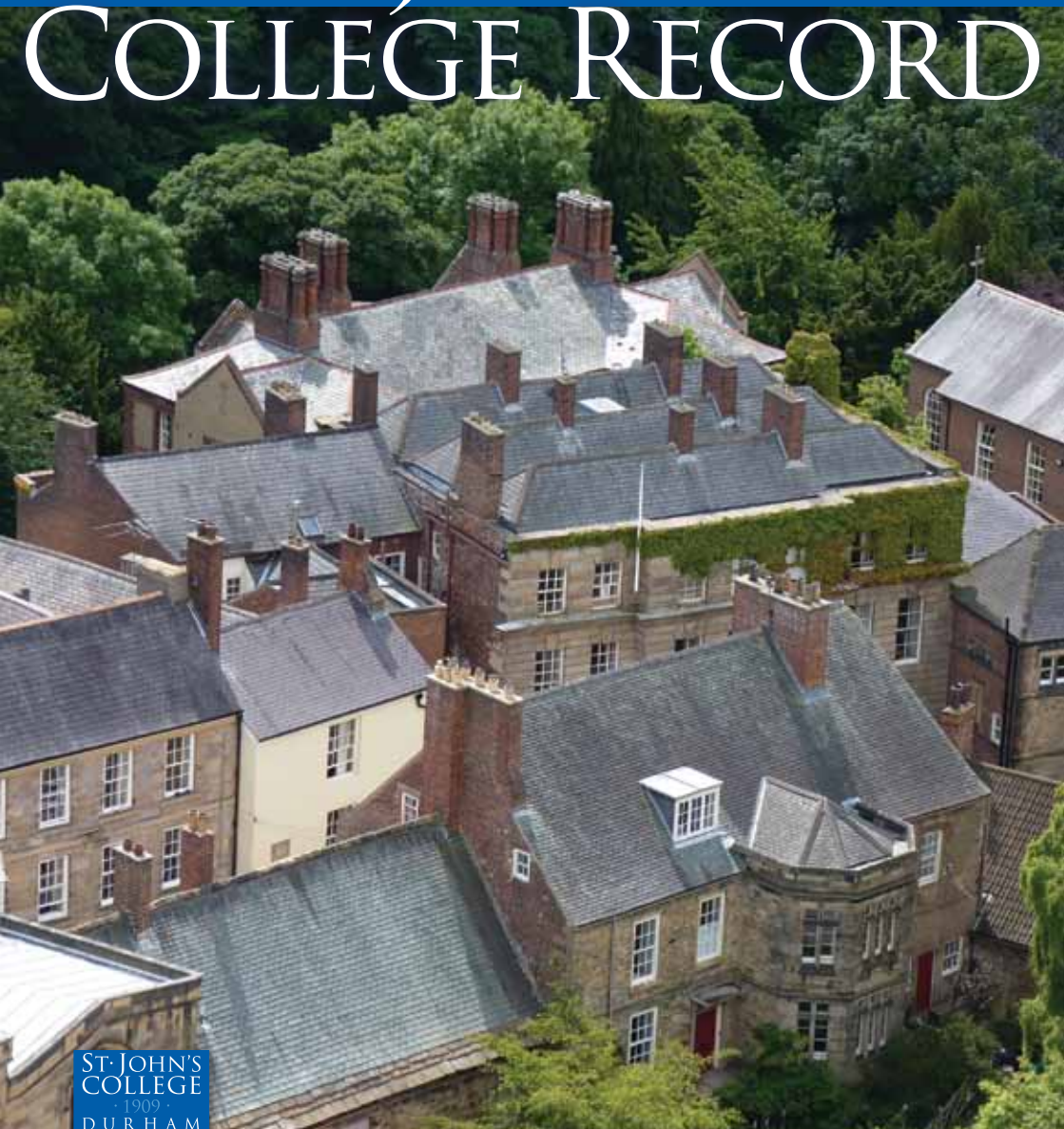


# ST·JOHN'S COLLEGE RECORD



ST·JOHN'S  
COLLEGE  
· 1909 ·  
DURHAM



PROJECT FLOWERPOT  
NEW BISHOP OF DURHAM  
THE FIRST IAN CUNDY MEMORIAL LECTURE

AUTUMN 2011

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This year, you can watch a video of the Principal, Reverend Professor David Wilkinson, giving his Principal's Report, on our website. You can find out more at:

[www.durham.ac.uk/st-johns.college](http://www.durham.ac.uk/st-johns.college)

## COLLEGE RECORD 2011

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The Editors apologise for not crediting our wonderful photographer who took many of the pictures featured in last year's College Record 2010.

Edmund Waddelove graduated in the Summer of 2011, and is staying with the College to take a PhD. His pictures feature on the front cover, in the Principal's report and the Project Flowerpot article.

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## TOTAL WIPEOUT, PROJECT FLOWERPOT AND NEW BEGINNINGS: A TYPICAL YEAR IN ST·JOHN'S!

**One** of the fascinating aspects of a Principal's report is recording how the life of College varies from year to year. The vitality of the College means that many things change and much is achieved within the space of 12 months. And while we have a clear plan and strategy of what we expect to happen, the joy of working with such creative staff and students means that one always needs to be ready for the unexpected.

### A new Warden, a new beginning for Cranmer Hall.

This year saw the moving on of the Revd Canon Anne Dyer. While

on study leave in the autumn, and during a period of prayerful consideration, she decided that, after six years as Warden of Cranmer Hall, it was time to move back to parish ministry. Anne served the College sacrificially during her time here, making tough decisions on finance and staffing, pushing Cranmer continually to both excellence and prayerfulness, and being part of a College Officer team which saw the College through rapid change. Gifted as a theological teacher, she opened up areas of leadership, the arts, and worship to many students. Committed to the flourishing of the Church of England, she most of all was passionate about God, and her presence among us is missed.

During study leave, and in the transition between Wardens, the Revd Dr. David Goodhew became Acting Warden of Cranmer Hall, with grace, good humour and boundless energy. David, with the rest of the Cranmer and Wesley team, has shouldered a great deal of responsibility over the last 12 months. It is testimony to their spirituality and professionalism that, rather than stagnating, the life of Cranmer and Wesley pushed forward in lots of new and creative ways.



The Principal at Graduation with Edmund Waddelove, who took many of the photographs contained in this Record.

We were all delighted by the appointment of Revd Mark Tanner OCM as the new Warden of Cranmer Hall and he began his role in August 2011. Mark was Vicar of Holy Trinity in Ripon, Officiating Chaplain to 21 Engineer Regiment, Area Dean of Ripon, and Regional Network Leader as part of the North and East Leadership for New Wine. Before moving to Holy Trinity he was Vicar of St. Mary's Wheatley in the red light district of Doncaster, and was an Associate with *ReSource*. He has also been the convenor of the *Renewal* series of *Grove Booklets*. His passion lies in seeing people released into all that God has for them. He loves introducing people to faith, is a natural teacher and trainer, an instinctive strategist and networker. Mark is married to Lindsay and they have two children, Jonathan and Pippa. He enjoys running, motorbikes, Land Rovers, DIY (mostly on the Land Rover), real ale and being a dad.

I am thrilled by this appointment. Mark is one of the leading voices in the next generation of Anglican leaders. He combines passion for fresh expressions of church and mission, with a love for the identity and nature of the Church of England. Rt Revd John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford and President of College Council, summed up this sense of new beginning when he said, *'This is an exciting time for Cranmer regionally, nationally and internationally as it combines its*

*high standard of formation with high quality theology and research. Mark has a deep understanding of the unique nature of Cranmer and will further develop it in new and creative ways. He has outstanding parish experience, a fine theological mind and an excellent grasp of the issues facing the Church of England at this time'*.

### **The ending of HEFCE as we know it, and the beginning of a new landscape**

The new landscape of the funding of Higher Education was a big story throughout the year and impacts the College in two main ways. First, as recognised colleges within Durham University, St. John's and St Chad's have been directly funded by a HEFCE grant, which in the case of St. John's amounts to 20% of our income. This mechanism of funding will not continue in the new landscape, post 2012. However, there is a clear commitment from the University to recognise the importance of sustaining the work of John's and Chad's within a new structure of relationship – respecting the unique nature of the relationship between Durham University and the recognised colleges. We continue to work creatively with the University on how this is worked out in detail.

Second, the increase in undergraduate fees has posed questions about the future funding of ordinands – indeed causing panic in some sections of the Church of

England and the Methodist Church. Again Durham University have been immensely supportive and creative at the highest level, reaffirming the importance of Cranmer Hall and the Wesley Study Centre to the University. My own feeling is that the churches should not rush into pre-emptive decisions concerning new structures – it may be three to five years before the new landscape really settles down. Certainly a close relationship with Durham University will be of enormous advantage to the churches.

While the focus of many at the moment is on finances, we should not underestimate the challenge of how this new landscape will affect admissions, the culture of University life and student expectations. It is really important for St. John's to stand with the University in opening the doors of Higher Education to the widest diversity of students possible. This will mean not only the provision of student bursaries but also being proactive in working with schools in targeted areas. Student expectations in areas such as contact time, quality of resources, tutorial support and employability may change dramatically with higher fees. At the end of the summer term, College Officers took a small group of our present undergraduates away for the day to think about how the culture of College life might change in the coming years. This listening to students will be one of the keys to working together in the new landscape.

While a number of universities are fearful of the future, Durham is well placed to embrace both the opportunities and challenges of the changes in funding. The University continues to be world-class. It was top three in the UK rankings this year and climbed remarkably in the world rankings. The Department of Theology and Religion received an 100% approval rating from its students, to go alongside its top position in the country for research. These things are a reminder of just how privileged St. John's is to be part of such an outstanding institution.

Meanwhile, it was with sadness that we saw the withdrawal of ordination training from Ushaw College, although plans continue with the University to keep the library and the building as part of Durham's theological and intellectual heritage. Staff and students at Ushaw have been such valuable partners in the development of theology and ministry here in Durham. We owe them a great debt of gratitude and will miss them greatly.

The Wesley Study Centre continues its remarkable growth. The relationship is governed by a Memorandum of Association between the College and the Methodist Church. A review of the Memorandum of Association was concluded, and the updated Memorandum was signed by representatives of the College and the Methodist Church in October 2010. An annual monitoring group



has been set up with an independent chair. Meanwhile, the Methodist Church has commenced a large-scale review of the affordability and extent of its training for ministry under the title *'Fruitful Field'*. The WSC expects to receive a draft proposal for the way forward in October 2011 with final decisions made in June 2012.

### Inspections, inspections, inspections...

This was a year when all of our inspections seemed to come at once. It needed a lot of work by staff, but we were thrilled that the three separate reviews all were positive in their assessment of the work of the College.

The College was reviewed by the Colleges Division of Durham University in June 2010. We were delighted to receive an affirming report commending the College for its high level of student support. Among relatively few recommendations (all of which have been implemented) the question of how well integrated Cranmer and WSC were into the life of the University was raised. This has been a central piece of work in the last year at organizational and relational levels. In addition, encouraged by the report, we have made greater provision for postgraduates through a new MCR space and extra spaces (up to 15) for postgrads to live on the Bailey. The College continues to grow very quickly

in this area. We now have more than 210 postgraduates, excluding those following the DThM and MATM programmes run by Cranmer Hall and the WSC.

There is an article on the Cranmer/Wesley inspection later in the record. We had not quite got our breath back when the University gifted us a third review, this time of the MATM programme. This received high praise for its coherence, creativity and depth. The review team was *'entirely satisfied'* with the quality and standards of the three programmes under review.

*The review team was 'entirely satisfied' with the quality and standards of the three programmes under review*

The headline commendations were:

- ❖ The evident concern of the programme team to maintain academic and theological rigour while recognising the wider purpose of such study for particular faith communities.
- ❖ The considerable thought that is given to timetabling to meet the needs of all students including those who live at a distance from the theological colleges.
- ❖ The wide range of assessment methods used to enable students to develop the skills and abilities that they require for professional practice in their current or future careers.
- ❖ The rigorous process for the approval of dissertation proposals, and the provision of dissertation training workshops

to enable students to develop the knowledge and skills needed to conduct independent research.

Here it is worth paying tribute to Dr. Jocelyn Bryan who has supervised the MATM and the DThM as our postgraduate director of studies. Indeed, this year saw our first batch of DThM submissions and graduations. The first was Dr. Graeme Fancourt, a former John's undergraduate, whose thesis on the theological basis of emerging church demonstrated the combination of cutting edge practical theology and professional practice of ministry which is at the heart of the DThM.

The DThM is a very successful programme and I wonder if it might be attractive to

other alumni who are looking to do research from within their context of ministry. It is an ideal avenue for continuing ministerial education, or indeed to give stimulus to a vocation which is beyond its initial phase.

These reviews reminded us of John's being at the cross-roads of church and university – a special place to be but also a place that can be very busy!

### More than just a degree

I am continually amazed at the capacity of our students to do so much alongside their academic study. While we have elite sportspeople in College, outstanding

musicians and actors, one of our students this year went even further and achieved legendary status. 'Great' Scott Prior not only got his degree but also triumphed on the BBC1 show *Total Wipeout*, winning the champion of champions title and smashing the Wipeout Zone record by completing it in under a minute! If you do not know just how significant this is then please ask anyone under 12 years of age.

More seriously, this year saw an excellent performance in degree results, a considerable improvement on last year's results. (see table)

It was particularly noteworthy that our JCR President Jonathan Berry achieved a 1st and is now staying on to do a PhD.

In fact Jonathan and the rest of the student exec had spent a great deal of time during the year writing a new constitution for the JCR to allow it to become independent under the new Charities legislation. This complex task was achieved with overwhelming student support. There is now only one single Common Room representing St. John's College students. This is called the *John's Common Room*, is an independent charity, and includes undergraduates, members of *Cranmer Common Room* and the MCR.

