



TAKE 2:  
MARSHALL SCHOLARS

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH:  
DR DANIEL FIELD

TELEPHONE CAMPAIGN  
2020 UPDATE



# Pieces

ISSUE 39 • EASTER TERM 2020

# welcome

FROM THE MASTER



## Welcome to this issue of *Pieces*.

In these unprecedented and uncertain times, I have been heartened by the selfless and dedicated response from all members of the College community. It has shown me the importance of a thriving, mutually supportive community such as that of Christ's, where we can

celebrate successes while supporting each other through the most difficult of periods. I hope this edition of *Pieces* brings you some comforting reminder of the extraordinary range of activity of our students, staff, Fellows, and alumni.

This covers subject areas as diverse as Systematic Philosophy, Radiology, fiction writing, nature photography and Biological Sciences, amongst many others. Personally, I was honoured to be appointed as Honorary Queen's Counsel by Her Majesty the Queen.

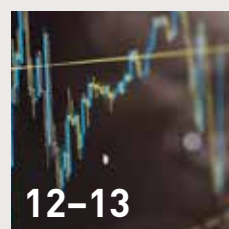
Congratulations also to our alumni Andrew Allen (m. 1989) and Siward Atkins (m. 1989) who were made Queen's Counsel. I was also delighted to see two Christ's alumni – Andrew Bud (m. 1979) and Miles Coverdale (m. 2006) – receive recognition in the New Year Honours.

I hope you enjoy reading the features in this issue, which include a spotlight on the research work of Fellow Dr Daniel Field's Palaeobiology Research Group, an interview with our outgoing and incoming JCR Access Officers, a 'Take Two' with Marshall Scholars past and present, and a look at two alumni who changed careers to become authors.

As always, it is a privilege to be part of a community where we have so much to celebrate and to look forward to once we are through the great challenges of the COVID-19 emergency. Stay safe!

Professor Jane Stapleton

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EDITOR: [publications@christs.cam.ac.uk](mailto:publications@christs.cam.ac.uk)

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Congratulations to **Professor Philip Kitcher** (m.1966, Honorary Fellow) who has been awarded the University of Pittsburgh 2019 Nicholas Rescher Medal for contributions to Systematic Philosophy, presented in Pittsburgh on 7 February 2020. The Nicholas Rescher Medal, awarded biennially, was established in 2010 in honour of a distinguished philosophy professor who taught at the University of Pittsburgh for more than 50 years. Philip Kitcher is the John Dewey Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University and has published extensively on the philosophy of science, the philosophy of biology, the social reception of science and the place of science within democratic society. His work also includes books on naturalistic ethics and philosophical themes in literature and music.

## IN MEMORIAM

Sadly we have lost three much-loved Fellows in recent months: **Professor Sir Hans Kornberg** (former Master), **Professor Archie Campbell** (Engineering), and **Dr Doug Ferguson** (Pharmacology). All of them were known to many generations of students, and had a lasting impact on the College. Full obituaries will be published in the College Magazine.



# news



Continuing the celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of the Admission of Women to Christ's, **Professor Oriana Bandiera** FBA came to give a talk to Christ's Economics students. Oriana is the Sir Anthony Atkinson Professor of Economics and the Director of the Suntory and Toyota International Centre for Economics and Related Disciplines (STICERD) at the London School of Economics.







Congratulations to **Dr Tom Turmezei** (m. 1996) who has been awarded the Royal College of Radiologists 2020 Roentgen Professorship. This is a one year travelling award to visit training centres across the UK, to promote research with radiology trainees.



The annual Charles Blackham Memorial Competition took place on 1 February in the College Chapel. The competition is held at the beginning of each Lent term in memory of the late chair of the Christ's College Music Society, **Charles Blackham** (m. 2007), with the winner receiving a £200 prize donated by Mrs Blackham. Performers were **Andrew Wang** (m. 2018) (piano), **Emily Newlyn** (m. 2017) (voice), **James Tett** (m. 2019) (organ), **Sebastian Gorgon** (m. 2019) (piano), and **Nicholas Edwards** (m. 2018) (organ). After inspiring performances from all participants, the winner was announced as Sebastian Gorgon.

## ANNUAL ART COMPETITION

We are delighted that Christ's is holding an annual art competition open to all members of the College: staff, students and Fellows. The theme of this year's competition is 'Diversity' and is designed to have us all reflect on the wonderful richness of the College community, past and present. The winning entry will be publicly exhibited for a fixed period, and the results will be announced shortly.



Congratulations to **Helen Mort** (m. 2004). Her novel *Black Car Burning* is on the Dylan Thomas Prize longlist for 2020.



*Dr Field's prize-winning photograph 'Mudskipper Battle!'*

Congratulations to **Dr Daniel Field** (Fellow) who was named as a winner of the Royal Society Photography Competition for his images of wildlife.

