

2017 / 2018



ST STEPHEN'S HOUSE
NEWS



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Welcome to the College Newsletter for 2017/18. This has been a very successful year for the College, with 13



candidates ordained deacon at Petertide, 11 PGCE students qualifying at teachers, and 29 students successfully completing graduate degrees or diplomas in Theology, Education, Oriental Studies and Byzantine Studies. We wish them all well as they leave us to pursue their future work.

This year has been one in which we have been able to celebrate the generosity of many donors to the College Appeal, and it was a particular pleasure to welcome back the Very Revd Rick Lawson (SSH 1981-3), on his admission to the Vice Chancellor's Circle of outstanding benefactors. We were very thankful too to receive significant legacies during the year, most notably the munificent sum of £340,000 from Canon Raymond Ross (SSH 1952-4). Without this support, the College could not continue to do its work.

There is a lot going on at the College, for our current students and for our old members – I hope that this Newsletter will give you a taste of that, and encourage you to support us and keep in touch. ♥

By The Revd Canon Dr Robin Ward

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On the cover

Carved stonework details from a doorway situated in the North aisle of the College Church

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NEWS IN BRIEF

National Lottery funding

The College has been awarded a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Lottery Fund, following an application made in support of the heritage associated with the College's former monastic site. The project will focus on the site's First World War heritage, and involve local schools and



volunteers. Anyone interested in taking part or contributing memories, photographs etc should email heritage@ssho.ox.ac.uk.



Fr Alex Garner & Roisin Callanan

Congratulations to...

- Fr Alex Garner (SSH 2012-15, and sometime President of the Common Room) and Roisin Callanan (SSH 2014-15) who married at the College on 19th Aug 2017 after meeting here during their ordination and PGCE training.
- The Venerable Peter Eagles (SSH 1986-9), recently retired as Archdeacon of the Army, on his nomination as Bishop of Sodor and Man
- Fr Martyn Gough (SSH 1988-90) on his appointment as Chaplain of the Fleet and Archdeacon of the Navy.



The 2017 Alumni Gaudy



Extreme temperatures in June led to this scene in the Founders' Chapel! (Photograph: Dr Serenhedd James)

Save the dates!

- Friday 15th June 2018 – College Garden Party – all alumni, their guests and families are welcome.
- Friday 14th September 2018 – College Alumni Gaudy – all alumni and guests, and members of the 1876 Society welcome.
- Saturday 15th September 2018 – College Alumni Reunion – all alumni, their guests and families are welcome.

Staff news

- The College is pleased to announce the appointment of The Revd Dr James Lawson as the new Vice Principal and Charles Marriott Director of Pastoral Studies from 1st September 2017. Fr James was previously Vicar of St Michael and All Angels, Stoke Newington Common in the Diocese of London. Fr James re-locates to Oxford with his wife, Nana.
- Jennifer Sheffield has joined the team as College & Admissions Secretary.
- We say goodbye to the College librarian, Catherine Hilliard, who retired after six years in post.



Staff news (continued)

- We welcome Marjory Szurko who joins to take up the post of College Librarian. Marjory has previously held posts at both Oriel and Keble Colleges.
- Dr Sonia Gonzalo Delgado, SJE Arts Concert Manager, completed her doctorate (subject: History of Art-Musicology at the Universidad de Zaragoza. Title: Programming Early Iberian Keyboard Music. From Wanda Landowska to Santiago Kastner).
- Dr James Whitbourn takes up the post of Senior Research Fellow. Within the role, he will develop the College's activities in residential education for external students, partnering international universities and music conservatories as well as working with Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education. He will also take on wider responsibilities for the College's student accommodation and facilities.
- August saw the departure of Fr Mark Clavier, who has taken up the position of new Residentiary Canon at Brecon Cathedral. We wish him the very best in his new role.
- Many of you will already be aware of the death of the late Bishop David Thomas, SSH 1964-7; Vice Principal 1975-9; Principal 1982-7, who died on 11th May 2017.
- It was also a great loss to the College to learn of the death of Bishop Geoffrey Rowell, who died on 22th June at St Wilfred's Hospice, Chichester.
- Finally, it is with sadness that we report the death of Richard Doyle, a long-time friend and supporter of the College and SJE Arts.



Summer Programmes 2017

SSH hosted several successful residential academic courses in 2017, including new programmes in Choral Singing and Choral Composing offered by Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education. The College also welcomed for the first time the Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge, who were in residence for a weekend in August, and students from Xi'an Jiaotong and Donghua Universities, two of China's most prestigious universities.

We have continued our partnership with Westminster Choir College, Princeton, as they completed their fifth annual Choral Institute at Oxford and have enjoyed our continuing relationship with the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics, which held its fourth annual summer school at the College in July.

Legacy thanks

The College gives thanks for the great generosity of benefactors who have supported SSH through bequests in their wills over the last year. In total over £355,000 was gifted to the College via legacy gifts in the last twelve months.



SSH students help receive refugee children from Calais

Refuge welcome work

Students from the College joined Fr Tim Pike at St. Michael's Croydon to help receive refugee children from Calais arriving at the Home Office immigration centre at Lunar House.

Please do share any alumni news with us for inclusion in future issues – alumni@ssho.ox.ac.uk

A TALE OF TWO STUDENTS

Established in 1876, the core mission of St Stephen's House is to train priests in the Anglican tradition of the Church of England. However, since 2003, the College has welcomed a range of other students, pursuing post-graduate qualifications across subjects including theology, philosophy and teaching. Here, two recent leavers share their different experiences of life at St Stephen's House, and how it measured up to their expectations.

Prior to SSH...

EM: Having completed a PhD in History at the University of Sydney, I was working doing capacity building at a university in Cambodia when I decided that I wanted to know more about education and particularly higher education.

MW: Before training for ordained ministry, I taught Mathematics, mainly to GCSE and A level students who had been predicted low/poor grades in their mock examinations. My job was to enable them and bring out the very best in their abilities so that they could get better grades at their final GCSE/ A Level exams and proceed to college or university. I loved my job. I sense that equipping, enabling and encouraging people is my vocation. I am married and we have a 10-year-old daughter.

Why SSH?

EM: I was allocated to SSH by the University along with a large number of other MSc Education students. All my course teaching and learning was run entirely in the Department, rather than the College.

