

# the brick

THE NEWSLETTER FOR KEBLE ALUMNI • ISSUE 68 • TRINITY TERM 2019 • [WWW.KEBLE.OX.AC.UK](http://WWW.KEBLE.OX.AC.UK)

## Great Balls of...Keble

Since 1947, the Keble Ball has transformed the College into a wonderland of exciting entertainment. On 27 June 2020, we invite all members of Keble past and present to join us for the biggest night in Keble's 150 years.



Taking inspiration from the Balls over the years, and showcasing the best of what 2020 has to offer, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Keble Ball will be a night for Keblites of all ages to remember.

There will be a Victorian Fairground at the heart of the event, and endless activities and entertainment throughout the night, including music through the decades. All-inclusive food and drink will be free-flowing from stalls, with additional dining tickets available for those who wish to have a formal dinner in the recently renovated magnificent Hall.

Using the whole College, this will be the biggest Ball Oxford has ever seen. More information will be sent out later in the summer, and tickets will be on sale from October, but to whet your appetite, let's review some of Keble's historic Balls...



### 1970

**David Payne (1966):** 1970 was a major watershed in Keble Ball history. Time for annual sell-out, low cost, oddly-themed balls—such as Yak (don't ask) or Roundabout—to recede into memory. No more 4gns or £5 double-tickets (alcohol not included) for 1500 revellers. This was transition into grown-up Commem territory. Double-figure prices (but some inclusive booze); young bloods blending with nostalgic alumni. The same riches of entertainment zones but the main marquee headline act was the generation-spanning Hollies. "Grown up"? Maybe. We veterans are foggy about details now. But the fun was undiminished.



### 1999

**Mark Nunn (1997):** The 1999 Ball was considered to be THE Oxbridge Ball at the time. We had some great 'up and coming' comedians: Al Murray, Noel Fielding, Richard Ayowade, and John Oliver; as well as an amazing headline act, The Fun Lovin' Criminals, who went on to play at Glastonbury the next day! It was gloriously sunny, so our bespoke flavour of ice cream from G&Ds went down well and, at 6am, there were still loads of guests lying on the grass banks of Liddon, soaking up the sun! But I think the most poignant memory was that someone was seen leaving the next morning with a massive stolen dragon made of ice!



### 2019

**Yannis Baur (2016):** The 2019 Keble Ball fuelled 1700 guests with a large range of food and drink including a Sipsmith gin bar, Mac 'n' Cheese, and a Ball favourite, Yubba Yubba Doughnuts, as they were entertained with a variety of acts such as the ABBA tribute band, SIGMA, and Keble's own student talents LVRA and Isobel Hambleton. We had a chill-out tent inside Hall, roaming stilt walkers dressed as trees, a caricaturist, glitter artists, and, to top it all off, we had an amazing light projection show on our chapel, really making this night stand out.

### in this issue:

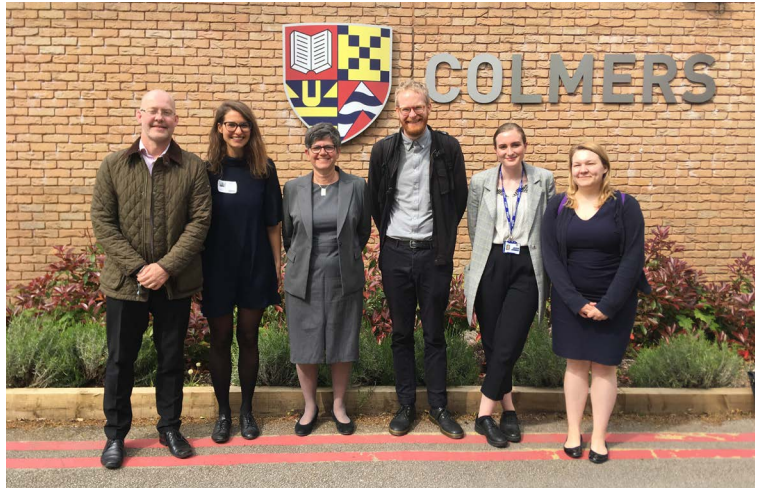
college news • student life • alumni news • forthcoming events

## A Programme of Success

Last September, Keble College launched a partnership with education charity The Access Project and Colmers School in Rednal, Birmingham. Eight months on, the Colmers School programme has proved a great success, recording the highest attendance of one-to-one tutoring (91%) out of all participating Access Project schools, which are situated across the West Midlands and London.

