

the brick

THE NEWSLETTER FOR KEBLE ALUMNI • ISSUE 74 • TRINITY TERM 2022 • WWW.KEBLE.OX.AC.UK

A Fond Farewell

Farewell. As many readers of this piece will already know, I demit office as Warden at the end of September. 'Demit' sounds less intimidating to me than 'retire', though in response to the question "What are you going to do next?", I think that the answer 'less', which I've plagiarised, is a good and a justifiable one.



It has been a great privilege to be Warden of Keble for the past twelve years. It really is a special place, both in terms of its physical characteristics and its community. Understandably, I'm asked what the high points have been. Of course, the official opening of the H B Allen Centre in 2019, the home of our now significantly larger graduate cohort, must be top of the list. This was a hugely ambitious undertaking for the College, both in terms of the required fund-raising and the scale of the construction project, and both aspects required considerable investment of time and nerve.

As with so much else that has been achieved during my time, I, and we, owe a huge debt of gratitude to a group of people with whom I've worked closely—the Bursars, the Senior

Tutors, the Development Director, successive Sub-Wardens and a number of others among the academic and non-academic staff—whose commitment to the life and work of the institution goes far beyond any reasonable expectation. I have a particular debt to my wife, Amanda; I know just how important her support has been.

My best memories, however, will be of people not bricks: the delight of observing success in study, sport, music, and drama and so on which are at the core of what we offer. Given my particular interest in music, I shall certainly treasure the sounds of successive Keble choirs and continue to be reminded of them thanks to a sequence of fantastic recordings. I'm also aware that my own sound, cheering the Keble Rugby

Keble Wardens

Edward Stuart Talbot

1870–1888

Robert Wilson

1888–1897

Walter Lock

1897–1920

Beresford Kidd

1920–1939

Harry James Carpenter

1939–1955

Eric Symes Abbott

1956–1960

Austin Farrer

1960–1968

Spencer Barrett (Acting Warden)

1968–1969

Dennis Nineham

1969–1979

Christopher Ball

1980–1988

George Barclay Richardson

1988–1994

Dame Averil Cameron

1994–2010

Sir Jonathan Phillips

2010–2022

Sir Michael Jacobs

2022–

Cuppers champions in 2015, is on-line for posterity! That was quite an occasion.

So, hundreds of events, including many attended by our wonderfully supportive alumni, are among the highlights too. But perhaps most enduring of all will be the inspiring, informative and, yes, sometimes challenging conversations that I've had with outstanding young people, here. They combine to confound my ingrained pessimism about the state of the world and the quality of leadership we observe in public life. If only a small number of them live up to my expectation of their potential, there are grounds to be optimistic.

Sir Jonathan Phillips
Warden

in this issue:

college news • student life • alumni news • forthcoming events

Change in Music

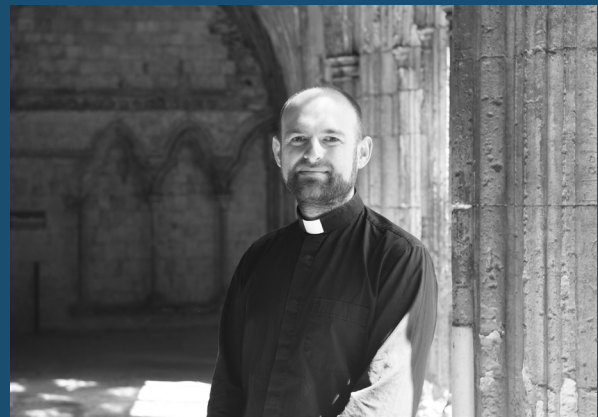
Having taken the helm of Keble Music during the turmoil of the pandemic, Director of Music Paul Brough (pictured left) retired at the end of Trinity Term 2022. During his tenure, Paul brought an incredible energy and a spirit of innovation, allowing music to flourish at Keble, despite numerous lockdowns and disruptions.

We are delighted to announce that the post of Director of Music will be filled by the very capable Christopher Bucknall (pictured right), who joins the College in September.

