

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: Mr Alex Pott

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. For a list of music at this term's services, please visit the Chapel web page: www.oriel.ox.ac.uk/chapel



Organ Scholars	Edward Bence, Virginia Browne
Choir Chair	Edward Brown
Bible Clerks	Natasha Andoh (Head Clerk), Thomas Lofthouse, Ben Owen, Oliver Pattison, Gift Price, Felix Thomson

YouTube Archive

An archive of sermons and music is available on YouTube: [Oriel College Chapel](https://www.youtube.com/orielcollegechapel)

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

Cover image: stained glass in Chapel



Oriel College Chapel

Michaelmas 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 an opportunity to hear a variety of interesting guest preachers, and a nice way to begin an evening at Formal Hall with friends and guests.

College members wear gowns, and the congregation is warmly invited for drinks with the Provost and the Chaplain after the service. This term's sermons focus on the theme of the Kingdom of Heaven in St Matthew's Gospel.

First Week – 11 October

19th Sunday after Trinity

Kingdom Come

The Chaplain

Second Week – 18 October

20th Sunday after Trinity

Crown Jewels

The Revd Tim Adams

Curate, St John the Baptist Church, Burford

Third Week – 25 October

21st Sunday after Trinity

Commemoration of Benefactors: King Edward II

Professor Phillipp Schofield

Professor of History, Aberystwyth University, Wales

Fourth Week – 1 November

All Saints' Day

Children of the Kingdom

The Venerable David Meara

Archdeacon Emeritus of London

Fifth Week – 8 November

23rd Sunday after Trinity

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

A Royal Wedding Banquet

The Revd Santhosh Thomas

Vicar, St Andrew's Church, Wimbledon

Sixth Week – 15 November

24th Sunday after Trinity

A Forgiving Kingdom

The Revd Dr Harriet Harris

Principal, Ripon College, Cuddesdon

Seventh Week – 22 November

The Sunday next before Advent

A Growing Kingdom

His Eminence Willem Cardinal Eijk

The Archbishop of Utrecht, The Netherlands

Eighth Week – 29 November

ADVENT SUNDAY

The Advent Carol Service

Regular Services

For a full listing of all services in Chapel please consult the notice board in the Chapel porch.

Morning Prayer

► *Monday–Friday 8am, 20 mins*

These short 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 music sung by the Choir. All are invited for drinks in the Chaplain's set following the service.

Compline

► *Thursday 9pm, 20 mins*

This candle-lit service of night prayer is the perfect way to wind down and de-stress at the end of a busy day. The singing is led by a small group of choral scholars. Hot chocolate is available in the Chaplain's set afterwards.

Chapel Discussion Group

A Bible study and discussion group runs for anyone who would like to find out more about the Christian faith or is thinking about Baptism or Confirmation. Ask the Chaplain for details.

Special Events

Oriel–Corpus College Mass

► *Tuesday 13 October (1st Week), 6pm*

All are invited for the termly Mass celebrated by the Roman Catholic Chaplain to the University beginning at 6pm at Corpus Christi College Chapel followed by Prayers for Christian Unity at Oriel Chapel at 6.45pm. Book into Formal Hall at Oriel afterwards.

All Saints' Gaudy

► *Wednesday 4 November (4th Week), 6pm*

This annual college feast celebrates the achievements of scholars who have obtained a First class result in their Prelims or Finals. The Provost will also read out the Oriel Chantry list. All are welcome.

The John Collins Lecture

► *Monday 9 November (5th Week), 5.30pm*

The Venerable Dr Lyndon Drake, Senior Research Fellow at St Edmund's Hall, delivers the annual Chapel lecture, this year on the subject of Artificial Intelligence and the University. All welcome in the Harris Lecture Theatre and to drinks afterwards.

Remembrance Day

► *Wednesday 11 November (5th Week), 10.50am*

All members of College are encouraged to gather at the War Memorial in Third Quad for two minutes' silence to offer our tribute to members of Oriel who lost their lives in war. At 6pm there will be a service of Holy Communion to mark Remembrance Day.

Advent Carol Service

► *Sunday 29 November and*

Wednesday 2 December (8th Week), 6pm

Members of College and their guests are invited to this special service of Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight, one of the great occasions of the Oriel year anticipating Christ's coming into the world.