

# the brick

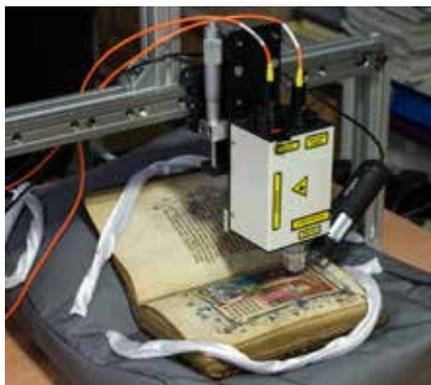
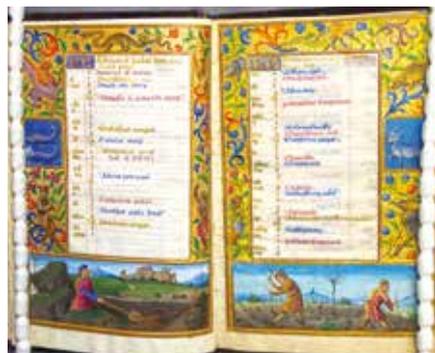
THE NEWSLETTER FOR KEBLE ALUMNI • ISSUE 59 • HILARY TERM 2015 • [WWW.KEBLE.OX.AC.UK](http://WWW.KEBLE.OX.AC.UK)

## Colliding Clusters

Keble's exquisite collection of medieval manuscripts has been attracting humanities scholars for generations. Among our most recent visitors was eminent Chemist, Professor Andy Beeby (University of Durham) who has been jointly sponsored as a visiting scholar by the Imaging and Medieval and Renaissance Studies Clusters, within Keble Advanced Studies Centre (ASC).

Professor Beeby is interested in the material properties of manuscripts, particularly the pigments that were used both in their illuminations and to provide typographical contrasts within the text. An expert in spectroscopy, he has been working with specialists in book history to develop non-invasive and non-destructive ways of examining medieval books. He travels with a relatively small, portable Raman spectrometer and microscope.

By shining a pure, single colour of light on to a small area and measuring the difference between the light emitted and the light that bounces back it is possible to define a fingerprint that identifies which individual molecules are present on the page i.e. the composition of the various pigments. Other techniques, such as near infra-red photography, reveal more information about the pigments used over larger areas. Hence Professor Beeby demonstrated that the nineteenth-century restorer of Keble MS42 (see image below) used the most expensive



**MS 14, folio 33r (an English Book of Hours from the 15th century) under the Raman Spectrometer**

pigments, such as lapis lazuli, probably in the belief that these would be most authentic. Yet Professor Beeby's use of near infrared spectral imaging showed that the original illuminator used cheaper materials, such as azurite, that look identical to the naked eye. These techniques can provide powerful insights into the history of a manuscript, including the nature and extent of any repairs or additions, and can complement other work on manuscripts such as the digitisation of Keble's Regensburg Lectionary.

The aim of the project is to develop a database of the pigments used in manuscripts of known provenance such as Keble MSS 32, 39 and 47 as well as manuscripts in Durham, the Bodleian and other collections. This will serve as a reference point when analysing manuscripts of unknown provenance to suggest possible dates and places of production. It also gives us exciting new information about the technologies of book production: what was being used where, when, by whom and whether these findings fit with what we know about artistic production in other media. To hear the talk, visit <http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/keble-college>.

**Dr Tracey Sowerby**

## An Evening of Ideas!

In early February the London Entrepreneurs event proved an enriching evening when Keble MBA students joined alumni to hear from three entrepreneurial OMs with ideas worth sharing. Their stories were guiding paths for many of the budding entrepreneurs and a sense of reassurance for many who are walking on that path already. Our host was Azhich L'vov-Basirov (1980) Managing Director at Smith & Williamson and the evening began with Jenny Judge, Director of Development introducing the guest speakers. Post introductions we witnessed thought-provoking presentations from: Chris Wood (1969) Chairman of Purpose, Claire (Lewis) Braithwaite (1993) COO of Clearly So, and Niall Bellabarba (2006) Non-Executive Director of WideRun. The experiences shared were very insightful. Passion coupled with perseverance emerged as a unifying theme for most of the successful entrepreneurial ventures. The evening progressed to an informal discussion and a wonderful exhibition of an immersive virtual reality biking experience by WideRun was certainly the great close to the event.