Christopher is a conductor and harpsichordist combining work in opera houses and concert halls with teaching and coaching in many of the UK's conservatoires and universities.

Performing highlights include Handel, *Alcina* (Den Norske Opera), Cavalli, *La Calisto* (Theater Aachen) and concerts with The English Concert, B'Rock (Belgian Baroque Orchestra Ghent) and the BBC Singers. He is a former Director of Music at St Edmund Hall and frequently directs *Instruments of Time and Truth*.

Christopher studied at Lincoln College, Oxford, and the Royal Academy of Music and has recently been made an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in recognition of his work.



New Chaplain

The College is happy to announce that the Revd Fr Max Kramer will be taking over the Chaplaincy from Acting Chaplain the Revd Fr Darren McFarland this Michaelmas.

Fr Max grew up in Northumberland before coming South to study Classics in Oxford. He has ministered in St John's College, Cambridge and a range of Parishes, with a particular focus on pastoral work and engagement with students and young adults. Most recently, he has been Precentor of Canterbury Cathedral, responsible for the Cathedral's worship, and with a key role in the Cathedral's welfare provision. At Canterbury, he also founded and led 'Sacred Space,' offering hospitality, pastoral care, friendship, and worship to local students and young adults.

Alongside his priestly ministry, Fr Max has held a number of teaching posts at the Universities of Cambridge and Kent, where he taught Greek, Hebrew, Latin, and Classical and Biblical Literature. His research interests are in the Jewish-

A Strong Foundation

Oxford University's new foundation year will give capable students from disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to reach their academic potential. The programme, which offers places for up to 50 students each year, provides a supportive and challenging academic course aimed at developing their skills, self-belief, and academic confidence.

The one-year programme is open to UK state school pupils and is fully funded, covering tuition fees and the cost of accommodation and living expenses for all participants. Students will study one of four foundation courses: Humanities (Classics, History, English and Theology); Chemistry, Engineering and Materials Science; Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE); or Law.

If students complete the year to the required level, they will progress onto an undergraduate degree at the University of Oxford without any need to re-apply. Keble was one of the first ten colleges to take part in the inaugural year of this innovative new access initiative, and will offer five places on the programme.



The Emmy Network

The Emmy Network works together with Keble to bring to Oxford distinguished scholars and students in fields of inter-disciplinary research.

Emmy researchers come from a diverse set of disciplines ranging from mathematics and physics to biology and economics, and are encouraged to help create meaningful impact from their research, including creating spin-out companies and new philanthropic initiatives, and advising governments, NGOs and companies.

The Network at Keble currently consists of one Fellow by Special Election, Professor Joël Ouaknine (Computer Science), and one Emmy Graduate Scholar, Julian D'Costa (2020 DPhil Computer Science).

We are delighted to announce that the donor supporting the Network, alumnus Dr Jussi Westergren (2001), has committed to endowing two more Emmy Scholarships, restricted to female DPhil students in Computer Science, Physics, Statistics or Mathematics.



Nabila Walji (1993–2022)

Nabila Walji passed away tragically and unexpectedly in April 2022.

Nabila joined Keble College in October 2021 when she started the MSc in Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology.

A writer and a photographer as well as a committed anthropologist, Nabila was active in youth organisations and community leadership in Canada, where she was born, and in Kenya, where she worked for several years. Before coming to Oxford, she was a graduate at the Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS) and London SOAS.

Nabila was very involved in the life of the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography; her loss is deeply felt there, as in College. Her family visited from Canada in June to remember Nabila's life in Oxford together with her friends and colleagues. She is greatly missed and will be remembered fondly by all who knew her.

