



40 YEARS *of* CHRIST'S WOMEN 1978-2018



CHRIST'S COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Pieces

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welcome

FROM THE MASTER



Welcome to this issue of *Pieces*.

In the year we celebrate the anniversary of the admission of women students to the College, it has been a great privilege to play a part in some of the celebratory events. In January the students (male and female) were invited to an Inspirational

Women's Dinner in College, to which they were asked to bring a female guest who had been an important inspiration to them, such as a lecturer or a teacher. I was struck by the fact that our male students insisted that they too should celebrate the impact women have had on them in terms of helping them fulfil their potential.

For me, too, the display in Hall of portraits of representations of Lady Margaret, and in particular the stunning submissions by our current students, has served as a constant reminder of the evolution of the College, and I hope you enjoyed reading about the thought-process and creativity behind the display in the last edition of *Pieces*. In this edition, you can hear from some of the very first women to come to Christ's, both as students and as a Fellow, as well as a wonderful new initiative by two of our students to promote music by female composers in a traditionally male-dominated world. We also have an interview with Annabel McLauchlan Rooney (m. 1991) whose CD of music recorded by the College Choir has just been launched.

The culmination of our year of activity in College is our Celebration event on 6 July, and I am looking forward enormously to meeting many more of the women of Christ's.

Professor Jane Stapleton

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Professor David Klenerman (Fellow) was knighted in the New Year's Honours for Services to Science and for the Development of High Speed DNA Sequencing Technology. He is best known for his contribution in the field of next-generation sequencing of DNA, which subsequently resulted in Solexa, a high-speed DNA sequencing company that he co-founded. Professor Klenerman said: "I feel very humbled to be recognised in this way."



ROWING TO VICTORY

On Sunday 7th April, Christ's students Pippa Whittaker (m. 2018, Master of Finance) and Tricia Smith (m. 2013, NatSci), were in the winning Cambridge Boat Race crew, beating Oxford by five lengths to seal the third women's Boat Race victory in a row. The overall tally now stands at 44 wins compared to Oxford's 30. Rebecca Dell (m. 2017, Polar Studies) made the Blondie crew who also won, beating Oxford's Osiris by five lengths, and Tom Strudwick (m. 2016, Computer and Information Science) made the Goldie crew who won by a length. Cambridge won the men's race for the second year running and have now won 84 Boat Races, compared with Oxford's 80.

Pictured below left-right Tom Strudwick, Tricia Smith, Pippa Whittaker and Rebecca Dell.



WOMEN IN MATHS RESIDENTIAL

This March, the College co-hosted our annual Women in Maths Residential, which we run with Trinity College. This is a unique event, specifically for female and non-binary state school students who wish to apply to mathematics courses at top universities. The students attended a range of mathematics lectures and classes, including the inspirational 'Why Maths Matters' talk by Dr Robert Hunt, the Senior Tutor. They also participated in taster sessions for subjects that use mathematics – a particularly popular one was Economics, led by our own Dr Julia Shvets (Fellow). Alongside the academic seminars, the students enjoyed a packed social programme, with a dinner in Hall, student-led mathematics games, and a performance from the Cambridge Footlights, who support our outreach residentials.





SPORTS AWARDS CEREMONY

In a ceremony in the Master's Lodge this March, the Senior Tutor presented a number of sports awards to our current students. This year's Award Winners were (back row left to right) Tom Strudwick (m. 2016, Rowing, a Bruce Perry Award), Henry Morley (m. 2015, Sailing, the Richard de la Hoyde Award), James Shemilt (m. 2016, Tennis, the Leslie Quie Award), (second row left to right) Hattie Darling (m. 2015, Hockey, the Garry Owen Award), Ioana Pietroi (m. 2017, Tennis, the Derek Wilson Award), and Liz Ashcroft (m. 2016, Football, the

Wilfred Wooller Award) all pictured here with the Master, Senior Tutor, and Derek Wilson (m. 1985). Unable to be present were Rebecca Dell (m. 2017, Rowing, a Bruce Perry Award), Jack Neill (m. 2016, Gymnastics, the A C Blyth Award), Tricia Smith (m. 2013, Rowing, the W Blyth Award), and Pippa Whittaker (m. 2018, Rowing, a Bruce Perry Award). Thanks to generous support from alumni, we have also been able to provide additional financial support to a large number of students participating in College and University sport.

The gardening team are joining in the celebrations of the Admission of Women, and will be planting a special display border in Second Court this summer. They will use a variety of Marguerites in homage to Lady Margaret Beaufort, and roses (*Rosa gallica* 'Tuscany Superb') to match the Lancaster rose on the Great Gate. We very much look forward to seeing the results!



