



# SOMERVILLE

## COLLEGE

### **Commemoration Service**

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022

2:30 pm

**Before the service, the Organ Scholar plays:**

Healey Willan: *Prelude on St. Columba.*

J.S. Bach: *Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn BWV 630a*

Edward J Hopkins: *Andante Tranquillo*

Healey Willan: *Prelude on 'Eventide'*

Rheinberger: *Andante from Organ Sonata 1 in C minor Op. 27*

**Introduction:** Monty Sharma, Chapel Director

**Welcome:** Baroness Royall of Blaisdon, The Principal

**Reflection**

*Read by the Principal*

Let us reflect on the values, history and benefactors that have shaped our College.

Somerville was founded on a promise to offer opportunities for those women who had been denied them. Let us hope that our College, and our University, will continue unswervingly to honour that promise by striving to give opportunities to students of all backgrounds, and of all faiths and none, who would excel and flourish here.

Tolerance, charity and respect are at the heart of what it means to be a Somervillian. Above the doors of our chapel reads the phrase 'a house of prayer for all peoples'; let us wish that this building, and this college, is always a space of reflection, safety, and creativity for all who pass through our doors. And let us hope that courage and generosity remain always at the forefront of our deeds.

Somerville's existence is the product of the pioneering vision and courage of our founders. The persistent determination of these women and men to advance the higher education of women created this place of learning and empowerment. We remember and thank them now: John Percival, Rachel Vernon Harcourt, Mary Ward, Henry Pelham, Thomas Hill Green, George Kitchin, and John Magrath.

When this college was founded, there were just twelve students living in a single building and attending lectures in a room above a baker's shop. Through the support of our benefactors, Somerville grew rapidly to take its rightful place among the colleges of Oxford, making a powerful case for women's education. The continuing generosity of our benefactors has allowed us to further expand

our efforts to honour our educational purpose, support our students, and give opportunities to those who have been denied them to realise their talent and academic potential. You may find a full list of benefactors at the end of the order of service, the most recent being Catherine Hughes, Christina Roaf, Elsie Brazell, Ruth Thompson, Jane Abdy, Robert Lloyd, Margaret Stewart, Gillian Falconer, Sheila Porter and Elizabeth Goulding.

We also thank those who wisely governed the college or taught within its walls for their dedication and service. You may find a full list of these individuals at the end of the order of service, the most recent being Fiona Caldicott, Anna Morpurgo Davies, Christina Roaf, Miriam Griffin, Jane Kister and Jane Hands.

Finally, we reflect on all those Somervillians who have died. We take inspiration from their lives and their achievements, and we offer our condolences to those who mourn their loss. These women have been the life blood of this College. May they now rest in peace, but they will live on in the memory and history of Somerville.

*Please say together:*

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*Please stand.*

**Hymn:** *Lord of all Hopefulness*

Lord of all hopefulness,  
Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever child-like,  
No cares could destroy,  
Be there at our waking,  
And give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,  
At the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled  
At the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labours,  
And give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,  
At the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome,  
Your arms to embrace,  
Be there at our homing,  
And give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord,  
At the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment,  
Whose presence is balm,  
Be there at our sleeping,  
And give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,  
At the end of the day.

Words: Jan Struther (1901 – 1953)

Music: SLANE, Traditional Irish Melody, harmonised Erik Routley (1917 – 1982)

*Please be seated.*

**Reading:** *When Great Trees Fall*, Maya Angelou (1928 – 2014)

Read by Dr. Benjamin Thompson, SCR President

When great trees fall,  
rocks on distant hills shudder,  
lions hunker down  
in tall grasses,  
and even elephants  
lumber after safety.  
When great trees fall  
in forests,  
small things recoil into silence,  
their senses  
eroded beyond fear.  
When great souls die,  
the air around us becomes  
light, rare, sterile.  
We breathe, briefly.  
Our eyes, briefly,  
see with  
a hurtful clarity.  
Our memory, suddenly sharpened,  
examines,  
gnaws on kind words  
unsaid,  
promised walks  
never taken.  
Great souls die and  
our reality, bound to  
them, takes leave of us.  
Our souls,  
dependent upon their  
nurture,  
now shrink, wizened.  
Our minds, formed  
and informed by their  
radiance, fall away.  
We are not so much maddened

as reduced to the unutterable ignorance of  
dark, cold  
caves.

