



SOMERVILLE
COLLEGE

Commemoration Service



Saturday 13th June 2026

2:30 PM

Before the service, William Morrison (2025, Physics) will perform:

Ich ruf zu dir BWV 639 – J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

O Welt, ich muss dich lassen Op. 122 No. 11 – J. Brahms (1833–1897)

Largo from Trio Sonata 5 BWV 529 – J. S. Bach

Symphony no. 2 : IV. Urlicht – G. Mahler (1860–1911), arr. Roelfsema

Adagio from Toccata, Adagio, and Fugue BWV 564 – J. S. Bach

Please remain seated

Anthem: Twilight

Dreamily over the roofs
The cold spring rain is falling,
Out in the lonely tree
A bird is calling, calling.

Slowly over the earth
The wings of night are falling;
My heart like the bird in the tree
Is calling, calling, calling.

Music: Lucy Walker (b. 1998)

Words: Sara Teasdale (1884–1933)

Welcome and Reflection
Catherine Royle (PPE, 1981)
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 list of benefactors at the end of the order of service, the most recent being Gillian Hayward, Christine Maclean, Sandra Malvern, Corinne Petford, Phyllis Treitel, and Daphne Williamson,

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 Dale Dorsey, Hazel Fox, Barbara Harvey, and Carole Jordan.

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. They have been the life blood of this College. May they rest in peace, and live on in the memory and history of Somerville.

Let us 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 with the choir to sing

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.

Music: SLANE

Words: Jan Struther (1901-1953)

Trad. Irish

Harmonised by Erik Routley (1917-1982)

Please be seated

Reading

'Farewell, My Friends'

Rabindranath Tagore

Read by Anne Cowan (Modern Languages, 1976)

Farewell my friends
It was beautiful
As long as it lasted
The journey of my life.
I have no regrets
Whatsoever said
The pain I'll leave behind.
Those dear hearts
Who love and care...
And the strings pulling
At the heart and soul...
The strong arms
That held me up
When my own strength
Let me down.
At the turning of my life
I came across
Good friends,
Friends who stood by me
Even when time raced me by.
Farewell, farewell My friends
I smile and
Bid you goodbye.

No, shed no tears
For I need them not
All I need is your smile.
If you feel sad
Do think of me
For that's what I'll like
When you live in the hearts
Of those you love
Remember then
You never die.

Anthem: Hail, Gladdening Light

Hail, gladdening light, of his pure glory poured
Who is the immortal Father, heavenly, blest,
Holiest of holies, Jesu Christ, our Lord.

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,
The lights of evening round us shine,
We hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Divine.

Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung
With undefiled tongue,
Son of our God, giver of life alone!
Therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own.

Music: Charles Wood (1866–1926)

Words: John Keble (1792–1866)

Address

Dr Jackie Watson (English, 1986),
Alumni Relations

Anthem: Crossing the Bar

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar
When I put out to sea,
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.
Twilight and evening bell,

And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell
When I embark;
For though from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

Music: Hubert Parry (1848–1914)

Words: Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809–1892)

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:

Averil **Cameron** née Sutton (1958) on 7 April 2026, aged 86. Literae Humaniores. Honorary Fellow.

Dale **Dorsey** on 13 April 2026, aged 50. Fellow in Modern Philosophy.

Hazel Mary **Fox** née Stuart (1946) on 12 July 2025, aged 96.

Jurisprudence. Honorary Fellow and tutor in Law.

Barbara Fitzgerald **Harvey** (1946) on 12 August 2025, aged 97. Fellow in History.

Carole **Jordan** on 3 February 2026, aged 84. Fellow in Physics.

Franklyn Kimmel (Frank) **Prochaska** on 15 February 2026, aged 85. Senior Research Fellow.

Chitra Kamini **Agrell** née Wickremsinghe (1964) on 8 February 2026, aged 85. Anthropology.

Gina May Vere **Alexander** née Pirani (1953) on 9 January 2026, aged 91. History.

Corinna Mary **Balfour** (1964) on 9 July 2025, aged 79. PPE.

Helen Rachel **Bennett** (1967) on 18 March 2026, aged 76. PPP.

Aylwin Patricia (Patricia) **Chancellor** née Humphrys (1949) on 17 October 2025, aged 95. Botany.

Elizabeth Ann (Pippa) **Cookson** née Hobday (1954) in October 2024, aged 87. Chemistry.

Shirley **Cordeaux Wilde** née Legge (1952) on 19 March 2026, aged 92. Modern Languages.

Rowena **Courtney** née Walton (1950) on 21 January 2026, aged 92. Mathematics.

Heather Ann **Dobson** née Williams (1963) on 26 June 2025, aged 80. Modern Languages.

Jill **Donnelly** née Challener (1967) on 9 February 2025, aged 76. Physiological Sciences.