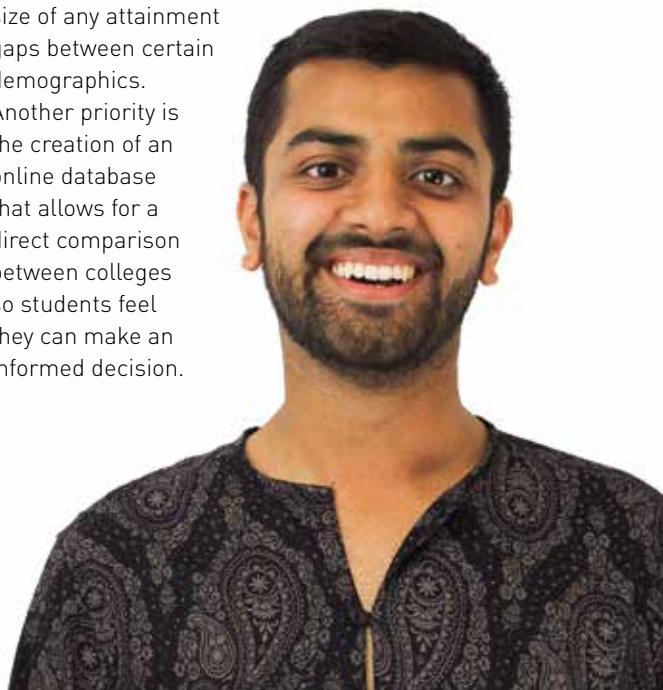
THIS SUMMER, CHRIST'S COLLEGE CHAPEL CHOIR WILL BE UNDERTAKING A THREE-WEEK TOUR TO SINGAPORE AND NEW ZEALAND.

Their main public concert in Singapore is at the Victoria Concert Hall on Wednesday, 3rd July at 7.30pm, followed by a tour of New Zealand including Auckland, Hamilton, Whakatane, Tauranga, Rotorua, Taupo, Napier, Palmerston North, and Wellington. For a full itinerary of concerts and information on how to buy tickets, please see www.christs.cam.ac.uk/concerts-and-tours

If you have any questions regarding this year's tour, drop an email to christschoir@gmail.com



Christ's student **Shadab Ahmed** is spending the 2018–19 academic year as CUSU Access and Funding Officer. He is working to ensure that everyone, regardless of background, feels comfortable and confident in applying to Cambridge. Shadab's top priority this year is increasing the diversity and inclusivity of schemes the university runs. He is also aiming to provide more support to students after they have received their offers, through networking, in an attempt to reduce the size of any attainment gaps between certain demographics. Another priority is the creation of an online database that allows for a direct comparison between colleges so students feel they can make an informed decision.





HARDLY TAXING: CHRIST'S LONDON CIRCUS, OCTOBER 2018

The Christ's London Circus convened again at the end of last year for the latest intimate evening of conversation and discussion amid convivial surrounds at Franco's of Jermyn Street. The gatherings honour the Cambridge version of the Circus, founded by the economist, John Maynard Keynes, so that the great and the good of his day could share thinking and ideas in good company, well fuelled and fed. The Institute of Fiscal Studies' Paul Johnson took a break from the airwaves to join the table as guest of honour. His views on public sector finance and budgets, which are normally shared with news outlets on radio and television, were instead delivered first-hand and in much greater depth. He also enlightened those in attendance about university supervisions shared with Ed Balls, an Oxford contemporary of Johnson's, but not, the latter insisted, a better dancer.

These evenings are now well established, and we are looking forward to celebrating the College's decision to admit women 40 years ago with Professor Mariana Mazzucato as guest of honour on 30th October 2019, reflecting on her latest book *The Value of Everything*, and the eight records she chose for Desert Island Discs.

TWO OF CHRIST'S FELLOWS ARE TO BE HONoured BY HAVING BUILDINGS NAMED AFTER THEM ON THE CAMBRIDGE BIOMEDICAL CAMPUS. The Committee on Benefactions and External and Legal Affairs has approved the naming of the new Project Bellatrix building as the Anne McLaren Building, and the re-naming of the Wellcome-MRC building, as the Keith Peters Building.

Professor **Dame Anne McLaren** (Fellow Commoner), who died in 2007, was a leading authority on mammalian genetics and helped to develop the techniques that led to human fertility treatments. Professor **Sir Keith Peters** (Honorary Fellow) was Regius Professor of Physic from 1987–2005, and was instrumental in the construction of the building itself, in setting up the Cambridge Institute for Medical Research (CIMR), and in negotiating for the MRC Mitochondrial Biology Unit (MRC MBU) to occupy space within the building.



TELEPHONE CAMPAIGN 2019

This year's Telephone Campaign ran from 18th–31st March, with our twelve student callers reaching 460 alumni; to talk about Christ's, and ask for support for the College.

Every year, our callers' main feedback is how much they enjoyed their conversations, and this Campaign was no exception, with stories ranging from the formation of the Hippolytans by our first female students, to the variety of ways alumni snuck into College after hours!

At the end of calling, our total stood at £222,463 raised, which will really make a difference to our Student Support Initiative, and the lives of our students. Thank you to everyone, both our callers and those of you who were contacted, for getting involved.

P.S. There is still time to make a gift by going to our online giving page at www.tiny.cc/TC19 – with donations of £50 and under raising over £2,000 last year as part of the Telephone Campaign, your support really adds up.



Telephone campaign callers 2019.

SPOTLIGHT ON CHRIST'S WOMEN

In the last edition of *Pieces*, Dr Harriet Lyon (Fellow) wrote about the “Hidden Women of Christ’s”. In this article we catch up with some of the women currently working at the College, and hear what it’s like to be no longer hidden.



