



**SOMERVILLE**  
COLLEGE

# Commemoration Service



Saturday 8th June 2024  
2:30 PM

*Before the service, Alfred Kelsey (2023, Music, Organ Scholar) will perform:*

*Prelude on an Old Folk Tune – Amy Beach (1867–1944)*

*Canonnade – Claude Balbastre (1724–1799)*

*Fugue sur le Cromorne – Louis Couperin (1626–1661)*

*Prelude and Fugue in E minor (BWV 533) – J.S. Bach (1685–1750)*

*Prelude autre livre – Louis Couperin (1626–1661)*

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***Please stand with the choir to sing the opening hymn.***

### **Congregational Hymn**

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 kindness, 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.

Jan Struther (1901-1953)

SLANE

Trad. Irish

Harmonised by Erik Routley (1917-1982)

### **Welcome and Reflection**

Baroness Jan Royall, Principal

Let us reflect on the people and the values that have shaped our College. Somerville was founded on a promise to offer opportunities to those women who had been denied them. Let us hope that our College, and our University, will continue 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 people’; let us wish that this building, and this college, is always a space of safety, creativity and reflection 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 result of the pioneering vision of our founders. The implacable 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 Kitchen, and John Magrath.

When this college was founded in 1879, 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 place among the colleges of Oxford and state a powerful case for women in education, academia, and this University. The generosity of our supporters has allowed us to continue to expand our efforts to honour our educational purpose, support our students, and create opportunities for 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 Christian Carritt, Cathy King, Mary Low, Hilary Nightingale, Olga Olver, Rachel Sykes and Joyce Reynolds.

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.

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 rest in peace, and live on in the memory and history of Somerville.

***Please remain seated as we say together the Lord's Prayer:***

**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.

## Reading

‘Remember’

Christina Rossetti

Read by Margaret Jay, Baroness Jay of Paddington (1958, PPE)

Remember me when I am gone away,  
Gone far away into the silent land;  
When you can no more hold me by the hand,  
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.  
Remember me when no more day by day  
You tell me of our future that you plann'd:  
Only remember me; you understand  
It will be late to counsel then or pray.  
Yet if you should forget me for a while  
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:  
For if the darkness and corruption leave  
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,  
Better by far you should forget and smile  
Than that you should remember and be sad.

## **Anthem**

Music, when soft voices die,  
Vibrates in the memory—  
Odours, when sweet violets sicken,  
Live within the sense they quicken.

Rose leaves, when the rose is dead,  
Are heaped for the beloved's bed;  
And so thy thoughts, when thou art gone,  
Love itself shall slumber on.

Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792–1822)

Charles Wood (1866–1926)

## **Address**

Dr Jackie Watson (1986, English)  
Alumni Relations Officer

## **Anthem**

Peace, my heart, let the time for the parting be sweet.  
Let it not be a death but completeness.  
Let love melt into memory and pain into songs.  
Let the flight through the sky end  
in the folding of the wings over the nest.  
Let the last touch of your hands be gentle  
like the flower of the night.  
Stand still, O Beautiful End,  
for a moment, and say your last words in silence.  
I bow to you and hold up my lamp  
to light you on your way.

Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941)  
(translated from Bengali)

From *Requiem*  
Gabriel Jackson (b.1962)

## **The Act of Commemoration**

Dr Nermeen Varawalla, (1989, Clinical Medicine)

President of the Somerville Association

We are gathered together 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:

Valentine Harriet Isobel Dione **Arnold-Forster** née Mitchison (1948) on 27 May 2023 Aged 92 Jurisprudence

Katherine Margaret (Katy) **Barratt** (1970) on 20 August 2023 Aged 70 Mathematics

Margaret Shepherd **Barrett** née Bacon (1946) on 1 June 2023 Aged 95 Medicine

Julia Mary Ursula (Jo) **Barstow** née Dunn (1955) on 9 April 2024 Aged 87 Modern Languages

