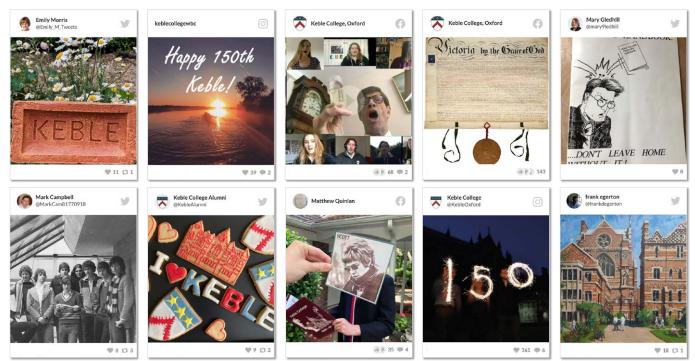


THE NEWSLETTER FOR KEBLE ALUMNI • ISSUE 70 • TRINITY TERM 2020 • WWW.KEBLE.OX.AC.UK

#Keble150



On 6 June 1870, Keble received its Royal Charter. On 6 June 2020, Keble celebrated this milestone in a way that even the most visionary of Victorians could hardly have predicted—online and via social media. Were you there?

Understandably, the original plans for the day, a Garden Party on Liddon and alumni gatherings around the world, were no longer possible. It nevertheless felt important to be able to mark the occasion, to spread a little joy at this time and renew our hopes for the future. Across social media, via emails and on our special 150th Birthday and Giving Day website, we shared interesting elements of Keble's history and its impact on the wider University. As a college with a history filled with fascinating individuals and characters past and present, it was especially interesting, and fun, to see and hear about Keble's significance on a personal level for many members of our community.

The online 150th Birthday and Giving Day was incredibly well-supported by alumni,

Fellows, and staff. The level of activity on social media was inspiring, with birthday messages, photographs, memorabilia, wonderful singing by the College Choir and individual performances, Keble-themed bakes and year-group gatherings on Zoom. Some of these contributions and messages are reproduced on this page. If you missed it on the day and would like to see more, please take a look at the 150th website at **https://keble150.hubbub.net**. There are some excellent videos that are worth a watch too!

Looking to the future formed an important part of the 150th Birthday celebrations. In recent months, Keble's ability to ensure that current students continue to receive the best possible educational and university

experience, despite considerable disruption to 'normal' college life, has come sharply into focus. Keble's finances have been severely affected by the global pandemic. The loss of all conference income in 2020 presents a huge challenge to a college with a relatively small endowment. But financial challenges at this time are not unique to Keble and it has been truly uplifting to receive vital help from alumni and friends in the form of $150^{\mbox{\tiny th}}$ Birthday Gifts. To date, gifts and pledges of over £450,000 have been received from 420 donors. Given the context of the current pandemic, it is an astonishing result for a 36-hour fundraising effort within a college context and reflects the goodwill and support of the Keble community.

Thank you to everyone who took part to make 6 June a wonderful and fitting celebration of 150 years of Keble College and for your part in renewing hope for the next 150 years.

> Keble 150^{Years}

in this issue:

College News

A Message from the Warden



In the past few months, the College has faced challenges of a kind that none of us would have predicted: with the exception of students unable to return home, the closure of the College; teaching and examinations provided remotely; the closure of libraries and laboratories; the furloughing of many non-academic staff; the huge loss of income from student rents and the cancellation of conference and bed and breakfast bookings; and the abandonment of our 150th anniversary events.

The response has been remarkable: our students' commitment to study; the adaptability of graduate students who've had to modify research projects; the extra

burdens shouldered by teaching staff in moving online; the flexibility and determination shown by our non-academic staff, not least in planning for the safe return of our students at the beginning of Michaelmas term; and the generosity of our alumni in supporting our giving day on 6 June.

The financial consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have, however, been very serious indeed. By the end of September, even taking into account the furloughing scheme, the loss of income to the College will have been about £3 million. That has necessitated very difficult decisions by the Governing Body in order to sustain the core educational mission of the College.