Of course, the student body at St. John's has always been characterised

| Degrees awarded | 1st      | 2:1      | 2:2      | 3rd |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|-----|
| 2011            | 20 (22%) | 58 (65%) | 7 (8%)   | 4   |
| 2010            | 14 (13%) | 69 (66%) | 21 (20%) | 0   |

by its ability to look beyond itself and two major initiatives illustrated this in the past year. *Connect2* involved a large number of students in projects such as working with local schools, supporting *Big Issue* sellers and has led to a major involvement in the Durham foodbank scheme.

Then a group of students, having finished their exams, gave weeks of their time to clearing some of the overgrown riverbanks. The task was huge, considering the decades it had been left to go wild. It became known as *Project Flowerpot* and, backed by College staff and resources, has transformed the amphitheatre below Linton Lawn into a usable terraced space. Huge thanks to all the students who initiated, and worked so hard on this. You can see some pictures further on in the record.

Other projects continued from the coffee shop to the Edith Jackson fund for a primary school in the Rokon Diocese in Sudan. During the ecumenical inspection we invited the inspectors to form a quiz team within a College evening for Edith Jackson. A good deal of money was raised, but it would be insensitive of me to say how low down on the final results the inspectors were!

### Building for the future

We continue the refurbishment of the Bailey properties, and so during

the summer student bed spaces and study areas in 7 South Bailey were fully refurbished with associated renewal of heating and electricity. This refurbishment represented an investment of over £250,000, taking our overall spending on this backlog to £1.7 million over the last four years. This work has been appreciated greatly by students who can immediately see the results of the investment.

Alongside this, after extensive meetings with the city planners and English Heritage, planning permission was received for two new accommodation blocks which will result in 60 new ensuite bedrooms. Work has already begun on the first accommodation block on Cranmer lawn outside of the Cockerton Room. A crane will be

brought in (by a crane!) and located on the garden side of College to aid with this building project. This is an exciting and difficult time. The build of this accommodation block will take 12 months and so we will live as a College with this building site all year. Some offices have been re-located and there will be noise, dirt and disruption. We need to maintain a high quality of College life during this year and will need to work hard on it.

Plans were progressed for an extension of the Houghton Dining Room and the new build of a Learning Resource Centre. With the granting

of planning permission, work should now be done on the extended dining room in the academic year 2011-12.

A new Legacy Campaign was launched with the aim of signing up 20 legacies towards an ongoing fund of £3-5 million for the College. This is important as it will maintain a degree of John's independence in the changing landscape of HE funding. This target of 20 legacies was achieved by Easter 2011, and was supported by extensive mailings, the work of the Development Office and various receptions. However, this is only a good start towards our financial target and if you are able to help in pledging a legacy I would be delighted to talk with you.

In addition, a **£100 for 100 years** campaign has brought in more than £40,000 towards the cost of Houghton dining room. Again this is a tremendous response and we are really grateful. However, if you still have not participated in this campaign we would love to hear from you.

Meanwhile, the Principal continues to work with a Development Group to explore the potential of individual donors and trusts and foundations.

### A Research-led College

It is interesting that the University is now beginning to explore what a research led environment means for College life. We are delighted, as this has been designated an area for growth over the past few years within St. John's.

Under a newly formed Research committee, a full and varied programme of interdisciplinary research seminars is now held within the College involving students and staff. These feature postgraduates presenting seminars on their research to their peers from other disciplines, seminars in practical theology and seminars under the banner of CODEC exploring communication in the digital environment.

CODEC, an international research centre in communication in the digital environment, has continued to grow under Revd Dr. Pete Phillips and Revd Kate Bruce. Day Conferences for preachers continued to be hugely popular and were held in Edinburgh as well as Durham, and this year there will be a further conference in Sheffield. In fact the Durham conference for November was so popular that it was full two months in advance. A *MediaLit* week of training in communication in the digital environment was held for ordinands and other church leaders, and new partnerships with *Premier Radio* and the Dales Circuit of the Methodist church were set up. CODEC has been one of the main partners of the *Biblefresh*

*Of course, the student body at St. John's has always been characterised by its ability to look beyond itself.*



*Initiative* and Dr. Bex Lewis led the national project *The Big Read*. In the late summer, CODEC, with *Premier Radio*, provided a day conference on Christianity and new media which attracted 300 theologians and church leaders. The growth of this work has been astonishing and three years into the project, virtually all of our intended outcomes have already been fulfilled.

To enhance the research environment of the College, Visiting Fellowships were extended to Dr. Stephen Barton, Revd Dr. Jim Francis, and Revd David Wood. A Junior Fellowship was extended to Benjamin Carter. The College continued to host a series of visitors and lecturers including Fellows from the University's Institute of Advanced Studies.

One of the highlights of the year

was a conference on the diaconate flowing out the WSC research project. The conference attracted over 130 delegates from all parts of the world.

### Just a few other highlights

It is impossible to mention everything of course but just a few more highlights:

- ❖ Tuesday evening College Communion services are now being broadcast on the web – you will find us at: <http://bit.ly/j29DX>
- ❖ The College hosted a consultation on *Fresh Expressions*, looking at the effectiveness and development of the movement
- ❖ *The Beat Eucharist* created by Michael Volland and a team from College, led worship at *Greenbelt* and in College

- ❖ The College held guest lectures and talks from Archbishop Sentamu, Prof. Morna Hooker (*Fernley Hartley Lecture*), David Strang (*Chief Constable of Borders Police*), John Bell (*Iona Community*), Michael Ward (*on Planet Narnia*), Aung Mung (*Dean of the Graduate School of Theology, Myanmar*), Lord Griffiths and Andrew Crumey (*IAS Fellow*)
- ❖ A virtual Cranmer Hall open evening was broadcast on-line and is available on *YouTube*
- ❖ The Venerable Trevor Lloyd delivered the annual *Vasey Lecture*
- ❖ A *Make Poverty History* Event for the North was held in Leech Hall
- ❖ A day conference took place on Healing in association with *New Wine*
- ❖ The '*Clash of the Titans*' football match took place between Johns undergraduates and Cranmer/WSC
- ❖ An important day conference '*Church North*' looked at patterns of decline and growth in the North East
- ❖ The annual Principal's walk went to Hadrian's Wall in stunning Northumberland
- ❖ We celebrated with Jean Kennedy, who has been working for the College in Housekeeping for 25 years
- ❖ The *Step Forward Day* conference was introduced by Archbishop Sentamu
- ❖ Eton's annual choral course

again came to College during the summer, filling the corridors with strains of beautiful music

### A community which moves forward

One of the most stand out events of the year was the first annual *Cundy Christian Unity Lecture* in memory of Bishop Ian, a former Warden and President of Council. Dame Mary Tanner gave an outstanding inaugural lecture in the presence of many of Ian's family and friends, in a packed Leech Hall. It was a reminder not only of the unique contribution of John's to Christian unity but also of the faithful and creative men and women who have served this College.

During the year we were saddened by the death of Peter Cooper, who had served as a member of Council and chair of Audit committee with characteristic attention to detail and dry sense of humour. He had given so much to the College, generously and sacrificially.

It is to folk like Bishop Ian and Peter that we remain grateful – without the support of those who see the vision of St. John's we could not achieve much. With their support and with your support we have grown and rejoiced in the last few years.

The coming year has many challenges. Will you continue to pray for us and support us in whatever way you can.

Thank you  
The Principal



New Postgraduates matriculating this year



# NOTES FROM THE CHAPLAIN

REVD KATE BRUCE

## Connect2

**This** is a wonderful student-led initiative which began last year, with a group of students, inspired by James Woolley, a 2010 Fresher, to get together and think about how we might get involved in the local community.

From this, a group of students started to go into a local primary school, and others handed out tea and coffee to people selling the *Big Issue* locally. The hope is that this year we will be able to offer support and donations to Durham Foodbank.



## Step Forward

**In** March 2011 we held our third young people's vocations conference, which attracted around 50 people interested in exploring vocation to the Anglican Church.

Archbishop Sentamu was our main speaker, who delivered an

inspiring talk on his own calling, reflecting on the importance of responding to God's call wholeheartedly. We were supported by Diocesan Directors of Ordinands, a number of ministers engaged in mission and service in a wide variety of contexts, and Cranmer

students. Delegates had plenty of opportunity to share thoughts and questions with the Archbishop and others. We are hoping to run another conference in 2012 at Bishopthorpe Palace in York as guests of the Archbishop.

## Preaching Conferences

**In** the Autumn of 2010, under the banner of the Durham Preaching Conference, we ran a very successful day conference on preaching from Matthew's Gospel, (which ran twice in Durham – in spite of the snow!), and once in Edinburgh.

Speakers included: David Day, Stephen Barton, Kristian Bendoraitis, Geoffrey Stevenson and Kate Bruce. The popularity of these day conferences continues; this year we already have upwards of 120 people booked in for the day conference in November: *Incarnating the Word: Preaching from John's Gospel*.

## College Communion

**It** has been a real delight this year to see more John's Hall undergraduates getting involved in leading worship on Tuesday evenings.

Where Tuesday evenings fell outside of Cranmer Hall term time we continued to hold communion and welcomed Rich Wyld from the MCR and Lucy Hefford, a second year undergraduate, as preachers on these occasions.

## Streaming Services

**With** the support of Pete Phillips from CODEC, we began to experiment with streaming our weekly communion services live on the web.

This stimulated interesting, important and ongoing discussion about many issues, including the purpose of College Communion, the theology of 'community', and the relationship between on-line

and off-line community. Our hope is that by using this technology, with clear guidelines relating to data protection and appropriate copyright licenses, we can include friends and members of the College who are unable to be with us, and to share the sermons of the many excellent preachers who contribute to Tuesday evenings.



# THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

REVD DR. DAVID WILKINSON: BROADCAST ON 7 MARCH 2011

**In less than 45 minutes, Commander Steve Lindsey and his fellow astronauts on the orbiting shuttle Discovery will be woken by the theme tune from *Star Trek*.**

The music was chosen by more than six hundred thousand votes on a NASA website, and came to second to *Blue Sky* by Big Head Todd and the Monsters which will be used to wake the crew tomorrow on their last day in space and *Discovery's* final mission.

This is a big week for space and our fascination with it. Yesterday, Sir Patrick Moore celebrated the 700th programme of the *Sky at Night* and Prof. Brian Cox began to explore the Wonders of the Universe. In addition, two books published this week push the discussion further as to whether our universe is one of many, and the implications of this multiverse for our understandings of origins.

The retirement of *Discovery*, after 5,600 orbits of the Earth, raises the question of whether putting humans into space is a good idea at all. Some will say that it adds little to scientific discovery. It is a risky and costly business. Indeed, on this day 25 years ago the crew cabin of the *Challenger* shuttle was located on the ocean floor.

While I'm very positive about the scientific advances due to human spaceflight, the music of the *Star Trek* theme takes my thinking in a

slightly different direction. There is a human fascination 'to boldly go where no one has gone before'. The original series of *Star Trek* started on NBC 45 years ago, and embodied this fascination which was enhanced by the *Apollo* missions of the same decade. Its creator Gene Roddenberry saw a future where science solved humanity's problems and religion became a thing of the past.

Yet, while Yuri Gagarin may have proclaimed that he didn't see God in space, others have found the view of Earth from beyond its atmosphere profound and life-changing. James Irwin on *Apollo 15* said, 'Seeing the earth from space has to change a person, has to make a person appreciate the creation of God and the love of God'. As a Christian and a scientist, I welcome the way that the human imagination is stimulated by science, whether in space-flight or in theories of multiverses. While a cartoon this weekend warned God of 'bit of an own goal, creating science!', I share with Kepler the sense of joy at seeing the wonders of creation.

I believe that science is a gift from God, to be used to push at the final frontier, whether in space travel or the origin of the Universe. It may not solve all of our problems but the risk is worth taking as we receive a yet more astonishing perspective.

# WELCOME TO REVD DR. CALVIN SAMUEL

**Calvin joined the team at St. John's in 2010, but because of the timing of the publishing of the College Record, we missed announcing his appointment properly.**

Dr. Samuel was the New Testament Tutor at Spurgeon's College, London, and Chaplain to Farringtons School in the Orpington and Chislehurst Circuit, and he will take up the position as Director of the Wesley Study Centre as it enters its 22nd Anniversary year. He brings with him a wealth of experience, including previous roles as Assistant Director of Research and Faculty Administration at London Business School, and Visiting Lecturer in Biblical studies

at Nazarene Theological College as well as ministry in Circuit.

Dr. Samuel is a Methodist minister who comes to us with a very impressive educational background, including an MBA (*Manchester Business School*) and PhD (*King's College, London*), and a very interesting range of experience, including bank management, university administration, circuit ministry, school chaplaincy, and lecturing in biblical studies. He is highly regarded in London as an outstanding minister and an excellent communicator. He has served as Convenor of the Vocational Development Commission from its inception in

the London District in 2006, and as a member of Methodism's Faith and Order Committee.

Dr. Calvin Samuel was born in Barbados and grew up in Antigua before coming to Britain to study for a BA in Theology and Pastoral Studies at Nazarene Theological College in Manchester. He is married to Ramona and they are parents to Tiana and Fletcher.





# CRANMER INSPECTION

CRANMER HALL AND WESLEY STUDY CENTRE PRAISED FOR EXCELLENCE, BREADTH, DEPTH, AND DIVERSITY

**We** were delighted by the conclusion that Cranmer Hall and the Wesley Study Centre were 'excellent at ministerial formation, preparing people for diverse experiences in ministry and mission' and judges that 'academic and formational aspects of the curriculum are integrated in a way that encourages student ministers and ordinands to be conscious of the need in ministry for integration of gospel, context and culture'.

