Welcome to the College Newsletter for the academic year 2018–19, the theme of which is international Oxford is a global University, and this is reflected in the rich diversity of our students, who go on to work in all sorts of different places.

This year we have a remarkable combination: the Bishop to the Forces, the Rt Revd Tim Thornton, the Chaplain-in-Chief and Archdeacon for the RAF, Air Vice-Marshal the Ven John Ellis, and the Chaplain of the Fleet and Archdeacon for the Royal Navy, the Ven Martyn Gough, all trained at the College. Congratulations to them, and to all our old members who serve in the Armed Forces.

I am very grateful to Fr Graham Lunn for sharing in this edition how his parish has committed to support the College through the 1876 Society. This is vital to ensuring the College continues to flourish.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter.

By Canon Dr Robin Ward
Caspar Doyle, who held the post of Accommodation & Events Manager at the College. Annie has an events background, and previously spent a number of years at the Royal Scottish National Orchestra based in Glasgow.

Meanwhile Maciej Pietruszewski has joined as College Maintenance Manager.

We also welcome Georgia Davies to take over the role of SJE Arts’ Concert Manager; Georgia brings with her a wealth of experience from the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building.

We welcome Annie De Souza who has successfully gained a BA (First Class) in English Literature from the Open University. We wish him every success in his future studies.

Meanwhile over the five years she was here, Sonia returned to her native Spain and we wish her and her husband Pablo the very best there.

Assistant Bursar, has left to pursue her future studies. She brings a wealth of experience from the College Church, with the aim of better incorporating the area within the College’s Iffley Road garden, in front of the College’s main entrance plans.

Landscaping work is taking place within the College’s Iffley Road garden, in front of the College Church, with the aim of better incorporating the area within the College. The first phase has involved the removal of several decaying trees, and plans have been drafted for new railings and a gate. The long-term aim is to make this the main entrance to the College, once funding is secured.

College entrance plans

Ultimate Frisbee success

SSH MSc Education student Isabel Goh has been awarded a half-blue for her contribution to the women’s outdoor Ultimate Frisbee team during Varsity, which Oxford won against Cambridge. Ultimate frisbee is normally played outdoors on a large rectangular pitch with two smaller rectangles marked out at each end known as ‘endzones’. To score, the team of seven must pass the frisbee to each other until a player catches the frisbee in their designated endzone for that point.

Wartime at an Oxfordshire Monastery

The College’s National Lottery-funded project to explore the First World War history of the former monastery which it now occupies completed this year, with a final exhibition held in the Cloister Gallery. Over 100 academics, educators, schoolchildren and volunteers were involved in the project and thanks go to all for their fantastic contributions. Next time you visit the College do pick up one of the project booklets which gives more information on the findings.

Life after ordination

Three former SSH ordinand students – three different points along the journey from ordination...

27 years on...

The Very Revd Joe Hawes, Dean of St Edmunsbury

Current role: I was installed as the new Dean of St Edmundsbury, at Bury St Edmunds cathedral. I serve as Head of the Chapter, guiding the vision and strategy for the cathedral, and I am also senior priest in the diocese, working with the Bishop to support clergy.

Before SSH: I went straight from University (English, Durham) to spend a year working at St Albans Abbey in contemplation for ordination. It was demanding and varied, and I also worked a job at McDonalds as it didn’t come with an income.

SSH: SSH was a challenging time but also a lot of fun – I formed friendships which I still have today. There was considerable debate going on around the various changes being faced by the Church of England at the time and I found some points of view quite tough. However, it gave me a great awareness of the diversity of how the Church meets change.

SSH instilled a rigorous and robust sense of how to pray and worship which will stay with me forever, and I look back in amazement of how to pray and worship which will stay with me forever, and I look back in amazement of how the Church meets change.

The future: I’m particularly interested in how cathedrals can position themselves to be a proactive part of the process of people discovering their spirituality. I think that the current mental health crisis is strongly linked to a spiritual crisis in this country, and it is something the Church needs to get involved in and support people with.

Little known fact about you: I’m never happier than when I am at the bottom of the sea scuba diving.

Barney, and later at All Saints, Fulham. I spent about 25 years working across 2 pages of the old London A-Z! During my time at Fulham I realised I loved the role of a big, community church, and this prompted me to explore a cathedral role as an obvious next step.