Thirty-six Colmers pupils in Years 10–13 have participated in the project thus far, with over 250 tutorials having taken place. Twelve Keble alumni and one current Keble student are matched with students at the school.

The Access Project offers bright young students from disadvantaged backgrounds free weekly tuition in the subjects they need most help with, along with expert and tailored guidance through the university application process.



**Keble Outreach and Career Development Fellow, Foteini Dimirouli (2014) (second from left), with Colmers School and The Access Project staff**

## Taking Root

The H B Allen Centre quad is looking splendid with its new cover of lawn, which was expertly laid in May by the same company responsible for the re-turfing of Liddon. All of the green spaces at the Centre are coming along beautifully under Garden and Grounds Manager Ade Roche's exacting supervision.



## Target Oxbridge

In July, we had the privilege of hosting 45 of this year's Target Oxbridge cohort (<https://targetoxbridge.co.uk>), who stayed overnight here at Keble. They were visiting Oxford to attend the University Open Day, and also to participate in some additional sessions run by Oxplore (<https://oxplore.org>), and our Outreach Fellow, Foteini Dimirouli (2014), the day after. We were able to provide accommodation for the group free of charge thanks to donations from Keble alumni.

Target Oxbridge is a free programme run by Rare Recruitment that aims to help UK-based Year 12 students of black African and Caribbean heritage (including those of mixed race) make a strong application to Oxford or Cambridge.

They were an engaged and intellectually ambitious group of young people and we wish them all the best.



## Stephen Cameron (1958–2019)

The College is very sad to announce the death of Professor Stephen Cameron. Stephen joined Keble in 1986 as a Research Fellow. Two years later he became a Tutorial Fellow in Computer Science. He suffered a major stroke on 5 April and did not recover consciousness. He died peacefully on 15 April. We send our profound condolences to his wife, Frances, and to their son and daughter. A full obituary will follow in the 2019 *Review and Record*.



## Portrait of Keble: An Installation

To mark 40 years of co-education and the beginning of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will open a very special exhibition in Hall on Friday 20 September.

The ambitious installation celebrates the rich diversity of the Keble community and will be a piece of art in its own right. It will feature photographic portraits of 28 individuals including alumni, current students, staff, and Fellows, who were selected by members of the Keble community for their inspirational achievements, be they personal, professional, or both. The images will be

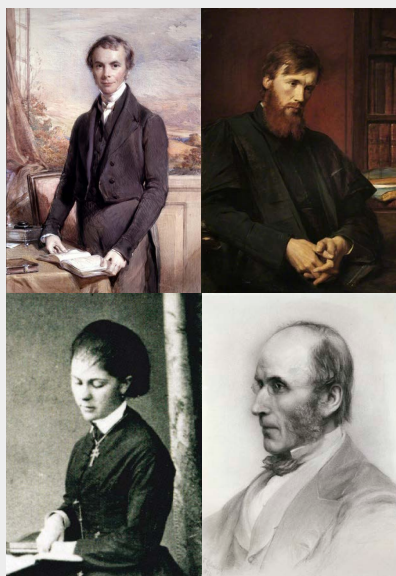
suspended above the tables in Hall and will complement the traditional portraits on the walls, which will remain in place throughout.

Professional photographer Fran Monks (pictured) was commissioned for the project. Fran is based in Oxford and has worked extensively with the University and other colleges (<http://franmonks.com>).