And when great souls die,  
after a period peace blooms,  
slowly and always  
irregularly. Spaces fill  
with a kind of  
soothing electric vibration.  
Our senses, restored, never  
to be the same, whisper to us.  
They existed. They existed.  
We can be. Be and be  
better. For they existed.

**Choir:** *Bring us, O Lord God*, William Harris (1883 – 1973)

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening  
into the house and gate of heaven,  
to enter into that gate and dwell in that house,  
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling,  
but one equal light;  
no noise nor silence, but one equal music;  
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;  
no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity;  
in the habitations of thy glory and dominion,  
world without end. Amen.

John Donne (1572 – 1631)

**Address:** Gill Bennett (History, 1969), Former Chief Historian, Foreign Office

**Choir:** *Rest*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)

O Earth lie heavily upon her eyes;  
seal her sweet eyes weary of watching, Earth.  
Lie close around her,  
leave no room for mirth with its harsh laughter,  
nor for sound of sighs.  
She hath no questions, she hath no replies,  
hushed in and curtained with a blessed dearth

of all that irked her from her hour of birth;  
with stillness that is almost Paradise.  
Darkness more clear than noon-day holdeth her,  
silence more musical than any song;  
even her very heart hath ceased to stir;  
until the morning of Eternity her rest shall not begin nor end,  
but be, and when she wakes she will not think it long.

Christina Rossetti (1830 – 1894)

### Commemorative Prayer

Read by Dr. Nermeen Varawalla, President of the Somerville Association

We are gathered together at Somerville today to remember and give thanks for those members of our college community who have recently died, after lives of determination, love, and service. Their names are:

Elizabeth Roberta Cameron (**'Elspeth' Barker**) (1958) née Langlands on 21 April 2022 Aged 81 Mod. Langs.

Patricia Jean **Beesley** née Mears (1945) on 31 December 2021 Aged 94 Mod. Langs.

Lalage Jean **Bown** (1945) on 17 December 2021 Aged 94 History

Sarah **Broadie** née Waterlow (1960; Hon. Fellow 2005) on 10 August 2021 Aged 79 Lit. Hum.

Barbara **Britton** née Marshall (1953) on 4 September 2021 Aged 87 English

Susan Elspeth **Chitty** née Hopkinson (1947) on 13 July 2021 Aged 91 History

Celia **Clout** (1951) on 21 April 2020 Aged 87 English

Lesley Frances **Coggins** née Watson (1962) on 5 April 2022 Aged 78 Zoology

Bridget Ann **Davies** (1950) on 28 April 2022 Aged 91 Physiology

Rhiannon **Davies** (1961) on 9 March 2022 Aged 79 Music & Mod. Langs.

Jane Mary **Day** née Osborn (1959) on 24 June 2021 Aged 81 Lit. Hum.

Mary Evelyn **Dixon** née Barnett (1949) in about January 2022 Aged 90 English

Virginia **Fassnidge** née Cole (1958) on 12 April 2021 Aged 81 Mod. Langs.

Harriet **Fishman** née Levine (1961) on 2 July 2021 Aged 78 English

Elizabeth **Fortescue Hitchens** née Baldwin (1946) on 28 November (1946) Aged 94 History

Marigold Diana **Freeman-Attwood** née Philips (1941) on 23 May 2021 Aged 98 English

Anne Elizabeth **Fuller** née Havens (1953) on 22 May 2021 Aged 89 English

Francisca Anna **Garvie** (1961) on 10 August 2021 Aged 78 Mod. Langs.

Jane Cicely **Gibbs** née Eyre (1954) on 27 June 2021 Aged 85 History

Ann Natalie **Hansen** (1959) on the 28 February 2019 Aged 91 B.Litt. (History)

Carol **Holmes** née Bentz (1967) on 15 June 2021 Aged 77 D.Phil. Philosophy

Patricia May **Ibbotson** (1944) on 24 November 2021 Aged 95 Mod. Langs.

