

2018 / 2019



ST STEPHEN'S HOUSE
NEWS



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Welcome to the College Newsletter for the academic year 2018–19, the theme of which is international. Oxford is a global University, and this is reflected in the rich diversity of our students, who go on to work in all sorts of different places.



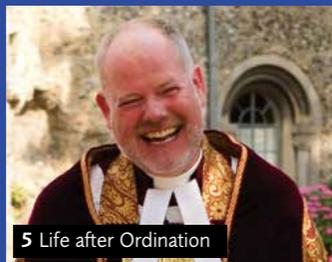
This year we have a remarkable combination: the Bishop to the Forces, the Rt Revd Tim Thornton, the Chaplain-in-Chief and Archdeacon for the RAF, Air Vice-Marshal the Ven John Ellis, and the Chaplain of the Fleet and Archdeacon for the Royal Navy, the Ven Martyn Gough, all trained at the College. Congratulations to them, and to all our old members who serve in the Armed Forces.

I am very grateful to Fr Graham Lunn for sharing in this edition how his parish has committed to support the College through the 1876 Society. This is vital to ensuring our work continues, and we hope to build up our links with donor parishes.

Thank you for your interest, and I hope you enjoy the newsletter. ♥

By Canon Dr Robin Ward

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On the cover

Cloth of Silver embroidered chasuble in the possession of the College.

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NEWS



Sam Maginnis and Alice Love Twelves



Fr John Ellis



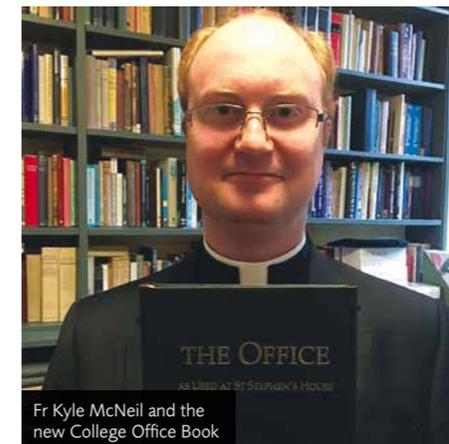
Pooja Sharma (SSH 2016) and Nikesh Patel

Congratulations to...

- Sam Maginnis and Alice Love Twelves who were married on 8th September. The marriage took place at Merton College Chapel and celebrations continued at St Stephen's House.
- Fr John Ellis (Air Vice-Marshal, SSH 1995), has been appointed as Chaplain-in-Chief and Archdeacon of the Royal Air Force. Two of the three heads of military chaplaincy roles (Navy and RAF) are now held by SSH alumni; Fr Martyn Gough (SSH 1988) being Chaplain of the Fleet and Archdeacon of the Navy.
- The Very Revd Joe Hawes (SSH 1988) on his appointment as Dean of St Edmundsbury. (See page 5).
- Pooja Sharma (SSH 2016) and Nikesh Patel, who were married on 25th August in Datchet.

New College Office Book

Thanks to much work by Fr Kyle McNeil and Mthr Alice Whalley, the Office Book according to the use of St Stephen's House has recently been published and copies are available to buy. This contains the offices of Morning and Evening Prayer with the Revised Psalter, over one hundred office hymns, and seasonal canticles and propers, the order for Benediction and the Marian anthems, all with chant. The price of the Office Book is £20 (£12 for additional copies in the same order) and p&p. Order via: officebook@ssho.ox.ac.uk



Fr Kyle McNeil and the new College Office Book

Save the date!

- **Friday 21st June 2019**
College Garden Party – all alumni and their families are most welcome to this lovely annual event held in the cloister garden.
- **Thursday 12th September 2019**
College American fundraising event. Please do contact us if you would like to attend this.

Staff news

- We welcome Annie De Souza who takes up the post of Accommodation & Events Manager at the College. Annie has an events background, and previously spent a number of years at the Royal Scottish National Orchestra based in Glasgow.
- Meanwhile Maciej Pietruszewski has joined as College Maintenance Manager.
- We also welcome Georgia Davies to take over the role of SJE Arts' Concert Manager; Georgia brings with her a wealth of experience from the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building. Georgia takes over the post from Dr Sonia Gonzalo Delgado, who played a key role in making SJE Arts the successful enterprise it has become over the five years she was here. Sonia returns to her native Spain and we wish her and her husband Pablo the very best there.
- Caspar Doyle, who held the post of Assistant Bursar, has left to pursue further academic study in London after successfully gaining a BA (First Class) in English Literature from the Open University. We wish him every success with his future studies.

Wartime at an Oxfordshire Monastery

The College's National Lottery-funded project to explore the First World War history of the former monastery which it now occupies completed this year, with a final exhibition held in the Cloister Gallery. Over 100 academics, educators,



MSc Education student Isabel Goh in action as part of the University's Ultimate Frisbee team

Ultimate Frisbee success

SSH MSc Education student Isabel Goh has been awarded a half-blue for her contribution to the women's outdoor Ultimate Frisbee team during Varsity, which Oxford won against Cambridge. Ultimate frisbee is normally played outdoors on a large

rectangular pitch with two smaller rectangles marked out at each end known as 'endzone's. To score, the team of seven must pass the frisbee to each other until a player catches the frisbee in their designated endzone for that point.

College entrance plans

Landscaping work is taking place within the College's Iffley Road garden, in front of the College Church, with the aim of better incorporating the area within the College. The first phase has involved the

removal of several decaying trees, and plans have been drafted for new railings and a gate. The long-term aim is to make this the main entrance to the College, once funding is secured.



schoolchildren and volunteers were involved in the project and thanks go to all for their fantastic contributions. Next time you visit the College do pick up one of the project booklets which gives more information on the findings.

LIFE AFTER ORDINATION

Three former SSH ordinand students – three different points along the journey from ordination...

27 years on...

The Very Revd Joe Hawes,
Dean of St Edmundsbury

Current role: I was installed as the new Dean of St Edmundsbury, at Bury St Edmunds cathedral. I serve as Head of the Chapter, guiding the vision and strategy for the cathedral, and I am also senior priest in the diocese, working with the Bishop to support clergy.

Before SSH: I went straight from University (English, Durham) to spend a year working at St Albans Abbey in contemplation for ordination. It was demanding and varied, and I also worked a job at McDonalds as it didn't come with an income.

SSH: SSH was a challenging time but also a lot of fun – I formed friendships which I still have today. There was considerable debate going on around the various changes being faced by the Church of England at the time and I found some points of view quite tough. However, it gave me a great awareness of the diversity of how the Church meets change.

SSH instilled a rigorous and robust sense of how to pray and worship which will stay with me forever, and I look back in amazement at the theologians and teachers we learnt from.

Since SSH: I have undertaken a variety of parish ministry roles. My curacy was served in Clapham, I then moved to St Michael's in

Barnes, and later at All Saints, Fulham. I spent about 25 years working across 2 pages of the old London A–Z!

During my time at Fulham I realised I loved the role of a big, community church, and this prompted me to explore a cathedral role as an obvious next step.

The future: I'm particularly interested in how cathedrals can position themselves to be a proactive part of the process of people discovering their spirituality. I think that the current mental health crisis is strongly linked to a spiritual crisis in this country, and it is something the Church needs to get involved in and support people with.

Little known fact about you: I'm never happier than when I am at the bottom of the sea scuba diving.



Fr Joe Hawes (centre, SSH 1988) at his installation as Dean of St Edmundsbury in July 2018

10 years on...