**EMMA JENKINS,
SENIOR CHEF DE PARTIE**

Emma came to Christ’s in 2008 after completing an apprenticeship at Clare College and working for two and a half years at St John’s College School. Her first impression of Christ’s was that it seemed a really friendly environment to work in, and her instincts were right – Emma has now been with us for 11 years!

She comments, “My day to day tasks involve preparing, cooking, and presenting the cafeteria meals for students, staff and fellows; training up new staff in the kitchen, and helping head chef Tony Marshall develop new dishes and menus. I also enjoy working in the pastry section. Although my working world is male-dominated, I enjoy the daily chats with my fellow team members, and everyone gets on well.

Over the years there has been a shift in student and staff diets, with more and more people turning to vegetarian and vegan dishes, as well as a rise in food intolerances and allergies which need to be accommodated. This presents the kitchen with new challenges when it comes to menu planning, but gives me even more variety in my day to day job”.



**TERESA MCMANUS,
DOMESTIC SUPERVISOR**

Teresa joined Christ’s College in 1991 as a bed maker because her mother was working in the department as well. Things were more flexible back then in regard to bringing children into work, so Teresa brought her children in with her. They had a gyp room where they could play and do colouring, and often the students would come and say hello, which Teresa says really brought some of the students out of their shells. Teresa’s mother left Christ’s in 1998 after working within the University for 40 years. Teresa’s sister worked here between 2004–2009, her daughter worked here for 18 months in 2005, and two of her sisters-in-law have also worked at Christ’s!

After Teresa’s children went to school, she applied to become College Housekeeper, was interviewed by the Bursar at the time, Geoffrey Payne, and got the job. The role has progressed and changed over time and Teresa’s current title is Domestic Supervisor.

Teresa has noticed over time an increase in female students, and where in earlier times the students had to be separated, the move to mixed corridors doesn’t seem to have caused any problems.

Teresa has seen her fair share of messy bedrooms over the years, and some have been so bad the bedmakers haven’t even been able to enter. As she says, “I thought my son was untidy, but his bedroom was pristine in comparison to some student rooms!”



JENNY ALLWOOD, TANIA PAULEY AND KATE MCPHERSON, GARDENERS

Jenny came to Christ's after a traineeship at the University Botanic Gardens. Prior to that she studied Horticulture at the Eden Project in Cornwall. The gardens at Christ's felt the right fit for her, so when a job came up, she applied, and joined the team in October 2018.

Tania studied Horticulture at Manea School of Gardening and completed a gardening traineeship at King's School Ely. Having grown up in Cambridge, the colleges had a natural draw for Tania and she joined Christ's in April 2018.

Kate left a career in the legal sector to join Christ's earlier this year through WRAGS (Work and Re-train as a Gardener Scheme) which was launched in 1993 to offer hands-on, practical horticultural training.

Thinking of the students is a big part of their job – making sure the students have spaces where they can unwind, escape and relax. For example, Third Court has just been re-designed to include grass for students to sit on and a pond to create a calm space. Tania recalls a time last June after the exam results had been published: "A group of students joyfully jumped into the Fellows' pool fully clothed, and I loved hearing their happy screams when they realised how freezing the pool actually was!"

Although traditionally garden services may have been seen as male dominated, Head Gardener Sergio Ballerin's tight-knit team here at Christ's now has three women in a team of six. Tania says "we're just a group of people who love plants; gender doesn't come into it, we're not men or women, just gardeners".



LYDIA ROSETTA, LISA BARNES, AND CLARE SHARP, PORTERS

Lydia joined Christ's as a Relief Porter in Spring 2017 after seeing the job advertised locally. As someone who enjoys working with people, Lydia knew the job would be a perfect fit for her. She also thought it would be a joy to work in such a beautiful setting of historic buildings and stunning gardens. "I wasn't disappointed", she comments.

Lisa first joined Christ's as a bedder in 2010, but moved into portering and is now Night Shift Leader. Clare came to Christ's as a Night Porter in 2017.

The Porters enjoy the diversity of their roles. As with all jobs there are guidelines, methods and routines, but from time to time it might be unique ingenuity on a practical level that is needed to solve a problem. "You never know what a student or college member might pop into the Porters' Lodge to ask for", they say.

There is so much daily variety, for example, last summer the resident mother duck followed by her 9 or 10 ducklings crossed the carefully manicured grass of First Court, then waddled straight out the Great Gate into the traffic and mayhem of St Andrew's Street. "I don't know to this day if they made it or where they ended up!" recalls Lydia.

The Porters say there is a good gender balance of students, academic and other staff around the College, so Porters must reflect this too. Lisa describes how female Porters can bring a different kind of empathy to certain situations which is one reason why they are so important. Traditionally, there are a lot more men than women doing portering work. "It could be because we have stereotypes in mind and see it as a man's job, that women don't think to apply", muses Lydia, "which is a great shame".

TURNING BACK TIME: Reflections from our trailblazing first female students

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO BE ONE OF THE FIRST FEMALE STUDENTS AT CHRIST'S?
WE ASK ALUMNAE TO TAKE A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE ...



JAN BOTTING
(m. 1979, Natural Sciences)

I wanted a mixed college, having been at an all-girls school. I seem to remember a brochure with details of the various colleges, picking all the ones that were taking women, and writing (actual handwritten) letters to the Admissions Tutor at all of these, and deciding whose reply I liked most. That was Kelvin Bowkett.

