Virtual Quad
by Mansfield College

Weekly events, tips, and reflections
Week 3 - Michaelmas 2021
Hi! I’m Stephen, the chaplain for this term.

Although I’m a Christian minister, I have training in secular psychotherapy and my primary role is to be a welfare resource for everyone. I will never talk about God unless you ask me to!

I studied English at Oxford before training for ministry, and undertook graduate work on Ralph Waldo Emerson, so I’m particularly interested in the way culture – literature particularly – intersects with identity, politics, and faith.

I’m available to talk in absolute confidence about absolutely anything! You don’t need to be troubled by something to come to see me. But, if you are feeling in need of support, I can help you to think through whatever you’re facing, identify and help you access other resources, or just listen over a cup of tea. I’m in college Monday to Thursday, 1pm to 5pm. Drop me an email at chaplain@mansfield.ox.ac.uk or knock on my door (6 Mansfield Road, ground floor).

I’m looking forward to helping us all grow in the College’s mission to become ever more inclusive, diverse, and welcoming.

Rev Stephen Hearn
Chaplain, Mansfield College
email: chaplain@mansfield.ox.ac.uk
The Hands Lecture 2021: Cities are gardens for growing people

Friday 29 October, 5.30pm

Award-winning designer and architect Thomas Heatherwick will explore the importance of humanising design, breaking down siloed thinking to positively impact our cities.

Sir Joseph Hotung Auditorium Admission Free | All Welcome
Sign up www.mansfield.ox.ac.uk/mansfield-college-public-talks
A message from the Principal

Race Equality at Oxford - What Should We Be Doing Better? Have your say

In the wake of the terrible murder of George Floyd, Oxford University established a Race Equality Task Force. The Task Force had representatives from across the University (including students and our Principal) and from outside, and has now made some recommendations. You can read more about them here:

Some of these recommendations (a full time Equality & Diversity Lead at Pro-Vice Chancellor level; a cross-University Equality Committee; and a strong focus a communications strategy that highlights and mainstreams our commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion) are immediate. Other measures recommended by the Task Force have been put out to consultation. The Task Force will make recommendations to Council, the University’s decision-making body, based on consultation responses.

The consultation was launched on 19 October 2021 and is open for responses until 1 December 2021. The link is here: https://edu.web.ox.ac.uk/race-equality-task-force-consultation-mt21

It is really important that the Race Equality Task Force recommendations are informed by voices across the University. Please take time to have your say and to have your voice heard.

Helen Mountfield QC (she/her)
Principal
Per Oxford tradition, Colleges host their Ball every three years. This year’s theme is “Paradise Lost”, embarking guests on a poetic journey across Mansfield’s Garden of Eden.

The Ball will be a black-tie event, with free drinks, food, music and entertainment across the College’s grounds.

We will offer non-dining tickets for £100, as well as dining tickets for £140, giving you the chance to attend a three-course dinner with wine (or non-alcoholic options) in the Mansfield Chapel. Please let us know when booking your ticket if you have any dietary requirements or allergies, regardless of which ticket you purchase, to make sure that we can accommodate your needs.

Book your tickets (subject to availability) https://bookoxex.com/Go/MansfieldCollegeBall2022?fbclid=IwAR2pWUzgFQRYmrRmweLLmhhOsfSFZtxitmRJhoPsKpgxign80nQCjana5GNes
Come over to the MCR for a spooktacular night with boos and booze!

Costumes are encouraged, and we will have a costumes contest as well! Winners will get special prizes!

The drinks will last until 11pm, after which you can head to Plush for their Halloween event!
Mansfield College Music Society Recital

SUNDAY 31 OCTOBER AT 16:00 at the Chapel

- Mistral Gagnant by Renaud and Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen (Noe Vagner-Clevenot on Piano)
- Prelude in G minor Op. 23 by Rachmaninoff (Norris Lamb on Piano)
- Donna Lee by Miles David and Charlie Parker (Max Huddart on guitar)
- Etude and Harmonic Variations (2 lockdown compositions) (Stephen Blundell on Piano)

All are welcome! Attendance is free but we will have people collecting money for the charity Solidaritee at the entrances to the event.
Hi!