The report welcomed the unique and fruitful relationship which Cranmer Hall and the Wesley Study Centre enjoy with a world-class university, ranked first nationally for theological research. The report praised the collaboration with Durham University and its benefit for students, staff and the churches. It commended the College's emphasis and expertise in mission and pioneering and observed that 'the broad social context of the city of Durham and its surrounds... offer the possibility of placements ranging from the industrial and post-industrial to the rural and deep rural'.

Alongside this respected academic context the report praised 'the strong culture of pastoral care, openness, friendship and respect for both students and teaching staff and in particular for student's spouses, and children, all of which indicates how students are enabled to participate in the institution'. The inspectors were impressed with the richness of diversity within the student body in terms of age, gender and previous experience, and were further impressed with the high level of student satisfaction.

An inspection team made up of both Anglicans and Methodists gave an interesting insight into two institutions which work so successfully together. The halls were commended for their work embracing the diversity of



ministries within their respective denominations and their leadership in the provision of training for pioneer and diaconal ministry. Students are formed and encouraged to experience fully a breadth of spirituality and ecclesiastical identity, and the formational experience for student ministers and ordinands is a major strength.

Concerning worship, the inspectors were 'impressed by the culture of encouragement' in worship and noted that ordinands are 'formed by the quiet rhythm of praying and listening to the reading of scripture together.' They found the worship 'relaxed, hospitable and open', that there was a 'good balance of worship', including 'highly creative, innovative forms'. Overall the worship was characterised as 'spirit-filled, inspiring and sensitively led'.

Among other commendations were:

- ❖ The strategic management of St. John's
- ❖ The presence of CODEC & growing research environment in Cranmer Hall & WSC
- ❖ The nature of the agreement for an exchange programme, established with Duke Divinity School in a United States University
- ❖ The compilation of individualized programmes of study for each student
- ❖ The quality of the various curricula and the high standards of

theological reflection that they enable and encourage

- ❖ The [tutorial] support system, regarded by the students as one of the best parts of their experience in the community
- ❖ The creativity shown in the development of placements

There were only 17 recommendations all of which are being followed up at the moment. It is worth paying tribute here to the large amount of work done by Cranmer and WSC colleagues, especially David Goodhew, Val Strickland, Calvin Samuel and Andrew Lunn in preparation for the review – with Calvin in first year as WSC Director, Andrew in his first year as Director of Studies and David as Acting Warden! It is a remarkable testimony to the strength of the staff that such a good report was received in such circumstances.

*The Inspection has confirmed what many of us know first hand – that Cranmer Hall is an exciting place to train, aware of its rich heritage, engaged with its fascinating context, and imaginative in its shaping of tomorrow's clergy. I hope the Inspection report will encourage many to 'come and see'.*

**Rt Revd John Pritchard**

(President, St. John's College Council, and Bishop of Oxford)

# THE BIG THINK

ST-JOHN'S RUNS A SERIES CALLED THE SENIOR TUTOR'S FORUM, WHERE, ONCE TERMLY, STUDENTS AND POSTGRADUATE MEMBERS OF ST-JOHN'S COLLEGE REFLECT UPON, AND SHARE, IDEAS IN A FORUM SETTING. IN 2010-11, THE TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED "HOW TO GET DOWN FROM A YAK" AND "THE BIG SLEEP".

**Post** exams, the Senior Tutor's Forum watched the 1946 film *The Big Sleep*, featuring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall (just three months before they were married).

Tom Hiney presented and led a discussion on his thoughts and his novel, before screening the film. Tom was studying in Cranmer Hall and came to Cranmer with a background of journalism. He was ordained Deacon on 2nd July 2011.

*The Big Sleep* was directed by Howard Hawks, but Raymond Chandler, the author, was consulted about the screenplay, which was co-written by William Faulkner, Nobel Laureate. Tom had exclusive access to Chandler's papers and library when writing the 2007 *Raymond Chandler, A Biography* sections of which he read to us during the viewing. Perhaps the most interesting features explained were the slips – those sections where either the film elides certain details, such as references to homosexuality, which are in the books, or confusion, such as the ambiguity about who shot one of the characters which apparently even Raymond Chandler did not

know. The Chauffeur's murder is left unexplained and, apparently, 'Chandler was shocked to find later that he did not know who the killer was'. That the film can be enduringly popular despite so many unexplained plot holes and ambiguous character motivations is fascinating, and the scale of the ambition in the attempt to film a novel with so much content and themes which could not be filmed.



Bogey and Bacall

Tom spoke of the *Film Noir* genre, born partly of the restrictions on depictions of violence, alcohol and sex on the film industry of the time.

*Film Noir*, it seems, is not only a style, but also a story; it came about because of this need to depict life without making it explicit on the screen. It was an exercise in what could be done to get around the rules, and helped to set the stereotyped crime drama trope; emphasis on the black and white, sparse and slick dialogue, and gritty content. A characteristic word associated with Chandler's fiction, and with film noir is *hardboiled* even though this particular film is a romance. The very format of the film changes the content

of the book – Bogart and Bacall's characters have to be romantically linked, even though one of the characteristics of the book is that of our hero and heroine, Philip Marlowe is always a lone detective, and Vivian Rutledge is perhaps an accessory to murder.

Bosley Crowther said, in a 1946 review 'To make it more aggravating, the brilliant detective in the case is continuously making shrewd deductions which he stubbornly keeps to himself.' Tom Hiney, luckily, let us all in to his brilliant deductions, sharing with us something of the history, flavour and creativity – or otherwise – of both the film world at that time, and also prohibition-era America.

## HOW TO GET DOWN FROM A YAK

**Despite** the best of intentions, grand schemes to employ technology to try to solve the problem associated with global poverty have often failed.

Indeed, the greatest impact of engineering on a suffering world has arguably been to increase poverty and misery through military actions. At the Senior Tutor's Forum we heard some cautiously optimistic stories of how the appropriate use of technology has benefitted communities around the world; a bread oven project in Uganda,

a wheelchair designed for use in Kenya, turning banana waste into fuel for Rwanda, Don Matado's new kitchen, wind power for the Philippines, and, of course, how to get down from a yak.

Dr. Mike Clifford is an Associate Professor at the University of Nottingham and a volunteer with Tearfund, a Christian relief and development charity. In 2009, he was voted *Engineering Lecturer of the Year* by the Higher Education Academy's Engineering Subject Centre for his innovative teaching methods involving costume, drama,

poetry and storytelling. Also involved was Matt Whittle, St. John's PhD engineering student who studies renewable energy sources. Discussion was wide and varied, with students from all disciplines contributing and giving their departmental perspectives.

Dr. Clifford began by talking the value of engineering. He quoted from Herbert Hoover's memoirs *'It (Engineering) is a great profession. There is the satisfaction of watching a figment of the imagination emerge through the aid of science to a plan on paper. Then it moves to realization in stone or metal or energy. Then it brings jobs and homes to men. Then it elevates the standards of living and adds to the comforts of life. That is the engineer's high privilege (sic).'*' Dr. Clifford went on to speak about techno-optimism and techno-pessimism in the process of improving

the conditions in which people live. He went on to include another quotation from J F Kennedy in 1961: *'The world is very different now. For man holds within his mortal hands the power to destroy all forms of*

*human poverty and the power to destroy all forms of human life.'* The key issue, he stated, was that inappropriate, imposed technologies do not work.

*'If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night*

*will become like the noonday.'* Isaiah 58:10

Dr. Clifford continued by drawing attention to projects all over the world, often involving engineering students as part of the Engineers without Borders project, which make a huge difference through appropriate engineering.

*'Over the summer, I worked with Engineers without Borders to build cooking stoves in the Ecuadorian Andes. It was amazing to see how simple technology that we take for granted in the West could transform people's lives.'*

Rob, EWB student

*If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.*

Isaiah 58:10

# NOVICE CUP

GRACE MARTIN, WOMEN'S ROWING CAPTAIN

**The purpose of the Novice Cup is to give first-time rowers from each of the Durham Colleges a chance to train up and compete in a rowing event. The intercollegiate level means the standard of rowing need not be particularly high, unlike other prestigious rowing events.**

This mixture of excited people on the bridges and banks, along with adrenaline of the crews, means the weekend of the Novice Cup is fabulous fun.

The ten weeks of training for the Novice Cup is just as fun as finale weekend. However, the training does require dedicated and committed athletes, coaches and coxes, to face the early mornings and the sub-zero temperatures which the North can have in store. The training for the Cup starts early with swim and fitness tests, followed by crew selection, then three outings a week (weather permitting) until the race weekend.

week leading up to the rescheduled event, there was a huge amount of rainfall which looked to jeopardise the races completely. However, all did go ahead according to plan and St. John's secured a victory with the women's Cup and a close victory with the men who made it through to the semi finals.

This year St. John's hopes to secure both the women's and men's Cups. It is important to note that although the weekend races are important, they are not the end of any Novice rower's journey. After the Novice Cup rowers go on to compete in a series of Head Races in Epiphany term and in Easter term enter Regattas. The Novice Cup is just the foundations for any rower or cox, and at St. John's we recognise this which is why we emphasise coaching technique rather than power. We look forward to this year's intake and we welcome you all onto Bath's Bridge to support us.



Last year the Novice Cup was cancelled in November due to the freezing temperatures, and was rescheduled for February. In the



# NEW CRANMER WARDEN

REVD MARK TANNER JOINED THE ST-JOHN'S COLLEGE STAFF AS THE NEW WARDEN OF CRANMER HALL IN SUMMER 2011. MARK IS HIMSELF, A CRANMER ORDINAND, INDEED SOME OF YOU MAY REMEMBER HIM. HERE IS A SNEAK PEEK INTERVIEW SO THAT YOU CAN GET TO KNOW HIM A LITTLE BETTER.

## Hi Mark, are you settling in okay?

Yes, thank you. It is great to be back in Durham which is a place with many happy memories for us.

It is good to be here and wonderful to be getting on with the job at Cranmer, which has so much going for it, a great history and a fantastic future.

## What is your strongest memory of College life?

That's really hard; I have so many. Overall it is the sense of community, I think; friendship, constructive arguments, learning, praying, growing together at a profoundly formational time for me.

However, as I consider the question thousands of memories come back: laughing in the bar, being scared witless by a fellow student's driving, the sense of panic at the mountain

of essays to be done, croquet on the Cranmer Lawn, dashing into chapel late... the list could go on.

## Tell us a bit about what energised you in your last job.

That's easy; it is seeing people's lives transformed by an amazing God who is remarkably fond of some really quite crazy people. How can I not be enthused when I see people coping with situations which they have wrestled with for years and finding strength, hope and meaning often for the first time ever?

## How do you see the three halls working together?



Technically, of course there are only two halls, Cranmer and John's. The Wesley Study Centre is a vibrant and valued part of the life of the College and is particularly valued for its close partnership with Cranmer Hall. So I see us as one college, with a vital and close partnership in ministerial formation between Cranmer and the Wesley Study Centre and a fundamental, almost familial belonging together of Cranmer and Wesley with John's Hall.

This partnership is strong and needs to continue to grow and thrive at every level of College life. It is part of what makes us unique, and brings great richness to our community life.

## I hear you had chickens at home... Have they made the journey north with you?

Sadly not. They have moved in with some friends. They may, however, be replaced once we are fully settled into the Wardens house and have worked out the practicalities.

## College has a reputation for sports... Not least in the Cranmer/Johns rugby and football matches which have taken place recently. If there were a sports competition just perfect for you, what would it be?

That depends whether I am watching or playing, and indeed what you mean by perfect. I love to watch Rugby (Union), and am a life-long fan of Leicester Tigers. In terms of playing, if perfection is defined by

winning then I find it hard to reach. I am an enthusiastic amateur when it comes to most sports. I enjoy squash and am trying to improve my golf. I must say, though, that I enjoyed kicking a football around with blokes from church from time to time. I was not, however, considered an asset.

## Do you tweet?

More of a Facebook fan really. I do tweet a little, but I don't really get it.

## What's the biggest change facing Cranmer Hall as you see it?

We are going into a challenging time with changes to HEFCE funding and the Church of England reviewing its training pathways. This being said, however, we offer a fantastic product, arguably the best in England at a very competitive price. This has been warmly affirmed, of course, in a recent inspection by the Church of England and the Methodist Church. There is much for us to do though. We need to keep developing our research base and working with the department to make sure our teaching is first class, innovative and inspirational. We need to continue to develop our partnerships with the church, particularly in the North so that we are turning out the most able of leaders for the whole church nationwide and worldwide. We need to do all this as a community which rests deeply in prayer and warm friendship. We need to remember to make space to laugh.

### Would you say there is a North/South divide? What characterises it?

Of course there is! Isn't it clear that God visits the South occasionally, but lives up here?

Seriously, I think there are things which are distinctively Northern and these are very precious. You can never generalise with complete accuracy, but average income is higher in much of the South, particularly the South East. The South is seen as the heartland of the UK and this is reflected in many ways, not least in the media. It is, for example, far easier to recruit to church jobs in the southern province than it is in the North. This brings with it a distinctive character which is part of who we are as a nation, but is not all of who we are; for if you know to look beyond the bright lights in any arena you often find things that are deeply authentic and precious. I know I am biased, but I think those gems are often found in the North which is, in my humble opinion, by far the best region of the country, if indeed we can think of it as one region, partly because its riches are manifested in different ways to our southern cousins. I have heard it said that we are very fortunate that those who seek money and power often seek it far away. The North is friendly and real, and training for ministry here brings a deep grounding in the reality of life with the grace of communities who are glad to be who they are and love to engage with making things work.

The North embodies the variety of modern life from rural to urban, rich to poor, and with people drawn from just about every community on earth. Cranmer is richly blessed to be the Northern theological college in England and be able to offer the riches of Northern grace to the national church.

### The College is likely to be a building site for most of your first year, how do you see College life fitting around this work?

There will be some challenges, but the end result is worth it and we are grown up enough to cope. We have beautiful grounds, good buildings and a great team. We'll work round it and choose to laugh rather than cry as often as possible if things get tough.