On arrival at Christ's I ended up on the only closely mixed accommodation, P staircase. It was a whole new world bumping into half-dressed young men in the kitchen (usually Mike Barden). Most of the people I became friendly with in the first year were chaps, including Jim Blomfield, Graham Clapp and Pete Reilly. I also used to hang about a lot with my first boyfriend, also at Christ's, and his group of friends, I suspect in retrospect probably to their irritation.

My school in London was a comprehensive which was not particularly academic. I remember in about the third year telling a careers tutor I wanted to do zoological research; she said, "oh, you mean you want to be a vet's assistant?" I was convinced I was going to be easily as bright as all the other students, and I was apprehensive about getting on with them socially. In fact it was exactly the other way round, I found it easy to get to know people, and really struggled with the academic work.

In the second and third year I made more friendships with other female students, in particular Sheila Hughes, and she and I have been in touch ever since. A few of us have organised a couple of reunions for our year, and are looking forward to a big one in September for 40 years. I find that in spite of not having seen people for years, somehow the shared experience of Christ's gives a real bond that makes it easy to feel close to people again. I would say that is my enduring legacy from the years at College. Also, the mere fact of having been to Cambridge has helped me feel equal socially to anyone I meet; a sort of quiet confidence which I have no doubt has subtly influenced my whole life.



ARABA TAYLOR
(m. 1979, Law)

I chose Christ's because it was my father's College. He matriculated in 1944 and read Medical Sciences. I think some of the Fellows and staff were slightly baffled at the arrival of female students, but they very considerably put us in nests of rooms with other women nearby, and we felt well catered for.

There was a certain solidarity among the female students. In the second year, in particular, I lived in a student house in Warkworth Terrace and have remained extremely close friends with the three other women who also lived there.

I wasn't aware of any rules that were different for men and women, and generally, it was easy to integrate into College life. However, the men could be very censorious, and I did feel I got a double dose of this being Black as well as female. There was a particular period in our third year of male-female hostility. The lines we weren't supposed to cross were invisible, and you didn't find out you had crossed them until you experienced the hostility. Having said this, we did feel equal to the male students, and sometimes superior. I think we generally found them very immature! They could sometimes be dismissive, or they might prey upon us from time to time, but on the whole the atmosphere was positive. The Chapel Choir was particularly welcoming – I think they were genuinely delighted to have a larger pool of altos and sopranos!

As I always wanted to be a barrister, having a Cambridge background has been a great help.

For further memories/ information about the 40th Anniversary year, please go to:
alumni.christs.cam.ac.uk/womens-40th-anniversary



**LUCY ELLIS (née Mann) (m.1979,
Modern and Medieval Languages)**

1979 was an exciting time to join Christ's. Fellows and staff were great, very welcoming. We all admired Mary Redmond enormously, striding about with her wild dark hair and kohl-rimmed eyes. I think she was the main object of the male gaze before we all got there.

There were around 25 of us so we naturally split into smaller friendship groups, we were quite a disparate bunch and spread over many different degree subjects. I found people formed friendships based more on their subjects and interests than their gender. I'd only ever been in a co-ed environment so it was completely normal to me to have male friends. There was a great coming together when women started rowing and the Hippolytans were formed, it was wonderful to be there at the beginning of these new traditions.

I made two great friends in my first year. Marion Harris was another linguist whom I met on my first day. Later in the year I met the woman who was to be my lifelong best friend until her death from cancer in 2008. Jill Morley was clever, beautiful, funny and a fabulous friend. We were bridesmaids to each other and godmothers to each other's children. I also made some friends for life among the women who followed us in later years.

The women were without doubt subjected to a heavy level of scrutiny by the male students, and some suffered because of this, but I found most men were welcoming and easy to get on with. I think the mix of social classes and school backgrounds at Christ's generated an ethos where taking women into the college wasn't such an upheaval as it might have been at other all-male colleges.

My time at Christ's had a hugely positive impact on my life. Without Christ's I would never have learned to row and enjoyed the thrill of taking part in the Bumps. I met my husband and many of my close friends at Christ's and it is wonderful to have shared memories of our days at College.



**BEVERLEY DEAN
(née Morse) (m.1978, Law)**

I knew Christ's had an outstanding academic record and a rich history. I was a huge fan of C P Snow. With my name – Beverley Morse – how could I go anywhere other than Colin Dexter's College?!

I recall feeling a little in awe of the Master – who appeared to be distant and rather disapproving of women at first. However, Sir Hans Kornberg was very encouraging and supportive. I was thrilled to meet the legal colossus, Professor Paul O'Higgins. I will also never forget the kindness of Lord Todd, who helped steady my nerves at graduation and who was clearly delighted that female students were now at Christ's.

I didn't find it easy to integrate in to College life at first. I was a very square peg – qualified barrister, aged 22, female, first intake of female students – in a very round hole – undergraduate young male environment – but in a matter of weeks I really started to feel at home. I became good friends with a fellow lawyer, the late Dr Mary Redmond, and we stayed in touch for many years.

My staircase – E – was full of medics and scientists and they were great. I kept a skeleton in my cupboard (seriously!) for one of the medics while he was away and explained the complexities of the local launderette to a brilliant scientist who was bewildered by it all.

