FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN 2020

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

FEBRUARY
4 February – TGIF LONDON DRINKS
7 February – YOUNG ALUMNI HIGH TABLE – Christ Church
18 & 26 February – 1966-70 GAUDY LUNCHES IN HALL – Christ Church
6-29 February – TORPIDS – Christ Church
29 February – DINNER IN HALL FOR RECENT LEAVERS – Christ Church

MARCH
3 March – WOMEN'S CAREERS EVENING – Christ Church
14 March – FAMILY PROGRAMME DINNER – Christ Church
20 March – CHEMISTS’ DINNER (SINCE 2003) – Christ Church
19-22 March – UNIVERSITY EUROPEAN WEEKEND – Berlin
29 March – THE BOAT RACES – London

APRIL
3 April – 1960,70,80 REUNION DINNER IN HALL – Christ Church
14-19 April – NEW YORK CITY TRIP
18 April – ANGLER’S CLUB DINNER – New York City
17-18 April – UNIVERSITY NORTH AMERICAN WEEKEND IN NYC

MAY
2 May – YOUNG ALUMNI HIGH TABLE – Christ Church
8-10 May – BRISTOL, HEREFORD & HERGEST EVENTS
17-24 May – CHOIR IN SWEDEN
27-30 May – SUMMER EIGHTS
30 May – TOM EVENT & BOAT CLUB DRINKS/BBQ – Christ Church
30 May – CHCHBCSOC DINNER – Christ Church

JUNE
20 June – COMMEMORATION BALL – Christ Church
26 June – GAUDY 1971-75 – Christ Church

SEPTEMBER
13 September – 1546 LUNCH – Christ Church
11-13 September – OXFORD ALUMNI WEEKEND
18-20 September – WOMEN’S 40th ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

OCTOBER
2 October – GAUDY 1976-80 – Christ Church
10 October – BOAT CLUB SOCIETY FAMILY DAY – Christ Church
12-19 October – USA TRIP
17-18 October – HEAD OF THE CHARLES – Boston MA
One unceasing and extraordinary aspect of the House is the range of events that take place within a single 24-hour period. The first day of term began just as it does all over Oxford – a flurry of activity as new and returning students scurried to tutorials. Some, trying to find a staircase or a study for the first time, and looking somewhat bemused. Others walked about purposefully and with an ease that familiarity brings.

However, our first day of term this year saw Tom Quad sealed off, and the Cathedral packed with at least 500 police. The Home Secretary was there too, along with several Chief Constables from around the country. The occasion was the poignant funeral of PC Andrew Harper, a young constable in the Thames Valley Police force killed in the line of duty. That day, the Cathedral was the focal point for a funeral with national significance, and the streets of Oxford also fell silent in tribute.

Less than 24 hours later, the Cathedral hosted the annual Court Sermon, and new undergraduates found themselves walking past dozens of judges as they processed through Tom Quad. Also processing were those who had been at the annual Glove Ceremony which had taken place in the Deanery only an hour before, with the Vice-Chancellor, High Sheriff, Lord Mayor, Lord Lieutenant and other dignitaries attending.

In our time – an Age of Anxiety if ever there was – the House with its rich and wide range of work highlights the importance of space for a whole variety of competing and complementary interests. In bringing together the many different threads of our social, cultural and intellectual fabric, the House stands out as a hospitable exemplar. This is a place and space that draws the disparate and diverse together, and, as the House, continues with its distinctive vocation for the future.

We are here for the many, not just the few. To be sure, we are a House that seeks to form the minds and character of its members with each new generation of students. But we are also a House that stands as a capacious place of welcome and convening that brings together all those threads that make up our wider social tapestry.

It is to this vocation that we are committed. In the pages that follow, I hope you will savour some of our many threads that give the House its deep colour and rich complexity. It is such depth and richness that continues to draw many here to study, worship – or just visit – and to find in the House, something of a home.

The Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church

PC Harper’s funeral service in the Cathedral.
Bookbinders often used waste material from broken, old or discarded books to make new ones. Sometimes scraps were used to line the spines or underneath the pastedown pages at either end of a hard-backed book; on other occasions, parchment documents could be turned into covers. Many medieval manuscripts survive only as waste material reused in a subsequent bookbinding. Recycling is not new!

The archive is full of examples of interesting binders’ waste. A number of the bailiffs’ books which record the rent collected from tenants around the country have manuscript covers, one being wrapped in a property deed signed by Cardinal Thomas Wolsey. Others have bindings made from scraps of medieval music books. It’s easy to get excited by beautiful, if discarded and dirty, medieval pages whereas, at first glance, printed binding waste looks dull and boring. But this isn’t always the case.

Two decades ago, at the back of a shelf in the old archive in the corner of Blue Boar Quad, a small wooden box, covered in dark leather which contained the deeds of Bishop Gardiner’s bequest to the City of Hereford was uncovered. Richard Gardiner was a grammar school boy from Hereford who came up to Christ Church in 1607. Somehow he caught the attention of King James I and was soon climbing the clerical ladder; he was made a canon of Christ Church in 1629. He laid low in the countryside during the Commonwealth before returning to his lodgings near the Old Library in 1660. He lived there for ten years until a disastrous fire razed his house to the ground. Killcanon was built for him and he, in turn, paid for the digging of the pond in the centre of Tom Quad to act as a reservoir in case of future conflagrations. But Gardiner was not just generous to his college; the city Fathers of Hereford were given an annual grant of £6 to assist local tradesmen with the purchase of stock. Christ Church’s copies of the deeds were evidently placed within the small box which was carefully labelled. The box was lined with printed waste, just ephemeral leaflets which would normally have been distributed cheaply to amuse or inform the public of national news or scandalous gossip - yesterday’s chip-paper.

In modern times, however, wrapping valuable documents in newspaper, however old, is considered poor practice and it was decided to have the pages of the leaflets lifted from the box. There was enough of each pamphlet to make identification possible and it turned out that there were three different titles: The Speech of the Queene of Sluts at her execution at Tyburn on Wednesday February 25, 1662, published in London in 1663, of which only two other copies are recorded; The character of a cruel big-chested broker which appears to be the only survivor; and a page or so of Pond’s Almanack of 1659 which exists in only one other copy. Yesterday’s chip-paper suddenly looked much more exciting!

Much more commonplace, in quantity at least, are pages from the 1620 edition of Morgan’s Welsh Bible which were used...
in the binding of one of the auditor’s books. It seems rather shocking that pages from a Bible should be cut up for such a prosaic purpose but it is more than likely that it was a printing that had gone wrong in some way. William Morgan, Bishop of Llandaff, completed the translation of the whole Bible into his native language in 1587 and it was published in 1588. It was tremendously important, not just for the cause of Reformation in Wales but also as a means to record and save the Welsh language, and has tremendous linguistic and literary importance. After Morgan’s death, work was done by the bishop of St Asaph, Richard Parry, and Dr John Davies, a Welsh scholar from Jesus College, to polish the language bringing it more into line with the King James version in England. The 1620 edition became the standard used in Welsh churches from that date to the present.

The documents in the archive are not usually studied for their structure; the contents are what are important for the protection of Christ Church’s history – its corporate memory as well as vital for its modern administration. But these few fragments have inspired a new search to discover what other intriguing and exciting documents can be found not so much inside the covers but as the covers themselves.

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

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Academic and Research News

Dr Brianna Heazlewood was invited to contribute to the inaugural “Young Scientists” virtual special issue of the Journal of Physical Chemistry, recognising young scientists “important to the future of physical chemistry”. Her paper was also featured on the front cover of the Journal of Physical Chemistry A.

Dr Cyril Holm has taken up the positon as Stockholm Oxford Fellow 2019/20. Cyril’s primary field of interest is legal philosophy. He also holds degrees in history of science and ideas, as well as business and economics. He engages with law and economics, and with the intellectual history of law. Cyril started his career in tech and architecture and is involved in several research projects in legal informatics with the “Live-In Lab” at The Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. He teaches jurisprudence, legal history, law and economics, normative ethics and research ethics.

Professor Jason Davis’ research team have recently developed nanoparticles that promote MRI image contrast and respond reversibly to local acidity (Chemical Communications, 2019, 55, 8540-8543). They have also recently developed magnetic nanoparticles that can pull down circulating “exosomes” from the blood of patients in order to enable the identification of Parkinsons Disease. The spin out company, Osler Diagnostics (named after a member of the House) continues to expand rapidly in Oxford.

The Sub Dean of Christ Church, Canon Dr Edmund Newey, has been appointed of Rector of St Andrew’s, Rugby in the Diocese of Coventry. The timing of the move is not yet confirmed, but it is likely that Edmund and his family will be leaving Christ Church at some point in April.

Edmund said: “It has been a privilege to lead, work and worship with such a dedicated group of colleagues and volunteers. I have learned a great deal from Christ Church over the past six and a half years and will miss everyone greatly. Equally I relish returning to the frontline of parish ministry in serving the gospel with the people of St Andrew’s, Rugby.”

Professor Brian Parkinson, Tutor in Experimental Psychology at Christ Church, has recently published a monograph with Cambridge University Press on the power and role of emotion in social interactions.

This book is the latest title in the Cambridge Studies in Emotion and Social Interaction series, of which Brian is the Series Editor. The series draws together innovative research on emotion and its impact on self and interpersonal communication.

Heart to Heart: How your Emotions Affect Other People is a pioneering work of social psychology, emerging from Professor Parkinson’s extensive career in critiquing cognitive theories of emotion and developing more socially oriented models. It marks a consolidation and integration of his whole approach. The book draws on experimental and observational research, interviews and anecdotal examples to explore emotion regulation and development, the establishment of the aesthetics of emotion, and consequently how these factors calibrate social interactions. Brian’s research considers an ambitious range of social subtleties, examining individual, interpersonal, group and organisational dynamics.

Alan Fridlund of the University of California, praised how ‘Parkinson brings reason to emotion in a tour de force of patient and deeply analytical scholarship’. The book offers a compelling, interactive and dynamic overview of timely developments in the field, that engages with the most pressing theoretical debates.

Revd. Canon Prof. Keith Ward, FBA published ‘Religion in the Modern World’ (CUP) this year, an exploration of how religions have adapted (or not) to advances in scientific knowledge and changes in moral thinking, and a defence of diversity in religion.

He continues as Professor of the Philosophy of Religion at Roehampton University.

Dr Patricia Lockwood has received the Early Career Award from the Society for Social Neuroscience for her research into the ‘Neurocomputational Basis of Selfishness and Prosociality’. Patricia’s work asks the question of just how willing humans are to help each other, and discusses some of the neurocomputational mechanisms that underpin selfishness and prosociality.

COLLEGE NEWS
This year I was commissioned by poet Dr Sarah Jackson to contribute to the ‘Dial-a-Poem’ mobile app, a revival of John Giorno’s avant-garde system in 1960s New York. Beyond the virtual, a modified K8 phone box in Nottingham will speak poetry to the public, as part of the ‘Literature and Telephony’ project, supported by the AHRC and Nottingham Trent University.

Christ Church, alive with bells and with Virginia creeper changing from green to merlot, had to be the setting. As a fresher in 1991, I would rush downstairs from Meadows 2:11, across the quad, then up another Meadows staircase, to ring my family, four thousand miles away and on Atlantic Standard Time. A box on the wall of the landing was the closest way to communicate. We code-switched between Spanish and English, pretending that kept our conversations private.

At night, when Great Tom rings 101 times, listeners are translated into three zones: reverberation; ‘Oxford Time’, five minutes and two seconds behind GMT; and involuted centuries of students hurrying back before the gates are locked. Tuning in to memory, I wove a sestina of home, the ocean, the seasons, and the House. The title? ‘Full-circle Bells’.

The poem, and more about Literature and Telephony, can be heard via BBC Radio 3 – Free Thinking.

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**The Venerable Martin Gorick appointed Bishop of Dudley**

The Dean of Christ Church has expressed his congratulations to the Archdeacon of Oxford, the Ven. Martin Gorick, who is to become the next Bishop of Dudley in January 2020. The Dean said: ‘We will miss Martin enormously, but I’m delighted that his gifts and skills will be taken up in the Diocese of Worcester, where he will minister as the next Bishop of Dudley’.

‘Martin joined us in 2013, and as Archdeacon of Oxford has made an enormous contribution to the life of the city and its deaneries, and of course to us here at Christ Church, where he has served as a member of the Cathedral Chapter and on the Governing Body of our College. His work in interfaith, sector chaplaincies and new communities has been significant, and our prayers go with him, his wife and their children Sam, Lydia and Anna as he begins his ministry as a bishop and they move to the Midlands.’

**Dr Vahni Capildeo: Dial-A-Poem And Full-Circle Bells**

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**Full-Circle Bells**

Mama, I’m swimming down three flights of stairs in green light. You can’t hear me yet. The tree I’m walking past has put on ocean airs. Up two more flights, I can’t hear for the bells cathedralling connexion: visible to invisible world, embrace! The box sits blackly on the landing wall. Ayyy, box, you’re too high up! A gecko on the stairs, my body stretches, flattens, visible to students who ‘go home’, not ‘phone home’. Tree doesn’t sound submarine to them; no bells, no whistles, hum and buzz, press on their airs.

No bloody privacy. So, put on airs they can’t translate. Hola, digame, box, can I get home on this line? Riding bells, the idea of earthquakes shatters up the stairs. Whales dive, chew through cable. Windstruck, a tree snaps wires. Numbers make you visible, I dial them, the dirt ain’t visible, but grotty to my fingerpads. Coined airs join bells, hojas rojas singe the frosty tree, I flatten like a gecko to the box for a collect call, Dios, cuántas stairs, AMERICAS-1 SOUTH, submarine cable, bells.

Drink purpling Virginia creeper. Bells are more than bread. Mira what’s visible till it compounds and vanishes; your stairs are an island, full of twangling airs. Sway and speak your heart into a box, your mother’s voice is leafing like a tree while leaves are falling from the ocean tree you must pass on the way to bells that tick five hours apart. A telephone box is a time zone box. You’re a visible time traveller – but give yourself no airs, chiquita, there’re drunk rowers on the stairs.

1990s, Victorian stairs, your voice held in my hand, mine thinned by airs, my dusk your noon, only the timebox visible.
Keta’s Journey

Christ Church Alumna Keta Hansen (1989, Chemistry) was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease in 2014 and passed away in 2019. Her husband, Kevin Street (Engineering, 1989), and their two daughters set out to raise £250k to fight this awful disease.

Kevin writes: “Over the last 4 years, everyone’s incredible generosity helped us raise £150k for the MND Association, to fund research and to support other families living with MND. This amazing fundraising success was a good reason to continue - we are determined to do everything we can to ensure Keta’s courageous and smiling fight against this terrible disease helps others.

Researchers are yet to find the cause of MND, let alone a cure, which is frightening considering it is now believed to hit nearly one in three hundred.”

Kevin, Hebe, and Violet successfully completed their aim to walk ‘Keta’s Journey’, starting in her home town of Hartlepool; passing through Oxford, where they met at University; Battersea, where the girls were born; and finishing at their home in Godalming. Friends and family joined them at various points during the two-week long challenge.

The walk came to Oxford on the 1st August, and Christ Church hosted the team and acted as the starting point for the 2nd August leg of the challenge.

Before their visit to Christ Church Kevin said “Oxford is one of the key milestones on Keta’s Journey and there is nowhere more appropriate to stay than at Christ Church.”

Tunji Adeniyi-Jones (2011) in Forbes 30 Under 30

Adeniyi-Jones was mentioned in the Forbes Art and Style list of 30 Under 30 2020 in recognition of his figurative paintings. Adeniyi-Jones finds inspiration in West African history and mythology and in his own Yoruban heritage. He currently lives and works in America where his works can be seen in the Dallas Museum of Art, and he has had solo shows in New York, London and Los Angeles. Adeniyi-Jones’ current show is in New York until 26 January.
Sir Tim Berners-Lee launches new plan to build a Web for good

Research Student at the House, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, has already made his mark on history by inventing the World Wide Web, and is now focusing on tackling some of the problems associated with cyberspace.

Sir Tim, who is affiliated with both Oxford’s Department of Computer Science and MIT, has announced the launch of a Contract for the Web through his World Wide Web Foundation. The Contract asks businesses, governments and individuals to make binding commitments to maintain the Web’s benefits while mitigating negative impacts like the spread of misinformation, political manipulation, online harassment, and fraud.

In an article in for the New York Times, Sir Tim writes: “The web needs radical intervention from all those who have power over its future: governments that can legislate and regulate; companies that design products; civil society groups and activists who hold the powerful to account; and every single web user who interacts with others online.”

The Foundation’s Contract includes a robust and wide-ranging set of commitments that seek to tackle issues like poor system design (often due to lack of diversity within the technology industry) and confusing privacy settings for Web users.

Alumni Book Club

A new alumni book club has been established for all University of Oxford alumni. It is free to join and open to all alumni, staff and friends.