Congratulations to **Dr Umar Sadat** (m. 2007) who received the Hunterian medal at the 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland. Dr Sadat delivered the 2019 Hunterian lecture on 'Morphological, biomechanical and functional assessment of atherosclerosis with magnetic resonance imaging' and was awarded the medal by the Vice-president of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Professor Cliff Shearman.



*Dr Sadat received the Hunterian medal.*

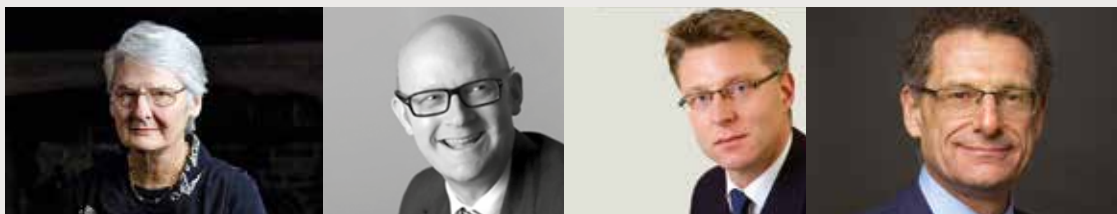
At the recent International Conference on Lasers and Electro Optics held in Orlando, Florida, the Laser Institute of America made eight awards for significant developments in the field of laser material processing, collectively named the William M Steen Awards, in recognition of the pioneering part **Professor Bill Steen** (Hon Fellow, m. 1954) played in developing this area of engineering with optical energy. These awards will be made annually.



*Professor Steen with some of the 2019 winners.*

## APPOINTMENTS FOR CHRIST'S ALUMNI AND FELLOWS

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT MANY CHRIST'S MEMBERS HAVE BEEN RECOGNISED BY HM THE QUEEN OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS.



*Left to right: Professor Jane Stapleton, Andrew Allen, Siward Atkins, and Andrew Bud.*

Her Majesty appointed the Master, **Professor Jane Stapleton**, an Honorary Queen's Counsel (QC *Honoris Causa*). Honorary QCs are awarded by Royal Prerogative to recognise those in the legal profession who, outside of the courtroom, have made a major contribution to, and impact on, the law of England and Wales and how it is advanced. The Lord Chancellor presided over the appointment ceremony at Westminster Hall in March, where the title of QC was formally bestowed upon the Master and other new QCs.

Congratulations also go to **Andrew Allen** (m. 1989) and **Siward Atkins** (m. 1989) who have both been appointed as Queen's Counsel.

Congratulations to **Andrew Bud** (m. 1979) and **Miles Coverdale** (m. 2006), who have been appointed CBE and OBE respectively in the New Year Honours. Andrew was recognised for services to export and Miles for public service.

Congratulations to **Dr Ted Abel** (m. 1985) who has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine. This is considered one of the highest honours in the fields of health and medicine and recognises individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement. You can read more about Ted on pages 12–13 where he talks about being a Marshall Scholar at Christ's.



On 22 January **Professor Margaret Stanley** (Honorary Fellow) presented to the UK All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Population, Development and Reproductive Health in the House of Lords. She spoke on 'Cervical Cancer Prevention: current progress in the UK' as part of Cervical Cancer Prevention Week, and alongside initiatives from the from the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (EPF).



*Celebration of Dr Navaratnam and Professor Rayner's anniversary of admission to the Fellowship.*

The 50th anniversary of the admission to the Fellowship of **Dr Visvanathan Navaratnam** and **Professor Peter Rayner** was celebrated in College on 17 January. Both Dr Navaratnam (L) and Professor Rayner (R) are pictured with the Master, **Professor Jane Stapleton**.

Congratulations to **Dr Olivier Biner** (Fellow) who recently won the Litz-Zwillenberg Prize from the University of Bern. This prize honours up to three outstanding PhD theses or postdoc publications in the field of biological sciences.



*Dr Biner (R) receiving the Litz-Zwillenberg Prize.*



## A STUDENT-EYE VIEW:

# Access initiatives at College and University level

Every year, the JCR elects an Access Officer, who works closely with the Admissions and Access Department, to make Christ's as welcoming and accessible as possible for students from under-represented backgrounds. The Access Officer coordinates the vast number of student volunteers who help show prospective applicants around the College at Open Days and summer schools, so that everyone, regardless of background, has an equal opportunity to apply to Christ's.



*Olivia (left) and Esme (right).*

**Olivia Togher** (m. 2018), a second year Modern and Medieval Languages student, was elected to the role at the end of Michaelmas Term 2019. She took over the post from **Esme Cavendish** (m. 2017), a third year English student, who had been Access Officer since Lent term 2018. Esme has just been elected to the newly-created role of Cambridge University Student Union (CUSU) Access, Education and Participation officer.