Early action was essential to avoid building up unsustainable debt because we must assume, among other things, that the conference business will not resume until at least next summer and that we'll see a drop in academic fee income. In response we have cut some non-staff costs, for example by cancelling alumni events and reducing academic allowances. However, given the reduction in our income we have also had to begin a process of consultation to reduce the number of non-academic staff we employ.

That is a very sad contrast with the 150th celebrations we had been planning and delivering the message was the most difficult thing I've had to do during my ten years at Keble.

But unless we achieve financial stability we won't be able to do all the things we need to do, especially in areas like student access and admissions and the support of our graduate body in the new H B Allen Centre, which are so important to sustaining and developing the College in the future.

I'm confident that we will come through the current difficulties and that with your continuing commitment we'll create an even stronger institution than the one we all know. That will be the focus of my efforts in my final two years as Warden.

> **Sir Jonathan Phillips** Warden

The Warden's full message is available at https://youtu.be/nPCFLkwa55w

Addressing Issues of Racism

Members of the College community were deeply affected by events arising from the killing of George Floyd. It was a particularly difficult time for many students taking their exams. The Black Lives Matter campaign has both transnational and local dimensions; events in Oxford have received international attention.

In a statement to all students, the Warden wrote "this is a very difficult time as we are forced to confront ingrained racist attitudes and inequalities, but it is especially so for Black people to whose voices we need to listen with great attention and sensitivity."

Prompted by the JCR and MCR, and with the active intervention of our students, Governing Body has set up a Task Force, headed by the Warden, to address issues of racism and racial diversity in College. Its members include Fellows, students, non-academic staff and alumni representatives and it will consult widely before making recommendations in the autumn.

> **Ali Rogers** Senior Tutor

Distanced Symposium

As Academic Director of the H B Allen Centre, I am responsible for running academic events to bring together the different elements of our research community. The COVID-19 crisis has presented us with both challenges and opportunities. We've lost some of the spontaneity of the intellectual and cultural collisions that occur in social mixers, and events are rather less well lubricated! And many members of the community groan at the prospect of yet another event on Microsoft Teams. But the pilot research symposium on COVID-19 showed the potential for online events to bring together a good cross-section of the college community, postgraduates, current fellows, retired folk, and some of our Honorary Fellows, many of whom would not have been able to be present at a physical event. The evening demonstrated the richness of the research being conducted by our postgraduates, but also the appetite for finding out about what they do among the wider community.

> **Ian Archer** History Fellow



College News



Emergency Student Hardship Fund

Through the generosity of alumni, we were able to set up an Emergency Hardship Fund for Keble students unable to meet unexpected costs due to the pandemic.

In addition to gifts from individual alumni via the Talbot Fund, The Keble Association kindly agreed to repurpose £15,000 of funds which would have been awarded to Keble students for study-related travel this summer. The initial Fund of £45,000 was augmented by further donations of £11,635 received on the Giving Day on 6 June.

JCR and MCR students have been able to apply for vital funding to help with:

- financial hardship;
- purchasing IT equipment to facilitate remote learning;
- library books and study resources.

Alumni: The Fund has been well used and has been greatly appreciated by undergraduate and graduate students alike. We welcome further donations as the impact of the pandemic and associated lockdown will continue to pose difficulties for our students. Should you wish to make a donation please go to the College website **https://anniversary.keble.ox.ac.uk/make-a-donation**, or email the Alumni and Development Office.

Students: Should you wish to apply for funding over the summer vacation, please look at the College website for instructions at www.keble.ox.ac.uk/ news/covid-19-information.

New Bursar

We are delighted to anounce the appointment of Mr Stephen (Steve) Cooke to succeed Roger Boden as Bursar with effect from 1 January 2021. Having studied Natural Sciences at Jesus College, Cambridge, in the 1980s, Steve has gone on to a variety of chief financial officer and chief executive roles in significant retail and service sector companies, including B&Q plc and Hornby plc, and will bring a wealth of financial and general management experience to Keble. A fuller profile will follow in the Michaelmas Keble *Review*.