Find out more and join on the alumni book club website: www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/book-club

The first book is The Cut Out Girl, by Oxford’s Professor Bart van Es. There will be a new book every two months. Each text is selected from a shortlist by the book club members in a vote. The discussions are moderated by a dedicated group leader who will encourage debate and suggest critical points for analysis.

Alumni Golf Victory

The Oxford Alumni golf tournament has been held annually since 1998 at Frilford Heath and by winning in 2019 we became the most successful college across the history of the event.

There is now a new competition between the winners of the Oxford event and the equivalent tournament run by our Light Blue rivals. Thus, in early October, the Christ Church team, sporting as much dark blue as our wardrobes could muster, arrived at Ashridge Gold Club in Hertfordshire to take on the alumni of Downing College, Cambridge.

Mercifully only one duck egg blue blazer had been found and so we were able to consume lunch without undue nausea before venturing out in 4 ball matches over a cracking golf course. The Cambridge men were good company and competent golfers but the steely eyed determination of Oxford, influenced no doubt by the Dean’s motivational email and perhaps prayers, brought a conclusive triumph by 3 matches to 1. As a consequence, the House can now add the Hennessey Cup and the Wharfside Jug to the college silver.

Notwithstanding the result both days were great fun played by golfers of widely varying ability and with a firm emphasis on enjoying ourselves. All CHCH alumni of any age, gender and ability are encouraged to apply to play in the Oxford event in April next year (17 April) and if we are successful then we will have the chance to represent all Oxford once more.

James Philpott (1990, History)
Christ Church’s Gardens were open to members of the public on Saturday, 7 September in order to raise money for the charities supported by the National Garden Scheme.

Young children were given a photo competition and had to find the “Alice’s door” and the “King Charles’s Gate”. Another bonus was the chance to enjoy a game of croquet, which was a first for many, including one young chap who picked up the mallet and found it was bigger than him!

Many people left saying how much they had enjoyed their visit and admired the Gardens which was a real testament to John and the Gardens team who raised £2,240 for NGS.

Singing for Syrians

On November 28 Christ Church Cathedral was lit by candlelight for an evening of festive music as part of the nationwide Singing for Syrians Campaign. The campaign aims to raise money for people affected by the Syrian civil war in partnership with The Hands Up Foundation.

Christ Church’s Dr Saja Al Zoubi spoke about the current situation in Syria: “I spoke to a man who was stuck on the Hungarian border. He was 40 years old. He looked 60 years old. He told me ‘I survived the journey across the Aegean Sea, but I am dying here every day’ Dr Al Zoubi says she is also “afraid about what will happen, to the children, who had no education. I met 14- and 15-year-old children who cannot spell their names! More than 70% of the children in the Bekaa valley in Lebanon don’t attend any educational scheme”.

All donations from the concert went to the campaign Singing for Syrians, to learn more about the campaign please visit: https://singingforsyrians.com/

Tree Donation

Back in 2015, Christ Church was offered a very generous donation by Dr Javed Siddiqi (1984) to plant “a single, beautifully symmetric, tree that the Head Gardener has his eye on, and which will fit into the beauty of his landscaping”, in memory of his late parents.

The decision was made to include the tree in the landscaping of the new visitor centre and that it would be a Pin Oak (Quercus palustris), which is native to the eastern and central United States and known for its fast growth, pollution tolerance and ease of transplanting. The tree tends to have a pyramidal form, attractive leaves that colour well in the autumn and tolerates damp conditions (the specific epithet palustris means “of the swamps”). The tree when mature should reach a height of around 20 metres or more.

The name Pin Oak is possibly due to the many small, slender twigs, but may also be from the historical use of the hard wood for pins in wooden building construction.
Peter Parsons, who was Regius Professor of Greek at Christ Church from 1989 to 2003, has been awarded the Kenyon Medal for Classical Studies by the British Academy. This has been given for a lifetime’s work on Greek literature and especially on papyrology, the study of the fragments of texts and documents preserved on fragile and often tattered papyrus sheets; these have mostly been recovered from the sands of Egypt, where climate favours their preservation for centuries.

The Kenyon Medal is normally awarded every two years. Peter Parsons is the first Student of Christ Church to have been awarded the Medal since E.R. Dodds (another Regius Professor) in 1971. The award will be seen as a worthy recognition of the work of an outstanding and indefatigable scholar, who continues to be active well into retirement (he is now 83). It will also give great pleasure: the international community of classicists immensely values such a consummate papyrologist, such an entertaining conversationalist, such a kind person.

Peter has published a vast number of literary texts and non-literary documents, above all from the Oxyrhynchus collection of which he has been for many years a senior editor. Seminal papers on important new texts include discussions of the archaic Greek poet Stesichorus, the Hellenistic poet Callimachus, and the Roman elegist Cornelius Gallus. Scrupulous accuracy, precise observation and concise but witty comment are characteristic of his work. His 1977 paper on Stesichorus has been described by a younger expert as ‘one of the great works of Greek scholarship; all subsequent work on this papyrus, whether in terms of its text, its interpretation or its wider significance, can be considered mere footnotes to Parsons.’ With Hugh Lloyd-Jones, he published a monumental collection entitled Supplementum Hellenisticum, which is an indispensable tool for the student of post-classical Greek poetry. He is however equally expert in the study of documentary papyri (many of the texts excavated from the sands are documents formal and personal, and touch on dowries, dancers, donkeys...).

From these items, a rich picture of the Greeks in Egypt can be built up; Peter has always been eager to expound this to a wider public as well as publishing for specialists. His masterly and captivating survey City of the Sharp-Nosed Fish (the title alluding to the etymology of the town of Oxyrhynchus) was published to great acclaim in 2007 and is now easily obtainable in paperback. It won several prizes and has been translated into French, Italian and Spanish; a Japanese translation is in preparation.

Christ Church salutes his achievement and applauds the award of the Kenyon Medal to one of our most distinguished Emeriti. Sir Frederick Kenyon, after whom the award is named, was himself a distinguished palaeographer and an expert on both classical and biblical manuscripts. He would have recognised Peter Parsons as a pre-eminent fitting recipient of the Kenyon Medal.

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CATHEDRAL NEWS

The Revd Canon Edmund Newey, Sub Dean, on two examples of how the Cathedral helps to shape lives in the service of God

A Divinity that Shapes
‘There’s a divinity that shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we will’ (Hamlet, V:2)

The core purpose of every church is the same. From tin tabernacles to ancient cathedrals, the point of church buildings and the worship framed within them, is to gather God’s people and to send them out: to gather us from the tasks, duties and distractions of daily life and then to send us out refreshed. What happens in the interval between the gathering and the sending out varies immensely according to the context of time, place and worship style, but always it is an encounter with the mystery of God: shaping the rough-hewn timber of our lives into something more serviceable for the labour of love to which we are called.

At Christ Church Cathedral this shaping takes countless forms. Day in, day out, it’s a constant privilege to see the ways in which this ancient house of prayer changes the people who encounter it. Here are just a couple of examples from the past three months:

Volunteers Garden Party
On a beautiful Sunday afternoon in early September two hundred volunteers enjoyed a festive tea in Cathedral Garden. This Garden Party is held every year to thank the remarkable team, totalling almost five hundred people, who support the Cathedral in different ways. Whether as Cathedral or education guides, day chaplains, embroiderers, flower arrangers, sidesmen and -women, Cathedral Singers, bell-ringers, servers, readers, Sunday refreshments team members, or collection counters, the depth of our volunteers’ love for and commitment to Christ Church is absolutely remarkable. This place has touched their lives so profoundly that they wish nothing more than to enable it to have the same transformative effect on others; and there are few aspects of my role here that are more rewarding than giving long-service badges for ten, twenty-five – and in one recent case, even fifty years! – service to the House. With my colleagues on Chapter I thank them all most warmly for their time and energy.

Frideswide Voices of Christ Church
On Wednesday 18th September we celebrated the historic moment of the adoption of a girls’ choir, Frideswide Voices of Christ Church, as a permanent part of the choral foundation of the College and Cathedral. Frideswide Voices was originally established in 2014 and since then it has sung termly residencies at Christ Church, New College and Magdalen. Now the girls, who are drawn from more than twenty-five different schools across the city and county, will gather in Christ Church twice a week to rehearse and receive tuition in singing and a wider musical education. Under their new Director of Music, Helen Smee, Frideswide Voices will sing Evensong alongside the clerks of the Cathedral Choir each Wednesday during term.

The formal adoption of the girls’ choir means there are now no fewer than four choirs singing throughout the year in the Cathedral. Each has its distinct identity: the Cathedral Singers of Christ Church, our mixed voice voluntary choir which sings around one hundred services a year, chiefly outside term; the College Choir, a regular presence on Monday evenings during the academic year; and of course the Cathedral Choir, founded in 1525 and made up of boy choristers and a mix of Academical and Lay Clerks.

There are few better examples of our Cathedral’s power to gather and send out than our volunteers and our choirs. They are a blessing to us and to all whose lives they touch and we thank God for them.
Christ Church is an unusual institution in so many ways. As much as anything, its nature as a joint foundation sets it apart both from other university colleges and from cathedrals. This unusualness also extends to the school. At one time most choir schools would have been boarding schools but we are now one of just seven choir schools in the country where boarding is, to all intents and purposes, full time. Much of the reason for this change is that the number of parents who are happy to send their children to board full time at the age of eight is few. This being the case, does it make sense any more to ask parents to sign up their children to such a life?

Of course I well understand that for many children of this age, boarding of this sort is not a sensible option. But for the right sort of child it is still a wonderful experience and it is very inspiring to see so many boys flourishing in our boarding house. Life is extremely busy and, for our boys, this is perfect. If the boys are not practising, they are in services; if they are not in services, they are playing instruments and then, as if that’s not enough, there’s the rest of the school day with its lessons, clubs and sports. For our choristers though, this is both normal and something they very much enjoy. Furthermore, in the evening the boys have one another to interact with; it is like a perpetual sleepover and it’s always a pleasure to experience their entertaining conversations and to watch them at play - board games inside and sports on the Meadow. The fact that the boys live together gives them a real sense of camaraderie, something which affects positively the way they sing together in the choir. I am also so impressed with their maturity. They are quietly confident and at ease with the fact that they are public figures at such a young age. They are also remarkably competent; I was particularly struck, when we travelled to China in the summer of 2018, that they packed their suitcases neatly on their own in 10 minutes - ask a parent of a 10-year-old boy if that’s possible.

Though this is not a life for everybody, it suits some children admirably. Last term we gained three choristers from Westminster Cathedral because their school had become weekly boarding and it was not possible for their parents to pick them up at weekends from where they lived in South Wales. For some, not only is full time boarding preferable, it is the only option. At Christ Church it is very much an option and something of which I believe the foundation should be proud.
In recent months, Oxford University and the colleges have been understandably keen to trumpet additional commitment to access policies under the Access and Participation Plan announced by the University in May 2019. It will be fascinating to read future assessments of the success of these programmes; to date much access expenditure has seemed to be an ‘evidence free zone’ where emphasis has been on money spent in pursuit of short-term, politically driven goals rather than outcomes.

However, close to home in Blackbird Leys, there is already a well-established access scheme based on a decade and a half of experience in London and elsewhere, where impact is closely monitored and which provides pointers as to what actually works. Christ Church and Oxford University have for the past five years jointly supported an access programme run by IntoUniversity, an independent charity, designed to assist Oxford’s own disadvantaged children.

Why is a programme needed?
Oxford is the second most unequal city in the UK according to the Gini coefficient, a measure of income distribution used to gauge the level of economic inequality among a population. 0 represents perfect equality and 1 represents perfect inequality. The national average is 0.41; Oxford’s score is 0.45. Much of Oxford’s inequality is attributed to the wide gap in attainment between students from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers, even from a very early age. A recent report by Oxfordshire City Council stated that by age seven only 41% of students from disadvantaged backgrounds in Oxfordshire are reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths meaning that by secondary school they are academically almost 24 months behind their more advantaged peers (Education Policy Institute, 2017).

IntoUniversity established its first centre in North Kensington in 2002 and now runs 30 centres in England designed to support the academic achievement of children from free school meal backgrounds and raise aspiration for higher education. The centres provide, in effect, the advice and encouragement that come naturally to middle class families helping their children achieve their potential.

With financial support from Christ Church, the University and the Queen’s Trust, the centre was established in the autumn of 2014 at a Blackbird Leys community centre leased from the City Council (https://intouniversity.org/content/intouniversity-oxford-south-east). Employing a team of four full time trained tutors, mostly recent graduates, the centre has established close links with a range of local schools (Rose Hill, Oxford Meadows, Windale, Pegasus, St Christopher’s, Oxford Spires, Cheney, St Gregory’s, Oxford Academy) to identify pupils who might benefit from the support that IntoUniversity can provide. Primary and secondary students suggested by the schools and also self-referred come to the centre for Academic Support, where they receive after-school help with homework, coursework, literacy and numeracy. The centre offers one-to-one support with GCSE, AS Level, A2 Level and degree options, coursework, revision, exam techniques, UCAS forms, interview techniques and gap years.

IntoUniversity maintains very detailed records of its contact with its students and their progress through education. Over the past five years an average of 114 students have attended Academic Support each term with 64 on average each attending eight or more sessions a term.

The school curriculum gives little sense of the university experience of concentrated learning in a specialist area. IntoUniversity’s FOCUS programme offers young people learning experiences, which aim to immerse them in a single topic or subject area. It includes primary school workshops and FOCUS Weeks; secondary school workshops and holiday FOCUS activities; Extending Horizons weekends away; and after-school Careers in FOCUS.

In Michaelmas Term 2018, for example, the centre hosted six FOCUS Weeks on the themes of Macbeth, Zoology and Evolution, and nine ‘What is a University?’ workshops with Year 5 students. Teachers have commented that the chance for students to visit a college as part of the FOCUS Week has given them an inspiring insight into life at the university and how this is something to which they can aspire. A total of 1,049 children have participated in the FOCUS Weeks over the past five years.

"IntoUniversity has created a stable learning environment for my three boys. It is a support network that they can always rely on when they need encouragement with their academic work, or just an extra helping hand. After collecting my sons from academic support sessions each week, they come home feeling motivated and happy. My two eldest have both told me they will go to university and I have no doubt that they will achieve this.”

Parent of three students who attend IntoUniversity Oxford South East

Students aged 10-17 attending Academic Support have the opportunity to join a Mentoring Programme. They are paired with a current university student, who provides help with school work, social skills and confidence-building. The mentors act as role models who have already made it to university, and encourage the young people to think about their futures and raise their aspirations. The centre currently has 30 mentoring pairs.

There are also three corporate pairs with volunteers supporting older students with university applications and the transition to university life. On IntoUniversity’s Corporate Mentoring Scheme, Year 13 (Upper Sixth) students are paired with graduates in full-time employment. They are supported throughout their final year of school and first year of university. Young people from IntoUniversity’s target groups are more likely to drop out of university in their first year than their peers, so with the help of their mentors they feel encouraged to continue with their study.

IntoUniversity’s impact

The success of the Blackbird Leys Centre is tangible. Over the past 5 years 68% of school leavers applying from the centre have secured a university place, principally at Oxford Brookes, Coventry and Birmingham. Moreover, more than 3,000 young people have been supported in some way by the centre and 1,370 have visited an Oxford college or the University for a range of events. Separately, 49 students from the IntoUniversity network have been awarded places at Oxford University, of whom four attended the Blackbird Leys centre.

“IntoUniversity is very motivational. It has really taught me to push the boundaries and to try to be the best version of myself, because there is always room for improvement. IntoUniversity continues to surprise me with new opportunities; each opportunity allows me to integrate new skills into my plans for the future.”

Elizabeth, Year 13 student at IntoUniversity Oxford South East

The active involvement of student volunteers has also been a very positive aspect of the scheme. Over the five years of its existence, 135 Oxford undergraduates and graduates have been involved as student ambassadors and mentors providing a very tangible bridge to the university experience. A recent Oxford graduate, Dr Molly Gilmartin, for example, organised, off her own bat, a one day event at the Royal College of Physicians entitled ‘IntoMedicine’ to enable selected IntoUniversity students to get a detailed introduction from recent graduates on getting into medical school and what a career in medicine entails.

Lessons learned by IntoUniversity

Nationally, IntoUniversity’s network currently engages with more than 30,000 disadvantaged students a year with similar outstanding levels of progress to university. Hugh Rayment-Pickard, Chief Strategy Officer, believes that the key lessons that the charity has learned over the past decade are:

- Educational attainment is strongly linked to the places and communities that young people grow up in. This is why it is important to work in the communities where poor young people live.

- This has become worse over the past 50 years: for children born in 2000, where they live is a more powerful predictor of academic success than it was for those born in 1970 (Social Market Foundation).