**Bhanu Birla (2015 MBA)**



**The Warden trying out the virtual reality exercise bike**

## in this issue:

college news • student life • interview • news of old members • forthcoming events



## Recaptured Visions

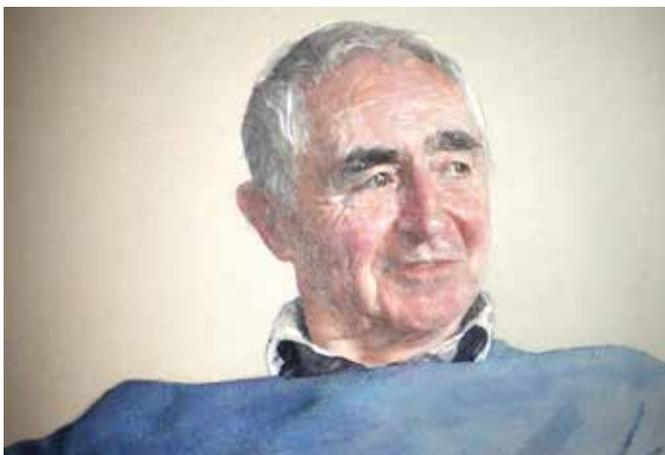
An architect's work is on permanent display, which must be very satisfying. But it is also vulnerable to alteration and degradation, which must be very frustrating. Keble has been fortunate in its architects, and we take very seriously the responsibility to protect and preserve their work.

Over the winter we've begun the cleaning of the Parks Road façade of Butterfield's Grade 1 listed masterpiece. The results are a revelation. We suddenly realise how important stone is to the overall design (Butterfield said of the Chapel that "it might nearly as well be called a stone building as a brick one"). We discover the rich texture of the tiling above the main entrance. What had become, with the passing of the decades, sombre and almost prison-like is restored to its original gaiety.

In a very different exercise, but with essentially the same purpose, the College has finally realised Peter Ahrends's vision for his Grade 2\* listed Hayward Quad. Until additional turf was introduced last September, there was a gap between the end of the lawn and the start of the glazing. Now, as was the original intention, the lawn rises up to meet the buildings with the elegant curve continuing in the progressively steeper angles of the glazing.

**Roger Boden**

## Tony Phelan Portrait



A portrait by Bob Tulloch of Professor Anthony Phelan has joined the serried ranks of Emeritus Fellows in the Writing Room of the SCR. Professor Phelan retired as Tutor in German in 2013 after 15 Years at the College.

For more details on College news stories see: [www.keble.ox.ac.uk/about/news/](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/about/news/)

## The Dennis Shaw Physics Fund Update

Last year Dennis Shaw, Physics Fellow at Keble from 1957 to 1991 celebrated his 90th birthday. To mark this very special occasion Dennis and his wife Joan initiated a Fund to support future Physics students at Keble and we are delighted to announce that given the generous support of numerous Physics alumni the Fund has now reached £65,000. This will enable the College to offer fully-funded summer internships for second and third year undergraduates to embark on research projects during the long vacation and to award a book prize for exceptional performance in University examinations. The third and long-term objective of the Fund is to endow a DPhil studentship. If you would like to make a gift to help to maintain the excellence of Physics at Keble please contact the Alumni and Development Office.



**New wrought-iron security gates to the Lodge archway**

## London Lectures

Dr Ian Archer's lecture in November on the *Transformation of London 1550-1700* drew the largest number of Old Members and their guests to a London Lecture to date. A recording is at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=JR\\_nUf1pGyo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JR_nUf1pGyo)

The next lecture, on Thursday 14 May by Professor Sarah Whatmore at the British Academy, is entitled, *Living with floods and droughts: some challenges in the management of environmental risk in the UK*. Online booking is open at: [www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events/keble-london-lecture-1](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/events/keble-london-lecture-1)

We look forward to seeing you.



## New Register

After 145 years the original College Register signed by all students is full. A new register matching the original but using paper and bindings that will stand the test of time has been kindly donated by Roger Sainsbury (1959) and his wife Susan.



Roger and Susan Sainsbury (right) with Amanda Phillips and Dr Ali Rogers (Senior Tutor)



Freshers signing the Register



## Chaplain Awarded International Theology Prize

Rev Dr Jenn Strawbridge (2001) was awarded the first Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History, an international award established by the Society for Biblical Literature and publishers de Gruyter. The prestigious prize recognises the best unpublished dissertation or monograph in biblical studies, especially reception history. Jenn's thesis, *'According to the Wisdom Given to Him': the Use of the Pauline Epistle by Early Christian Writers*, will be published by De Gruyter.