A Historic Launch

To coincide with the College's Birthday and 150th anniversary of our Royal Charter on 6 June, Keble launched its new Heritage microsite. The site brings together a wealth of material about our history, Archives and Special Collections. Many thanks to Archivist Faye McLeod, Librarian Yvonne Murphy and History Fellow Dr Ian Archer for their hard work compiling and creating the content.

https://heritage.keble.ox.ac.uk

Virtual Open Day

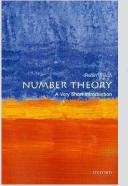
Tenth week of Trinity usually sees thousands of enthusiastic prospective applicants descend on Keble for our annual summer Open Days. As with many things, this year was different. Our student helpers, tutors and admissions staff were still on hand to answer questions and make our guests feel welcome, but instead of face-to-face, all interactions took place



over a digital platform set up by the University.

To compliment the live events, our Outreach Fellow produced a series of excellent videos introducing the College, its students and teaching staff www.youtube.com/ channel/UCtyajlHcRe8Vh M79z0dnZ_A/video

From Robin Wilson



Mathematics Fellow, Robin Wilson, has just published his 50th book: "Number Theory: A Very Short Introduction" by Oxford University Press.

Former

Student Life

The Student View in Trinity Term 2020...



The view from home, Reem Sultan (History 2018):

Trinity 2020 for many was a term defined by grief of all kinds. I found, and still find, myself missing the rhythm of normal life, and missing times when everything wasn't as awful for everyone. Concentrating on my degree was hard, especially when work and rest were all confined to the same space, and Channel 4's perpetual

A Finalist's view from home, Sam Edwards (History 2017):

When I started my final year in Michaelmas, the thought of exams, whilst nerve-wracking, still seemed like a long way off, especially with the 150th Anniversary Ball, careers and the fast-paced nature of third year keeping me busy. I concluded it would be fine and cautiously adopted a 'we'll cross that bridge when we come to it' sort of attitude.

Fast forward a few months and myself and other finalists faced very different bridges to cross. My personal journey took me back to my childhood home where I had to balance my revision alongside my parents' work. The lack Come Dine With Me marathon beckoned me daily. I thought I'd have way more time to work, but my childhood bedroom is no Keble Library, and motivation was pretty scarce to be honest. Working seemed even harder in the wake of the news about Breonna Taylor and George Floyd—I can imagine the needed, but difficult, discussions about racism brought up a lot of pain for many other BIPOC. Something I've found moraleboosting in this time, though, was reading and appreciating the incredible works of black creators—some from the ranks of our amazing ACS (Oxford African and Caribbean Society) like poet Jess Fatoye, and some from all over the world, like American painter Amy Sherald. Consuming and creating art has been one of the best tonics for me this lockdown, and I feel so lucky that I've been able to access works and resources that fill me with so much hope and inspiration. It's also so cool to see that lockdown creativity has been blossoming in our own collegelooking through submissions to the Keble

of online resources was initially frustrating but libraries were supportive and online revision classes proved a refreshing break from what I'd become used to. The days rolled into one and, instead of a quick breakout with friends on the quad, I resorted to ongoing gardening projects and coordinating a volunteer food delivery scheme in my community. Exams and obligatory virtual celebrations came and went and I feel immensely relieved that my friends and peers got through it. I've been back to college since to collect my belongings and its sad to see it so empty. There's still so much more I'd like to have done whilst at Keble, but I'm excited to join the alumni community and return for graduation next year.

Goldfish zine that Katie, Millie, Verity and I put together made my heart grow exactly 10 and a half sizes.

Something else that reminded me of the loveliness in the world was keeping in touch with the Keble community through JCR meetings led by the wonderful president and VP, Annie and Millie. They'd really be the highlights of my week, and reminded me how great people are at adjusting to, and making the best of, a bad situation—a perfect example is the virtual Keble Library which was a brilliant idea from Amri's incredible brain. I especially loved working with Jon and the lovely JCR peer supporters (Nia, Amri, and Verity) to put on online welfare events when we could, and organising care packages and book deliveries. Putting together the annual Adopt-a-Finalist scheme was a highlight, and I'm still in awe of how remarkable the finalists are to finish their degrees at a time like this—I hope they're so so proud of themselves!





A Finalist's view from College, Lucinda Kirk (Modern Languages 2016):

Four years ago when I began Oxford, I never would have believed that I would be sitting

my finals in my bedroom in Keble. My plan all along was to stay in Oxford over the Easter vac in order to make use of the libraries but when they abruptly closed and I was told that I would not be able to see my friends or family until it was safer to do so, this naturally hindered my work ethic.

