



The
CHRISTOPHER BUTLER
TUTORIAL FUND FOR ENGLISH
at Christ Church

Context: joint funded posts; an uncertain future

AS PART OF THE WIDER AIM FOR FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE, and with the help of Members of the House, the very best tutorial standards must be secured at Christ Church in perpetuity.

Essential to this commitment is the creation of a number of subject-based endowment funds, in this case for the teaching of English.

Jointly funded posts between departments and the colleges are the basic supports of the system. They offer tutorial work with eminent academics who enjoy teaching undergraduates as well as being exceptionally distinguished in those areas of research from which they publish their books and articles.

Increasingly, faculties are finding it harder to fund their part of the post, a situation that obliges colleges, on retirement of a tutor, to employ hourly-paid graduate students or post-doctoral tutors. This is unacceptable on anything but a temporary basis until a permanently appointed distinguished scholar can be properly funded.

These conditions are most unlikely to be temporary; and so our sustaining the continuity and quality of teaching will depend on anticipating needs and building sufficient endowment funds well in advance.

An added incentive for donations to colleges is a scheme, recently set up by the University, to guarantee a limited number of joint-funded posts in perpetuity. The guarantee will be made when a college has been given £1.2 million towards it from its members.





English at Christ Church (past and present)

ENGLISH AT CHRIST CHURCH HAS FLOURISHED as a result of decades of commitment from outstanding tutors with devoted attention to undergraduates.

This tradition began with the appointment of J.I.M. Stewart, novelist and critic (well known to the world beyond as the detective novelist Michael Innes), and was subsequently continued by Richard Hamer, who taught medieval English language and literature.

Those who graduated in the last forty years have particularly benefited from the challenging teaching of Professor Christopher Butler, who retired in 2008, and Mr Peter Conrad, who will retire in 2011.

Since 2002, the teaching of modern poetry by Dr Peter McDonald has been supported by the Trust of the late Christopher Tower. This Trust also contributes to the joint funding of the post held by Dr Mishtooni Bose, who teaches medieval poetry.

Further gifts from the Annual Fund have made it possible to create a five-year Career Development Fellowship in the wake of Professor Butler's retirement. This post is held by Dr Sophie Ratcliffe, a specialist in nineteenth- and twentieth-century literature.

Tutors at Christ Church have inspired generations of undergraduates and graduates with the breadth of their knowledge, their incisiveness and their intellectual versatility.



The Christopher Butler Tutorial Fund for English

The challenge facing English comes to a head with the retirement of Peter Conrad in 2011 and the completion of funding for Sophie Ratcliffe's five-year tenure as Career Development Fellow in 2014.

A general endowment fund is now needed to secure permanently a tutorial team, which will continue to offer the best level of student fulfilment.

It is, however, important to build up funds significantly in advance of the point at which strategic decisions on appointments or re-appointments have to be made.

It is to sustain a long tradition of tutorial commitment, and to guarantee some of the key benefits associated with being a Member of the House, that we now urge Members who read English to support the Christopher Butler Tutorial Fund in recognition of his enormous contribution over such a considerable period of time.

Supporting tutorials in English: costs and giving details

In order to secure the current tutorial strength in English, the Christopher Butler Endowment Fund needs to be no less than £2.2 million.

This would cover the annual cost of a Career Development Fellow at £42,000 (hitherto financed from Annual Fund) and any additional funding for Peter Conrad's post, should the University feel unable to contribute its share (£26,000) beyond 2011.

The total requirement could come down to £1.4 million, however, if English qualifies for the incentive scheme referred to in the last sentence of Section 1.

Even raising a significant proportion of this cost will give English at Christ Church a strong case for retaining its number of Joint College/University posts.