Pamela June (Pam) **Drewett** née Evans (1947) on 28 August 2025, aged 96. English.

Louis **Fletcher** (2009) on 19 December 2025, aged 35. English.

Judith Mary **Gardner** née Adams (1958). Modern Languages.

Laura Agnes **Gascoigne** née Warner (1969) on 18 October 2025, aged 75. Literae Humaniores.

Judith Mary **Goldfinch** née Oldham (1964) on 19 April 2025, aged 79. Mathematics.

Rachel Isabel **Griffiths** née Cullen (1967) on 24 December 2025, aged 72. English, and MSc in Applied Social Science.

Diana Marjorie **Handford** (1961) on 4 November 2025, aged 83. History.

Gillian Margaret (Gill) **Hayward** née Todd (1950) on 28 March 2025, aged 94. Mathematics.

Isabel Margaret **Heaman** née Garner (1952) on 27 April 2026, aged 91. Modern Languages.

Helen Felicity (Felicity) **Hindson** née Lambert (1953) on 13 March 2026, aged 91. History.

Jane Mary **Howarth** (1966) on 18 February 2026. DPhil Philosophy.

Nerys **Hucker** (1990) on 18 February 2026. Physics.

Sandra **Malvern** née Strachan (1969) on 9 January 2026. Physics.

Elizabeth Jessie **Maslen** née Thomas (1957) on 29 September 2025. Dip. Comparative Philology.

Minnie **McMillan** (1960) on 28 January 2026, aged 84. Chemistry.

Helen Josephine (Josephine) **Millar** née Hamilton (1945) on 27 July 2025, aged 98. Modern Languages.

Richenda **Milton-Daws** née Milton-Thompson (1975) on 4 July 2025, aged 68. English.

Okpyo **Moon** (1975) on 27 November 2025, aged 75. DPhil Social and Cultural Anthropology.

Judith May **Morris** née Sharp (1965) on 23 September 2025, aged 78. Mathematics.

Pamela Ahilya **Noone** née Nehaul (1959) on 2 January 2026, aged 85. PPP.

Elspeth Anne **Orrom** née Oliver (1949) on 30 March 2025, aged 93. Mathematics.

Eleanor Jane **Pearce** née Hartwell (1973) on 4 December 2025, aged 71. Mathematics.

Helen Ruth Katherine **Peters** (1972) on 8 January 2026, aged 83. DPhil English.

Corinne Louise **Petford** née Chamber (1951) on 8 June 2025, aged 93.
Physics.

Margaret Mackay **Porter** née Wallace (1951) on 4 January 2026, aged 92.
English.

Priscilla Leslie (Cilla) **Price** née Pantin (1964) on 4 October 2025, aged 80.
Physiological Sciences.

Bethany Anne **Smith** (2019) on 30 July 2025, aged 24. Biology.

Katherine Elizabeth **Snape** née Faulkener (1970) in July 2025, aged 76.
MLitt Turkish Studies, BLitt Oriental Studies

Margaret (Rita) **Sullivan** née Rivera (1951) on 22 November 2025, aged 93.
History.

Sarah **Tillotson** (1957) on 17 November 2025, aged 86. Biochemistry,
Dip. Public and Social Administration

Jean Constance **Toynbee** née Asquith (1940) on 14 January 2026, aged 105.
Physiological Sciences.

Jennifer Ann (Jenny) **Wiggins** née Walkden (1958) on 28 June 2025, aged 85.
Mathematics.

Daphne **Williamson** née Gloag (1952) on 27 March 2024, aged 91. *Literae Humaniores*.

Tresca **Winteringham** née Davis (1953) on 21 February 2025, aged 90.
Physiological Sciences.

Fiona Margaret **Zeiner** née Milligan (1990) on 25 December 2025, aged 53.
Chemistry.

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 with the choir to sing

Congregational Hymn



I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down
Thy head upon My breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
Stoop down, and drink, and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quench'd, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s Light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise,
And all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my Star, my Sun;
And in that Light of life I’ll walk,
Till trav’ling days are done.

Music: KINGSFOLD

Words: Horatius Bonar (1808–1889)

Trad. English

Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Organ Voluntary played by Alfred Kelsey (Music, 2023)

Toccata (from the Plymouth suite), Percy Whitlock (1903–1946)

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

Our benefactors include:

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, 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, Jean Velecky, Shirley Beck, Margaret Willis, Pauline Harrison, Christine Maclean, Jill Longmate, Dorothy Newton, Neil Butterfield, Sandra Skemp, Sheila Porter, Bridget Davies, Elizabeth McLean, Corinne Petford, Gillian Hayward, Phyllis Treitel, Daphne Williamson, and Sandra Malvern.

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 Sidgwick, 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, Adrienne Tooke, Katherine Duncan-Jones, April Carter, Catherine Peters, Barbara Everett, Barbara Harvey, Hazel Fox and Carole Jordan.



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.**