At first I felt out of my depth at Christ's, but very quickly I thrived on the discussions after lectures. We spent far too much time in Belinda's Coffee Shop in Trinity Street picking apart what we'd heard. I went on to study for the Certificate in Criminology at the University of London. I enjoyed a successful career as a Justices' Clerk for big, busy central London courts, culminating in being appointed as the Justices' Clerk for the Cities of London and Westminster.

So much of this is due to the one year I spent at Christ's. I am very proud to be a Christ's graduate.

TAKE

2

FEMALE FELLOWS PAST & PRESENT

Female Fellows were admitted to Christ's in 1979. We hear from Professor Linda Colley who was the first of them, and also from Dr Helena Browne, a current Christ's Fellow on their different experiences.

PROFESSOR LINDA COLLEY

Most of my direct contact with Christ's took place between two phone calls from Jack Plumb, Master of the College from 1978 to 1982. In 1979, I was working in my rooms in Newnham College, where I was a Teaching Fellow, when I got a surprise call from Jack. Christ's was going mixed, he said. Would I be its first female Fellow? Since Jack was my former thesis supervisor and biggest academic patron, this was more a command than a request. But I was also intrigued. My time at Cambridge had been

spent first at Darwin, then Girton, and now at Newnham. I suspected that Virginia Woolf was right: that if you were going to do Oxbridge, then you might as well opt for fine ancient architecture and a good wine cellar.

I was not disappointed on either score. Jack moved me into A6 in the glorious Fellows' Building. The two Fellows he evicted in the process retaliated by taking all the furniture away with them. But once I'd replaced it, this was a wonderfully gracious room in which to live and work. From the windows on one side I could see the Fellows' Garden; from the other windows, I could monitor second court. The wine was nice too. In those days, high table dinners were more regular and ritualized. One of my problems at Newnham had been that most fellows there were married with families. So, the place emptied after 5pm or so, and there were few people to hang out with. Christ's, though, had large numbers of single fellows, and many of the married men seemed to feel no great compulsion in the evenings to return to the domestic hearth. This may have been lamentable, but it meant there were always plenty of people to talk to over dinner.



Linda Colley in 1979.

I still remember some of those conversations now. I remember talking to the great economist James Meade about what it had been like to work with J.M.Keynes. I remember John Whelan, a brilliant astrophysicist who died far too young, taking me into first court to explain the movement of some stars. Most conversations were not at that level, but almost every evening at high table I learned something new. One of the main intellectual justifications for the college system, I have always believed, is that it brings representatives from the different disciplines together in ways that rarely occur in universities organized only through departments.

In one respect, I was extremely lucky. This was long before the Me Too movement. No one at Cambridge appeared to have given any systematic thought to what was likely to happen when a very small number of largely young female Fellows was suddenly introduced into colleges that had previously been machines exclusively for masculine living. Some first-generation female fellows went through unpleasant and unsettling experiences. But not at Christ's, as far as I was concerned. A few Fellows made their scepticism about going mixed evident. Most, though, were friendly and welcoming. Such challenges as I faced were of a different type.

It was easy enough for the other Fellows to remember who I was. But, with no websites available then, learning the names of over fifty chaps was challenging, and I did not always succeed. Then there were the local customs. I had witnessed female aggression at governing bodies at Girton and Newnham. The level of aggression sometimes on view at Christ's governing body in those days was of a different order. I would watch fascinated, feeling like an anthropologist suddenly parachuted into the midst of a strange tribe. Then there was the bathroom. I shared one in A6 with the adjacent (male) Fellow on B staircase, so there was a door on each side. Moreover, since this was a fire

escape route, there was a red sliding panel in each door so it could be opened from the outside. Every time I used the bathroom I knew that, in the event of a fire alarm, streams of young men would pour in from one or other direction. I learned to take rapid baths.

The main challenge though was a structural one, to do with the University at large. At Oxford, most college teaching posts gave one some access to the faculty concerned. But at Cambridge, college and faculty jobs are split. This slowed down female admission to the hierarchy in two ways. Since the faculties were not quick to appoint women, most early female fellows in formerly male colleges were NUTOs (Non-University Teaching Officers) paid for entirely by the college concerned. This naturally restricted their numbers, and sometimes led to resentment. It meant too that ambitious female fellows tended to leave, because there was no career ladder. My second Jack phone call came in 1981. An Assistant Professorship had opened up at Yale, he said. He would push me. Did I want it? So, I looked around my beautiful room, A6, and said "Yes".

As a historian, I look back to my time at Christ's and know myself to have been on the cusp of much broader changes in academic life. Had I been a young female on the academic make ten years earlier, I would never have got the chance to join Christ's. I might well not have got the job at Yale I secured in 1982. Now, of course, bright young women on both sides of the Atlantic, whether students or faculty, expect to be treated equally with bright young men, and they usually are. My generation of academic women though lived through the time of transition. At times, one felt rather like the first waves of troops in 1914: sent over the top into unknown territory without adequate equipment, and without the generals in charge having a clue about the nature of the battle.

But I am very glad to have been given the chance, and to have experienced life at Christ's.