- Educational advantage and disadvantage is passed down through the generations: graduate parents tend to have children who will also be graduates; parents with few formal qualifications with have children with few qualifications. Long-term sustained effort is required to reverse this phenomenon.
Ensuring everyone gets a good education is crucial to addressing poverty: according to the House of Commons Parliamentary Report (2019), four of the five main factors influencing future poverty concern young people’s education: educational attainment, parental qualifications, home learning environment and non-cognitive development.

Young people from the UK’s most disadvantaged backgrounds are half as likely to go to university and 15 times less likely to enter a top university, than those from the most advantaged backgrounds (UCAS 2018). (This is using UCAS’ s deprivation measure).

It will be interesting to see how these lessons can be absorbed and built upon by the new Oxford University APP. Get involved!

There are always ways in which you can participate in Into University’s programme whether as an individual volunteer or mentor or by providing access to academic experiences such as lab visits or subject specific presentations. Please contact Lydia Salter (lydia.salter@intouniversity.org) if you would like to visit the centre in Blackbird Leys and learn more about its activities and how you can help combat disadvantage. The next five years, again sponsored by Christ Church and the University, will be exciting for these young people!

Access & Outreach: launch of Oxford for North East

As part of the University of Oxford's ambitious strategy to improve the diversity of our student body, we are delighted to announce that Christ Church will be working alongside St Anne’s, Trinity and Lincoln Colleges as the consortium Oxford for North East.

We will be prioritising outreach work with schools in areas of lower rates of progression to Higher Education, focussing in particular on groups of students who are disadvantaged or under-represented at Oxford. Some of our Professors, along with our College Librarian, are from the North East themselves. 'I grew up in Northumberland and while I was at school there, Oxford seemed like another country. But after I arrived, Oxford soon became home, and studying here has changed my life.' (Lindsay Judson, Tutor in Philosophy).

Victoria Walls, president of the Oxford University Northerners Society and Christ Church undergraduate commented, ‘As a student from the north, I’m really excited to see Christ Church tackling the underrepresentation of northern students in the student body. The sessions and workshops that are being offered will hopefully inspire more northerners to apply and make it to Oxford.'

Christ Church Horizons Year 13

The Christ Church Access and Outreach team was excited to expand Christ Church Horizons, our sustained contact programme offered to students from Barnet state schools, to Year 13s. Starting in the first weeks of Michaelmas term, Oxford applicants from our London link borough were invited to attend one of three days in Christ Church, depending on whether they were applying for a social science, a humanity, or a science subject.

The Year 13 students had a busy day which included an admissions test workshop, a Q&A session and a guided tour of the college. They also had an interviews workshop where they discussed interview-like questions, in particular focussing on how best to approach them when the answer wasn’t immediately clear. They were also able to chat with current students about how they found the admissions process and student life at Oxford.

Feedback was very positive, with one person saying ‘the Q&A with the undergraduates gave an authentic insight into the application process’ and another saying that ‘interviews don’t seem as scary now.’ In particular, current undergraduates Ena Naito and Abi Allan were praised for the workshops they gave on Fine Art and Classical Archaeology and Ancient History respectively.
In Chambers Biographical Dictionary, Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820) is simply described as an ‘English botanist’ who was educated at Harrow, Eton and Christ Church. The 14-line entry mentions his presidency of the Royal Society for 41 years, but his far-reaching influence on 18th and 19th-century natural science goes unrecognised. The famous French zoologist George Cuvier, an honorary member like Banks of the Académie Royale des Sciences, who incidentally has a 31-line entry in Chambers, said in his eulogy on Banks that ‘his name will shine out with lustre in the history of the sciences’.

Although Banks published little, his importance stems from the fact that he inspired, encouraged and supported others. He was one of the greatest figures in Georgian England – a colossus. As well as being made a baronet (1781), High Sheriff of Lincolnshire (1794), Knight of the Order of the Bath (1795), and President of the Royal Society (1778), he was a confidant of King George III and Queen Charlotte, adviser to cabinet ministers, and patron of the sciences at an international level.

Banks, a gentleman-commoner of Christ Church in 1760, was already a self-taught botanist when he arrived in Oxford, and therefore disappointed to find that the Chair of Botany was occupied by Dr Humphrey Sibthorp who was reputed to have delivered only one lecture on the subject in 35 years! With his typical enthusiasm and persistence, Banks gained Sibthorp’s permission to look for a botanist at Cambridge who would be willing to teach a small group of students at Oxford. Banks went to Cambridge and returned with Israel Lyons, who provided the scientific training that Banks was so keen to have. Oxford benefited too, as it was under Lyons’ direction that a lively interest in botanical studies was revived there. Banks left Oxford in 1763 without a degree.

To appreciate Banks’ legacy, one has to take into account important events in British history that would impact on him, such as the Age of the ‘English Enlightenment’, an Industrial Revolution and an Agricultural Revolution. This was also an age of geographic discoveries, as well as scientific and technological advances. There was a thirst for knowledge, as witnessed by the establishment of societies and institutions including Mechanics Institutes, Philosophical & Literary Societies and Subscription Libraries. The involvement of Banks in these was considerable. He became president, vice-president, member or fellow of at least 22 British and Irish societies, including The Royal Society, Linnean Society,
Society of Antiquities, Geological Society, Royal Society of Edinburgh, Royal Irish Academy, Royal College of Surgeons and Society for the Improvement of Horticulture. He was also an Honorary Member of at least 50 foreign societies.

A more detailed look at the Linnean Society of London, founded in 1788, illustrates Banks' role in advancing the science of botany. After the death in 1778 of Carl Linnaeus, the great Swedish naturalist, his son inherited his father’s large herbarium as well as his collections of insects, shells, minerals and scientific books. Following his death a few years later, Linnaeus’ widow turned to Joseph Banks for help in their preservation.

Banks recommended an enthusiastic 24-year old naturalist, James Edward Smith, who persuaded his wealthy father to buy these collections which were shipped from Sweden in an English brig. There were 19,000 sheets of preserved plants, 3,200 insects, 1,500 shells, 2,500 minerals, almost 3,000 books and about 3,000 letters and manuscripts. Smith originally intended to house the collections in the British Museum, but later decided to rent a house so that they would be more accessible to him and his friends. He hired rooms in Chelsea where Banks and his librarian Jonas Dryander helped Smith to arrange and make a preliminary study of the collections.

In 1786, Smith discussed with his friends the idea of establishing a society bearing the name of Linnaeus. To help achieve this he took a house two years later in Great Marlborough Street, London, in order to preserve Linnaeus’s herbarium and library. After consulting Banks and gaining his approval, Smith and his friends formed the Linnean Society of London, to honour Linnaeus’ material (and only indirectly its collector). With Smith as its first President, the Society started with 20 Fellows, 39 Foreign Members and 11 Associates, as well as three Honorary Members, including Banks who was a Founder Member and Jonas Dryander who was appointed Honorary Librarian.

The strength of the Linnean Society collections lay in the wealth of its holdings from Australia since Robert Brown was the Society’s Clerk and Librarian from 1805 to 1822 and its President from 1849 to 1853. Brown was also Banks’s Librarian from 1810 to 1820, and it was through Banks that he was appointed naturalist on the Australasian Expedition from 1801 to 1805 under the captaincy of Matthew Flinders. Brown, to whom Banks bequeathed a life-interest in his house and contents, handed over the library and collections to the British Museum upon his appointment as Keeper of the Banksian Botanical Collection there.

Soon after the death of Banks, the Linnean Society and its collections moved into his former home at 32 Soho Square. In 1857 they moved to Burlington House, where they have remained to this day. As a botanist Banks had promoted the appointment of naturalists on board vessels taking part in global exploration – as a consequence, more than 126 overseas collectors were commissioned to send plant specimens to Banks for his private herbarium or for the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew which flourished under his guidance. Banks was clearly a one-man correspondence centre, an academic institution, and an important finance house.
Banks, though a naturalist of considerable attainments, did little technical work or scientific research himself – but no one exercised so great an influence on the subject of botany for almost half a century. One project he initiated only came to fruition two centuries later. Helping him to prepare folio plates of about 800 new plants that Banks had discovered on Captain Cook’s first voyage to the south Pacific Ocean aboard HMS Endeavour from 1768 to 1771 was his colleague and friend Daniel Solander, a Swedish naturalist who had studied under Linnaeus. Solander was now in London cataloguing the natural history collections at the British Museum. The two of them worked hard on this huge task, but sadly Solander died unexpectedly in 1782. Banks was distraught, and let matters drift. It was not until the late 20th century that his magnificent *Florilegium* of 743 plants was published.

Banks’ significance lies in his far-reaching influence, rather than through any single personal contribution to the advancement of scientific knowledge.

The determination Banks showed at Christ Church, when he wanted to be properly trained in botany, continued throughout his life. He was the most conspicuous figure of his day in all that pertained to encouraging, promoting and spreading scientific ideas and information. His house in Soho Square became the recognised centre of science, and his personal influence was paramount among its devotees. While he lived, he was certainly one of the most imposing figures of English science.

Events are taking place in 2020 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the death of Sir Joseph Banks. Details, and other information about him, can be found on the website of the Sir Joseph Banks Society at www.joseph-banks.org.uk
The thirteen Prime Ministers educated at Christ Church include three pre-eminent 19th century British statesmen, Peel, Gladstone, and Salisbury. The condition of Ireland, part of the UK from 1801, preoccupied them. Their challenge originating in the late 18th century was how to convert a religiously exclusive minority power monopoly based on conquest and dispossession into a governance system consistent with an evolving British democracy, while still holding onto Ireland.

George Grenville, Prime Minister 1763-5, the first educated at Christ Church, lit the fuse, which led to the American War of Independence, by attempting without consent to impose a stamp tax to cover military costs in America. Colonists across the Atlantic world were in touch, and Irish (Protestant) patriots took the opportunity to press for the removal of commercial restrictions, an easing of penal laws against Catholics, and the grant of complete legislative independence to the Irish Parliament. This period was the origin of volunteering to back these demands by a show of force, though ostensibly to defend Ireland from French invasion. This tradition was revived in 1913 by the Ulster and the Irish Volunteers during the Home Rule Crisis. The Whig Duke of Portland, also from Christ Church, Irish Viceroy, advised that there was no choice but to concede Irish legislative independence, a system which in his first brief 1783 term as Prime Minister he wanted but failed to limit, but which did not survive the pressures of French invasion and the 1798 rebellion. Lord Shelburne, the only Irish-born Prime Minister besides Wellington, and who was Christ Church educated, had defended the Volunteers and commercial freedom for Ireland, and in the preceding term in 1782-3 oversaw the Treaty of Paris recognizing American independence. For all its glaring deficiencies, the restoration of the Irish Parliament in College Green, with independent powers but on a much more representative basis, became the goal of 19th century Irish constitutional nationalism.

Robert Peel, after graduating, was found a seat in Cashel, a pocket borough purchased in 1809 by his father for £3,000. My great-great-great-grandfather, John Southcote Mansergh, as High Sheriff of Tipperary, was the returning officer. There is no record of Peel visiting his constituency, and he switched to an English seat in 1811. As Irish Chief Secretary, he founded a police force in the Barony of Middlethird in Co. Tipperary, which evolved into the Royal Irish Constabulary, an armed police force that controversially assisted evictions and later lost its hold as Dublin Castle’s first line of defence in the war of independence.

Left to right: George Grenville (1712–1770) by William Hoare (1707–1792), detail.
Robert Peel (1788–1850) by Richard RobertScanlan (1801–1876), detail.

Having written about churchmen and philosophers in part one, Dr Mansergh turns his attention to statesmen.
Peel, like Wellington, with great reluctance reversed policy to grant Catholic Emancipation to the fury of his Oxford and Christ Church constituents, who ousted him as their MP. The studded message ‘No Peel’ remains visible on the staircase to the Great Hall. He faced down Daniel O’Connell’s repeal campaign, by banning a peaceful mass meeting in Clontarf in 1843, causing much damage to constitutional nationalism. Peel sought to provide Catholic university education in the 1840s through the foundation of Queen’s Colleges in Cork, Galway and Belfast, rejected by the Catholic Hierarchy as ‘godless colleges’, but the first two along with Newman’s college in Dublin in 1908 formed the National University of Ireland, having eventually gained episcopal approval. Peel’s response to the first year of Famine in 1845 was interventionist, and he largely escapes blame for the ineffective, minimalistic and often callous actions of his successors, which allowed the Famine to become a huge humanitarian calamity.

Later Prime Minister Lord Derby, Lord Stanley in 1831, is remembered for founding the system of national education that against his intentions became wholly denominational.

Gladstone, who had a conscience about Ireland, disestablished the minority Church of Ireland, began the process of land reform, and then adopted Home Rule splitting his party. There is still a Gladstone Street in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, and outside the Gladstone Library in North Wales containing many books personally annotated on Ireland there remains an imposing statue that was destined for Dublin, when Home Rule came. Gladstonian tradition initially greatly influenced post-independence Irish public finance.

While contemptuous of Irish claims and resorting to vigorous repression during the land war, Lord Salisbury’s governments promoted economic development in the poorest regions, and democratized local government. His nephew and successor Arthur Balfour (not from Christ Church) sponsored a generous tenant purchase scheme, ending landlordism, and latterly somewhat disingenuously claimed credit for the Irish Free State as ‘the Ireland we had made’.

Sir Anthony Eden’s memoirs of office in the 1950s ignore the neighbouring island, but in 1939-40 he helped restrain Churchillian belligerence towards neutral Ireland. Today, Christ Church and Ireland operate in different spheres, despite substantial past links, ecclesiastical and political. Further construction of healthy and untroubled relations across these islands remains a work in progress. 
Professor Graham Ogg, Christ Church, MRC Human Immunology Unit, NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, is ‘cautiously optimistic’ of a potential breakthrough in the treatment of atopic skin conditions.

Inflammatory diseases of the skin are very common and usually carry a significant impact on patients and their families. Eczema, or atopic dermatitis, is a long-term disorder with skin redness, flaking, itching and pain, affecting 10–30% of children and 2–10% of adults. It is associated with other ‘atopic diseases’, in particular asthma, hay fever and food allergies.

We have been studying immune mechanisms in the skin, with a view to helping develop new treatments for atopic diseases, and are fortunate to have reached a potential breakthrough which has recently been published in the medical literature (Science Translational Medicine, October 2019), and also attracted attention of the press - a search of “Prof Ogg eczema” should do it! There is still much to be done, and we have to be cautious as the results are preliminary, but I hope that the work will be of help to patients.

The research started 10 years ago at the MRC Human Immunology Unit in Oxford where we found an unusual immune cell type in the skin of patients with atopic dermatitis, which had been previously missed by us and others. The immune cell had been overlooked as it turned out that it was difficult to distinguish from the more common “T lymphocyte” immune cells which were well known in the skin. We set to work to try and understand more about the newly discovered cell type, which was now starting to be detected by others studying different organs of the body, and became known as an "innate lymphoid cell” or ILC. We identified many characteristics of the ILC, but one of the most striking was that it was exquisitely responsive to a substance released by damaged cells of the skin called IL-33. When our body tissues are damaged, they must send signals to the immune system so that appropriate responses are activated, and hopefully the threat can be contained and the tissue repaired. There are many such signals, as this potentially catastrophic event can come in many forms, each requiring specialised responses. IL-33 is one such ‘alarmin’ signal. We found that tiny amounts of IL-33 were enough to cause ILC to migrate to inflamed skin and to become activated and produce further downstream substances leading to skin inflammation. We therefore thought that IL-33 might be a good substance to block or inhibit in a new treatment for patients with atopic dermatitis.

We were then contacted by a company, AnaptysBio, which had been following our work and had developed a potential medicine which could block IL-33 in pre-clinical tests. As a dermatologist, I see patients with atopic dermatitis, some of whom have really very severe disease which cannot be adequately controlled by our existing treatments, and many are keen to be involved in clinical trials. We initiated a small ‘experimental medicine’ trial where patients are studied very closely to gain as much information as possible to identify early signs of effects and to help decide next steps. This...
involved taking frequent blood samples and also skin samples during the clinical trial, and I continue to be grateful and moved by the patients’ generosity and determination to help find new treatments.

The 12 patients received a single intravenous injection of the drug (etokimab) and most showed a clinical improvement which lasted a number of weeks after the injection. There was also a 40% reduction in eosinophils in the blood, a type of immune cell involved in allergic sensitivity. We also made some unexpected observations which were only possible through such close monitoring of the patients. We found that after the etokimab treatment, patients had fewer neutrophils moving to the skin. Neutrophils are another type of immune cell involved in inflammation. This has led us to suggest that future research could investigate if treatments targeting IL-33 might also be beneficial for other immune diseases that can be associated with neutrophils, of which there are many.