MW: I knew people who had studied at SSH including Bishop Martin [Warner] my sponsoring bishop. I made a direct application to the College.

What did you know about SSH before you arrived?

EM: Like many of the Department of Education students here, I had never heard of St Stephen's House. I had some trepidation about living in a religious college and one that took only a small number of students.

MW: I was very much aware of the college's ethos with regards to its discipline to the daily offices and the daily Mass. I had also been informed that no college did Solemn Mass like SSH.



Name: Elizabeth Miller
From: Sydney, Australia
Course: MSc Education
(Higher Education)

Name: Martha Weatherill
From: Eastbourne, UK
Course: Durham Common
Awards in Theology,
Ministry and Mission



Elizabeth: A day in the life

5:45 am: Rowing practice on the river. Race back to SSH for a (well deserved) cooked breakfast.

9.00 am: I didn't buy a bike so it was a 30 minute walk to the department. Classes were three days a week and started at 9:30.

11.00 am: Morning tea at The Department of Education – also a social place.

1.00 pm: Back to SSH for lunch. I opted for college lunches several times a week.

3.00 pm: When they say you're 'reading for a degree' at Oxford, they're not joking. Afternoons were spent doing the required reading for my classes and doing reading and research for assessments.

7.00 pm: Dinner at the college was one of the social highlights of my day. One of the best things about a college the size of SSH is that you never have to worry if you'll know anyone in the dining hall. Thursday night formal dinners were fantastic: the food was great, everyone dressed up for the evening, and the fun continued afterwards in the Common Room.

8.00 pm: While some evenings were spent doing yet more reading, others were more relaxed (depending on how close essay deadlines were...) Oxford is full of fantastic pubs, live music and plays, and it's not hard to corral friends from the college or my course into one for the night.

How did your perceptions of the College measure up to the reality of life here?

EM: The college was far livelier than I imagined, it was very welcoming, and had a good balance of ordinands and other students. It was more social than I had expected (which was excellent!) and very supportive.

MW: I was not disappointed, for me, worshipping God in the beauty of holiness is the core of my Christian discipleship and vocation and I had the privilege and opportunity to share in this worship. Being formed into the discipline of the office and Mass are gifts that I hope will see me through all of ministry.

How would you describe the ethos of St Stephen's House?

EM: The size of the college – which I thought would be a drawback – was perfect for getting to know everyone and creating close bonds. We all joke about being part of the 'Staggers family' but that's how it felt. I met some incredibly smart and interesting people here, but that's balanced with a fondness for food, drink, and banter.

MW: Pray Hard, Work Hard and Play Hard!

Best aspect of your time at SSH?

EM: Rowing. Having never rowed but believing it was a 'very Oxford' thing to do, a few of us went to the rowing trials thinking it would be a laugh and a good story to tell. I made some amazing friends among the ordinands, PGCEs, and other independent students and we soon became enthusiastic in the way that only novices can. I'm not sure everyone else enjoyed us comparing blisters at the dining table (sorry!) but we loved it. Rowing also gave us the chance to interact with other colleges and provided many excuses for celebrating our successes (or otherwise...)

MW: Living in a community where we pray together, eat together and work together. I also loved the formal dinners and the social gatherings.

One of the highlights of the term is the black tie dinner which I would attend with my family – my daughter likes dressing up. I also found all the staff very helpful and supportive.

Worst aspect?

EM: Getting to Trinity term and realising that I could have made more of time here. I was hesitant at first about getting involved in the social life of the college and so when spring arrived and we spent glorious Sunday afternoons sitting in the cloister gardens I was already nostalgic about my limited time here and wishing I had more than a year.

MW: I struggled a little with my academics because I had no previous theological background. However, with the support of the academic staff, I gained confidence in my studies. Although optional, I am currently furthering my studies to CA BA as part of my IME Phase 2.

What did you do in your spare time whilst at SSH?

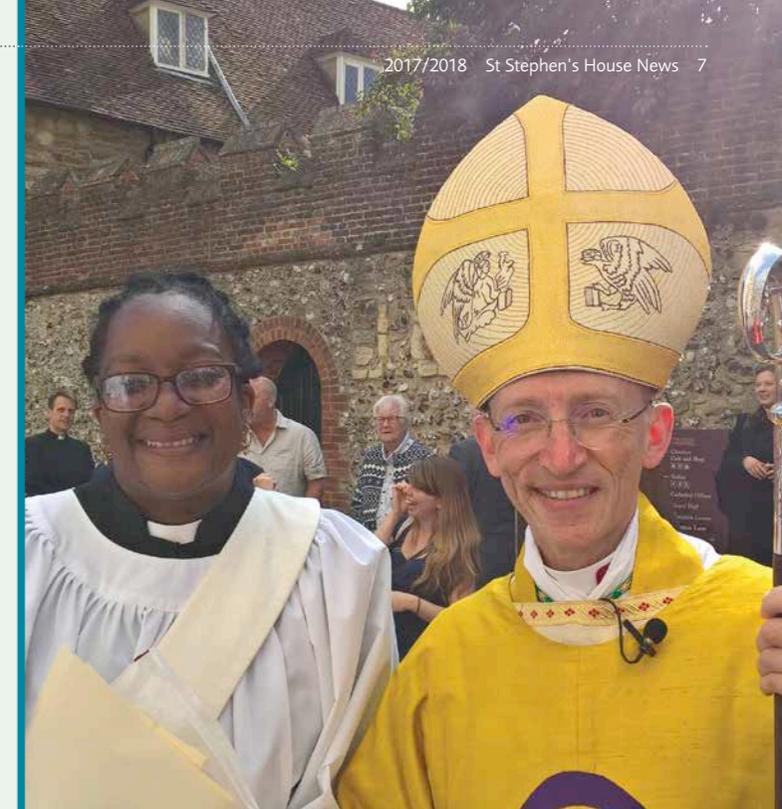
EM: I rowed and rowed some more. I was also the course representative for my stream of the MSc. Beyond that I spent a lot of time exploring Oxford and Britain.

MW: During my spare time, I had meals and drinks with other colleagues, visited other Oxford colleges and Chapels, and went sightseeing with my family.

What advice would you give to a prospective student considering SSH?