AS A HISTORIAN, I LOOK BACK TO MY TIME AT CHRIST'S AND KNOW MYSELF TO HAVE BEEN ON THE CUSP OF MUCH BROADER CHANGES IN ACADEMIC LIFE. HAD I BEEN A YOUNG FEMALE ON THE ACADEMIC MAKE TEN YEARS EARLIER, I WOULD NEVER HAVE GOT THE CHANCE TO JOIN CHRIST'S. I MIGHT WELL NOT HAVE GOT THE JOB AT YALE I SECURED IN 1982.

The celebrations this year of the 40th anniversary of admission of women to Christ's are a wonderful opportunity to reflect on how much has changed over the 500-year lifespan of the College, and yet, thankfully, how much has remained comfortably the same.



When the first cohort of women was matriculating at Christ's in October 1979, I was doing the same thing at another place – I was one of a small bunch of female students to join Trinity College, Oxford where I spent four very happy years reading Biochemistry. I was then fortunate enough to be offered a PhD studentship in the Cambridge Pathology Department under the supervision of Christ's Emeritus Fellow, Professor Margaret Stanley OBE. Margaret's inspiration and dedicated support of all members of her research group were instrumental in my subsequent research career as a virologist. After my PhD studies on Human Papillomavirus Type 16 (well before there was even a vaccine for cervical cancer), I have pursued my interest in herpes viruses, specifically immune evasion, morphogenesis, and entry into host cells.

ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT BEING A FELLOW AT CHRIST'S IS HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW OUR TALENTED STUDENTS.

Many readers will have fond memories of Margaret as their Director of Studies in Biological Natural Sciences, and as their Tutor. It was therefore a privilege, albeit a daunting one, to take up these roles at Christ's when she retired, where I have been a Fellow since 2009. Joining the Fellowship reminded me in lots of ways of joining the student body back in the day at Oxford; the College was immediately welcoming and friendly, Fellows, staff and students alike provided a mutually supportive environment, and it was lovely once again to be part of a beautiful, ancient establishment with all of its (sometimes

"quirky") traditions. Female Fellows were in a minority in 2009, but it has only taken a decade for this situation to move significantly in a positive direction, and of course we were all delighted to welcome our first female Master, Professor Stapleton, in 2016.

One of the best things about being a Fellow at Christ's is having the opportunity to get to know our talented students (both undergraduates and postgraduates). Indeed there have been so many contexts in which their excellence has come to my attention. Most of my supervision contact is with undergraduates reading Natural Sciences and Medicine. I am always amazed at their astonishing ability to juggle such a heavy timetabled workload with so many extracurricular activities, whether they be music, drama, rowing or rugby! It has been a real pleasure to join some of the Student Societies at their formal dinners – happy memories of the "Mixed Lacrosse", "Mixed Hockey and Netball" and "Mixed Archery" evenings, to name but a few.

Another unexpected job that came with becoming a Fellow was "Senior Treasurer of the Christ's May Ball Committee"; the small teams of students who devote so much of their time and enthusiasm, on top of their academic work, to producing such a wonderful event every two years deserve a special mention – we hope to see you in 2020!

TIM HEYMANN MEMORIAL TRAVEL PRIZE:

An Elective Down Under

Tim Heymann (m.1980) came to Christ's to read Chemical Engineering, but quickly changed to Medical Science, where he flourished; he was described by his Director of Studies, Dr Visvan Navaratnam (Fellow), as a "brilliant student", and someone who played a full part in College life.

Tim Heymann specialised in gastro-enterology and hepatology, proceeding to Consultant Physician positions at Kingston Hospital and at Imperial College. In 2008, he was crucial in founding the Christ's College Medical Alumni Association (CCMAA), wishing to help students develop contacts with successful alumni. It was fitting, then, that following his death in 2016, his family and friends set up an award at Christ's for the best overseas travel project undertaken by a medical student.

The inaugural prize winner was final year Medical student, Alisha Chauhan (m. 2011). Alisha spoke about her elective at the 2018 CCMAA conference, where Tim Heymann's wife, Amanda Rowlatt, and members of the family were present to hear the talk, and to present her with the prize.

HER MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE WAS ATTENDING TO A CHILD WHO HAD FALLEN FROM A 4TH FLOOR FLAT. ALISHA RECALLED HOW SHE FELT SICK AND SCARED BUT WAS AMAZED AT HOW CALM THE TEAM WERE.

Alisha chose Australia as the destination for her elective, where she worked in three very different locations – the New South Wales Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS), Nepean Hospital, and the Blue Mountains Hospital. The latter two locations were both teaching hospitals associated with the University of Sydney, but based one to two hours outside the city. Daily duties were ward rounds and clinic activities with the paediatrics team at both hospitals, and working with the stroke and rehabilitation team at Nepean Hospital.

Alisha's experiences included reviewing patients with the teams, as well as attending family meetings, and specialist services clinics. Time was spent in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Nepean, and in attendance of "high-risk" Caesarean sections, and at one point she witnessed the resuscitation of a neonate. At Nepean, Alisha was able to meet patients who had undergone experimental procedures abroad, such as stem cell transplants to see if this aided recovery from stroke.

