



Wadham College Chapel
Michaelmas Term 2025

Sundays in Chapel 6 pm: Choral Evensong

Wonder

1st week ★ 12 October *Wonder*

The Chaplain welcomes Freshers and reflects on how attentiveness to wonder nurtures and sustains well-being in body, mind and soul. Followed by dinner in Hall for all who attend Evensong (sign-up link in 0th-Week Chapel Mailing).

2nd week 19 October *Finding Beauty behind Bars: reflections of a climate activist*

Over the six weeks he spent in prison for climate activism and non-violent protest, **The Revd Tim Hewes** was graced with unexpected moments of wonder, beauty and humanity. His writing and advocacy on the looming environmental catastrophe we face challenge each of us to realise our own potential to act on behalf of humanity and the natural world.

3rd week ★ 26 October *Stars of Wonder: reflections of a physicist*

Wadham Professorial Fellow and Dr Lee's Professor of Experimental Philosophy **Prof. Paolo Radaelli** reflects on poetic and scientific pathways of wonder, in search of truth. Can the conviction that light obeys Maxwell's equations be held together with the assurance of Biblical faith that at Creation 'the light obeyed [God] in fear' (Baruch 3:33)?

4th week 2 November *Light on Darkness: wonder and ritual*

The research of **Dr Cosima Gillhammer** (LMH) on the synergies between Latin and medieval English religious culture elucidates the profound influence of Christian liturgy on Western European art, literature, music and architecture, and the enduring significance of the Liturgy as an expression of human emotion and religious experience.

5th week ★ 9 November *A Way through the Darkness: the wonder and solace of poetry in war*

'Sometimes poetry can serve as a vaccination against despair' (Lindsay Hilsum). The attentive observation by soldier-poets of the Great War recorded indelible images of war's horror and pity, but also afforded consolations that enabled endurance. **The Chaplain** considers poetry's function in war zones, from the Somme in 1918 to modern-day Gaza and Ukraine.

6th week 16 November *The Wonder of Words (and everything else)*

The poetry of spiritual director **Gillian Fenner**, aka 'The Pilgrim Poet', observes and celebrates wonder. Consonant with the Ignatian principle of finding God in all things, she will invite us to open our senses to the wonder all around, and connect with the Divine in the day to day with poetry as the pathway.

7th week ★ 23 November *Queer Ways of Wonder*

Priest, theologian, broadcaster, musician and medievalist, **The Revd Molly Boot** is currently based in rural Gloucestershire, but no stranger to Oxford (Regent's Park and St Hugh's). They're very enthusiastic about a lot of things, including music, prayer, LGBTQ+ liberation, and the stranger corners of medieval church history.

8th week 30 November **COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE** *followed by mulled wine and mince pies in Hall*

Doors open at 5.30 pm for this first-come, first-seated College tradition of Candlelight Lessons and Carols, featuring our Chapel Choir and readers from the College community, as we ponder the Christmas story through stories ancient and modern.

★ *On starred evenings (Odd Weeks), Evensong is followed by dinner in Hall for all who have signed up beforehand; see Chapel mailings for details.*

Midweek Services and Events in College for all

Roman Catholic Evening Mass – Wednesday 2nd week (22 October) – 6 pm; all welcome.

A small, quiet gathering in the Chapel by candlelight for Holy Communion in the Roman Catholic tradition, led by one of the University's Catholic chaplains.

Autumn Mindfulness Half-Hour for Wadham Staff – Wednesday 3rd wk (29 Oct), 10.30-11

For all Wadham staff members: 20 minutes in the garden for tree appreciation and guided nature immersion and reflection, followed by optional coffee and cake in the Chaplain's Room.

All Saints / All Souls Day – Monday 4th week (3 November), 12.30-12.50 pm

A brief service of remembrance for those close to us who have died, with the opportunity to light candles. Names of those whom you would like to be remembered during the service may be given to the Chaplain ahead of time.

Remembrance Day – Tuesday 5th week (11 November) – 10.50 for 11 am

We gather – staff, Fellows, tutors, and students – at the Memorial Tablets outside the Undergraduate Centre, for a short observance to remember and honour the service and sacrifice by College members in time of war.

Transgender Day of Remembrance – Thursday 6th week (20 November), all day

A meditation space will be open all day in the Ante-Chapel, with candles and documentation, to commemorate those whose lives have been lost through anti-transgender violence worldwide over the past year.

Weekly Events for students (Weeks 1–8)

○ **Full Moon Tree Walks** – Wednesday 5th wk (5 Nov.), Thursday 8th wk (4 Dec.), 8-10 pm

Wrap up warmly and join Jane in the gardens by night to admire Wadham's amazing trees by the light of the final two 'supermoons' of 2025 (clouds permitting); bring moon poetry, songs, and stories, and your own mug if possible. First hour: hot chocolate in the Ante-Chapel; 2nd hour: garden moon walk.

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, 8.10-8.40 am – Garden Qigong

Join Jane and Maggie Mae in the garden for Qigong—an ancient Chinese mindfulness & movement practice. No prior experience necessary. Rain venue: the Ante-Chapel. Possible Tues. & Thurs. times tbd.

Thursdays, 4-5 pm – Postgraduate Afternoon Tea

Postgraduate students, this tea is for you! Join Jane and Maggie Mae weekly in the Chaplain's Room (3/1) for informal afternoon tea, cake and fruit. Special diets honoured. Drop in and out.

Thursdays, 8.50-9.30 pm – COMPLINE by Candlelight, Chapel

All are welcome to join in the ancient night prayer of the church, a simple service of chant and reflection.

Odd Friday Afternoon Teas

Join Jane and Maggie Mae on three odd Fridays for afternoon tea to end the week and start the weekend.

- 1st Friday (17 Oct): Welcome Back Tea in the Ante-Chapel, 4-5 pm
- 3rd Friday (31 Oct): Halloween Tea in the Ante-Chapel, 4-5 pm, with prizes for the best costumes.
- 5th Friday (14 Nov): Natural History Museum Tea, a wander round to see 'Microsculpture: the insect photography of Levon Biss' among other wonders, 3-4 pm, followed by tea in the museum café, 4-5.

Special Event

Reverence and Release: Qigong for Honouring Autumn

Saturday 3rd week (1 Nov.), 10.30-12.30

What would it feel like to replace the rush of daily life with the gift of reverence? To create space, cherish life's gifts, and consciously release what is no longer needed? Wadham is honoured to welcome master teacher Mimi Kuo-Deemer for this two-hour workshop of teaching, meditation and mindful movement, based on the ancient wisdom traditions of Chinese medicine, Buddhism, and Daoism. All levels are welcome, and no prior experience is required. Watch Chapel mailings for sign-up information.

Wadham College Chapel

The College Chapel serves as a haven for all members of College as well as their families and friends. 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.

Chaplain: The Revd Dr Jane Baun

The Chaplain is available to all members of the College community, and can be consulted in confidence on any matter of concern, personal, practical or spiritual – academic pressures, relationships, bereavement, anxiety or just life in general. Jane is ably assisted by the College 'cat' Maggie Mae, a mostly sheepdog who is always happy to receive adoration and give reassurance. Contact Jane on chaplain@wadham.ox.ac.uk.



Chapel People

Director of Music Hannah Zaki
(hannah.zaki@wadham.ox.ac.uk)
Chapel Organist Dr Julian Littlewood
Chapel Wardens Eva Hayward, Theo Wright



Cover image:

Japanese Maple buds in early Spring through a hand lens
Photo by James Harriman (2025)