EM: You really will get out what you put in. Don't be put off by the different courses and departments people are involved in – as soon as you throw yourself into college life you'll realise those differences are easily traversed and in fact, make for an incredibly rewarding experience. Try out different extra-curricular activities, go to lots of formal dinners and invite your friends, and make sure you go to at least one ball while you're in Oxford.

MW: No hard sell – just look for where God is. I think that you will find God at Staggers. ♥



Martha: A day in the life

7.00 am: Quiet prayer.

7.30 am: Morning Prayer. Which I had an opportunity to officiate as part of my training.

8.00 am: Daily Mass.

8.30 am: Breakfast (families are welcome).

9.00 am–1.00 pm: Lectures (at SSH).

1.00 pm: Very nice lunch provided by the kitchen staff. Families welcome.

1.15 pm: Group Placement (at primary schools in Oxford with a clear focus on our commitment to the catholic mission and a sense of camaraderie).

3.00 pm: Rest/Study.

4.00 pm: Time with family and friends in Moberly Close gardens (the College's accommodation for students living with partners/families).

5.00 pm: Work on essays.

6.00 pm–6.30 pm: Evensong. Which I also had an opportunity to officiate as part of my training. Living in a cathedral city, I am often reminded of Staggers when I am at the Cathedral's Evensong – same quality.

6.30 pm–7.00 pm: Drinks in Common Room (all welcome).

7.00 pm–9.00 pm: Formal Dinner with family, friends and colleagues. An opportunity to dress up and relax after a very busy week.

10.00 pm: Work on essays.

11.00 pm: Bed after locking up and ensuring that the college was secure at night, very useful training in my current curacy.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

NEW: Parish Giving Initiative

As many of you will know, the College's campaign to establish an endowment fund remains the core fundraising priority and we continue to work towards our ultimate goal of £2.5 million.

This year we are launching a new initiative to encourage parish giving. We are asking all ordained alumni, their parishioners, churchwardens and PCC members, to consider raising funds for the College's Endowment Fund within their parishes. This might be through a regular annual collection, or by raising the £1,876 to join the College's society for all alumni and friends, The 1876 Society.

Securing an endowment is vital to the long-term future of the College, and will ensure the core focus of teaching and learning here at St Stephen's House is maintained in perpetuity. We do hope you will consider taking on the challenge!

The 1876 Society

One year on from its launch, this initiative has been well supported, with over 50 donors joining the Society, many at the £10 per month membership rate. This represents a significant increase in the number of people giving regularly to the College and the cumulative impact of this type of regular giving is extremely valuable. We are grateful to those who have joined and supported The 1876 Society. Please do consider joining if you have not already done so. To join: alumni@ssho.ox.ac.uk

1876
SOCIETY

Westminster Abbey event

Earlier this year, the Dean of Westminster, the Very Revd John Hall, hosted an event at Westminster Abbey in support of the College, providing us with an opportunity to thank the College's major donors, as well as families of some of the legators that have played such a key part in philanthropic giving over the last year or so. It was also a chance for us to further knowledge and awareness of the College amongst future potential supporters, and we were joined by guests from across the world, including those from the US, Australia and Armenia.



The Dean of Westminster addressing the College's guests in Westminster Abbey

Legacy giving campaign

The vocational work undertaken by the vast majority of our alumni means that legacy giving is often the most significant way in which many old members are able to support St Stephen's House, and indeed it is one of the College's largest sources of philanthropic income.

This year we are launching a new legacy campaign to raise awareness of the impact that this type of philanthropy has on the College and its ability to continue in its work. Please do take a moment to consider whether this is something you might be able to support.

We do appreciate that your Will is an entirely private matter, but it is extremely helpful if you feel able to share any plans to make a bequest to the College. It will also help us to invite you to join us for a small lunch, hosted by The Principal, for all legacy donors later in the year.

OBITUARY

THE RT REVD DR GEOFFREY ROWELL

With the death of Bishop Geoffrey on the morning of Trinity Sunday 2017 after a short illness, St Stephen's House lost not only one who had served on its House Council since 1986 (Chairman from 2004–2013), but one whose faith as an Anglican Catholic, his scholarship, ecumenical contacts and pastoral concern for others did much to support the work of the College.

It was during his long ministry as Chaplain of Keble College that Bishop Geoffrey joined the House Council, bringing a useful link with the University Faculty of Theology. He later became Chairman of the Governors of Pusey House, further strengthening the links between the two institutions, though perhaps not as closely as he would have wished.

A happy feature of Council meetings, especially after his appointment as Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, was Bishop Geoffrey's suggestions as to who might provide professional help to the College; a property developer or architect. He had been in conversation with just such a person at an airport. Networking for Bishop Geoffrey was not so much for his own self-interest but to enable others be more effective in their ministry. He also brought the College ecumenical links, especially with the various orthodox Churches with which he had such close links.

The hundreds who packed into Chichester Cathedral for his Funeral Requiem were driven there not just to pay tribute to a scholar Bishop, but to commend to God one whom they regarded as a friend. Bishop Geoffrey showed great kindness and courtesy towards others. His genial personality enabled him to be a gifted pastor. As chair of the House Council, even the more 'truculent' members were listened to with interest and usually good humour!

Bishop Geoffrey stood firm in his belief that the Anglican Communion was part of the Catholic Church. His scholarship, ecumenical contacts and his endless travelling meant that the air he breathed was that of the universal Church. He worked tirelessly for the reunion of that church, in faith, life and sacramental communion. His example has much to offer both those preparing for ordination and those ordained. ♥

THE BENSON SCHOLARSHIP

The Fellowship of St John (UK) Trust Association administers the charities once associated with the Cowley Fathers, the monastic order that established the site on which the College now sits. The Trust has a lively and proactive commitment to a wide variety of charitable works, particularly in education. Here at St Stephen's House, the Trust funds the Benson Scholarship, which enables ordination candidates in need of special funding to pursue their studies. This year's Benson Scholar, Sam Maginnis, writes about his experiences...