One limitation of such a small, but deep investigation is that the preliminary findings may not be replicated in larger studies, and so we are now supporting a clinical trial involving 300 patients, with treatment groups comparing different doses and different frequencies with placebo. The trial has finished recruiting and the patients are now being followed to assess their clinical and laboratory responses. We hope to be able to report on this early next year. Etokimab is now being tested in patients with asthma, food allergy and hay fever in order to see if there is benefit in other atopic diseases.

I am very grateful for long-term support at Christ Church, initially as a Junior Research Fellow and more recently as a Senior Associate Research Fellow. Such long-term commitment is needed to take early discoveries through to patient benefit. There are many many exciting things following closely behind, and good reasons to be hopeful for future treatment advances.

Graham Ogg’s research benefits from funding from Christ Church, MRC, Wellcome Trust, NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre and Clinical Research Network. There is no other financial conflict of interest with AnaptysBio.
Editorial

Writing in the wake of the General Election it is difficult to escape the observation that Christ Church’s dominance of the political sphere is over, at least for the time being. In the 1820s fully one in five MPs were Housemen; now we have but a handful. That is not to say, of course, that the College and its alumni have faded into insignificance. Merely that Old Members’ ambitions are no longer focused quite so exclusively on Westminster – a fact no doubt appreciated by the electorate.

The diversity of professions in which Christ Church alumni find themselves is a recurring theme in Christ Church Matters. In this edition we feature a number of Old Members who have founded their own start-ups. The wider University is increasing its support for enterprising students and alumni; indeed it has recently opened the Oxford Foundry to provide workspaces, skills training, and investment for promising Oxford entrepreneurs. All this in a central Oxford venue more familiar to alumni of my generation as the location of ‘Bar Risa’ and subsequently ‘Wahoo’.

Judging by the entrepreneurial spirit exhibited by those featured in these pages, Christ Church has already been highly successful in fostering the determination, boundless confidence, and work ethic required to succeed in the highly-competitive start-up space. With political dominance behind them, Christ Church alumni will continue to found, lead, and develop innovative and exciting businesses for generations to come.

Events

Morton Hall Gardens
9 July 2019
Twenty old members and friends visited Morton Hall Gardens and Meadow Farm Nursery near Redditch. Both are exceptional in their own way and everyone left enthused and inspired, if not a little embarrassed with our own gardens!

Isle of Wight lunch
14 July 2019
Thanks to old member Anthony Turnbull (1957, Law) and his wife, twelve members and guests enjoyed a delicious Sunday lunch at their house in Sandown on the Isle of Wight. Emeritus Student Dr Martin Grossel, Former Lecturer in Organic Chemistry, gave a fascinating, illustrated talk on Robert Hooke.

Board of Benefactors Gaudy
14 September 2019
Members of the Board of Benefactors and their guests were thanked for their support by the House at the biennial Benefactors’ Gaudy at which the Dean, Lord Charles Cecil, and Lord Neuberger spoke.
Tim Bouverie Talk  ◊
16 September 2019
Tim Bouverie (2006, Modern History) gave members a fascinating talk at the Oxford and Cambridge Club, based on his new book Appeasing Hitler. There was plenty of time for questions and discussion afterwards over drinks and dinner.

‘Open House’  ◊
21 September 2019
The first Christ Church Association ‘Open House’ event was a huge success with over 300 people attending at least one of the events. Occurring over the University Alumni weekend, not only were there family sports and a BBQ on the playing fields, but following tea the focus of attention moved back to College for the choice of an academic discussion, a Nyetimber wine tasting, and two events for younger guests: creating a play in a day with Ovalhouse and Alice & Harry Potter tours. The Association dinner rounded off the Saturday but on the Sunday there was the annual 1546 Society Lunch.

1966-70 Gaudy  ◊
4 October 2019
Over 240 people enjoyed the autumn Gaudy with another splendid Narropera performance, a wonderful meal in Hall and a fine speech by Lord Dobbs.

Alumni and Family Boat Club Day  ◊
12 October 2019
The Boat House opened for families to enjoy refreshments, rowing and punting, and the naming of three boats. One in memory of the great David Edwards, a stalwart of the Boat Club, and another thanks to the generosity of Samuel (1991) and Liz Robinson.
Crankstart Society Reception
7 November 2019
Formerly the Moritz-Heyman Society, the Crankstart Society event is held to thank those recent leavers who have kindly started to donate to the House; gifts which are generously matched by Michael Moritz and Harriet Heyman.

Twickenham Rugby
12 December 2019
It was wet, cold and Oxford lost both matches. But the Christ Church picnic and refreshments kept the Housemen and women warm as toast, and the private coach delivered everyone back safely to central London.

Visit to Trinity College Cambridge
26 October 2019
Ex-Christ Church Law tutor, Dr Benjamin Spagnolo, kindly guided the Association members around Trinity, Cambridge, our sister college, on a visit which included the splendid Wren Library. After a most enjoyable lunch in the Old Kitchens we had time to explore “the other place”, which is actually rather pleasant!

USA visit
14-23 October 2019
The annual Development and Alumni Office visit to NYC and Boston was as busy and fun as ever.

In NYC, Artist Kate Teale (ChCh 1981-4) kindly put on a Private View in her studio in DUMBO, and Algodon Fine wines generously laid on a tremendous Wine Tasting to sustain us. The Benefactors enjoyed a reception at the Lotos Club with a talk on solar eclipses by Prof. Roger Davies (above). In Boston around 30 members and friends attended a couple of events and watched the two House IV’s row valiantly on the Saturday. The visit ended with a most enjoyable visit to Peter Paine’s home in Willsboro to meet and thank all those who so kindly and efficiently run the American Friends.

Christmas Drinks
27 November 2019
Over 70 members signed up for a little pre-Christmas refreshment after work at the Paternoster Pub in St Paul’s.

St John’s Smith Square
10 December 2019
The Cathedral Choir under Professor Steven Grahl, gave another stunning performance at this year’s Christmas concert in London.
Leaving the House in 2005 we would never have imagined creating our own reusables business. Both studying Physics, we followed a well-trodden path into the world of finance. After a few short years I realised this was not the path for me. But as the years rolled on Alex was also feeling less content with a career in trading.

We took a trip to British Columbia to take some time to reflect. That trip changed our lives. We decided we wanted to take charge of our own destiny and create a business together. One that would have a positive impact.

Four years spent studying Physics at the House definitely made us very methodical and rigorous in our approach to our new adventure. We spent weeks researching a long list of plausible business ideas that we had been jotting down over the years (it was a LONG list). Eventually the world of reusables chose us. Dreams invaded by bottles (yes really!) coupled with the great influence of Sir David Attenborough made reusables the perfect choice.

The reality of growing up in the 1980s were the traditional thermos flasks with their plastic feel and cups sat atop. Definitely practical, but not aesthetically pleasing. Not exactly the must-have accessory for modern day urbanites. In my experience they almost always contained a lukewarm hot chocolate and were never associated with keeping cold drinks cold. Surely, we could do better than that. We didn’t want to reinvent the wheel – just make one for the modern day.

Our vision of making beautiful reusables was born. We wanted to create high-quality products that were uniquely designed by us. Products that would be durable, hard-working and prevent mountains of single-use plastic from coming to being. Products that were eye-catching, that could be taken on a weekend hike and just as happily to the trendiest café in town. Products that would keep drinks steamy hot on days where Jack Frost is nipping at your nose and refreshingly cold when it is hot enough outside to brave a North Sea dip.

Running a start-up is like being a fresher arriving at your first tutorial. That gut-churning feeling of being thrown in the deep end and hoping you can swim. Only working in a start-up, this is a feeling that comes along frequently. Almost every step of the journey has been something new for us. We’ve learnt the process of designing and engineering a new product, we’ve gotten to grips with trademark and design registration law and we’ve travelled 1,000 miles across China to find a manufacturer we were happy with. It has been eye-opening!

It has taken us over a year of hard work (blood, sweat and tears) to bring our products to market with countless delays and set-backs along the way. It has certainly more than tested our resilience and self-resolve. In some ways it feels like the end of an uphill struggle as we approach launch date. In reality, our journey is just beginning.

Christ Church will always remain a treasured part of our lives and played an instrumental role in shaping the people we are today. Getting married in Christ Church Cathedral by Ralph Williamson was definitely a life highlight. We would like to offer everyone in our extended Christ Church family a 10% discount on any of our products bought directly through our website before March 31 2020. Simply use the code TheHouse10 and join us in our journey! Help us spread the word that there are new reusables on the block!

Join us on our journey via social media channels @OheloBottle (Instagram, Facebook and Twitter) www.ohelobottle.com.
THE ROAD TO ZERO EMISSIONS

The dice are loaded in the game to survive global heating. We need a radical plan to win, writes Klaudia Chmielowska (2017, PPE) and Rod Dowler (1962, Physics)

War-games are old hat. Destroying a tank, a battalion, even an army, pales to insignificance compared to laying waste to an entire planet in the global heating game. Let us say, the dial to climate catastrophe is measured in parts of atmospheric carbon per million (ppm). Before the industrial era, the dial stayed at 280 ppm for millions of years. Now, however, it is at 410 ppm and rapidly increasing; the consequential atmospheric heating is already resulting in dangerous repercussions. At some point, not far past 500 ppm, the game is over. The protest group, Extinction Rebellion say the problem is a mortal threat to life on earth. Stopping the dial by 500 ppm entails urgently replacing most of the world’s carbon-based energy ecosystem, including vehicles, power stations, refineries and much more, in the next 10-15 years. This requires a programme on the scale of the US New Deal, the US transition to a WWII economy, and the Marshall Plan for Europe, all rolled into one and applied to the entire world. Playing for radical action to avoid climate catastrophe are most of the world’s scientists and a vast tide of young people. Opposing change are some climate change-denying politicians and powerful commercial players; currently they are winning.

The heating mechanism and environmental consequences of atmospheric greenhouse gases, which are predominantly carbon based, are beyond scientific question. Carbon gases in the atmosphere trap solar energy and increase atmospheric and ocean temperatures. There are no national solutions; we must work together, or suffer the consequences together. The scientific consensus is that reaching 500 ppm will raise the atmospheric temperature by at least a cumulative two degrees (Celsius), and that thereafter the uncontrolled release of stored greenhouse gases will make the task of reducing global heating much harder, or impossible. This could lead to the world’s climate heating by a further three to five degrees before stabilising. Most scientists and economists believe that the economic and environmental dangers of this level of increase cannot be fully predicted, and are completely unacceptable.

Carbon emissions come largely from three major fuel types: coal, oil and natural gas, which, together, provided 81 per cent of energy production in 2017, and are forecast to provide 74 per cent of increased energy production in 2040. The major proportion of emissions come from by China, the United States, and India; now and for the next few decades they are forecast to account for some 50 per cent of them.

Atmospheric carbon persists; a 500 ppm limit, therefore, means there is no long-term option except replacing all carbon-based energy with renewable energy. The development of emissions-free renewable energy from solar, wind and hydro sources has been dramatic. The cost of such energy is already competitive with that of carbon-based fuels in some regions, and is still falling. Currently, however, the proportion of world energy from renewable sources by 2040 is estimated at only 15 per cent. Eventually, the full economic costs of renewable energy will drop below the costs of fossil fuels in most regions and there will be compelling market pressures to switch. Without substantial investment, this will not happen quickly enough to stay within 500 ppm.

In 2001, Professor Nicholas Stern estimated that the worst effects of global warming could be contained at an annual cost of around 1 per cent of world GDP. In 2008 he revised that upwards to 2 per cent. Now, after nearly two decades of inadequate progress, we must ask if this is still possible, and, if so, how much the cost has increased. Many studies of this have been undertaken. For example, the Stanford University Joule project demonstrates the technical feasibility of total decarbonisation, using existing technologies, by 2050, providing cost is not a constraint. Overall, such studies indicate that solutions are just about possible, and
could lead to big technology breakthroughs, reduced costs, and increased employment.

Whether the world economy can actually afford to make this transition is a crucial question matched by the equally crucial question of whether it can afford not to do so. Such a project cannot be evaluated within a normal five-year business plan, or the four/five year life of a political administration. Since it would affect everyone alive today under the age of 50 and everyone born in the next 50 years, it is logical to consider a plan over 50 years, say, 2020-2070.

Some politicians are now promoting radical plans, acknowledging the scale of change required. US Senator and presidential candidate Bernie Sanders is promoting a ten-year, $16 trillion plan to cut US emissions by 70 per cent.

The UK Labour party is advocating a UK reduction of 50 per cent by 2030. The Sanders plan would cost some 8 per cent of US GDP, a high figure, but one that could also have large economic benefits in much the same way as the US economic stimulus resulting from WWII.

Choosing a firm target date for zero emissions is vital. Some environmental campaigners have suggested 2030, or even 2025. Given the scale of what needs to be replaced, this seems completely impossible. 2050 appears to be a more realistic target date, giving a longer time for economic adjustment. To stay within 500 ppm, however, it will still be necessary for most of the decarbonisation of energy to occur within the first 10-15 years.

So far there has been some success in combatting climate change via international cooperation and consensus; it is now clear, however, that this is in no way sufficient, given that many governments have been dilatory and some in complete denial. A radical new approach would be establishing a Climate Action Coalition of the willing, which would fund and build a new renewable energy ecosystem. This would initially entail building vast wind and solar energy farms, to create new sources of abundant low-cost renewable energy and develop technologies for centralised and local use. Early mover countries would benefit most by the decarbonisation of energy to occur within the first 10-15 years.

Financing the investments would require perhaps $3 trillion-$5 trillion annually, for a decade or more. This could come from bonds, or new money from central banks, as did quantitative easing. With government bonds at historically low interest rates, low-cost finance over long periods may be available. Major development banks, like the EIB, EBRD or possibly the World Bank, could take a lead. The US might not cooperate, but would then face the threat of China increasing its participation in international finance, and taking the lion’s share of the manufacturing and building contracts. The UK might find a new role in the supply and coordination of finance.

There may be no rational way to deal with the arguments of populist, climate change deniers, such as President Trump, and their financial backers; electorates will need to decide in whom to put their trust.

Other resistance has some rational basis. Fossil fuel companies have enormous existing investments in equipment, refineries, distribution networks, and reserves. They serve large markets, and have responsibilities to their shareholders. Governments and development banks could work with such companies to help them make the transition profitably. Competitive tendering for large energy supply contracts, using existing big energy players could keep these players onside and rapidly bring down infrastructure costs for centralised and local power generation. Such interventions would not be unprecedented; governments supported the major banks very strongly after the banking crisis in 2008.

A strategy of cooperation, rather than coercion could help win the support of countries depending heavily on the production of oil, gas and coal. Many of these are in regions that receive much solar energy; they, therefore, are well placed to use, and possibly sell, renewable energy as storage and transmission facilities are developed. New energy superpowers might also emerge, in areas with abundant solar, wind, or geothermal energy. The impact on employment and manufacturing output would be large and beneficial.

National governments have many ways to create infrastructure and influence the behaviour of companies and consumers. Companies can exploit emerging opportunities, as Tesla, for instance, has done in electric vehicles. A massive increase in the market for renewable energy would provide enormous opportunities for manufacturers and service providers. NGOs and environmental charities will need to keep up and possibly increase their campaigning activities to ensure that government actions match their undertakings, and consequently deliver what is needed.

A detailed plan is vital. A central body is necessary to administer the plan and report annually. The UN, or a new body, could take the role of monitoring and reporting objectively on worldwide progress. Members of the Climate Action Coalition would have to commit to zero emissions by 2050 and to a plan to get there without breaching 500 ppm. They would need to limit and progressively ban all carbon emissions and also imports of goods with embedded carbon.

The deadly climate game can be won. This could reboot the currently languid world economy, beginning a new era of human development based on virtually unlimited, non-polluting energy. It will happen only if campaigners can change public opinion and voting preferences, empowering governments to adopt radical economic policies that go beyond market economics and narrow financial interests.
Over the last few years we have been increasing our number of cordless commercial battery powered machines as and when they become available and viable to purchase. This process started with the purchase of a cordless blower, chainsaw, strimmer and pole pruner from the Stihl range in the summer of 2016, and these have proved so successful that they have now been added to with an additional blower, a hedge trimmer and two Kombi power units which can be used with strimmer, edger and hedge trimmer attachments.

The advantages of these machines are not only reduced carbon and other pollutant emissions, but also hugely decreased noise levels (and who hasn’t become very annoyed at screaming two stroke petrol leaf blowers everywhere in the autumn?), they tend to be lighter to use than their petrol equivalents and completely remove all the toxic fumes from the operator and the local environment. The machines also have significantly decreased maintenance costs and the frequent problems of getting two stroke machines to start are a thing of the past. The publicised advantage of reduced hand arm vibrations however does not seem to be borne out of the figures provided by the manufacturers so I’m not sure where that idea has come from, however the figures are still well within reasonable levels.