Susan Elizabeth **Bevan** (1960) on 8 January 2024 Aged 81 Politics, Philosophy and Economics

Pauline Mary **Blackman** née Taylor (1956) on 5 February 2024 Aged 86 Mathematics

Jill Elizabeth Sebert **Brock** née Lewis (1956) Medicine

Barbara Scott **Cairns** (1951) on 8 November 2023 Aged 90 Mathematics

Christian Agnes Kirkwood **Carritt** (1946) on 5 July 2023 Aged 96 Physiological Sciences

Nora Catharine **Cleaver** née Marsden (1948) on 13 March 2023 Aged 93 Modern Languages

Elizabeth Frances Mary (Liz) **Cooke** née Greenwood (1964) on 17 August 2023 Aged 78 History

Margery Patricia Mary (Patricia) **Drinkall** née Ellis (1949) on 8 January 2023 Aged 93 Modern Languages

Margaret Claire (Maggie) **Eisner** (1965) on 19 May 2023 Aged 75 Psychology, Philosophy and Physiology

Dorothy Mary **Evans** née White (1963) on 27 June 2023 Aged 77 Mathematics

Melanie Jane **Florence** (1981) on 18 September 2023 Aged 60 BA and MPhil Modern Languages

Linden Kuen-Chuan **Foo** (1960) on 18 March 2022 Aged 80 Physiological Sciences

Jean Mary **Forshaw** née Carpenter (1948) on 27 March 2024 Aged 94 History  
Penelope Margaret **Gaine** née Dornan (1959) on 25 February 2024 Aged 84  
English Language and Literature  
Elizabeth Ann (Ann) **Gray** (1953) on 13 October 2023 Aged 89 English  
Language and Literature  
Jennifer Mary (Jenny) **Gregson** née Hope Simpson (1957) on 15 March 2023  
Aged 84 Mathematics  
Sylvia Nancy **Gyde** née Clayton (1954) on 23 April 2024 Aged 87 Physiological  
Sciences  
Joan **Hampshire** (1947) on 22 December 2023 Aged 94 English Language and  
Literature  
Rosemary **Hobsbaum** née Phillips (1955) on 29 June 2023 Aged 86 English  
Language and Literature  
Cynthia Mabel **Howard** (1951) on 30 September 2023 Aged 91 Modern  
Languages  
Sarah Caroline Le Messurier (Sally) **Humphreys** née Hinchliff (1953) on 26  
February 2024 Aged 89 Literae Humaniores  
Helen Elizabeth **Jones** (1969) on 17 December 2022 Aged 71 Modern  
Languages and History  
Martha **Klein** née Bein (1980) on 9 March 2024 Aged 82 BPhil Philosophy  
Ruth **Lister** (1944) on 27 August 2023 Aged 97 Medicine  
Helen **Mawson** née Fuller (1957) on 19 June 2023 Aged 85 Literae  
Humaniores  
Elizabeth Kathleen (Lizzie) **McLean** née Hunter (1950) on 4 August 2023  
Aged 91 Physiological Sciences  
Hilary Marion Olwen **Nightingale** née Jones (1948) on 23 January 2022 Aged  
91 English Language and Literature  
Joan Emilie (Joey/Joanie) **Philpott** née Hockett (1943) on 11 Nov 2022 Aged 97  
English Language and Literature  
Ann Mary Alice **Raynes** (1951) in 2022 Aged 90 Politics, Philosophy and  
Economics  
Vivienne June Cassandra **Rees** née Farey (1951) on 4 February 2024 Aged 92  
History  
Cynthea **Rhodes** née Woffenden (1956) on 13 September 2023 Aged 86  
Modern Languages  
Jane Hippisley **Robinson** née Packham (1959) in 2024 Aged 81 Chemistry  
Constanza **Romanelli** (1948) on 25 May 2023 Aged 94 Literae Humaniores