Me beside the River Danube in Budapest on this year's Exeter College choir tour, with Buda Castle in the background. For the tour we visited and sang concerts in Vienna, Bratislava and Budapest between 27 June and 5 July



Servers and clergy from Pusey House at the pub after our 2017 Corpus Christi procession from Pusey to St Barnabas' Church in Jericho



Ascot Priory where the Pusey House community held their Lent retreat in March this year. This is the Gospel Procession at Sunday High Mass, with me acting as thurifer (incense-bearer)

My blank stare was probably answer enough for The Principal when he asked me whether I had heard of the Benson Scholarship. It was May 2016, and we were sitting in the familiar surroundings of the chapel at Pusey House where I had been living and working as a chapel intern for the previous nine months, though it had been 18 months since I had begun my vocational journey in earnest and taken a career break from legal London. I had arranged this meeting with Fr Robin because I had recently been informed that my sponsoring diocese would not send me to a Bishops' Advisory Panel until after that summer, meaning that I would be unable to commence ordination training until at least September 2017. This left me wondering how I could occupy my time after Pusey House in a way that added some new and useful experience whilst justifying putting my legal career on hold for a third year. I felt rather stuck, and indeed was left considering whether it was wise for me to continue exploring my vocation to priesthood at this point in my life.

It was then that Fr Robin approached me with one final option. He explained the purpose of the Benson Scholarship; to enable unfunded students who intended to offer themselves for ordination the opportunity to undertake full-time study, and suggested that I would be a suitable candidate.

I leapt at the chance – my academic interest in Christian theology had been growing steadily since I had returned to faith and I knew this could open up further interesting avenues to me even if I were not eventually recommended for training. We agreed that I should apply for the Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Theology at Oxford, a one-year foundation course designed for non-theology graduates to enable them to go on to postgraduate study, with the intention that the Benson Scholarship would cover my course fees if I was accepted. My nomination was successful, and I was pleased to learn from Fr Robin that not only would the scholarship cover my course fees but the trustees had decided to award me some money towards maintenance costs as well.

This still left a noticeable shortfall in my living expenses, but after a couple of successful grant applications to other charitable bodies I had made up the required amount and was ready to return to Oxford as a student once more.

The PGDip is a curious beast, in that it is classified as a postgraduate course but is taught alongside the undergraduate theology degree, with PGDip and FHS students attending the same lectures and tutorials and sitting the same three-hour exam papers in Trinity Term. Having previously studied Jurisprudence as an undergraduate at Magdalen College, I was accustomed to this method of teaching, though in the intervening years I had forgotten just how intense it is! Over the course of the year I read for three papers – Old Testament, the Gospels, and Patristics – and attended three tutorials per fortnight in the first two terms, writing essays and taking copious notes as I went. Alongside this I attended language classes in New Testament Greek three days a week, carried on my work at Pusey House in the role of Assistant Sacristan, and fulfilled a long-held ambition by winning a choral bursary with Exeter College choir. It really was the Oxford undergraduate experience all over again – lots of reading and writing and arguing, balanced with extracurricular fun and some good dinners to boot. And within all of that I had the chance to engage critically and on a deep level with the Scriptures and the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith, helping me towards a greater understanding and appreciation of my own beliefs and those of the wider Church.

I am pleased to say that I gained a Distinction overall in my exams for the PGDip and have been accepted onto Oxford's Master in Theology (MTh) programme, which will form the academic part of my priestly formation at the College over the next two years.

Having begun my vocational journey with no formal theological qualifications, advanced scholarship will now form an integral part of my training and I hope of my future ministry. This would have been impossible for me without the Benson Scholarship, and in giving particular thanks to the Fellowship of St John (UK) Trust Association for their support I am also mindful of all those individuals and organisations who have given generously over the years for the encouragement of vocations and the continuing life and mission of the Church of England. 🇬🇧

By Sam Maginnis

THE LATE BISHOP DAVID THOMAS



I first met David when we were students together at the House. We overlapped by just one year before I went on to be ordained in 1965 and he in 1967. (David had been at Keble where he had taken Mods and Greats but rather more importantly had come under the influence of Austin Farrer the then Warden.) I remember David well, though at that time not particularly close friends, nevertheless I recognised in him a real sense of vocation and deep spirituality as well as someone with real academic gifts. He studied for the Theology Schools when a student, and like me who at that time was completing my D.Phil, had also the whole gamut of General Ordination Examination (GOE) examinations to complete before ordination. He seemed to get on well with each and every student with his friendly personality and good sense of humour. At that time Derek Allen had only recently been appointed Principal and the House was still very much ordered in the quasi monastic way that Arthur Couratin had left it, I

gather too that talking recently with David's wife, Rosemary, to whom he was engaged, that she had to gain permission from Derek before visiting – such were the times!

It was just one year following my own very reluctant appointment as Principal of St Stephen's House in 1974 (I had just completed four years in my first parish as Incumbent – some of the happiest days of my entire ordained life) that John Halliburton, the then Vice Principal, was appointed Principal of Chichester Theological College. I had little hesitation in identifying the person I most wanted as Vice Principal. The 'troubles' at the House at that time are well known – but equally with the fall in student numbers and the slow rate of applications together with the somewhat dire financial straights of the House at that stage I had begun to wonder whether we could survive. I would not have blamed him if on my approach to him to become Vice Principal with all the challenges and uncertainties he had refused my approach and gone on to a parish which he was really keen to do. I had the deepest sympathy with him in this but managed to persuade him of the House's greater need of him at that stage. Thankfully he agreed.

"...If there was a fitting epitaph for David as priest, pastor, bishop and friend, I would unfailingly suggest those two phrases – 'faithful to God' and 'merciful to all'. May he rest in peace."

He and Rosemary, together with their children Felicity and John, not to mention their dog Cleo – much loved and spoiled by successive students – moved into number nineteen Norham Gardens, the then site of the College. At that stage we were but three houses on either side of the road with the somewhat tunnel like chapel attached to number seventeen. Staff and students lived very much cheek by jowl. Both David and Rosemary and family seemed to settle in quickly to their new situation and circumstances and brought a lovely sense of 'family' to the House as a whole and where students were always welcome into their home.

David's arrival undoubtedly brought in particular a renewed sense of academic rigour and seriousness – though he himself would never admit it. He was highly regarded by students and his teaching of the Old Testament, and in particular to those studying also for the Schools, not only inspired students but brought about a substantial raising of standards. Together with his keen pastoral sense and obvious but unstated spiritual depth, once again applications began to rise and slowly we managed to climb out of the opprobrium in which the House had been cast by many, not least bishops and Diocesan Directors of Ordinands at the time.