All these machines can run off the same batteries, either a heavy duty backpack one that gives run times of in excess of three hours (depending upon the machine used and how hard it is having to work, or smaller removable batteries that either clip into the machine itself or connect to it via a hip belt or shoulder holster. The batteries all charge off a standard 13 amp socket via a fast charger and take from 30 minutes to 3 hours (for the backpack) to charge depending upon how depleted they are, thus only costing a few pence to charge.

Some comparisons:

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<th>Stihl cordless blower</th>
<th>Stihl petrol blower</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>2.5kg plus battery (1.7kg) on belt</td>
<td>4.4kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound level</td>
<td>75 dB(A)</td>
<td>104 dB(A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Power – air throughput</td>
<td>1040 m³/h</td>
<td>800 m³/h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vibration</td>
<td>2.5 m/s²</td>
<td>1.9 m/s²</td>
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</tbody>
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Now thanks to a generous donation from the will of Anthony James Earl, some careful budgeting and the sale of outdated machines and following on from the success of these handheld machines, we have now been able to add some bigger, battery powered pedestrian controlled and ride on machines to our fleet.

The first to arrive was a Mean Green CRX 60” zero turn ride on lawn mower, this is an American machine designed and built by an ex aircraft engineer, which has three of the latest lithium batteries which give it a run time in excess of seven hours following an overnight charge. Again
this is much quieter than its diesel engined predecessor, the electric motors making almost no noise, but the three cutting blades still make it noisy enough for the operator to need ear protection, however the noise level to bystanders is vastly reduced. Maintenance is minimal, consisting of keeping the machine clean and the batteries, controllers and fans free of grass. The only wearing parts should be the cutting blades that will need replacing annually at a cost of around £150. This compares to the previous machine that needed an annual service in excess of £700, plus frequent belt replacement and periodic changing of blades as necessary.

Second to arrive was another American product, a John Deere TE Gator utility vehicle used for moving people, equipment and resources around our site, this is powered by eight traditional lead acid batteries, so needs a tiny bit more maintenance to ensure the batteries are kept clean and topped up, but again an overnight charge is more than enough for a full day’s use. We have found a snag with this machine, in that as it's so quiet, nobody hears its approach and despite a flashing orange warning light many visitors to the Meadow are getting quite a surprise! This electric Gator doesn’t have the carrying and towing capacity (roughly half) of the existing diesel powered machine, but it’s more than adequate for the lighter duties and frees up the older machine for the harder work of moving heavy mowers and other equipment around the site.

The last to arrive and the latest to the market (ours was only the second machine delivered in the UK) is an Allett C34 Evolution cylinder mower made in Britain. This uses four removable batteries (that can be used in other machines) which give a run time of around four hours, so it’s worth bringing some back to charge up at lunchtime so that a full day’s work can be completed. Again this machine is eerily quiet with only the whirr of the blades, making it ideal for working in the quads around the college.

These three machines all charge off a standard 13amp socket making additional specialist charging points unnecessary and costing only pence at a time to charge.

Unfortunately these machines come at a high price and if it wasn’t for the generous donation we would not have been able to buy all three at once, but the vastly reduced fuel and servicing costs should bring the lifetime costs of the machines down to a reasonable level. Certainly knowing that the machines are not going to be a battle to start, tend to be lighter to use, don’t deafen the operator and those near them and don’t go along in a haze of pollutants make them all a pleasure to use.

Of course, having zero emission machines is really only an environmental benefit if the electricity used to charge them is from a renewable or carbon free source, and to that end the House Surveyor has commissioned a feasibility study to install a PV solar charging system on the roof surfaces of our yard buildings facing away from the Meadow and into the sun, so let’s hope that comes back with a positive result and then we’ll be able to say that our machines are truly green.

As technology improves and more products become available we can look forward to a future for horticultural machinery that is not only carbon and other pollutant free but is also much quieter, and hopefully it won’t be too long before we can get smaller cylinder mowers, rotary mowers and the other more specialised equipment in battery powered form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mean Green CRX Mower</th>
<th>John Deere 1565 Mower</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sound level</td>
<td>dB(A)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>68</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vibration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2.22</td>
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Left and below left: The John Deere TE Gator and the eight batteries that power it.

Below: The two Gator utility vehicles together.

Left: Allett C34 Evolution in Tom Quad

Below: Operator’s view of the Allett cylinder mower and its four batteries.
After two stints at the House studying law, running a retail technology startup is perhaps not the most predictable place in which to have found myself. After leaving Christ Church as a jurisprudence undergraduate in 2011 and BCL postgraduate in 2013, I practised as a City lawyer for four years – so far, so expected. In 2018, however, I took a leap of faith and left my job at an American litigation firm to pursue starting a tech company.

Flashes of inspiration after an intense (totally unrelated) two-week arbitration in Washington DC in 2017 had sown the seeds for an exciting new idea. Using a smartphone to get rid of plastic loyalty cards and do away with piles of paper receipts was the idea. Not just to replace plastic cards with digital versions or to snap a picture of a receipt, apps for both of which already existed, but to go further. Instead, to create a single touchpoint, free of any payment constraints, that could be used across retailers and vendors to make everyone’s life easier and more convenient by applying loyalty cards automatically and channelling a receipt digitally. pqCode, (the name derived from the concept of a personal QR code), seeks to do just that.

Having raised pre-seed funding at the start of 2019, this year has seen the company build a lean yet talented team with individuals formerly of Tesco and M&S, a simple and sleek product, and a first foray in the exhausting world of trade shows. Breaking into a new sector, trying to establish credibility, and understanding a whole new way of working – it’s not entirely different from joining the House as a new undergraduate ...

Founding a startup has proved to be an interesting test of resilience and determination. Despite the many meetings over coffee, pieces of advice, recommendations and introductions it is possible to receive, you are ultimately on your own, whether individually or with a co-founder. That rather lonesome position can be simultaneously terrifying and thrilling. Putting pen to paper on a startup vision is a bit like opening that finals paper about which you’re quietly confident but then quickly realise the questions on offer are not what you hoped or expected. After the immediate feeling of panic has passed, when you start writing, you realise you do have good points to make and you steadily build momentum.

With a near vertical learning curve and not infrequent questioning of ‘am I really doing this?’, startup life is certainly something of an analogous rollercoaster. For me, learning something new every day across a range of disciplines is incredibly rewarding and, dare I say, more exhilarating than being in a lawyers’ office.

I have always felt that Christ Church was able to strike a great balance between encouraging independence and fostering a feeling of community and network.

I have always felt that Christ Church was able to strike a great balance between encouraging independence and fostering a feeling of community and network. Now more than ever do I appreciate the importance (and luxury in many ways) of having both the space to pursue the individuality of a vision and the support of a great network around me.

pqCode soft launched at the end of September 2019 and the app will be available to download early in 2020. More information can be found at our website: pqcode.co.uk

I have always felt that Christ Church was able to strike a great balance between encouraging independence and fostering a feeling of community and network.
In the Michelmas 2017 edition of CCM, we wrote about exciting developments around the Oxford Entrepreneurs of the Bay (OEB) in California. Today, we proudly announce that OEB has expanded into the Oxford Entrepreneurs Network (OEN). Starting in 2015 in San Francisco, OEB has now grown to some 300 members who hold monthly meetings with presentations by entrepreneurs and industry experts to share ideas on the development of new ventures. In parallel, the founders and participants started Oxford Angel Fund. With a portfolio of 12 seed stage companies with Oxon founders, 11 are thriving or negotiating exits. Nearly half the funded companies are women-founded, and over half represent social ventures.

Building on these successes, in 2018 it was agreed to expand OEB into a national network and to launch a new and much bigger venture fund: Oxford Angel Fund II. Unlike traditional venture capital, the primary goal of the fund is the support of Oxford founder. OAF and OEN further develop an international support network to enable those founders to thrive, giving them an “unfair advantage” in the turbulent waters of entrepreneurship.

OEN was launched and obtained official recognition as the first alumni network by the University of Oxford Alumni Office this summer. The concept behind OEN is simple: a network for like-minded Oxonians passionate about entrepreneurship to stay at the leading edge of commercializing new technologies and ideas through their Oxford connection.

OEN is organized through regional Chapters. In addition to the original San Francisco Chapter, where Cameron resides, the Boston Chapter is up and running with Mike helping to lead with over 150 members. New chapters in Washington DC and New York are starting, with one in Los Angeles in the works. Each Chapter is focused on different industrial sectors reflective of their local industries and entrepreneurs. San Francisco generally focusses on high-tech, while Boston skews toward biotech and medical devices.

In parallel, Cameron, together with the other managers of Oxford Angel Fund, is working on launching Fund II, targeted at $10 to $20 million with only Oxonian investors and again focused on investing only in companies founded by Oxford alumni operating in the U.S.

Any House member traveling to the States is more than welcome to join one of our evening events. Go on our website www.oxfordentrepreneurs.net to get details and register, or contact the Chapter Leaders at info@oxfordentrepreneurs.net.
The contractors are on site and the shell and core are taking shape. This will be the best theatre learning space in south London, fully accessible, in the heart of Brixton and offering facilities and a welcome that will attract international attention.

The historical journey charts back almost 100 years to when Christ Church undergraduates formed a soup kitchen in Kennington. By the early 1930s it had become Christ Church Oxford United Clubs – an educational and social centre for the people of south London.

Supported by undergraduates of Christ Church, and funded through The Red Hat Ball, the initiative of the Rathbone family, the

DEBORAH BESTWICK MBE Director, Ovalhouse, says:

We move into our new theatre on December 23rd 2020.
Clubs evolved into a centre for the performing and participatory arts in 1963. The Clubs were still a focus for education, opportunity and talent, accessible to all.

This vision has endured to this day. New emerging artists and young people have benefited from a space where they can develop their practice and create new work. Alongside an open-access programme for all we deliver professional development and training that has launched some of the greatest names in theatre and research projects in partnership with the NHS and other agencies that inform the practice and role of the arts in our society.

The building we occupy has now been outgrown by the success and ambition of our organisation. It is too small, too inaccessible and does not enable us to earn the money needed to secure the future against dwindling grants and rising costs.

And so, we are building a new theatre in the heart of Brixton, a theatre where we can champion the original ideals of the organisation in our commitment to the young people of today.

The new theatre will have seven studios for rehearsal, youth theatres, training and community use, and two theatres for the audiences from Brixton, London and beyond. Innovative design will enable our lighting grid to be accessible for disabled people, and suitable for training young people safely, equipping them for employment across a range of industries.

THE RED HAT ROOM will be a studio named to celebrate the vision of the Christ Church undergraduates who founded Ovalhouse and acknowledge the ongoing support the ongoing legacy, of the many Christ Church Association Members who have continued to give generously over the years, and Christ Church’s support to provide a visionary provision of excellent education in the arts in the heart of Brixton.

We have raised 91% of the cost of our new building – the Red Hat Room appeal will help us meet our outstanding target of £1.4m

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Robin Priest, Ovalhouse Chair of the New Building Committee and Chair of The Association says:

The continuity of Christ Church involvement with Ovalhouse at our new home is vital. It will be symbolised by the naming of one of the theatre’s spaces as the Red Hat Room. We are therefore seeking the support of the college and its alumni to fund the associated allocated cost of £250,000. We would welcome the participation of alumni not only as donors and audience members but also in terms of lending their links to corporate support, where appropriate help-in-kind (furniture, IT, printing or professional services for example). If individual members would like to have their own space named we would be very happy to discuss this as well.

There is a rich history of the relationship between the two organisations. We want to use the opportunity presented by the new building to strengthen and deepen the links for the benefit of generations to come.

We have raised 91% of the cost of our new building – the Red Hat Room appeal will help us meet our outstanding target of £1.4m

Be a RED BRICK – £25 +
Be a RED HAT BRICK – £250 +
Be a CARDINAL BRICK – £1,000 +
Be a RED HAT ROOM SPONSOR – £5,000 +

Run your own fundraising event, set up a direct debit – or leave us a legacy. There are many ways to have your name recorded as a supporter of the Red Hat Room and receive a special invitation to one of our private preview events.

Please email Deborah.Bestwick@ovalhouse.com for more information

TO DONATE

Please go to www.ovalhouse.com/support/built-the-red-hat-room and click on the Red Hat Room link.

Thank you!
The Christ Church Boat Club remained busy over the summer with a number of crews entering the Oxford City Royal Regatta which has been going since 1841. Over 500 crews competed so it was an excellent effort that ChCh crews won three events out of nine events entered; the Men’s coxed Four over 1000m, and over 500m, with two different crews, beating Twickenham RC of London and Cantabs RC of Cambridge respectively; and the mixed Four also won over 500m in an all Christ Church final.

On the Saturday of 0th week, 12th October, 2019, there was a tremendous Alumni & Family Boat Club day at the Boat House, with three boats being named. One was after the former Chair of the Boat Club Society, David Edwards, who died over the summer. The other, a new Women’s Eight, has kindly been sponsored by alumnus Samuel Robinson (1991) and his wife Liz. The boat will be named: ‘William Penn, Don’t tread on me’

Two IVs raced at the Head of the Charles on 19th October. It has become quite a tradition to take crews to Boston as it helps with their training and confidence, and also encourages much alumni support, for which the Society is most grateful.

Unfortunately, the weather during Michaelmas Term was awful and the Novices hardly saw the water. The Christ Church Regatta was cancelled, but there was a fantastic day at the Boat House instead with both the Women and Men Novice crews winning the “Ergatta” that took its place.

The Society thanks all who so generously support the Boat Club, whether by attending events and shouting “House” from the towpath, or financially. If you rowed when up and are not already a member of the Boat Club Society, please consider joining as the membership gifts of £5-£10 a month are invaluable to the Club as it produces a regular and consistent revenue stream.

We are also still looking for some gifts to match the generous donations given for new boats, and towards the need to find racking for two Eights at Sandford. This is so the two First boats can escape the restrictions imposed on rowing on the Isis and can train more frequently and in better conditions. If you can help please contact simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk
Book reviews

Theologically Engaged Anthropology
Edited by J. Derrick Lemons
OUP, 2019
This volume focuses on the theological history of anthropology, illuminating deeply held theological assumptions that humans make about the nature of reality, and illustrating how these theological assumptions manifest themselves in society. The volume brings together leading anthropologists and theologians to consider what theology can contribute to cultural anthropology and ethnography. The Dean wrote a Chapter titled: Passionate Coolness: Exploring Mood and Character in a Local Rural Anglican Church, an essay about feeling a sense of belonging to a place.

The Study of Ministry
A Comprehensive Survey of Theory and Best Practice
Martyn Percy, Emma Percy and Ian Markham
Munich, 2019
This new handbook (in an older series) is a comprehensive guide to the theory and practice of ministry that attends to historical sources, the social sciences, pastoral theology, ecclesiology and cultural studies. The book argues for the study of ministry to be taken seriously as an aspect of ecclesiology and pastoral theology, providing a stimulating resource both for practising ministers and for all those training for ministry in a range of denominations.

The King’s Cathedral
Judith Curthoys
Profile Books, 2019
Allan Chapman writes: “The King’s Cathedral brings to completion Judith Curthoys’s trilogy of Christ Church histories, the others being The Cardinal’s College (2012) and The Stones of Christ Church (2017). They are splendid works, and place her securely within the grand tradition of Christ Church historical scholars. Her present book, drawing on several centuries of Chapter Book records, examines the unique role of the Cathedral in Christ Church life, extending back to St Frideswide and the community that grew up around her miracles. It is a turbulent story, including a spectacularly corrupt 14th-century Prior, Thomas Wolsey’s original Foundation and its subsequent establishment by King Henry VIII, and the rocky times of the Civil War period. The tensions between the Cathedral Chapter and the academic establishment and the wider Diocese and their complex finances are traced through the centuries, culminating with the C19th reforms of the historic Foundation, and the creation of the Governing Body in 1867, finally giving voting equality to Canons and Students. What emerges in particular from this history is Christ Church’s ability to adapt yet still retain its unique character.”
On Music, Sense, Affect, and the Voice
Carol Harrison (The Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity)
Bloomsbury Academic, 2019

This book explores early reflections on music and its effects on the mind and soul. Augustine is an obvious choice for such an analysis, as his *De Musica* is the only treatise on music by a Christian writer in the first five centuries AD; concerned not only with poetic metre and rhythm, but also with an ontology of music. Focusing on the six books of *De Musica*, the *Confessions* and the *Homilies on the Psalms*, Carol Harrison argues that Augustine establishes a psychology, ethics and aesthetics of musical perception, which considered together form an effective theology of music. For Augustine, music – both heard and performed – becomes the means by which we can sense and participate in divine grace. Composed by one of the world’s foremost Augustine scholars, this book is a concise and powerful exploration of Augustine’s writing and reflections on music and, by extension, the intimate relationship between music, religion, and philosophy.