**Jenn Strawbridge at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion in San Diego.**

## First Driverless Car

The UK's first driverless car using intelligent imaging technology was unveiled in February. It was developed by BP Professorial Fellow in Information Engineering Paul Newman and his team at the Mobile Robotics Group who are based at Keble's Acland site. The prototype vehicle, or autonomous pod, is built by the RDM Group, Coventry. Called the Lutz Pathfinder, it was driven around public spaces in Greenwich and will later be trialled in Milton Keynes. More information about the project is at: [mrg.robots.ox.ac.uk/](http://mrg.robots.ox.ac.uk/)



## 35 Years of Keble Women

In mid-November the College celebrated 35 years of Keble women with a day of talks (see photo for speakers), music, and a memorable all-women Dinner in Hall, a first in the College's history.

Over 120 alumnae and current students attended. The musical interlude in the Chapel was provided by Rosie Sleightholme (2002) who sang folk songs, the College Choir, and current students. Former Warden, Dame Professor Averil Cameron presided at dinner and Anne Marie Imafidon (2006) Founder of the Stemettes Project gave an inspiring speech.



**Speakers from I: Delia Bushell (1991) MD of BT TV and Sport, Rosie Dawson (1979) BBC Producer, Polly Gibb OBE (1984) Director of Women in Rural Enterprise (WIRE), Lis Bates (2000) Head of Research at Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse, Kate Varah (1994) Chief Operating Officer of the Old Vic. Not pictured, Zain Asher (2001) Anchor for CNN International, who spoke via a video link from the States.**



From left: the Warden Tim Besley, Rosie Petersen (2013, JCR President), Ed Balls and Tim Jenkinson

## Economics Evening for MCR and JCR

The RT Hon Ed Balls MP (1985), Shadow Chancellor, and Professor Tim Besley (1980) Professor of Economics and Political Science at the LSE, came to College in November to give a seminar chaired by Professor Tim Jenkinson, Professorial Fellow and Reader in Business Economics who taught them both. The subject under discussion was *18 years on from Bank of England Independence: What has been learned about the role of independent agencies in government?*



Credit: Matt Henderson

Sam Egerton with the ball

## Keble Graduates Behind Dark Blues Varsity Triumph

Keble graduate Sam Egerton (2011) became the first player since 1925 to score in three successive Varsity rugby matches in Oxford's record 43-6 victory over Cambridge last term. Egerton scored the game's first try with a solo run from his own half. OURFC Captain Jacob Taylor (2013 DPhil) lifted the trophy after the biggest win in the competition's 133 year history.



## Keble Jailbreakers

Hilary term saw four teams from Keble embark upon a challenge to escape as far away from Oxford as possible in the course of 36 hours. Without the use of their own money for travel, 'Kat and Hugh', 'Destination Unknown', 'Wanderers of the World', and 'Relatively International ESTcape' were extremely successful, respectively reaching Amsterdam, Monaco, Zürich, and Graz. Combined, they raised a grand total of nearly £4,000 for Oxford RAG charity.

Joella Yeap and Danny Wynbrandt

## Early Music Festival 2015

The second Keble College Early Music Festival took place during February building on the success of last year's inaugural Festival. Ye Fyne Dogges returned to the bar for an evening of Catches with the inimitable Dr Ian Archer; the Henry Ley Singers, the Chapel Choir and a trio of Henry Downing, James Hardie, and Elliott Cramer performed to great audiences. The Marian Consort and Mahan Esfahani both gave captivating performances for the closing concert. We look forward to more in 2016! With thanks to sponsorship from the Talbot Fund, the Keble Association and David Welch (1949).

James Hardie



## #Cruciform

Prints and images by Alice Floyd  
Keble College Chapel

11th February - 7th March  
Private view 24th February 8:15pm

[www.alicefloyd.co.uk](http://www.alicefloyd.co.uk)  
<http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/about/chapel>

## Exhibition in the Chapel

Alice Floyd (2011) held an exhibition of prints and images entitled, #Cruciform in the Chapel during Hilary term.  
[www.alicefloyd.co.uk](http://www.alicefloyd.co.uk)



Matriculating in 1983, Rosie Alison studied English at Keble College; in the subsequent years, she worked on television documentaries, published her debut novel in 2009, and joined Heyday Films as a producer. Here Rosie reflects on her time at Keble, the life of a film producer, and her most recent project, *Testament of Youth*, with English finalist, Lily Taylor (2012).

