included training novices in the ‘tank’, and indoor rowing facility which replicates an indoor river – it was a great way to teach novices the basics without risking any unwanted dips into the Isis!

For our seniors, the term was about laying the groundwork with fitness. Athletes across both men’s and women’s squads have posted our strongest squad ergometer scores in recent years; this leaves us well poised to seize success in our Torpids campaigns. The club is very excited for this – M1 starts in second on the river, chasing Headship, and our W1 start sixth, hunting down blades, and just one over/chain-bump away from a Headship. Our M2 (who are already ranked highest second VIII) also have the chance to crack into Men's Division 2, outstripping many other first V8s. We also have been cheering on our Blues (University squad) trialists from afar, who tackle Trial Eights this month – we look forward to having them re-join us for our Summer Eights campaigns after the Boat Race.

Away from the water, the Club has also enjoyed a rich social life with a full calendar of events, letting seniors and novices mix and mingle. We particularly enjoyed the hospitality of the JCR for our post-Novice Regatta Dinner Festivities.

Further, the Club has also been doing its part to give back to college life via the recent Giving Day, raising funds for a new scholarship at Christ Church. We were delighted to contribute to fundraising efforts by organising an “ergathon”, wherein we targeted rowing 181.7km in 24 hours – this number was chosen as the Boat Club was founded in 1817. The members smashed past this goal in no time, and we are all looking forward to more charitable partnerships with the college in the future.

In sum, Christ Church Boat Club is thriving this year – we have a wide community across all year groups, subjects, and both under- and postgraduates, and we are coming back bigger and better every term. We have also enjoyed welcoming back alumni to jump into boats and help out with coaching – so please don’t hesitate to get in touch if you’d like to come down and say hello and meet some of the next generation of House oarsmen and women. 🌟
Brixton House in Wonderland

Robin Priest (1976, Law)

Brixton House theatre (known previously as Ovalhouse) is now open in the heart of Brixton and is growing into its role of becoming a cultural hub for Lambeth. It has been a tortuous but ultimately remarkable journey. The management team and board have had to navigate – apart from the usual challenges associated with a development project – local politics, spiralling construction costs, a pandemic, and a significant shift in Arts Council grants policy which diverts money away from London and into the regions. Ultimately, the efforts of a host of people have been rewarded with an excellent and well-designed venue that is gathering momentum despite being delivered some two years after the originally conceived opening date.

The link between the theatre and Christ Church is important and we are hoping that the College and its alumni will sponsor a room or a space under the “Red Hat” moniker. We are enormously grateful for the generosity of the Arts Council (which mercifully has made no cuts to the ongoing Brixton House funding), Lambeth Council (which has cash flowed the entire project and made a significant loan to the theatre), a number of trusts and foundations, and many individual donors.

It was fitting (and not entirely coincidental!) that the first year’s holiday season show was Alice in Wonderland. Equally, it is in keeping with the spirit of Brixton House that the show was an alternative take on the Charles Dodgson original. After an explosive argument with her mother on a Victoria line station, eleven-year-old Alice leaps onto the arriving tube train seconds before the doors hiss shut. Trapped on a train speeding into Nonsense, surrounded by weird and wonderful passengers, and at the mercy of a Queen who will not relinquish the controls, can Alice turn this train around? The show combines rap music with the sights and sounds of Brixton in a fast-paced Christmas adventure.

Staging a block-busting holiday season show is part of the theatre’s plan for long-term sustainability. In order to fund its programmes of community outreach and commissioning work from new writers and directors, the theatre is pursuing a range of commercial activities. For example, it manages (on behalf of Lambeth) the office space for creative businesses that is adjacent to the theatre in the entirely refurbished Carlton Mansions building, as well as renting out theatre, studio and office space in its own building. The theatre is a great spot for corporate events also, so if any of you have one in mind, please be in touch.

The theatre is the critical component in what will be a much broader redevelopment scheme (also involving the construction of a significant number of houses) that will bring culture not only to established theatregoers but also to those who have hitherto not had access to affordable shows. The theatre is open all day seven days a week. It
has a café bar (where the catering on offer will shortly be expanded) and it is buzzing whenever I visit.

Brixton House has never been more needed as a beacon for the disadvantaged and the dispossessed. Its constituency is being expanded all the time as economic and social challenges worsen. Christ Church should be proud to be involved in a theatre that brings together people irrespective of race, orientation or gender, or socio-economic grouping. It is a symbol of unity in a nation that seems increasingly divided.

All contributions are welcome – whether financial or by way of assistance. We are grateful to those of you who have already contributed. Please contact the Development Office if you would like more information. I look forward to bumping into you in the foyer!
In other staff news, Caitlin O’Sullivan joined us in September 2022 as the Development Associate (graduate scheme), a one-year post for a recent graduate to gain work experience in alumni relations and fundraising. Caitlin graduated from Christ Church last year. I’m delighted to say that Olivia Tan, who held the graduate post last year, has stayed on in a new fundraising role.