We’re Alex, Hana and Chantale, and we are this year’s Mansfield Players committee. The Mansfield Players are Mansfield’s in-college drama society - we run theatre-related events for students, dispense advice on getting involved in Oxford drama, and offer funding for student productions involving at least one Mansfield member. We’re all second-year English students here at Mansfield, and we are really looking forward to working on the committee this year!

These are the events we’re planning for Mansfield students this term:

**Week 4** - Welcome event (drinks in the Old Hall - drop in to introduce yourself and have a chat about anything theatre-related!); National Theatre at Home play screening in the college auditorium

**Week 6** - Group trip to a student production of God of Carnage

**Week 7** - Monologue workshop for aspiring actors, directors, writers, and/or anyone else interested in drama
If you are interested in any of the listed events, and want to receive regular updates on opportunities available in Oxford drama, email mansfieldplayers@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.

We would also encourage everyone to look out for Quartet, a new play to be staged at the Burton Taylor Studio in Week 7 of this term. With Mansfielder Sam Spencer writing/co-producing, Alex Assistant Directing, and the production generously supported by the Mansfield Players fund, this is a play with a strong Mansfield connection. It would therefore be great to see as many members of the Mansfield community as possible there supporting us! Sign up to our mailing list to be notified when tickets are released.
A guide around Medieval Oxford!
Curated by Prof. Stephen Blundell
You may think you know the beautiful centre of Oxford well, but our perspective is very much of the moment as so many of its famous views are remarkably modern. On Broad Street, for example, the famous facades of Exeter and Balliol may look ancient but are both nineteenth century. You might be surprised to learn that Hertford’s Bridge of Sighs dates only from 1914. Frankly the place is awash with new builds! Therefore, our walk will stay in Oxford but we will keep an eye out for the some of the medieval buildings which are still visible.

The Anglo-Saxon town contained a grid of roads encircled by a defensive wall of earth and timber, upgraded to stone in the tenth century. The walls were interspersed by narrow gates that led to the main routes out of the city (see the high-tech map). We can’t follow the city wall precisely because much of it has been demolished and built upon. For example, the north section ran just south of George, Broad and Holywell streets. Part of the old city wall is visible inside New College, but since we can’t go in there at the moment, let's start at the King’s Arms, facing south and imagining the Smith gate. Head down Catte Street and turn left into New College Lane, going under the garishly modern Bridge of Sighs and past Edmond Halley’s (he of comet fame) house. New College Lane has not changed in its essentials since the fourteenth century. Near the end, you go past the library of St Edmund Hall, which used to be the church of St-Peter-in-the-East and dates from the 12th century. The East and West gates of Oxford had churches named after St Peter, while St Michael-branded churches (note, not Marks and Spencers) were at the North and South gates.
The East Gate spanned the High Street (close to the Eastgate Hotel) but was demolished in 1771. Cross the High Street and head down Rose Lane, turning right into Christchurch meadow and follow Deadman’s walk (so named because it was the route of medieval Jewish funeral processions from the synagogue, located where Christ Church now stands, to the burial ground situated where the Botanic Gardens now lie). You can see quite a bit of the old city wall running along the south side of Merton College.

When you emerge from Christ Church on to St Aldate’s, you are very close to the South Gate, but it was removed in the mid-seventeenth century. St Michael-at-the-Southgate Church only lasted until 1525, to make way for the great quadrangle of Cardinal College (later renamed Christ Church when Cardinal Wolsey’s star waned). Christ Church also absorbed the late Norman St Frideswide’s Priory which was surrendered to Wolsey in 1522. There is speculation that “Aldate” may be a contraction of “Old Gate” and not a saint.
The street, St Aldate’s, used to be called Fish Street but, whatever its name, cross over into Brewer Street where you will see more of the city wall (and also pass the house in which Dorothy L. Sayers was born in 1893; if lockdown is getting you down, “Gaudy Night” or “The Nine Tailors” come highly recommended).

