

St. John's College  
Oxford  
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*From the Chaplain*  
The Rev'd Dr Elizabeth Macfarlane

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Dear new member of St John's,

Congratulations on gaining your place. I look forward very much to meeting you during Freshers' week and beyond.

May I introduce myself? My main role as Chaplain in College is to support the whole community of St John's, students and staff alike, as part of the welfare team. My door (Front Quad 1.1) will always be open to you throughout your time in college, and you can always come and talk to me in confidence about any matter. I'm here to listen, for everyone, for people with no faith and people of faith: I make no distinction. I will do all that I can to help you, or to direct you to the best source of help available.

My other responsibility is religious. For historical reasons – our 'St John' is John the Baptist, a prophet at the time of Jesus - the College has a chapel, chaplain and choir. There are regular services during term-time to which everyone is welcome. Each term I invite speakers from across the Christian denominations and beyond to share thoughts and provocations to thought at Sunday evensong. People come to chapel for a variety of reasons, many of which are nothing to do with faith. I won't interpret attendance as an indication of personal belief: plenty of people simply enjoy the music, the time to reflect and the calm, quiet space.

The chapel, like the rest of the College, is a place for questioning, discussion and thought, and I hope that you might find something of interest in its programme, including the choral music, reading parties and the Sunday breakfasts. Look out for the term card on the chapel notice board, the lodge notice board and online.

Please be in touch with me by email if you would like more information, or if you might like to audition for the choir, for which I'll pass your details to the choral scholars. There will, of course, be a chance to do this when you arrive too. Overleaf are contacts for most of the major faith groups in Oxford, and I am happy to provide more details if you would find that useful. I do look forward to meeting you in October. In the mean time, enjoy the remainder of the summer.

With every good wish for the years ahead,

Elizabeth

## **CHRISTIANITY**

Oxford is host to a wide variety of approaches to Christianity, of which the College chapel is only one, and many students explore different traditions during their time here. Such are the politics of contemporary Christianity that it would be invidious to name certain churches and not others, and there are too many to cite here. If you would like help finding a church, please drop me an email giving me some indication of the tradition you come from or are seeking, and I'll give you suggestions as to places that might be plausible for you, and where possible, put you in touch with people who attend them. The Roman Catholic chaplaincy rep in St John's is Oluwakanyinsola Akinwuntan ([oluwakanyinsola.akinwuntan@sjc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:oluwakanyinsola.akinwuntan@sjc.ox.ac.uk)). The college chapter of the Oxford Inter-collegiate Christian Union in St John's is currently represented by Henry Cole and Joshua Clements (I'm sure you can work out their email addresses). The Quaker chaplain to the University is Maddy Ward. [madeleine.ward@wolfson.ox.ac.uk](mailto:madeleine.ward@wolfson.ox.ac.uk), and the Orthodox chaplains are the Very Rev'd Ian Graham (Greek Orthodox) [rian\\_graham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rian_graham@yahoo.co.uk), and the Very Rev'd Stephen Platt (Russian Orthodox) [fr.stephen.platt@gmail.com](mailto:fr.stephen.platt@gmail.com).

## **ISLAM**

The Muslim Chaplains are Afifi Al-Akiti – [afifi.al-akiti@worc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:afifi.al-akiti@worc.ox.ac.uk) and Professor Muhammad Talib – [muhammad.talib@anthro.ox.ac.uk](mailto:muhammad.talib@anthro.ox.ac.uk). There is a dedicated prayer room in central Oxford in the Robert Hooke Building on Parks Road. The Oxford University Islamic Society, [www.ouisoc.com](http://www.ouisoc.com), organises Friday prayer, and details of its events can be found at [www.facebook.com/ouisoc](http://www.facebook.com/ouisoc).

## **JUDAISM**

The Jewish Chaplains are Rabbi Michael and Tracey Rosenfeld-Schueler [michael@mychaplaincy.co.uk](mailto:michael@mychaplaincy.co.uk) and [tracey@mychaplaincy.co.uk](mailto:tracey@mychaplaincy.co.uk). Their website is [oxfordchap.weebly.com](http://oxfordchap.weebly.com). Services take place under the auspices of the Oxford Jewish Congregation at the Synagogue: The Oxford Jewish Centre (OJC), 21 Richmond Road, Oxford OX1 2JL (01865 514356). The Oxford Jewish Society: [www.oxfordjsoc.co.uk](http://www.oxfordjsoc.co.uk); [info@oxfordjsoc.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordjsoc.co.uk).

## **BUDDHISM**

The Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies: <http://www.ocbs.org>. The Oxford Buddhist Centre: 18 Bhandari Close, Cricket Road, Oxford OX4 3DT (Western Buddhist) (01865 777297). The Longchen Foundation: meetings held at the Friends' Meeting House, 43, St Giles, Oxford: contact Sally Sheldrake (01865 725569). [www.longchenfoundation.com](http://www.longchenfoundation.com). Tibetan Buddhist Centre: Thrangu House, 42 Magdalen Road, Oxford, OX4 1RB (01865 241555). Theravada Tradition: The Oxford Buddha Vihara, 356-358 Abingdon Road, Oxford OX1 4TQ (01865 791591). Email: [oxford\\_buddhavihara@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oxford_buddhavihara@yahoo.co.uk) Website: [www.oxfordbuddhavihara.org.uk](http://www.oxfordbuddhavihara.org.uk). Abbot: Ven. Dr Khammai Dhammasami

## **HINDUISM**

The Hindu Chaplain is Shaunaka Rishi Das (01865 304303) [shaunaka@ochs.org.uk](mailto:shaunaka@ochs.org.uk). The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies is at 13-15 Magdalen Street, Oxford OX1 3AE ([www.ochs.org.uk](http://www.ochs.org.uk))

## **SIKHISM**

For information, see [www.oxfordsikhs.com](http://www.oxfordsikhs.com). The Oxford University Sikh Society email is: [sikhsoc@gmail.com](mailto:sikhsoc@gmail.com). The British Organisation of Sikh Students website is: [www.boss-uk.org](http://www.boss-uk.org)