### Here they talk about their work

Olivia and Esme both agree that the pre-offer initiatives run by Christ's stand out in comparison with other Cambridge colleges, and are really important in making Christ's more accessible to under-represented groups. The role of the existing student body is something that Olivia was keen to emphasise: "student volunteers give people a chance to ask questions about what life is like beyond academic studies, and to see that there are students here already who've come from access backgrounds and enjoy being here. I think it's particularly important when you have pre-A level school visits, because many pupils haven't yet decided whether university is right for them, and we have the chance to help them imagine themselves here and influence what they believe is possible early on."

Both Olivia and Esme have been involved in Access work within College since the beginning of their degrees, and say that the connections they've been able to build up with applicants throughout the process is really rewarding. Esme says: "I've helped out at a Low Participation Neighbourhood residential summer school one year, seen people return the following year, and met them again at our open days. For me,

the feeling of connection is very satisfying, especially when people go on to apply. For prospective applicants, recognising student volunteers from previous events makes Christ's a much more welcoming place. It's a feeling of belonging." Olivia adds: "I think that's especially true at interview, which can be a very intimidating time. The feedback we got from this year's interviewees about our student volunteers was really positive; that interviewees felt more 'at home' because of those students' involvement. We're lucky to have a really strong group of dedicated volunteers at the moment."

The vast majority of access initiatives are pre-application – open days, summer schools and residentials, subject-specific days, visits to schools, and a mentoring programme pairing existing students with an applicant in their subject, intended to assist applicants in meeting the required grades. Olivia points out that, even after admission, it's important that students who have benefitted from Access initiatives know that there's someone they can reach out to. "I see my role as JCR Access Officer to be the person who signposts sources of financial help, essay workshops, support organisations for minority groups, and student access initiatives, where students can get involved in helping grow applications from under-represented groups. I want students to know that they have someone to speak to if they are feeling unsure after arriving here."

From Michaelmas term 2020, Esme will be working within CUSU on Access initiatives. "One of the pledges on my manifesto was to broaden attendance at CUSU Access Forums. At the moment, these are restricted to JCR Access Officers, meaning that communication across all student access organisations can be disjointed. I want to focus on sharing knowledge and communicating."

Something that next year's Christ's JCR Access Officer will work on closely with Esme, in her university role, is the CUSU Shadowing Scheme. The 2020 scheme, for Year 12s, has just finished: "this year's was a great success," Olivia says. "Year 12s come up to shadow current students for lectures and social events. Christ's students pulled out all the stops this year and really gave them a great insight into life here – there were lots of participants saying that they definitely wanted to apply to Christ's by the end." Both are enthusiastic about schemes like this, as they highlight how university access initiatives can work really well alongside college-level JCR access volunteering to make a lasting positive impact on pupils' university choices.



# EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY AT CHRIST'S: from Darwin's finches to birds with teeth!



Dr Daniel Field is a current Fellow at Christ's, a University Lecturer in Earth Sciences, and UK Research and Innovation Future Leaders Fellow. He recently won the Royal Society Photography Competition for his images of wildlife.

Birds are represented by nearly 11,000 living species, inhabit virtually every corner of the modern world, and exhibit a mind-boggling variety of forms and lifestyles. But how has this awe-inspiring diversity arisen? Building on the rich history of evolutionary inquiry at Christ's, the Field Palaeobiology Research Group, based in the Department of Earth Sciences,

uses evidence from the fossil record to piece together the evolutionary history of birds (and occasionally other groups, like turtles, sharks, and mammals). This work is bringing us closer than ever to a more complete understanding of the evolutionary origins of these fascinating creatures.

I lead the group, and its research focuses on clarifying how, where, and when the spectacular diversity of living birds, and their specialised features, have arisen. The work uses new fossil discoveries, cutting-edge visualisation techniques, and a wealth of new phenotypic and genomic data from ongoing international collaborations.

Since its establishment in late 2018, the lab group has expanded quickly with researchers from around the world. Third-year PhD student Albert Chen (Taiwan, USA) recently published a major component of his thesis research on the evolutionary history of hummingbirds and their relatives, drawing on data from fossils, comparative anatomy, and living bird genomes. Fellow third-year PhD student Juan Benito (Spain) is preparing to publish a comprehensive monograph on the 86-million-year-old fossil bird-relative *Ichthyornis* (it still retained teeth!), which will clarify the extent to which the sophisticated flight



Field Palaeobiology Research Group.