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10 years on…
The Revd Helen O’Sullivan

Current role: I’m a Chaplain and Priest Vicar at St Paul’s Cathedral, London. I provide pastoral support to the team here; clergy, lay staff, volunteers, regular worshippers, and staff and parents at the Cathedral school.

Before SSH: I was a Business Operations Manager at Oxford University Press, so I managed all the printing and distribution side of things once editorial work was completed. It was a big job, well paid and great fun, so going back to training was something I wasn’t sure about.

SSH: My husband and I lived in the College’s married accommodation, Moberly Close. Initially it was quite challenging coming from a job with authority and decision-making to the rules accommodation, Moberly Close. Initially it was quite challenging coming from a job with authority and decision-making to the rules. Of things once editorial work was completed. It was a big job, well paid and great fun, so going back to training was something I wasn’t sure about.

Since SSH: My curacy was served at a semi-rural group of rural parishes based in Chinnor, within my sending Diocese (Oxford). In 2011 I left to take up post of Rector of group of parishes on the Isle of Wight (West Wight), a wonderful place to work, where the vicar is still truly at the heart of the community. However, gradually I began to feel that I was slipping back into a management role, overseeing six parishes with a clergy team of about 12, and I really wanted to get back into hands-on ministry and pastoral work. It was this that prompted my move to my current role at St Paul’s in early 2016.

The future: Perhaps as a full-time funeral minister. It’s such an important area of mission and ministry. It’s a time when we can have really positive contact with not just the family, but also the wider community.

Little known fact about you: I knit socks! Slowly! It takes me years to finish. I also play triple recorder.

1 year on…
The Revd Mark Mawhinney

Current role: I’m a Curate in the Parish of Seaham and Dalton, a town centre parish in the Diocese of Durham. The clergy team consists of myself and the Vicar, Fr Paul Kennedy, and we’re also richly blessed with a retired priest, Fr Chris Collins who lives in the town.

Seaham itself has a lot of deprivation; originally there were three former mines at the heart of it, but there’s a fair bit of regeneration going on, and the sea front is much improved.

Before SSH: After University (Durham) and a post graduate year at the Royal College of Music, I spent 24 years in teaching, including a year in New Zealand. I returned to the UK to head up music at Barnard Castle school in County Durham, so the Durham area has really become a second home for me (I’m originally from Northern Ireland).

I had thoughts about my vocation going right back to my days as an undergraduate in Durham, but it was 2015 when I finally went forward to a Selection Conference.

SSH: A lot of old members I knew had recommended SSH to me, but I did also look at other places prior to making my decision as to where to train. However, SSH was exactly what I was looking for, with daily worship at its heart.

I spent much of my first year thinking ‘wow I’m actually here!’ It was strange to no longer be working but studying after so long teaching. Living alongside other people and communal life, many of whom were younger than me, took a bit of getting used to, but being in Oxford it was easy to meet people, and also get up to London so I could keep in touch with friends.

I spent two years at the College, training for ordained ministry and this included a post graduate diploma in Theology at the university. I was also one of the house musicians.

Highlights: The Advent Retreat and Leavers’ Retreat (at Alton Abbey) were very special, as were weekends spent in Walsingham. I also got some really excellent practical experience during my summer placement with Fr Tim Pike at Holy Innocents, Hornsey.

Since SSH: My first year in ministry has gone very quickly. The biggest challenge I think is being dropped in to a community where everyone knows who you are and you have to get to know people quite quickly. I tried to let that process happen naturally, and people were very welcoming and generous and encouraging as I found my feet.

It’s also a case of getting used to a lack of structure to the day, which is very different to SSH. And leading worship on your own, because that’s now a daily occurrence rather than being an occasional Chapel duty in College.

The future: I’m focused on looking ahead to my ordination to the priesthood; there is a very well-structured training plan in the Diocese here, so in many ways my training that began at SSH continues. As yet, I haven’t thought much beyond this, but I would love to stay in this area, I love County Durham and the North East in general.

Interesting fact: One of the three churches in my parish, St Mary the Virgin, is an eighth century Saxon church, and one of the twentieth oldest churches in the UK.

Fr Mark gives a Final Blessing to the Bishop of Beverley following his ordination at St John’s, Seaham Harbour

Mthr Helen’s installation as Priest Vicar and Chaplain at St Paul’s Cathedral in 2016 by The Dean, The Very Revd David Ison

Pr Mark gives a First Blessing to the Bishop of Beverley following his ordination at St John’s, Seaham Harbour.
At the start of the summer vacation, ordinand student Sam Aldred spent four weeks living, worshipping, and working alongside the Society of St John the Evangelist in their Cambridge monastery, near Boston, Massachusetts in the United States (US). The Society first began working in the US in the 1870s, eventually settling permanently on the banks of the Charles River just off Harvard Square.

