Sundays in Chapel 6 pm: Choral Evensong

20/20 Seeing Clearly – prophecy, poetry, history, science

*To see a World in a Grain of Sand / And a Heaven in a Wild Flower
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand / And Eternity in an hour*

William Blake, *Auguries of Innocence* (1803)

As we begin the year 2020, we will focus in Chapel on how we see and know. Prophets, poets, historians and scientists all claim special insight into the true nature of reality, based on close observation and finely-tuned attentiveness to their objects of enquiry. We hope to come to the end of term with our own vision sharpened, and a more acute sense of what seeing clearly in our own disciplines and lives could mean.

1st wk ★ 19 January  William Blake’s Prophetic Vision
Inspired by the recent exhibition at Tate Britain, The Chaplain reflects on the relevance for today of the multi-faceted prophetic, poetic, moral, and artistic vision of William Blake (1757-1827).

2nd wk  26 January  The Prophet in the Window: Introducing Amos
Who is that man up there with a lamb? The Chaplain inaugurates a termly practice of featuring one of the fifteen Jewish prophets portrayed in the Chapel’s north windows. We begin with Amos, whose book is the earliest written record of oral prophecies in the Bible. Active in the eighth century BCE in Judah and Israel, Amos had a special concern for social justice and ethics that still rings true today.

3rd wk ★ 2 February  Through a Glass Brightly: Light, Lenses and God at Wadham
17th-century Wadham was a hotbed of scientific enquiry, using microscopes and telescopes amongst other apparatus. The informal circle of scientific gentlemen gathered around Warden Wilkins (1648-59) included Christopher Wren and Robert Hooke, and grew into the Royal Society. On the feast of Candlemas, Wadham’s own Allan Chapman, an historian of science, will discuss the contributions of Wilkins and his circle to natural history and natural theology, and their happy blend of science, reason, friendship, and Christian faith.

4th wk  9 Feb, 5.30 pm  Intercollegiate Evensong – at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin
This year Wadham’s choir will participate in the annual Intercollegiate Evensong at the University Church, and all are encouraged to join the amassed congregation from across the colleges: please note the earlier time of 5.30. There will be no evening service in College on this Sunday. His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, the Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London, will preach.

5th wk ★ 16 February  Ob boy, do we see race/gender
Jonathan Jong will help us explore questions of explicit bias in our seeing. Jonathan is Deputy Director of the Belief, Brain & Behaviour research group at Coventry University, and Research Coordinator at the Institute of Cognitive & Evolutionary Anthropology at Oxford. His current research centres on the psychology of religion and the philosophical issues associated with the scientific study of religion, and he serves as Associate Priest at St Mary Magdalen in Oxford.

6th wk  23 February  Seeing Gender in History
Senior Chapel Warden and Chaplaincy Assistant Samson Dittrich is also a finalist in Modern History, specialising in gender and sexuality studies. Drawing on his archival research into the Weimar-era Institut für Sexualwissenschaft (1919-1933), he will discuss Berlin’s rich history of gender non-conformity and queer culture, how studying past conceptions of sexuality and gender has helped him to come to terms with his own identity as a queer trans man, and how seeing the past more clearly can help us become better allies to LGBTQ+ people in the present.

7th wk  1 March  Seeing and believing in the Quantum World
Ian Walmsley will discuss both how light enables us to explore the most extreme features of the world and what it reveals about the very nature of scientific descriptions of the universe. When not singing in Wadham Chapel Choir, Ian serves as Provost of Imperial College London, where he is also Chair of Experimental Physics, specialising in quantum technologies.

8th wk ★  8 March  Science and Religion in a post-truth age
Andrew Davison comes to us from Cambridge, where he is Starbridge Lecturer in Theology and Natural Sciences, and also Fellow and Dean of Chapel at Corpus Christi College. A biochemist by doctoral training at Oxford, and a theologian by later doctoral study at Cambridge, Andrew now works at the intersection of theology, science and philosophy.

★ On starred evenings Evensong is followed by dinner in Hall for all who have signed up beforehand.
Midweek Services and Events

Wednesday evenings 9.10-9.30pm – Late Night Meditation (Compline), weeks 1-8
A simple service by candlelight of chant, prayer, and meditation to end the day gently, in peace. Led by members of the Wadham community, using different styles, from medieval to modern.

Roman Catholic Evening Mass in Epiphany – Wednesday 2nd wk (29 Jan), 6 pm: all welcome

The Staff Service (Mindfulness Half-Hour) – Wednesday 3rd week (5 February), 10.30 am
For Wadham staff members: a pause for reflection and refreshment, half-way through term, followed as ever by drinks and biscuits.