All alumni, friends and guests are warmly invited to join the launch event (details on back cover). If you can't make it on that date, the installation will remain throughout the 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations.



## Reflecting on the Victorians



As part of its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, the College is hosting a symposium on Wednesday 25 September 2019 in the recently completed H B Allen Centre.

The aim of the symposium, organised by Ian Archer and Angus Hawkins, is to look at the forces and personalities behind the foundation of the College. Part of that story is to be found in the controversial religious politics of the period; part of it in the question of the relationship of the wider University to new social and intellectual currents. Raising the money involved the mobilisation of some significant big hitters like the Gibbs family, but it also required novel fundraising tactics. In choosing William Butterfield as an architect and in adopting brick as the key building material, the College made a statement of boldness of difference. Far from being a reactionary project, the first Warden, Edward Talbot and his wife Lavinia played a key role in the movement from which Lady Margaret Hall emerged.

Speakers at the symposium will address topics such as the relationship of the College to the Oxford Movement, the location of the prime movers in Victorian politics, the memorialisation of John Keble, Keble's poetry, fundraising, the architecture of William Butterfield, Lavinia Talbot and Victorian womanhood, the Talbots and the cause of women's education, and the Hall restoration project as a case study in archives and heritage. Speakers include Ian Archer, Joshua Bennett, Roger Boden, Angus Hawkins, Elisabeth Jay, Frances Lannon, Faye McLeod, Nicholas Olsberg, Simon Skinner, and William Whyte. The aim is to address a wider audience, not a narrowly academic one, and all are welcome. There is a modest registration fee of £15 which will include lunch and a wine reception on How High Terrace, with spectacular views over the University's Observatory Quarter.

Please visit [www.keble.ox.ac.uk/victorian-symposium](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/victorian-symposium) for further details.

## Job Well Done

We reported in the last issue of *the brick* that Hall has undergone a remarkable restoration, and is looking at its peak. What was not reported was that this colossal achievement was only possible through the concerted effort of dozens of tradespeople, craftspeople and other professionals, who were all invited to a celebratory lunch on 3 May.

A big thank you to all those involved for a job well done, which will stand as a testament to your skills for decades, if not centuries, to come.



## KA Report: Japanese Journey

Edward Bains (2015) undertook a 6-week internship in Japan, spending five weeks in Shinjuku, the urban hub of Tokyo, and one week in Matsumoto in the foothills of the Japanese alps. He taught English as a tutor for 5 one-week intensive English teaching courses in partnership with the internationally renowned Toshin High School.

One of the highlights of the trip was a homestay with a Japanese family, which proved an unforgettable experience comprising cooking and eating local food, communicating in basic Japanese, visiting local shrines and castles, and attending firework festivals (an extremely popular practice in the heat of Japanese summer).

The programme gave Edward the chance to meet interns from other universities across England and America and to build up a network of contacts. Overall, Edward says that this experience has been invaluable for his future career.

From a report written by **Edward Bains** (2015).  
Edited by **Nela Scholma-Mason** (2011),  
Keble Association Student Liaison Officer.



## Volunteer Awards

Keble undergraduate Shona Galt (2017 English and Italian, on left) has won the Access and Outreach Volunteer of the Year Award at the first-ever Oxford University Student Charity Awards, presented on Thursday 16 May.

Shona was nominated for her work as Academic Affairs and Access Officer for Keble and as President of the Oxford First-Gen Society, which connects and supports University of Oxford students who are among the first generation in their family to go to university.

The Oxford University Student Charity awards were organised by Oxford Raise and Give (RAG), the University's student-led fundraising group, and Oxford SU. The awards recognised the efforts of students in a range of areas including fundraising, campaigning and volunteering.



## Forbes Asia 30 Under 30 Social Entrepreneurs

Congratulations to Ronit Kanwar (2016 Economics and Management) who has made the annual Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list, which highlights young entrepreneurs and rising stars across ten industries, and 23 countries and territories, including honorees from as far as Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Laos. Ronit was selected for his social enterprise start-up, Empower Energy ([www.empower-energy.co.uk](http://www.empower-energy.co.uk)), which provides electricity to the most excluded in India via solar ATMs. We wish him good luck with his venture!