The Society of St John the Evangelist (SSJE) began its life in the buildings now occupied by St Stephen’s House, and we continue to hold its members in our prayers on a daily basis, so this was a placement with particular historical and ecclesial appeal. As a married man I did not view my month in the monastery as a trial run for furthering any latent monkish ambitions, but sought rather the quiet and stillness of the cloister after a busy academic year. Whilst I did find rest at SSJE, it was not of the quiet or relaxing kind. The days, although not busy, were certainly full. Each day, from 6am until 9pm followed a pray-eat-pray-work-pray-eat-work-pray-sleep pattern. As one would expect, it is communal worship that regulates the monastic life, and the chapel – designed by the great Ralph Adams Cram – is the beating heart of the monastery. The services are taken at a slow and deliberate pace, each office lasting roughly twice as long as its Staggers counterpart. There is ample time to ponder the meaning of each line of the Psalms (so many Psalms!), to meditate on each reading of Scripture, and to pray deeply and unselfconsciously. At first this change of tempo was frustrating, but after the first few days I realised how liberating it could be. A service would finish when it finished, and the day would continue when it continued. Sessions on meditative prayer and on developing a personal rule of life, led by the wonderful Brothers Keith Nelson and David Vryhoff, have added to my arsenal for fighting the spiritual fight.

The Society’s Monastery near Boston, Massachusetts

Food and work were the other two fundamental components of my life in the monastery, joined together by my being allocated work in the kitchens alongside Walter, SSJE’s full-time chef. I do not have a natural talent for food preparation, so it is testimony to Walter’s patience and skill that I was able to graduate from de-icing freezers and lugging crates of vegetables, to baking sweet treats, mixing sauces, and preparing other divers foodstuffs. With up to thirty guests on retreat requiring feeding, the kitchen was a high-pressure environment with tight deadlines. A fellow metal-head, Walter and I talked music whilst we cooked. My work periods were hectic, hot, loud, and fun; not at all what I had expected from a placement in a monastery. The food was consistently excellent, both healthy and delicious; and I’m not saying that just because I helped make some of it. Towards the end of my placement I had the opportunity to visit Emery House, the community’s country retreat in Northern Massachusetts, which offered a welcome change of pace. Emery House is a beautiful eighteenth century farmhouse, left to the brothers by four pious and childless sisters in the 1950s, and opened for country retreats in the 1980s. Our schedule here was much more relaxed. The heat was such that we worshipped in the chapel only early in the morning and late in the evening, and apart from some light work the rest of the time was our own. I explored the countryside around the confluence of the Artichoke and Merrimack rivers, read improving books, prayed freely, and enjoyed the company of the three monks based at Emery House, one of whom, Geoffrey Tristram, was an Englishman, whose conversation was a welcome reminder of home. There was even Marmite for breakfast.

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I've always been accommodated when I come over. It has been incredible. I've had three babies over the course of my DPhil, and every little bit of it was ‘the best thing’. Every little bit of it was absolutely the best. Key differences: as my home country, universities do have departments but there are no colleges. When I first arrived at Oxford, I still had to figure out what college I was, as I was not familiar with the concept. Your favourite place in Oxford: The Norrington Room at Blackwell’s Bookstore and some of the hidden College gardens are two of mine. Favourite places at SSH: Tea in the Common Room, Thursday Night Favourite Things by candide, learned and fun discussions with the faculty, staff and students.

My background is that of a typical Mittel-European. I am Hungarian, with a Polish family name. At the age of 24 I was received into the Anglican Church, my Diocese sent me, as part of my theological formation, to SSH for 1 year. After graduating, I entered a monastic community and studied theology in Pécs (Hungary) and at the age of 28 I was ordained as Roman Catholic priest. In 2004 I moved to Rome to study at the ‘Augustinum’ and stayed in Italy for 10 years, teaching Classics in Siena and being a parish priest at the heart of Trascian in an EF parish. When I was received into the Anglican Church, my Diocese sent me, as part of my Anglican formation, to SSH for 1 year. Favourite place in Oxford: Obviously my favourite place in Oxford is Staggers.

Best thing about SSH: Every little bit of it was ‘the best thing’!