The Revd Helen O'Sullivan

Current role: I'm a Chaplain and Priest Vicar at St Paul's Cathedral, London. I provide pastoral support to the team here; clergy, lay staff, volunteers, regular worshippers, and staff and parents at the Cathedral school.

Before SSH: I was a Business Operations Manager at Oxford University Press, so I managed all the printing and distribution side

of things once editorial work was completed. It was a big job, well paid and great fun, so going back to training was something I wasn't sure about.

SSH: My husband and I lived in the College's married accommodation, Moberly Close. Initially it was quite challenging coming from a job with authority and decision-making to the rules of a small community. I was also worried that as someone who thrives on collaborative working, I might struggle. But sharing a study with another student at the College was a lifeline, and also great fun. It made things far more dynamic – I wasn't just sat in silence in the library as I feared.

Since SSH: My curacy was served at a semi-rural group of rural parishes based in Chinnor, within my sending Diocese (Oxford). In 2011 I left to take up post of Rector of group of parishes on the Isle of Wight (West Wight), a wonderful place to work, where the vicar is still truly at the heart of the community. However, gradually I began to feel that I was slipping back into a management role, overseeing six parishes with a clergy team of about 12, and I really wanted to get back into hands-on ministry and pastoral work. It was this that prompted my move to my current role at St Paul's in early 2016.

The future: Perhaps as a full-time funeral minister. It's such an important area of mission and ministry. It's a time when we can have really positive contact with not just the family but also the wider community.

Little known fact about you: I knit socks! Slowly! It takes me years to finish. I also play treble recorder.



Mthr Helen's installation as Priest Vicar and Chaplain at St Paul's Cathedral in 2016 by The Dean, The Very Revd David Ison

1 year on...

The Revd Mark Mawhinney

Current role: I'm a Curate in the Parish of Seaham and Dalton, a town centre parish in the Diocese of Durham. The clergy team consists of myself and the Vicar, Fr Paul Kennedy, and we're also richly blessed with a retired priest, Fr Chris Collins who lives in the town.

Seaham itself has a lot of deprivation; originally there were three former mines at the heart of it, but there's a fair bit of regeneration going on, and the sea front is much improved.

Before SSH: After University (Durham) and a post graduate year at the Royal College of Music, I spent 24 years in teaching, including a year in New Zealand. I returned to the UK to head up music at Barnard Castle school in County Durham, so the Durham area has really become a second home for me (I'm originally from Northern Ireland).

I had thoughts about my vocation going right back to my days as an undergraduate in Durham, but it was 2015 when I finally went forward to a Selection Conference.

SSH: A lot of old members I knew had recommended SSH to me, but I did also look at other places prior to making my decision as to where to train. However, SSH was exactly what I was looking for, with daily worship at its heart.

I spent much of my first year thinking 'wow I'm actually here!' It was strange to no longer be working but studying after so long teaching.

Living alongside other people and communal life, many of whom were younger than me, took a bit of getting used to, but being in Oxford it was easy to meet people, and also get up to London so I could keep in touch with friends.

I spent two years at the College, training for ordained ministry and this included a post graduate diploma in Theology at the university. I was also one of the house musicians.

Highlights: The Advent Retreat and Leavers' Retreat (at Alton Abbey) were very special, as were weekends spent in Walsingham. I also got some really excellent practical experience during my summer placement with Fr Tim Pike at Holy Innocents, Hornsey.



Fr Mark gives a First Blessing to the Bishop of Beverley following his ordination at St John's, Seaham Harbour

Since SSH: My first year in ministry has gone very quickly. The biggest challenge I think is being dropped in to a community where everyone knows who you are and you have to get to know people quite quickly. I tried to let that process happen naturally, and people were very welcoming and generous and encouraging as I found my feet.

It's also a case of getting used to a lack of structure to the day, which is very different to life at SSH. And leading worship on your own, because that's now a daily occurrence rather than being an occasional Chapel duty in College.

The future: I'm focused on looking ahead to my ordination to the priesthood; there is a very well-structured training plan in the Diocese here, so in many ways my training that began at SSH continues. As yet, I haven't thought much beyond this, but I would love to stay in this area, I love County Durham and the North East in general.

Interesting fact: One of the three churches in my parish, St Mary the Virgin, is an eighth century Saxon church, and one of the twentieth oldest churches in the UK. ♥

HOME FROM HOME

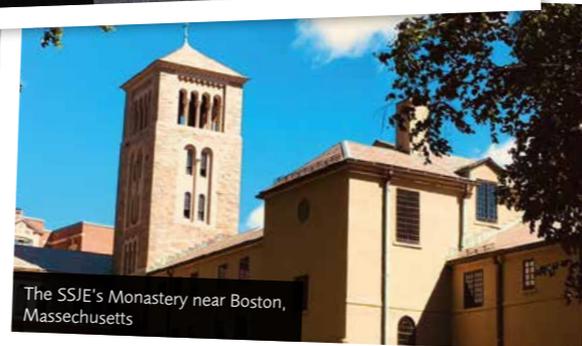
At the start of the summer vacation, ordinand student Sam Aldred spent four weeks living, worshipping, and working alongside the Society of St John the Evangelist in their Cambridge monastery, near Boston, Massachusetts in the United States (US). The Society first began working in the US in the 1870s, eventually settling permanently on the banks of the Charles River just off Harvard Square.



Sam (centre) with fellow interns from Yale Divinity School and Virginia Theological Seminary outside Emery House



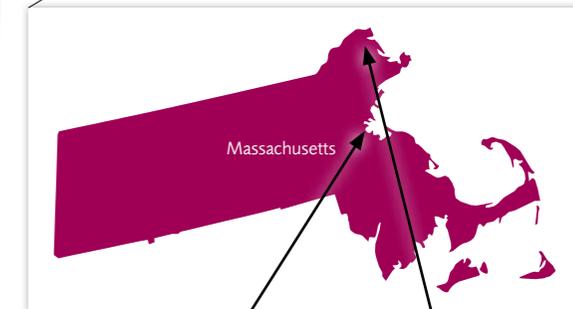
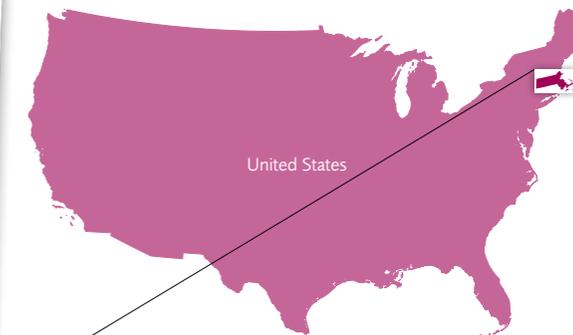
Br Jim Woodrum cooking a BBQ on Independence Day (note the Fr Benson t-shirt!)



The SSJE's Monastery near Boston, Massachusetts



Br Sean Glenn preparing vegetables in the kitchen where Sam worked



Boston

Emery House

The Society of St John the Evangelist (SSJE) began its life in the buildings now occupied by St Stephen's House, and we continue to hold its members in our prayers on a daily basis, so this was a placement with particular historical and ecclesial appeal.

As a married man I did not view my month in the monastery as a trial run for furthering any latent monkish ambitions, but sought rather the quiet and stillness of the cloister after a busy academic year. Whilst I did find rest at SSJE, it was not of the quiet or relaxing kind.

The days, although not *busy*, were certainly full. Each day, from 6am until 9pm followed a pray-eat-pray-work-pray-eat-work-pray-eat-pray-sleep pattern. As one would expect, it is communal worship that regulates the monastic life, and the chapel – designed by the great Ralph Adams Cram – is the beating heart of the monastery.