In this Development Matters, we report back on key initiatives which have received your support in 2021-22, including Computer Science, the American Friends scholarship, the Teddy Burn Endowment fund, the Music Trust fund, and the Boat Club. We also report back on our first Giving Day.

But the main message behind Development Matters is thank you. Thanks to those who made donations to Christ Church and to all who gave their time and experience in many different ways. I hope this report captures the impact that you have made.

Philippa Roberts
Development Director
The headline figures for gross incomes received in the period 01 August 2021 and 31 July 2022 was £2,900,296 (FY20-21: £1,850,307) of which £2,352,06 was received towards the endowment and £598,920 towards expendables (FY20-21: £1,120,586 and £729,721 respectively). Significant donations towards the Boat Club and towards a new endowed graduate scholarship in the memory of Christopher Ainsley made a big impact on 2021-22 income.

Donations from American alumni, via American Friends of Christ Church and via the University’s North America Office, made up 66% of the total gift income in 2021-22 (2020-21: 46%).

We received ten new legacy pledges in 2021-22 (2020-21: 17) and legacy income of £129,171.32. We are grateful to all alumni who have remembered Christ Church in their wills. It was good to see members of the 1546 Society, which recognises those leaving legacies, back at Christ Church for lunch in September 2021.

We were glad to have the opportunity to thank donors with two specific events in 2022 – the TOM event in May, recognising donors who make regular gifts, and the Board of Benefactors reception at the House of Lords in October, recognising donors who have given £25,000 or more in lifetime giving.

13.9% of contactable alumni made a donation to Christ Church in 2021/22 with gifts ranging from 2- to 6-figures. Donations were received for student support, teaching, music, sport, the library, outreach and more. We value all of these gifts and are grateful to everyone who gave their generous support.

**Fundraising headlines for 2021/22**

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.
We are grateful to our friends and supporters who help keep the tradition of musical excellence at Christ Church alive. It has been a joy to see so many of you at our events in the past year, including the joint concert with HM Chapel Royal Choir at Hampton Court Palace, which you can read about on page 37.

Since the Music Trust’s establishment in 2013, one of its major aims has been to give children from all walks of life the opportunity to be a chorister. This year, we installed a new named choristership thanks to generous support from an anonymous donor. It is the 31st named endowment to support the Cathedral Choristers.

Thanks to your support over the last decade, we are now able to focus our energies on the Organist’s plans for new instruments befitting a cathedral music programme of the highest quality.

**KEYBOARD INSTRUMENTS AT CHRIST CHURCH**

We are pleased to report that, since the last edition of Development Matters, provision has been made for many of the instruments sought by Organist, Professor Steven Grahl. These include:

- **A new pipe organ for the award-winning restoration of the Chapter House.** This small instrument with responsive mechanical action will be used for concerts, teaching, and practice in the beautiful surrounds of the Chapter House. The Music Trust is grateful to the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral for the gift making this instrument possible.

- **A two-manual Flemish-style harpsichord worthy of our vibrant early music scene.** This fine instrument is suitable for recitals and concerto performances, its normal home will also be in the Chapter House but is easily moved to the Cathedral for larger concerts. The Music Trust is immensely grateful to Fiona Hollands (Biology, 1985) and her husband Ethan Berman who gave this instrument in honour of Fiona’s mother, Elza Ayoub Jorge Hollands. They have also sponsored an inaugural series of recitals featuring the instrument. We have already enjoyed two spectacular performances from Laurence Cummings (Music, 1986) and our own Professor Grahl.

- **A piano to support chorister musical formation in the Song School.** This instrument will be used primarily to accompany rehearsals and lessons for both the boy Choristers and Frideswide Voices. The Music Trust is grateful for the substantial gift towards the instrument from Robert Ronus in memory of his late wife, Ann, who had been a Member of the Music Trust Board.

**What’s still needed:**

- **A fine new pipe organ to stand at the East End/Crossing of the Cathedral.** This romantic-style instrument is needed to better provide choral accompaniment and facilitate the playing of organ music of the mid-nineteenth century and later. It would complement our Rieger Organ, which is particularly distinguished in the performance of earlier repertoire. The Cathedral’s Choristers have made permanent their move to the Chancel of the Cathedral, rather than the Nave, so there is also urgent need for the new organ to be in close proximity to their new location. As the college approaches its 500th anniversary, it is a timely moment to examine aspects of our musical provision, and we look forward to working with our friends and supporters to realise this vital project.
Over 36 hours from 29–30 November 2022, Christ Church held its first ever Giving Day, raising money for a Refugee Academic Futures Scholarship. Thanks to the generosity of the whole Christ Church community, we have raised a total of £76,000 which, coupled with funding from Governing Body, will cover the full course fees and stipend for a refugee graduate student to undertake a DPhil here at Oxford.