## What are your most enduring memories of Keble?

Although Keble's architecture isn't everyone's favourite, it made an indelible impression on me! Every time I walked through the Porter's Lodge archway, I was stunned by the splendour of Liddon Quad. And on the way to Hall, I was always struck by that lamp post at the top of the stairs – somehow an outdoor space indoors, very memorable.

## What did you enjoy most about studying English?

I remember the excitement of delving into such a variety of writers – it never felt like work. I particularly enjoyed immersing myself in Wordsworth's *Prelude*, which has remained one of my touchstones. You never have that space and time again to lose yourself in a writer's imagination. I also had a very rewarding relationship with my brilliant and generous tutor Stephen Wall, who remained a close friend right up until his death in 2010. He was, and remains, an inspiration to me – and he very kindly gave me wonderfully detailed feedback when I was writing a novel in my thirties.

## To what extent did your time at Oxford influence your career in television and film, and as a writer? Is there any advice that you would give to current students?

From childhood I always hoped to work in film and drama. At university, I directed various play productions and had a stint running the Oxford Film Foundation. A passion for cinema always seemed to tie up with my passion for literature. My primary advice to any aspiring film and TV producers and writers is that any door is open if you have enough passion and conviction. There are no boundaries in the film or TV world; the key determining factor is whether somebody is keen enough, with a voracious enough interest in and knowledge of the field and its possibilities.

## Can you summarise a 'typical working day' at Heyday Films?

Life in a film company is very amorphous – you never know when the idea-with-potential will strike. When not in production, a typical day will involve a mix of reading, meeting new writers or directors, then discussing notes with a screenwriter for an existing script on our slate of projects. The greatest



On the set of *Testament of Youth*. From l: Alicia Vikander (Vera), Rosie Alison, Shirley Williams (Vera Brittain's daughter) and James Kent (Director)

challenge is translating our ideas and scripts into actual production. It took 10 years to see *Paddington* from an initial idea ('why don't we make a film of Paddington Bear?') into a finished film, and it took 6 years to see *Testament of Youth* to completion. *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* happened much faster: we read the book before it was published, felt at once that it cried out for dramatization, and it all came together very swiftly with writer-director Mark Herman.

## What drew you to *Testament of Youth* as a project?

Vera Brittain's powerful and passionate memoir had lit a flame in me as an adolescent. Above all, I was moved by it as a very loving act of remembrance for those she had lost, and I felt that it could make a deeply stirring film elegy.

## Amidst critics who might feel the First World War has been thoroughly explored in literature and film, how does *Testament of Youth* remain relevant and important for modern audiences?

As we look back on the Great War, there is a plethora of statistics and photographs but that era already feels very distant. A great strength of Vera's memoir is her powerful, bracing first person voice: she provides this passionate single window onto that terrible cataclysm, and it is the intimacy and immediacy of her viewpoint which enables

us to re-live what they went through. In the film, we were keen to see everything through Vera's eyes - I hope that aspect helps reconnect us emotionally and viscerally to what that lost generation endured. But as a classic elegy, Vera's story remains so resonant: it's not just about the First World War, but about all youth lost in all wars.

## In the light of Keble's recent '35 Years of Keble Women' celebrations it seems topical to ask: what do you think about the role of women in television and film today?

Film and television are industries in which women truly thrive. The one area where I wish we could see more women is as directors. You need to have such unshakeable self-belief and self-confidence to succeed as a film director, and women seem to be more plagued by self-doubt than men which can make it harder for them! I hope we see more Jane Campions and Kathryn Bigelows appearing; we already have some fantastic female theatre directors, and I hope more of them will find their way to film.

## And finally, what is your next project?

I hope to be working on the sequel to *Paddington*; the first film was such a joy that it would be great to make another...



## Phil Clarke

Phil Clarke left the Alumni and Development at the end of March last year for new pastures. However, Keble proved greener and he re-joined the office in the new post of Data Manager in August with the additional role of organising the bi-annual Telethons.

## Keble Rowing Society London Dinner

The Keble Rowing Society held its first London dinner in February, at the Oxford and Cambridge Club. 34 members and guests attended, including both KCBC Captains, who gave encouraging reports on the preparations and prospects for Torpids. At the reception beforehand videos of the triumphs of last year's Summer Eights, training footage and some drone camera views of an M1 outing earlier that very day were shown. The evening ended in the bar at 2am, a sure sign of how well it had all gone. The KRS plans to make this an annual event.