The inevitable stress of exams, coupled with separation from my family, as well concern over their own wellbeing (family members in high-risk categories as well as being doctors), certainly made the process more arduous. Despite this, the staff at Keble went out of their way to accommodate my every need. From the porters kindly ensuring that I had a quiet space to study, to post-exam chats with the ray of sunshine Ade the gardener, pep-talks with my tutor in the quad just before an exam as well as the kindness of the kitchen staff, I can't actually imagine a more conducive environment over this difficult period.

Despite the intermittent loneliness, I realise how privileged I was to be able to stay in Oxford while so many struggled at home, as well as relish my last few months in this beautiful city.

Student Life





The view from The H B Allen Centre, Sabrina Li (DPhil Geography 2018):

It almost feels like years ago that I studied in the quiet MCR and saw friends in the loud MCR at the HB Allen Centre (HBAC). While a lot has changed since the pandemic started, a few things have not. I am still living in the HBAC and have fully adjusted to working from home. The MCR is still active in holding social and academic events, albeit over Zoom. Our welfare officers have put together a book drive that will hopefully encourage some interesting discussion within our little community in the HBAC.

As lockdown measures ease up across the country, I took some time to reflect on the past few months, which flew by rather quickly. As a health geographer working at the intersection of human health and the environment, it has been exciting to recognise that my research, which varied from mapping spread to studying how exposure to COVID-19 is linked with social inequities, has and will continue to address the pressing questions we are asking about the pandemic. I ponder these questions on a daily basis, either in my room or outside on the terrace, and I feel very fortunate to be able to do this in a suitable and safe environment.

I am extremely grateful for this space, and thankful to all our wonderful alums that continue to support us during these challenging times. As we work on adjusting to this new way of living and working, I hope we will all take a moment to reflect, appreciate the people and environment around us, and give ourselves a pat on the back.

Award

Our congratulations to Sabrina, who has has been accepted into the highly competitive Turing Enrichment Scheme at the Alan Turing Institute.

More information can be found at www.geog.ox.ac.uk/ news/2020/20200619sabrina-li.html

KA Report: Virtual Conference

Each term, the Keble Association (KA) awards a number of grants including for study, humanitarian travel and the arts. The most recent Grants Committee held in June took on a different flavour, held over Zoom and considering a number of applications for virtual conferences.

Elena Pierard received funding to attend the virtual *All Systems go*? *Sustainability in the Digital Age* conference and doctoral consortium, part of the Group for Research on Organizations and the Natural Environment (GRONEN), focusing on understanding the links between management and sustainability.

The conference was adapted to be held virtually and used a platform called iChair, allowing attendees to access sessions, and use chat, video and audio for questions and comments, while presenters were shown by video next to the slides. At the end of each day there were interactive activities and exchanges which were very interesting and engaging, and built a sense of community.

Elena says "After almost 4 months of lockdown, I have felt very isolated in terms of academic interaction and networking. This conference has been refreshing in those terms. I am grateful the organisers of this conference decided to go ahead and go virtual. It has been really enriching to discuss and engage with others in areas akin to my research."

From a report written by **Elena Pierard Manzano** (DPhil Geography and the Environment 2016). Edited by **Daniel Wilson** (Geography 2005), KA Student Liaison Officer.

After five years as a trustee of the KA, half of that time as Student Liaison Officer, **Nela Scholma-Mason** (MSt Archaeology 2011) has stepped down from both roles to pursue other commitments following a move to Edinburgh. Our thanks to Nela for the support she has provided to the student body, the Grants Committee and the wider KA.

Cyber 9/12 Challenge



Congratulations to Keble DPhil student Yashovardhan Sharma (2018), who was part the winning team of the Cyber 9/12 UK Strategy Challenge. He and his teammates were the first Oxford group to win the competition since its inception eight years ago.

Yashovardhan, who is currently completing his DPhil in Cyber Security

at the Department of Computer Science, says: "The Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge was a fantastic experience to apply my cybersecurity expertise in a practical and realistic context. The challenge essentially simulates a real-world crisis involving complex escalating cyberattacks with national and international ramifications, where we play the role of senior government advisors who are responsible for developing a precise and effective strategy for the nation as a whole."