Favourite food: When one’s home, cultural or linguistic setting changes so often, one, I guess, learns to love the best of each. So, my ideal meal is Tibetan pasta, Slovak game, English pudding, and wine from Tokaj. Oh, and since Staggers, a G&T to start with!

USA

Name: Peter L. Kraus, M.S.
Born: Mineola, NY (just outside New York City).
Lives: Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. I have also lived / worked in Florida, New York and Germany. I have been a member of the library faculty at The University of Utah since 1999. I have been a student at SSH since 2012. When I matriculated into Oxford’s DPhil Programme in Education, I decided to study at SSH, partly because I was a high school teacher and University of Utah history of education was my background.

Key differences: Students in Oxford dress much more formally than in the USA. I love the shepherd’s pie at SSH.

Best thing about SSH: That I’ve met amazing friends!

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Name: Robyn Sneath
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Guiding the College’s Future

We talked to members of the College’s House Council to get their thoughts on the College’s future – here’s what they said...

What do you feel are SSH’s key strengths/USPs?

Visionary, Catholic, Youthful, Courageous.

Focused, Intellectual, Compassionate, Christian.

Laughter, formation, faithful, resilient.

Peaceful, supportive, social & formative.

What do you think the College and its community might look like 20 years from now?

We are a rich community, which re-forms each year as people move on, making its future composition difficult to predict, but the college will continue to form people for service to others whether that is in a classroom or in a church. The combination of academic excellence and contextual experience is priceless.

It will diversify, but with greater focus on its missional origins as an expression of catholic faith and practice in the Church of England.

My vision for the College is for it to be a vibrant and well-resourced centre for the formation of priests, deacons and other vocational study, and a place which has led a renewal of the Anglican Church.

I hope we will carry out the redevelopment of Mobberly Close, that Ordinand numbers will have increased, and that the College will increasingly have a wide and important role in the Church of England.

What do you anticipate the key future challenges to be for the College?

Funding, and a cultural drift into indifference towards seriousness.

A key challenge is holding the Church to account on the commitment to mutual flourishing of traditions within the Church of England. Financial challenges, particularly given the wide variety of complex funding issues.

It is vital the church recognises fully the need for residential and seminary training. I am a bit fearful that it won’t. The College’s valuable status as a PPH within Oxford University is skilfully stewarded by the Principal, so I am hopeful that the increased secularisation of the University will not affect those with a true vocation to train as Ordinands at the College as part of Oxford University.

What do you anticipate the key future opportunities to be for the College?

Portraying community life accurately, showing its diversity and inclusivity as well as challenging the assumptions of those outside the college who are thinking of joining us.

The impact of the arts, in sacred space, music and performance, together with an imaginative and inspirational Christian apologetic.

Development and preservation of our buildings for long-term sustainability and flexibility. The people form the community here. Each year new students and ordinands bring gifts and personalities which shape the college afresh. As they move on, they carry the community of St Stephen’s House with them.

I hope all students will value the special Christian ethos of the College so that when they leave they too, will become staunch Staggers alumni and advocates.

How would you sum the College up in four words?

Focused, Intellectual, Compassionate, Christian.

Visionary, Catholic, Youthful, Courageous.

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What do you feel are SSH’s key strengths/USPs?

The college continues to champion full time residential training for all ordinands, an invaluable and immersive opportunity to be formed in the vibrancy of the Anglo-Catholic tradition. For any of the wider community who participate in the monastic rhythm of our day, rooting our work in prayer and sacraments, there is a spiritual grounding which sustains us in our duties and studies, something many graduate students appreciate having access to.

The capacity to retain its founding vision in changing circumstances.

The staff, a wide variety of students, ordinands, and their families live in a community shaped by the rhythm of prayer which will always nourish their spiritual lives.

Intellectual rigour and critical analysis. The heart of SSH is its special and particular spiritual vocation in preparing Ordinands for a life of service in the Anglican Church and I hope that teaching and independent study, and a place which has led a renewal of the Anglican Church.

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Mother Lucy Gardner

Joined SSH: 1/9/93
Current roles: Tutor in Christian Doctrine, MTH Course Director, Disability Lead
Has worked with: 3 Principals, 7 Vice Principals
Academic background: Theology at St John’s College, Oxford, and Bonn University.
Family: Husband Chris, son John and daughter Dorothy.

How did your affiliation with the College begin?