In matters of discipline he had a lightness of touch but would never flinch from the necessary action. This was well illustrated when on one weekend night a party in a student's room adjoining their rooms was beginning to get rather out of hand to the extent that he had to go and tell them to close down the noise. His first approach was ignored, his second appearance in his pyjamas was rather more severe – one-way tickets even being threatened! The next morning it was put round that the Vice Principal had made an appearance in matching Rupert Bear pyjamas and slippers!

A person of huge integrity, his genial personality made him popular with students and had that much needed quality in exercising a ministry in such a context –

a robust sense of humour and not least the absurd! He was never happier than relaxing with his pipe and a gin and tonic.

I shall ever remain indebted to him, and Rosemary and their family as well, for having been prepared to move from Wales to Oxford given the precarious circumstances of the time. He was a hugely supportive colleague who became a close friend. His wise advice and pastoral care and sensitivity not only for students but also for myself as Principal made possible what otherwise might have been impossible.

During David's time as Vice Principal, his father, Bishop Jack Thomas (then Bishop of Swansea and Brecon) came to preach at the House. His theme from the Epistle to the Hebrews was on Jesus Christ 'the great high priest of our profession'. He focussed on two phrases in relation to Jesus – 'faithfulness to God' and 'merciful to man'. I have never forgotten that sermon and if there was a fitting epitaph for David as priest, pastor, bishop and friend, I would unfailingly suggest those two phrases – 'faithful to God' and 'merciful to all'. May he rest in peace. ♥

By Bishop David Hope



David enjoying the end of term Christmas entertainment and Dinner in 1982: his first year as Principal



SSH rowers with fellow team members from St Benet's Hall

SPORT AT THE COLLEGE

A surge of sporting enthusiasm at the College has led to the creation of a new rowing team and croquet squad. Here the croquet team captain, Sam Aldred, reports on progress this year.

The St Stephen's House Croquet Team, known to their legions of fans as 'The Hammers of Heretics', burst onto the sporting scene in Trinity term 2017 and enjoyed a successful, if short, run tearing up lawns across Oxford.

The first round of the competition saw The Hammers drawn against Christ Church, one of the University's great croqueting colleges. The Cuppers format requires the teams to play two matches per round, usually split across the colleges, but given the lack of facilities at Stagers, The Hammers made their way one glorious early summer afternoon to 'The House', seeking to dispatch their enemy in one fell swoop. The setting for this clash of croquet titans could not have been finer; the teams met on the Dean of Christ Church's personal lawns, affording splendid views of the cathedral and out across the meadow.

Team captain Sam Aldred teamed up with fellow first year ordinand student Tom Crowley to play the first round. It was clear from the off that Aldred and Crowley were the superior pair, steadily gaining ground on their hapless opponents. The victory was short and sweet, with the Stagers pair finishing a full three hoops ahead of Christ Church, following which Crowley ran to a nearby bench to complete an overdue essay on pre-Nicene Trinitarian thought.

The second round was more of a nail-biter. The other Stagers pair was formed of Billy Hamilton-Box, another first year ordinand, and Sophy Tuck, an independent student studying early Church heresy. Despite facing a highly competent Christ Church pair, Box and Tuck played excellently as a team and won the victory they so richly deserved.

Having smashed through the first round of the competition, The Hammers began their preparation for the next phase by ensuring that their trousers had a crease you could cut your finger on, and determining the perfect amount of gin to consume before a match. A little light stretching was undertaken in a concession to the hard-nosed sporting culture that we inhabit today.



"Trousers with a crease you could cut your finger on" – Sam Aldred's croquet cuppers team take to the lawns

The second round took the intrepid Stagers team to far-flung Lady Margaret Hall (LMH). It was another sunny afternoon and the Hammers' international fan-base (visiting academic Prof. Peter Kraus) was out in full. Aldred and Crowley were once again the first to take up mallets against the foe. It was clear from the off that they were facing a highly-trained croquet-playing machine. Gone were the pleasantries

"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Luke 10:19

and began by blocking the opening hoop, a dastardly play that set the tone for the rest of the afternoon. In a really quite impressive display of technical skill, Aldred succeeded in bashing the offending ball out of the way and placing his own ball in its place. It was then that things began to go downhill. The LMH captain actually managed to chip his ball over Aldred's and through the hoop, before returning to knock his opponent's ball into an adjacent flowerbed. The match took about

and affable leniency regarding the rule book that had characterised the first round. The

LMH pair won the toss



Polo

PGCE (Physics) student Naomi Sutton represented the University in a match against Cambridge as part of the University's Beginners team in March, having first ridden a horse just four years before.

twenty minutes, with Crowley barely off the starting line by the time that the LMH pair had completed the course.

Box and Tuck fared a little better, displaying again their talent for team work, but despite a couple of Stagers' surges, the LMH second pair continued to pull ahead. Ultimately the talent and practice put-in by the LMH team trumped the superior grooming and willing amateurishness displayed by the Hammers.

Despite being the smallest of the teams competing in Cuppers, and despite having indulged in virtually no practice, St Stephen's House made a clear impression on this year's competition. The Hammers of Heretics tore up the Dean's garden at Christ Church, leaving their opponents marvelling at their skill, style, and manners. Whilst their run for this season ended in the grounds of LMH, the Hammers left the field with the sense of a job well done, and if there had been a prize for the Best Dressed Team, then Stagers would have taken home the trophy. ♥

PREPARING MODERN PRIESTS

Contemplatives in the inner-city



Fr James Lawson with his wife, Nana

When I manage to catch up with Fr James Lawson he apologises for having missed the original time we had arranged to speak.

He explains that he is running late because he was comforting a parishioner; a mother whose son was shot four times as he tried to reach the refuge of Father James's vicarage, pursued by a gunman working for a local dealer. Thankfully, he survived and his mother was at Mass that morning.

Many of the priests trained at St Stephen's House work in parishes like the one in which Father James served in Hackney. They seem a world away from the peace of the former monastic buildings in which they received their formation.

So how on earth does training at a place like St Stephen's House prepare someone for the reality of the inner city?

I asked Father James, the College's new Vice Principal and Charles Marriott Director of Pastoral Studies...