The generosity of the Christ Church community never fails to astound us, and we are so grateful that you have once again come together to support students at the House. Over 320 alumni, fellows, staff, students, family, and friends came together to ensure that a lack of political and financial resources are not a barrier to the transformative education offered at the House. The Refugee Academic Futures Scholarship is just one part of our far-reaching and varied outreach work, and it is thanks to your generosity that we can offer such a range of access initiatives, which you can read more about on page 51.

It was a lively 36 hours here at the House. The Christ Church Boat Club, founded in 1817, smashed their target of 181.7km rowed, erging an enormous 212.74km total! Members of the College Choir held a beautiful carol service in the Cathedral, illuminated by candles, and donated their retiring collection to the Refugee Academic Futures Scholarship. The Cathedral too held Evensong in support of the Giving Day. A Giving Day formal dinner and corresponding High Table took place, with students and fellows donating to the Scholarship. Judith Valerie Engel (2020, Music) gave a beautiful piano recital in the Cathedral, featuring music by Frédéric Chopin, Franz Liszt, and others, at which the audience was encouraged to donate. Special thanks must also go to the pupils of the Christ Church Cathedral School, who helped to run our cake sale and made wonderful bunting which could be seen on the Hall steps.

Whether you are an alum, a member of the SCR, GCR, JCR or staff, family or friend, the Giving Day and the Refugee Academic Futures Scholarship would not have been possible without your generosity.
Donations were received from over 320 alumni and friends, spanning 68 matriculation years and 23 countries. We are grateful to all who supported the Giving Day, whose names can be found below.

Professor DK Aarts
Mr Edward Albee, 1956
Professor Alexander, 1977
Mr John Altnor, 1956
Mr Chris Amery, 1958
Mr André Andersson, 1986
Mr Nicholas Ancrbro, 1980
Mr Charles Ashton, 1970
Dr Nigel Aston, 1979
Professor Brian Austen, 1968

Mr Nick Bagshawe, 1964
Mr John Bailey, 1958
Mr Simon Balch-Hamilton, 1962
Mr Stephen Bamford, 1969
Mr John Barlow, 1959
His Honour Judge Philip Barlow, 1971
Councillor Nicola Bazzani, 2001
Mr Alan Bereshford, 1971
Mr Robin Birch, 1957
Mme Francesca Bischoel Michel, 1985
Dr Graham Bowpitt, 1971
Ms Katie Boyson, 1991
Mr John Bradley, 1971
Mr Peter Brockman, 1955
Professor John Brookfield, 1973
Sir John Bubb, 1972
Mr Nick Buckland, 1963
Mr Michael Buckley, 1957
Ms Sarah Budder
Ms Lucy Bullard, 1985
Mr Alastair Burleigh, 1987
Dr Nigel Burr
Mr David Burton, 1975
Mr Geoffrey Bush, 1962

Mr Donald Cameron, 1965
Miss Colna Campbell-Mitchell, 1963
Mr David Cartwright, 1978
Mr Paul Castle, 1981
Dr Jeremy Cates, 1958
Lord Charles Ceci, 1967
Mr Matthew Chandler, 2003
Mrs Joanna Chapple, 1988
Mr Roger Cherry, 1955
Miss Rhiannon Chilcott, 1989
Dr Michael Chiu
Ms Renee Chiu
Dr Mabn Crawford, 1987
Professor Ian Chubb, 1971
Mr Rupert Chowns Viller, 1970
Mr John Ciorciari, 2000
Dr Anna Clark,
Mrs Kate Clarke, 1984
Mr Bertie Clayton, 1978
Mr Jonathan Cohen, 1987

Mr Charles Collier-Wright, 1970
Dr Tim Connery, 1964
Mr Simon Cornelius, 1979
Dr Philip Cowdall, 1991
Dr Ralph Cox, 1987
Professor Stephanie Cragg
Dr Patrick Craig-McReeley, 1976
Mrs Kirsly Crawford, 1990
Mr David Crawley, 1969
Mr Mark Crean, 1973
Miss Padma Croyer, 2006
Mr John Craft, 1941
Professor Jonathan Cross,
Mrs Vicky Cunningham Pitcher, 1987

Mr Eric Dale, 1971
Dr Peter Daniel, 1964
Miss Vicky Dale, 2000
Professor Lawrence Davies, 1960
Mr Anthony De Groot, 1953
Mr Andre Dibronic Parola, 2019
Miss Caroline Doggart
Miss Helen Done, 1982
Dr Daniel Dowle, 1966
Mr Rod Dowler, 1962
Miss Sara Draper, 1989