The services are taken at a slow and deliberate pace, each office

lasting roughly twice as long as its Stagers counterpart. There is ample time to ponder the meaning of each line of the Psalms (so many Psalms!), to meditate on each reading of Scripture, and to pray deeply and unselfconsciously. At first this change of tempo was frustrating, but after the first few days I realised how liberating it could be. A service would finish when it finished, and the day would continue when it continued. Sessions on meditative prayer and on developing a personal rule of life, led by the wonderful Brothers Keith Nelson and David Vryhoff, have added to my arsenal for fighting the spiritual fight.

Food and work were the other two fundamental components of my life in the monastery, joined together by my being allocated work in the kitchens alongside Walter, SSJE's full-time chef. I do not have a natural talent for food preparation, so it is testimony to Walter's

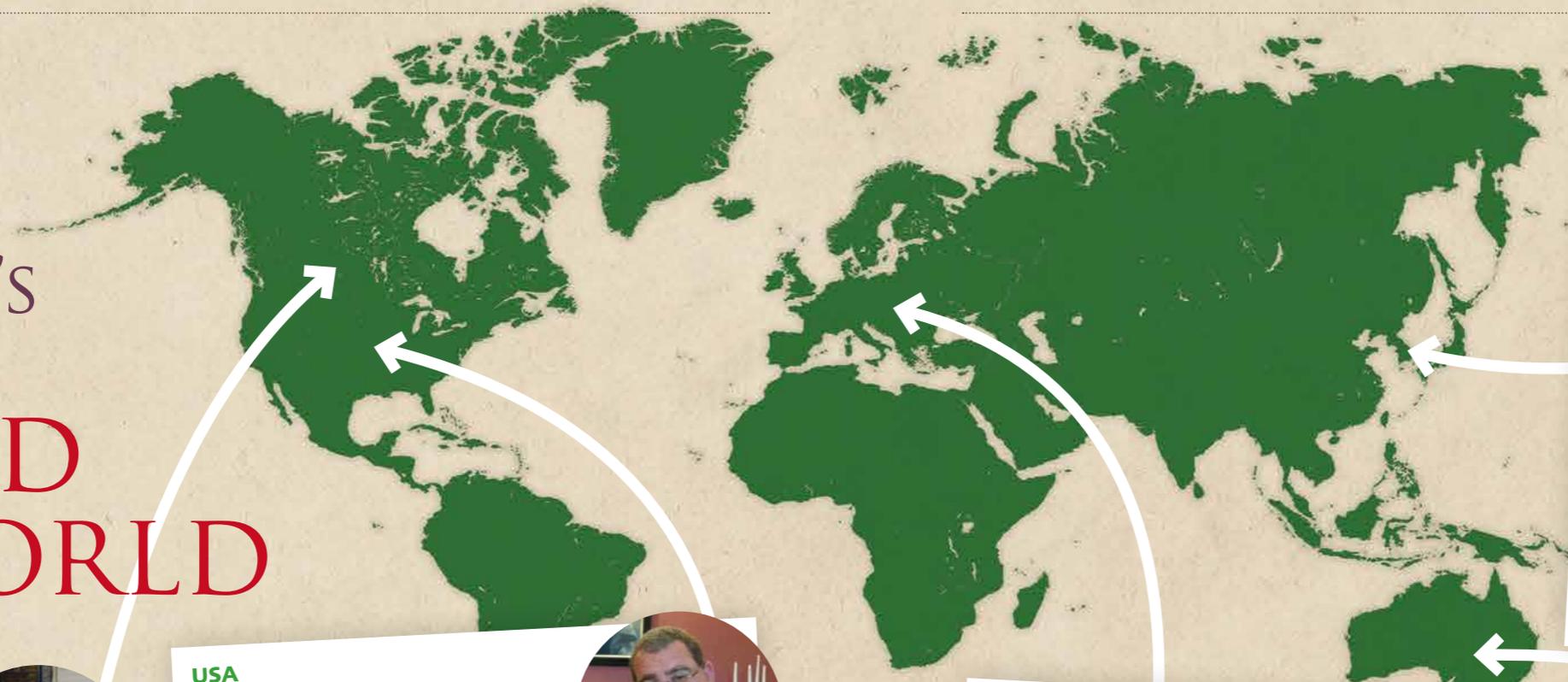
patience and skill that I was able to graduate from de-icing freezers and lugging crates of vegetables, to baking sweet treats, mixing sauces, and preparing other diverse foodstuffs. With up to thirty guests on retreat requiring feeding, the kitchen was a high-pressure environment with tight deadlines. A fellow metal-head, Walter and I talked music whilst we cooked. My work periods were hectic, hot, loud, and fun; not at all what I had expected from a placement in a monastery. The food was consistently excellent, both healthy and delicious; and I'm not saying that just because I helped make some of it.

Towards the end of my placement I had the opportunity to visit Emery House, the community's country retreat in Northern Massachusetts, which offered a welcome change of pace. Emery House is a beautiful eighteenth century farmhouse, left to the brothers by four pious and childless sisters in the 1950s, and opened for country

retreats in the 1980s. Our schedule here was much more relaxed. The heat was such that we worshipped in the chapel only early in the morning and late in the evening, and apart from some light work the rest of the time was our own. I explored the countryside around the confluence of the Artichoke and Merrimack rivers, read improving books, prayed freely, and enjoyed the company of the three monks based at Emery House, one of whom, Geoffrey Tristram, was an Englishman, whose conversation was a welcome reminder of home. There was even Marmite for breakfast.

The SSJE brothers are the kindest, sweetest, most prayerful group of Christians I have ever met. I am privileged to have spent a month in their company, and to have benefited from their wisdom and generosity. I hope that I can take some of their spirit with me into my own ministry. ♥

ST STEPHEN'S HOUSE... AROUND THE WORLD



Canada
Name: Robyn Sneath
Born: Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.
About: I have been a student at SSH since 2012, when I matriculated into Oxford's DPhil Programme in Education. Before coming to SSH, I worked as a high school teacher and University lecturer in History. Since leaving SSH, I have become a property developer and was recently nominated for Canada's Top 40 under 40 for my urban revitalisation efforts.
Favourite food (home): Ice cream.
Favourite food (at SSH): I rarely ate in the dining hall because I stayed at Moberly Close or in the Bishop's room.
Key differences: It is so easy to live at SSH without a car. And everything is so old and beautiful, it was like a daily feast for my eyes.
Your favourite place in Oxford: The Isis Farmhouse (for scones and cream tea on a weekend afternoon). It's so idyllic and is quintessential Oxford.
Best thing about SSH: The on-site accommodation for families has been incredible. I've had three babies over the course of my DPhil, and I've always been accommodated when I come over.




USA
Name: Peter L. Kraus, MLS
Born: Mineola, NY (just outside New York City).
Lives: Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. I have also lived / worked in Florida, New York and Germany, and have studied at Florida State University (BA History) & Florida State University (MSc Library Science). My work has included time spent at The Research Libraries of The New York Public Library, and since 1999, I have been a member of the faculty of the J. Willard Marriott Library at the University of Utah.
Favourite food (home): Seafood.
Favourite food (at SSH): I love the shepherd's pie at SSH.
Key differences: Students in Oxford dress much more formally compared to most American students.
Favourite things to do in Oxford: Writing at the library at Pusey House, the Lamb & Flag Pub, going for long walks on rainy days around Oxford trying to figure out how to express my work in the articles I was writing, rooting for the crew teams the students from St. Stephen's were rowing for, going to the croquet matches and watching SSH win, and evensong at the various churches and chapels in Oxford.
Favourite things at SSH: Tea in the Common Room, Thursday Night Formal Dinners by candlelight, learned and fun discussions with the faculty, staff and students.