It was in 1993. I was studying Theology at St John’s and saw that SSH was advertising for two tutors. I was always convinced that I was meant to be a theologian, and I wanted to do that in service of the Church rather than an academic institution. I didn’t want to spend my life dedicated to footnotes! I applied, and the College appointed Fr David Moss and myself to share the teaching of Doctrine, Ecclesiology and Ethics.

What were your first impressions?

I arrived at SSH aged 24, having never spent more than a couple of hours in a theological college. I was impressed with the Liturgy from the start, and found the college friendly and welcoming – if busy. We had 59 ordinands that year, having received some from Chichester College photo (1994) of recent benefactions and the energy of the Bursar. I think SSH has a confident view of what it has to offer the Church, but people were very considerate of that.

What were your early years at the College like?

Initially we lived at Modorly Close, later moving to one of the James Street houses. I enjoyed teaching Doctrine from the beginning, and living in college I was able to hold weekly Drop In evenings at home, which always produced a range of interesting discussions.

Fellow staff at the time included Fr Edwin Barnes (Principal), Fr Chris Irvine (Vice Principal), Fr Eric Franklin (Director of Studies) and Deacon Elaine Bardwell (Director of Pastoral Studies), who was especially helpful in showing me the ropes.

Can you tell us about anything you have been particularly involved with at SSH?

Yes. The teaching side of my vocation became apparent first, but gradually the pastoral and sacramental side emerged. I think others noticed that before I did, as my reasons for not being ordained started to feel like excuses.

Ordinands come from very different academic backgrounds; classes can contain students with no A levels alongside others with doctorates in theology. It’s important for students to know that we will provide appropriate academic support for everyone, whatever their level and background.

What have been the most enjoyable aspects of being a part of SSH?

I love exploring theology with people, particularly relating their own thoughts and questions to particular theologians and big debates in the life of the Church. I really missed that in the years I wasn’t teaching.

Then there is the formation side, watching people discover their vocations and blossom; that is a real privilege of working here.

You undertook ordination training whilst teaching at the College?

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I trained with the Oxford Ministry course at Cuddesdon for a year. It was a little strange learning alongside students I was teaching at the University, but people were very considerate of that.

What are your thoughts on the future?

I think SSH has a confident view of what it has to offer the Church, which has been secured so ably by the current Principal, with the help of recent benefactions and the energy of the Bursar.

It is exciting to see such a rich and vibrant use of the Cowley Fathers’ original home in pursuit of a future in tune with their original mission.
Parish Giving

The Parish of St Michael and St Augustine, Beckenham, recently became a Parish Member of the College’s 1876 Society. Here we talk to Associate Vicar, Fr Graham Lunn (SSH 2009) to find out what motivated the parish to join…

St Michael and St Augustine, Beckenham, is – in many ways – a classic example of the type of parish in which many St Stephen’s House Ordinands serve their title. Set amidst dense urban terraced housing on the outskirts of London, it was founded by an Anglo-Catholic priest (Fr AN Armstrong) in the late 19th century. The parish has been served by a succession of SSH-trained priests for many years.

“There is a real appreciation by many parishioners of the type of training that St Stephen’s House has given the priests that serve here.” Explains Fr Graham.

When pressed to explain what he means by this: “I would say that it’s about a commitment to liturgical excellence, a fastidious approach to preaching, and a steadfast faithfulness to parochial ministry. These are things that I feel people here value highly and they were fundamental cornerstones of the formational training I received at St Stephen’s House.

“My parishioners know what I stand for, and they like that.” He adds.

With this in mind, it’s perhaps not surprising that the parish should consider joining the College’s 1876 Society as a way to give thanks for the long provision of priests from St Stephen’s House.

“It was during a PCC [Parochial Church Council] meeting that the topic first came up.” Explains Fr Graham. “Historically the parish has never been wealthy, but we were unexpectedly in a stronger financial position and decided that this would be a fitting use of some of those funds. The feeling was that it was an appropriate thing to do; to give back directly to the training system that had helped get the parish to the position it is now in.

That is precisely what the parish’s membership will do, adding to the growing number of alumni and friends who have joined the 1876 Society to provide a community of stewardship that supports the work and future of the College.

With thanks to: Fr Graham Lunn (SSH 2009), Fr Leon Carberry (SSH 1981) and the parishioners of St Michael and St Augustine, Beckenham.

