

# THE CHAPEL

## Hilary Term 2025



**Cover Image:** The College Choir – a sight (and indeed sound) to behold. Come hear them every Sunday night at Choral Evensong, and (though perhaps less conveniently) on tour this summer (1-8 July) in Budapest. Most recently, as pictured above, they sang in London at St George's Church, Hanover Square for a special Donors' Carol Service.

Dear all,

A colleague tells a good story, albeit of another college and probably another era.

*Years ago, one bright December morning, he sat waiting for the last interview candidate of the day. Now you know that admissions interviews are curious and anxious things. Perhaps, though, you do not know that interviews upset the dons, too. There are the obvious worries about making the right decision and asking the best sort of questions. But there is also something else going on. Once these comfortably ageing dons were the ones sitting on the edge of the chair all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, banging on about Luther and Calvin; once they wore the smart and slightly unfamiliar suit. Dons don't wear suits very much; they have comfy jumpers and ties with gravy stains. They don't sit on the edge of chairs; they don't look pert or poised. It is as if the door bursts open and an old dog lying by the fire suddenly finds he is sharing the room with puppies that make a noise and bang into the furniture, spill the sherry and have fights on the floor.*



*That day, though, the man that came through the door was more donnish than the dons. He had a jumper, he leaned back in his chair and stretched his legs out, he smiled, and he seemed to think the whole set up was rather amusing. He was in, he knew it, the dons knew it and there were only the formalities to go through, so a last question for politeness' sake: 'Is there anything you want to ask us?' He smiled that lazy smile again.*

*'No,' he said and then – in sheer bravado – 'what you see is what you get'!*

But was the candidate right? What if what you see is not what you get? Does not faith teach that there is another world and it is in this one? That here on a cold Sunday night in the dog days of mid-January, when it's not always easy to be brave and beautiful, even here the Kingdom of God is at hand.

Let me say this. We see glory, we find hope, not out there in some activity we have yet to master, but in a human life, in Christ's life and in ours. Religion is not a call to do something; it is a call to be something. Religion is all about living a human life and finding in it the very presence of God. That is the great good news, that even here in early 2025, even in your lives and mine, there is grace and glory.

What you see is not what you get. There is more; there is so very much more. With my love to you all,

## WEEK BY WEEK

*Philip*

### **Sunday 5.45pm Evensong**

*The Chapel's main weekly service, with beautiful music & excellent speakers; also available online.*

### **Weekdays 9-9.30am Morning Prayer**

*Chapel is booked at this time for prayer and reflection. If the Chaplain or a student is available to lead it, we follow a modern Church of England liturgy.*

### **Monday 4.30-5.00pm Quest for Quiet**

*An opportunity for quiet and stillness at the start of the working week. Meditations are based on secular mindfulness techniques and assume no religious background.*

### **Tuesday 6.15pm Eucharist**

*A short, simple service of Holy Communion – no hymns, no sermon, no demands.*

### **Thursday 8.15pm Night Song**

*A short meditative service of Compline with psalms and prayers for the end of the day.*



## **SUNDAY CHORAL EVENSONGS**

*Evensong takes place in Chapel on Sundays at 5.45pm unless otherwise stated. Sung by the Choir, it offers beautiful music and compelling speakers. Students of all faiths and none find hope and solace here. Afterwards, you can chat to our guest speaker over sherry in the Harold Wilson Room. Services are also streamed on our YouTube channel.*