Hungary
Name: Fr Gregory Lipovsky
Born: My background is that of a typical Mittel-European. I am Hungarian, with a Polish family name, born in a country that does not exist any more (Czechoslovak Republic).
About: I was 14 when I left home to attend the Franciscans' boarding school in Hungary. After graduating, I entered a monastic community and studied theology in Pécs (Hungary) and at the age of 24 I was ordained as Roman Catholic priest. In 2004 I moved to Rome to study at the 'Augustinianum' and stayed in Italy for 12 years, studying Classics in Siena and being a parish priest in the heart of Tuscany, in an EF parish. When I was received into the Anglican Church, my Diocese sent me, as part of my Anglican formation, to SSH for 1 year.
Favourite place in Oxford: Obviously my favourite place in Oxford is Stagers!
Best thing about SSH: Every little bit of it was 'the best thing'!
Favourite food: When one's home, cultural or linguistic setting changes so often, one, I guess, learns to keep the best of each. So, my ideal meal is Italian pasta, Slovak game, English pudding, and wine from Tokaj. Oh, and since Stagers, a G&T to start with!




Australia
Name: Venerable Alex Bruce
Born: Brisbane, Australia.
About: I am a Buddhist monk ordained into the Tibetan Tradition of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. I'm also an Associate Professor at the Australian National University College of Law where I have taught for almost 20 years now. I first came to the University of Oxford and St Stephen's House several years ago in my capacity as ANU Professor of Law and Senior Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics. When I was later accepted into Oxford's DPhil program in Theology, St Stephen's House graciously offered me a place. I've lived and worked in many countries including Spain, India, France, Africa and Myanmar.
Favourite place in Oxford: The Norrington Room at Blackwell's Bookstore and some of the hidden College gardens are two of mine.
Best thing about SSH: The smaller number of students means SSH feels like a big family where you really can get to know everyone. Also, every week, SSH hosts the most wonderful concerts in the Church.
Favourite food (home): I am a big fan of Thai and Japanese food.
Favourite food (at SSH): The hearty English breakfasts were particularly welcoming, especially as Buddhist monks do not usually eat in the evenings.




South Korea
Name: Yoon Young Lee
From: South Korea
Countries in which you have lived: France, Finland, and Canada.
Background: I'm currently pursuing a DPhil in education at SSH. I used to be a social studies teacher in Korea and came to Europe in 2013 to start my master's degree in Finland. Prior to coming to Oxford, I worked as an education policy consultant at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris.
Favourite food (home): Bibimbop – rice with colorful vegetables, beef red chili paste, and sesame oil. It's served with a sunny-side up egg in the centre! In Korean, Bibim means 'mixed' and bop means 'rice'.
Favourite food (at SSH): The cheesecake at the first formal dinner was absolutely the best.
Key differences: In my home country, universities do have departments but there are no colleges. When I first arrived at Oxford, I still had to figure out what college is, as I was not familiar with the concept.
Your favourite place in Oxford: Radcliffe Camera and Duke Humfrey's Library.
Best thing about SSH: That I've met amazing friends!




GUIDING THE COLLEGE'S FUTURE

We talked to members of the College's House Council to get their thoughts on the College's future – here's what they said...



LW

Name: Laura Ward
Occupation: Ordinand student
Position on House Council: Student Representative
Length of service: 1 year



MW

Name: Martin Warner
Occupation: Bishop of Chichester
Position on House Council: Chair
Length of service: 7 years



LN

Name: Lindsay Newcombe
Occupation: Mechanical engineer working in orthopaedics
Position on House Council: A member of General Synod chosen to serve on the House Council
Length of service: 7 years



GJ

Name: Gregory Jones
Occupation: QC, Barrister, non executive director of solar energy company, Deputy Chancellor of the Dioceses of Truro and of Exeter and Alderman in the City of London
Position on House Council: I consider myself the 'tame lawyer'!
Length of service: 7 years

What do you feel are SSH's key strengths/USPs?

LW The college continues to champion full time residential training for all ordinands, an invaluable and immersive opportunity to be formed in the vibrancy of the Anglo-Catholic tradition. For any of the wider community who participate in the monastic rhythm of our day, rooting our work in prayer and sacraments, there is a spiritual grounding which sustains us in our duties and studies, something many graduate students appreciate having access to.

MW The capacity to retain its founding vision in changing circumstances.

LN The staff, a wide variety of students, ordinands, and their families live in a community shaped by the rhythm of prayer which will always nourish their spiritual lives.

GJ Intellectual rigour and critical analysis. The heart of SSH is its special and particular spiritual vocation in preparing Ordinands for a life of service in the Anglican Church and I hope that teaching and independent students can also draw strength from the spiritual setting of SSH.

How would you sum the College up in four words?

LW Peaceful, supportive, social & formative.

MW Visionary, Catholic, Youthful, Courageous.

LN Laughter, formation, faithful, resilient.

GJ Focused, Intellectual, Compassionate, Christian.

What do you think the College and its community might look like 20 years from now?

LW We are a rich community, which re-forms each year as people move on, making its future composition difficult to predict, but the college will continue to form people for service to others whether that is in a classroom or in a church. The combination of academic excellence and contextual experience is priceless.

MW It will diversify, but with greater focus on its missional origins as an expression of catholic faith and practice in the Church of England.

LN My vision for the College is for it to be a vibrant and well-resourced centre for the formation of priests, deacons and other vocational study, and a place which has led a renewal of the catholic faith in the Church of England.

GJ I hope we will carry out the redevelopment of Moberly Close, that Ordinand numbers will have increased, and that the College will increasingly have a wide and important role in the Church of England.

What do you anticipate the key future challenges to be for the College?

LW Portraying community life accurately, showing its diversity and inclusivity as well as challenging the assumptions of those outside the college who are thinking of joining us.

MW Funding, and a cultural drift into indifference towards seriousness.

LN A key challenge is holding the Church to account on the commitment to mutual flourishing of traditions within the Church of England. Financial challenges, particularly given the wide variety of complex funding issues.

GJ It is vital the church recognises fully the need for residential and seminary training. I am a bit fearful that it won't. The College's valuable status as a PPH within Oxford University is skilfully stewarded by the Principal, so I am hopeful that the increased secularisation of the University will not affect those with a

true vocation to train as Ordinands at the College as part of Oxford University.

What do you anticipate the key future opportunities to be for the College?

LW Our continuation to offer full time residential courses is a source of inspiration for communal living outside our walls. This strength can enable the college to be a model of this ideal which will continue to attract both graduate students and ordinands in the future.

MW The impact of the arts, in sacred space, music and performance, together with an imaginative and inspirational Christian apologetic.

LN Development and preservation of our buildings for long-term sustainability and flexibility. The people form the community here. Each year new students and ordinands bring gifts and personalities which shape the college afresh. As they move on, they carry the community of St Stephen's House with them.

GJ I hope all students will value the special Christian ethos of the College so that when they leave they too, will become staunch Stagers alumni and advocates. ♥

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

"Occasionally we meet people in the journey of our lives who have a profound influence on us. It would not be too much to say Mother Lucy's thoughtfulness, care and love changed my life." – Fr John Challis (SSH 1998), Rector, St Mary the Virgin, Felpham

"Thoughtful, kind, generous and wise, Lucy Gardner is one of the most outstanding teachers I have ever come across and is the very model of supreme pastoral care." – Fr Mark Fox (SSH 2005), Associate Priest, St Bride's, Fleet Street

"I am deeply thankful to Mthr Lucy for her model of priesthood, and for all I learned about Christian theology under her guidance." – The Revd Dr Sam Gibson (SSH 2015), Assistant Curate, St Alphege Solihull

"Due to unforeseen circumstances, our BTh group were headed for doctrinal disaster; Mother Lucy's calm and skilled teaching of a difficult subject was hugely important to us." –The Revd Hannah Reynolds (SSH 2004), Priest-in-charge, St Peter's Didcot

One of the College's longest serving members of staff, Mother Lucy Gardner, celebrates her 25th year of association with St Stephen's House this year. We met with her recently to find out more...

