



## Somerville College Chapel

Contemplation and Musical Events



Michaelmas Term 2019

**Community**

## Contemplation

### Sundays at 5:30pm in the Chapel

*Somerville Chapel is a non-denominational and inclusive space hosting events for members of Oxford University and the general public. Every Sunday evening during term we welcome a guest speaker who gives a short talk accompanied by readings and music from the Somerville College Choir. All our events are secular in character and anyone is very welcome to attend.*

1st Week, Sunday 13th October

**Dr Brian McMahon** (Somerville College)

“There's No Such Thing As Society (?)”

2nd Week, Sunday 20th October

**Margaret Thatcher Scholarship Trust Event**

3rd Week, Sunday 27th October

**Rev Sarah Jones** (Canon of Llandaff Cathedral)

“Communi-(LGB)T”

4th Week, Sunday 3rd November

**Rev Rose Hudson Wilkin** (Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons)

“*Watch your lips, watch your lips what they say.* Ensuring that the Words we Speak are an Effect for Good in our Community.”

5th Week, Sunday 10th November

**Remembrance Sunday**

6th Week, Sunday 17th November

**Dr Andrew Gant** (St Peter's College)

“The Effect and Importance of Singing Together”

7th Week, Sunday 24th November

Staff and Volunteers of **The Gatehouse** Oxford Homelessness Charity

“Homelessness and Community-Building”

8th Week, Sunday 1st December

**Advent Carol Concert**

## A Brief History

When Somerville opened its doors in 1879 it was founded as a 'non-denominational' institution, meaning there would be no religious tests for admission. Non-denominational Christian prayers were said informally in College from the outset, and from 1912 in the Dining Hall. In 1935 the chapel was opened, following a generous donation from a former student, Emily Georgiana Kemp. Kemp was an adventurer, writer and artist, and came from a wealthy Baptist family. Through her extensive travels she had developed an interest in the world's religions and a wide, inclusive vision of Christianity. It was her intention that the Chapel, although ostensibly a Christian place of worship, would be a welcoming space for members of all religious and secular traditions. The Greek inscription above the main door may be translated as “A House of Prayer for All Peoples” - a verse from the Book of Isaiah, which is also referred to by Jesus in Matthew's Gospel. In keeping with its non-denominational tradition, the College does not have a chaplain, but a 'Chapel Director,' who, along with the Organ Scholars, Choral Scholars and Director of Music, arranges events and services throughout the year designed to reflect Somerville's own characteristically broad range of religious tastes and perspectives.

## Choral Contemplation

In recent years we have moved away from using the Chapel solely as a place for worship and re-modelled it as a space for visiting scholars, commentators and faith leaders to share reflections on a range of social, political, theological, historical and philosophical subjects. Each term a selection of speakers present on a common topic on Sunday evenings as detailed in this termcard. The topic of these talks varies from term to term and where possible we try to include a wide range of religious and non-religious perspectives. After the talk and accompanying music the speaker will usually join us for dinner in hall, which presents an opportunity for follow-up questions and discussions – do consider staying for dinner and taking part in the conversation. Choral Contemplation is also open to members of other colleges and to the general public.

## Booking the Chapel

The Chapel is available to students for use during term, and can be booked for private music practice or for other purposes. To book the Chapel, visit [www.some.ox.ac.uk/living-here/the-chapel](http://www.some.ox.ac.uk/living-here/the-chapel) and follow the instructions.

Chapel Director: Brian McMahon

Director of Music: Will Dawes

Organ Scholars: Joseph Lord, Melissa Chang

Contact E-mail: [chapel.office@some.ox.ac.uk](mailto:chapel.office@some.ox.ac.uk)

## Other Events in Michaelmas Term

*In addition to Contemplation, this term the following events are taking place. All are open to the public and the great majority are free of charge:*

- **Daily Quiet Time**, each morning from 9:00-9:30am the Chapel will be open for quiet prayer and / or reflection.
- **Roman Catholic Mass**. At 4:00pm on Monday of 4th Week (4th November) one of the University's Catholic chaplains will visit the college to say mass. All are welcome to attend.
- **Mindfulness Meditation**. Every Wednesday evening during term, beginning on Wednesday of 1st Week, there will be 45 minutes of mindfulness in the Chapel led by Zen Master Dr Barbara Gabrys and Somerville Research Fellow Dr Boris Motik. Sessions will begin at 6pm. There is no charge and no commitment – feel free to drop in now and then. For further information e-mail chapel.office@some.ox.ac.uk
- **Public Speaking Workshop**. Open to undergraduate and graduate students at Somerville or any other Oxford College. Professional public speaking coach Charlie Howitt will lead a two hour workshop (2-4pm) on Wednesday 6th November. Places are limited – to book, e-mail chapel.office@some.ox.ac.uk
- **Alumni Carol Concert**. 7pm on Thursday 5th December. Open to current and former members of the College. Please contact the Development Office if you would like to attend.
- **Somerville Music Society Recitals** will take place at 6pm before Guest Nights on Tuesdays and Fridays throughout term. The major instrumental concert will be on Tuesday 3rd December and will feature the Somerville College Orchestra. All welcome!
- **Choir Concert**. The choir will be singing a concert in Charlbury on Sunday 8th December in Charlbury Memorial Hall at 3pm.
- Finally, advance notice that the choir's biennial performance of the **Bach John Passion** will take place on Wednesday 11th March 2020, accompanied by The Instruments of Time and Truth. Do make a note of the date, as the event invariably sells out and is well worth attending. Tickets will be available at the beginning of Hilary Term.