Littlegate Street and Turn Again Lane are genuine medieval streets, but all the old buildings have been wiped out in various thoughtless acts of architectural barbarism over the centuries. These were particularly destructive in this part of town, as you can see by examining the area around the recently revamped “Westgate centre”, whose name refers to the city’s west gate. You will go past Greyfriars Place where there is a plaque explaining recent architectural finds unearthed during construction of the Westgate temple to rampant, unbridled consumerism, but which fails to include either the words “oops” or “sorry”
Pass down Paradise Street, cross Quaking Bridge (yes, really) and saunter through the grounds of Oxford castle, built in 1071, where the magnificent St George’s Tower still survives. From here, you can walk back to Bonn square which was the site of the no-longer extant St Peter-in-the-West church; it fell down in 1726, was rebuilt but then demolished in 1874 as part of a road-widening scheme.
Back to the King’s Arms and your circuit is completed, but if you still have an appetite for medieval buildings, why not do as I did last weekend and head down to Iffley village and take a look at the beautifully preserved twelfth-century Romanesque church of St Mary the Virgin.
Chapel service

Every Wednesday at 18:15pm at Mansfield College Chapel

Join chaplain Stephen Hearn and fellow students and staff at Mansfield for an evening of prayer and song
MCR - Wine and Cheese Evenings

Every Thursday at 19:30-21:30pm
at MCR Common Room
Drop-in sessions will run every Thursday via Zoom. Alternatively, contact us via Facebook Messenger or email to arrange a time to chat.

Peer supporters are here to talk about anything that is concerning you. Peer supporters have over 30 hours of training with the University Counselling Service in order to listen effectively, maintain confidentiality, and respect boundaries.

Mahati
mahati.garimella@mansfield.ox.ac.uk

Mitch
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Lumi
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Kate
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Codie
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Anabel
anabel.riley@mansfield.ox.ac.uk

Peer Support outside of Mansfield:
Feel free to contact one of the Teddy Hall JCR peer supporters
Katie (katie.long@seh.ox.ac.uk)
Greg (greg.halliwell@seh.ox.ac.uk)
A reminder for undergraduate students that there are university and college funds available for those who find they need additional financial support. We consider applications for support every term (or in an emergency). Helen Lacey, our Acting Senior Tutor, sent out a clear email explaining the various kinds of support you can apply for on 15 October 2021. It’s worth saving.

If you want to apply for financial support, please complete this form by Monday 1 November (Week 4), 12 noon

(https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=G96VzPWXk0-0uv5ouFLPkS31JXRslj9lvSCjr4cMi1UNFdTN0QyN0U2MTVTM1hENUZMSTJTVEY2MC4u&fsw=0)

Please note that if you want to apply for money from the Oxford University Hardship Fund it has an earlier deadline of 29 October 2021. If you want help in applying for support from this fund, you should contact Helen Lacey – using the Undergraduate Financial Support Fund form as soon as possible.
It can be difficult to make ends meet as a postgrad. Mansfield and the University have various funds you can apply for.

- The Oxford Hardship Fund can make grants of up to £6000. It is open to all graduate students who are struggling financially, but overseas students must apply by the University deadline of 20 October 2021. Details can be found at https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/assistance/hardship/ohf
- The Covid Assistance Fund is the best source of support for pandemic-related hardship. It is also open to all graduate students and can offer awards of up to £5000. Details can be found at https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/assistance-fund
- Mansfield’s Postgraduate Financial Support Fund can provide up to £200 for study-related expenses like books or conference registration costs, or travel for enrichment purposes.

To apply for help from any of them, please fill in the online Postgraduate Financial Support Fund form https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=G96VzPWXk0-0uv5ouFLPkS31JXRslj9lVCjR4cMi1UOERBWUIlSQ1dETFRNRlJKMzI5WVlLUk8zNi4u&fsw=0

We consider applications for support termly, and the deadline for this term is noon on 1 November 2021. We will review your application and advise you on the best source of support to apply for.
Due to generous funding from a donor, we are able to reimburse the full cost of courses taken at the University Language Centre (https://www.lang.ox.ac.uk).

The language centre offers both modern languages courses and courses in academic English.

Please note that you may only claim reimbursement if you complete the course. Once you have finished the course, please fill out the following form: Language Course Reimbursement 2021-22 The form will close for Michaelmas Term on Monday 20 December. Awards will be paid to battels in Hilary Terms.
Disability Advisor Service (DAS)

As term begins colleagues may find it helpful to revisit the University’s Guide for Supporting Disabled Students (https://academic.admin.ox.ac.uk/supporting-disabled-students#/)

Students can get in touch with their link Disability Advisor directly to arrange a meeting and confirm whether they would prefer to meet online or in-person at 3 Worcester Street. They’ll also find information on the DAS website to help make the most of an online DAS appointment. (https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/disability/contact)