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## Google Scholarship

Computer Science DPhil Klaudia Krawiecka (2017) has been awarded a 2019 Google Women Techmakers Scholarship—formerly the Google Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship—encouraging women to excel in computing and technology and become active leaders and role models in the field. Klaudia will receive €7,000, and will attend the Google Scholarship Retreat in London.

Klaudia's current research focuses on authenticating the Internet of Things devices using out-of-band channels such as visual channels (e.g. Augmented Reality).



## Bumps Update

After a remarkable 2018, culminating in Keble M1 seizing the Summer Vllls Headship, KCBC returned to the river in 2019 ready for action.

Torpids saw M1 catapult into Division I, with the crew climbing six places to 11<sup>th</sup>, while W1 continued their ascent towards the head, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> on the river.

Summer Vllls presented challenges, including a cancelled last M1 race, leaving Keble in second position behind Oriel, but poised for another determined assault on the Headship next year.



## Rugby Cuppers...

The Keble Women's Rugby season has been one of hard work, determination and resilience, culminating in a place in the Cuppers Final. Although the side did not manage to come away with the trophy, the development of our novices was the true success story of the tournament. Our team featured a number of talented Blues players, a strong pack of Panthers (OU 2<sup>nd</sup> team), and several sportswomen who were completely new to the sport.

We can be incredibly proud of the development of each individual player, but also of our contribution to women's rugby at Oxford, with many of our standout players being recognised for their University performances all year round. Keble Women's Rugby is leading the way in the growth of women's college rugby, and are excited to start the road to next year's Cuppers final.

**Shekinah Opara**  
Captain, 2017 History  
(Ancient and Modern)



## ...and Cricket Cuppers

On 20 June, Keble came up against Worcester in the Cricket Cuppers Final. Having been knocked out in the first round in 2018, we surpassed all expectations, coming through tight matches against highly-rated Hertford and Balliol, which finished 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively in the college league this year.

Keble got off to an impressive start, restricting their opponents to 135 for 4 from their 20 overs. We felt that it was a very chaseable score and, especially having reached 59 for 1, Keble were daring to dream. However, it wasn't to be, as the strong Worcester bowling attack restricted Keble to 123 for 8, just 12 runs short. Although coming up agonisingly short of cuppers glory left the team hugely disappointed, the overriding feeling is one of pride for what the team has achieved, and I have no doubt that Keble can go one better and win the whole thing next year!

**Freddie Freeman**  
Captain, 2017 History

## Application Information Day

As part of its regional Outreach work in the West Midlands, Keble College welcomed over 50 potential Oxford applicants from 17 non-selective state schools across the region for an Application Information Day. The event was designed to offer guidance to Year 12 pupils from under-represented groups who have the academic potential to thrive here but might not make a competitive application without some additional support. The day was a resounding success: 100% of attendees said they now have a better idea of how to prepare for applying to the University of Oxford and 97% that they are more likely to apply having taken part.

The event was made possible through the help of Shona Galt (2017, JCR Access and Academic Affairs Officer 2018–19) and her team of over 30 enthusiastic student ambassadors involved in the JCR Outreach society, 'Keble at Large', which is funded through generous support from alumni via the Talbot Fund.



## Sporting Fun

On 25 May, members of the JCR and MCR got together for a day of fun and games in the park, University Parks to be exact. With the opening of The H B Allen Centre this year, the number of students at Keble has grown to 850, with graduate numbers rising from 250 in 2016 to over 400. This means that the Keble student body is now an almost even split between graduates and undergraduates—a significant change to previous years.

The JCR and MCR committees have been working closely to help ensure that all students have the opportunity to meet, mix, work and play together. This joint Sports Day was well-attended and involved friendly matches of croquet, rounders, volleyball and 5-a-side football.