The team, known as the CyberSeals, also included Alexis Montouris Ciambotti (MPhil Politics, Department of Politics and International Relations), Manuel Hepfer (DPhil Cyber Security, Saïd Business School), Matthew Rogers (DPhil Cyber Security, Department of Computer Science) and coach Dr Lucas Kello (Associate Professor of International Relations, Department of Politics and International Relations).

A blog post about their experience is available on the Atlantic Council website at www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/newatlanticist/cyber-crises-need-strong-collaborationreflections-from-cyber-9-12

Alumni News





Sir Adrian Smith Elected President of the Royal Society

Keble Honorary Fellow Sir Adrian Smith has been confirmed as President Elect of the Royal Society at a meeting of the Society's Council on 5 May. He will take up the post on 30 November 2020.

Adrian Smith was a Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics at Keble between 1971 and 1974, and was elected to an Honorary Fellowship in 2014. He has had a distinguished career in statistics, and has held prominent positions at a number of world-class research institutions including Queen Mary University of London (Principal, 1998–2008) and the University of London (Vice-Chancellor, 2012–18). He is currently the Director and Chief Executive of the Alan Turing Institute, the national institute for data science and artificial intelligence.

More information about the appointment is available on the Royal Society website: https://royalsociety.org/news/2020/05/siradrian-smith-prs-elect

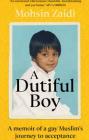
Superlative Storyteller

Laura Theis (MSt Creative Writing 2015) has won the 2020 Mogford Short Story Prize for her story, 'The Lift', which was selected from 1,280 entries from all over the world. This year's shortlist was judged by Prize founder Jeremy Mogford, award-winning actor and writer Stephen Fry, and television presenter, cookery writer and novelist, Prue Leith. You can listen to Laura's story, read by Ian Wilson-Soppitt, on The Story Player at www.thestoryplayer.com/thelift-by-laura-theis.

Laura was also Highly Commended in the Geoff Stevens Memorial Poetry Prize, and has won the 2020 Brian Dempsey Memorial Poetry Prize. Her debut poetry collection is forthcoming with publishers Dempsey & Windle later this year. On 30 June, Laura hosted the Oxford Alumni Book Club. You can watch the session, which is on the poetry of Mary Jean Chan, at https://youtu.be/zqWfGP3kNcQ



Alumni in Print



PILKINGTO

A Dutiful Boy

Mohsin Zaidi (2003) has written a powerful memoir about growing up gay in a strict Shia Muslim household in east London. The book, which comes out on 20 August, has already garnered great reviews and was a featured cover story in The Times Saturday magazine.



traditional retail sector in the

West, and outlines a road map for

sustainable success in the future.





Sweetspot

Andy Clayton (1995), who leads Petra Coach Europe, has published a new book about his popular exercise, Sweetspot. It teaches readers about the mindsets and habits successful entrepreneurs use to focus on a few key activities in their lives that create the most value and fulfilment for them.

The Knowledge Manager's Handbook

Patrick Lambe (1978) has published the second (expanded) edition of his guide to knowledge management for business decision-making. The volume, co-authored with Nick Milton, was awarded the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals' Knowledge and Information Management Award.

Alumni News





Chips in Space

The world followed in awe on 31 May as the US space programme made history when NASA astronauts aboard SpaceX's Crew Dragon arrived at the International Space Station (ISS).

What is the connection to Keble, you may ask? The answer is Dr Supriya Jaiswal (1993 Physics), Chief Executive of Astrileux Corporation. The world's first EUV-based lithography experiment was recently conducted on the ISS, using payload from Astrileux, enabling manufacturing of chips at 7 nm and smaller, a historic move that could lay the foundation for advanced chip manufacturing in space.

"The goal to extend human life in space beyond 1,000 days is benefitted by an electronics manufacturing ecosystem that supports a localized, self-sustaining community on board the International Space Station," Supriya said. "The capability to rapidly prototype electronics by working astronauts creates new functionality and capability on board the ISS, enabling new computing power and performance, new smart devices, and rapid repair of damaged electronics occurring in high-risk operations."