Opposite:  
Daniel Field's  
photography  
on the cover  
of PNAS  
(*Proceedings  
of the National  
Academy of  
Sciences*) 2018.

apparatus of modern birds was already in place during the Age of Dinosaurs. Albert and Juan are also both contributors to an exciting project, set for publication in *Nature* in March 2020, reporting the discovery of one of the oldest modern bird fossils ever discovered! Postdoc Junya Watanabe (Japan) is funded by a Newton International Fellowship and is investigating the independent evolutionary pathways that have given rise to wing-propelled diving birds like penguins and puffins.

This year, five new graduate students joined the group (and a sixth – Armin Schmitt – is set to start his PhD in April). **Lizzy Steell** (m. 2019) (PhD, England) is focusing on unravelling the evolutionary history of passerines (a.k.a. 'perching' birds), a group comprising over 6,000 living species. Klara Widrig (MPhil, USA) is using new visualisation techniques to digitally 'dissect' the bones and muscles of living birds, in order to create a three-dimensional avian anatomical atlas. Kit Baker (MSc, England) is using similar digital techniques to reveal the skeletal anatomy of an amazing early relative of birds, the feathered dinosaur *Confuciusornis*, which lived 120-million-years ago. Pei-Chen Kuo (PhD, Taiwan) is taking a deep look at the structure of the skull of living and fossil birds, and Garance Robin (visiting Master's student, France) will spend sixth months in Cambridge, studying the evolution of avian body size.

Thanks to funding from a UK Research and Innovation Future Leaders Fellowship, the group plans to tackle a number of major evolutionary topics bearing on the origin of modern birds over the coming years. These topics include: i) Tracing the origin of sophisticated avian flight through digital analyses of exquisite new fossils; ii) Studying the origin of modern avian geographic patterns, and the role of historical climate fluctuations in

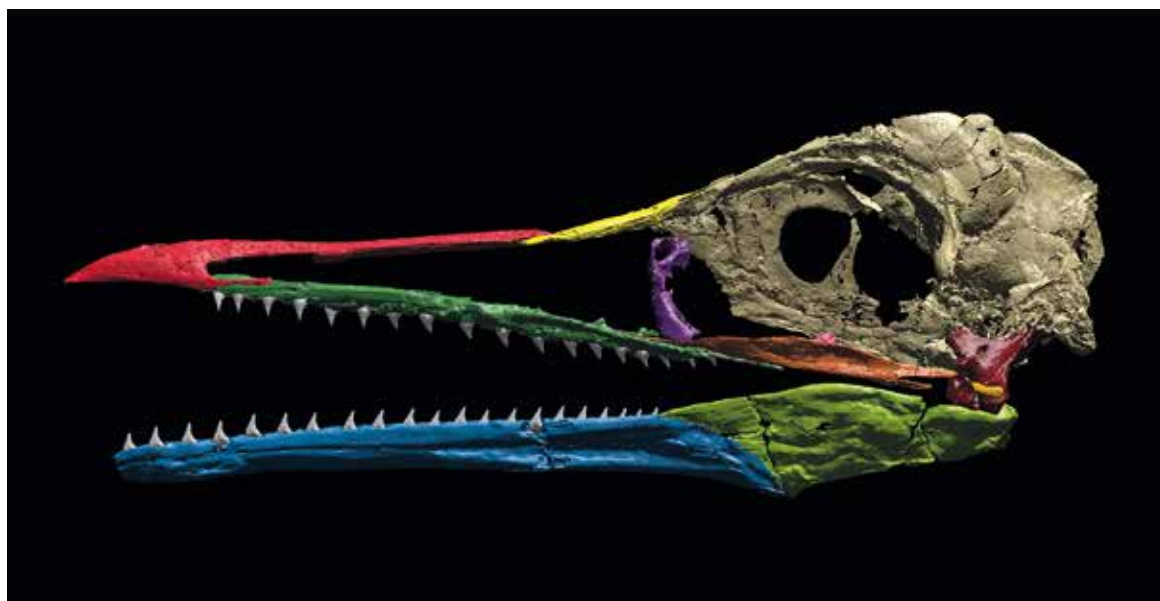


Field et al. 2018b press art.

structuring avian distributions; and, iii) Helping to develop the first comprehensive and accurately time-scaled picture of the modern bird tree of life, a fundamental step toward discerning the patterns and processes that have generated Earth's modern bird biodiversity. This will help shed light on how major events in Earth history, like the mass extinction event that killed the giant dinosaurs, have shaped avian evolution.

This year, a new exhibit at the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences will cover fresh work on the origins of modern birds, providing an opportunity to engage museum-goers in the study of key early bird fossils. Alumni and members of Christ's are warmly invited to check it out.

*Ichthyornis*.



© PHIL KRZEMINSKI

# ALUMNI AUTHORS

Two alumni have changed careers to become full-time authors of fast-paced, exciting thrillers that have garnered rave reviews. Here we find out about their decision to write, their inspirations and the struggles of getting published.