## #ToYouFromAlumni

Keble bore an unseasonably festive look in May this year. On Friday the 10<sup>th</sup>, gift tags began to appear around College. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, more followed, and yet more on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. By the final day, about 50 tags could be seen all around Keble, both indoors and out. These gift tags were attached to items funded by, and spaces restored or refurbished by, Keble alumni and friends through the Talbot Fund.

Both the MCR and JCR committees were instrumental in helping to create a very visual 'thank you' to Keble alumni and to show current students the impact of alumni support on their everyday lives in College. To find out more, visit [www.keble.ox.ac.uk/toyoufromalumni](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/toyoufromalumni).



## Queen's Birthday Honours

*Congratulations to the following Keble alumni whose achievements have been recognised in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours list.*



### **Jonathan Iremonger (1972 Phil and Theol)**

Assistant Chief of Staff for Finance, Permanent Joint Headquarters, Ministry of Defence. Awarded CBE for services in Support of Military Operations.



### **Barnaby Lenon (1973 Geography)**

Chair of the Independent Schools Council and Chair of Governors at the London Academy of Excellence. Awarded CBE for services to Education.

## Work Like a Woman

At our May London Lecture at Grant Thornton, we welcomed the energising Mary Portas whose daughter, Verity Portas (2015 Archaeology and Anthropology), graduated from Keble just a couple of weeks earlier. In front of a packed house, Mary talked about her book, *Work Like A Woman*, with ITV West Country journalist and Keble Alumna Caron Bell (2006 Modern History). Throughout the entertaining hour, they discussed Mary's career, including most recently the foundation of her consultancy and creative agency, where she is making it her mission to make the world of work a better place for everyone.

During the conversation and Q&A, Mary gave advice to members of the audience on how to be happier, more productive and more collaborative, and how to make a difference, no matter who you are or where you work.



Mary Portas (centre), with Keble Warden Sir Jonathan Phillips (left) and Caron Bell (2006)



## From the UAE to Antarctica

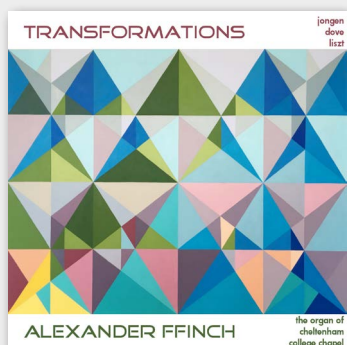
Winston Cowie (2006 MSc Geography, on left), who has been working as Marine Policy Manager at the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, travelled to Antarctica with a team from the UAE to direct and co-present a documentary about the experience, marking a year celebrating Sheikh Zayed. The documentary, entitled 'Zayed's Antarctic Lights', has a strong focus on the UAE, climate change and single-use plastics. It premiered on National Geographic Abu Dhabi this Earth Day, is showing on Etihad Airways Flights and won a Bronze World Medal at the New York Festivals TV and Film Awards.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jaR1tGZoMo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jaR1tGZoMo)

## Giving Day – Thank You!

Keble's 149<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated with an online Giving Day on 6 June this year. The 'day' was actually a 36-hour affair in order to include alumni right across the globe. Social media whizzed and popped with news and messages of well-wishing as alumni spread the word. We hoped some alumni would help by making a gift and were more than pleasantly surprised by over 220 gifts and £80,000 raised. Thank you to everyone for taking part to make this a special year and for such solid support for current students. Imagine what could happen in 2020 when Keble turns 150!

**Young Alumni, including Alumni Relations Officer Martha Baskerville (2010), wishing the College a happy 149<sup>th</sup> Birthday.**



## 'Transformations'

Former Organ Scholar, Alexander Ffinch (1991), is releasing a new album, *Transformations*. It features works by Franz Liszt and Joseph Jongen, and the world premiere recording of Jonathan Dove's 'The Dancing Pipes'. It is performed on the recently-rebuilt organ in the Chapel at Cheltenham College, where Alexander is Organist.