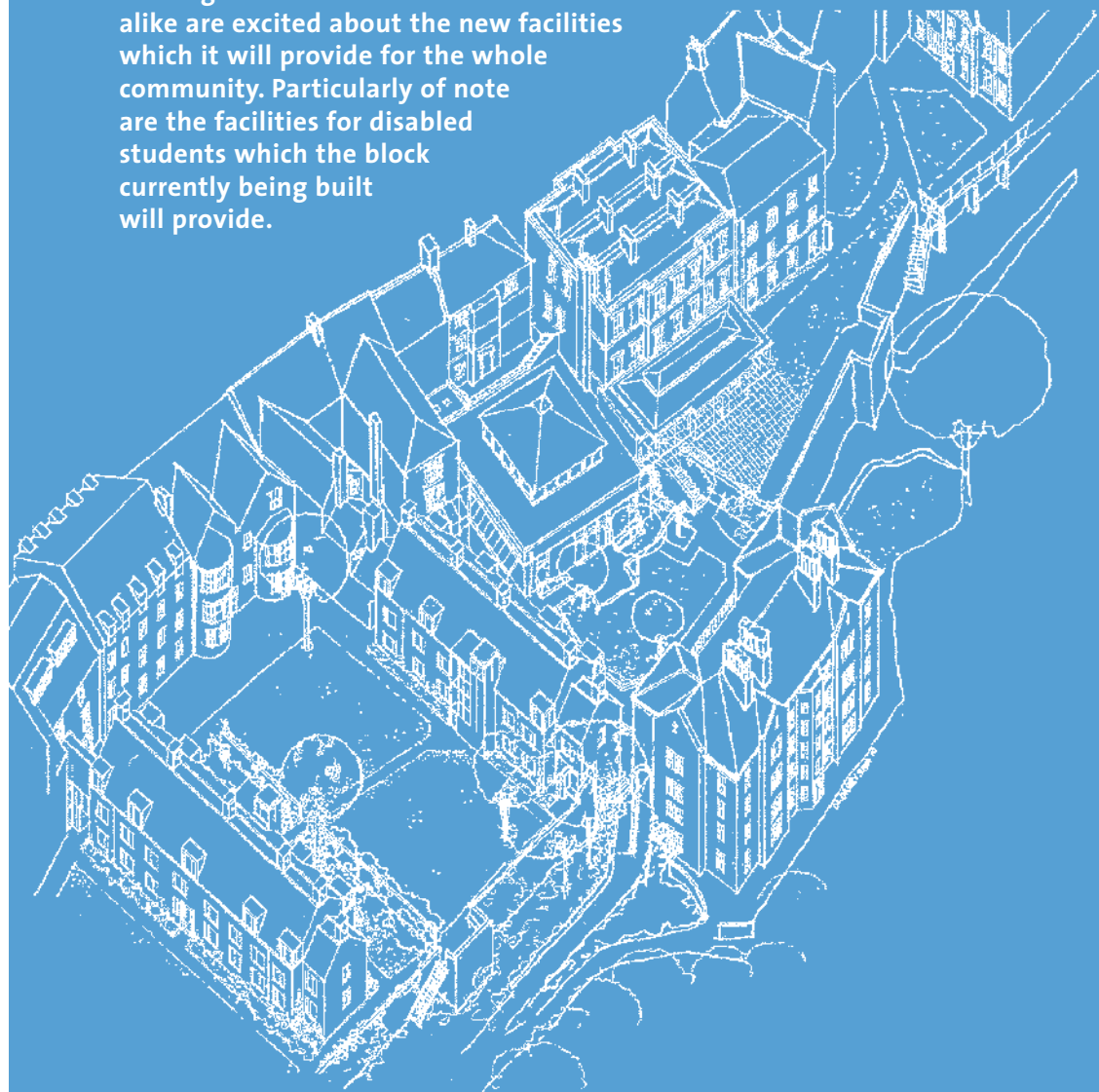
### One of the College's big future projects is the Learning Resource Centre. What do you think a move of lecture rooms and an expanded library space would mean for Cranmer?

This is a fantastic thing for Cranmer. It is about study, learning, growth, reflection and communication in a state of the art, spacious, user-friendly environment. These things are core to who we are and the project will enrich our community life greatly.

*Thanks Mark,  
and welcome (back) to College!*

## COLLEGE BEGINS AMBITIOUS NEW BUILDING PROJECT

**This** plan shows how College, with the new accommodation blocks, will look once completed. Progress is going well, with the foundations for the Southern Building already being laid. College is currently excited about the Crane arriving in Mid October and students and staff alike are excited about the new facilities which it will provide for the whole community. Particularly of note are the facilities for disabled students which the block currently being built will provide.





# THE SOAPBOX MISSION TRIP TO BANGLADESH: APRIL 2011

LINDA TOMKINSON

**Fellow** Cranmer Hall student, Julie Wearing and I, joined three others in April 2011 on a two week mission trip to Bangladesh with Soapbox Trust Charity. We went out to do practical work to prepare an old building to be ready for use as a Christian Orphanage. We arrived, and our hosts in Bangladesh, David and Alice, brought us to their home

in the capital city, Dhaka, where we would be staying. It was a lovely, comfortable apartment, but it was 130 steps up so it took a while to get all our bags up those stairs!

On the first day we went to the orphanage which was a single story building in a very deprived area of the city. We could see it was a big job to complete in the two weeks, so we set to work straight away;

plastering, sanding and painting walls, doors, window frames and floors, and making and painting cupboards. Although some of us did not arrive with these skills, we were soon taught the basics and put to work. The temperature was very hot but we were helped as we worked by ceiling fans, apart from during the frequent power cuts – about 4 or 5 per day!

We worked for the first eight days without a break, but we got a chance to experience some of the local culture in the evenings, particularly the New Year's celebrations which took place while we were there. We were very honoured to be invited to a wedding in a nearby village during our second week. We bought local

outfits to wear and we were given a tour of the village and then fed at the top table with the bride and groom. We were told that this was just one of many meals during the wedding celebrations, which would last three days.

We also visited the War Memorial in Dhaka which was very a profound experience, and we were invited to share our testimonies and lead worship at the theological college in the city. We worked very hard in the last few days to make sure that all the rooms in the orphanage were painted and ready. It was an amazing experience to have and I

am so grateful to all those who helped us financially, in particular St. John's College, The Saint George's Trust, the Tim Burke Memorial Fund and my Mum, who was sponsored to stop smoking, to raise money for us. I was so blessed on this trip and I enjoyed it so much that I have signed up to go back again next year to see

the orphanage in action and get involved with building a second storey! Fancy coming with me?



Linda and Julie with the team (Julie back, centre)



Linda painting doors



Dressed for a wedding



# PROJECT FLOWERPOT

JONATHAN BERRY AND ANA-MARIA WALPOLE

**For** years Johnians have talked of an outdoor amphitheatre, existing somewhere on the College-owned riverbanks, but it was only after a cup of tea with our infamous estates manager, Alan Usher, that the reality of the rumour became clear.

At the mere mention of the word *amphitheatre* Alan suddenly became very excitable and five minutes later we were leaning over the Linton terrace railings listening to *The Linton Riverbanks: A History*, by A. Usher and desperately trying to make out the natural amphitheatre that Alan swore existed in the undergrowth. After fighting through the mass of rhododendrons, ivy and thorns, we found the rounded bank, overlooking a flat terrace, just above the river, and our minds were filled with ideas of summer Shakespeare and *John's Day* performances taking place in the trees over looking the river. None of us doubted that, with a bit of work, it could be spectacular.

Project Flowerpot is the title we coined

for the student-led estates initiative restoring the terraced gardens below Linton Wing and Linton Lawn. We are delighted that College has been able to support us through the project and although the project is not currently finished, we are very excited by the progress that has already been made.

The project will tidy up the top gravel terrace, create three smaller terraces below, and create the amphitheatre on the lower level. Of the three middle terraces, the lower two will be covered with turf and the top one, decking. The seating and stage area of the amphitheatre will also be covered with turf and will have railway sleepers set into the banks as seating. A stone staircase, providing



access to the area, will be made structurally safe and hopefully lit by appropriate lighting. Further to this landscaping work, we have purchased some 600 plants and 300 bulbs to fill various new flower beds and pots.

This project is unique because of the fantastic way in which College and students have worked together. The initial job of clearing the mass of undergrowth was largely undertaken by student volunteers during the post exam period. Each morning and afternoon for three days, ten student volunteers were briefed and sent down the banks in hard hats and high-visibility jackets to hack away at the foliage. This, and the other jobs that have been undertaken by student volunteers, (such as planting) have helped keep the cost of this project minimal.

For the more significant work, including tree surgery and landscaping, we turned to the professionals. Following the ground clearance, we removed some of the smaller self-seeded trees and raised the crown of some of the larger trees to let in more light. The stone staircase has been repaired, the decking terrace built and the two



terraces of turf almost completed. The change is really quite dramatic. We hope to have the whole project completed by June 2012.

This project has been fantastic for us as students, offering a chance to practise and learn skills that will be useful in the workplace; budgeting and time planning to management and problem solving and more. As part of this project we have had to liaise with different companies in the area, with the County Council (regarding our tree surgery work) and with College staff. It is a shining example of the Vice Chancellor's concept of the *Durham Difference* and also of the innovative and supportive leadership at St. John's that genuinely listens to the suggestions of the students.

We encourage you, in Summer 2012, to come back to College and visit the Linton Amphitheatre!

*We have purchased some 600 plants and 300 bulbs to fill various new flower beds and pots.*

# THE BIG SOCIETY, THE BIG PICTURE

THE SUCCESS OF THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT  
OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

DAME MARY TANNER, PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

**When** the request came for me to give a title for tonight, I was struggling with the notion of the Coalition's *Big Society*, which had seemed at first so in tune with Christian social teaching, with its call to care for the poor, the vulnerable, the marginalised.

It seemed to echo that option for the poor that liberation theologians talked about so much in the 1970s and 1980s. At the same time I shared the reaction of others – isn't that what we in the churches have been doing all the time, volunteering, looking for the gaps in statutory services and filling them? I remembered how in the '70s I traced the way in which women, as parish workers, then as deaconesses, and then as deacons, filled the gaps that appeared in the State's provision. Christians were already doing the *Big Society* and doing it in villages and inner city centres, mostly unrecognised and unsung. Of course, we could do more, and the Coalition's call for the *Big Society* seemed an encouragement for us to do more.

Archbishop Rowan gave the *Big Society* 'two and a half cheers'. One because it takes seriously that element of the irreplaceable personal/relational quality that makes good societies, and a second cheer for insisting that the communities we each belong to, themselves belong together and depend on one another. At the same time he asked whether the *Big Society* was just 'an alibi' for cost cutting, a way for government to wash its hands of what he called, 'a shared connection-making responsibility'.

Then came swingeing cuts one after another. It was hard to keep up with them, little time to think through them. There were angry cries from city councils; cries from charities who found grants that were necessary to support local volunteering and deliver the services, drastically cut. Questions started forming in my mind. Had I been conned by the notion of the *Big Society*? Was it no more than a smokescreen for cuts in public services? Or was it just bad judgement in the places that had

been selected for cuts? Church leaders who seemed to warm to the idea at first were becoming increasingly sceptical, calling for it to be more clearly defined.

I'm still struggling with the 'Big' of *Big Society*. I want to think the best of the Coalition's intention. I want to say that it does appear to chime with Christian social teaching, with its emphasis on the strong supporting the weak, the rich giving to the poor, the able helping the less able, the host community making generous and supportive space for the immigrant community. I want to think the best and not to be taken over by a hermeneutic of suspicion. But I am coming to believe that the execution of what sounds a noble idea is problematic and not as simple as it

first sounded. The Government needs to find more imaginative and effective ways to strengthen what is already being done as well as exploring new ways to expand volunteering. So, we Christians have to be wise in applauding moves which are in tune with Christian social teaching but also remain at a critical distance, ready to speak a prophetic word. But some picture of the *Big Society* does at least have the merit of helping us to context the contributions of the statutory and the voluntary services and understand the inter-relation between them.

With all this talk of the *Big Society* and the *Big Picture* I found a question returning to my mind. What is the *Big Picture* of today's ecumenical movement? Indeed, is there a *Big Vision* that motivates today's ecumenical movement? Indeed is there a big picture in which we can make sense of the ecumenical journey that we have been on so far? Is there a vision that we have glimpsed in the first ecumenical century that will serve to orientate us in a second ecumenical century?

## The success of the ecumenical movement of the twentieth century

No-one can deny the success of the ecumenical movement, the great new fact of Christian history of the twentieth century. Bishop Ian contributed over many years to the success of that story. But, partly because of its undeniable success



photo by: Peter Williams, World Council of Churches



in so many areas, the ecumenical landscape today is hugely complex and not easy to summarise. For decades everyone it seems has been talking to everyone else in a complicated network of theological conversations, some of which have reached impressive convergences, and even consensus, in areas we once thought to be intractable. Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry and The Final Report of the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Conversations are two of the most significant achievements, published in the early 1980s. I remember how very involved Bishop Ian was in preparing the Church of England's Official Response to these two documents and how a protracted conversation between Bishop Ian and Prof. Henry Chadwick led to a more balanced Church of England response on authority and the Petrine ministry – still crucial subjects today. These are only two documents out of many. The last few years have seen another initiative, begun here in Durham, of 'receptive ecumenism', with its emphasis on the giving and receiving of gifts from one another's traditions. The major gathering here in Durham in 2006 was hailed by Eamon Duffy as 'the most remarkable event in living memory' and by Bishop Tom Wright as 'a new chapter in ecumenism... the quest for unity

*no longer feels bureaucratic and unfocused*'. But there's some caution that receptive ecumenism could be an easy way out – a less costly form of ecumenical life, suspicion that churches are prepared to receive gifts from others, so long as they can go on being themselves. But, surely, if I receive a gift from you and live it in my own life then I am changed and if you receive a gift from me, you are changed.