Reading
A Very Short Introduction
Dr Belinda Jack (Tutor and Official Student in Modern Languages)
OUP, 2019

Dr Jack’s book on reading and literacy, part of the *Very Short Introductions* series, explores the fascinating history of reading, from the ancient world to today. Dr Jack manages to make sense of both the history and power of reading in seven short chapters: ‘What is reading?’, ‘Ancient worlds’, ‘Reading manuscripts, reading print’, ‘Modern reading’, ‘Forbidden reading’, ‘Making sense of reading’ and ‘Plurals’. The book touches on topics such as subversive reading and censorship, and the growth in worldwide literacy since the eighteenth century due to innovations in printing and increasing levels of education. Dr Oliver Tearle reviewed *Reading: A Very Short Introduction* and noted that one of “the most insightful sections… is on the development of silent reading” and that contrary to the myth that St Ambrose was the first person to practice silent reading “classical sources… show that silent reading was practised long before Ambrose made it popular”.

Aristotle, Metaphysics Λ
A Translation and Commentary
Lindsay Judson (Tutor and Official Student in Philosophy)
OUP, 2019

This is the first ever book-length commentary on *Metaphysics Λ* (Book XII) in English. Book Λ is an outline for a much more extended work in what Aristotle calls ‘first philosophy’, the inquiry into ‘the principles and causes of all things’. In it Aristotle first discusses the principles of natural and changeable substances, which include form, matter, privation and efficient cause; these play a pervasive role in both his metaphysics and his natural philosophy. In the second half of the book he turns to unchanging, immaterial substances, first arguing that there must be at least one such substance, which he calls ‘God’, to act as the ‘prime unmoved mover’, the source of all change in the natural world. He then explores the nature of God and its activity of thinking (it is the fullest exposition there is of Aristotle’s extraordinary and very difficult conception of his supreme god, its goodness, and its activity), and in the course of arguing for a plurality of immaterial unmoved movers he provides important evidence for the leading astronomical theory of his day and for his own highly impressive cosmology. Book Λ is a key text for Aristotelian metaphysics and theology, and also for ancient Greek science.
Theology and Religion
Why it Matters

Graham Ward (The Regius Professor of Divinity)
Polity Press, 2019

Graham Ward argues that the study of theology and religion is a single academic discipline, and it plays a vital role in helping us to understand politics, world affairs, and the nature of humanity itself. Religion can be used to justify inhumane actions, but it also feeds dreams, inspires hopes, and shapes aspirations. It is a source of both creativity and destructiveness. By invoking a sense of wonder about the natural world, religion can promote scientific discoveries, and by promoting shared experiences, religion helps to bind societies together. Working from the fundamental nature of motion and motivation in the single cell; exploring questions of whether other animals have religion; and examining the earliest hominid and human expressions of religious longing - this book analyses religion's complex social, cultural, and political manifestations. Because religion is rooted in the imagination itself, its study involves staring into the profundities of who we are. It will not go away; so it needs to be understood.

Interfaith Worship and Prayer
We Must Pray Together

Edited by Christopher Lewis and Dan Cohn-Sherbok. Foreword by the Dalai Lama.
Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2019

This ground-breaking book contains contributions from 12 different religious traditions: Hinduism, African Traditional Religion, Judaism, Jainism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Shintoism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Unitarianism and Bahá’í. Interfaith worship and prayer can be complex, but this book demonstrates that in a world of many cultures and religions, there is an urgent need for religions to come together with trust and communication, especially when there is a crisis.

Full of insights and examples of practice, the book demonstrates how religions can be a powerful means of unity and compassion. The book opposes the ‘clash of civilisations’ model as a way of interpreting the world and promotes peace, hope, and the possibility of cooperation. Religious believers can be sincere and committed to their own faith, while recognizing the need to stand firmly together with members of other religious traditions.

Herodotus and the Question Why

Christopher Pelling (ex-Regius Prof. of Greek)
University of Texas Press, 2019

In the 5th century BCE, Herodotus wrote the first known Western history to build on the tradition of Homeric storytelling, basing his text on empirical observations and arranging them systematically. Herodotus and the Question Why offers a comprehensive examination of the methods behind the Histories and the challenge of documenting human experiences, from the Persian Wars to cultural traditions.

In lively, accessible prose, Christopher Pelling explores such elements as reconstructing the mentalities of storyteller and audience alike; distinctions between the human and the divine; and the evolving concepts of freedom, democracy, and individualism. Pelling traces the similarities between Herodotus’s approach to physical phenomena (Why does the Nile flood?) and to landmark events (Why did Xerxes invade Greece? And why did the Greeks win?), delivering a fascinating look at the explanatory process itself. The cultural forces that shaped Herodotus’s thinking left a lasting legacy for us, making Herodotus and the Question Why especially relevant as we try to record and narrate the stories of our time and to fully understand them.
Book reviews

Before God
Exercises in Subjectivity

Steven DeLay (2013, Philosophy)
Rowman & Littlefield International, 2019

Since Heidegger, it has become something of an unquestioned presupposition to analyse the structure and essence of selfhood from the perspective of being-in-the-world. In the book, DeLay sets out a view of existence instead emphasising humanity’s ineluctable experience before-God. Surmounting received divisions between philosophy and theology, the work’s eight chapters explore our relation to God and others, tracing a path instituted in antiquity and latent still in certain strands of contemporary phenomenology. Two introductory explorations of the ancient conception of philosophy as a way of life are followed by an examination of our relation to others through an assessment of how, paradoxically, we are together in the world yet ever alone. The theme of being-with-others is deepened with an analysis of forgiveness in its various forms, and a discussion of peace (which is seen to prove so elusive because of the omnipresence of evil in the world) and silence. The final chapters inquire into perennial questions such as doubt, deception, and hope, concluding with a view of man that has theretofore emerged: we are open to a God who in Jesus Christ calls each of us back to ourselves.

Secret Alliances
Special Operations and Intelligence in Norway 1940-1945

Tony Insall (1968, PPE)
Biteback Publishing, 2019

In this extraordinary book, writes Michael Dobbs, Tony Insall reveals how some of the most striking achievements of the Norwegian resistance were the detailed reports produced by intelligence agents living in the dangerous conditions of the country’s desolate wilderness.

A definitive appraisal of Anglo-Norwegian World War II cooperation, Secret Alliances provides remarkable insights into the uniquely close political relationship that afforded powerful assistance for a successful resistance movement. Using previously unpublished archival material, Insall explores how SIS and SOE developed productive links with their Norwegian counterparts – and examines the crucial intelligence from the Security Service and Bletchley Park codebreakers who supported their sabotage operations.

Offering dramatic details on operations such as ‘Gunnerside’ – which targeted the heavy water plant in Vemork – and the sinking of the Tirpitz in November 1944, Secret Alliances is an authoritative new perspective on some of the most remarkable exploits of World War II.

Forgiveness
A practical and pastoral companion

Anthony Priddis (1975, Chaplain)
Canterbury Press, 2019

Every day we hear stories of people caught up in conflict, violence, trauma and abuse, which can affect anyone in any walk of life. Each of us needs to offer forgiveness as well as receive it, but how?

Designed to accompany everyone on a personal or communal journey of forgiveness, this companion also offers an important resource for all engaged in listening, reconciliation and pastoral care, including clergy, counsellors and spiritual directors.

It explores:
- Why forgiveness is important
- What forgiveness is
- Who can forgive
- Offering forgiveness
- Receiving forgiveness
- How communities respond to tragedy
- God’s forgiveness
Hollywood’s Dirtiest Secret
The Hidden Environmental Costs of the Movies

Hunter Vaughan (2003, Modern Languages)
Columbia University Press, 2019

In Hollywood’s Dirtiest Secret, Hunter Vaughan offers a new history of the movies from an environmental perspective, arguing that how we make and consume films has serious ecological consequences. Bringing together environmental humanities, science communication, and social ethics, the book considers the film industry’s environmental impact and examines how our cultural prioritisation of spectacle has distracted us from its material consequences and natural-resource use. Vaughan looks at the effects of filmmaking from Hollywood classics to the digital era, considering how popular screen media shapes and reflects our understanding of the natural world. He recounts the production histories of major blockbusters—Gone with the Wind, Singin’ in the Rain, Twister, and Avatar—situating them in the contexts of the development of the film industry, popular environmentalism, and the proliferation of digital technologies. Emphasising the materiality of media, Vaughan interweaves details of the hidden environmental consequences of specific filmmaking practices within a larger critical portrait of social perceptions and valuations of the natural world.

The Professor and the Parson
A Story of Desire, Deceit and Defrocking

Adam Sisman
Profile Books, 2019

One day in 1958, the celebrated historian Hugh Trevor-Roper received a curious letter. It was an appeal for help, written on behalf of a postgraduate student at Magdalen College, who complained that he was being persecuted by the Bishop of Oxford. Curiosity piqued, Trevor-Roper agreed to see the man calling himself ‘Robert Peters’. It was to be the start of an investigation he would pursue for the next quarter of a century.

Using Trevor-Roper’s dossier on Peters, Sisman uncovers the extraordinary life of one of England’s most eccentric conmen, a serial seducer, a fraud, a bigamist – and possibly the last Anglican clergyman to be formally defrocked. Though he lacked any academic qualifications, Peters succeeded in being appointed to teaching posts in universities from Colombo, Ceylon, to Columbus, Ohio. Despite being dismissed, deported from country after country and repeatedly exposed in the press, Peters always bounced back – leaving a trail of destruction including eight marriages, three prison sentences, an investigation by the FBI and a disastrous appearance on Mastermind.

Bishop Morley of Winchester 1598-1684
Politician Benefactor Pragmatist

Andrew Thomson
Winchester University Press, 2019

This book attempts to offer an authoritative account of the life and achievements of George Morley. Morley was educated at Westminster School and Christ Church, became a Canon, and subsequently Dean in 1660, before becoming the Bishop of Worcester and, finally, the Bishop of Winchester. These appointments would, in themselves, have made him an important figure in the history of seventeenth century England; but Morley in fact played a huge part, far beyond the confines of the University of Oxford and the Dioceses of Worcester and Winchester, nationally, in the political and religious developments of his time. He played key roles in the restoration of the king in 1660 and in the subsequent attempts to achieve a settlement – the beginnings of the search for church unity – in the 1660s and 1670s, dying in the 1680s, just before Charles II himself.
THE PRINCESS WHO HID IN A TREE

The story of Oxford’s Anglo-Saxon patron saint and the founder of the first religious building at Christ Church

Jackie Holderness, Education Officer at Christ Church Cathedral

Christ Church’s dual foundation here has a long history, stretching back 1,300 years, combining worship and study, healing and pilgrimage, tradition and reform.

Until the 20th century, it was compulsory for Christ Church’s tutors and students to attend daily worship. However, while many of the current Members of the House attend services, others rarely, if ever, visit their College Chapel. Christ Church is the only sacred space in the world to serve as a College Chapel and as a Cathedral.

In my role as Cathedral Education Officer, I work with local school children but very few of them are aware that the Cathedral ‘belongs’ to the Diocese as well as the College. Even fewer of them have encountered the story of St Frideswide, whose name means ‘Great Peace’. Frideswide is a compound of two Anglo-Saxon words meaning peace (frith) and strong (swith).

Using props and costumes, we act out her story, but for most children this will be the first time they have heard of the Anglo-Saxon princess who helped to put Oxford on the map. Indeed, very few local residents or Oxford graduates know her story, even though she is recognised as the patron saint of the city, University and Diocese.

There are several versions of Frideswide’s story, which is a tale of adventure, resilience, faith and drama, but Members will already know the key episodes which were captured so powerfully, by pre-Raphaelite artist, Edward Burne-Jones in his magnificent stained-glass window in the Latin Chapel (right).

In brief, Princess Frideswide eschewed marriage, preferring to serve God and live as the royal Abbess of a religious community, but Algar,
a neighbouring and Mercian ruler, was determined to abduct her and force her to marry him. According to the story, the princess was forced to travel along the River Thames, and to hide deep inside a forest, perhaps at Binsey, or at Frilsham, where she may have worked as a swineherd to escape capture.

After Frideswide’s death, the miracles that marked her life seem to have continued, so her burial site attracted increasing numbers of pilgrims. Subsequent stone churches were, sadly, burned to the ground but in 1180, Augustinian canons were appointed to the Priory of St Frideswide and they began to build the fine church and spire, the Old Library, Guest house and an Infirmary.

St Frideswide has long been associated with miracles and the healing of certain conditions, such as infertility, blindness, skin disease and depression. In medieval times, thousands of pilgrims also visited the ‘triacle’ or healing well in Binsey which is where Frideswide is supposed to have hidden from Algar. Later, during the reign of Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey accompanied Queen Katherine of Aragon who went to pray at both the well and the shrine.

When the cult of Frideswide was at its zenith in the Middle Ages, thousands of pilgrims visited her shrine each year, and an annual Frideswide Fair was held in her honour, with a procession through the town. Today, the city still marks the saint’s patronal festival with a Civic Service and, in 2019, we revived a St Frideswide Pilgrimage, attracting pilgrims from across the Diocese. The event revealed a huge interest in the saint and nearly everyone came to the Cathedral on foot. There were five different routes walkers could follow and over 420 people then attended a special pilgrims’ service.

2020 will be a national year of Pilgrimage so we may expect to see an increasing number of people embarking on journeys of faith and renewed interest in their local saints and shrines.

Watch this (sacred) space….
From time immemorial commanders have practiced the art of deception. It’s probably a fair assumption that Sun Zi was a relatively late entrant in 5th century BC when he wrote ‘...when able to attack, we must seem unable; when using our forces, we must seem inactive; when we are near, we must make the enemy believe we are far away; when far away, we must make him believe we are near.’ Fast forward to the 20th century and F.M. The Earl Wavell endorsed Sun Zi in his introduction to Dudley Clarke’s Seven Assignments - ‘...I have always believed in doing everything possible in war to mystify and mislead one’s opponent...’

It was Wavell who summoned the young writer and explorer Captain Peter Fleming to the Far East to set up a deception unit in February 1942. The British and Dutch Far Eastern Empires were on the verge of disintegration; the pivotal base of Singapore had fallen; Burma, an appendage of India, was being invaded; Japanese mastery of the Eastern seas absolute after the sinking of the battleships Prince of Wales and Repulse.

En route, Fleming stopped off in Cairo for a week to confer with Lieutenant-Colonel Dudley Wrangel Clarke of "A" Force. Half-Russian on his mother’s side, Clarke was far from a traditional regular officer. Deeply involved in the early Commando raids – he was nearly killed on the first one - in November 1940 he had also received a summons from Wavell to report to Cairo as ‘Personal Intelligence Officer [Special Duties] to the Commander-in-Chief’. Behind the title, the job description entailed not only the planning and conduct of deception activities but also the responsibility for training soldiers to evade capture and, if caught, assisting them to escape. He turned out to be a natural and soon became the leading authority.

Lecturing to Americans officers in 1944, he described deception as ‘essentially an Art and not a Science, and those who practice it must be recognised as falling into the category of artists and not artisans. This is, I know, difficult to accept in professional military circles where it is widely believed that the Art of War can be taught to the average educated man even though he may have little aptitude for it. But, nevertheless, I am convinced it is true; and twice in “A” Force I have seen highly qualified and highly intelligent staff officers of the British
Fleming was to prove the perfect student for he had demonstrated the ability to create, both as a travel writer and in the first two years of war as an officer in military intelligence. to both the strength and intentions of the British in India, the desired outcome being to bring the Japanese advance to a halt. A great admirer of General Allenby, Wavell decided to employ the ‘Haversack Ruse’ which Allenby had used in the run up to the third battle of Gaza in 1917. Riding out into no-man’s land, his intelligence officer, Major Richard Meinertzhagen, succeeded in getting himself spotted by a Turkish patrol and when they gave chase, he pretended to be wounded and dropped his rifle, water bottle and haversack which contained a notebook and staff papers full of misleading information. It had worked and Wavell told Fleming to replicate it. Operation Error was hatched by Fleming and Wavell’s ADC Captain Sandy Reid Scott who noted in his diary: ‘The idea was that the Chief had just paid a hurried last minute visit to the Burma front and had had a car accident, the car skidding too fast round a corner and then the Japs being close enough upon our heels we had been obliged to evacuate the car in a hurry and leave behind most of his kit including his letter case containing a lot of faked information actually written by the Chief; for instance there were ‘Notes for Alexander’ saying how there were going to be two armies in Burma, how large our air strength was becoming and also about a new secret weapon! Perhaps that would make the Japs windy.’ The two officers duly put the plan into action and two years later, in a letter to Fleming, Wavell wrote ‘I hope it all puzzled the Japanese. When I am old and garrulous and blimping I shall probably tell a story of how I tricked the Japs and saved India from invasion!’ Many deception operations followed in the course of the war in the Far East and when it ended in 1945, Fleming with his understated style made few claims about his work. He surmised that ‘there is evidence to show that our plans were, on the whole, successfully put across to the Japanese Intelligence, but there is, on the other hand, insufficient evidence to suggest that they had an important effect on the course of his operations.’ Sir Michael Howard in his study of British Intelligence in the Second World War highlights that although Fleming ‘had by 1944 built up an orchestra of deception almost as impressive as that created by Dudley Clarke in Cairo and [M.I.5.s] BI A at home,…the real problem which confronted the British deception staff in India … was that created by its own side; the continuing uncertainty as to what Allied strategic intentions really were. In default of firm actual plans the best that the deceivers could do, as one of then ruefully put it, was to ensure the enemy remained as confused as they were themselves.’ That said, he acknowledges that ‘their lasting achievement was to build up in the minds of enemy intelligence a totally erroneous idea of available Allied strength.’
The Revd. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (1832–98) is best known for his Alice books, *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*, written under his pen name of Lewis Carroll.