Catherine Elizabeth **King** (1973–75 Mary Ewart JRF) on 1 January 2022 Aged 86

Cecily **Littleton** née Darwin (1945) in April 2022 Aged 95 Chemistry

Barbara Cordelia (**Cordy**) **McNeil** née Collins (1962) on 18 April 2022 Aged 77 History

Gillian Vallance **Mackie** née Faulkner (1949) on 17 September 2021 Aged 90 Zoology

Jane- Kerin **Moffat** (1949) on 10 December 2021 Aged 90 PPE

Lynden Margaret **Moore** (1954) on 4 January 2022 Aged 86 PPE

Marian Joyce **Nelson** (1960) on 4 January 2022 Aged 81 Lit. Hum.

Susan **Partridge** (College Secretary 1978–1992) on 3 August 2021 Aged 89

Daphne Claire **Perry** (1952) in 2021 Aged about 88 Maths

Juliet Christina **Quicke** née Ricketts (1955) on 25 July 2019 Aged 82 English

Dora Louise **Rose** née Birch (1951) on 19 January 2020 Aged 87 Maths

Gillian **Saunders** née Gaisford (1951) on 15 September 2021 Aged 89 Mod. Langs.

Linda Anne **Shampan** (1968) on 21 April 2022 Aged 72 Chemistry

Claire Janet **Tomlinson** née Lucas (1963) on 12 January 2022 Aged 77 Agricultural & Forest Sciences

Lucia **Turner** née Glanville (1951) on 11 April 2022 Aged 89 English

Jean Elizabeth **Velecky** née Stanier (1941) on 6 March 2022 Aged 99 Physiology

Elizabeth Joan Spencer **Vice** née Wright (1948) on 11 March 2022 Aged 91 English

Enid Ray **Wason** née Lancaster (1947) on 22 October 2021 Aged 93 English

Marilyn Dorothy **Woodside** née Wright (1960) in 2021 Aged 79 Lit. Hum.

We hope they may rest in peace.

Their example reminds us that we all are privileged to be members of this Somerville community. Like those who went before us, we, who have benefited so much from our education here, have a duty to work to share those benefits with others and with the wider world. Let us resolve together to uphold this most Somervillian of values and, in doing so, honour their lives.

*Please stand.*

**Hymn:** *Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer*

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
Hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven  
Feed me till I want no more.  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through:  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer  
Be thou still my strength and shield.  
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side:  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee.  
I will ever give to thee.

Words: William Williams (1717 – 1791), trans. Peter Williams and William Williams  
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes (1873 – 1932)

*Please remain standing, and say together:*

**May the Lord meet in mercy all who seek him,  
and comfort those who suffer and mourn;  
and may the Lord give his people,  
of every land and of every tongue,  
the blessing of peace. Amen.**

**Organ Voluntary:** *C Minor prelude BWV 546*, John Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)

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*Everyone is warmly invited to tea in the Mary Somerville Room.*

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**Our benefactors:** Eleanor Smith, Helen Taylor, Amelia Edwards, William Bousfield, Mary Ewart, Rosalind Countess of Carlisle, Constance Ann Lee, Sarah Smithson, Rosa Hovey, Margaret Irene Seymour, Emily Kemp, Winifred Holtby, Emily Geldart, William Morris Viscount Nuffield, Katherine Woolley, Leonard Woolley, Alice Horsman, Beatrice Lewis, Angela Bull, Edith Haynes, Rose Graham, Elizabeth Robinson, Catherine Fulford, Winifred Cobbe, Mary Snow, Monica Britton, Alan Hodge, Emmeline Nanson, Marjorie Brett, Amy Bull, Marjorie Ball, Kathleen Bigland Walker, Kathleen Stahl, Myra Verney, Wilhelmina Hogan, Gwendolen Mary Boyd, Miriam Violet Lovelock, Marie Bentivoglio Baldeschi, Flora Anderson, Elma Mitchell, Clara Read, Margaret England, Gillian Brown, Anne Whiteman, Janet Seligman, William Messenger, Una Cormack, Daphne Osborne, Ursula Everest, Mervyn Jones, Dorothy Jean Dawson, Carys Bannister, Mary de Zouche, Patricia Norman, Celia Clarke, Margaret Arthur, Catherine Hughes, Christina Roaf, Elsie Brazell, Ruth Thompson, Jane Abdy, Robert Lloyd, Margaret Stewart., Gillian Falconer, Sheila Porter and Elizabeth Goulding.