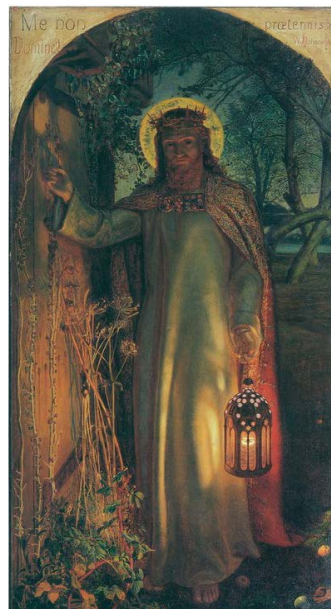


Shining a Light

Holman Hunt's *The Light of the World* is among the world's most influential religious paintings and the single most widely exhibited work of art in history (thanks to a wildly popular global tour of 1905–07). An international day conference held at Keble on 20 May celebrated the 150th anniversary of the original painting being donated to the College.

Hosted in the H B Allen Centre, the conference attracted nearly 100 registrations and was supported by a fine exhibition of College archive materials in the Chapel. Following the Warden's welcome, speakers included leading scholars from both sides of the Atlantic. Conference papers are now being revised with other contributions for a volume due to be published by Baylor University Press (2023/24).

Markus Bockmuehl
Theology Fellow



Brilliant Decade

On Thursday 5 May, Keble College joined forces with partner charity The Brilliant Club to celebrate their tenth birthday and the launch of their five-year strategy, 'Join the Club'.

The event, hosted by Warden Sir Jonathan Phillips (pictured with Susie Whigham, Brilliant Club Interim CEO), showcased the Brilliant Club's work over the past decade. In the next five years, the charity aims to support over 100,000 pupils through The Scholars Programme, and work with over 11,000 students to enhance their success at university, making them the biggest university Access movement in the UK.



Domestic Bursars



After over 9 years in post, Domestic Bursar Nick French left the College at the end of the academic year. Nick has made many greatly valued contributions to Keble during his time here, not least overseeing our safety through the demands of the pandemic, keeping us all safe on College sites. Nick's warm and welcoming demeanour will be missed and we wish him well in his future ventures. He plans first to take a well-earned break.



We welcome Charles Morgan as Interim Domestic Bursar. Charles joins us with a wealth of hotel General Manager experience, most recently from Waddesdon Manor, The Royal Crescent Hotel and Spa and The Royal Horseguards.

Academy Election

Congratulations to Professor Gui-Qiang Chen, who has been elected to Membership of the *Academia Europaea*—the pan-European Academy of Humanities, Letters, Law, and Sciences. Professor Chen is a Professorial Fellow at Keble and a Professor in the Analysis of Partial Differential Equations at the Mathematical Institute.

KA Report: Avian Ecology

As part of the second-year MBIol course, I undertook a Keble Association-funded 'avian behaviour and ecology' research skills course based in locations around Oxford and Copeland Island, Northern Ireland. During my time in Wytham woods, I got to see the different stages of egg hatching and the growth of different tit species. Copeland Island is a breeding site for many species of seabirds, including Puffins, Manx Shearwaters, and various gull species. Daily activities involved putting up nets and traps in the morning, lectures from PhD students, shadowing researchers, and midnight walks to watch the Manx Shearwaters return to their burrows. From this course, I enjoyed learning about seabird navigation and migration and was able to deploy General Logistics Systems (GLS) trackers on several Manx Shearwaters.

The GLS data are collected over several years and will reveal foraging and migrating behaviours when retrieved from the bird. It's remarkable how young shearwaters can migrate to parts of the South Atlantic to winter without navigational aid from parents. Hence, I have chosen to investigate the difference between juvenile and adult migration for my presentation. I also enjoyed taking part in the annual gull census, which involved walking through gull colonies across the island and counting the number of active gull nests.

The trip wasn't without its challenges: we were the only inhabitants of the island, drinking water was limited, and torrential rain greeted us as we arrived. We filled our time being disconnected from the world by swimming in the Irish sea, cooking together, and watching movies. On the trip, we also encountered seals, otters, and porpoises! Overall, attending this course has given me valuable experience in working in zoological research, which I am interested in pursuing after my undergraduate degree.