## Welcome Jessie



We would like to welcome Jessie Torrance-Cameron (centre), who has joined us as Alumni Relations Assistant in the Alumni Office. She will be supporting Alumni Relations Manager Veronika Kovacs (left) for the next year, while Martha Baskerville (2010) devotes her energies to the 150<sup>th</sup> Ball and a special Keble web project.

## Hot Ticket

Former English student, Ell Potter (2014) is garnering great reviews for her show 'Hotter' which is a bravely honest and joyful, sometimes poignant, exploration of women and their bodies. Written and developed with her former partner, Mary Higgins (St Hilda's), the production was devised in the O'Reilly Theatre in Keble based on interviews with women aged from 11 to 97. The production has caught the attention of the national press and also brought an invitation to appear on BBC's Women's Hour.

Ell was encouraged to apply to Keble by her former history teacher, Paul Dwyer (2005). "I didn't even know there was a theatre here," she admits. She is halfway through her postgraduate course at LAMDA and is already working with Mary on their next production, 'Fitter', an exploration of male ideas of fitness and what it means to fit in. Hotter will be at White Belly, Underbelly Edinburgh 12–25 August, and 2–5 September at the Soho Theatre. It will be a hot ticket.



## Alumnus in Print

Professor **Brendan O'Leary** (1977 PPE), Lauder Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania, gave a pre-dinner talk in the Warden's Lodgings about his three-volume definitive *Treatise on Northern Ireland*, which was published earlier this year.

Professor O'Leary led a lively and insightful discussion on the current political issues affecting Northern Ireland, Scotland and the UK as a whole.



More details and booking information online at  
[www.keble.ox.ac.uk/events](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/events)

Enquiries to  
[alumni.events@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alumni.events@keble.ox.ac.uk)

**20–21 September**  
**Keble Reunion celebrating 40 years of co-education**  
Invitations sent in July. A full programme is available online. All welcome.

**Friday 20 September**  
**Portrait of Keble: An Installation**  
Alumni are welcome to join the launch event. Book online.



**Saturday 21 September**  
Award-winning author  
**Cressida Cowell (1985)**  
will talk about "Wizards and Dragons" and her brand new book, *Knock Three Times*.

Professor of Astrophysics  
**Katherine Blundell OBE** will talk about "Black Holes and Spin Offs"

**20–22 September**  
**UO Alumni Weekend**  
For booking and programme see [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/alumni\\_home](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/alumni_home). Keble cannot take bookings for University events, but meals and accommodation at the College are available.

**Wednesday 25 September**  
**Victorian Symposium**  
All welcome. Book online.

**Friday 27 September**  
**1968 Year 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch**  
Invitations have been sent. Enquiries to Veronika Kovacs.

**Friday 27 September**  
**Douglas Price Society and Talbot Society Lecture and Dinner**  
Presentation by Professor Paul Newman, and graduate researchers Rob Weston and Matthew Gadd from the Oxford Robotics Institute. Invitations sent.

**Saturday 12 October**  
**Ghosts v College fixtures**  
Note: Alumni playing in or supporting the Ghosts matches (except 2019 Finalists) are not permitted in College or the College Bar after the fixtures have taken place.

**Men's and Women's Rugby**  
Keble Rugby Pitch, University Parks  
Alumni wishing to play, please contact **Scott Geelan** (Men) [geelanscott@gmail.com](mailto:geelanscott@gmail.com) or **Jessie Torrance-Cameron** (Women) [alumni@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@keble.ox.ac.uk)

**Women's Netball**  
College Sports Ground  
Alumni wishing to play, please contact **Sarah Levisur** [sarah.levisur@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.levisur@gmail.com)

**Men's Football**  
College Sports Ground  
Alumni wishing to play, please contact **Brian Johns** [briandavidjohns1@hotmail.com](mailto:briandavidjohns1@hotmail.com) or **Adrian Grayston** [adriang@graduateinternational.com](mailto:adriang@graduateinternational.com)

**Women's 7-a-side Football**  
College Sports Ground  
The College side is a Keble-Hertford team. Alumni wishing to play, please contact **Kate Dickinson** [katedickinson23@gmail.com](mailto:katedickinson23@gmail.com)

**Tuesday 15 October**  
**Entrepreneurs' Evening**  
Notification of online booking will be in the Michaelmas Term E-Event calendar.