Miss Katie Drummond, 1994
The Rev Douglas Dupree, 1980

Mr Mark Eastham, 1969
Mr Ray Ettel-Porley, 1981
Ms Lucy Elizen, 1993
Miss Pauline English
General Andrew Evans, 1951

Mr Fred Fearn, 1975
Mr Zachary Fertam, 2020
Mr Ted Few, 1958
Mr Michael Firth, 1977
Canon Professor Sarah Foot
Miss Martha Ford
Miss Sarah Fournon, 2000
Miss Madeline Francis, 2016
Mr Robert Ford, 1963

Mr Barney Gardener, 1962
Mr Ian Gibson, 1969
Mr Mitchell Ginn, 1960
Mr Neil Glenn, 1987
Mr Louis Gray, 2012
Dr Andrew Green, 1983
Mr Hugh Greger, 1955
Mr Simon Gregory, 1978
Mr David Gregory, 1973
Mr Nicholas Grimes, 1987

Mr Graham Gris, 1963
Mr Matt Gromada, 2003
The Rev Geoffreay Hahneman, 1984
Mrs Caroline Hamilton, 1998
Mr Robert Hanbury, 1959
Mr Nick Hanbury-Williams, 1975
Mrs Fabiha Haq
Mr Andy Harrison, 1981
Mr Marc Harvey, 1967
The Revd Claire Haymons
Miss Vera He, 2018
Mr Paul Hill, 1967
Professor Richard Horrocks, 1965
Mr John Howes, 1957

Mr Peter Hoy, 1957
Mr Tom Jewson, 2021
Ms Kate Jillings, 1998
Mr Lawrence Joffe, 1981
Professor Geraldine Johnson
Ms Jennifer Jones, 1998
Mr Robert Jones, 1975
Mr Trishman Jones-Parny, 1975
Mr Steven Joseph, 1975
Ms Laura Justins-Dean

Brigadier Antony Karakei, 1951
Mr W J Torrance Kirby, 1979
Professor Pip Kirby, 1946
Dr Ian Kirbide, 1971
Professor Robert Kisten, 1990
Dr Robert Kujawa, 2005

Mr Michael Latham, 1956
Mr Paul Latham, 1982
Mr Joe Lau, 1998
The Revd Jeremy Law, 1990
Miss Camille Leadbeater, 2019
Ms Katherine Leigh
Mr Brian Leigh-Bramwell, 1970
Mr Brian Levy, 1958
The Very Revd Christopher Lewis, Honorary Student
Professor James Lindeas, 1976
Ms Pauline Limeres-Hartley
Mr Jeffrey Loke, 2007
Mr Jerry Losey (deceased)
Mr Martin Lueck, 1980
Dr Graz Luzi, 1978

Mr David Marlow
Mr Stephen Marham, 1964
Mr David McIntosh, 1964
Dr Tom McLean, 1977
Miss Pat Metcalfe-Jones, 2020
Mrs Rachel Midgley, 2000
Mr Denis Murtagh, 1959

Mr David Nelson, 1953
Mr Chris Newton
Mr Julian Norden, 1964
Miss Catlin O’Sullivan, 2019

Mr Shi lou Parando, 2017
Ms Ann Parkin
Dr Andrew Polatker, 1969
Canon John Polon
Mr Martin Pearson, 1967
Mr Mike Pierce, 1990
Professor Chris Peling
Mr Richard Philips, 1974
Dr Colin Pines, 1982
Mr Ian Pienolrel, 1967
Mr Jeremy Piesew, 1958
Mr Barnaby Powell, 1962
Mr Peter Prideaux-Brun, 1963

Mr Hugh Puanesh, 1972
Mr James Rahilly, 2021
Mr Haydn Rawshon, 1958
Mr Julian Reddignough, 1951
Mr John Relf, 1981
Mr Bill Rendall, 1970
Mrs Helen Richardson
Dr Pat Ridley, 1967
Ms Rebecca Ridley
Ms Philippa Roberts
Professor John Robertson
Mr Patrick Robinson, 1970
Miss Jenno Rook, 2021
Mr Peter Roedey, 1966
Mr Ian Ross, 1949
Dr Simon Rohaan, 1966
Dr Elizabeth Russell, 2000
Ms Michelle Russo

Mr Simon Sargent, 1971
Miss Katherine Sayer, 2016
Mr Leonard Scherf, 2021
Ms Michelle Selvan, 2020
Miss Amelia Seymour, 2019
Mr Bogu Shad, 1992
His Honour Judge Roger Shawcross, 1939