All former Keble rowers and friends are welcome to join the KRS. [www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/supporting-keble/talbot-fund](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/supporting-keble/talbot-fund). The next event on Sunday 30 May is the KRS and KCBC Dinner in Hall. Join us for Summer Eights at the river during the afternoon.

**Robert MacVicar (President of the Keble Rowing Society)**

## Youngest Person to Achieve RPP

Mike Wallace (2003) is the youngest person to achieve the Association of Project Managers (APM) Registered Project Professional (RPP) standard, at 29. Mike, who studied Engineering at Keble, is a Principal Consultant for the PA Consulting Group, and a Year Group Representative for the 2003s.



## Mooting in the Chapel

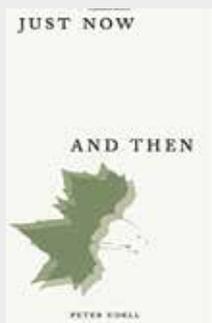
The Grand Final of the inaugural Herbert Smith Freehills Oxford Disability Mooting Championship took place in the Chapel in November. The event, coinciding with UK Disability History Month, aims to promote the intellectual study of disability and its intersection with domestic and international law. Dan Hudson (1996), Partner, in dispute resolution at HSF took part.

See; <http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/about/news/inaugural-herbert-smith-freehills-oxford-disability-mooting-championship-held-in-keble>

## Old Members in Print

### Just Now and Then

Peter Udell (1959) has written a story about two lovers. She's single, he's separated. When his wife threatens suicide, he decides to return to her. The lovers part. Twenty years later they meet again. She's married, he's divorced. He's then attacked by her husband, she by his ex-wife. They decide, however, to be together... and not just now and then. It is available - as e-book and paperback - through Amazon.



### From History PGCE to historical fiction writer

After Keble, Paul Letters (1996) taught history and politics at City of London School and then at King George V School, Hong Kong. When disability hit in his mid-thirties, Paul began to write. His first novel, *A Chance Kill*, is a wartime thriller where an old-fashioned love story forges through a conspiracy of authentic, action-filled events. See [aChanceKill.com](http://aChanceKill.com)

Credit: Alexandra Carille Photography



### Late Fragments

Published posthumously in January 2015 by Harper Collins, *Late Fragments* by Kate Gross (1996) was written after she was diagnosed with cancer. Kate's English tutors, Nigel Smith and Ralph Hanna have written a wonderful obituary available on the College website at [www.keble.ox.ac.uk/about/news](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/about/news) and there will be a full obituary in the next edition of *The Keble Review* magazine.



### The Earth Will Teach You

Kevin Durrant (1978) has written *The Earth Will Teach You* a book encouraging those with a Christian Faith to see the importance of respecting the natural world. The book's use of poetry and art alongside scripture gives it wide appeal. Kevin has been a Geography teacher and civil servant and is now a Baptist Minister in Gloucestershire.





## Archive Thrives

Our Archives hold a wealth of information documenting the College's institutional history, including the lives of Old Members during their days at Keble. This was particularly noticeable in February when current student Jonathan Mitchell (2013) asked Eleanor Fleetham, College Archivist, whether she might have any material to show Dudley Couper (1954), a family friend. Eleanor was able to provide a range of material from Dudley's time, including a photograph of him as captain of the 1st Hockey in 1957. Particularly special was their signatures, whilst almost 60 years apart, recorded in perpetuity in the same register.

[eleanor.fleetham@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:eleanor.fleetham@keble.ox.ac.uk)

## B & B in Keble – but not as you might remember it!

Keble has always welcomed back Old Members. But we haven't always been able to offer really comfortable accommodation. Times have changed. We've just completed the final phase of the Liddon Quad renovation (we start on Pusey this autumn). From now until October, 18 newly refurbished ensuite rooms are available.

You can book rooms online at [www.keble.ox.ac.uk/bed-breakfast](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/bed-breakfast) and, because we really do want you to come back, we're offering a discount of £10 to Old Members, with a new promotional code (20keble20). If you're bringing friends or family, you can use the code for one additional room (any further rooms will be charged at the normal rate). Please enter your Matriculation year in the 'Additional information' box during the booking procedure.

So do come back and see us.

**Roger Boden**

## Great Chalfield and Wolf Hall

My family home Great Chalfield (National Trust) hosted Wolf Hall last spring as 'Austin Friars'. Film making reminds me vividly of armoured TA exercises forty years ago to deter the Russians: night movement of heavy vehicles, camping in fields, long hours, fatigue and the great joys of teamwork.