**19 January, Second Sunday of Epiphany (5.30pm)**

**WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, BUT ...**

**Preacher: Very Revd Dr John O'Connor OP, Regent of Blackfriars Hall, Oxford**

**26 January, Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration**

**ETTY HILLESUM: A LIFE TRANSFORMED**

**Revd Patrick Woodhouse, Writer and Retired Precentor of Wells Cathedral**

**2 February, Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

**A CAROL SERVICE FOR CANDLEMAS WITH PROCESSION OF LIGHT**

**The Chaplain**

**9 February, Fourth Sunday before Lent**

**A LETTER TO MY STUDENT SELF**

**Revd Beth Allison-Glenny, Chaplain of Regent's Park College, Oxford**

**16 February, Third Sunday before Lent/Septuagesima**

**TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS – A HYMN TO THE HOBBYIST**

**The Chaplain**

**23 February, Second Sunday before Lent/Sexagesima (6.00pm)**

**THREE CHOIRS TURL STREET ARTS FESTIVAL EVENSONG AT EXETER**

**Revd Jonny Torrance, Chaplain of Lincoln College, Oxford**

**2 March, Sunday next before Lent/Quinquagesima**

**TRANSFIGURATION**

**Revd Canon Dr William Lamb, Vicar of the University Church**

**9 March, First Sunday of Lent/Quadragesima (5.30pm)**

**MUSIC AND READINGS FOR LENT AND PASSIONTIDE**

**The Chaplain**

## **PEOPLE**

**The Chaplain (Rev'd Philip Harbridge)** is an Anglican priest and – as part of the Welfare Team – he's here for all members of College, regardless of faith or background. If you want to talk something over, great or small, Philip offers a willing ear. Please don't hesitate to drop by his office (Staircase XIV.2) in Third Quad, or email ([chaplain@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:chaplain@jesus.ox.ac.uk)) or phone (279757) him.

**Director of Chapel Music: Peter Parshall** ([peter.parshall@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:peter.parshall@jesus.ox.ac.uk))

**Organ Scholars: Himeno Niimi and Conrad Spencer**

**Chapel Clerks: Bee Sparrow and Adam Wilson**

**Ringer of the Bell: Yannick Fiss**

**Christian Union (joint with Exeter & Balliol): Justin Borlase, A Bloch & E White**

**Roman Catholic Rep: Monica Fox**

## SPECIAL EVENTS

*These 'red-letter' days are a mix of the secular and religious, marked by an installation, a talk or a service, some distinctive to particular faiths or traditions, others an opportunity for sharing across 'borders'.  
In each case, please look out for publicity a week or so in advance.*

<b>18-25 January</b>	<b>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</b>
<b>20 January</b>	<b>'Jigsaw': Christians Together – A Service &amp; Supper</b>
<b>22 January</b>	<b>Welcome Home Formal</b>
<b>27 January</b>	<b>Holocaust Memorial Day</b>
<b>28 January</b>	<b>Lunar New Year with Formal</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>LGBT+ History Month</b>
<b>5 February</b>	<b>College Mass for Roman Catholics</b>
<b>15 February</b>	<b>Nirvana Day, Buddhist Festival honouring Buddha's death</b>
<b>16-23 February</b>	<b>Turl Street Arts Festival</b>
<b>28 February</b>	<b>St David's Day Annual Welsh-Language Choral Evensong</b> <i>Officiant: College Alumnus, Revd Canon Jeffrey Gainer</i> <i>Preacher: Revd Mike Haslam, Director of Transforming Ministry, Diocese of St Asaph, Church in Wales</i>
<b>1 March</b>	<b>Ramadan begins</b>
<b>5 March</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
<b>6 March</b>	<b>Iftar Formal</b>
<b>8 March</b>	<b>International Women's Day</b>
<b>13 March</b>	<b>Purim, Jewish Festival of Salvation</b>
<b>14 March (afternoon)</b>	<b>Holi, Hindu Festival of Colours</b>
<b>14 March (evening)</b>	<b>World Sleep Day with Inter-Faith Formal:</b> <b>Balm of Hurt Minds, Nature's Second Course, Chief Nourisher in Life's Feast</b>

## THE CHAPEL

*The Chapel is open all day: a house of prayer and a place of peace and stillness for everyone.*

## MULTI FAITH ROOM

*This can be found on the stairs up to Fourth Quad. It is a shared, neutral space intended for anyone to pray, reflect or just be quiet. Prayer mats are available in the cupboards. Recent enhancements include 'mood' lighting, greenery and further seats. A library of books is on its way.*

## JIGSAW

*A termly gathering for those of different faiths or denominations to socialise, celebrate faith and piece together a life in common.*

## LUNCHTIME RECITALS

*Music recitals take place in Chapel on Thursday lunchtimes, 1.15-2pm.*

## KEYBOARDS FOR PRACTICE

*A piano and harpsichord are available in Chapel but must be booked with the Chaplain before use.*