### The Big Ecumenical Picture

What seems to me most lacking today is a shared understanding of the visible unity of the Church – a *Big Ecumenical Vision*. The ecumenical journey cannot simply be a blind adventure. Of course we all say that we are committed to

unity – even to visible unity – but when questioned about what we mean by unity it turns out that we each have very different visions or worse still, our *Big Vision* is ourselves, writ large. There seems no agreed understanding amongst

us of the unity that God calls us to live, in and for the world. After a century of ecumenical advance there seems to be no shared *Big Vision* which inspires and directs the multiplicity of ecumenical agendas and activities and which shows how the unity of the Church is inextricably bound together with the unity of the human community

*The Church is the community, the communion, of those already drawn in the waters of baptism into God's own life of love...*

and the integrity of creation and which points beyond itself to the kingdom of God.

The Church is the community, the communion, of those already drawn in the waters of baptism into God's own life of love, experienced by us most profoundly, as individuals and corporately, in prayer and Eucharist. That is why prayer is the foundation of all ecumenical endeavour and why Eucharist is the central act of the church's sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. This is where our identity comes from and this is where our unity is to be found. And our *Big Vision* would need to show that unity is not for our sake but for God's sake and the world's sake: it must always look to God in prayer and move outwards to the world. All of this may sound as if the *Big Vision* is only concerned with the Church. But, the Church is, in a sense, called to be the world ahead of itself. The visible unity of the Church is to demonstrate what God intends for the whole of humanity and creation. It is impossible to separate the Church and its unity from the destiny of the whole of humanity. The Church is given to the world to be in it and inseparable from it, serving and challenging it and attracting it.

Our country needs a credible picture of the *Big Picture* of the *Big Society* to motivate us. And, if we are to make sense of today's complex ecumenical movement, or to see how to move out of the

'crisis' we are in, as Cardinal Kasper describes it, we surely need a shared Vision – a *Big Vision* in the light of which we can make sense of the multiplicity of muddled ecumenical tasks, initiatives, doctrinal conversations – and prayer. If we could claim together a *Big Vision* we might find that we can already look at one another in a less dismissive, more confident and generous way. We can already recognise a Christ-likeness in the lives of others, the fidelity in them to the same Lord, the same Gospel of salvation, and a faithful response in service and mission. We might see a Christlikeness we desire to receive and share. A shared *Big Ecumenical Vision* might just give us that kick start into the second ecumenical century we so badly need, releasing energy for continuing the journey. The ecumenical agenda might just become what Archbishop Rowan has called it 'an agenda of joy', rather than a burden. I hope, and believe, that Bishop Ian might agree.

This lecture builds upon a paper published in *Theology*, November/December, 2010, Celebrating Edinburgh 1910: Reflections on Visible Unity, pp. 403-411. Please see [www.dur.ac.uk/st.johns-college](http://www.dur.ac.uk/st.johns-college) for the full article and the detailed footnotes.



# IN SEARCH OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

RUSSELL GANT: CHAIR – CRANMER COMMON ROOM

**As** a trainee Anglican minister studying at Cranmer Hall, I was delighted to be offered the opportunity earlier this year to visit the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, just outside Geneva. The Institute, set in a beautiful Swiss château (not an unpleasant place to stay for a week), forms the International Centre for Formation and Dialogue as part of the World Council of Churches (WCC).

The WCC was first proposed in 1937, but its official formation was delayed by the onset of World War II and thus the WCC was constituted in 1948. Today it has members from 349 world churches, denominations and church fellowships in more than 110 countries and territories throughout the world, representing over 560 million Christians and including most of the world's Orthodox churches.

Anglicans, Baptists, Lutherans, Methodists and Reformed churches, as well as many United and Independent churches send representatives to discuss areas of Christian unity. While the bulk of

the WCC's founding churches were European and North American, today most member churches are in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific, which is seen as representative of a shift in global Christianity. Whilst the Roman Catholic Church (constituting almost 50% of world Christians) is not a member of the WCC, they do enter into meaningful conversations, particularly in areas of faith and order.

*I was left seeking an answer to concerns how ministers of local churches empower their congregations to think about Christian unity on a global scale*

At the Ecumenical Centre, myself and four other Anglicans, as well as one Baptist and two United Reformed Church trainee ministers joined the students currently enrolled on the five month Ecumenical programme offered at Bossey for a week of dialogue and formation including the history of the reformation (interesting when as an Anglican you find yourself sat next to a Catholic nun) and the state of world ecumenism today.

I was struck by the number of full-time ecumenical students from churches of the Global South,

particularly those from a more Pentecostal background and I was left pondering why the voices from these growing, lively and Spirit filled churches are not more influential in the churches of the Global North. Perhaps it is because many of these growing churches are speaking of the damage done by former colonial and aggressively missional churches in the spread of a *Westernised religion* without reference to local contexts? It is a voice that perhaps we choose not to hear.

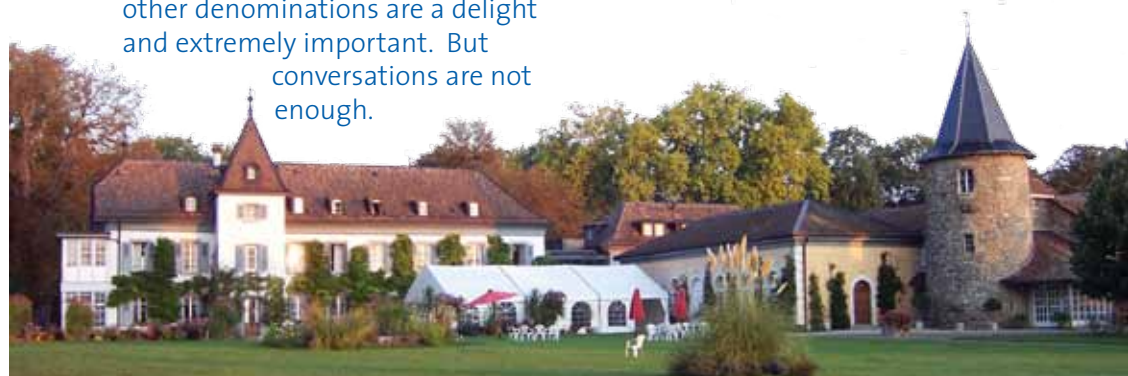
The other question I was left seeking an answer to concerns how ministers of local churches empower their congregations to think about Christian unity on a global scale, rather than the sometimes, cursory annual prayer during *The week for Christian Unity*.

The work of the WCC, and in particular the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, is exciting, enabling those from diverse Christian backgrounds and styles of worship to experience life together (much as we do at St. John's College, Cranmer Hall and the Wesley Study Centre). Conversations with those from other denominations are a delight and extremely important. But conversations are not enough.

Real practical action by the united body of Christ is key. One of the ways I see this demonstrated within the UK is the Street Pastors/Angels initiative, which seems to be universally successful because churches of different denominations are required to work together to demonstrate practical love. But there must be more we can do. The former Bishop of Durham, Tom Wright highlighted the fact that nothing prevents all Christians (regardless of denomination) from reading Scripture together.

If you want further ideas or are unfamiliar with the work of the WCC, I would recommend their website: [www.oikoumene.org](http://www.oikoumene.org) which has a huge number of resources including suggestions for building links with other churches locally as well as globally.

Particular thanks go to Reverend Canon Roger Spiller of Coventry Diocese for organizing the week at Bossey, and the St. John's College Bursary Fund for supporting the trip.



# NEW BISHOP DESIGNATE OF DURHAM ANNOUNCED

**On** Thursday 2nd June 2011, the appointment of the new Bishop Designate of Durham was announced.

The Very Revd Justin Welby has moved from his previous position as Dean of Liverpool to '*come home*', having trained for the priesthood at Cranmer Hall, St. John's College, Durham University for three years between 1989 and 1992. While at Durham, Justin was involved in the Boat Club and Union Society and while he was training for ordination,

one of his children was born at the Dryburn Hospital.

Justin explains that ‘the North East, like Liverpool,’ where he has lived for three and a half years, ‘is a part of the country that has had a more than its fair share of hard times. Yet, also like Liverpool, it is full of fire and life and faith, and capable of attracting investment and energy from all over the world because of the qualities of its people and life here. My first priority as Bishop of Durham will be to get around as much as possible and listen as carefully as possible to as many people as possible. My second priority will be to learn how to be a good advocate for this area, and see the church continuing to contribute to its life and development, in faithfulness to Christ’.

Prior to Liverpool, Justin was curate of a busy urban priority area in Nuneaton, and Rector of Southam, a small market town in Warwickshire. He became a Canon of Coventry Cathedral in 2002 and in his last year there, was also Priest-in-Charge of the main city centre Church, Holy Trinity.

Among other activities, Justin has been Chairman of a National Health Service general hospital trust and chaired the Governors of some schools in the parishes in which he

has served. He is the Personal and Ethical Adviser to the UK Association of Corporate Treasurers, and lectures extensively on ethics and finance. He has published a number of articles in English and French on issues of international finance, ethics and management and also on reconciliation.

Bishop Mark Bryant, the Bishop of Jarrow, said: *'I was absolutely delighted to hear that Justin Welby is to be the new Bishop of Durham. Justin has always had a deep interest in and concern for the communities in which he has worked and I know that he will bring that to the North-East.'* Justin himself states that *'to become Bishop of Durham is a huge*

*privilege. It is an ancient Diocese, going way back before England itself existed, and Bishops of Durham stand on the shoulders of some of the greatest Christians that Europe has produced, from the 7th century to the 21st'*

Justin concludes that he is reminded that, *‘the job is above all to ensure that the Church of England is renewed in faith and experience of the power of God so that it can play its part in serving one of the most exciting and vibrant parts of the country’.*

We are sure that many of you will remember him from your time here.

# THE MUSIC OF ST. JOHN'S...



Two very special CDs, spanning ten years of the College's musical life, are available for you to purchase. The first is a collection of *a capella* songs of secular and sacred origins, performed by St John's Camerata in 1999. The collection includes *My Love Dwelt in a Northern Land* by Edward Elgar, *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square*, arranged by Andrew Cleary, and *Lord, thou hast been our refuge*, by Ralph Vaughn Williams. The second is a compilation of music for evensong, performed by St. John's Chapel Choir for the College's Centenary in 2009. This includes arrangements by J. S. Bach, John Ireland, Charles Stanford and Herbert Howells.

Either CD may be purchased from the Alumni office for £5.00. All proceeds will go towards the choirs currently resident in the College, now under the direction of Shaun Turnbull. Please send a cheque made payable to: St. John's College, or call 0191 334 3500 to make a telephone payment.





## TIM WATSON'S SPEECH, CRANMER

Three to five,  
That's what I've been given.  
By Mark Miller,  
He says he wants a speech without any filler,  
To articulate something of our collective acumination,  
To faith-filled, faith lived, ministerial formation,  
Three to five and no filler,  
That's longer than a stint at the WSC, what a killer,  
Myself, me? I've served three,  
Three single years to prepare these frail, weak bones,  
To somehow be liturgically honed,  
Into some kind of baptizing, burying, bringer of hope,  
When actually, most of the time, I feel like a dope,  
It's hysterical,  
That what we'll be wearing is, clerical,  
Collars,  
Turned from theological scholars,  
To reflective practitioners,  
And active missionaries,  
But while we're in Durham, studying in this World Heritage Site,  
We talk Bosch and Moltmann, and a whole load of Wright,  
Tom,  
With our eyes in our books and our hands in Bananagrams,  
Working our way from the Eucharist, back to Abraham,  
And beyond,  
Withdrawn from the world and, unable to respond,  
Hardly keeping awake to the wonders God's shown,  
And He's shown a few, as I'm sure you've seen,  
In the worship and the lectures and the conversations,  
That have been a constant source of excitable rumination,  
Verbal instigations in the Common Room,  
Like a flash they've shot past far too soon,  
And going back to Mark Miller,  
Aware of my verbalising quite a lot of filler,  
I want to quickly reflect on something that occurred to me,  
And what it is could be absurd you see,  
But there's a danger,  
Of a syndrome that I'd like to call, "being a stranger"  
Because the Wesley Study Centre and Cranmer Hall,  
Held within these hallowed walls,  
Of St. John's College,  
If I'm honest they play tricks with that well known,  
Notion known as "memory"

Just play along, you'll soon see,  
Let's have a game of, "put your hand up if you remember"  
Put your hand up if you remember what ACCESS stands for?  
Anyone, got even a guess? Not really, anyway, I digress.  
Put your hand up if you remember ever waiting outside Penny, Suzanne, Theresa's or Val's offices, feeling like the naughty kid at school?  
Okay, some things always stay the same, but that's not the moral of this game,  
Finally, put your hand up if you remember the College Communion,  
With the theme tune from The Good The Bad and The Ugly.  
If your hand is up, don't be looking around so smugly,  
Because that's my point you see,  
What is known by "me",  
Might not have been witnessed by "we".  
I hope my point is clear,  
That when we leave, and when we go out from here,  
New people will arrive, this place will still thrive,  
But have a different vibe,  
For this time, in this place with these people,  
Is unique,  
Never to be repeated and something of a freak,  
Occurrence,  
Even with God's assurance,  
That it's all in his plan.  
We need to understand,  
That leavers are coming to the end of their lease,  
But that sooner or later, all of our times at St. John's will cease.  
Those of you doing two years  
or 18 months, all be told,  
Won't even see a full cycle  
of this place's gestation.  
I'm not taking the Michael,  
Volland hasn't even seen a full rotation  
of the Cranmer cycle.  
And you three year folk,  
Who may or may not feel stoked  
To be here so long,  
When in your third year,  
It can be an absurd year,

## AND WSC LEAVER'S DINNER 2011



Those you have trained with,  
For two solid years,  
But 18 months when all is told,  
These next few weeks may bring tears,  
But remember, the call of old,  
That brought you to this place,  
In the first place,  
Remember it's not a race,  
In your third rotation,  
Of a community in transformation,  
It's easy to feel like the old hand, the old lag,  
But remember, even you will soon be  
packing your bag  
for pastures new  
And in the WSC and Cranmer too,  
New faces will soon be stalking these halls  
It's a good reminder that we are so small,  
But that Christ's call is a call to all.  
That it's to the world we've been sent,  
and to Cranmer and Wesley we've been lent.  
But don't let that spoil the fun,  
Instead be grateful for being part of something  
much bigger.  
And so it's with great thanks that we,  
The leavers, salute the tutors and other tutee's,  
For everything that you've given to "we",  
The leavers, the ones soon to have left,  
We have been blessed,  
By your words and friendship and prayers, yes.  
Those of you who will continue,  
Who knows next year who you will bump into,  
And who knows what next year will bring,  
Into these hallowed halls,  
Who knows what stories will be told in years to come,  
But throughout it all remember these thanks,  
We mean it,  
We really appreciate your input,  
Now lend me a tissue,  
Because at the heart of it  
The centre of the issue,  
Is that us leavers,  
We're really going to miss you.