For more details or to join the 1876 Society, please contact alumni@ssho.ox.ac.uk +44 (0)1865 610489

Ecclesial Identity

Honorary Research Fellow Dr Norman Russell recounts his personal journey to Christian Orthodoxy

“But you’re a baby!” said the Greek abbot, enveloping me in a fatherly embrace when I told him I had joined the Orthodox Church only two years previously. One’s Christian life may sometimes require a fresh start, even a new birth – but more than once?

Most of us inherit our ecclesial identity from our families. In my case my father was Anglican and my mother Greek Orthodox. I was brought up in the Anglican communion, but the Greek Fathers of the Church were always in the background through my mother’s influence. It was these Greek Fathers who drew me to the Catholic wing of the Anglican Church. At St Stephen’s House in the late 1960s my most vivid memories are of my patristic studies with Fr John Halliburton and Fr Hugh Wybrew.

As an Anglican deacon I was told by my bishop (in nineteenth-century Tractarian style) that my role was to help make the parish ‘more Catholic’. But can you be a Catholic without being in communion with Rome? In the parish I was constantly, if not explicitly, appealing to the Roman magisterium. It seemed a logical step to join the Roman Catholic Church. Inspired by Newman’s example, I became an Oratorian.

Then my mother died, and with the funds inherited from her I sought permission to continue my studies in Oxford on the Greek Fathers. These studies, with Bishop Kallistos Ware, led to a new phase in my life. I grew estranged from the Oratory, living for a while in an ecclesial limbo. But I hesitated to make another leap. Newman was against the change of ecclesial communion through the exercise of private judgement.

Then one day, after I had led a series of seminars in the United States, one of the participants (a Methodist) took me aside and said emphatically: “You must become Orthodox. Go and see Bishop Kallistos.” I took this as a sign, and did as he said.

I have found in the Orthodox Church, as Newman did in the Roman Catholic, ‘the Church of St Athanasius and St Augustine’ – a homecoming to the Fathers, but without any abrupt breach with my previous ecclesial identities. I live in Burgundy near the Catholic monastery of Taizé. At the beautiful twelfth-century village church, now dedicated to Orthodox use, I attend the Liturgy in the company of the brothers. And with my honorary research fellowship at St Stephen’s House, my pilgrimage has come full circle. Deo gratias!

Dr Norman Russell is based in France normanrussell@outlook.com

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Building on the College’s strong relations with the University’s Department of Education, a series of three public seminars were hosted during Trinity Term on ‘The Church, Education and Leadership’. This was supported by the Church of England’s recently established Foundation for Educational Leadership, and explored the inter-relationship between faith and contemporary school leadership, with three speakers presenting at each seminar and time for (lively) discussions.

The first asked, ‘Is there a place for a Christian Voice in Education?’. Canon Dr Ann Holt OBE (Diocesan Director of Education, Chichester) opened strongly, advocating the value of faith schooling within the current diversified system. Then Dr Bonnie Poon Zahl (Templeton World Charity Foundation, at Oxford) reflected as a Christian parent on her expectations of and hopes for her children’s schooling. Last, Dr Liam Gearon (Department of Education, Oxford) added a cautionary note, suggesting that religious involvement with state education risks the instrumentalisation of religion for political ends.

Second, we considered ‘Reciprocal Learning between Teachers and Clergy’, especially the intersections (and misunderstandings) between these two vocations. Dr Priscilla Chadwick (Culham & St Gabriel’s Trust) evaluated the role of school chaplains, and SSH Principal Fr Robin Ward then reflected on his own experiences in schools as a parish priest. To finish, Dr Nigel Fancourt sketched out a Gadamerian hermeneutics of reciprocal learning.

‘Teachers and Leaders’ was the concluding theme. Katy Granville-Chapman (Department of Education, Oxford and Wellington Family of Schools) explained her research on leadership and teacher flourishing; then Barnaby Lenon (Chair of the Independent Schools Council) reviewed the current challenges for increasingly autonomous school leaders. Lastly, Revd Richard Peers (Diocesan Director of Education, Chichester) opened strongly, advocating the value of faith schooling within the current diversified system. Then Dr Bonnie

A new campaign is launching to raise funds for a replacement organ at SJE Arts, with a key aim being to build upon the well-established choral tradition of the church to help widen its future use. The total cost is estimated to be £250,000 and we are now looking to work with individuals interested in supporting this and the broader development of SJE Arts. We hope to continue these conversations, so do get in touch if you might be interested in participating in future.