**James Ellson** (m. 1990) read Geography and became a police officer for fifteen years, starting in London and finishing as a DI at Moss Side, Manchester. He left the police in 2009, and now divides his time between writing and working on a smallholding.

His debut novel *The Trail* was published by Unbound earlier this year. It's a crime thriller partly set in Nepal, and builds on his police career and love of mountaineering.

*'A pacy and intelligent thriller'*  
(Paula Hawkins)

*"A stunning debut from an exciting new addition to the world of crime fiction"*  
(Stephen Booth)

## TELL US A BIT ABOUT CHANGING CAREER AND BECOMING A WRITER.

I was working Moss Side one weekend, and a call came in on the radio. Another murder. I couldn't do it any longer and broke down. After 15 years without a single day of sick leave, I was taken home. Counselling and a year's sabbatical followed.

We moved to a smallholding in the Peak District, I took an Open University course in philosophy, and began to write. The combination of working outside and writing helped me understand what I'd

been through, and moved me forward. Slowly, I began to pick up the pieces. And I never went back to work. Despite everything, I don't regret my time in the police.

I now wear two hats: writer and smallholder. We're self-sufficient in fruit and vegetables, and keep chickens and bees. My passion is apple trees. It's a good combination of the cerebral and the physical. Outside on the smallholding, I often mull over my characters and plots!

The book's protagonist, DCI Rick Castle, is plagued by flashbacks to his first week of nights – dealing with 17 deaths across a number of incidents. Many of these are drawn from my own experience.

## WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE ASPECT OF BEING AN AUTHOR?

Without question, writing the first draft. Telling yourself a story, and finding out how the story unfolds. It may seem surprising having done it for real, but writing about policework is as exciting as doing it.

## WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE OF GETTING PUBLISHED?

I wrote a memoir *From Cop to Coppicer*, which was a cathartic process. I came

close to getting it published – but not close enough! One agent said I should write a crime thriller, and I've never looked back. I've now been writing hard for a decade, and have written a trilogy of crime novels, and a rural everyman called *Twelvemonth*. Finally, and after contacting agents for ten years, publisher Unbound said yes!

## WHAT INSPIRES YOUR WRITING?



They say write what you know! Hence, my protagonist is a Manchester DCI and a beekeeper. The setting is Nepal because, through mountaineering,

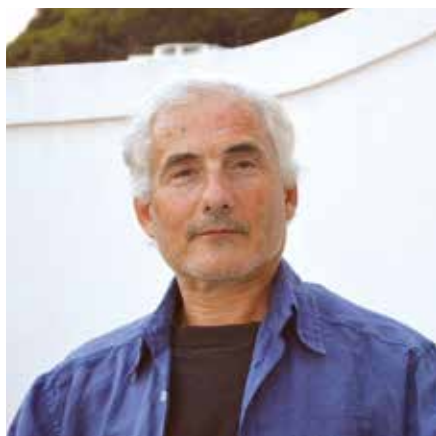
I know the country well.

## WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE AN ASPIRING AUTHOR TO HELP START THEIR JOURNEY?

Consider an MA in Creative Writing. The course I took at Manchester Metropolitan University made me read far more widely. It also introduced me to workshopping – taking it in turns to critique each other's work. Brutal, but very, very effective.



*James tending the smallholding.*



**Charles Harris** (m. 1971) read Law and then English, and went on to the London Film School. He became a journalist, and worked as an assistant in BBC News on the *Today Programme*, *World at One*, *PM* and *The World Tonight*, before becoming a screenwriter and film director.

His debut novel, *The Breaking of Liam Glass* (2017, Marble City) immediately took the top spot on Amazon's Hot New Releases for satire. It was nominated for a Wishing Shelf Literary Award and an Eyelands International Literary Award.

He has had short stories nominated for awards, written a popular short story collection *The Cupboard*, written freelance articles for national and local newspapers and magazines, and appeared on BBC1, BBC Radio 4 and local radio.

Charles has just signed with Bloodhound Books for his second novel, *Room 15*, a psychological noir thriller, scheduled for publication in July 2020.

### TELL US A BIT ABOUT CHANGING CAREER AND BECOMING A WRITER.

My first love was film and you never quite forget your first love. However, wonderful as it is to work in film, I found I loved writing more and more. Directing can be great – but you spend a lot of time hanging around waiting: for finance, for actors to become available, for the weather... I'm an impatient person, and I grew to love that I could make all that I wanted happen on the page; no waiting, no compromises and I could have whatever weather I liked.

Having said that, I could draw on many skills that film had helped me develop.