# MUNICH APRIL 2011

BECKY NEWTON, ST-JOHN'S UNDERGRADUATE

**I travelled to Munich with the University German Society for a fun few days filled with mystery, history, bratwurst and beer!**

We had our first Bavarian meal at the Augustiner Kellar, set up by the Augustine monks – Munich's famous brewing tradition has its roots in the monasteries. The story, according to our tour guide, goes that after Rome heard of the Bavarian monks' drunken antics; they demanded a sample of what they had been brewing. The beer took a long time to reach Rome, and was not refrigerated, and so, when it arrived, it had very much gone off and turned acrid to taste. Rome could not stomach this potent beverage, and reasoned that if the monks in Bavaria enjoyed this, then they had no problem with it. The monks were permitted to drink very heavy beer during times of fasting, as it was so calorific, acting as a meal replacement. Perhaps this is where the phrase '*Merry monk*' comes from, as they were permanently under the influence of their home-brewed beer!

We were given a tour of the city, in which it was explained that

many things which we traditionally associate with Germany are in fact Bavarian: beer, lederhosen, oompah bands and fairytale castles like Schloss Neuschwanstein. As such, many Bavarians see Munich as both the capital of Bavaria, and also the capital of Germany. They see Berlin as a cold, new city, which does not represent their southern traditions and culture. According to them it is a city for the young radicals, whereas Munich has a more mature and conservative population – this was certainly evident in the famous Hofbräuhaus, the site of Hitler's Beer Hall Putsch on the 9th November 1923, where senior citizens donned lederhosen and dirndls whilst enjoying their bratwurst and beer for their Mittagessen.



Schloss Neuschwanstein

We also took a day trip to Schloss Neuschwanstein, also known as the Disney fairytale '*Chitty chitty bang bang*' castle. This was an awe-inspiring sight to behold, even more majestic in reality than it is in photographs, especially from the suspended observation bridge where you could capture your very own money shot. Inside, however, was most surprising. Having only been aware of the castle due to the film, and the Disney logo that was based on it, I had no idea about how the interior of the castle might look. Neuschwanstein is a 19th-century Gothic Revival palace commissioned by Ludwig II of Bavaria as a retreat and as homage to Richard Wagner. The place feels like a film set, with the same kind of opulence, verging on tackiness, of somewhere like Las Vegas, or the Moulin Rouge in Paris. The palace was intended as a personal refuge for the reclusive king, but it was opened to the paying public immediately after his death in 1886. Since then over 60 million people have visited Neuschwanstein Castle. The palace has appeared prominently in several movies and was the inspiration for Disneyland's Sleeping Beauty Castle. It is definitely a sight that you have to experience for yourself, whether or not you get a horse-drawn carriage up the hill to see it, as I did with Owen, an Irish fresher from the German Society.

I also got the chance to meet up with fellow Johnian Max

Saller, a Munich local, during my trip. He escorted me and several of my German Society friends to Nymphenburg Castle in the Munich suburbs. This was another extremely impressive castle, with spectacular grounds and a series of smaller pavilions, which sound a lot smaller than they are. They are in fact the size of detached 5 bedroom houses at least! Schloss Nymphenburg translates as '*Nymph's Castle*' and it is a Baroque palace which was the main summer residence of the rulers of Bavaria. Again, this is definitely worth a visit.

Equally so is Dachau concentration camp, a short train ride away from the city. This was a haunting experience, as the bleak and bare remnants of the camp are well-preserved and surrounded by suburban estates. The residents of these estates had no idea of the conditions in which the prisoners held here were living. This was also the site of numerous medical experiments, including tests on prisoners to discover the effects of high altitude and low temperatures on pilots after an accident. Needless to say, many prisoners perished in these inhumane trials.

**All in all, I learnt a great deal from my trip to Munich, and I would love to return to celebrate Oktoberfest at some point in the future. I made some lovely new friends and got many opportunities to practice my German too.**

# CORRESPONDENCE

## WE WERE GLAD TO RECEIVE MAIL FROM YOU ABOUT YOUR TIME IN CRUDDAS, FOLLOWING OUR ARTICLE LAST YEAR.

*"I entered St. John's as a mature student with no 'A' Levels in 1960. I had served in the RAF during the later months of the Korean War and then done teacher training before teaching science for five years. I was accepted for ordination training and recommended to St. John's, Durham.*

*I became a bit of a connoisseur of College accommodation over the next five years, having a ground floor room in a house on the Bailey in my first year and moving to Cruddas in my second. My room was just inside the main North East doorway next to two toilets. It was so small that the bed would only fit one way to allow the door to open and close, because its headboard was bigger than the footboard. The bookcase was perched on top of the cupboard and one small chair stood in front of the table. The only advantage of such a small, north facing, room was that its radiator was the same size as those in larger rooms, making it warm and cosy.*

*In my third year I had a room with a coal fire in the Haughton building and was surprised to find on visiting Cruddas, that my former room had been turned into an airing cupboard! My best accommodation was in my fifth and final year as President of the Cranmer Common Room when my room was palatial compared with Cruddas."*

*Rev'd Dr. Peter Newing*

## FOLLOWING OUR ARTICLE CRANMER HALL STUDENTS SENT TO PRISON, WE RECEIVED THIS LETTER.

*Now an old retired priest, who took G.O.E. and Ordination in 1965, I was part of a team from Cranmer Hall who did a week's mission in Durham Gaol in 1965... Vice Principal John Cockerton and Warden Tim Yates I remember organised it but I had a hand in the production of the enclosed bookmark which was used as a prayer source for the mission. Mission teams were operational in my day; I remember taking part in one in Lower Kersal Salford in 1964.*

*Rev'd Canon Clive Gillhespy*

**DO** YOU HAVE A COLLEGE MEMORY YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE? DOES SOMETHING IN THIS YEAR'S COLLEGE RECORD BRING BACK SOMETHING FROM YOUR TIME AT ST-JOHN'S? WE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU IN THE ST-JOHN'S ALUMNI OFFICE.

## THE FOLLOWING DEATHS HAVE BEEN REPORTED:

- ❖ ERIC MT MCLELLAN (1938)
- ❖ JAMES ATKINSON (1939)
- ❖ HAROLD BELL (1940)
- ❖ JOHN WESTLAND HANSON (1943)
- ❖ NORMAN ASPIN (1947)
- ❖ DOUGLAS MICHELL (1948)
- ❖ BOB CLARKE (1967)
- ❖ ANNA JACQUELINE SNAPE (1986)
- ❖ SARAH CHARLTON (LAMB) (2003)
- ❖ PETER COOPER (MEMBER OF COLLEGE COUNCIL)
- ❖ KINGSLEY BARRETT (DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY)

### REV'D ERIC MT MCLELLAN

**Eric** was a student at St. John's in the 1930s and was ordained and served as an Anglican minister. He was at one time on the governing body of St. John's. Eric died in his sleep on Oct 2 2010 aged 94, he was born 5th Aug 1916. He leaves 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. After leaving St. John's, Eric was a curate in Newcastle then Liverpool followed by his first living at Emmanuel Everton. He then moved to Sevenoaks, was Canon at Rochester, and then to Paris as Archdeacon. He retired to Tonbridge where he assisted local churches. Eric always had a heart for mission and training and many young people under his ministry were called to fulltime Christian service. He was much involved with the Rwanda mission CMS and also led, in retirement, the revival conferences begun by Roy Hession and African brethren following the East African Revival. I was blessed to grow up in an environment where Jesus was not only preached from the pulpit but was evident in Eric's daily walk with his Saviour.

*Ian McLellan, Eric's son.*

### HAROLD BELL

**Mr** Bell was a teacher, organist and volunteer lifeboatman. Harold Bell, of Bedlington, taught at the Aycliffe Approved School for more than 30 years. He was also a dedicated organ player who played in churches and cathedrals across the region all his life. Mr Bell was born in Manchester in 1919 but moved to County Durham when he was still a boy. A talented musician, he was made first organist at St. John's Church, Shotley, aged just 14. After leaving school, he became organ scholar at St. John's where he studied theology. At Durham, he was assistant organist at St Margaret's Church and he also often played the magnificent organ at Durham Cathedral. In 1942, he enlisted with the Royal Army Service Corps, taking part in the Normandy landings and the battle for Caen. He was then commissioned to the Royal India Pioneer Corps, where he served as a Captain in India and Burma. After the war, Mr Bell returned to Durham to study a teaching diploma, and in 1947 he was appointed to Aycliffe Approved School by the Home Office. He taught at the school, which took disruptive or unruly pupils, for 32 years, working his way up to headteacher. In 1979 he retired to Bedlington with his wife Gladys, who he had wed in 1943.

*Taken from the Evening Chronicle.*

### NORMAN ASPIN

**Norman** Aspin was a retired diplomat, whose work for the Foreign Office culminated in him being appointed British High Commissioner to Malta. According to the CW Herald, Mr. Aspin served in London, India and Africa, and was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (CMG) for his work in Israel during what became known as the Six-Day War. Mr. Aspin was born at Darwin, Lancashire, in 1922. The outbreak of the Second World War came just 12 months into his three-year course at St. John's and he volunteered to join the Royal Navy. When the war ended, Mr.



Aspin returned to Durham, graduating in Geography in 1947 before starting his diplomatic career at the Commonwealth Relations Office. He served in Bombay soon after the country had gained independence, and was then posted to Africa, serving in the Central African Federation, which later became Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi. He served as Head of chancery and was the number two to the British ambassador in Israel. He was the last surviving member of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. In Malta, his main role was to oversee the withdrawal of British troops and the Royal Navy from the island. He also represented the interests of Britain, and promoted its trade and tourism.

*Taken from the Cumberland and Westmoreland Herald.*

## REVD CANON PROF JAMES ATKINSON

**James** Atkinson was born in 1914 in Tynemouth, where his father was a civil engineer with the *Tynemouth Improvement Commission*. Atkinson was educated at Tynemouth High School and St. John's, where he was captain of boats. He would go on to serve on St. John's College Council. Ordained to a Title in the Diocese of Newcastle, before beginning his long association with the church in Sheffield, he quickly established his reputation as a preacher, teacher and visitor. Colleagues and students found him warm, approachable and spiritually profound, and many of the distinctive habits of life called to mind Luther, whose vision he shared and admired; warmth and passion, scholarly learning, and incisive wit, a refusal to compromise and an overriding passion for truth and the gospel. Above all, he lived out the gospel maxim, "*Freely you have received, freely give.*" Working in the Department of Theology in the University of Hull, which awarded him an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity in 1997, and then later as Prof. of Biblical Studies in Sheffield he produced several books, the best known being *The Great Light: Luther and the Reformation* (1968). Despite his advancing years his scholarly output and evangelical zeal did not diminish, and he published *Faith Lost, Faith Regained* when he was 90 and *Understanding the Incarnation* when 94. However, it is not as a writer but as a gifted speaker and lecturer that he will be best remembered. The success of his *Centre for Reformation Studies* which he founded on his retirement from his Chair bears witness to that. Prof. Canon James Atkinson made a profound mark as a clergyman and as a scholar. He was an inspiring and caring Christian academic, who was deeply concerned for the gospel, for others, and for learning in the Church. He was a marvelous colleague, professor, churchman and friend.

*Taken from the Independent and the Times.*

## CANON DOUGLAS MICHELL (1948)

**The** death of Duggie Michell marks another milestone in the immediate post-war history of St. John's, where he served as chaplain between 1945 and 1948. He arrived just as the first lot of men were coming up after demobilisation. Most had seen service throughout most of the war and were older than he was. I came up in October 1946 as one of the very few men who were studying for a degree prior to their own military service, with another group of men who had been demobilised earlier that year; but again many of them were older than he was. There was never any difficulty in his ministry to any of us; his sociable, friendly manner carried everyone along. We were able to show our appreciation of him when he announced his engagement to Miss Dorothy Whewell, a Tutor at St. Mary's. A good many members of John's turned out to carry most of Duggie's furniture down to Miss Whewell's flat, which was conveniently at hand as the *new* St. Marys had not yet been built. He took the removal in good part, pointing out that it would be charitable for us to bring it back, since he intended to remain resident in College. We obliged; but thought that one good turn deserved another: we brought some of her furniture back to his rooms in St. John's. His good

humour handled it well, and in a short time everything was back where it should be. He was always about but never in the way. He had a particular care for those few men younger than most of the College; most of us living away from home for the first time. We were invited to his rooms and sat around a roaring fire during the cold Durham winter, listening to classical music. For eighteen year olds to be treated as adults was a refreshing experience. He moved on to St. James' Parish Church Moss Side, Manchester, my home town. A party of us attended his induction and wished him well. He later moved to Horwich near Bolton. In both parishes I have every reason to suppose that he conducted a ministry in the best John's tradition. In 1953 the Principal RR Williams became Bishop of Leicester and no one could be surprised that Duggie moved to that diocese. He should be remembered in the history of the College as a good minister of the Word and Sacraments; a credit to the College and the University.