Mother Lucy Gardner

Joined SSH: 1/9/93

Current roles: Tutor in Christian Doctrine,

MTh Course Director, Disability Lead

Has worked with: 3 Principals, 7 Vice Principals

Academic background: Theology at St John's College, Oxford, and Bonn University.

Family: Husband Chris, son John and daughter Dorothy.

How did your affiliation with the College begin?

It was in 1993. I was studying Theology at St John's and saw that SSH was advertising for two tutors. I was always convinced that I was meant to be a theologian, and I wanted to do that in

service of the Church rather than an academic institution: I didn't want to spend my life dedicated to footnotes! I applied, and the College appointed Fr David Moss and myself to share the teaching of Doctrine, Ecclesiology and Ethics.

What were your first impressions?

I arrived at SSH aged 24, having never spent more than a couple of hours in a theological college. I was impressed with the Liturgy from the start, and found the college friendly and welcoming – if busy. We had 59 ordinands that year, having received some from Chichester Theological College which was closing.

What were your early years at the College like?

Initially we lived at Moberly Close, later moving to one of the James Street houses. I enjoyed teaching Doctrine from the beginning, and living in college I was able to hold weekly Drop In evenings at home, which always produced a range of interesting discussions.

Fellow staff at the time included Fr Edwin Barnes (Principal), Fr Chris Irvine (Vice Principal), Fr Eric Franklin (Director of Studies)

and Deacon Elaine Bardwell (Director of Pastoral Studies), who was especially helpful in showing me the ropes.

Can you tell us about anything you have been particularly involved with at SSH?

Early on in teaching I became interested in helping students develop their study skills, and this has helped lead to a full programme of study skills workshops.

Ordinands come from very different academic backgrounds: classes can contain students with no A levels alongside others with doctorates in theology. It's important for students to know that we will provide appropriate academic support for everyone, whatever their level and background.

What have been the most enjoyable aspects of being a part of SSH?

I love exploring theology with people, particularly relating their own thoughts and questions to particular theologians and big debates in the life of the Church; I really missed that in the years I wasn't teaching.

Then there is the formation side, watching people discover their vocations and blossom; that is a real privilege of working here.

You undertook ordination training whilst teaching at the College?

Yes. The teaching side of my vocation became apparent first, but gradually the pastoral and sacramental side emerged. I think others noticed that before I did, as my reasons for not being ordained started to feel like excuses.

I trained with the Oxford Ministry course at Cuddesdon for a year. It was a little strange learning alongside students I was teaching at the University, but people were very considerate of that.

What are your thoughts on the future?

I think SSH has a confident view of what it has to offer the Church, which has been secured so ably by the current Principal, with the help of recent benefactions and the energy of the Bursar.

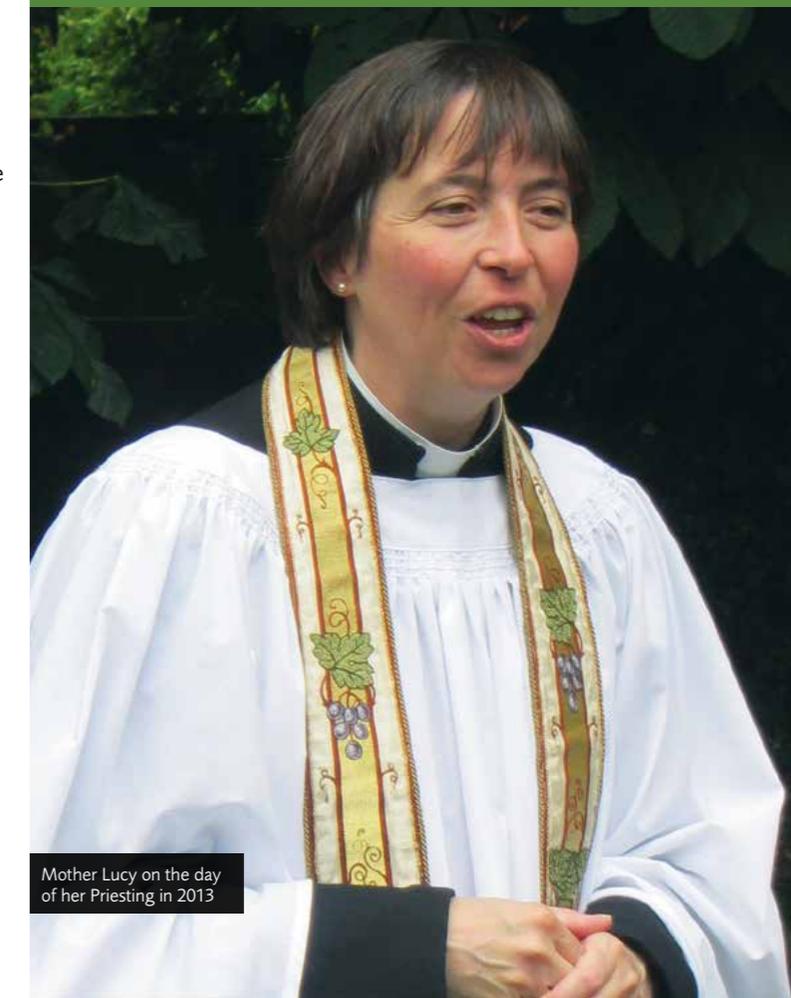
It is exciting to see such a rich and vibrant use of the Cowley Fathers' original home in pursuit of a future in tune with their original mission. ♥



Mother Lucy pictured in 2017



Mother Lucy in her first College photo (1994)



Mother Lucy on the day of her Priesting in 2013

PARISH GIVING

The Parish of St Michael and St Augustine, Beckenham, recently became a Parish Member of the College's 1876 Society. Here we talk to Associate Vicar, Fr Graham Lunn (SSH 2009) to find out what motivated the parish to join...

St Michael and St Augustine, Beckenham, is – in many ways – a classic example of the type of parish in which many St Stephen's House Ordinands serve their title. Set amidst dense urban terraced housing on the outskirts of London, it was founded by an Anglo-Catholic priest (Fr A N Armstrong) in the late 19th century. The parish has been served by a succession of SSH-trained priests for many years.

"There is a real appreciation by many parishioners of the type of training that St Stephen's House has given the priests that serve here." Explains Fr Graham.

When pressed to explain what he means by this: "I would say that it's about a commitment to liturgical excellence, a fastidious approach to preaching, and a steadfast faithfulness to parochial ministry. These are things that I feel people here value highly and they were fundamental cornerstones of the formational training I received at St Stephen's House.

"My parishioners know what I stand for, and they like that." He adds.

With this in mind, it's perhaps not surprising that that the parish should consider joining the College's 1876 Society as a way to give thanks for the long provision of priests from St Stephen's House.