If Dodgson had not written the Alice books, he would be remembered mainly as a pioneering photographer, one of the first to consider photography as an art rather than as simply a means of recording images. His hundreds of photographs provide us with much insight into the Victorian world around him.

But if Dodgson had not written the Alice books or been a photographer, he might be remembered as a mathematician, the career he pursued at Christ Church.

“Can you do addition?” the White Queen asked. “What’s one and one and one and one and one and one and one and one and one?”

“I don’t know,” said Alice. “I lost count.”

*Through the Looking-Glass.*

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Robin Wilson, Emeritus Professor, Department of Mathematics at the Open University

Above: Dodgson’s living room at Christ Church.
Like his father before him, Charles had been a Student at Christ Church, gaining an Honours degree in Literae Humaniores (Classics) and Mathematics, and coming top of the Mathematics Class List for 1854. He continued to live in Christ Church for the rest of his life, becoming the College’s Lecturer in Mathematics from 1856–1881, and teaching for the three-part examination structure of Responsions, Moderations and Finals.

But what mathematics did he do? How good a mathematician was he? And how influential was his work? Most writings on Lewis Carroll ignore such questions.

Ten years ago I tried to answer them by writing *Lewis Carroll in Numberland* [1], a paperback book designed for the general reader that described his activities and writings in a wide range of areas, such as geometry, logic, algebra, the theory of voting and recreational mathematics, in the context of the world of Victorian Oxford and of its University.

Others have written scholarly articles and books on his serious (and less serious) mathematical activities, but for many years there has been a need for a single-volume work that collects together all this scholarship. With this in mind, I contacted seven world experts on Dodgson’s mathematics, and the result was *The Mathematical World of Charles L. Dodgson (Lewis Carroll)* [2], edited by Amrouche Moktefi and myself, which was published by Oxford University Press earlier this year. Lavishly illustrated, this book describes Dodgson’s work in the above areas.

We conclude with one of Dodgson’s puzzles, which caused much discussion in the Oxford Senior Commons Rooms of the 1890s: A rope hangs over a wheel fixed to the roof of a building. At one end of the rope is a weight, which exactly counterbalances a monkey which is hanging on the other end. If the monkey begins to climb the rope, what happens to the weight?

**Further reading**

Bradwell Abbey was a Benedictine Priory founded around 1150. It was originally a daughter house of Luffield Priory, the site of which is now under Silverstone race track. Bradwell gained its independence soon after and flourished during the 1200s. Its farmland stretched into Bradwell village, Wolverton and Loughton, with rich agricultural lands sustaining the monastic order.

The priory’s fortunes declined in the 1300s due to bad harvests and the Black Death. Even the building of the Chapel of St. Mary could not revive the priory’s fortunes. It was added c. 1340 to enclose a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the outside wall of the priory, said to have healing powers. It attracted pilgrims from all over the country.

In 1524 the priory was dissolved by Papal Bull and given to Cardinal Wolsey, Lord Chancellor and chief advisor to Henry VIII. Wolsey used some of this endowment to found Cardinal College, Oxford. After a further iteration as King Henry VIII College, this became Christ Church, Oxford.

From the 16th century onwards, the site suffered from a long line of absentee landlords, resulting in the decline of the buildings. The stone was robbed to build some of Bradwell village. The only building remaining in its entirety from the priory site is the chapel, used as a private chapel by the various landowners. Bradwell Abbey was a farm until the development of Milton Keynes new town, when it was purchased by the Development Corporation and became a centre for archaeological and ecological studies.

Dr Noël James, Director and CEO, Milton Keynes Discovery Centre

As the 500th anniversary of Cardinal’s College approaches, we discover the fate of one of the priories whose wealth was taken to build Wolsey’s vision.

The Chapel of St Mary

The chapel dates from around 1340. We know this by the style of its decorative mouldings and the type of roof it has. The walls are decorated with scenes from the life of Mary, Mother of Jesus, and other paintings of note. The paintings date from a slightly later period than the chapel’s construction – towards the end of the 14th century rather than the middle.

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The floor contains remains of tiles made at Little Brickhill, which were laid in the late 1400s. The different layers of flooring help to date the life of the chapel.

At the time the chapel was built, England was a Catholic country. It was 200 years before Henry VIII would break with the Pope and announce himself as Head of the Church of England. The wall paintings feature saints of the Catholic Church, focusing on the life of Mary. Some are scenes that feature in the Bible, but others are from later sources that tried to tell the story of Christ’s family.

THE WALL PAINTINGS

St Anne teaching the Virgin to read
This scene shows Mary’s mother, Anne, teaching her to read. We can’t see a book, but the poses are similar to other common scenes depicting the same act. It may be that the painting of a book did not survive.

The Annunciation
This scene shows the angel Gabriel announcing to Mary that she will bear the Son of God. Mary holds up her hand, palm facing Gabriel, appearing to show acceptance of the message.

The Visitation
This scene shows Mary greeting her cousin Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist. The intimacy between the two women reflects the shared favour they both found in God.

St Michael Weighing Souls
This scene shows St. Michael, a warrior angel, weighing souls to determine their entry into Heaven. Mary is present to intercede on behalf of the dead, encouraging pilgrims to pray to her and to bring offerings to the chapel.

Joachim and Anne
These paintings are difficult to interpret, but it is likely that they show scenes from the life of Mary’s parents Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.

Pilgrims
This painting is unique in medieval English wall paintings and shows four kneeling figures, identified as pilgrims from their civilian dress and staffs. Each holds a different object symbolising their prayers in votive offering. One has a crutch or staff, possibly in thanks for a cure; one holds a wax or wooden head and one holds the image of a figure kneeling in prayer. The other offering is no longer visible.

The Mocking of Christ
This scene shows Jesus clothed only in a loin cloth. He is being mocked, most likely by Roman soldiers after his condemnation by Pontius Pilate. These paintings would emphasise the suffering of Christ on behalf of mankind.

Others
Other paintings, mostly on the East wall, are too badly damaged to identify with any certainty. The wall does, however, display a 17th century painting of the Stuart royal coat of arms. Under King Charles II (1660-1685) it was compulsory to display the royal coat of arms in a church, so the chapel was still being used for religious purposes at least until and throughout the 1600s. The painting features the motto HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE (evil be to him who evil thinks) and a lion and unicorn above a scroll bearing the motto DIEU ET MON DROIT (God and my right).

THE WORKS

Works funded by Historic England and Milton Keynes Council have enabled conservation and restoration of this nationally significant site – both of the Chapel, and of the related Abbey buildings.

The Chapel has been under scaffolding for 10 years. The works are nearly complete and the Chapel may now be seen in all its simple beauty. It is hoped it will be open for services and visitors before the New Year.
THE CARVING
During 2019 work began in earnest to stabilise the Bradwell Abbey farmhouse, following trials undertaken in 2017. Cliveden Conservation were contracted to carry out investigative work prior to the rebuild. This began on the west gable of the farmhouse, where the exterior facing stones were removed. Delamination from the core and inner skin owing to deterioration of the timber lintels and the resulting slumping of the stones under their own weight made this necessary. The stones were recorded, removed and stored to enable replacement in their original locations. The last stone identified for removal indicated from the outside that it might contain decorative moulding.

The carving is of oolitic limestone and dates to the 12th century. It was bedded in the wall such that only some of the decorative features of the crown were showing, with the face of the carved figure butted up against the neighbouring stone.

The carving on this stone portrays the head of a king or a queen. While contemporary iconography was known either to depict crowned figures to display lineage, or as representations of the divine on earth, it is possible that this carving portrays a specific royal patron, and in particular, either King Henry II or his consort, Eleanor of Aquitaine.

This would tally with the date of the foundation of the Priory, which was in 1154, the year that Henry II ascended the throne. Eleanor herself had strong links with the Benedictines through her connections to Fontevraud.

The tail end of the stone would suggest that it was originally used as a label or head stop, and was thus probably one of a pair. It would most likely have been a reused stone from the Priory Church. It is only conjecture, but perhaps its pair was also its consort, i.e., Henry or Eleanor, and that they were both, during the 12th century, looking down in benefaction upon the monks of Bradwell Priory.

While contemporary iconography was known to depict stylised, crowned figures to display lineage, or as representations of the divine on earth, it is possible that this carving portrays a specific royal patron, and in particular, either King Henry II or his consort, Eleanor of Aquitaine.
THE WALL FINDS

In the lower half of the west gable the original 12th century wall of the priory has been revealed. This is perhaps the most significant of the finds.

The mass masonry wall was constructed from limestone and earth mortar with the internal plastering intact and in exceptionally good condition. There are the remains of what could be a dung render (cow manure with lime) and although this was in fairly common use at the time it is uncommon for it to be discovered intact, and in such good repair. There is also evidence of decorative polychrome skirting on an area of 12th century plaster.

Sometime during the 1700s a brick on edge wall panel was built in front of the wall, leaving an air gap which has allowed this remarkable area of fabric survival.

On the first floor another area of investigation has revealed probable 1600s decorative polychroming; this shows possibly a balustrade leading to a vista, demonstrating early neo-classical influences. These were hidden beneath a later, 1700s, layer of earth render.

Also on the ground floor there is new evidence to suggest that the fine ashlar clunch archway is in fact Norman, and was the internal entrance to the cloisters from the Prior’s Lodge.

Further finds include a section of 12th century decorative polychroming, a 12th century fireplace, two Tudor fireplaces and eighteenth-century graffiti. It is likely there will be more discoveries and it is hoped enough funds will be raised to investigate, and conserve, the Farmhouse and related buildings (including a Malthouse, a Bakehouse, A Gate House, a Cruck Barn and a later brick barn) in their entirety.

Areas of 1600s decorative polychroming. All photos © MKCDC
"Both as Librarian (2017-20) and as the Christopher Tower Student and Tutor in Medieval Poetry in English, I have been extremely grateful for the imaginative and generous support of the college’s alumni. As a tutor in English, I am jointly employed by college and Faculty, and the college’s portion of my salary is paid from a bequest by Christopher Tower, an old member with a profound commitment to furthering the study and writing of poetry. As a result of this bequest, I have now had the immeasurable privilege of teaching at Christ Church for fifteen years, and thus of helping cohort after cohort of undergraduates discover that there’s much more to be enjoyed in medieval English literature than they might at first have suspected. It’s also been particularly rewarding to help first-year undergraduates come to terms with the learning of Old English, which enables them to read excellent poetry that’s over a thousand years old. In several cases, the resulting enthusiasm has led to our students undertaking postgraduate study in medieval literature, and in at least one case to a former student achieving a fully-fledged academic career in the subject.

As Librarian, I have been particularly grateful for, and moved by, the scale and consistency of donations that have helped the Library with some of its core activities, notably the cataloguing of Rare Books, and of the manuscripts and early printed books in Hebrew. Cataloguing and digitization are at the heart of the Library’s mission to explore, understand and share its collections not only with scholars from Oxford, but also with the international community of scholars who greatly value the riches of which we are the fortunate custodians. A generous gift has also enabled us to cover extra staffing costs in the Upper Library in Trinity Term, when it is available to Junior Members as a much-valued revision space. It is by such varied means that the Library signals its priorities to the communities that it serves, and helps Christ Church to further its educational ambitions."
GIFTS AND PLEDGES

Pledges and cash gifts over the last year amounted to £2,757,291.26 of which £2,094,429.51 was in support of endowment projects with gifts totalling £662,861.75 towards expendable projects.

The annual report from the Development Office enables us to acknowledge and thank those Members who have supported the House financially in the past year, through a range of activities impacting college life. Any such achievements rely entirely upon the generosity of our Members and Friends. This substantial and unstinting support enables us to build upon the core values of the House and make a difference in so many areas. Once again, this supplement provides an insight into some of those activities and the results that philanthropic donations of all sizes continue to make.

In spite of a challenging year for fundraising, we are very pleased that donor participation has once again risen, this time by 9%, on the previous year. As a tribute to that especial generosity we have pleasure in acknowledging and thanking those who have given in the 2018-19 financial year, by name, at the end of this report.

DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Mark Coote
Director of Development

Lorraine Hare
Senior Development Executive

Sandra Harrison
PA to the Director

Ingrid Heggli
Alumni Relations Officer

Grace Holland
Development Officer
(left December 2019)

Micah MacKay
Graduate Scheme Development Associate

Teresa Midwinter
Database Manager

Rory Moules
Development Intern
(left September 2019)

Simon Offen (1986)
Deputy DD, Association VP

Dr Anna Port (2002)
Development Projects Officer (part time)
THANKING OUR MEMBERS

Tom Quad started out as the Great Quadrangle, the centrepiece of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey’s plan for the greatest and largest quadangle in Oxford. The awe-inspiring and unified quad we know today took more than another century to complete (with thanks to Sir Christopher Wren for the tower) and another twenty years before its namesake, Great Tom – named after Sir Thomas Becket - rang out for the first time.

This year we launched TOM, our regular giving society, to recognise another significant vision. More than 100 alumni and friends have since joined the society by making regular donations to the House. Your support means that more exceptionally bright young people can benefit from fantastic opportunities at Christ Church, and for that we owe you considerable gratitude.

OPEN DOORS

Support for Open Doors funds a two-tier approach to attracting and supporting the brightest students. Firstly, we work to demystify the application process and go out into communities to encourage talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds, from groups that are currently under-represented at Oxford, or who would be the first in their families to go to university to consider applying to university, Oxford, and Christ Church through our Horizons programme and Aim for Oxford partnership.

"As a student from the north, I’m really excited to see Christ Church tackling the underrepresentation of northern students in the student body. The sessions and workshops that are being offered hopefully will inspire more northerners to apply and make it to Oxford."

Victoria Walls (2018) Engineering

More than 70 Black, Asian and minority ethnic students from across the country stayed at Christ Church as part of the Target Oxbridge residential experience this year. We’re delighted to be hosting the residential again in 2020. Then we make sure they have the financial support not only to take up an offer if they are made one, but to access the best educational experience that Christ Church can offer.

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni:

- 19 students in unforeseen financial difficulty last year were awarded grants and could concentrate on their studies rather than worrying about debt.

  "The college supported me financially at a very difficult and crucial time during my final year, without which I would not have been able to access the help I needed and may have had to suspend my studies. I know that this support came from alumni, and so I want to be part of ensuring that same support is available for future students finding themselves in similar situations. I loved my time at Christ Church and took so much away from it. Donating towards current students is a small way to give back and to help students from all backgrounds make the most of their time at college."

  Alumni Donor

- 99 students were given subsidies of up to 50% towards food and accommodation last year so everyone studying at Christ Church can afford to live, eat, and work with their peers.

- More than 30 students benefitted from travel grants to expand their horizons and undertake research abroad.

- 20 students were awarded sports grants to help pursue their chosen sport to at least half blue standard.

- 99 students received grants for academic books essential to their work.

- 27 summer bursaries were provided to low- or medium-income students undertaking an internship, lab placement or academic course, giving them the best start in their career after Christ Church.
OPEN MINDS

**Gifts to Open Minds** help to protect the integrity of the tutorial system despite changes to government funding and central university resource allocation. By building up an endowment to replace positions which are no longer funded by faculties or departments, the world-class academics at Christ Church can continue their exciting research and mentor the next generation of students.

“Engineers can enable the world to be a better place, and Christ Church has a diverse intake of promising future engineers. We put specific emphasis in our tutorials, and extra-curricular activity, to ensure undergraduates are exposed to the world’s greatest challenges. We develop their soft skills, alongside the curricula, to ensure they become effective leaders for tomorrow.”

Malcolm McCulloch, Tutor in Engineering at Christ Church, is a global leader in the development of new technology to improve energy systems, particularly renewable energy.

SUPPORT FOR TUTORIAL POSTS

Seeking support for the Tutorial system remains a major focus of the House. The pressure to dilute tutorial provision comes not just from the inherently high cost of low student/tutor ratios, but also from current trends in government funding, and in some cases the University’s challenge to allocate resources. However, “to offer anything less than excellent undergraduate teaching would be striking at the very heart of what Christ Church stands for”.