In her presentation, Alisha described how time spent with the HEMS taught her a lot about managing acute cases such as stabbings, falls, and road traffic accidents. She was told in advance that she would be assigned to different doctors on different shifts each day, and that this would involve road missions and fixed-wing flights. Every day was different. Alisha saw how HEMS teams resuscitate and stabilise patients. She learned a huge amount about the different forms of anaesthetic and sedation used in order to make patients comfortable and paralysed for transport. Her most memorable experience was attending to a child who had fallen from a 4th Floor flat. Alisha recalled how she felt sick and scared but was amazed at how calm the team were and how efficiently they assessed, managed and transferred the patient.

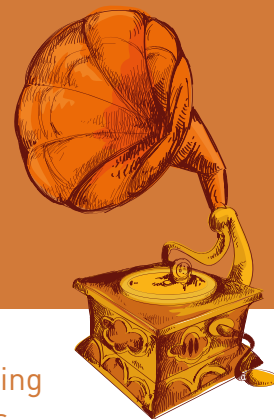
Working in these different settings gave Alisha a valuable insight into the Australian healthcare system and what it would be like to work there. The cost of living in Australia is comparatively high so the prize cheque from the Tim Heymann Memorial fund was gratefully received! Alisha also received funding for her elective through a Bulpitt Scholarship from the British Geriatric Society.



Left to right: Alisha at the Blue Mountains Hospital; Sydney Harbour Bridge; and NSW Ambulance Service uniform.

RECLAIMING MUSICAL HISTORY:

Meet the women asserting their rightful place in modern musicology



Disappointed with the lack of music composed by women being performed at Cambridge, two of our students, Claire Watters (m. 2017) and Laura Dunkling (m. 2015) decided to establish Cambridge's first Female Composers Festival, which ran from January to March this year.

The idea came about after Laura and Claire attended two recitals dedicated to music by female composers, held in Christ's Chapel. They loved the recitals and the breadth of music found at them, but realised this was virtually the only time they would hear or perform music by women in Cambridge. It seemed to them that music by women was still an add-on in concerts they regularly attended; that female composers had been somewhat written out of history, both in terms of performance and academic study, despite there being plenty of very good music written by women. Without female composers being referenced, celebrated, analysed and studied, they thought, how can we expect women to feel that composing is something they can achieve?

"THIS UNDERVALUING OF WOMEN'S WORK HAS HUGE CONSEQUENCES, NOT MERELY ON THE MUSIC WE HEAR AND PERFORM (AND WHICH INFLUENCES OUR COMPOSERS), BUT ON THE FUTURE OF COMPOSITION BY WOMEN AS A WHOLE".

Laura and Claire therefore decided to challenge the status quo, by creating a term's worth of events where Colleges, churches and other

performance venues across the city hosted concerts and recitals wholly given over to female composers. They started a Facebook page and Twitter account, and were overwhelmed by the amount of support and encouragement they received from people around the world wishing to support their venture. The festival comprised a series of recitals, culminating in a flagship orchestral concert in Trinity College chapel on the 8th of March, to mark International Women's Day, as well as a composition competition, and a blog.

"We were delighted to have support for the Festival from Christ's as part of the College's 40th anniversary of the admission of women celebrations. Our hope is that the festival will change music history – both our perception of the past and the shaping of the future, in which we hope women and non-binary people will have, and take up, as many opportunities as men to compose. The aim is to help create a more inclusive musical world where women and minority groups have their voices heard and respected".

The festival has raised more than £1,600 for the Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre.

@camfemcomposers



Claire (third from left) and Laura (fourth from left).

Annabel McLauchlan Rooney (m. 1991) read Music at Christ's before completing a PhD in early Italian opera at the College.



Over the last few years, while living in Exeter with her husband and three children, Annabel has produced a steady stream of compositions which have been performed, and now

recorded, by our Chapel Choir. In advance of the launch of a new College Choir CD featuring her music – *As a Seed Bursts Forth* Professor David Rowland, Director of Music at Christ's since 1984, spoke to Annabel about her journey to becoming a successful composer.

How would you describe yourself?

I'd say I'm a musician! Music is absolutely a central part of my life, and I can't imagine being without it. In fact, I don't think I could really do anything else. But, I do like variety within that. I wouldn't want to be just a composer, or just be playing, I need several strands going.

While you were a student at Cambridge did you do any composing?

As an undergraduate I didn't do much composing beyond the course syllabus. But I preferred the note-writing papers, such as harmony and tonal composition, and chose to take a stylistic composition paper in my third year. As a graduate student I did do some composing alongside the academic work, mainly choral pieces for liturgical use by a small choir with which I sang.

Once you left Cambridge, what did you do? Did music feature?

Music has always featured! I realised after my PhD that I didn't want to pursue an academic career and when I moved to Devon it was the practical side which came to the fore, as a performer (cellist) and teacher. This has been a gradual process, meeting new people and finding opportunities for playing alongside a very busy family life.

What made you start composing and how did it come about?

I remember quite clearly the moment when I decided to start writing in earnest about 7 years ago. I even know exactly where I was! A friend asked for a copy of one of the choral pieces that I had written as a graduate student. It was a bit of a 'light bulb' moment, when I thought 'Why am I not writing any more?' My youngest child was just starting in school, which gave me a bit more time and opportunity to take up composing again.

What sort of music have you composed and what makes you decide what to compose next?