Helen Mary **Sackett** née Phillips (1948) on 28 March 2023 Aged 93 Physics  
Ann Acheson **Schlee** née Cumming (1952) on 1 November 2023 Aged 89  
English Language and Literature  
Patricia Molly (Molly) **Scopes** née Bryant (1954) on 31 December 2023 Aged  
88 Chemistry  
Caroline **Seebohm** (1958) on 22 July 2023 Aged 82 Jurisprudence  
Jane Margaret **Sik** née Woodland (1965) in Dec 2023 Aged 77 Physics  
Sandra Pauline **Skemp** née Burns (1957) on 24 January 2024 Aged 85  
Jurisprudence  
Susan **Stokes** née Bretherton (1952) on 6 January 2024 Aged 89 Modern  
Languages  
Rachel Sheila Cooper **Sykes** (1943) on 2 Oct 2023 Aged 99 English Language  
and Literature  
Urszula Stefania **Szulakowska** (1970) on 21 July 2023 Aged 72 History  
Phyllis Margaret Treitel née Cook (1948) on 1 May 2024 Aged 94 PPE  
Hazel Claire **Thomas** (1973) on 29 December 2023 Aged 69 History  
Diana Mary **Welding** née Panting (1949) on 20 October 2023 Aged 92 Modern  
Languages  
Elizabeth Mally (Mally) **Yates** née Shaw (1949) on 25 June 2023 Aged 92  
Mathematics

We hope they may rest in peace.

Their example reminds us that we 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 as they did, and, in doing so, honour their lives.

Let us 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.**

*Please stand.*

## **Congregational Hymn**

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.

William Williams (1717-1791)  
Trans. Peter Williams and William  
Williams

CWM RHONDDA  
John Hughes (1872-1932)

## **Organ Voluntary**

*Prelude in F major – Fanny Hensel (1805-1847)*

***Everyone is warmly invited to join us for tea in  
the Flora Anderson Hall after the service.***

**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, Margaret Elliot, Jane-Kerin Moffat, Christian Carritt, Cathy King, Mary Low, Hilary Nightingale, Olga Olver, Rachel Sykes, Joyce Reynolds..

**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, Jane Hands, Adrianne Tooke, Katherine Duncan-Jones, and April Carter.



## About Somerville Chapel

Welcome to our Chapel. Somerville was founded in 1879 as both the joint-first women's college at Oxford and the first college to be 'undenominational' – that is, unaffiliated to any particular church. This far-sighted decision allowed women of all faiths and none to be able to study at Oxford.

Accordingly, Somerville was never meant to have a Chapel – so how did it get here? In 1932, the adventurer, author, artist and former Somerville student Emily Georgiana Kemp came forward with a proposal. Inspired by her encounters with different faiths and philosophies during her travels in the east, she wanted to fund the creation of a unique college Chapel. Although dedicated to God, it would be 'A House of Prayer For All People' (a statement now inscribed above the front door) where those of different nationalities, faiths and perspectives could gather to pray, reflect, and discuss matters of philosophy, religion and spirituality.

The resulting building opened in 1935. It reflects a traditional Oxford chapel in its collegiate layout and its stained glass east window by Reginald Bell, depicting Christ at the gateway to the knowledge of life. Look around more closely however, and you might notice a few differences: our Theorama under the window (representing the 9 major world religions and humanism), the grand piano that stands in place of an altar, or the prayer mats in the corner for anyone in need of them.

As the decades have passed, we have embraced more and more the Chapel's multi-faith role. In 2001, we founded a choir and inaugurated a series what has come to be called Choral Contemplations, Somerville's unique multi-faith reimagining of Oxford's Sunday evening Choral Evensong tradition. We pair talks on faith or philosophy by speakers from a diverse range of backgrounds and perspectives with beautiful music. **You are warmly welcome to join us every Sunday in term-time at 5.30 PM.**