How to tell a tight story, for one. How to observe, for another – I believe good writing comes from close observation, especially when it comes to how people act and behave. My background in documentary and drama has been invaluable for that.

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE ASPECT OF BEING AN AUTHOR?

You'll probably have guessed from the last answer, that I like being in charge! All writers (and film directors) are surely megalomaniacs. We like to make the decisions.

Stanley Kubrick famously said that making a movie was like painting the Mona Lisa on a roller-coaster with fifteen people holding the brush. Writing means there's just you holding the brush.

This can be scary at times – nobody else to blame, nobody else to provide ideas. But when you get used to it, it's great fun, and when you hear from readers who have found your books funny, gripping, touching or invigorating, it's tremendous. It's all you. (I did say megalomania, didn't I?)

### WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE OF GETTING PUBLISHED?

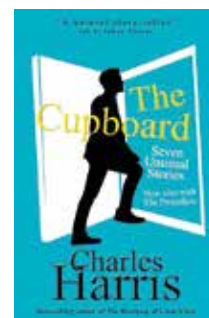
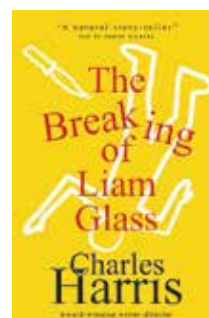
My experience was a strange one. First, I told the story of *The Breaking of Liam Glass* to my agent. I took him for (a cheap Chinese) lunch and pitched the idea of a rogue journalist who sets out to revive his career with a campaign against knife crime, but to get onto the front pages he has to tell a few small lies, then a few more...

He told me not to write topical novels – he said that by 2020 nobody would be talking about knife crime, rogue journalists or fake news! Despite this, I had three publishers bidding for the book. However the publisher I chose proceeded to procrastinate for three years, so I took it back and it was snapped up by a fourth, who said it was the best thing he'd read for 18 months.

The book was in the Amazon best-seller lists on the day of publication and was nominated for two awards. I sacked the agent...

### WHAT INSPIRES YOUR WRITING?

I try to begin with a story that I feel will entertain but also say something about the world we live in. *Liam Glass* asks how seemingly intelligent and civilised people end up writing the kind of awful things we see in the tabloids. I don't think anyone sets out to become a trash journalist, so I wanted to explore how they get that way, through humour and a strong story.



My next, *Room 15*, which comes out on 27 July, is a psychological thriller in which a detective discovers he has multiple personality disorder and that his alter personality has witnessed a murder. Meanwhile, someone is trying to kill him before he can find out the truth. I wanted to use the story as a way of exploring the way we all lie to ourselves about what we are really like, until something forces us to face facts.

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE AN ASPIRING AUTHOR TO HELP START THEIR JOURNEY?

Whatever you write, make it true. That applies whether you're writing political satire, crime fiction or fantasy. What would it really be like to be a journalist who feels he has to sex up a story? A detective without a memory? An angel who's crashed his sun-chariot..?

Don't fall for the clichés and half-truths, however seductive they may be.

Most of all, be courageously honest when you go inside to explore the inner world of your characters – because they are in part also you and it's scary to look inside – but if you can manage it that is the truth that your readers will value most of all.



Marshall Scholarships finance young Americans of high ability to study for a degree in the United Kingdom. Since 1962, students have come to Christ's College on prestigious Marshall Scholarships, both enriching the academic life of the College, and receiving the opportunity to thrive academically and personally, with the new perspective provided by a Christ's education.

Here, two Marshall Scholars, **Ted Abel** (m. 1985) who came to Christ's to read Biochemistry in the 1980s, and current student **Jack Brake** (m. 2019) talk about their experiences.



**Ted says:**

Before my Marshall Scholarship at Christ's, I was an undergraduate at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania where I studied Chemistry and conducted research in Physical Chemistry. I chose Christ's because Sir Hans Kornberg was the Master, and I was planning to read Biochemistry.

The most important part of my time as a Marshall Scholar was the opportunity to work side by side with researchers to learn Molecular Biology and Biochemistry. I worked in the lab of Tim Hunt (a Fellow at Clare College, Cambridge) in Biochemistry, and Tim's desk was in a large room alongside the students so we could speak with him informally on a daily basis. One Saturday I came into the lab and Tim was there working on the textbook *Molecular Biology of the Cell* with Jim Watson, who was sitting at my desk. Quite a way to meet one of the discoverers of the DNA double helix! Tim's lab was in the process of defining the function of proteins termed cyclins, that control the development of the embryo. These proteins were later found to have a critical role in controlling cell division in all cell types including cancer cells, leading Tim to win the 2001 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

My academic focus at Christ's was in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry. I read Part II Biochemistry in my first year, and did research towards an MPhil in my second year. The opportunity to take Part II exams in Biochemistry helped me define my research interests and, in many ways, turned me from a student into a scientist.