I have composed some instrumental music, mostly for strings, but the majority of my music is choral music. I like working with words and find it helpful (most of the time!) to have something to act as a seed, rather than starting with a blank canvas. On a practical level, I think there is a demand for choral music, particularly in a liturgical context. What to compose next may be motivated by the appeal of a particular text, a specific request, or to address what I perceive to be a 'gap' in my output.

How do you go about choosing the texts?

Finding a good text is hard. I trawl poetry books, the Bible, texts set by other composers etc. When looking at words I usually have a gut reaction – yes I can work with that, or no I can't. It can take longer to find a musical idea if I haven't chosen the words myself.

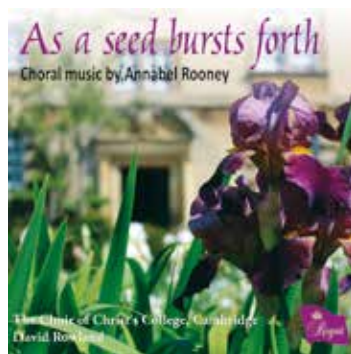
What musical challenges do you face as a composer?

Sometimes the initial idea can be quite elusive. At other times an idea will come quite quickly and then I hit a 'compositional brick wall' about ten bars in! One particular challenge is having a feel for the larger scale, the overall structure, whilst working on the small scale, labouring over a few bars. I am constantly rewinding, hearing the piece through from the beginning, to see if the evolution of the piece feels right. The aim is for a musical flow which feels natural and not contrived, even if it may be underpinned by quite a constructional approach. A more specific challenge when writing for voices is working within their vocal ranges, and the instrumentalist in me is perhaps inclined to push the boundaries at times.

What were the challenges of writing 'This Day, Good Lord' for last year's Commemoration of Benefactors? [The text was translated by Lady Margaret Beaufort, adapted by Professor Peter Cane, Fellow.]

I wanted to write something that would appeal to Peter and to the choir, and that would reflect, in some way, the character of Lady Margaret Beaufort. It was a bit of a challenge because I felt that parts of the text lent themselves more to being spoken than being sung. I asked Peter if it would be okay to set some parts, and not others. Peter said he would leave artistic decisions of that nature to me!

continued ...



Do you follow any particular models when you're composing?

The more I compose the harder it gets! One focus is irregularity, especially in phrase lengths, so that the music does not become too predictable. My musical language is tonal, and will probably

always be so! But it is exciting to try and find ways to create dissonance, logically, within that. A composer whom I greatly admire for this particular skill is Henry Purcell. I am also quite drawn to the modal harmonic language of some twentieth century English composers such as Vaughan Williams and Peter Warlock. I think this imparts a sense of freshness and piquancy within a tonal framework.

Is composing a lengthy process for you? If a piece is 4 or 5 minutes long, how much work does that typically represent?

It is so variable. Some things flow and others don't. Sometimes there's a happy correlation between the amount of effort and the amount people seem to like it, and other times you think 'Oh, well!' *The Magnificat in D* [much liked by the choir and regularly performed at Evensong] took me a long time to write. I spent quite a few weeks on that, flitting in and out of it.

What have been the personal challenges for you as a composer?

Composing is rather solitary, so it is important to me that I am interacting with other musicians, playing and teaching.

Composing requires a lot of self-motivation, and an acceptance of the fact that there is a certain amount of what feels like wasted time. I know that it isn't really wasted, and is all part of the process, but on days when the ideas just won't come, or the previous day's work is entirely rejected, it can feel that way.

The 40th anniversary of women in College has prompted quite a lot of publicity about women composers. Is that something you feel strongly about?

Female composers have been unjustly neglected for a very long time, so I'm really glad that this is now starting to be addressed. I also hope things like the Female Composers Festival will inspire more women. Events like this can hopefully allow the music to speak for itself.

How easy has it been to have your music performed?

In general, I would say it is quite hard for a new composer to get music performed. That being said I have been very fortunate to have had my music performed regularly at Christ's, and elsewhere, and I am very grateful to those people, some not previously known to me, who have found time to look at my music and chosen to perform it.

Do you have any plans for composing in the future?

I have a lovely Eastertide text that I've kept for a while. It is very beautiful but also quite long and I am a little daunted by it, as I know it will be a lengthy operation! Most of my pieces are quite short (I think the current maximum length is about 6 minutes), so I think at some point I should look to writing something longer. I would also like to branch out a bit more beyond choral music, and explore writing for different instruments and combinations.

Stay connected

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2019	22 JUNE Reunion Lunch for matriculation years 2006–2010	29 JUNE College Association Dinner	6 JULY 40 Years of Women at Christ's Celebration	20 JULY 1954 Year Group Reunion	17 AUGUST 10 year Reunion for matriculation year 2009	7 SEPTEMBER Reunion Dinner for those who matriculated up to 1960 and 1969
	21 SEPTEMBER Reunion Dinner for those who matriculated in 2000–2005 (inclusive)	28 SEPTEMBER 40 year Reunion for matriculation year 1979	12 OCTOBER Choir Reunion with Evensong and Dinner	30 OCTOBER Christ's Circus A dinner in London for Economists	10 NOVEMBER Christ's College Fisher Society event. For those who have included a gift to the College in their Will	