Mr Jonathan Sims, 1973
Dr Sandys Swad, 1997
Professor Nicola Smart
Mr Alan Smith, 1956
Mr Ken Smith
Dr Avi Spier, 1991
Dr Alice Staveley, 1992
Mr Ian Steer, 1972
Mr John Steers, 1984
Mr Jack Steinmeier, 1971
Mrs Sarah Stephenson, 1986
Mr Stephen Stewart
Mr Anthony Stiglie, 1954
Mr William Stiglie, 1948
Mr Nick Staker, 1979
The Revd Richard Sturch, 1954
Ms Nicola Suet

Mr Nicholas Talbot Rice, 1963
Mr Nigel Talbot Rice, 1958
Mr David Tash, 1981
Mr Muhammad Yusif Talayta
Mr Giles Taylor, 1990
Miss Verity Thomas, 2021
Mr David Thompson, 1969
Mr Tom Thompson, 1963
Revd Timothy Thornton, 1904
Mr Mark Todd, 1960
Mr Rodrigo Tozli-Beare, 2012
Dr Georgina Train
The Revd Christopher Turner
Mr Charles Tyler, 1981
Mr Simon Tytherly, 1977

Mr Dipexl Vanhe, 1958
Mr Peter Vcerpt, 1962
Mr Peter Vaverk, 1958
Mr Julian Walker, 1972
Mrs Becky Walsh, 1992
Mr Cianal Walsh, 2014
The Revd Canin Graham Ward
Mr James Ward, 2020
Mr Patrick Ward
Miss Teresa Watkins, 1993
Mr Chris Watt, 1990
Mr Richard Weben, 1959
Dr Kathryn Welsh
Dr Patrick Wheeler, 1962
Mr Robin Whicker, 1957
Mr Edward Wickies, 1973
Dr Adam Widdison, 1978
Mr George Wilkinson, 1972
Sir Graham Wilkinson, 1966
Mr Rodenck Williams, 1947
Mr Brian Wilson, 1950
Mr Malcolm Wilson, 1969
Ms Jemma Wilhers, 2000
Ms Pia Wann, 1994
Mr Jehan-Philippe Wood, 1992
Ms Janice Woodcock Razyczki

With thanks to those who gave to the College Choir’s Carols by Candlelight, Students’ Giving Day Formal, Judith Valerie Engel’s Piano Recital, Staff and Student Bake Sale, and to 75 anonymous donors. If you would like your name to be included in the next edition of Development Matters, please email developmentoffice@chic.ox.ac.uk.
LEAVERS & RETURNERS

The 2022 Leavers’ gift totalled £3,463.04 donated by 224 leavers. We are also delighted to announce that, thanks to the generosity of our recent leavers, Christ Church won the University’s Crankstart Young Alumni Challenge, meaning that their gift will go even further. We look forward to welcoming the 2022 Leavers back in March for their Returners’ Dinner, now an annual event.

BOAT CLUB

The Christ Church Boat Club has had a brilliant year and, after bumping up from 4th and 5th, for the first time in the club’s history, both flagships now sit at 2nd on the river. The Boat Club also received £863,830, including a new Empacher eight named Dr Henry Hammerbeck “Hammers,” donated by friends and family of Henry, and the ‘Mike Roswell,’ a second-hand Empacher eight named after the former Boat Club coach who recently died, donated by the 1985 Headship crew who were coached by Mike. The donations were also received for the Boat Club’s endowment, ensuring that future students will continue to enjoy a part of House which means so much to so many.

We were also deeply saddened to learn of the death of John Wade, Boatman for over 12 years, and his obituary, written by Jon Carley (1980, History), can be found in the previous edition of Christ Church Matters.

CHRISTOPHER AINSLEY

We are delighted to announce that a new Graduate Scholarship has been endowed in memory of Christopher Ainsley (1976, Geography).

The Scholarship, in Geography and the Environment, has been made possible thanks to the generosity of Christopher’s friends. Their donations have also unlocked match funding from the University through its Graduate Endowment Matching Scheme (GEMS). The Scholarship will cover both fees and living costs.

The first Oxford–Christopher Ainsley Graduate scholar will start at Christ Church in October 2023. We are extremely grateful to Christopher’s friends, including his contemporaries Martin Alderson-Smith (1976, Geography) and Giles Frampton (1976, PPE), for creating an amazing opportunity for future students of Geography, through which Christopher’s name will live on at the House.

Christopher was also remembered by friends and family at Christ Church in March 2022, with the installation of the Christopher Ainsley Memorial Bench and the copse of trees planted by the Jubilee Bridge on Christ Church Meadow.
COMPUTER SCIENCE

It’s now over five years since Computer Science was introduced to Christ Church and how the subject has grown! From Sir Tim Berners-Lee’s visit in 2017 to Michaelmas 2022, our Computer Science community here at Christ Church has more than doubled. Thank you to everyone who gave to Computer Science to get it off the ground, and to all those who supported the subject in 2021-22. For a fifth consecutive year, the University of Oxford has been ranked first in the world for Computer Science in the Times Higher Education 2022 World Rankings, and the course continues to be one of the most oversubscribed in terms of undergraduate applications. At Christ Church we have ambitious plans to continue to grow the subject in terms of academics, undergraduate, and graduate students.