*Canon John Rogan.*

## BOB CLARK (1967)

**Revd** Canon Dr. Bob Clarke, a South African graduate of St. John's College died at his home in Grahamstown on 28 August shortly before his 75th birthday. Having spent his childhood in India and South Africa, on leaving school, Bob travelled to England to join the Royal Navy, in which he served as an officer for eight years. He went up to Durham to study for the Anglican ministry at Cranmer Hall, at the comparatively late age (in the 1960s) of 25. The transition from the Navy to college life was not easy, and at the end of the first year of his General Degree he failed all his exams. Hard work during the summer vac enabled him to pass them at the second attempt in the autumn. A further set-back came at the end of the first year of his Diploma in Theology, when he took his girl-friend to the cinema the evening before the Church History exam, and only discovered the next day that the exam was in the morning, not the afternoon. Deprived of his last-minute revision time he failed, and again had to re-sit the exam. In 1967 he obtained his Diploma, married the girl-friend (Maggy Clarke, née Price, St. Aidan's College) and was ordained Deacon in Winchester Cathedral.

Bob Clarke served in parishes in the Diocese of Natal from 1971. From 1978-83 he pioneered Urban and Industrial Mission in Pietermaritzburg, and obtained his doctorate at the University of Natal. He moved to Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape Province in 1984 to be Rector of a small parish while lecturing in Church History and Industrial Mission at the Anglican theological college, St. Paul's. He then became Ecumenical Officer of the local Council of Churches, and was deeply involved in ministry to people detained without trial during the States of Emergency in the last days of apartheid, as well as conflict resolution. After the South African transition to democracy in 1994, Bob founded and directed Ecumedia, an NGO training church journalists. He was Rural Dean of Albany and Grahamstown from 2000-03. In 2003 he chaired the steering committee for a city-wide ecumenical Mission to Grahamstown. After his retirement he wrote *Anglicans Against Apartheid 1936-1996*, published in 2008. Travelling to England for the launch of the book at the time of Lambeth Conference, he presented a copy of it to the St. John's College Library.

Thabo Makgoba, then Bishop of Grahamstown and now Archbishop of Cape Town, made Bob Clarke an Honorary Canon of Grahamstown Cathedral in 2005. He and Maggy were married for 44 years, and were blessed with two daughters and five grandchildren.

## ANNA JACQUELINE SNAPE (1986)

**Anna** was accepted at St. John's College in 1983 as a mature student, to study Psychology. She had gained the three required A-levels, two at A-grade, by studying at night school, while working full-time. She had left Grammar School with nine O-levels and had achieved an ambition to become a journalist, but found the work was unfulfilling. She loved St. John's and the beautiful city of Durham, and made good friends. In her spare time she found scope for her skill as an amateur photographer, and produced some excellent shots of the cathedral, the castle and the bridges over the River Wear. During vacations she worked at Camp America and toured the States, and also visited the Benelux countries. In 1986 Anna graduated with a 2:1 in Psychology, despite having had health problems. She spent a year on research in Newcastle, then moved to London. She gained an Education Teaching Qualification, and taught A-level evening classes in Psychology. In 1989 the University of Surrey awarded her the Degree of Master of Science, with distinction, in Social Research Methods. Anna began giving seminars and lectures for various colleges and universities, in psychology, sociology and anthropology and became a tutor for the Open University. In the mid-nineties she moved to the South Coast as was her ambition, and continued her work as before. Sadly, in 2004 Anna was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and entered a Nursing Home. In her case the illness advanced rapidly. After six long and weary years, Anna passed away peacefully in her sleep, aged 49 years.

Margaret Snape, Anna's mother.

## REVD DR. SARAH CHARLTON (LAMB) (2003)

**Revd** Dr. Sarah Charlton (Lamb) trained at the Wesley Study Centre and then went on to do her PhD with Robert Song in the Department. Sarah was ordained in 2003 and served in Hexham and in the Tynedale Circuit. She died after a short illness. We remember her life and ministry and time with us here in College with thanks.

## PETER COOPER

**The** sad news of the death of Peter Cooper, long time member of College Council 2002-2011, came just as the College Record went to print. For this reason, we do not have a full obituary in this issue, but we mark our gratitude to Peter for his tireless work, most particularly as Chair of the Audit Committee.

## PROF. CHARLES KINGSLEY BARRETT

**Charles** Kingsley Barrett, one of the leading New Testament scholars of his generation, spent his whole academic career at Durham University (Lecturer, 1945-58; Professor of Divinity, 1958-82). His many books, including world-famous commentaries on the Gospel of John and the letters of Paul, established his enormous international reputation as a brilliant historian of early Christianity and an outstandingly perceptive interpreter of New Testament texts. Together with his colleague, Prof. Charles Cranfield, he established Durham University as a world-leading centre for New Testament studies, and forged close links with the University of Tübingen. Showered with honours (multiple honorary doctorates, a Fellow of the British Academy since 1961, President of the Society for New Testament Studies, the leading international New Testament society, 1973-74) he remained a remarkably modest man. His international impact on scholarship was matched by his local popularity in the Methodist chapels of County Durham, where he preached practically every Sunday of his adult life.

## ACADEMIC ACTIVITY

## Gerry Aiken

## Publications:

*Community as a Social Innovation* In Yearbook 2011 of the Institute for Advanced Studies on Science Technology and Society Profil: Munich and Vienna

*Renewal from the Margins?* Third Way, July 2011

## Papers Given:

*The role of 'community' in STS Transitions*, Fellow's Lecture, IAS-STs, Graz, Austria, January 2011.

*A tale of two communities*, IAS-STs Fellow's Work-in-progress seminar, Graz, Austria, March 2011

*Community – a menu of meanings and understandings*, Durham University, April 2011

*How do you manage? The varieties of 'community' in the transition to low carbon futures*, IAS-STs Annual Conference - Critical Studies in Science and Technology Studies, Graz, Austria, May 2011

*Community, the New Localism and the transition to low carbon futures*, The Social Dynamics of Neighbourhood, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, May 2011

*Community, place, scale and the transition to low carbon futures*, Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) Annual Conference, August 2011

## Other:

2011 Manfred Heindler Research Fellow, IAS-STs, Graz

## Richard Briggs

## Publications:

*Reading the Bible Well: A Question of Virtue? Biblical Narrative and Interpretive Virtue*, The Reader, 107/3 (Autumn 2010), 6-7

*Review Article: Christian Theological Interpretation of Scripture Built on the Foundation of the Apostles and the Prophets: The Contribution of R.W.L. Moberly's Prophecy and Discernment*, Journal of Theological Interpretation 4 (2010), 309-18

*Scripture in Christian formation: Pedagogy, reading practice and scriptural exemplars*, Theology 114 (2011), 83-90

*Why Read the Old Testament?* (Grove Biblical Series B60; Cambridge: Grove Books, 2011), 27 pp.

## Papers Given:

*Remythologising Bible Narrative*, St. John's College Research Seminar, Durham, November 2010

*On "Seeing" what God is "Saying": Remythologizing Biblical Narrative in Dialogue with Kevin Vanhooser's Remythologizing Theology*, Christian Literary Studies Group conference, Oxford, November 2010

*Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Hermeneutical Perspectives on Numbers 20*, Durham University OT Research Seminar, November 2010

*Who Can Read Wisdom? The Implied Virtues of the Readers of Wisdom's Narratives*, SBL conference, Atlanta, November 2010

*Reading Daniel as Children's Literature*, SOTS Winter Conference, Durham, January 2011

*The Figure in the Wilderness: Readings in the Book of Numbers*, Durham University OT Research Seminar, March 2011

*Reading the Bible Virtuously*, Ripon College, Cuddesdon,

Biblical Studies Summer School

*One Bible, Many Readers - Cultures, Contexts, Conversations*, Oxford, July 2011

## Conferences Attended:

*Christian Literary Studies Group conference*, Oxford, November 2010

*Society of Biblical Literature conference*, Atlanta, November 2010

*Society for Old Testament Study*, Winter Conference, Durham, January 2011

*International SBL Conference*, London, July 2011

## Other:

Joined editorial board of Journal for Theological Interpretation

Appointed as external examiner for MA course in Biblical Interpretation at International Christian College, Glasgow

## Jocelyn Bryan

## Publications:

*Teaching Child Sexual Abuse in a Ministerial Formation Course*, in Geary, B. & Greer, J.M. (eds)

*The Dark Night of the Catholic Church: Examining the child sexual abuse scandal*, Stowmarket: Kevin Mayhew 2011 pp 499-526

*Sex, Death, Child Bullying, Relationships, Divorce and Recession*, in Sermons on Difficult Subjects: Background Information, Sermon Ideas, Stories and Thoughts to Take Away. Stowmarket: Kevin Mayhew 2011.

## Kate Bruce

## Papers Given:

*Preaching and Imagination*, training session for Ripon Deanery Chapter, Ripon, September 2010

*Preaching: Whys and Wherefores and From Text to Talk*, The York Diocesan Reader Training Weekend on Preaching, Wydale hall, October 2010

*Through a glass darkly: Imagination as a vehicle for transformation in the preaching event*, York Diocesan CME 4-7 Training weekend on Preaching, Wydale Hall, 2010

*Crafting a Sermon on Matthew 6; Delivering a sermon from Matthew 6*, Durham preaching Conference:

*Preaching Matthew*, Edinburgh 2010, and Durham 2010.

*Preaching and Imagination*, presentation for Bishop Auckland Methodist Circuit, March 2011

*Exploring Vocation*, EDEV session, Darlington, March 2011

*Preaching in a Mixed-mode Economy*, Input for CODEC conference 'MediaLit' June 2011

*Preparing to Present the Word. Preparing people to receive and respond* – study day for local preachers and worship leaders in the Middlesborough and Eston District, July 2011

## Conferences Attended:

*Preaching Conference*, Regents Park College Oxford, 2010

*Refract: Theological refraction on the Internet*, CODEC Conference, Durham, 2010

*'Step Forward' Vocations Conference for young People*, Cranmer Hall Durham, March 2011

*Women in theological Education Consultation*, Lambeth, 2011



**Other:** Preached at Licensing of Readers, Durham Cathedral, 2010  
Ongoing PhD Reaching into Preaching

### Christopher Cook

#### Publications:

*The Philokalia and Mental Wellbeing: On Thoughts and Prayer*, James Clarke, Cambridge, 2011

*Spiritual and Religious Issues in Treatment*, in Marshall, E. J., Humphreys, K. & Ball, D. M. (Eds.) *The Treatment of Drinking Problems*. 5th ed. Cambridge, Cambridge. 227-235.  
*Spirituality, mental health – substance use*, Chapter 13 in Cooper, DB (Ed) *Developing Services in Mental Health – Substance Use*. Radcliffe, Oxford. pp 171-180.

*Maintenance and Relapse Prevention*, Chapter 13 in Capuzzi, D, Stauffer, MD (Eds) *Foundations of Addictions Counseling*. 2nd Edition, Pearson, Upper Saddle River. pp260-277

*The Faith of the Psychiatrist*, *Mental Health, Religion & Culture*, 14, 9-17

*Spirituality and Secularity: Professional Boundaries in Psychiatry*, *Mental Health, Religion & Culture*, 14, 35-42

*Praying with a patient constitutes a breach of professional boundaries in psychiatric practice*, *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 199, 94-98

*Durham Project for Spirituality, Theology & Health*, *Way of Life*, the quarterly magazine of the Guild of Health, 43 (3), pp4-5

*Spirituality, Theology & Mental Health*, *Way of Life*, the quarterly magazine of the Guild of Health, 44 (1), pp28-30  
*Recommendations for Psychiatrists on Spirituality & Religion*, Position Statement PS03/2011, Royal College of Psychiatrists, London

#### Papers Given:

*Theological Reflection on Addiction*, Lecture to Addiction: Theological Reflections, Day Conference, St. George's Crypt, Leeds, November 2010

*The Philokalia and the Inner Life*, Day conference at St. Marylebone Healing & Counselling Centre, London, January  
*Spirituality and Mental Health*, Day conference, Association of Christian Psychiatrists in Scotland, Perth, February  
*Finding God in a Holy Place* – Lecture for visit of the Yale Divinity School to Durham, March

*Spirituality & Psychiatry*, Lectures jointly with Andrew Sims for Day Conference on Spirituality & Psychiatry celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Andrew Sims Centre, Leeds  
*Delivering Spiritual Care*, *Spirituality & Health Care Conference*, London, March 2011

*Theology, Transcendence & Mental Health: Spirituality & Mental Well-being in a Secular Age*, *Mental Health, Practical Theology & Spirituality*, Dublin, June 2011

*Spirituality & Psychiatry – What is Good Practice?* *Spirituality & Mental Health: Sharing Good Practice Conference*; Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, St. John's College, Durham, July 2011

#### Conferences Attended:

*RCPsych SIG Day Conference: Spirituality & the Divided Brain*, London, March 2011

*The Big Silence, Campion Hall*, Oxford, March 2011

*Royal College of Psychiatrists Annual Meeting*, Brighton, June 2011

### Benedict Douglas

#### Publications:

*Closing the Door on Restitution: the European Court of Human Rights*, In Buyse and Hamilton (Eds.) *Transitional Jurisprudence and the ECHR*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2011, pp208-238

#### Other:

*The Human in Human Rights: With Reference to Dwarfs and Alligator Wrestling*, Bright Club Newcastle, September 2011 (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHVNCIYnHko>)

### Clare Foster

#### Publications:

*The role of Lamin A in cytoskeleton organization in colorectal cancer cells: A proteomic investigation* *Nucleus* 2 Sept/Oct 2011

#### Papers Given:

*The role of lamin A in cell motility & progression of colorectal cancer*, North-East Postgraduate Research Conference, Newcastle, November 2010

#### Conferences Attended:

*North-East Postgraduate Research Conference*, Newcastle, November 2010

*National Cancer Research Institute Conference*, Liverpool, November 2010

*Nuclear Envelope Disease and Chromatin Organisation Meeting*, July 2011

#### Other:

*Making a Career out of a Passion for Biology*, invited speaker, Philip Allan Updates AS Biology Conference, Newcastle, November 2010

*Has science killed God?*, invited speaker, Harvest, Hutton Rudy, August 2011

### Jonathan Foster

#### Publications:

*Anion-switchable supramolecular gels for controlling pharmaceutical crystal growth*, with A. Foster, M.-O. M. Piepenbrock, G. O. Lloyd, N. Clarke, J. A. K. Howard and J. W. Steadature Chemistry, 2010, 2, 1037-1043.