## Speakers

### **Dr Brian McMahon**

Brian is the Chapel Director at Somerville and a lecturer in the English Department at Oxford Brookes University.

### **The Margaret Thatcher Scholarship Trust**

Named for one of Somerville's most notable alumni, this trust supports students by offering workshops and advice on how best to approach their degrees. Second Week's Contemplation features contributions from members of the junior and senior common rooms at Somerville discussing how their research intersects with the term's theme of 'Community'.

### **Rev Sarah Jones**

Rev Jones is an Anglican priest and is Priest-in-Charge of The City Parish of St John The Baptist, Cardiff. She was previously Rector of Ross-on-Wye, Walford and Brampton Abbots in the Diocese of Hereford and was the first person to have made a gender change and then to be recommended for training for ordination by the Church of England. She was recently appointed a Canon of Llandaff Cathedral.

### **Rev Rose Hudson Wilkin**

Rev Hudson Wilkin is Priest-in-Charge of St Mary-at-Hill, City of London, Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, priest vicar at Westminster Abbey and Chaplain to the Queen. On 28 June 2019 it was announced that she is to become Bishop of Dover.

### **Dr Andrew Gant**

Dr Gant is Stipendiary Lecturer in Music at St Peter's College, Oxford and author of *O Sing Unto the Lord: A History of English Church Music*. His career as a musician has included singing tenor professionally with a wide range of vocal ensembles, composition, and conducting. He was Organist, Choirmaster and Composer at Her Majesty's Chapel Royal for 13 years to 2013, directing the music at many state locations.

### **The Gatehouse**

The Gatehouse has been operating as a local drop in café for Oxford City homeless and the vulnerably housed for thirty years. The aims of the charity are: "To relieve poverty and hardship among homeless and needy people in or near the City of Oxford and, in particular, by the provision of a drop-in centre." In Seventh Week's Contemplation, members of staff and volunteers will lead a discussion about the importance of community, which involves and includes people without a place to call home.

## Somerville College Choir

The Choir of Somerville College is one of the finest mixed-voice choirs in Oxford. It is led by the Director of Chapel Music, Will Dawes, assisted by the Organ Scholars, and plays a central role in College life. The Choir sings for the Sunday evening Contemplation in the college chapel during term, gives regular concerts organised by Somerville Music Society and the Development Office, makes recordings, and tours, notably visiting India in December last year, and becoming the first choir from Oxford University to visit that country. They will visit Hong Kong and Singapore in the Summer of 2020.

Recent recordings have included the Duruflé *Requiem* with internationally acclaimed soloists and a disc for Advent. The choir performs the *St John Passion* (J. S. Bach) in March every other year, and will next perform this in 2020. The Choir's membership comprises Choral Scholars from Somerville, and Choral Exhibitioners (as well as other auditioned singers) from the University community, and several Organ Scholars. Singers interested in joining the Choir should contact Will Dawes to arrange an audition: [william.dawes@some.ox.ac.uk](mailto:william.dawes@some.ox.ac.uk)

### Music List for Michaelmas Term

#### **1st Week, Sunday 13th October**

Thomas Weelkes: *To shorten winter's sadness*

Hannah Loach: *Listen sweet dove* (Somerville alumna)

Charles Wood: *Hail, gladdening light*

#### **2nd Week, Sunday 20th October**

George Dyson: *To music*

Antonio Lotti: *Crucifixus*

Sarah Quartel: *Sing my child*

#### **3rd Week, Sunday 27th October**

Benjamin Britten: *Hymn of St Columba*

Dominique Phinot: *O sacrum convivium*

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor: *Summer is gone*

#### **4th Week, Sunday 3rd November**

Janet Wheeler: *Beati quorum via*

Charles Villiers Stanford: *For lo, I raise up*

Thomas Tallis: *O nata lux*

#### **5th Week, Sunday 10th November**

William Byrd: *Iustorum animae*

Eleanor Joanne Daley: *Do not stand at my grave*

John Ireland: *Greater love*

#### **6th Week, Sunday 17th November**

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry: *Psalm 84*

Caroline Shaw: *...and the swallow*

Johannes Brahms: *Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen*

#### **7th Week, Sunday 24th November**

Herbert Norman Howells: *Hymn to St Cecilia*

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry: *Crossing the bar*

Joseph Twist: *Jubilate Deo*

#### **8th Week, Sunday 1st December**

##### Carols for All

*God Rest ye Merry, Gentlemen*

*See Amid the Winter's Snow*

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

*Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

##### Music from the Choir

William Mathias: *A babe is born*

Joanna Ward: *There is no rose*

Orlande de Lassus: *Ommes de saba*

Vytautas Miškinis: *Dum medium silentium*

arr. Stephen Cleobury: *The Joys of Mary*