



SOMERVILLE
COLLEGE

Commemoration Service



Saturday 14th June 2025
2:30 PM

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

Erbarm' dich mein, o Herre Gott, BWV 721 – *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*
Canzon quarti toni dopo il post Comune, F 12.33 – *Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583–1643)*

Attende Domine (from 12 Chorale Preludes on Gregorian Chant Themes, Op. 8) – *Jeanne Demessieux (1921–1968)*

Andante (from Six Easy Voluntaries, 2nd set) – *Kate Loder (1825–1904)*

Tierce en taille (from Suite du deuxième Ton) – *Jean-Adam Guilain (c.1680–1739)*

Herzliebster Jesu (No. 2 from 11 Chorale Preludes, Op. 122) – *Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)*

Rhosymedre (No. 2 from 3 Preludes Founded on Welsh Hymn Tunes) – *Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)*

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 Kitchin, 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 Constance Craven, Feroze Duggan, Trevor Hughes, Hazel Thomas, Diana Welding, and Katherine Duncan-Jones.

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, and this year we think especially of Catherine Peters and Barbara Everett, who both taught English at Somerville.

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

'Death, Be Not Proud'

John Donne

**Read by Professor Lorna Hutson (1976, English),
Merton Professor of English Literature**

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;
For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.
From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,
Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,
And soonest our best men with thee do go,
Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.
Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men,
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,
And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well
And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?
One short sleep past, we wake eternally
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.

Anthem

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.

Music: William Harris (1883–1973) Words: John Donne (1572–1631)

Address

Dr Luke Pitcher,
Fellow and Tutor in Classics

Anthem

Laß dich nur nichts nicht dauren mit Trauren,
sei stille! Wie Gott es fügt, so sei vergnügt mein Wille.
Was willst du heute sorgen auf morgen?
Der Eine steht allem für, der gibt auch dir das Deine.
Sei nur in allem Handel ohn Wandel,
steh feste! Was Gott beschleußt, das ist und heißt das Beste. Amen.

*Let nothing afflict you with grief; be calm!
As God ordains, so may my will be content.
Why worry today about tomorrow?
The One is in charge, who gives also to you what is yours.
In all your doings be steadfast; stand firm!
What God decrees is, and is acknowledged, the best. Amen*

Music: Geistliches lied – Words: Paul Fleming (1609–1640)
Johannes Brahms: (1833–1897)

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:

Barbara Maud **Everett** on 4 April 2025, aged 92: Senior Research Fellow in English

Catherine Lisette **Peters** on 12 January 2025, aged 94: Lecturer in English

Patricia Elizabeth **Allison** née Johnston (1958) on 27 February 2025, aged 94: History

Shirley Mary **Beck** née Clayton (1950) on 19 December 2024, aged 92: Physics

Chloe Marya **Blackburn** née Gunn (1950) on 26 June 2024, aged 93: History

Sylvia Mary **Blundell** née Lee (1951) on 4 November 2024, aged 91: Mathematics

Hannelore (Hanna) **Broodbank** née Altmann (1943) on 18 July 2024, aged 100: Modern Languages

Mary Alison **Caniato** née Kershaw (1946) on 29 May 2024, aged 95: English

Penelope Jane (Penny) **Chapman** (1970) on 16 October 2024, aged 64: History

Marieke Cambridge Faber **Clarke** (1959) on 20 February 2025, aged 84: History

Linda Joan **Crawford** née Robertshaw (1967) on 22 February 2025, aged 75: Physics

Emma Rose (Rosie) **De Falbe** (1974) on 13 December 2024, aged 69: Modern Languages

Victoria Jane **Gibson** (1976) on 1 December 2024, aged 67: English

Ann Dunbar **Glennerster** née Craine on 18 December 2024, aged 90: PPE

Janet **Glover** née Hebb (1954) on 10 March 2024, aged 88: Literae
Humaniores

Pauline May **Harrison** née Cowan (1944) on 28 May 2024, aged 99:
Chemistry

Sophy Ann **Hoare** née Haslam (1965) on 22 January 2024, aged 76: Modern
Languages

Jacqueline Briony **Houlder** née Hibbert (1971) on 12 April 2024, aged 71:
Geography

Jane Mary **Hunt** née Williams (1966) on 13 June 2024, aged 75: Jurisprudence

Josephine Mary (Mary) **Jones** née Tyrer (1965) on 13 January 2025, aged 77:
Mathematics

Teresa Jane **Kay** née Dyer (1947) on 10 June 2024, aged 98: English

Jane **Khin Zaw** (1956) on 10 July 2024, aged 87: PPE

Virginia Kirwan **Lindley** née Dickinson (1970): English

Helen Clare (Clare) **Mackney** (1975) on 4 July 2024, aged 67: Geography

Christine Louise **Maclean** (1942) on 21 March 2024, aged 100: English

Clare **Mainprice** (1974): English

Margaret Wendy (Wendy) **Marks** née Frazer (1951) on 5 September 2024,
aged 91: Geography

Jose Agnes (Jo) **Murphy** née Cummins (1950) on 6 December 2024, aged 92:
Chemistry

Jennifer Mary **Newman** née Hugh-Jones (1950) on 7 February 2025, aged 93:
Zoology

Marianna **Oliver** née Egar (1943) on 27 January 2023, aged 98: Modern
Languages

Judith Burgoyne **Rattenbury** (1958) on 18 May 2024, aged 84: Physics

Irene **Ridge** née Haydock (1961) on 5 February 2025, aged 82: Botany

Lidia Dina **Sciama** (1970) on 31 May 2024, aged 92: Anthropology

Diana Elizabeth **Senior** (1962) on 20 March 2024, aged 80: English

Denise Melbourne **Street** née Fraser (1961) on 14 March 2024, aged 80:
Biochemistry

Marie Elizabeth **Sturridge** née Thomas (1950) on 28 December 2024, aged
93: Modern Languages

Pamela Jean (Kim) **Taplin** née Stampfer (1962) on 29 March 2024, aged 80:
English

Virginia **Tsouderos** (1942) on 11 June 2018, aged 93: PPE

Dorothy **Turk** née Armitage (1947) on 16 November 2024, aged 94:
Geography

Barbara Joyce **Turpin** née Edwards (1946) on 11 December 2024, aged 96:
Physiology

Janet Isabel **Watts** (1963) on 17 July 2024, aged 79: English

Carolyn Margaret **White** (1970) on 8 March 2025, aged 81: Diploma in Social
Administration

Margaret Stella **Willis** née Andrews (1940) on 24 November 2024, aged 102:
Modern Languages

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, Constance Craven, Feroze Duggan, Trevor Hughes, Hazel Thomas, Diana Welding, Katherine Duncan-Jones, Hazel Thomas, Lalage Bown, Cynthea Rhodes, Jill Brock, Ruth Lister, Helen Mawson, Ann Gray, Cynthia Howard, John Wells, Nancy Waugh, Ann Schlee, and Jean Velecky.

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, April Carter, Catherine Peters, and Barbara Everett.



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 of 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.**