Thi Nguyen, 2020 Biology



Garden Party

Jazz, strawberries, sandwiches and sunshine—the Garden Party for Second Years and their parents returned after a two-year hiatus on Saturday 28 May. We were delighted to welcome 200 guests to Keble, many of whom had not had the chance to visit before. It was wonderful to see the College so full of life once again.

Oxford Sporting Success

Congratulations to Isabella Zani (2018) and Eric Fry (2021), who represented Oxford in the Rugby Varsity game at Twickenham, which ended with the fixture's first-ever draw for the women, and victory for the men.



Pictured l-r: Isabella, Eric, Maranga and Joshua.

We would also like to congratulate Maranga Mokaya (2019), Athletics, and Joshua Bowesman-Jones (2018), Rowing, who were selected for the Blue Performance Scheme. Joshua was also part of the winning Isis crew—the first win for the Oxford reserves at the Boat Race in five years.

Lord Neuberger

In a triumphant return after a forced hiatus, the Harris Society were honoured to host the Rt Hon Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury to deliver the society's annual lecture. Precedent was strong following Lord Sumption's 2017 address, and Lord Neuberger certainly lived up to the expectations of a busy O'Reilly Theatre. His Lordship presented 'Reflections on Recent Developments in Contract Law' and was keen to answer students' own questions and legal conundrums. We were delighted that Lord Neuberger then joined attendees for a drinks reception in Newman Quad, followed by dinner with Keble's Second Year Law students. Rarely is one able to speak so closely with such an esteemed figure, and we are grateful to Lord Neuberger and all attendees for making the lecture a brilliant event.

Isaac Powers, 2020 Law, Harris Society Secretary





Community Matters

The College has launched a new annual awards scheme to recognise the many different ways in which students have worked on behalf of the Keble community, for example in access and outreach, charity work, environment, equality and diversity, leadership, services to the JCR or MCR Committees, or sports and societies. We already reward students for their academic work and individual sporting success but it is time to recognise and celebrate more openly other kinds of contribution.

A call for nominations went out early in Trinity. A panel—including Fellows, College

Offices and officers from the JCR and MCR—recommended that, in this first year of the scheme, 14 awards be made to acknowledge the special contributions Keble students have made during the pandemic.

The awards, which have been funded by generous contributions from alumni, donors, Fellows and staff, will be named the 'Jonathan and Amanda Phillips Awards', a fitting tribute to the outgoing Warden and his wife, given all they have done to foster a sense of community and friendship at Keble over the last decade.

Scholarship Scheme

Keble is taking part in a graduate scholarship scheme, launched by the University, offering targeted support to refugees from Ukraine.

The Graduate Scholarship Scheme for Ukraine Refugees has been led by Professor Lionel Tarassenko (1975, Honorary Fellow), and is being established with the aim of providing further academic training for well-qualified graduates from Ukraine whose lives have been badly impacted by the war, enabling these refugee scholars to better contribute to the reconstruction of their country.

Up to 20 scholarships will be awarded to graduates who are ordinarily resident in Ukraine, for admission onto a postgraduate taught course (Masters). Applicants will have the opportunity to apply for full-time, one-year courses in a broad range of subjects.

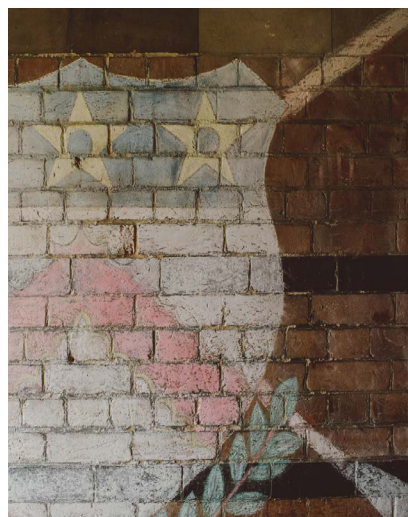
Scholars will receive a package of financial and welfare assistance from both the University and the participating colleges throughout their time at Oxford. The Oxford Refugee Studies Centre will also act as a hub for the scholars, offering access to a programme of seminars and events, and mentorship.