"It was during a PCC [Parochial Church Council] meeting that the topic first came up." Explains Fr Graham. "Historically the parish has



Fr Graham Lunn



A Christmas 'Coffee and Carols' event in the Parish

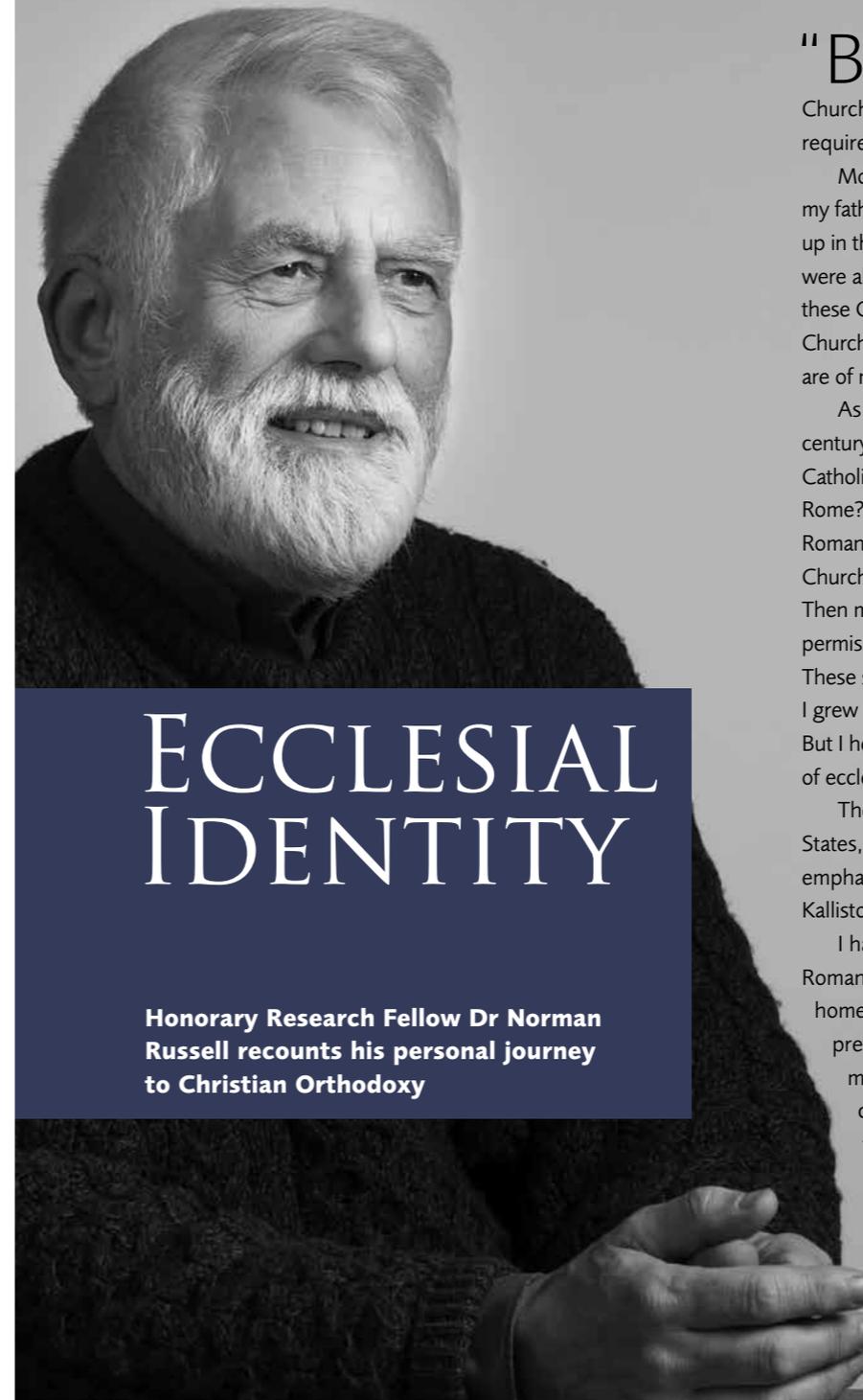
never been wealthy, but we were unexpectedly in a stronger financial position and decided that this would be a fitting use of some of those funds.

"The feeling was that it was an appropriate thing to do; to give back directly to the training system that had helped get the parish to the position it is now in."

That is precisely what the parish's membership will do, adding to the growing number of alumni and friends who have joined the 1876 Society to provide a community of stewardship that supports the work and future of the College. ♥

With thanks to: Fr Graham Lunn (SSH 2009), Fr Leon Carberry (SSH 1981) and the parishioners of St Michael and St Augustine, Beckenham

For more details or to join the 1876 Society, please contact
✉ alumni@ssho.ox.ac.uk ☎ +44 (0)1865 610489



ECCLESIAL IDENTITY

Honorary Research Fellow Dr Norman Russell recounts his personal journey to Christian Orthodoxy

"But you're a baby!" said the Greek abbot, enveloping me in a fatherly embrace when I told him I had joined the Orthodox Church only two years previously. One's Christian life may sometimes require a fresh start, even a new birth – but more than once?

Most of us inherit our ecclesial identity from our families. In my case my father was Anglican and my mother Greek Orthodox. I was brought up in the Anglican communion, but the Greek Fathers of the Church were always in the background through my mother's influence. It was these Greek Fathers who drew me to the Catholic wing of the Anglican Church. At St Stephen's House in the late 1960s my most vivid memories are of my patristic studies with Fr John Halliburton and Fr Hugh Wybrew.

As an Anglican deacon I was told by my bishop (in nineteenth-century Tractarian style) that my role was to help make the parish 'more Catholic'. But can you be a Catholic without being in communion with Rome? In the parish I was constantly, if not explicitly, appealing to the Roman magisterium. It seemed a logical step to join the Roman Catholic Church. Inspired by Newman's example, I became an Oratorian. Then my mother died, and with the funds inherited from her I sought permission to continue my studies in Oxford on the Greek Fathers. These studies, with Bishop Kallistos Ware, led to a new phase in my life. I grew estranged from the Oratory, living for a while in an ecclesial limbo. But I hesitated to make another leap: Newman was against the change of ecclesial communion through the exercise of private judgement.

Then one day, after I had led a series of seminars in the United States, one of the participants (a Methodist) took me aside and said emphatically: "You must become Orthodox. Go and see Bishop Kallistos." I took this as a sign, and did as he said.

I have found in the Orthodox Church, as Newman did in the Roman Catholic, 'the Church of St Athanasius and St Augustine' – a homecoming to the Fathers, but without any abrupt breach with my previous ecclesial identities. I live in Burgundy near the Catholic monastery of Taizé. At the beautiful twelfth-century village church, now dedicated to Orthodox use, I attend the Liturgy in the company of the brothers. And with my honorary research fellowship at St Stephen's House, my pilgrimage has come full circle. Deo gratias! ♥

Dr Norman Russell is based in France

✉ normanvrussell@outlook.com

THE CHURCH, EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP

A public seminar series
at St Stephen's House



Building on the College's strong relations with the University's Department of Education, a series of three public seminars were hosted during Trinity Term on 'The Church, Education and Leadership'. This was supported by the Church of England's recently established Foundation for Educational Leadership, and explored the inter-relationship between faith and contemporary school leadership, with three speakers presenting at each seminar and time for (lively) discussions.

The first asked, 'Is there a place for a Christian Voice in Education?'. Canon Dr Ann Holt OBE (Diocesan Director of Education, Chichester) opened strongly, advocating the value of faith schooling within the current diversified system. Then Dr Bonnie

Poon Zahl (Templeton World Charity Foundation, at Oxford) reflected as a Christian parent on her expectations of and hopes for her children's schooling. Last, Dr Liam Gearon (Department of Education, Oxford) added a cautionary note, suggesting that religious involvement with state education risks the instrumentalisation of religion for political ends.

