Beyond the Walls

Wadham Chapel does St Paul’s – Monday 3rd Week (25 October), 5 pm
The Wadham Chapel Choir sings Evensong at St Paul’s Cathedral in London.

Iffley Pilgrimage – Saturday 4th week (6 November)
A walk along the Thames towpath to Iffley village, with its fabulous Romanesque church of St Mary, followed by refreshments at the Isis Farmhouse; watch Chapel mailings for details.

Friday Teas with Dante
2021 marks the 700th anniversary of the great Italian poet Dante Alighieri (1265–1321), best known as the author of The Divine Comedy, with its outsized influence on Western Christianity's conception of Heaven, Purgatory, Hell, and the afterlife. We will consider Dante's enduring 'influence' legacy at two Oxford exhibitions: 'The Divine Comedy from Manuscript to Manga,' at the Weston Library, and 'Dante: The Invention of Celebrity,' at the Ashmolean Museum, along with tea as the Chapel's guest in the museum cafés.

Friday 3rd week (29 October): Meet at the Ashmolean Café, 3 pm, followed by a walk around the Dante exhibition, 3.45-4.45, guided by the exhibition’s curator, Dr Gervase Rosser.

Friday 5th week (12 November): Meet at the Weston Library, 3 pm, to see the exhibition, followed by tea, 4-5.

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, comfort and 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 277 903 or find Jane in room 3:1.

Chapel People

Director of Chapel Music Katharine Pardee (kfpardee@yahoo.com)
Chapel Organist Julian Littledwood
Chapel Wardens Josie Ediss, Eva Hayward, Archutananda Surampudi, Juliet Webber

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 – your offer of help will be gratefully received.

Follow us on @wadhamchapel
Sundays in Chapel 6 pm: Choral Evensong

Opening

As we emerge from lockdowns into the next pandemic phase, Chapel speakers this term will consider opening – risks and rewards, depths and discoveries.

1st week ★ 10 October Opening between earth and heaven (1): Michaelmas
What’s in a name? The Chaplain opens the term by decoding ‘Michaelmas’, with its evocation of celestial beings to whom both earth and heaven are open.

2nd week 17 October Opening sacred space
Classical Indian dancer in the tradition of Bharatnatyam, Sharvi Maheshwari explores secularising the space (and her art form) by using Hindu ritual movements as a language to depict the Christian sacred scripture for a holistic encounter with the Divine.

3rd week ★ 24 October Opening and Consent
As the season of Advent approaches, The Revd Hannah Cartwright, Assistant Priest at the University Church, considers themes of invitation and participation in the Christian spiritual tradition, asking what an invitation to participate in Divine creation might look like, and whether agency and obedience can truly co-exist.

4th week 31 October Opening between earth and heaven (2): Halloween & All Saints
The Chaplain examines the ancient Christian and pagan beliefs which underlie Halloween’s mingling of worlds.

5th week ★ 7 November Opening our stories
As we mark the end of the Diwali festival, Pembroke alumna Neetu Singh, founder of the Haldi & Co Productions theatre company, and Harris Manchester’s Jahnavi Bhatia reflect on the power – and the perils – of being open with our stories.

6th week 14 November Remembrance Sunday
Wadham Fellow Dr Jane Garnett opens up questions about how we remember.

7th week ★ 21 November Queerfest Evensong
Wadham alumnus and quondam Chapel Warden Samson Dittrich returns to considers ‘open’ spaces as sites for queer community and identity-making, with special reference to Oxford’s Parson’s Pleasure and Charleston Farmhouse, questioning how connecting to queer nature spaces of the past can help us to ‘open up’ in the present.

8th week 28 November College Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies in Hall.
Doors open at 6:30 pm for this first come, first seated College tradition of Candelight Lessons and Carols, showcasing our Chapel Choir and featuring readers from across the College, as we ponder the Christmas story through stories ancient and modern.

★ On starred evenings, Evensong is followed by dinner in Hall for all who have signed up beforehand.

Midweek Services and Events

Roman Catholic Evening Mass – Wednesday 2nd week (20 October) – 6 pm; all welcome.
A small, quiet gathering by candlelight for Holy Communion, led by one of the University’s Catholic chaplains.

The Termly Staff Service – welcome back! – Wednesday 3rd week (27 October) – 10.30 am
For all Wadham staff members: a half-hour pause in the busy term for well-being, reflection and refreshments.

All Souls Day – Tuesday 4th Week (2 November), 12.30 pm
An opportunity to light a candle and remember those close to us who have died. Names of those whom you would like to be remembered during the service may be given to the Chaplain ahead of time.

Remembrance Day – Thursday 5th week (11 November) – 10.30 for 11 am.
We gather – staff, Fellows, students – at the memorial plaques by the Refectory for a short observance to remember College members who have died in war, and to pledge ourselves to work for peace.

Weekly Events for all (students, Fellows, and staff)

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1.10-1.40 pm – Tree Appreciation after Lunch
Join Jane and Maggie Mae after lunch in the gardens, with different trees featured each time; rain or shine.

Wednesdays & Fridays, 9.10-9.40 am – Qigong Mornings in the Garden

Weekly and Termly Events for students

Wednesdays, 7.30-8.30 pm, even weeks: Explore
Ever wonder what the Bible and Christianity are all about? Explore is a new student-led open space where Wadham students of all faiths and backgrounds can get together over refreshments to talk about the Bible, religious faith, and life. Watch Chapel mailings for more details.

Fridays, 4-5 pm, odd weeks: Afternoon Tea
Join the Chaplain and Maggie Mae on odd Fridays for afternoon tea to end the week and start the weekend, in the Ante-Chapel (1st and 7th) or around town as the Chapel’s guest (3rd and 5th).

1st Friday (15 Oct): Ante-Chapel
3rd Friday (29 Oct): Weston Library Café, preceded by Dante exhibition, 3.45-4.45.
5th Friday (11 Nov): Weston Library Café, preceded by Dante exhibition, 3-4 pm.
7th Friday (16 Nov): Ante-Chapel

Neurodiversity Café
Watch the Chapel mailings for details of this new initiative, meant to open up a space in which experience can be shared, and understanding enlarged, of issues around neurodiversity.