With the support of individual donors, and a contribution from the Keble Association, the College was able to respond quickly and offer a graduate scholarship for the coming academic year under this scheme.



Graduation Celebration

When in-person graduations restarted in September 2021, the Alumni and Development team took on the task of organising all degree ceremonies for Keble leavers. Between October and June, and over the course of seven ceremonies, we welcomed back 392 graduands, together with over 1,100 of their family and friends, to celebrate their achievement. We started with 280 graduands on the backlog list, whose ceremonies had been cancelled or postponed, along with all the 2021 finalists, and we are pleased to have been able to offer a place for all of them by the end of the 2022/23 academic year.



Summer Vllls Update

After a three-year hiatus, Summer Eights returned to the Isis. Despite facing strong competition, the five Keble crews (W1, W2, M1, M2 and M3) put on a good performance, M1 finishing the week third on the river, while W1 finished eighth. M3 had the strongest run, moving up a division by the end of the competition from 3rd in Division VI to 12th in Division V.



Queen's Birthday Honour

Our congratulations to Patrick Peal (1972 Engineering), founder and former CEO of the East Anglian Air Ambulance service, whose achievements have been recognised in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours list with an MBE for services to Emergency Care in the East of England.



Honorary Fellowship



We are delighted to announce that Professor William Pollard (1983 Visiting Student) has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship at Keble in recognition of support to teaching and learning.

Parting Conversations

After two years of delay, the long-awaited conversation between Sir Jonathan Phillips and Professor Louise Richardson took place at the Law Society in London on 27 April. The discussion was centred around the Vice-Chancellor's expertise on global terrorism and how her childhood experiences in rural Ireland shaped her education and career choices. The audience was also delighted to hear Professor Richardson's candour and openness as she reflected on her time as the first female Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University.

The event was a real treat for all those in attendance, and was the last opportunity to hear from both Sir Jonathan and Professor Richardson in a London setting before they step down from their respective roles later this year.



30 Under 30

Congratulations to Sabrina Li (2018 DPhil), who has been named one of *Forbes* magazine's 30 Under 30 Europe in the *Science and Healthcare* category. Now in its seventh year, the list celebrates the power young entrepreneurs and leaders have to transform business and society. Sabrina, currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Nottingham, was selected

because of her work on how social and environmental factors affect the spread of disease and contribute to health inequalities. She was the first author of a paper in *BMJ Global Health*, a collaborative effort between researchers at Oxford and in Brazil, that found low-income and non-white populations in Brazil were more likely to die from Covid-19.

Summer Dinner

The Summer Dinner saw over 200 alumni and guests gathered to say goodbye to Sir Jonathan Phillips. The afternoon started with a presentation on Access and Outreach at Keble by Outreach Fellow and alumna Foteini Dimirouli (2009 DPhil MML).

Later in the evening, a beautifully sung Evensong, led by a nearly 40-strong Keble Choir and joined by alumni and the Warden himself, set the tone for the dinner in Hall.

On behalf of the large number of young alumni present, James Newton (2011 History) bid farewell to the Warden. His speech and, breaking with conventions a little, his toast to Sir Jonathan raised the roof of Hall with cheers and good wishes.





20 Years of the TF

The Talbot Fund
Supporting every Keble student every day

The Talbot Fund is 20 years old. Named after Keble's first Warden, it supports all areas of College life, and has raised an astonishing £17m since its inception, with over 50% of Alumni making a contribution.

Be it through bursaries, participating in one of the many clubs and societies, or the very buildings they live and study in, every student has benefitted in some way from this wonderful generosity. Alumni support has been, and continues to be, vital for ensuring that current and future generations of Keble students can thrive both academically and socially.

As we near the end of our digital fundraising campaign, we are incredibly grateful for any support you feel able to give, joining the donors who have already made a gift through our [campaign website](#). Your gift will also help us unlock an additional £30,000 in matched funding.

We'd like to extend a big 'thankyou' to all of our Alumni for their support over the past two decades, and the support they continue to give. You truly do make a difference to the lives of all Keble students.