LEGACIES

The 1546 Society recognises Old Members and Friends of Christ Church who have made bequests to the House, and now has over 200 members, spanning most matriculation years from 1937 to 2014. The Society looks back to the beginning of the Joint Foundation and forward in perpetuity. A legacy indicates a wish to protect, for ever, what one values most. We are grateful to all those who remember the House in their wills. It was, as ever, a pleasure to see many of you at the annual 1546 lunch in September, and we welcome new members to the Society. For details please email laura.jostins-dean@chch.ox.ac.uk

AMERICAN FRIENDS

The flagship of American Friends’ support continues to be the scholarship, providing vital funds for graduate students from the US to study at the House. Over £990,000 was donated by American Friends of Christ Church towards Bursaries, Scholarships, and Awards from 2021/22, and eight students this year have been able to take advantage of this generosity through the American Friends Scholarship, giving them a transformative experience in Oxford. The American Friends have already endowed one scholarship in perpetuity; our aim is to complete a second.

TEDDY BURN

On Saturday 12 November, we held a Law Lunch at the House to celebrate what would have been Edward Burn’s 100th Birthday. It was a wonderful event and the Law Fellows, Professors Edwin Simpson and Ciara Kennefick, and Emeritus Professor John Cartwright, were delighted to see so many of our Law community there. The lunch in Hall seemed a fitting tribute to mark Teddy’s time at Christ Church, where he was Official Student and Tutor in Law from 1955 until his retirement in 1990. It was a joy
to hear many wonderful stories of Teddy throughout the event and to have the chance to raise a glass together in his honour. We continue to seek support to grow the Law Endowment Fund in his name. Thank you to all those who contributed to this fund in 2021-22.

To contribute or for more information please contact laura.jostins-dean@chch.ox.ac.uk

HEBREW CATALOGUING PROJECT

Thanks to the generosity of alumni, and grants from trusts and foundations, the Hebraica antiquarian cataloguing project at Christ Church was successfully completed this term, and has helped the College Library to identify the strengths of the collection. During the project we have catalogued all, and digitised some, important early printed Hebrew books, as well as catalogued and digitised all College’s Hebrew manuscripts. These are now available online for free via Digital Bodleian. The increasing number of enquiries and hits on the web have proven how valuable cataloguing and digitisation are for Jewish studies research.

In October 2022 we held the international conference 500 Years of Hebrew Teaching, Hebrew Studies and Hebraica Collecting at Christ Church (see pp. 6-7). The Hebrew conference coincided with the exhibition that is currently open in the Upper Library until 24 February 2023. The exhibition Quenching Curiosity: Unusual Hebrew Books at Christ Church is accompanied by a volume to celebrate five centuries of Hebrew books in the library of Christ Church, home of the Regius Professorship of Hebrew founded by Henry VIII in 1546.
Your continuing support today ensures the best possible experience at Christ Church for our students tomorrow.

Our regular giving society, TOM, plays an important part in allowing donors to support the House in the way which most reflects their own interests. Gifts to Open Doors, Open Minds, Open Books, and Open Choice mean that you can choose where you would like your money to go, whilst giving Christ Church the security of regular income. Dependable donations from TOM members help the College to plan for the future and make commitments to longer-term projects.

TOM donations between 2021/22 totalled £299,126.70 from 572 donors.

- 111 students received subsidies worth up to 50% of the cost of college accommodation and food.
- 173 academic grants were allocated for students to purchase course-related books, e-books, apps, or software which are essential to their work.
- To give students the best possible start to their career after Christ Church, 13 Summer Bursaries were provided to low- or medium-income students undertaking an internship, lab placement, or academic course.
- 92 travel grants were awarded, facilitating international, archival, and hands-on research for our students.
- Applications to Christ Church from state school pupils in Barnet nearly tripled following sustained support from the College.
- 35 Target Oxbridge students received offers from Oxford in January 2021. All 35 met their offers and 34 accepted.

Through schemes such as Christ Church Horizons (based in Barnet), Aim for Oxford (NE England), and Target Oxbridge, regular donations help to improve access to university for all young people. Our goal is to identify excellence and potential among groups who are under-represented at Oxford. Sustained efforts of outreach activities are producing tangible results:

“Christ Church has been working in a sustained way in Barnet since 2018. In the 2021 UCAS cycle, 22 students from Barnet state schools applied to Christ Church. We are delighted that four of these applicants gained offers at Christ Church, including a Christ Church Horizons participant. Of the 22 Christ Church applicants from Barnet state schools, a further three received offers from other colleges (were ‘exported’). In total, 47 state school students from Barnet received offers from Oxford.”