*Hydrogen Bonding Interactions with the thiocarbonyl  $\pi$ -system*, with J. T. Lenthall, J. A. Foster, K. Anderson, M. R. Probert, J. A. K. Howard, J. W. Stead, *Crystal Engineering Communications*, 2011, 13, 3202-3212

*Anion tuning and polymer templating in a simple low molecular weight organogelator*, with M.-O. M. Piepenbrock, J. A. Foster, N. Clarke, J. W. Stead, *Chemical Communications*, 2011, 47, 2095-2097

*GSK Industrial Placement*, Stevenage- Presentation of findings, April 2011

*'Anion-switchable supramolecular gels for controlling pharmaceutical crystal growth'*, oral presentation, ILL, Grenoble, France, Nov 2010

#### Papers Given:

*Invited speaker and poster prize 'Anion-switchable supramolecular gels for pharmaceutical crystal growth'*, International symposium on Macrocyclic & Supramolecular Chemistry, Brighton June 2011

*Invited speaker 'Supramolecular gels: a new tool in drug development'*, Rising Stars Research Symposium, Durham, June 2011

*Invited speaker 'Changing old habits with new media: influencing crystal growth using LMWGs'*, BCA Chemical Crystallography Group, Edinburgh, Nov 2010

### Meghan Glass

#### Publications:

Work in Progress; *Thesis: Postcolonial Readings of the Romances of Medieval England and Contemporary Ojibwe Literature*

Forthcoming: *That's Raven Talk* in *Canadian Native Journal*  
Forthcoming: *Challenging Traditions: Contemporary First Nations Art of the Northwest Coast* in *Journal of Folklore Research Reviews*

Lisa Lampert-Weissig. *Medieval Literature and Postcolonial Studies* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2010). *Hortulus* (Vol 6. No. 1, 2010)

Judith Ostrowitz. *Interventions: Native American Art for Far-Flung Territories* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2009). *Journal of Folklore Research Reviews* (March 2011).

#### Papers Given:

*Literary Identities: Narrative Selections and the Concept of Society in Ojibwe and Middle English Texts*, International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI, May 2011.

*Nanabozho, Hero and Trickster: Understanding Nanabozho's Role in Ancient and Contemporary Modes of Ojibwe Literature and Storytelling*, Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association. Alexandria, VA, 30 Oct 2010.

*Feasting in Middle English Romance: Wealth or Social Ritual?*, International Medieval Congress. Leeds, July 2011.

*Medieval Trickery: Faeries, Monsters and 'Others' in Medieval English Romance*, Medieval & Postgraduate Discussion Group, Institute of Medieval & Renaissance Studies. Durham, Nov 2010.

#### Conferences Attended:

*5th Annual MRPDG Conference*: Durham, UK Recognizing Beauty in the Middle Ages Co-Conference Organizer

*17th Annual IMC Congress*: Leeds, UK Rich...Poor, July 2011

*46th Annual ICMS Congress*: Kalamazoo, MI, May 2011

*MAPACA Conference*: Alexandria, VA, October 2010

### David Goodhew

#### Papers Given:

*The Resurrection of Christian Britain? New Churches in York*, given at 'Church: North Church Growth and Decline in the North of England: a conference at Cranmer Hall, St. John's College, Durham, February 2011

Papers from the conference will be published as a book entitled *Church Growth in Britain, 1980 to the Present Day* (Aldershot: Ashgate 2012)

#### Other:

Organiser of: *Church: North – Church Growth and Decline in the North of England*, a day conference at Cranmer Hall, St. John's College, Durham, February 2011

### Mark Ogden

#### Papers Given:

*Christian Humanism and Higher Education*, Conference in Honour of Prof. Nicholas Boyle Magdalene College, Cambridge, August 2011

#### Conferences Attended:

*2011 Developing reading skills for the postgraduate*

*community*, a training workshop for language teachers, Sept 2011, Newcastle University, Mark Ogden, David Tual, Christine Bohlander, Mike Watts

### David Wilkinson

#### Papers Given:

*Star Wars: the relationship between theology and popular culture*, Methodist Faith & Order Conference, St. John's College, Durham.

*Bible and the Cinema*, Biblefresh regional event at Chester-le-Street

*Dialogue of Science and Religion*, West Yorkshire Church Leaders

*Day Conference* for the Northern Province Suffragan Bishops, Leeds

*Science and Religion in the Media*, Fellow's Lecture for St. Cuthbert's College

*Keynote Lectures* at the opening of the Graeme Clarke Research Institute, Adelaide

*The Nature of Science*, Café Scientifique, Stockton

*What Does it Mean to be Human*, Grey College

*Challenges Facing RE Teachers in the areas of Science & Religion*, RE Teachers Conference, Durham

*Christian approaches to education within the scientific age*, Association of Anglican Secondary School Heads, London

#### Publications & Media:

*Thought for the Day*, BBC Radio 4

*Daily Service*, BBC Radio 4

*Pause for Thought*, BBC Radio 2

*A large number of local and national radio interviews on a variety of subjects, including theology, science and popular culture*

*Ask Jeeves Website Q & A Session* on 'Does God Exist'

*Christian Eschatology and the Physical Universe*, 2010, T&T Clark

*Looking into the past*, 2010. *Quiet Spaces*, 16, 14-20

*The Work of a Friend: Theology in the Light of the Origin of Species*, 2009. *Epworth-Review*, 36, no 2, pp. 45-65.

*Worshipping the Creator God: The Christian Doctrine of Creation*, 2009. In *Darwin, Creation and the Fall*, ed. R.J. Berry and T.A. Noble, Leicester, IVP, p. 15-29.

*Christian Apologetics in a Post-Christian Culture*, 2009. *Catalyst*, 35, No 2, 1-3.

#### Other:

*Bible Studies at ECG Convention*, Llandudno

*Sermon, Ordination service* at Methodist Conference in Liverpool Cathedral

*Sermon*, The Welcome of Revd Dr. Roger Walton as the new Chair of the West Yorkshire District of the Methodist Church

*Sermon*, The Welcome and Licensing service for Revd Dr. David Bryan, the Director of Studies at Lindsfarne, Kingston Park

*Debate* with Sir Arnold Wolfendale on Science and the Existence of God, Durham Cathedral

|                                     |       |    |
|-------------------------------------|-------|----|
| Faculty of Arts                     | 1     | 9  |
|                                     | 11.1  | 29 |
|                                     | 11.2  | 1  |
|                                     | 111   | 0  |
| Faculty of Science                  | 1     | 4  |
|                                     | 11.1  | 12 |
|                                     | 11.2  | 3  |
|                                     | 111   | 3  |
| Faculty of Social Sciences          | 1     | 6  |
|                                     | 11.1  | 17 |
|                                     | 11.2  | 3  |
|                                     | 111   | 1  |
| MA                                  |       | 34 |
| MSc                                 |       | 6  |
| MSc (Research)                      |       | 1  |
| PGCE                                |       | 4  |
| PhD                                 |       | 14 |
| BA (Hons) Theology & Ministry       | 1     | 1  |
|                                     | 11.1  | 7  |
|                                     | 11.2  | 2  |
|                                     | 111   | 1  |
| Diploma in Theology & Ministry      | Dist. | 1  |
|                                     | Merit | 4  |
| Cert in Theology & Ministry         | Dist. | 1  |
|                                     | Pass  | 2  |
| MA in Theology & Ministry (2009-10) | Dist. | 2  |
|                                     | Pass  | 12 |
| PG Certificate                      | Pass  | 6  |

The November release date of the MATM results mean that we are not able to publish them in the College Record. Instead, this year we publish the results from last year. Distinctions in the MATM in 2009-10 were awarded to Benjamin Carter and Simon Springett.

Undergraduate First Class Honours Degrees were awarded this year to:

- ♦ Rory Botros, *Classics*
- ♦ Tessa Dagley, *History*
- ♦ Emma Grimwood, *English Literature*
- ♦ Joanna Heath, *Music*
- ♦ Sean Illing, *History*
- ♦ Edward Moore, *Music*
- ♦ Lisa Paul, *English Literature*
- ♦ Ranjit Saimbi, *English Literature*
- ♦ Edward Watts, *Music*
- ♦ Jonathan Berry, *Natural Sciences*
- ♦ David Mentlak, *Biology*
- ♦ David Munroe, *Environmental Geoscience*
- ♦ Lucy Pearson, *Natural Sciences*
- ♦ May Millburn-Fryer, *Sport*
- ♦ Golnaz Whittaker, *Education Studies with Philosophy*
- ♦ Kristina Wooddin, *Economics*
- ♦ William Deadman, *Archaeology*
- ♦ Christopher Elson, *Law*
- ♦ Kai Leung, *Law*

Lucy Pearson was awarded a distinction in Spoken German and Rory Botros received both the Forster Prize and the Maltby Prize from the department of Classics. Elaine Thomas received First Class Honours in her BA Theology and Ministry.



The next reunion will take place on the **15th September 2012** and will mark the **five-year anniversary** of the graduation of the **class of 2007**. Do get in touch with the Alumni Office if you would like to come; particularly if you think we might not have your up-to-date address details; every year some are unfortunately missed from the invite list because we don't know they've moved!

## FIVE YEARS ON REUNION

RACHEL THWAITES (NÉE JAMES)

**Years** go, I read a blog entry entitled 'Who needs a college reunion? I've got facebook.' I remember feeling genuinely sorry for the writer, before responding to his question with an unequivocal: 'I do.' He should have gone to Johns!

Returning to Durham, under familiar grey skies threatening to break, was somewhat surreal. Five years had passed incredibly quickly and, in many ways Johns was as we left it. Brunch tasted as good as ever, and was followed by a riverside walk. I have always loved Durham in the autumn. The colours reflecting in the River Wear were interrupted only by the keen oar of a rowing boat as we retraced our early morning lecture steps. The reunion officially kicked off with a spot of Linton Lawn cricket. The bar was open and the BBQ sizzling. Bliss.

Girls vs Boys netball passed uneventfully [edit by Spud: the girls were whooped 7 – 1 in an epic display (by the men!) of lightning speed, incredible skill and smooth teamwork] and the afternoon drifted by as if it was one of those dreamy post-exam Durham days. The evening events began in our beautiful chapel, where David Wilkinson led us in a short service of

thanksgiving, inviting us to speak out the things we were grateful for about Johns: 'Community', 'Friendships', 'John's Spirit', 'Opportunities for growth and learning'. These sentiments summarise my four years at Johns perfectly, and going back was like returning home.

It was wonderful to see Stephen Sykes, Our Principal, The Bish, at the start of the formal and to share precious memories with him and Joy, who will be celebrating their 50th Wedding anniversary later this year.

Smiling, as they always do, the catering staff served us an amazing meal, and we were joined by many special guests, including our Senior Tutor, Stephen Hampton. During coffee, David Wilkinson outlined some of the ways in which the College is being developed and modernised for future generations of Johnians. His wit and humour was much appreciated, and provided the perfect introduction for our president Roddy, whose (last minute) speech held us all; amused and reminiscing. After dinner entertainment involved watching several fresher's videos, chatting together, laughing and enjoying the student prices in the bar into the early hours.

We might have facebook, but after a wonderful weekend walking the hallowed cobbles, I'm glad we also had the reunion. Here's to the next one...



# EVENTS IN COLLEGE



## MICHAELMAS TERM 2011

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### Tuesday 13th December

College Christmas Carol Service

**7.00pm** Durham Cathedral

### Wednesday 14th December

Christmas Drinks Reception for Parents/  
Guardians of current students

**12.30pm** Linton Room

## EPIPHANY TERM 2012

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### Thursday 12th – Friday 13th January

Cranmer Hall Reunion

### Thursday 12th – Friday 13th January

Winter Congregations

Durham Cathedral

### Friday 27th January

SCR Burns' Night formal

**7.00pm** Leech Hall

### Thursday 9th February

IAS Lecture: Professor Ann Banfield

**7.30pm** Leech Hall

### Tuesday 6th March

Service for Lent

**7.00pm** Durham Cathedral

### Wednesday 7th March

Annual Michael Vasey Lecture:

Revd Mark Earey

**7.30pm** Leech Hall

## EASTER TERM 2012

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### May

Ian Cundy Memorial Lecture:

Leech Hall

### Late June

Johns' Day

### Tuesday 26th – 29th June

Summer Congregations

Durham Cathedral

### Saturday 15th September

Five Years On Reunion

For the class of 2007 and others

Haughton Dining Room

For any more information or to reserve a place at any of these events,  
please contact the Alumni and Development Office on the details below:

The Alumni and Development Office,  
St. John's College, 3 South Bailey, Durham DH1 3RJ. Tel: 0191 334 3862

[www.durham.ac.uk/st-johns.college](http://www.durham.ac.uk/st-johns.college)