He answered: "I remember going to a vigil outside the mosque in Finsbury Park the night after the attack there last summer. The local priest had been busy all day dealing with a traumatized community and with visiting politicians and with the media. I hadn't seen him since my appointment had been announced. When I asked him how he was doing, I was surprised when he congratulated me and said how thankful he was for the formation that he had received at SSH, and how it prepared him to cope with days like the one he'd just had.

Father James explained. "Father Ken Leech used to teach that any authentic priesthood has to come from an inner core of silence, a life hid with Christ in God. Only those who are at home with silence and darkness will be able to survive in, and minister to, the confusion and violence of the modern world. Otherwise, the danger

is that we can become so compulsively busy that all we have left to communicate is our own exhaustion."

"And where better to discover a life hid with Christ in God than at a place like SSH where Father Ken himself trained for the priesthood? It's a place where ordinands receive a disciplined formation that allows them to chance to learn to pray deeply. The practices of silence and

"One of the most serious dangers confronting those who minister in the inner city is that their lives come to be built on frenzy and compulsive busyness. This usually leads to lack of focus, a tendency to accumulate more and more things, a collapse of reflection, and the cultivation of a personal culture of obligatory tiredness."

*The late Revd Ken Leech
(SSH 1962)*

of adoring worship, help us to apprehend Him.' This worship is the focus of our life together at St Stephen's House, and this spirit is what we seek to communicate and to radiate."

Thankfully, this is what SSH offers its ordinands, and will continue to do so with renewed vigour with the arrival of Father James as the College's new Vice Principal. ♥

recollection that Father Ken refers to are an essential part of the Tractarian tradition of the House."

For Father James this spiritual discipline can teach priests trained at SSH more than just resilience. "Our programme must be: the greatest possible radiance in the world by virtue of the closest possible following of Christ. Evelyn Underhill wrote that 'God is the interesting thing about religion, and people are hungry for God. But only a priest whose life is soaked in prayer and sacrifice, and love can, by his own spirit

A PERFECT FIFTH

There is celebration in the air at SJE Arts as the College's music and arts venue launches the fifth season of its flagship International Piano Series. With more than forty successful performances in the series so far, and an ever-growing reputation, surely good reason to let fly a cork or two...

... And that's exactly what we plan to do! Metaphorically at least, as world-leading Canadian pianist Angela Hewitt opens the Series in January with a programme of Bach, swiftly followed by some of the most interesting and talented pianists alive today.

The SJE Arts International Piano Series has become a well-known feature in the Oxford musical calendar, helping to attract a total of around 15,000 people to the venue since its launch in 2013.

Highlights of this year's programme include a snap-shot of the eccentric French composer Erik Satie in February, with music and extracts from his diaries; multi-talented Stephen Hough in March, and in April, the wonderfully charismatic Spanish pianist, Joaquín Achúcarro. ♥



Barbican Piano Trio

So, why make this the year to come along to one of our concerts?

SJE Arts' Sally Doyle, gives us three reasons to do just that...

- 1. Our Piano** – a superb Steinway D concert grand, in the prime of its life and benefiting from the superb acoustic in the church.
- 2. Variety** – this year sees the most variety we have ever had in the Series. There's something for everyone: piano with string orchestra, the violin, cello, piano combination of The Barbican Piano Trio, Imogen Cooper, plus Angela Hewitt's performance is particularly special, being just one of just a handful of UK concerts she is performing this year.
- 3. Alumni discount** – if that isn't enough, we offer all College alumni a discount of 10% on International Piano Series concerts. Just quote ALUMNI when booking.

Sponsor a concert!

Why not make an occasion of your visit and pick your favourite performer to sponsor?

We offer packages that can be tailored to suit, including:

- Front row tickets for you & friends
- Complimentary drinks during the interval
- The possibility of hosting your own private pre-concert party in our beautiful cloister

Come along and see for yourselves! Alumni and friends are assured of a warm welcome at all our Series concerts; just let us know to expect you. To enquire about sponsorship, please email concerts@ssho.ox.ac.uk



Angela Hewitt

Joaquín Achúcarro



NON ANGLI, SED ANGLICANI

A Semester at the Venerable English College, Rome

It is now almost a year since I went, along with my fellow ordinand Scott Coleman, to the Venerable English College in Rome, but I have no doubt the experience will stay with us both for much, much longer. We began our Italian adventures by spending a month studying the lingo in Tuscany, in San Giovanni in Valdarno. Suffice to say, our proximity to Florence, Siena and numerous other towns was fully exploited! In September, we then returned to the English College (or 'VEC', as it is known) to join returning seminarians.

It is difficult to overstate the historical significance of the English College: founded as a hospice for medieval pilgrims, it has been the seminary in Rome for England and Wales since Pope Gregory XIII's bull in 1579. The College boasts no fewer than 44 martyrs, and there remains a pride in this witness to the present day. Scott and I were privileged to attend a rich variety of lectures at the Angelicum, and were equally encouraged to take part fully in the life of the College, from the sacristy to the refectory. We were

warmly welcomed throughout our time, not least also at the Anglican Centre, whose weekly Eucharist was the perfect place to meet Anglican clergy and pilgrims. It was also a joy to be involved with pastoral placements – I, for one, taught English to refugees on the outskirts of the city.

In our free time, we visited the innumerable churches, galleries and museums the Eternal City has to offer, not to mention the odd trattoria or bar here – just to keep up appearances, naturally. On free weekends, we could also visit the stunning Villa Palazzola, the seminary's summer outpost (its garden balconies overlook Castel Gandolfo).

Oh, and for 50th anniversary celebrations of the Anglican Centre, we met the Pope (twice), along with the Archbishop of Canterbury, and more princes, primates and plenipotentiaries than the Court Circular. All in all, then, not a bad way to spend one's final term. ♥

The Revd Nick Walters

- Fact File -
**CHORAL
 INSTITUTE
 AT OXFORD**

Location

St Stephen's House is the home of the Choral Institute's International Summer Programme, offered in collaboration with SSH, by Westminster Choir College, Princeton.

Key contacts

The Co-Directors are the College's Senior Research Fellow and music faculty member Dr James Whitbourn, and Westminster Choir College's Senior Professor of Choral Conducting, Dr James Jordan.