New Generation Thinkers

Dr Seren Griffiths (Archaeology and Anthropology 2000) was named one of the BBC/AHRC 2020 BBC New Generation Thinkers in March. The scheme supports a new generation of academics who can bring the best of university research and scholarly ideas to a broad audience through the media and public engagement, enabling researchers to cultivate the skills to communicate their research findings to those outside the academic community.

Dr Griffith, together with Professor Tom Higham (Keble Fellow by Special Election), has also recently been awarded funding for a £1 million research project focusing on radiocarbon dating monuments from the time of Stonehenge: the third millennium BC in Britain and Ireland.

She took up a post as Senior Lecturer in Archaeological Science and Public Heritage at Manchester Met University in May.



Chairing the Alumni Board

After three years serving as treasurer, I was appointed chair of the Oxford University Alumni Board by the Chancellor in April. Our role as a board is to help strengthen our community and to find more and better ways for us to engage with all parts of the University. Particularly now, we'd like to be offering more opportunities for mentorship and networking—to those just leaving Oxford, to those hoping to study here, and to those who might need support through this crisis. We'd like to find new tools and perhaps funding to do all of that at greater scale.

> James Dancer PPE 1994





Streetspace London

Alumnus **Daniel Wilson** (Geography 2005) is a Project Manager on the Streetspace for London, Transport for London, project.

Streetspace for London is the Mayor's plan to support recovery in the capital as COVID-19 lockdown measures are eased. Under the plan, more, and safer, spaces to walk and cycle will be created to relieve pressure on public transport which has much reduced capacity due to social distancing requirements. New and upgraded cycling routes will offer protected facilities along strategic corridors, while widened footways in town centres will create more space as shops and businesses reopen. Transport for London is working closely, and delivering in partnership, with key stakeholders including London boroughs, capitalising on the political will to deliver bold solutions at an unprecedented pace to support Londoners adapting to a new normal.

Diary

e-Publications

As you will have read elsewhere in this edition of *the brick*, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the finances of the College has been very serious indeed. With no prospect of our commercial business beginning to be restored until at least the summer of 2021, the Governing Body has had to take some difficult decisions about the annual budget.

One of the areas where the College can make an annual saving is by moving the regular publications to electronic form. Printing and posting hard copies of *the brick*, *The Record* and *The Review* are costly. We realise that this news may not be welcomed by all alumni, particularly those who have long treasured the correspondence from the College landing on the door mat. That said, in view of the multiple staff redundancies necessitated by the financial constraints, we hope that all members of the College community will appreciate the need to reduce costs wherever possible.

From now on you can receive all the regular publications by email, or view them online. If you know of a member of the Keble community who has not received the Trinity 2020 *brick* in electronic form, please suggest that they contact us in the Alumni & Development Office so that we can update their email and correspondence preferences appropriately.

Thank you in advance for your continued understanding and support.

Jenny and the A&D Office team

Important note: At the moment, given the uncertainties around COVID, no in-person alumni events are planned in Oxford or elsewhere until the summer of 2021

7–12 September Meeting Minds Global

The Oxford University Reunion Weekend moves online, bringing together alumni from all over the world, with a selection of curated online webinars to keep you and your families learning through this time.



7–12 September Keble September Reunion While we won't be able to meet in person, we are planning to put on a variety of online events for you in September. These will include lectures/ seminars as part of Meeting Minds Global, music, and hopefully an internet version of the University Challenge, Keble Edition.

Saturday 12 September **Keble Association AGM** Details to follow by email.

Friday 25 September

50th Anniversary for the 1970s We are working on the best way to celebrate this special occasion remotely, albeit without the lunch, and will be in touch with details in August.

Douglas Price Society and Talbot Society Event

Online lecture with Reverend Professor William Whyte on Keble and Butterfield. Professor Whyte believes that buildings matter and they matter because they communicate ideas, values, and much more besides.

October

Entrepreneurs Evening

At this online event we will be looking at how COVID-19 affected entrepreneurship—the challenges and opportunities it provided.

Ghost fixtures

Due to the pandemic, unfortunately no Ghosts fixtures will take place this year.

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. 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 Tel: 01865 282303

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At the time of publication, several members of the team are on furlough. Those listed here are working from home and will respond to any queries as quickly as possible.

brick

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

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