Superb direction of actors, camera, sound, production, art dept, special effects, props, lighting and location management produced excellent results in Wolf Hall. We offer rural peace and quiet and recreation to visitors as well as film crews. The Other Boleyn Girl funded relaying the floor of our beautiful parish church, Wolf Hall allowed redecoration of the medieval hall and the stags had a welcome centenary hair do. Please come and see for yourselves. [www.greatchalfield.co.uk](http://www.greatchalfield.co.uk)

**Robert Floyd (1968)**



The loggia where the housekeeper consoled Cromwell on the loss of his wife and daughters

## The Visitors

Many congratulations to Barney Norris (2006) who has won the Critics Circle Award for Most Promising Playwright for his first full-length play, Visitors. It had a phenomenal success on tour and at the Arcola Theatre in spring 2014, and it transferred the Bush Theatre for the 2014 Christmas period.



Barney was also nominated for the Evening Standard's Charles Wintour Award for Most Promising Playwright, the Writers' Guild Best Play Award and the Offies Best Play Award. For a review of the play by Amanda Phillips see: <http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/about/norris-review-by-amanda-phillips>

## Keble College Music Society

Keble College Music Society – see [www.keblemusic.co.uk](http://www.keblemusic.co.uk)  
for Events - Old Members welcome

**Sunday 26 April**

**Trinity Term begins**  
**St Mark's Day Service**  
The Chapel 5.30pm



**Saturday 9 May**  
**Degree Day for**  
**2014 Finalists**

Invitations for lunch in  
College were sent to  
Graduands in January

**Data Protection Statement** Your data will be used by Keble College and members of the Old Members' network solely for organising events, producing and distributing publications, careers advice and fundraising. The data will not be passed without your permission to external organisations or individuals other than those acting as agents of the College or contracting to provide services to the College that entail access to the data. The College does not sell any data to third parties. For a copy of the College's full Alumni and Development Office Data Protection Statement go to: [www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/data\\_protection](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni/data_protection)

**Saturday 9 May**

**College Ball**  
Gothic Revival  
[www.kebleball.com](http://www.kebleball.com)



**Thursday 14 May**  
**London Lecture**

*Living with floods and droughts: some challenges in the management of environmental risk in the UK*  
Professor Sarah Whatmore,  
Professor of Economics and Political Science  
The British Academy, Carlton House Terrace, London.  
Refreshments from 6pm  
Lecture 6.30pm

**Friday 15 May**

**Eric Symes Abbott Memorial Lecture**  
The Chapel 5.30pm  
*Blessed are the hypocrites?*  
*Saying sorry in a tell-all age*  
The Revd Lucy Winkett  
Rector of St James's, Piccadilly.  
All welcome



**Saturday 30 May**  
**Young Alumni Garden Party**

for OMs from 1995-2011  
Hayward Quad  
No booking necessary, see  
College website for more  
information

**Saturday 30 May**

**Keble Rowing Society and AGM and Eights Week Dinner**  
Invitations were sent to members of the KC Rowing Society in March

**Saturday 6 June**

**College Garden Party**  
Old Members can apply for tickets. Invitations were extended to 2nd year undergraduates and 1st graduates and their families in Hilary Term.

**Saturday 4 July**

**Summer Dinner**  
with special invitations to:  
1985s for their 30th Anniversary  
1990s for their 25th Anniversary  
1955s for their 60th Anniversary  
All Keble Old Members who were involved in sport at College and the University

**Saturday 4 July**

**Keble Association**  
Trustees Meeting (3-4pm) and  
AGM (4.15-5.30pm)  
The de Breynne Room of the SCR  
(entrance by steps to Hall)



## Keble online



follow @KebleAlumni



find the Keble College Oxford Alumni group



join the Keble College Oxford Alumni group  
and/or the Keble Entrepreneurs group

**Your email address:** As postal costs become more expensive it would be very helpful to email some event invitations. If you have not already done so, please let the Alumni and Development Office know your email address or inform us of any change to your email address.

## Contacts:

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## the brick

*the brick* is written, designed and produced by the Alumni and Development Office with the assistance of current Keble students.

Producer/Designer: Hunts – paper and pixels

Alumni and Development Office: Ruth Cowen, Jenny Tudge, Camilla Matterson, Philip Clarke, Sharon Thomas and Kiki Fox

Published by Keble College, Oxford. Printed and distributed in the UK by Hunts.

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