**Those who have governed the College or taught within its walls:** Madeline Shaw Lefevre, Agnes Maitland, Emily Penrose, Margery Fry, Helen Darbishire, Janet Vaughan, Barbara Craig, Daphne Park, Catherine Hughes, Fiona Caldicott; Charles Heberden, Herbert Fisher, Gilbert Murray, Edwin Craig; Edward Caird, Charlotte Green, Arthur Sidgewick, William Geldart, Marcus Tod, Alexander Lindsay; Clara Pater, Eleanor Grace Powell, Mildred Pope, Alice Bruce, Jane Willis Kirkaldy, Hilda Lorimer, Vera Farnell, Beatrice Stonesdale, Maude Clarke, Charlotte Young, Agneta Beauchamp, Enid Starkie, Isobel Henderson, Anne Cobbe, Rosemary Woolf, Lucy Sutherland, May McKisack, Ruth Garstang, Wilma Crowther, Lotte Labowsky, Evangeline de Villiers, Dorothy Hodgkin, Margaret Hall, Jennifer Loach, Mary Lascelles, Mildred Taylor, Norma Dalrymple-Champneys, Rosemary Syfret, Elizabeth Anscombe, Mary Proudfoot, Elizabeth Armstrong, Nancy Waugh, James Logue, Agatha Ramm, Nan Dunbar, Anne de Moor, Joan Turville-Petre, Eva Richards, Philippa Ruth Foot, Rachel Jean Banister, Louise Johnson, Olive Sayce, James Higgenbotham, Nina Byers, Anna Morpurgo Davies, Christina Roaf, Miriam Griffin, Jane Kister and Jane Hands.

## **SOMERVILLE COLLEGE CHAPEL**

When Somerville opened its doors in 1879 it was founded to be 'undenominational.' In other words, while other Oxford colleges generally aligned themselves with Anglicanism or Catholicism, Somerville chose to have no affiliation to any particular church.

In 1935 the Chapel was opened, following a generous donation from 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 desire that the Chapel, although dedicated to God, would be a place where members of all nationalities and religions could meet, pray and discuss philosophic and theological themes. The inscription on the outside of the Chapel in Greek translates as 'A House of Prayer for all People.' This is a verse from the Book of Isaiah, which is referred to by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, and Kemp selected it personally to reflect her vision for the building.

True to its foundation, and in keeping with the college's liberal and inclusive tradition, the Chapel today hosts visiting speakers with a range of religious perspectives. Those who have spoken here in recent years include Rabbis, authors, politicians, Christian bishops, Daoist thinkers, atheist philosophers and many others besides. The main college event each week is the Sunday evening 'Choral Contemplation' in which a guest speaker reflects on some aspect of faith or belief. These talks are accompanied by music from the college choir and organ scholar, and are unique to Somerville.

The stained glass window by Reginald Bell presents a landscape symbolizing the gateway to the knowledge of life. The figure of Christ is joined by two female figures, who are depicted wearing chasubles and stoles, and who represent Truth (left, holding a lamp) and Learning (right, holding a mirror). Whilst the Chapel has always been an ecumenical space, Emily Kemp saw the figure of Jesus as important to people of all faiths and none, albeit only the Christians regard him as divine. For her there was no contradiction between installing an overtly Christian image in a building such as this and intending the building to be used by a wide variety of believers and those who do not profess religious faith.

Under the stained glass window is a Theorama – ten panels which represent the nine major religions as well as humanism.

**Organ Scholar:** Luca Morgante

**Director of Chapel Music:** Will Dawes

**Chapel Director:** Monty Sharma | [chapel.office@some.ox.ac.uk](mailto:chapel.office@some.ox.ac.uk)