**Wednesday 27 November**  
**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**In Conversation with the Warden series (London)**  
Sir Jonathan Phillips will talk to alumnus **Ed Balls (1985)**. Booking opens end of August.

**2020**  
**Reunion and Keble Birthday!**  
18–19 September



@KebleAlumni



Keble College Alumni group



Alumni group and Entrepreneurs group

## Your Data

We've updated our Privacy Notice for alumni, donors and friends to make it easier for you to understand how we process your personal data. Our new Privacy Notice aims to more clearly describe how we collect your data, how and why we use it, and, most importantly, your rights and choices. We're making these improvements as part of our response to the new EU General Data Protection Regulation. You can view our Privacy Notice at <https://www.keble.net/privacy-notice>

If you would like to request a hard copy or if you have any questions about our Privacy Notice or about your personal data, or if you want to provide updates to your data and make any changes to your communication preferences, please contact: The Data Manager, Alumni and Development Office, Keble College, Oxford, OX1 3PG. Email: [dev.off@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:dev.off@keble.ox.ac.uk) Tel: 01865 282303

## Contacts

**Alumni and Development Office**  
Keble College  
Parks Road  
Oxford OX1 3PG

[www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/alumni)  
[dev.office@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:dev.office@keble.ox.ac.uk)  
[alumni@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@keble.ox.ac.uk)

**Jenny Tudge** (Director of Development) [jenny.tudge@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jenny.tudge@keble.ox.ac.uk) (01865 272794)  
**Camilla Matterson** (Deputy Director of Development) [camilla.matterson@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:camilla.matterson@keble.ox.ac.uk) (01865 282506)  
**Veronika Kovacs** (Alumni Relations Manager) [veronika.kovacs@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:veronika.kovacs@keble.ox.ac.uk) (01865 282338)  
**Jessie Torrance-Cameron** (Alumni Relations Assistant) [jessica.torrance-cameron@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jessica.torrance-cameron@keble.ox.ac.uk)  
**Martha Baskerville** (Alumni Events and Project Manager) [martha.baskerville@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:martha.baskerville@keble.ox.ac.uk) (01865 272799)  
**Philip Clarke** (Data Manager) [philip.clarke@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:philip.clarke@keble.ox.ac.uk) (01865 282303)  
**Sharon Thomas** (Executive Assistant) [sharon.thomas@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sharon.thomas@keble.ox.ac.uk) (01865 272794)  
**Rebecca Coker** (Major Gifts Officer) [rebecca.coker@keble.ox.ac.uk](mailto:rebecca.coker@keble.ox.ac.uk) (01865 282036)

**the brick**

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

Editing and setting by Boriana Boneva (Communications Manager).  
Printing and distribution by Acorn Press. Proofreading by Les Hearn (1968).

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**Contributors and photographers:** Ian Archer, Edward Bains (2015), Yannis Baur (2016), Nicole Boothman, Winston Cowie (2006), Foteini Dimirouli (2014), Sam Edwards (2017), Freddie Freeman (2017), Debra Hurford Brown, Shona Galt (2017), Jonathan Iremonger (1972), Ronit Kanwar (2016), Klaudia Krawiecka (2017), Barnaby Lenon (1973), John McLean (1998), Mark Nunn (1997), Shekinah Opara (2017), David Payne (1966), Eli Potter (2014), Nela Scholma-Mason (2011), Will Sealy/Oxford SU RAG, Margaret Skeet/Divine Art Recordings Group.