It is not just tutors who attest to the value of the tutorial system, but numerous alumni members also write in these pages of how much the system enabled them to compete and succeed in later life. It remains the hallmark of an Oxford undergraduate experience.

Figures constantly change, but essentially an Official Student (tutor post) costs the House c. £80k per annum. The capital sum required to endow such a post is c. £2.5m. For a University lecturer the equivalent figures are £42k so a £1.4m endowment. A Career Development Fellow (CDF) costs £60k, requiring a £2m endowment, and a Junior Research Fellow (JRF) £50k requiring a £1.6m endowment.

To date we have successfully endowed 13 Tutorial posts and 7 partially, but there are still 24 posts remaining. To fully endow all Tutorial posts would require further endowment investment of £83m and to fully endow the 3 CDF and 16 JRF posts (6 are endowed and 13 remain) it would require £32m.

A gift to the Tutorial Fund of any size will allow us not only to secure our tutorial teams permanently, but also to act quickly to secure a post in jeopardy. There is an ongoing need for support in these key areas.

**The Edward H. Burn Law Tutorial Endowment Fund**

It is very good news that Christ Church will name a Law Tutorial post after the late Law Tutor, Edward H. Burn. Many alumni Members who were taught by ‘Teddy’ – and those who knew him when he was Senior Censor – have already shown a strong desire to donate in his memory towards this post. The fund will be launched in 2020 and more details will follow in due course.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

The expansion of the Computer Science programme at undergraduate level, and the creation in Christ Church of a ‘centre of excellence’, headed by Professor Sir Tim Berners-Lee, continues to receive keen interest and support from potential donors. This last year saw the creation of the **Paterson Bursary for Computer Science** (an undergraduate award), supported by Sean Paterson (1988). There was also a Computer Science Event in May, hosted at XTX Markets by Zar Amrolia (1983), at which Sir Tim Berners-Lee spoke (above), and which was attended by more than 60.
The Library continues to grow and flourish through the generous support and activity of members of the House. Recent feedback from some of our History students confirmed that one of our newest budget lines, the Saunders Bequest for History (in memory of Nicholas Saunders-Davies, m.1980), was having a very positive impact on provision of materials with around 160 new titles a year being purchased from the fund. Donations of books from members, both current and old, continue to pour in and really help us record the literary output of the college. Their great diversity – from Cornish verse to law practitioner texts – demonstrates the great breadth of learning within our community.

Acquisitions have not just been of modern books, however. We have received some absolutely magnificent rare books that really enrich the collections we hold here. A rare manuscript part-book of violin music by Giovanni Coprario and William Lawes – which is directly related to many of the music manuscripts already in the Library – came up for sale recently. Thanks to the amazing generosity of Mr Richard Ormond (m.1959), we were able to purchase the manuscript for the music collections. Two beautifully illustrated botanical volumes were presented by Richard Benthall (m.1986) in memory of his father, Sir Paul Benthall (m.1920).

Significant collections of modern books have come from Frank Versaci (m.1957), and a marvellous set of antiquarian volumes were presented to us from Philip McNair’s (m.1941) personal library. Donations have not just taken the form of books, however, as we have been lucky enough to also receive a major collection of terrestrial and planetary globes from David Pierce Jones (m.1983) which have made a stunning addition to the object collections of the Library, and have formed a real talking point for our ever-increasing number of guests. That members of our own community see fit to leave their treasured books and possessions to the care of the Library and for the benefit of future generations of scholars here is a truly wonderful thing and we are pleased and proud to be their custodians.

We would like to establish a rare books fund to put us in a position where we are able to purchase items of significance when they come up for sale without needing to find a donor first, to ensure we can secure things for the collections. Anyone interested in helping with this should contact the Development Office.

The Library is busier than ever with students making use of the spaces, and requesting more and more books. Our next challenge is to find space for the ever-growing numbers of people and books which show no signs of slowing down! Business continues as usual with developing the collections, cataloguing, boxing of the medieval manuscript collections, and curating new exhibitions so do please pop in on your next visit back to the House to see what is happening!”

Steven Archer, Librarian
THE TELETHON

Thank you to everyone who made time to talk to our student callers, shared some advice for incoming students for our ‘post from the past’ boards in the JCR, added a song to our ‘Christ Church through the Ages’ Spotify playlist, and especially to those who made a gift.

As with most first-time telethon callers, I was quite nervous about talking to alumni and encouraging them to support the House, but this fear was unfounded and misplaced. The telethon taught me about myself and the place we all call home. In my first year when I was struggling with certain aspects of college life, hearing about the lived experiences and asking for advice from alumni allowed me to help myself and showed me that I wasn’t alone.

The Open Doors initiative offers an opportunity to support not just current students of the college, but also school students pre-university by encouraging them to apply to Oxford regardless of socio-economic status and background. The college believes in levelling the playing field for all, which has translated into many access and outreach projects. I know from personal experience that without a number of these I wouldn’t have been able to undertake many of the educational and extra-curricular activities that allowed me to reach my full potential as a university student.

Like most finalists, the fear (and dread) of leaving Christ Church, Oxford and the undergraduate life is something that’s sitting at the back of my head. But after having been a part of some of the projects undertaken by the Development Office, I look forward to reminiscing and feeling the bittersweet nostalgia, while experiencing the famous phrase: “You are a member of the House for life”. As students currently benefitting from your support, we can’t thank you enough!”

Arunima Sircar (2017) Geography

Taking part in the Telethon this September was, as usual, a highlight of the term. The conversations I had with Old Members were not only stimulating but also thought-provoking, illuminating many aspects of life after college I had not considered. Speaking to doctors also offered me invaluable insights in how best to prepare for my career ahead.

Alumni were invited to contribute two thoughts for incoming students this year: a song that reminded them of their time at Christ Church and a piece of advice. The former often caused mirth, although did elicit an excellent range of answers including some personal favourites. The latter prompted alumni to consider what made their time here enjoyable for them. Both the playlist and top tips were displayed at a welcome event for freshers, with individuals touched by the warmth and goodwill of their predecessors.

Personally, however, what made Telethon particularly great for me was those alumni who chose to support access and outreach through Open Doors as this is a subject close to my heart. Alumni endorsed the role access plays in transforming the culture around the college, so that students can come here regardless of background. An important initiative that Christ Church has helped to spearhead is TargetOxbridge. The college hosts students from this programme for an annual residential, which it would be unable to do if it were not for the generous support of Old Members who believe in schemes such as this one. Its impact report this year showed over a quarter of black students offered places at Oxford came from TargetOxbridge; the proof that your support is helping to bridge the representation gaps that exist here. Thank you for your continued support.”

Wesley Quadros (2017) Medicine

YOUNG ALUMNI CHALLENGE FUND

Christ Church is proud to have won the second place challenge prize for the 2018 University of Oxford Young Alumni Challenge Fund. The challenge was launched in 2012 to recognise and encourage young alumni donating to their college. With the introduction of the Leavers’ Gift in 2018 and the continued success of the Crankstart (formerly Moritz-Heyman) Society, Christ Church’s participation was the second highest across the university. The majority of these young alumni donated to Christ Church’s Open Doors fund.

In the second year of the Leavers’ Gift, 2019 leavers (£15.46 battled per junior Member in Trinity term) saw 87% participation (86% in 2018) and, as before, has been match-funded both by former Members, and the Challenge Fund mentioned above. The Leaver’s Gift as an annual enterprise represents an important component in the ‘supporter journey’ and allows the return of all Leavers to a Returner’s Dinner the following Hilary Term, which is also funded by alumni.

Most popular “track that takes you back”: American Pie.
THE CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL MUSIC TRUST

The Christ Church Cathedral Choir continues to go from strength to strength under the direction of Professor Steven Grahl, who is now in his second year as Organist and Official Student in Music.

This year the Choir welcomed five new boy Choristers and five clerks, including the first female clerk, Elizabeth Nurse. Moreover, Christ Church has been pleased to incorporate Frideswide Voices, a choir comprised of girls of chorister age, as a permanent part of the choral foundation of the College and Cathedral. The Choir is also delighted to have extended its outreach programme – this year the Choir performed three outreach concerts in the Cathedral with children from schools across Oxfordshire. Through our outreach work we hope to encourage the next generation of talented singers, promote Choristership opportunities and strengthen our links with the local community.

The generous support of our alumni and friends sustains the Choir. Fundraising highlights from this year include the Syon House private concert in aid of the Cathedral Music Trust and the 2019 St John’s Smith Square Christmas Concert. Through this support we are able to provide scholarships for Choristers and Organists. This plays a vital part in helping Christ Church to maintain its tradition of musical excellence. Alumni support has also enabled Choir tours and recordings, helping Christ Church to establish itself on the international stage as one of the UK’s leading choirs.

In 2020 we will continue our efforts to ensure that Christ Church attracts the best vocalists. We continue to work towards increasing scholarship funding for Choristers to 100% if needed, in line with many other top Cathedral Choirs. We also aim to fund projects which will benefit the local community and promote musical outreach. This includes fundraising for a new practice organ, this instrument will not only help our own musicians to refine their skills but will be used to teach local children who may not otherwise have the chance to learn a musical instrument. The Christ Church Cathedral Music Trust is grateful to all alumni and friends who help to support future generations of Christ Church musicians.

1546 SOCIETY

Legacies continue to play an important part in the mix of donations received by the House. We are extremely grateful for the support of so many Members in their Wills. Please may we ask those of you who have not yet considered leaving a legacy to the House to consider this request from Sir Richard Gardner:

“Before retiring in 2008, I was a member of the Governing Body of the House for thirty-four years. It was a privilege to have been invited to serve as a senior member of such a special community and I still look on that time with much pleasure. I am therefore very keen to ensure the House continues to thrive, and this depends on its having at its disposal the necessary resources to support in an enduring way its tutorial system, open and fair admissions, maintenance of the historic buildings, and excellence in research and scholarship in a wide variety of disciplines. An obvious way of helping with this is to give at a time when money is no longer needed for ourselves. I have therefore included a bequest to the House in my Will, and urge you to do likewise.”

Sir Richard Gardner, FRS
Emeritus Student and Royal Society Research Professor
THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH

As ever our American Members and Friends gave great support to the House in 2018/19. The Development and Alumni team visited, at various times, New York twice, Chicago, Toronto, Washington DC, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Boston. We are most grateful to all our Members who support the House from America, act as gracious and welcoming hosts during our visits. Special thanks, of course, go to our Trustees of the American Friends of Christ Church, under the leadership of the indefatigable Peter Paine Jnr.

If any Member or Friend would like to suggest and assist with an event in their locality, please be in touch!

THE BOAT CLUB

The ChCh Boat Club Society thanks all who so generously support the Boat Club, whether by attending events and shouting “House” from the towpath, or financially. If you rowed when up and are not already a member of the Boat Club Society, please consider joining as the membership gifts of £5-£10 a month are invaluable to the Club as it produces a regular and consistent revenue stream.

We are also still looking for some gifts to match the generous donations given for new boats, and towards the need to find racking for two Eights at Sandford. This is so the two First boats can escape the restrictions imposed on rowing on the Isis and can train more frequently and in better conditions. If you can help please contact simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk

A Happy New Year to all our Members and supporters as we start 2020, and one that will include commemoration of 500 years of the House in 2025.

As we look back over the past year it is heartening to note that we have seen more alumni and their families than even in the previous year (engagement up 9%)! and a series of new events and types of gathering have won wide support, both back at the House and farther afield.

We have launched TOM, our regular giving society, and are grateful for the support that members have brought to our programme of Open Doors, Open Books and Open Minds. Thank you!

Our Board of Benefactor membership has also grown by 11 new members and to them – and every one of our donors – a special thank you for continuing to make a difference.

Please come back and visit us – and for those who do over the next two terms you’ll find Development temporarily installed in the grandeur of Peck 2.1 whilst our Peck 9 rooms are refurbished as part of the remarkable Peckwater Quad renovation programme. Drop in and have a coffee.

Best wishes for the year ahead.

Mark Coote
Director of Development
DONORS TO THE HOUSE
2018-2019
DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

DONORS TO THE HOUSE August 2018 – July 2019

We are particularly grateful to all donors to the House over the last year, for their gifts and for helping make a difference. 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.

Names in red
Board of Benefactors Member

Names in bold and red
Board of Benefactors Member and 10 years or more of consecutive giving

Names in bold and black
10 years or more of consecutive giving

† – deceased

### ALUMNI

1938
Dr Herbert Burchall
Mr Philip Cox †

1939
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1943
Mr Robert Harrison †
Mr Tom Jago
Mr Norman Smith

1945
Lt-Colonel Charles Crossland

1947
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1949
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1952
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1953
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1954
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Professor Peter Parsons
Mr Alec Shepperson
Mr Hugh Stanley
Mr Anthony Stilgoe
The Revd Dr Richard Sturch
The Revd Mr Graeme Watson
Mr John Wing

1955
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Mr Michael Hill
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Mr Spencer Brookie
Mr David Crowe
Mr Martin Dewhirst
The Revd David Duke
Mr Roger Gibbs
Mr Ben Gough
Mr Giles Havergal
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Mr Christopher Groome
Mr Julian Hale
Mr Robert Hanbury
Mr Robert Hanrott
Mr Jeremy Hill
Dr Michael Honeybone
Mr John Humphries
Mr Anthony Lokes
Mr Donald Maxwell Macdonald
Mr Gerald Morgan
Mr Richard Ormond
Mr Mike Robinson
Mr David Selley
Mr David Simpson
Mr David Tate
Mr Theo Wallace

1960
Mr Mitchell Gitin
Mr Michael Green
Dr Anthony Hamilton

Mr Roger Hardiman
Dr Patrick Henry
Mr Nicolas Jacobs
Mr Roderick Michell
Mr Peter Morley
Mr David Morrison
Mr Robin Paul
Dr John Prince
Mr Stephen Russen
Mr Anthony Scholefield
Mr Philip Stephens
Mr David Till
Mr Patrick Tobin
Mr Mark Todd
Professor David Westbury
Dr Oliver Wethered

1961
Mr Mark Baker
Dr Jaroslav Dedek
Mr Wilfred Ekins-Daukes
Mr Wendell Fenton
Mr Stewart Hudnut
Mr Frederick Hulton
Mr Chris Knights
Colonel Paul Miles
Mr Ian Penderleith
Mr Robert Rons
Mr Anthony Saunders
Mr Mark Stephens

1962
Mr Robert Botting
Mr Barrie Crook
Dr Ashley Davies
Mr Henry Felce
Mr Ian Fisher
Mr Christopher Flynn
Brigadier Myles Friday †
Mr Barrie Gardiner
Mr Michael Heybrook
Mr Michael Legge
Mr Martin Light
Dr Adrian Mears
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Mr Barney Powell
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Mr Nick Buckland
Mr Hugh Drake
Sir David Durie
Sir Robert Ffolkes
Mr David Lumb
Mr Christopher Marriott
Mr Ron Mathias
Mr Colin Nichols
Dr James A Paul
Mr Robert Pilkington
Mr John Warnock
Mr John Watherston
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1964
Mr Michael Bowerman
Mr Paul Butler
Mr Robert Coleman
Dr Tim Connelly
Dr Peter Daniel
Mr John Fletcher
Mr Clive Heath
Mr Max Hunt
Mr Garry Jones
Mr Jeremiah Losty
Mr Nigel Lovett
Mr Nicky Oppenheim
Mr Julian Norridge
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Mr Ivor Blight
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Mr Giles Chichester
Mr Kieran Fogarty
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Mr Richard Hubbard
Dr Tony Law
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1973
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Mr Roger Cottam
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Mr Ian Fleming
Mr David Gregory
Mr David Law
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Mr Bob Crowe
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Mr Tom Gentleman
Mr Jonathon Green
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Mr Joe Lau
Dr Paul Lettow
Mr Rizwan Mirza
Mr Michael O’Neill
Mr Adam Page
Mr Will Pank
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Mr Richard Jenner
Dr Sarah Kostkiu
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Mr Kieran Nicholson
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† = deceased

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Members and Friends of Christ Church might like to save the dates of Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May, 2020, for a wonderful Christ Church visit to Herefordshire.

SATURDAY 9TH MAY 2020

10am: Visit to Hereford Cathedral to see the Mappa Mundi and Chained Library.

2pm: Visit to Hergest Gardens, owned by the Banks Family, many of whom are members of Christ Church. The gardens are spectacular, and there is also a rare family archive to explore.

6pm: Drinks reception in the gardens.

SUNDAY 10TH MAY 2020

10am: Orchestral Eucharist at Hereford Cathedral (provisional). You are welcome to return to Hergest to explore the gardens and/or archive further.

http://www.hergest.co.uk

Booking will open in January
Please register your interest with Ingrid.heggi@chch.ox.ac.uk
Accommodation and meals will not be included.
Savills is delighted to sponsor Christ Church Boat Club

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