About/purpose

The Choral Institute is course of study for choral conductors who come work with the Institute's choir-in-residence, the Grammy-nominated chamber choir Westminster Williamson Voices, and to take instruction from the two Directors and from other tutors, mostly drawn from Oxford's Faculty of Music and Westminster Choir College.

A day in the life of a Choral Institute Conductor

Breakfast starts the day and already the conversation is unexpectedly lively. Then the first academic seminar begins. One day it might be a workshop with the boys of Christ Church

Cathedral, another day a session on the music of Arvo Pärt. Before lunch there is a seminar in Gregorian Chant to aid the understanding of so much of Western music. A plenary lecture might follow, before the ever-popular tea – a time to understand what it means to be British. Then the daily dose of 'podium time' – a chance for the conductor to make music with a group of singers of extraordinary talent and generosity, and to learn what it means to be a human being. There is much to talk about this at supper but conversation breaks in time for more chant rehearsal. As sun sets, every seat in house chapel is filled for Compline.

How does Choral Institute work with SSH?

St Stephen's House is the summer home of the Williamson Voices and the only home of



the Choral Institute. The Institute uses every available bed (and more) for almost two weeks and the College is filled with choral song. SSH is the only college in Oxford with two such beautiful singing acoustics. Few even have one that is as fine. It is a week of intense study which enhances and permanently changes lives. ♥

www.rider.edu/oxford

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

In each issue, we catch up with an alumnus to find out what they have gone on to do after leaving the College, and their memories of studying here.



Name: Peter Eagles

Age: 58

Studies undertaken at SSH: Ordination Training, Oxford Theology Degree, Oxford Cert. in Theology

Year of graduation: 1989

Undergraduate degree / other studies: Modern Languages (German and Russian), The School of Slavonic Studies and King's College, London

Your current role: I have just completed my career as a Chaplain in the British Army, which has taken me to many different places in twenty-five years, with time spent in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Balkans and elsewhere. I am now preparing to move to the Isle of Man to engage in a new sphere of ministry as Bishop of Sodor and Man.

Describe a typical day in the Army

I'm not sure there was a typical day! A day in Afghanistan might begin with a helicopter flight at 3am, there would be as much activity at night as in daytime, and days merged into each other, delineated by events rather than by time. Thus it was so important to have a liturgical Sunday, even if that actually turned out to be Tuesday because that was the time when soldiers were available. The last few years in the Army Headquarters as a Senior Chaplain and Archdeacon have been more measured; recruiting, training, and deploying clergy, caring for them, managing their careers and sustaining their vocations.

Could you tell us about your time at SSH?

I was part of a very large intake in 1986, with a great breadth of individual personal experience. It was more gentle than I had anticipated: the structure of chapel and lectures was set, but around

that there was so much time for conversation, discourse, social life. My three years were deeply fulfilling, and the Holy Week Retreat in my first year was decisive in my formation as a priest. There are contemporaries whom I see regularly, others whom I don't see but remember often. We gathered for a 25-year reunion in 2014, and again as a smaller group in 2015 for the anniversary of priesthood.

Are there any particularly memorable experiences from your time at the College?

Opening the batting against Grendon prison and (less dauntingly) against Cuddesdon and Oscott. Snatching defeat from the jaws of victory in the theological college Rugby Sevens at Oak Hill. The occasional bizarre liturgical experience: listening at Evening Prayer on 23rd February one year to 'the account of the Smyrtyrdom of Molycarp of Parna' as the sherry wrought its magic...

Where do you see the College's future?

Dedicated to the Deacon and Protomartyr, it will continue to form people for service and witness, strengthening them with the wonderful gifts of catholic tradition. Located in East Oxford, it can offer a compelling vision of residential training that both emphasises the link to academic excellence and offers every opportunity for contextual experience. This gives it a potentially unique role in the Church of England which we can articulate courageously and clearly.

Parting thoughts?

There has to be a word of thanks to the many people with whom I have been privileged to share the life of St Stephen's House as part of our continuing Christian pilgrimage. Formation exercises its influence for the rest of our lives. ♥



THE PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

When theological colleges were first founded in the Church of England in the 19th century, it was assumed that the academic side of forming candidates for ordination would be dealt with in the Universities, and that the colleges needed to be places of retreat and spiritual formation. However, once the Universities began to give up their Anglican identity, a second generation of colleges, among which was St Stephen's House, consciously located themselves in Oxford, so as to maintain a counter-cultural witness to the Academy. This was a point which Archbishop Coggan chose to draw out in particular when he preached at the House's centenary in 1976.

This year has seen the beginning of a big change in the traditional Oxford Theology course for undergraduates. Some ordinand students at SSH have been taking the so-called Schools course since the early 1970s,

when the University first allowed the then four Anglican theological colleges to admit a few students each year and teach them for the Honour School of Theology. In terms of the curriculum, not much has changed in the course since the Second World War, although in common with other Oxford courses the workload, particularly in language learning, has diminished a bit. But from this year a radically new course has been introduced, intended to make Theology a more popular choice for potential students.

What has attracted most attention is the inclusion of many more papers on the study of Religion, and the study of individual world Religions. There are now no compulsory papers, and much more of the teaching will be done in classes rather than tutorials. This reflects the way in which in modern research universities, senior academics prefer to teach

to their research topics, rather than to a fixed pedagogic scheme. It remains to be seen how this will bed down as appropriate for ordinands – the Faculty here remains a world class one, but it may be that expertise in some core aspects of Christian theology, especially the Old Testament and Patristics, atrophies through want of support as undergraduates opt to continue work on Buddhism or Islam that matches their 'A' level studies.