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Morena Dei, the College’s resident artist and horticulturalist, has donated her collection of named rhododendrons to SJE Arts. She is now helping to install a new rhododendron garden, which will be opened to the public in 2020. Morena Dei has also created a new sculpture garden in the College’s Cloister.

The College’s Cloister Gallery hosted a special exhibition for The Oxford Printmakers Co-operative this summer, which this year celebrated its 40th anniversary. Works included a etching, lithography, monoprints, wood and linocuts and screenprints.
The Centre for Theology & Community (CTC) exists to equip churches to transform their communities, through community organising and missional enterprise, rooted in theological reflection and prayer.

About/purpose
The Centre for Theology & Community (CTC) is a Christian think tank and action group, which organises and advocates for the church in the political, civic and religious. It seeks to catalyse and support such engagement with a view to transforming the lives of individuals, cities and nations. The Centre’s mission and values are set out in its theory of change.

Examples of work
CTC’s work is varied – it includes helping congregations and individual Christians to engage in community organising in the wider communities, through community organising and missional enterprise.

Where are they now?
In each issue of SSH News, we catch up with an alumnus to find out what they have gone on to do after leaving the College, and their experiences or memories of studying here.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Name: Michael Spence

Studied undertaken at SSH: PG Dip Theology and Certificate for Theological and Pastoral Studies

Year of graduation: 2006

Undergraduate degree/other studies: BA (Hons) Italian and English; LLB (Hons); DPhil in Law, Currently enrolled in the Diploma of Language Studies in Korean

Your current role: Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Sydney

Your current work
The University of Sydney is Australia’s oldest, and unusually comprehensive in its range of disciplines. It has around 67,000 students drawn from 120 countries (40 per cent from outside Australia), around 10,000 staff, and an annual turnover of $2.4 billion. As Vice-Chancellor, there is no typical day, but each of them is typically challenging!

Tell us about your time at SSH?
I was a non-residential student and one for whom the Catholic tradition called me. More generally, in the chaos of a demanding job and a family of seven, soon to be eight, children, College taught me the value of taking time out for stillness.

Are there any particularly memorable moments or experiences from your time at the College?
I will never forget my phone going off in my pocket as I held a candle for the gospel in Mass, with me feeling both embarrassed and panicked as I wondered what might be happening with my unattended children at home. I will never forget an incredibly effective group Mass in a local pub with some very confronting imagery projected on to the walls, while the crowd of local drinkers took it all in their stride. Perhaps surprisingly for an evangelical, it is the worship spaces and the liturgy of which I have the most visceral and precious memories.

What advice would you give to someone considering studying here?
Enjoy the life of the College. Remember what an incredible privilege it is to have such close contact with the kind of world-class minds that are the academic staff and take advantage of that opportunity. But you would expect a Vice-Chancellor to say that!

Paring thoughts?
St Stephen’s House is a remarkable institution from which I learned an enormous amount and to which I am deeply indebted.

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Examples of work
CTC’s work is varied – it includes helping congregations and individual Christians to engage in community organising in the wider communities, through community organising and missional enterprise.

Location
East Crypt, St George-in-the-East, 14 Cannon Street Road, London, E1 DBH

Key contact
Canon Angus Ritchie, Executive Director (Fr Angus serves at St George-in-the-East, Shadwell, and as an Honorary Canon of Worcester Cathedral).

About/purpose
The Centre for Theology & Community (CTC) exists to equip churches to transform their communities, through community organising and missional enterprise, rooted in theological reflection and prayer.

Examples of work
CTC’s work is varied – it includes helping congregations and individual Christians to engage in community organising in the wider communities, through community organising and missional enterprise – including the high-profile Living Wage campaign, which united various groups (church leaders, trade unions, mosques) in a call for people to be paid fairly to enable them to not only earn a living, but engage in all aspects of life; family, civic and religious.

Another key area of community organising is around affordable housing. CTC published a report on this called From Houses to Homes, explaining the theological basis for this work – and has helped its host church, St George-in-the-East to secure a change in policy in relation to land being sold off by Transport for London. As a result of a campaign led by St George’s, and engaging neighbouring churches, mosques and schools in Citizens UK, the site will now be developed as a Community Land Trust, securing affordable homes in perpetuity. As part of its work on missional enterprise, the Centre has partnered with the Church Mission Society and the Parish of St Andrew by the Wardrobe (a church in the City of London) to establish an ethical cleaning business called Clean for Good. This was prompted by the vast inequality in pay and working conditions in St Andrew’s parish, where thousands of well-paid City workers depart their offices each day as a small army of low-paid cleaning staff enter the City to clean those same offices.