– Ana Hastoy, Admissions and Access Manager on the success of Christ Church Horizons

Results from Aim for Oxford are equally impressive: 21 participants applied to Oxford, six of whom chose Christ Church. Of the 21 applicants, 11 were shortlisted and seven gained Oxford offers. In total, 52 students from state schools in the North East gained Oxford offers in the 2021 UCAS cycle.

“Widening participation in Higher Education is one of the College’s key missions. Without the support of our alumni, friends, and families we simply would not be able to deliver the breadth and scope of access and outreach programs that we currently offer to students from across the country. Thank you for your support.”

– Dr Ben Fernando, Access Fellow and Postdoctoral Fellow in Astrophysics

Join TOM now at www.tomsoc.org

© A Horizons graduate is presented with a certificate by Professor Jenny Yee, Fellow (Official Student) and Tutor in French.
Donors to the House

August 2021 – July 2022

We are grateful to all donors who have given to the House during the last financial year, which covers the period 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022. Your gifts help make a difference. We are pleased to honour all of you in this annual Roll.

Please note that ‘10 years consecutive giving’ refers to the 10 years immediately preceding the current financial year, and there has to be at least 1 gift in each of the 10 years.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this list, please accept our apologies if any error has occurred. Please notify the Development Office so that we can amend our records.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Donors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1952 | Mr Martin Davies †  
Mr Nicolas Tate †  
Mr Henry White-Smith |
| 1953 | Mr Ian Cairns  
Mr Anthony de Groot  
Mr Greville Havenhand  
Mr David Nelson  
Mr Derek Pappin †  
Mr Michael Perceval |
| 1954 | Dr David Alexander †  
Mr Gerald Jenkins  
Professor Peter Parsons †  
Mr Alec Shepperson  
Mr Hugh Stanley  
The Revd Dr Richard Sturch  
The John Wing |
| 1955 | The Revd Gerry Angel  
Mr Hugh Gregor  
Dr Nicholas Grey  
The Revd Bill Norgren  
The Hon Mr Tony Quainton  
Dr Dermot Roaf  
Mr Brian Robinson († anonymous donor) |
| 1956 | Mr Edward Album  
Mr Michael Barlow  
Mr Parvez Engineer  
Dr David Handscomb  
Mr David Hawgood  
Mr Garth Haythornthwaite  
Mr Michael Hill  
Mr Michael Latham  
The Hon. Tarquin Olivier  
Mr Bill Ruthbone  
His Honour Judge David Webster († anonymous donor) |
| 1957 | Mr Robin Birch  
Sir Michael Buckley  
Mr John Foad  
Mr Hugh Grainger |
| 1958 | Mr Richard Grey  
Mr John Mitchell  
Professor Peter Mudford  
Mr John Overstall  
Mr Peter Paine  
Mr Hector Pilkington  
His Honour David Pitman  
Mr Tom Rees  
Mr Robin Whicker (2 anonymous donors) |
| 1959 | Mr John Barlow  
Mr Julian Hale  
Mr Robert Hanbury  
Mr Jeremy Hill  
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<th>Year</th>
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<td>Mr David Ballance, Professor George Carras, Dr Simon Corcoran, Professor Michael Dobson, Mr Charles Ewald, Mr Benedict Foster, Dr Roger Jakeman, Professor Torrance Kirby, Dr Alastair Norcross, The Right Revd Bishop Humphrey Southern, Mr Hugh Stokes, Mr Nicholas Wilks, Mr Tim Wise (1 anonymous donor)</td>
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<td>1980</td>
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<td>1981</td>
<td>Mr Peter Buchanan, Mr Paul Castle, Mr Michael Cutbill, Mr Dan Gardner, Mr Jonathan Gollins, Mr Richard Gough, Mr David Jayner, The Right Hon. The Earl of Kinnoull, Mr Matthew Le Merle, Mr Richard Moat, Mr Tony Puri, Mr John Reilly, Mr Marcus Scriven, Mr Neil Sherlock, Dr Ian Turner, Mr Charles Tyler, Mr Mark Williams</td>
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<td>1982</td>
<td>Mrs Ruth Barker, Mr Simon Bennett, Mr Simon Bonsor, The Hon. Mrs Ariadne Calvo-Platero, Miss Helen Dorey, Mr Ted Johnson, Dr Don Leatherwood, Professor Andrew Martin, Dr Kevin Matthews, Mr Matthew Maxwell, Mr William Pattisson, Mr Lynton Richmond</td>
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<td>Mr Tim Adams, Mrs Charmaine Damley-Jones, Ms Claudia Daventry, Mr Chris Forman, Mr David Gentle, Dr Andrew Green, Mr Julian Hardwick, Mr Stephen Jones, Dr Wayahat Mehal, Mr Luke Meynell, Professor Bill Philpott, Professor James Spicer, Mr Oliver Todd (1 anonymous donor)</td>
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<td>Mr Simon Allison, Mrs Claire Clackson, Mrs Katherine Clarke, Mr Richard Clarke, Mr Ralph Cox, Dr Anthony Cruikshank, Miss Pollyanna Deane, Mr Charles Eastwood, Dr sos Eltz, Mrs Katie Ernest, Mrs Fiona Foster, The Hon. John Gardner, Miss Gillian Hague, Mr Ted Harris, Mrs Lucy Haskins, Mrs Rebecca Johnson Bista, Professor Seamus Ross, Mr Michael Smith, Mr John Steers, Mr Mark Turnage, Mrs Carolyn Watkins (1 anonymous donor)</td>
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<td>Professor Jo Braithwaite, Dr Jonathan Carr-West, Mrs Anna Maria Clarke, Mr Alex Davies, Dr Jonathan Diprose, Mr Oliver Griffiths, Mr Alex Hawley, Mr John Heesom, Dr Anna Jelles, Mr Henrik Kraft, Mr Ivan Levene, Mr Jon Ma, Mr Antony Moss, Dr Alex Roberts, Dr Alice Staveley, Mrs Becky Walsh (2 anonymous donors)</td>
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| 1994 | Mr Indy Bhattacharyya  
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We write with great sadness to let you know that, following a long illness, Simon Offen, Deputy Development Director died on 3 February 2023.