The table below illustrates a range of gifts from Board of Benefactors' level and the implication for tax relief at each level

DONATIONS TO THE CHRISTOPHER BUTLER TUTORIAL FUND

Value to the House	Requires one-off gift (Net of Gift Aid)	Equivalent annual gift over five years	Equivalent monthly over five years	Total net cost for higher rate tax payer (40%)	Total net cost for higher rate tax payer (50%)
£20,000	£16,000	£3,200	£267	£12,000	£10,000
£30,000	£24,000	£4,800	£400	£18,000	£15,000
£50,000	£40,000	£8,000	£667	£30,000	£25,000
£100,000	£80,000	£16,000	£1,334	£60,000	£50,000



The income tax relief for gifts of shares provides a particularly tax-efficient way of giving to charity for individuals in the United Kingdom. This share-giving technique enables the donor to claim full income tax relief on the value of the gift and frees them from the need to pay capital gains tax.

If you would like to discuss making a donation please contact:

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English tutors at Christ Church



PETER MCDONALD was educated at Methodist College, Belfast, and University College, Oxford. His first full collection of poems, *Biting the Wax*, was published in 1989.

Peter was Fellow and Tutor in English at Pembroke College, Cambridge, from 1988-92, and was Lecturer (and

subsequently Reader) in English at the University of Bristol from 1992-99. In 1999, he became the first holder of the Christopher Tower Studentship (i.e. fellowship) and Tutorship in Poetry in the English Language at Christ Church, Oxford, also holding a lectureship in the English Faculty of Oxford University. He is widely regarded as one of the most incisive, and sometimes controversial, critics of contemporary poetry. Among his current projects he is working on a major three-volume edition of *The Complete Poems of W.B. Yeats* for the Longman Annotated English Poets series and a volume of translations from ancient Greek with his *Collected Poems* due in 2012.

Recent Publications:

BOOKS

Literary criticism:

Louis MacNeice: The Poet in his Contexts (1991)

Mistaken Identities: Poetry and Northern Ireland (1997)

Serious Poetry: Form and Authority from Yeats to Hill (2002)

Sound Intentions: Rhyme and Repetition from Wordsworth to Hardy (forthcoming, 2011)

As editor:

Louis MacNeice: Selected Plays (with Alan Heuser) (1993)

Paul Muldoon: Critical Essays (with Tim Kendall) (2004)

Louis MacNeice: Collected Poems (2007)

Geoffrey Hill: Essays on his Later Work (with John Lyon) (forthcoming, 2011)

POETRY:

Biting the Wax (1989)

Adam's Dream (1996)

Pastorals (2004)

The House of Clay (2007)

Torchlight (forthcoming, 2011)



DR MISHTOONI BOSE came to Christ Church in 2004 as Christopher Tower Student and Tutor in Medieval Poetry in English. Before that she spent six years as Lecturer in Medieval Literature and Culture in the Department of English at the University of Southampton. She was an undergraduate at Jesus College, Oxford, a

Junior Research Fellow at St Anne's, where she completed her doctorate, and lecturer at Somerville. As a tutor and supervisor, she teaches English literature from 650-1550.

Her research investigates the relationships between poetry and intellectual life in late-medieval England, focusing on debates about church reform, scholasticism, humanism and heresy and featuring writers from Langland to Skelton. She has co-organised conferences on Wycliffism and religious writing in fifteenth-century England, and is currently collaborating on an interdisciplinary project, 'Uncertain Knowledge in the Middle Ages', which will bring together literary scholars, historians, and students of medieval philosophy.

DR SOPHIE RATCLIFFE

came to Christ Church in January 2010 as a Career Development Fellow in English. Previously, she held posts as a British Academy Post Doctoral Research Fellow at Keble, and as a Lecturer in English at Jesus College Oxford. Educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where she took a First in English, Dr Ratcliffe gained her M.Phil with Distinction and her D.Phil at Hertford College Oxford.



Much of Dr Ratcliffe's research focuses on the relationship between philosophy and literature. Her 2008 book, *On Sympathy* – a study of works by Robert Browning, W. H. Auden, and Samuel Beckett – broaches questions concerning literature, emotion, and morality. She has recently completed a chapter about the poetry of Geoffrey Hill and 'physicality' for a forthcoming selection of essays.

Sophie's interest in literary emotion continues in her next research project – a book about the idea of shame in twentieth-century fiction. Other research projects include her edition of selected letters of P. G. Wodehouse (forthcoming in December 2011) and a collaborative research workshop between scholars in the humanities and medical practitioners. She also regularly reviews fiction and criticism for the national press.



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