How does CTC work with SSH?
SSH ordinands come on placement to CTC and its partner churches, spending time learning about the role congregations can play in community organising and campaigning. CTC has also recently published a report on Anglo-Catholic church growth in London, which included examples of the work of SSH-trained priests. Executive Director Angus Ritchie also cites SSH alumnus Fr Ken Leech (SSH 1962) as a personal inspiration in his work.

How did SSH prepare you for what you’ve subsequently gone on to do?
Since leaving College I served as a non-stipendiary minister in Oxford and then doing locums in Sydney. Learning the Catholic tradition has prepared me very specifically to serve in the places to which God has called me. More generally, in the chaos of a demanding job and a family of seven, soon to be eight, children, College taught me the value of taking time out for stillness.

Where are they now?
In each issue of SSH News, we catch up with an alumnus to find out what they have gone on to do after leaving the College, and their memories of studying here.
This year’s Newsletter comes with an international feel to it: members of the college have been working across the globe in a wide variety of settings and situations, and we hope that you will get a good impression of everything that is going on for our students, academic staff and research fellows. One of the key themes of the Catholic Revival in the Church of England was the search for a bigger perspective and a bigger horizon than just the domestic one – from the role that our students once took in the founding of the cathedral at Zarzabar, to the founding of the cathedral at Zanzibar, to the world of Orthodoxy. We remain committed to that broad vision.

We particularly welcome the following new members:

- Fr Toby Boutle
- The Revd Mark Bonney
- The Revd Imogen Black
- The Revd Paul Barrow
- Bishop Jonathan Baker
- Fr Simon Atkinson
- Andrew Archibald
- Fr Peter Anthony
- Stuart Abram

Thank you to all members of the 1876 Society for their support:

- The 1876 Society
- Drs Uzo and Erik Erlingsson
- Mr Peter Darling
- The Revd John Clark
- Fr David Herbert
- Henry Hemmingdale
- Jason Groves
- Fr Stephen Graham
- Canon Peter Evans
- The Revd Peter Eagles
- Scott Cooper
- Mariko Coelho
- Edward Cain

The following SSH Deacons were ordained Priest this year:

- James White, Ruislip
- Blair Radford, Monk Bretton
- Kvetoslav Krejci, Reading
- Chris Dingwall-Jones, Fleetwood

The following SSH leavers were ordained Deacon this year, listed alongside their new title parishes:

- James White, Ruislip
- Blair Radford, Monk Bretton
- Kvetoslav Krejci, Reading
- Chris Dingwall-Jones, Fleetwood

The new GDPR rules prevent us from publishing examination results without the explicit consent of our students. So we congratulate all our students who successfully completed their courses in 2018, and who were awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in Education, the degrees of Master of Studies, Master of Science, Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy. We are very proud of all you have achieved during your time with us.

The following SSH leavers were ordained Deacon this year, listed alongside their new title parishes:

- Dr Mark Philpott
- Fr Mike Bolto
- The Revd David Stevenson
- Gregory Tucker
- Ly Canavan Ann Turner
- Laura Crowther-Jones & The Parish of St Thomas Fifth Avenue, New York, USA
- The Revd John Warner
- The Revd Ben Woodman
- Kathy and Jennifer Zank
- The Revd Alexander McGinley
- Bishop Martin Warner

The following SSH leavers were ordained Priest this year:

- Nicholas Archer, Eastbourne (S. Savour & S. Peter), Chichester
- Monika Doering, West Barnsley, Leeds
- Samuel Gibson, Sodbull-Town Ministry, Birmingham
- Nicholas Johnson, Clodwick (S. Mark with Chist Church), Manchester
- Philip Kennedy, Croydon (S. Michael & All Angels with S. James), Southwark
- William Laverman, Fulham (All Saints), London
- Mark Mawhriney, Southwick (S. Peter), Chichester
- Stephen Mills, Steyning (S. Andrew & S. George), Chichester
- Nicholas Johnson, Clodwick (S. Mark with Chist Church), Manchester
- Philip Kennedy, Croydon (S. Michael & All Angels with S. James), Southwark
- William Laverman, Fulham (All Saints), London
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Contact
If you would like to discuss your gift or talk to us about how you might wish to support the College, please contact:
Rachel Makari, Development Director
✉ rachel.makari@ssho.ox.ac.uk
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