Simon joined the Development Office in January 2009 to work under Marek Kwiatkowski with initial responsibility for alumni relations. His experience in the hospitality industry rapidly proved invaluable, as did his deep commitment to the House, of which he was himself an Old Member. He relished the chance to connect with alumni, and created a role that greatly increased contact between alumni and the House, to the benefit of both. He was subsequently appointed Deputy Director of the Development Office, and the continuity and commitment he put into that role over many years was a major source of strength to the House.

Simon was educated at St Edward’s School in Oxford, and read History at Selwyn College, Cambridge, afterwards coming to the House to study for a PGCE, and going on to teach at Bryanston, where he became head of History. However his real passion had always been food, wine and entertainment. After Cambridge he worked briefly as a chef de partie at the Manoir aux Quat’ Saisons, and attended a variety of food and wine courses. By 1993 he was resolved to make the jump and founded Stroff’s Speciality Sausages in Oxford’s Covered Market, before finding his real niche in hospitality as General Services Manager of Vincents, and was himself a double hockey Blue. His work for the Boat Club was tremendous, raising funds for the endowment of the club, for boats, training, and the boathouse itself.

Simon was also an astute fund-raiser in his own right. His main interest in this connection was sport. He was a keen supporter of Vincents, and was himself a double hockey Blue. His work for the Boat Club was tremendous, raising funds for the endowment of the club, for boats, training, and the boathouse itself.

Simon’s death is a great loss to the Development Office, as well, of course, to his family and his many friends. Simon was married to Kathryn, who died in 2017. Kathryn brought them two children from her first marriage, Charlotte and Edward, with whom Simon was very close. She too was a keen cook, and their relationship was warm and happy, and inevitably filled with food and fun.

Ever the fundraiser, Simon requested that any donations given in his honour should be directed towards the support of graduate scholarships in History and was deeply touched by the gifts that were received before his death.

Old Members will remember Simon with huge fondness. He was very sociable, with a genuine delight in meeting and helping alumni. Nothing was too much trouble. The number and quality of events he organised put the House’s approach to alumni hospitality on a new level. He was the chief architect of a range of special events, additional gaudies, and visits and excursions for Old Members. The excellent quality of all these events was much appreciated. In conjunction with the North American Friends (and the indefatigable Peter Paine), Simon also managed all events and arrangements in the US and Canada, and put on similar events in various parts of Europe.
Forthcoming events in 2023

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

11 March: Family Programme Dinner
12-19 March: Visit to California
18 March: Returners’ Dinner in Hall
24 March: Chemistry Dinner
25 March: 1963, 73, 83, 93, 2003 Reunion Dinner in Hall
26 March: The Boat Races
27 May: TOM event & Boat Club Drinks/BBQ
27 May: Christ Church Boat Club Society Dinner
10-11 June: Visit to Brussels
23 June: Gaudy 1990-1993
29 June: Rhodes Scholars Reunion
9 September: Board of Benefactors Gaudy
23 September: Association weekend event
24 September: 1546 Lunch
29 September: Gaudy 1994-97

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