At Christ's, I sang in the Chapel Choir under David Rowland. Entering chapel for rehearsal or a service was a chance to step outside of the world of science and the bustle of the city, and focus on being part of an ensemble. I had not sung psalms before, and they were a revelation; not only because of the harmony but because of the cadence and the unspoken way in which an ensemble comes together to chant the verses and time the silence in the middle of each verse. Each summer we had tours; one to York, and I still remember us having York Minster all to ourselves for rehearsal.

The other, more informal, but as important extracurricular activity was spending time in the Buttery or Hall with fellow members of Christ's who have become life-long friends, including Ashraf Rushdy (m. 1985), Shirin Rai (m. 1985), and Rory and Sophie Sutherland (both m. 1984).

After Christ's, I went on to complete my PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Harvard University. After receiving my PhD, I pursued neuroscience research, taking many of the techniques that I had learned in Molecular Biology and applying them to the study of the molecular mechanisms of learning and memory. I became a Biology Professor at the University of Pennsylvania and recently moved to the University of Iowa to found the Iowa Neuroscience Institute and chair the Department of Neuroscience and Pharmacology. In 2019 I was elected to the National Academy of Medicine, one of the highest honours in my field, in recognition of

my contributions to the field of neuroscience, particularly my research into how mechanisms of memory go awry in neurodevelopmental and neuropsychiatric disorders like autism and schizophrenia.

One of the most extraordinary things about Christ's was the community of students, scholars and fellows that live together, closely discussing scholarship, politics, sport and faith. This is empowering to students as they are able to play an active role in academic life. I still feel this sense of security and community when I walk through the gates into first court.



**Jack says:**

I'm originally from Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, and completed my undergraduate in Politics and Spanish Literature at the University of Virginia (UVA) from 2014–2018. Upon graduating, I moved to Beijing, China, where I undertook a one-year Schwarzman Scholarship for a Master's in Global Affairs at Tsinghua University. The opportunity to spend time in China was unexpected, but it turned out to be seminal. Not only did I come away with a proficiency in conversational Mandarin, but my time at Tsinghua also helped me further develop my research interests in international politics.

Coming to Christ's as a Marshall Scholar is a tremendous opportunity for me to build a broad, interdisciplinary research agenda and intellectual worldview. The intellectual milieu at Cambridge is incredibly stimulating and I've been particularly excited by the diversity of research topics and methods among my friends and mentors at POLIS (Department of Politics and International Relations). This will set me up for an academic career where, I hope, I can bring a historically and theoretically rich perspective to my engagement with the questions of international law.

Whilst at Christ's I am pursuing a PhD in Politics and International Studies. My research engages with a core puzzle in International Relations: why do self-interested states voluntarily submit to costly normative and legal limitations on their power? My research touches on a number of timely topics, such as climate change, and the rise of China. My broad goal is to inhabit the intellectual and professional crossroads between international politics and law. The Marshall Scholarship has enabled me to further engage with the 'big questions' before beginning my formal legal training.

**COMING TO CHRIST'S AS A MARSHALL SCHOLAR IS A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO BUILD A BROAD, INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AGENDA AND INTELLECTUAL WORLDVIEW.**

While I've been here I've joined the Chapel Choir; it has been such a privilege to perform with an extremely talented and committed group of people. I find both our rehearsals and services to be wonderful opportunities to pause and reflect each week. I've also become involved in my department (POLIS) to help start a weekly reading group on the 'Future of Democracy,' and serving as Managing Editor for the Cambridge Review of International Affairs, a student-run, peer-reviewed journal.

My immediate plan after leaving Christ's is to proceed to law school in the United States. During my JD (Juris Doctor degree), I'll continue my research on the interaction between international relations and public international law, while also getting a more practical education in international commercial arbitration and litigation. I think I'd like to work at a firm in a related area, such as international trade arbitration, for a few years before returning to academia as a professor of international law.

# TELEPHONE CAMPAIGN 2020 UPDATE

We are disappointed to say that, following Government and University advice, our annual Telephone Campaign, which was due to run from 17–31 March, has had to be cancelled.

I know that many of you were looking forward to your calls, as was expressed in emails that I received in the run-up to the Campaign, and we apologise for the inconvenience at this time.

It certainly was a disappointment to our call team, pictured below, who were very much looking forward to speaking to as many of you as possible over the two weeks, as well as raising money for student support at Christ's. As many of them, as well as their friends, depend on the financial support that our alumni so generously provide, they wanted to be involved to ensure its continued provision, but understood that the welfare of the Christ's community came first and foremost.