This makes the work of our theological colleges all the more important in preserving the integrity of Christian theology as a coherent discipline, and ensuring that a place remains for teaching and research staff in the core subject areas. Without your support for our work, we cannot assume that this vital task will continue. ♥

By The Revd Canon Dr Robin Ward

The 1876 Society

We welcome the following new members. To join The 1876 Society, please email development@ssho.ox.ac.uk

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| • The Revd Mark Bonney | • Bishop Jonathan Baker | • Canon Paul Burrows | • Gregory Tucker |
| • The Revd Justin Hutcherson | • The Revd Grant Naylor | • The Revd John Warner | • The Revd Peter Eagles |
| • Bishop Philip North | • The Revd David Stevenson | • Bishop Norman Banks | • The Ven David Gunn-Johnson |
| • The Revd Ben Weitzmann | • The Revd Imogen Black | • Lay Canon Ann Turner | • The Revd Stephen Niechcial |
| • Ian Boxall | • The Revd Paul Barrow | • Canon Carl Turner & The Parish of St Thomas Fifth Avenue, New York, USA | • Dominik Joerg |
| • Jason Groves | • Scott Cooper | | • Henry Hemmingdale |
| • Canon Robert Fayers | • Malcolm Kemp | | |



1876
SOCIETY

2016/17 EXAMINATION HIGHLIGHTS & LEAVERS' INFORMATION

Examination highlights

- Manal Bougazzoul (Distinction in MSc Education)
- Christopher Dingwall-Jones (First in the Honour School of Theology and Religion)
- Monika Doering (First in the Common Awards BA in Theology, Ministry & Mission)
- Samuel Gibson (Distinction in the MTh)
- Steven Martin (First in the BTh, January 2017)
- Anna McGarry (Distinction MSc in Learning /Teaching (P/T), November 2016)
- Samuel Maginnis (Distinction in the PGDip in Theology)
- Elizabeth Miller (Distinction in MSc Education)
- Nathan Mulcock (Distinction in the MTh)

Other highlights

DPhil

- (Kai Ling) Jessie Sim (DPhil in Education) – 'Measuring financial literacy and its correlates: A study of fifteen-year-olds in Oxfordshire and Greater London'
- Kathy Xu (DPhil in Education) – 'The use of romanized Chinese by first- and second-grade pupils: challenges in learning pinyin'

Graduate Leavers 2017

PGDip in Theology and Religion

- Jennifer Brown (Planning to work as a Librarian and go on to further study)

- Sam Maginnis (Returning to SSH to train for ordination (MTh))

MSt in Theology

- Nathan Betz (Planning to go on to further study)

MPhil in Theology

- Isaac Soon (Planning to go on to further study)

MSt in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies

- Nathalie Gier
- (Emily) Sophy Tuck

MSc in Education

- Manal Bougazzoul (Distinction)
- Dominik Joerg (Passed September 2017)
- Divya Joseph (Passed September 2017)
- Shizuka Kato (Passed September 2017)
- Tiarnach McDermott (Passed September 2017)
- Elizabeth Miller (Distinction)
- Elisabeth Sandler (Passed September 2017)
- Yu Yang (Passed September 2017)

MSc in Learning and Teaching (p/t)

Not finalised at time of publication

PGCE Leavers 2017

- Sarah Blair (English)
- Martyn Hall (French with German)
- Jessica Holmes (English)
- Adam Jibson (Physics)
- Naomi Sutton (Physics)
- Lannah Thatcher (French with Spanish)
- Craig Tuffin (German with French)
- Szilvia Watson (RE)
- Jan Walukiewicz (Physics)

Ordinand Leavers 2017

The following SSH leavers were ordained Deacon this year, listed alongside their new title parishes.

- Nick Archer (Eastbourne St Saviour and St Peter, Chichester)
 - Monika Doering (Benefice of West Barnsley, Leeds)
 - Samuel Gibson (St Alphege, Solihull, Birmingham)
 - Nicholas Johnson (St Mark with Christchurch, Glodwick, Manchester)
 - Philip Kennedy (St Michael and All Angels with St James, Croydon, Southwark)
 - William Levanway (All Saints Fulham, London)
 - Mark Mawhinney (Seaham (St Mary the Virgin) and Dawdon, Durham)
 - Stephen Mills (St John's Preston, Brighton, Chichester)
 - Nathan Mulcock (Stevenage St Andrew and St George, St Albans)
 - Nigel Palmer (St Benet and All Saints, Kentish Town, London)
 - Matthew Topham (St Mary the Virgin, Tottenham, London)
 - Nick Walters (St Mary the Virgin, Primrose Hill, London)
 - Martha Weatherill (United Benefice of St Paul's, Chichester with St Peter's, Westhampnett, Chichester)
- James White and Fr Gregory Lipovsky also completed their studies this year. Fr Gregory's title parish is St Mary the Less, Cambridge, Ely.

Graduate Leavers 2016

Finalised after newsletter was published

MSc in Education

- Subhan Ahmed

- Raveena Balani
- Xi Cao
- Sanskruti Ghosalkar
- Tara Paxman
- Davina Schembri
- Pooja Sharma

MSc in Learning / Teaching (p/t)

- Giles Delaney
- Anna Foster
- Anna McGarry
- James Randall
- Sheila Tandon
- Sue Tudge

PGCE Leavers 2016

Finalised after newsletter was published

- Robert Macdonald (Mathematics)
- Chad Moody (History)
- Richard Parker (Physics)
- Jan Perz (Physics)
- Stephen Watkins (History)

Ordinand Leavers 2016

The following SSH leavers were ordained Priest this year, listed alongside their new title parishes.

- Toby Boutle (Whyke w Rumboldswyke & Portsfield, Chichester)
- Orazio Camaioni (Ss. Peter & Paul, Wantage, Oxford)
- David D'Silva (St John the Baptist, Edlington & Hexthorpe, Sheffield)
- Stephen Graham (St Andrew, Holt, with High Kelling, Norwich)
- Ali Hodkinson (St Helen, Auckland, Durham)
- Peter Nissen (Benefice of Gresford & Holt, St Asaph)
- Giles Orton (St Laurence, Long Eaton, Derby) ♥

HOW TO SUPPORT ST STEPHEN'S HOUSE

Online

Visit www.ssho.ox.ac.uk and click on 'Support St Stephen's House' on the right hand side of the page.

Regular giving

If you wish to make a regular payment, please instruct your bank to set up a Standing Order.

The College's bank details are:

Account name: St Stephen's House

Account number: 74542834

Sort code: 60-16-06

By cheque

Please send a cheque payable to the Society of St Stephen's House, FREEPOST St Stephen's House, 16 Marston Street, Oxford OX4 1JX

Thank you for your kind support of St Stephen's House

Please do alert us to your gift.

Contact

If you would like to discuss your gift or talk to us about how you might wish to support the College, please contact:

Rachel Makari, Development Director

Email: rachel.makari@ssho.ox.ac.uk

Telephone: 01865 610489



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