Second, we considered 'Reciprocal Learning between Teachers and Clergy', especially the intersections (and misunderstandings) between these two vocations. Dr Priscilla Chadwick (Culham & St Gabriel's Trust) evaluated the role of school chaplains, and SSH Principal Fr Robin Ward then reflected on his own experiences in schools as a parish priest. To finish, Dr Nigel Fancourt sketched out a Gadamerian hermeneutics of reciprocal learning.

'Teachers and Leaders' was the concluding theme. Katy Granville-Chapman (Department of Education, Oxford and Wellington Family of Schools) explained her research on leadership and teacher flourishing; then Barnaby Lenon (Chair of the Independent Schools Council) reviewed the current challenges for

increasingly autonomous school leaders. Lastly, Revd Richard Peers (Diocesan Director of Education, Liverpool) reviewed solutions to the long-standing issue of the under-attainment of disadvantaged pupils.

There was a select but faithful audience – including ordinands, PGCE/education students, and the public. Some simulating debates developed, not least because of the audience's wide-ranging backgrounds and perspectives.

We hope to continue these conversations, so do get in touch if you might be interested in participating in future. ♥

SJE ARTS NEWS

The College's concert and arts
programme goes from strength to strength...

For details of upcoming concerts and to join the SJE Arts mailing list, please visit www.sje-oxford.org

SJE
ARTS
OXFORD



We said goodbye this year to SJE Arts' wonderful concert manager Sonia Gonzalo Delgado (pictured, right), after five years in post, during which she played a key role in making SJE Arts the successful enterprise it has become. We wish her much luck in her new career as she returns to Spain. We are delighted to welcome Georgia Davies (pictured, left) to take over this role; Georgia brings with her much experience from the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building.



SJE Arts' flagship concert programmes, International Piano and Next Generation Series, continue to showcase a range of the world's leading musicians and up and coming talent. Performances last year included Royal Wedding cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason (pictured) and the coming season's highlights include Alina Ibragimova with Cédric Tiberghien, Amandine Beyer & Kristian Bezuidenhout, Javier Perianes, Anna Tsybuleva (winner of 2015 Leeds Piano Competition), and harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani & Sean Shibe, guitar. Alumni discounts for these concerts are often available.

A new campaign is launching to raise funds for a replacement organ at SJE Arts, with a key aim being to build upon the well-established choral tradition of the church to help widen its future use. The total cost is estimated to be £250,000 and we are now looking to work with individuals interested in supporting this and the broader development of SJE Arts. SJE Arts is a popular choice with choirs such as Magdalen College Choir, Christ Church Cathedral Choir, the Oxford Bach Choir, America's Westminster Williamson Voices and Voces8, largely thanks to its outstanding acoustic.

The College's Cloister Gallery hosted a special exhibition for The Oxford Printmakers Co-operative this summer, which this year celebrated its 40th anniversary. Works included a stunning array of prints, demonstrating techniques such as etching,

lithography, monoprints, wood and lino-cuts and screenprints.



- Fact File -

THE CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY & COMMUNITY

Location

East Crypt, St George-in-the-East, 14 Cannon Street Road, London, E1 0BH

Key contact

Canon Angus Ritchie, Executive Director (Fr Angus serves at St George-in-the-East, Shadwell, and as an Honorary Canon of Worcester Cathedral).

About/purpose

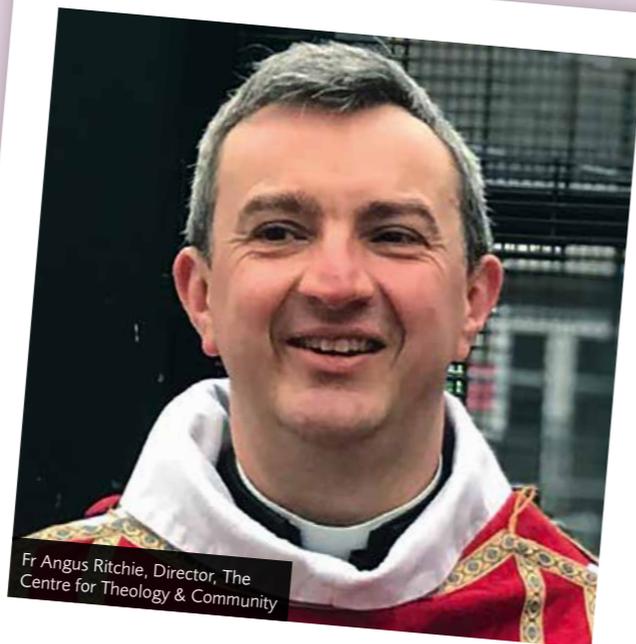
The Centre for Theology & Community (CTC) exists to equip churches to transform their communities, through community organising and missional enterprise, rooted in theological reflection and prayer.

Examples of work

CTC's work is varied – it includes helping congregations and individual Christians to engage in community organising in the wider Citizens UK alliance, as well as undertaking and publishing research. It has helped local Christians and their congregations to become active leaders in Citizens UK's campaigning work – including the high-profile Living Wage campaign, which united various groups (church leaders, trade unions, mosques) in a call for people to be paid fairly to enable them to not only earn a living, but engage in all

aspects of life; family, civic and religious. Another key area of community organising is around affordable housing. CTC published a report on this called *From Houses to Homes*, explaining the theological basis for

this work – and has helped its host church, St George-in-the-East to secure a change in policy in relation to land being sold off by Transport for London. As a result of a campaign led by St George's, and engaging neighbouring churches, mosques and schools in Citizens UK, the site will now be developed as a Community Land Trust, securing affordable homes in perpetuity. As part of its work on missional enterprise, the Centre has partnered with the Church Mission Society and the Parish of St Andrew by the Wardrobe (a church in the City of London) to establish an ethical cleaning business called *Clean for Good*. This was prompted by the vast inequality in pay and working conditions in St Andrew's parish, where thousands of well-paid City workers depart their offices each day as a small army



Fr Angus Ritchie, Director, The Centre for Theology & Community

of low-paid cleaning staff enter the City to clean those same offices.

How does CTC work with SSH?

SSH ordinands come on placement to CTC and its partner churches, spending time learning about the role congregations can play in community organising and campaigning. CTC has also recently published a report on Anglo-Catholic church growth in London, which included examples of the work of SSH-trained priests. Executive Director Angus Ritchie also cites SSH alumnus Fr Ken Leech (SSH 1962) as a personal inspiration in his work. ♥

📄 theology-centre.org

🐦 [@theologycentre](https://twitter.com/theologycentre)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

In each issue of SSH News, 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: Michael Spence

Studies undertaken at SSH: PGDip Theology and Certificate for Theological and Pastoral Studies

Year of graduation: 2006

Undergraduate degree/other studies: BA (Hons) Italian and English; LLB (Hons); DPhil in Law; Currently enrolled in the Diploma of Language Studies in Korean

Your current role: Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Sydney

Your current role

The University of Sydney is Australia's oldest, and unusually comprehensive in its range of disciplines. It has around 67,000 students drawn from 120 countries (40 per cent from outside Australia), around 10,000 staff, and an annual turnover of \$2.4 billion. As Vice-Chancellor, there is no typical day, but each of them is typically challenging!

Tell us about your time at SSH?

I was a non-residential student and one for whom the Catholic tradition was new. The College was incredibly good at making a space for me in its community, even though I didn't fit any of the typical patterns.

How did SSH prepare you for what you've subsequently gone on to do?