© Cameron Slater Photography

From the Old Vic to the National

Congratulations and best of luck to Kate Varah (1994 Theology), who was appointed Executive Director of the National Theatre in November 2021. Kate joined the National in April, after spending 12 years at the Old Vic as Chief Operating Officer and then as Executive Director. Speaking about her appointment, Kate said 'I am honoured to have been appointed to work with Rufus Norris and the incredible team at the National. This move now represents a new and unparalleled opportunity to serve an organisation that I have long admired and respected.'



Sex Education

Acclaimed actress, comedian and writer Katy Brand's (1997) latest feature film, *Good Luck to You, Leo Grande*, is garnering great reviews, with a 98% Fresh rating on review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes. The film explores the sometimes-taboo subject of sexuality for an older woman. It follows retired widow Nancy Stokes as she hires a good-looking young sex worker in the hope of enjoying a night of pleasure and self-discovery after an unfulfilling married life. Scripted by Brand and starring Emma Thompson and Daryl McCormack, the film had its world premiere at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival in January, and was released widely in June.

Who was Irene Frude?

Professor Llewelyn Morgan, Fellow in Classics at Brasenose, has been investigating an inscription relating to Keble students, located in the University graduate accommodation at 25 Wellington Square. He asks if readers of *the brick* could shed any light on its creation, placement and dedication.

The inscription reads: *In this place Irene Frude, most kindly foster-mother of the students of Keble College provided huge breakfasts for almost 35 years. In fond memory of which the same students had this memorial made. October 29 AD 1976*

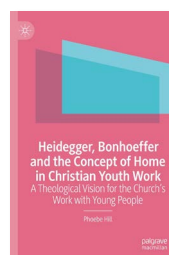


Alumnae in Print



She's In CTRL

Advocate for women in STEM Dr **Anne-Marie Imafidon** (2006, Honorary Fellow) calls time on women being cut out of tech in her latest book, *She's In CTRL: How women can take back tech—to communicate, investigate, problem-solve, broker deals and protect themselves in a digital world.*



Heidegger, Bonhoeffer and the Concept of Home in Christian Youth Work

Drawing on ethnographic research, **Phoebe Hill (nee Thompson)** (2007) explores what it means to be and become-at-home in a theological perspective, in the context of a youth club.

More details and booking information online at
www.keble.ox.ac.uk/events

Enquiries to
alumni.events@keble.ox.ac.uk

16–18 September

**Meeting Minds
(UO Alumni Weekend)**

Celebrating 15 years. Booking opens on 14 July.

More information is available [online](#).

**Saturday 17 September
Reunion for the 1995–2007
Matriculation years**

Invitations will be sent w/c 18 July. Special invitations will be sent to the 1997s, celebrating 25 years since Matriculation. More information is available on our [website](#).

**Friday 23 September
1972 Year
50th Anniversary Lunch**

Invitations were sent early July. You can find more information and book on our [website](#).



**Friday 23 September
Douglas Price
and Talbot Society Lecture**

Presentation by Fran Monks, photographer of the two Keble portrait exhibitions. Invitations were sent in July.

Followed by the launch of the **Portrait of Keble II** exhibition, including buffet dinner in Hall.

More information is available on our [website](#).

Saturday 8 October

Ghosts vs College fixtures

Compete in or support the alumni teams against current students. Fixtures include Women's Netball, Men's Football, Women's 7-a-side Football, Men's Rugby and Women's Rugby (7s). Please get in touch for more information.

Goodbye to a Football Ghost: Adrian Grayston (1972), who captained the College in 1973/74, will play his last game for the Ghosts this year. This will mark 50 years since he first faced the Ghosts, playing for the College in October 1972.

**October
Entrepreneurs' Evening**
 Details to be confirmed.



**November
Keble Conversations**
 With new Warden Professor Sir Mike Jacobs
 Details to be confirmed.

**November
Keble Debate**
 Details to be confirmed.

**27 November
Advent Carol Service**

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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Keble College
Alumni group



Alumni group and
Entrepreneurs group



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