In this difficult time, we want to give renewed thanks to all our alumni who took part in last year's Telephone Campaign: having conversations with our student callers, donating, and helping to support our Campaign for Christ's which focused on our Student Support Initiative. Over the two weeks of the campaign last year, 459 alumni were called and £239,869 was raised, with all gifts being used to provide bursaries for the best and brightest throughout their time at Christ's. This support will be vital in the

upcoming months, to ensure that our students are provided for through the current uncertainty, and enabled to thrive without worrying about financial difficulties.

More information about our Telephone Campaigns, past and present, can be found by visiting <https://alumni.christs.cam.ac.uk/pages/support-pages/telephone-campaign>. When we have more information about what will happen next with the Campaign, we will post it here.

While the main focus of the campaign is financial support for students, it is also about connecting with alumni and I am again sorry that this will be delayed. Please do let us know if you would appreciate us getting in contact over the coming months, and we will do our best to do so.

Thank you.

**Robert Smith**  
Development Officer

You can contact Robert at  
[giving@christs.cam.ac.uk](mailto:giving@christs.cam.ac.uk)  
or 01223 334919.





# MAKING A GIFT TO CHRIST'S

## PERSONAL DETAILS

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Matric Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No \_\_\_\_\_

☐ From time to time we publish lists of donors, please tick this box if you wish your gift to be anonymous

## GIFT AID DECLARATION

Please treat all donations I make to Christ's College, Cambridge (Registered Charity Number 1137540) on or after the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

I confirm I am a UK Taxpayer and have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that it is my responsibility to pay any difference between these amounts, and that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify for relief. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## REGULAR GIFT

Standing order mandate

Name of your bank \_\_\_\_\_

Address of your bank \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_

Account No \_\_\_\_\_

Account Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ on the same day each  
month / quarter / year (delete as appropriate)  
on the \_\_\_\_\_ (day) of \_\_\_\_\_ (month) \_\_\_\_\_ (year)  
until further notice OR \_\_\_\_\_  
until \_\_\_\_\_ payments have been made  
(delete as appropriate)

For Office Use: Please make the payment to  
Christ's College Acc No 03322253 at Lloyds,  
3 Sidney Street, Cambridge, CB2 1BQ  
Sort code 30-91-56 quoting reference no. \_\_\_\_\_

## ONLINE GIVING

Christ's College website now carries online facilities for single and regular gifts. If you would like to make a gift online please visit <https://alumni.christs.cam.ac.uk/makingagift> and follow the appropriate link.

## LEGACY

- ☐ I would like information about leaving a gift to the College in my Will  
☐ I have included a gift to the College in my Will

## SINGLE GIFT

- ☐ I enclose a cheque / CAF donation payable to Christ's College Cambridge for £ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge £ \_\_\_\_\_ to my:

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Maestro

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

3-digit Security Number\* \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*Located on the signature strip on the back of the card.  
For security reasons you may wish to phone, email or send separately.

Please return this form and direct any enquiries to:

The Development Office, Christ's College, Cambridge CB2 3BU UK  
Tel: +44 (0)1223 334919 Fax: +44 (0)1223 747495 Email: [giving@christs.cam.ac.uk](mailto:giving@christs.cam.ac.uk)

Registered Charity No. 1137540

# Stay connected

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY & SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES

2020

20 JUNE

Reunion Lunch for matriculation years 1962–1965 incl.

27 JUNE

Association Dinner

12 SEPTEMBER

Reunion for matriculation years 1961 and earlier

19 SEPTEMBER

Blades Regatta and Dinner

26 SEPTEMBER

Reunion for matriculation years 1966–1970 incl.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, many of our events have been cancelled, however we really look forward to warmly welcoming you back to College very soon.



 Snowdrops in the College Gardens in February

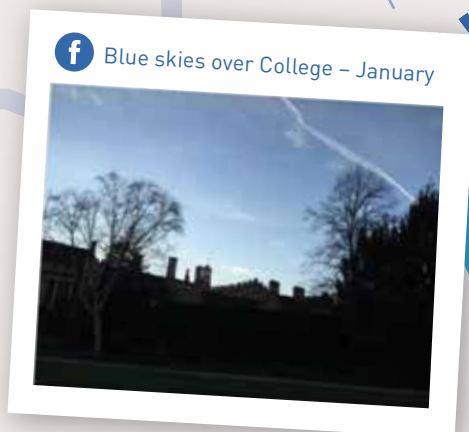



Stay connected at  
**CHRIST'S**

TWITTER: @CHRISTS\_COLLEGE  
INSTAGRAM: @CHRISTSCOLLEGECAMBRIDGE  
FACEBOOK: CHRIST'S COLLEGE ALUMNI GROUP  
LINKEDIN: CHRIST'S COLLEGE,  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE ALUMNI GROUP



 Our very popular mugs are back in stock!



 Blue skies over College – January