Since leaving College I served as a non-stipendiary minister in Oxford and then doing locums in Sydney. Learning the Catholic tradition has

prepared me very specifically to serve in the places to which God has called me. More generally, in the chaos of a demanding job and a family of seven, soon to be eight, children, College taught me the value of taking time out for stillness.

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

I will never quite forget my phone going off in my pocket as I held a candle for the gospel in Mass, with me feeling both embarrassed and panicked as I wondered what might be happening with my unattended children at home. I will never forget an incredibly effective group Mass in a local pub with some very confronting imagery projected on to the walls, while the crowd of local drinkers took it all in their stride. Perhaps surprisingly for an evangelical, it is the worship spaces and the liturgy of which I have the most visceral and precious memories.

What advice would you give to someone considering studying here?

Enjoy the life of the College. Remember what an incredible privilege it is to have such close contact with the kind of world-class minds that are the academic staff and take advantage of that opportunity. But you would expect a Vice-Chancellor to say that!

Parting thoughts?

St Stephen's House is a remarkable institution from which I learned an enormous amount and to which I am deeply indebted. ♥



THE PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

This year's Newsletter comes with an international feel to it: members of the college have been working across the globe in a wide variety of different settings, and I hope that you will get a good impression of everything that is going on for our students, academic staff and research fellows. One of the key themes of the Catholic Revival in the Church of England was the search for a bigger perspective and a bigger horizon than just the domestic one – from the role that our students once took in the founding of the cathedral at Zanzibar, to the connections we are establishing today in the US, the Caribbean, and the world of Orthodoxy, we remain committed to that broad vision.

This has seen the introduction of the new GDPR legislation, as every parish priest

and school teacher will be well aware. Small charities like us have been very cautious about this – perhaps too cautious! It certainly seems to me that all the usual suspects continue to fill my mail box with advertising, while many little societies and charities are sending long forms to fill in for all sorts of consents. Two things are important for us: first, please opt in to give us permission to keep in touch by completing and returning the enclosed freepost postcard. We do need this, and although we had an excellent response to our initial contact about this by email, there is still a long way to go. Second, this legislation makes it much more difficult for us to publish examination results. So congratulations to all our students on their examination successes this year, and on receiving their

degrees, we are very proud of your success, even if we can no longer share it with the world!

This year the college has updated its governance for the first time since the original Trust Deed was established in 1876. We are now 'The Society of St Stephen's House, a charitable company limited by guarantee', which means that we can carry out our work more effectively – we have kept our original charitable ends unchanged. You might notice that we have a company number and a new charity number – we have put in place provision to make sure that any gifts and legacies we might receive in the name of the old charity still come to us, but please do note the change for the future. ♥

By The Revd Canon Dr Robin Ward

The 1876 Society

Thank you to all members of the 1876 Society for their support:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| • Stuart Abram | • Edward Cain | • Fr Alistair Hodgkinson | • Dr Mark Philpott |
| • Fr Peter Anthony | • Mariko Coelho | • Dominik Joerg | • Fr Jay Ridley |
| • Andrew Archibald | • Scott Cooper | • The Revd Justin Hutcherson | • The Revd David Stevenson |
| • Fr Simon Atkinson | • The Revd Peter Eagles | • Malcolm Kemp | • Gregory Tucker |
| • Bishop Jonathan Baker | • Canon Peter Evans | • Rachel Makari | • Lay Canon Ann Turner |
| • Bishop Norman Banks | • Canon Robert Fayers | • Chad Moody | • Canon Carl Turner & The Parish of St Thomas Fifth Avenue, New York, USA |
| • The Revd Paul Barrow | • Fr Stephen Graham | • The Revd Grant Naylor | • The Revd John Warner |
| • The Revd Imogen Black | • Jason Groves | • The Revd Stephen Niechcial | • The Revd Ben Weitzmann |
| • The Revd Mark Bonney | • The Ven David Gunn-Johnson | • Bishop Philip North | • Kathy Xu |
| • Fr Toby Boutle | • Henry Hemmingdale | • Fr Giles Orton | • Mthr Jennifer Zarek |
| • Ian Boxall | • Fr David Herbert | • Giulia Paoletti | |
| • Canon Paul Burrows | | • Richard Parker | |

We particularly welcome the following new members:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| • The Revd David Brecknell | • The Revd John Clark | • The Revd Dr Sam Gibson | • The Revd Alexander McGregor |
| • The Revd Canon Graham Foulis Brown | • Mr Peter Darling | • The Revd Graham Lunn & The Parish of St Michael and St Augustine | • Bishop Martin Warner |
| | • Drs Uzo and Erik Erlingsson | | |

To join The 1876 Society, please email: development@ssho.ox.ac.uk

1876
SOCIETY



ORDINAND LEAVERS 2018

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

- Aidan Bartlett, Clerkenwell (*Our Most Holy Redeemer*) & Clerkenwell (*S. Mark*), London
- Chris Dingwall-Jones, Fleetwood (*S. Peter, S. David*), Blackburn
- Rebecca Feeney, Standish (*S. Wilfrid*), Blackburn
- Kvetoslav Krejci, Reading (*S. Giles with S. Saviour*), Oxford
- Blair Radford, Monk Bretton (*S. Paul*), Leeds
- Michael Vyse, Worksop Priory (*S. Mary and S. Cuthbert*), Southwell & Nottingham
- James White, Ruislip (*S. Martin*), London

ORDINAND LEAVERS 2017

The following SSH Deacons were ordained Priest this year:

- Nicholas Archer, Eastbourne (*S. Saviour & S. Peter*), Chichester
- Monika Doering, West Barnsley, Leeds
- Samuel Gibson, Solihull Team Ministry, Birmingham
- Nicholas Johnson, Glodwick (*S. Mark with Christ Church*), Manchester
- Philip Kennedy, Croydon (*S. Michael & All Angels with S. James*), Southwark
- William Levanway, Fulham (*All Saints*), London
- Mark Mawhinney, Seaham (*St Mary the Virgin*) and Dawdon, Durham
- Stephen Mills, Steyning (*S. Andrew*) and Ashurst (*S. James*), Chichester
- Nathan Mulcock, Stevenage (*S. Andrew & S. George*), St Albans
- Nigel Palmer, Kentish Town (*S. Benet & All Saints*), London
- Matthew Topham, Tottenham (*S. Mary the Virgin*), London
- Nicholas Walters, Primrose Hill (*S. Mary the Virgin*), London
- Martha Weatherill, Chichester (*S. Paul & Immanuel*) and Westhampnett (*S. Peter*), Chichester

The new GDPR rules prevent us from publishing examination results without the explicit consent of our students. So we congratulate all our students who successfully completed their courses in 2018, and who were awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in Education, the degrees of Master of Studies, Master of Science, Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy. We are very proud of all you have achieved during your time with us.

FROM OUR ALUMNI...



2018 Garden Party



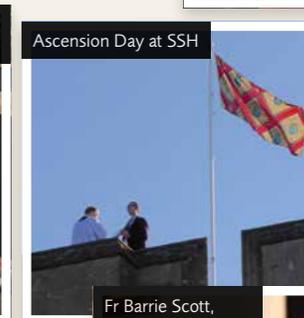
Leavers dinner 2018



Fr Paul Burrows, New York



The Revd Monika Doering in her new parish



Ascension Day at SSH



Fr Barrie Scott, St John the Evangelist, Perry Barr, Birmingham



The SJE Arts International Piano Series 2018

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: The Society of St Stephen's House

Account number: 64617086

Sort code: 40-51-62

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

✉ rachel.makari@ssho.ox.ac.uk

☎ 01865 610489

WWW.SSHO.OX.AC.UK

