



Oriel College Chapel

Hilary Term 2026

Choral Evensong *Sundays at 6pm*

Choral Evensong is part of the weekly rhythm of College life. The service combines profound and beautiful words from the Book of Common Prayer and the King James Bible with ancient and modern music and hymns sung by the Choir and the congregation. It is also an opportunity to hear a variety of interesting guest preachers. College members wear gowns, and the congregation is warmly invited for drinks with the Provost and the Chaplain after the service. Evensong is a nice way to begin an evening at Formal Hall with friends and guests. This term's sermons explore the theme of the Blessed Virgin Mary to whom the College is dedicated.

First Week – 18 January

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

The Anonymous Mother

The Chaplain

Second Week – 25 January

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

The Mother of the Lord

The Revd James Kennedy

Rector, St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton

Third Week – 1 February

Septuagesima

The Anxious Mother

The Venerable Dr Lyndon Drake

The Assistant Chaplain

Fourth Week – 8 February

Sexagesima

Woman, What Have I To Do With Thee?

The Rt Revd Philip Egan

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth

Fifth Week – 15 February

Quinquagesima

The Woman and the Dragon

The Revd Dr Ian Paul

Associate Vicar, St Nicholas' Church, Nottingham

Sixth Week – 22 February

1st Sunday in Lent

Mary and Family

The Revd John Fairful

Minister (Rtd), The Church of Scotland

Seventh Week – 1 March

2nd Sunday in Lent

Mary at the Cross

Dr Margaret B. Adam

Visiting Tutor, St Stephen's House

Eighth Week – 8 March

3rd Sunday in Lent

Festal Evensong and University Sermon for the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Rt Revd Christopher Jamison O.S.B.

Abbot President of the English Benedictine Congregation

Note: this service will be held at 5.15pm
in the University Church, not Oriel Chapel

Regular Services

Morning Prayer

► *Monday–Friday 8am, 20 mins*

These brief services begin the day with prayers and readings from the Book of Common Prayer. Every student is prayed for by name during the year. Stay on for breakfast in Hall afterwards.

Holy Communion

► *Wednesday 6pm, 60 min*

Our main mid-week service is a traditional celebration of Holy Communion with singing led by the Choir. All are invited to drinks following the service.

Compline

► *Thursday 9pm, 20 mins*

This candle-lit night prayer is the perfect way to wind down and de-stress at the end of the day. The singing is led by a group of choral scholars. All are welcome to stay for hot chocolate in the Chaplain's room afterwards. There will be no Compline in Week 8.

Oriel/Corpus College Mass

► *Tuesday 21 January, Week 1, 6pm*

All are invited for the termly Mass celebrated by the Roman Catholic Chaplain to the University beginning at 6pm at Corpus Christi Chapel followed by Evening Prayer for Christian Unity at Oriel Chapel.

Holocaust Memorial Day Vigil

► *Tuesday 27 January, Week 2, 5pm*

A vigil will be held to remember all victims of the Holocaust. All are welcome to gather in Chapel for a time of reflection by lighting candles, silent prayer and readings.

Ash Wednesday

► *Wednesday 18 February, Week 5, 6pm*

Since the Middle Ages, the start of Lent has been solemnly observed by marking the Sign of the Cross in ash on our foreheads, as a gesture of penitence and in recognition of our mortality. The Choir will sing the Litany.

Oriel's 700th Anniversary

Four special services will mark the septcentenary of the College.

Foundation Day Service

► *Wednesday 21 January, Week 1, 6pm*

On this day in the year of our Lord 1326, King Edward II officially founded Oriel College. A special Evensong will take place in Chapel in the presence of living benefactors, to which all are welcome.

Feast of Candlemas

► *Monday 2 February, Week 3, 6pm*

This is the principal feast of the Oriel year, marking the College's dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The preacher will be the Rt Revd Philip Mountstephen, Bishop of Winchester. The candle-lit service of Choral Evensong commemorates the occasion when the infant Christ was presented by Mary in the Temple and hailed as the Light of the World.

Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral

► *Tuesday 17 February, Week 5, 5pm*

Make the trip down to London to fill St Paul's Cathedral with current and former Orielenses for a special service celebrating the 700th anniversary sung by Oriel Chapel Choir.

Festal Evensong and

University Sermon

► *Sunday 8 March, Week 8, 6pm*

This will be the College's University-wide celebration of the anniversary and so will be held in the University Church in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors. A sermon will be preached on the Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The preacher is the Rt Revd Christopher Jamison O.S.B., Abbot President of the English Benedictine Congregation.

Welcome to Chapel

For some of us Chapel is very familiar; for others it is a total novelty. Everyone is welcome, whether you make it a regular feature of your week, just pop in occasionally for a service, or could simply do with a quiet moment of reflection during the day. Oriel College was founded in 1326 as 'a college of scholars studying sacred theology, civil and canon law and useful knowledge' in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Sacred music sung by our superb Choir has been an important part of the College's identity for centuries, a heritage that continues to the present. Chapel is a place of learning, prayer, and Christian community. Anyone can get involved. Come and see for yourself!

The Chaplain would be happy to talk with you about faith and spirituality, discussion groups, and the possibility of Baptism or Confirmation. We value the diversity of traditions represented here. Please contact the Chaplain if you would like details of other chaplaincies in the University.

College Chaplain: The Revd Dr Rob Wainwright

Room 3.3 (First Quad), chaplain@oriel.ox.ac.uk

The Chaplain is here for every member of the Oriel community. He is always happy to meet to listen and discuss confidentially any matter of concern – big or small, religious or not. He is a member of the College's welfare team and Tutor in Theology. You can reach him by email or a knock on the door.



Director of Music: Dr David Maw

Room 3.2 (First Quad), musicdirector@oriel.ox.ac.uk

The Director of Music works alongside the Chaplain to prepare services, and has charge over the Organ Scholars and the Chapel Choir. He is Fellow and Tutor in Music at Oriel. For a list of music at this term's services, please visit the Chapel web page: www.oriel.ox.ac.uk/chapel



Assistant Clergy **The Venerable Dr Lyndon Drake**

Organ Scholars **Edward Bence, Virginia Browne**

Choir Chair **Isabelle Miller**

Bible Clerks **Claire Latham (Head Clerk), Natasha Andoh, James Fulcher, Thomas Lofthouse, Ben Owen, Oliver Pattison, Felix Thomson**

YouTube Archive

An archive of sermons and music is available on YouTube: *Oriel College Chapel*

The Christian Union

The Christian Union aims to share the good news about Jesus Christ and the life he offers. For more information, please visit www.oiccu.org

The Roman Catholic Chaplaincy

The Catholic Chaplaincy celebrates Mass daily at Rose Place, off St Aldate's. For more information, please visit www.catholicchaplaincyoxford.co.uk or contact the College Reps at james.fulcher@oriel.ox.ac.uk or kiel.mchugh@oriel.ox.ac.uk