The Michaelmas term Disability Professionals’ Forum will take place online on Monday 8th November from 10.00am-11.00am. Please complete this form to register your interest (https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=G96VzPWXk0-0uv5ouFLPkeZfX7m6MuxEiwIl1Ldrz1UQjVMRVJlOTEwMUxQNTExT1VYFWRDODZESC4u&fs w=0)
Oxford University Counselling Service
Reducing Digital Distraction (ReDD) Workshops
with Ulrik Lyngs, Dept of Computer Science
Selection of dates/times in Michaelmas Term weeks 3, 5 and 6

During Covid, you may have become more dependent on your digital devices than ever before: to study, to socialise, and to connect to the outside world. Smartphones, computers and tablets are powerful tools, but can also be an endless source of distraction that undermine your capacity to focus and result in long stretches of unproductive and unrewarding time.

If so, it may be time to take back control. This workshop can help! You will be supported to: reflect on your current relationship with your digital devices; identify the role you want them to play in your life; and get support to make real, practical changes. This workshop is relevant for all students, undergraduates and graduates.

To check available dates/times, and to book: https://calendly.com/ulyngs/redd-workshop
Poetry workshops every Saturday, between 4pm and 6 pm in MB1, available to all members of the college.

Mansfield's writer in residence Kate Clanchy is also available on Zoom for Creative Writing drop in - any kind of Creative Work - every Thursday afternoon 2-6pm starting Thursday, the 14th of October. Make an appointment by email on k.s.clanchy@reading.ac.uk.
Meet the Junior Dean Team

**Main Site**
Oana Gurau – Welfare Junior Dean
oana.gurau@mansfield.ox.ac.uk
Duty phone (6pm-2am) **07707130350**

Yashua Bhatti – Welfare Junior Dean
yashua.bhatti@mansfield.ox.ac.uk
Duty phone (6pm-2am) **07707130350**

**Ablethorpe/Rhodes Wolfson**
Ben Wilkinson-Turnbull – Residential Junior Dean
ben.wilkinson-turnbull@ell.ox.ac.uk
Duty phone (11pm-7am) **07741071156**

Juan Alvarez Velasquez – Residential Junior Dean
juan.alvarezvelasquez@physics.ox.ac.uk
Duty phone (11pm-7am) **07741071156**

**Cowley Road Houses**
Darshini Nadarajan – Welfare Junior Dean
darshini.nadarajan@education.ox.ac.uk
Duty phone (6pm-2am) **07453370008**

Zelimhan Akhmiev – Welfare Junior Dean
zelimhan.akhmiev@linacre.ox.ac.uk
Duty phone (6pm-2am) **07453370008**
(Acting) Tutor for Women
Elizabeth Drummond can be approached by students with concerns or issues they feel would best be communicated to a woman tutor.
elizabeth.drummond@mansfield.ox.ac.uk

LGBTQ+ Tutor
Ros Ballaster may be contacted by email and can meet by phone or by Microsoft Teams
ros.ballaster@mansfield.ox.ac.uk

Tutor for Racial Inclusion
Helen Mountfield co-organises the termly forum for Amplifying Voices of Students of Colour and can be contacted by email on principal@mansfield.ox.ac.uk

Tutor for Disabilities
Andrew Higgins deals with disability related welfare issues. andrew.higgins@mansfield.ox.ac.uk
Academic Support Tutor: Gail Leckie
offers one to one study skills support for any undergraduate of any subject, to discuss any concerns you have about your academic work broadly construed.

Email: gail.leckie@mansfield.ox.ac.uk for an appointment.

Royal Literary Fund Fellow: Jon Stock
provides academic writing support for all students, undergraduate or postgraduate. One to one sessions are for 50 minutes and take place online.

To book a slot, email jon.stock@rlfeducation.org.uk.
Where can I get support?

Medical Professionals
if you need immediate medical attention CALL 999

University Support
University Counselling Service
Email counselling@admin.ox.ac.uk for an appointment.

NHS 111
If you have an urgent medical problem and you’re not sure what to do, dial 111 and they can put you in touch with an out-of-hours GP or mental health nurse.

College GP
St Clements Surgery,
39 Temple Street,
OX4 1JS
tel: 01865 248 550

Tutor for Welfare:
Gail Leckie
gail.leckie@mansfield.ox.ac.uk

Chaplain:
Stephen Hearn
chaplain@mansfield.ox.ac.uk