Lent 2020

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Tea Party – Tuesday 6th week (25 February), 4 pm, Chaplain’s Room
Back by popular demand: Wadham’s own modest version of Mardi Gras, the traditional pre-Lenten pancake feast.

Ash Wednesday Service in College – Wednesday 6th week (26 Feb), 12.10 pm, for 20 minutes
A simple service of self-examination and prayer, with optional imposition of ashes.

Choral Eucharist for Ash Wednesday – Wednesday 6th wk (26 Feb), 8 pm, University Church
Joint service at the University Church with imposition of ashes and Holy Communion, with combined choirs.

Roman Catholic Lunchtime Mass in Lent – Thursday 6th wk (27 Feb), 12.15 pm; all welcome.

Led by Sister Elizabeth Jane, from the Community of St Mary the Virgin (Wantage); all welcome.

Weekly Events for students

Please stop by 3:1 in term-time to join the Chaplain, Maggie Mae the welfare ‘cat’, and others for:

Tuesdays 11-12 – Drop-in Student Breakfast Club
coffee, tea, crumpets, pains au chocolat, Pop-Tarts™, and more!

Thursdays 4-5.15 – Drop-in Student Afternoon Tea
tea, cake, and conversation

Beyond the walls

Wadham Chapel does Abingdon-on-Thames – Saturday 3rd week (8 February), 10-4
Following the success of our walking pilgrimage to Iffley village in Michaelmas, this term we will visit the ruins of the great medieval Abbey of Abingdon with its gateway church of St Nicolas, St Helen’s Church, with its astonishing 14th-century painted Lady Chapel ceiling, and St Michael’s Church, to walk the great tile labyrinth set in its floor.

Wadham Chapel goes to the Ashmolean – Wednesday 5th week (19 February).
Meet on the Ashmolean steps at 3.30 (Lodge at 3.15 for those who wish to walk over together), for informal exploration of the theme of Seeing Clearly in the museum’s collections, followed by tea and cake in the museum café as the Chapel’s guest.

Ignatian Retreat Day in London – Saturday 8th week (14 March), 11-4
Converge on the Mount Street Jesuit Centre for their monthly 2nd-Saturday retreat day – a gentle, simple, interactive introduction to the practice of Ignatian reflection, and an opportunity to gather up the graces of the term just past.

Somerset Mini-Pilgrimage – Easter Vacation, first week of April, exact dates tbc.
Proposed four-day wander around the Wadhams’ ancestral parishes, with visits to St Mary, Ilminster and St Peter, Ilton.
Wadham College Chapel

The College Chapel is a place for all members of College as well as their families and friends. The ethos of the chaplaincy is warm and friendly and seeks to provide a focus for the spiritual life of the whole College community. Chapel events are inclusive and gather students and staff with diverse perspectives on matters of faith, metaphysical enquiry and spiritual practice, without assuming any particular religious affiliation. The Chapel is open all day, and is a place where you can light a candle, sit quietly and reflect, read, offer prayers, or simply take time out in stillness and peace. It is a holy space where all can enter into the search for meaning, solace or rest.

Chaplain: The Revd Dr Jane Baun

The Chaplain is available to all members of the College community, including members of different faith traditions and those with no religious affiliation. Jane can be consulted in confidence on any matter of concern, whether personal, practical or spiritual – academic pressures, relationship difficulties, bereavement, anxiety or just life in general. The kettle is always on, and chocolate available. Jane is ably assisted by Maggie Mae, a mostly sheepdog who is always happy to listen, receive adoration, and give reassurance. (If you would rather meet Jane without Maggie in the room, just let her know ahead of time.) Please do get in touch: Chaplain@wadham.ox.ac.uk, phone 277 905 or find Jane in room 3:1.

Chapel People

Director of Chapel Music  Katharine Pardee (kparday@yahoo.com)
Chapel Organist          Julian Littlewood
Chaplaincy Assistants    Samson Dittrich, Brooke Pauley
Chapel Wardens           Juliane Borchert, Sanjana Conroy-Tripathi, Samson Dittrich, Rachel McVeigh, Brooke Pauley, Atchutananda Surampudi

If you would like to sing in the choir please contact Katharine Pardee.
If you would like to read or lead the prayers at Evensong, or indeed help in any other way in Chapel, please contact the Chaplain.

Follow us on @wadhamchapel

front cover: Illustration of a Blue Fly from Robert Hooke, MICROGRAPHIA or some physiological descriptions of minute bodies made by magnifying glasses with observations and inquiries thereupon (1665), Schem. XXIV, Of the Structure and motion of the Wings of Flies. Used by permission.