Portrait of Keble
An Installation
A warm welcome to Keble and our special exhibition to mark 40 years of co-education and the beginning of our 150th Anniversary. This ambitious installation celebrates the rich diversity of the College community and presents a portrait of the College itself.

The portrait subjects represent different genders, ethnicities, disabilities, socio-economic backgrounds and LGBTQ+ communities. They were nominated by their peers because they have made or are making a major, positive difference to Keble, Oxford and the world. The 28 individuals include alumni, undergraduate and graduate students, current and former staff and fellows. We hope that you find their individual stories fascinating and inspiring.

The images are suspended above the tables in Hall and the intention is that they both complement the traditional portraits on the walls and at the same time create a stimulating dining experience.

All the images were taken by professional photographer Fran Monks and she has curated the installation to create a diverse and yet cohesive portrait of Keble today.

***

This project has been made possible by the expertise, commitment and creativity of many colleagues and friends. Sincere thanks to all those who took the time to nominate individuals, to the members of the selection panel chaired by the Warden, to the final 28 for allowing us to share their stories and agreeing to have their pictures displayed in Hall and online. To Fran Monks for her skill and dedication, and to Stuart Cooper and his team at Outback Rigging for their professionalism and attention to detail. To colleagues in the Alumni and Development Office team for their sheer determination to make it happen, in particular to Sharon Thomas and Boriana Boneva for writing and creating this booklet and pulling together the logistics for the installation. To our colleagues across the College for their patience and willingness to be flexible, especially Ruth Dry, Luigi Bruno, Emile Hernandez and Senan Simmons. Finally to Ana Ferguson Smith for a crazy idea, Andrew Dawson of Original Field Architects for his very original thinking, and to Patrice Moor for her wisdom and encouragement.

Jenny Tudge
Director of Development
Portrait of Keble
An Installation

1 Cressida Cowell
2 Kannon Shanmugam
3 Josh Bugajski
4 Tony Hall
5 Tatiana Cutts
6 Renee Kapuku
7 Adrian Roche
8 Dave Norwood
9 Frank Cottrell-Boyce
10 Sarah Whatmore
11 Ronit Kanwar
12 Peter Rawlins
13 Caroline Criado-Perez
14 Christopher Dobson
15 Ian Archer
16 Gui-Qiang Chen
17 Abby D’Cruz
18 Shankar Acharya
19 Lucy Pearson
20 Penn Bateman
21 Vitit Muntarbhorn
22 Supriya Jaiswal
23 Edwin Cameron
24 Gerard McHugh
25 Anne-Marie Imafidon
26 Jenn Strawbridge
27 Andy Street
28 Kazbi Soonawalla
International bestselling author and illustrator of the *How To Train Your Dragon* series, Cressida Cowell was crowned Waterstone’s Children’s Laureate in July 2019. She immediately unveiled her Laureate Charter, a ten-point to-do list which proclaims every child’s right to “own their own book”, “be read aloud to”, “have access to new books in schools, libraries and bookshops” and “be creative for at least fifteen minutes a week.”

She grew up in London, the daughter of the environmentalist and hereditary peer, Michael Blakenham. The family spent holidays on a tiny, remote and uninhabited island off the west coast of Scotland. Without the distraction of a television, Cressida and her siblings occupied themselves reading, writing and hunting for dragons.

After leaving Keble and a short stint in publishing she went to St Martin’s School of Art and then on to Brighton University and obtained an MA in Narrative Illustration. Her final project became her first book, *Little Bo Peep’s Library Book*, published in 1998. She spent the next five years writing picture books, including her first Hiccup story, *The Viking Who Was Seasick*, inspired by her childhood holidays in Scotland.

In 2003 the first of the *How To Train Your Dragon* books was published, with a new title each year for the next 12 years. The series has sold over 11 million books around the world in 38 languages and has been adapted into a multimillion dollar DreamWorks film series—the third film released earlier this year.

Her new book series, *The Wizards of Once*, is a number one bestseller and is currently being adapted for the screen by DreamWorks.

She says she has many happy memories of her years at Keble, particularly as it was here she started reading the Viking sagas that were later to become the inspiration for *How To Train Your Dragon*.

Kannon Shanmugam is widely recognised as one of the USA’s leading appellate advocates. He has argued 27 cases before the Supreme Court and is regarded as one of the most respected and admired advocates in the country.

His parents emigrated from India to Oklahoma in 1968 so his father could study for his PhD. He was a professor of electrical engineering at the University of Kansas for over 30 years. Kannon attended high school in Kansas before going to Harvard to major in classics. He was editor-in-chief of the Harvard Independent.

Kannon was awarded a prestigious Marshall Scholarship (given to students selected for their potential as future leaders) and chose Keble so that he could study under Adrian Hollis, an expert on Ovid’s poetry—the subject of Kannon’s postgraduate thesis.

Kannon was founding editor of *the brick* and he met his wife Vicki at Keble—she was studying for a BA in Physiological Sciences.

“There’s still some disagreement about exactly when we first met, though the gap between our recollections has been shrinking with every year! But we do remember where we met—by the bike racks outside the Lodge. Keble will always have a special place in our hearts.”

After leaving Keble, he took up a place at Harvard Law School. He is now the managing partner of the Washington, DC office of Paul, Weiss, a leading American law firm.

“An Oxford education is not just about the things you learn; it’s also about the people you meet. I have learned so much from the lifelong friends I made during my time at the College.”
Awesome oarsman Josh Bugajski only took up rowing when he was 20. In just eight years he has broken records, competed in two Boat Races for Oxford (victorious in the second) and as part of the GB Rowing Team, and scooped a gold medal in the recent World Rowing Cup III.

Josh grew up on the edge of a rough Stockport council estate and was bullied at school. In his words, the only privilege he and his brother had was having an amazing mother, Pat, who single-handedly raised the two boys. She has battled cancer—her second diagnosis in 2015 coming just as Josh arrived at Oxford to study for his Master’s in oncology.

It was whilst he was studying pharmacy at Cardiff University that he discovered his natural prowess for rowing and he was picked for the Welsh team and began breaking indoor rowing records. At Oxford he juggled gruelling training sessions with long hours of research in the labs.

Josh has won at Henley Royal Regatta in a composite crew with Oxford Brookes Boat Club and he made his GB Rowing team debut in 2018, winning a silver medal in the men’s eight in his first race. He is now a member of the GB Senior rowing squad based at Caversham. In July, the men’s eight won gold for the first time since Rio 2016.

He regards rowing as a great equalizer and says it doesn’t matter what your background is or how wealthy you are, it’s how fast you can be in the boat.

“I look back on my time at Keble with great fondness. Oxford can be an intimidating place to the outsider, but Keble is very mindful of its inclusivity. I was surprised with how welcoming and supportive both the staff and students at the College were, from start to finish—without such support I would never have been able to pursue my rowing career whilst studying and pursue my dream of Olympic gold.”

Tony Hall—Lord Hall of Birkenhead—is one of the key figures in the UK’s media and arts industry. As Director-General, he is the editorial, operational and creative leader of the BBC. He oversees all the Corporation’s services within the UK and around the world, both public service and commercial.

He joined the BBC as a news trainee in 1973, and after a 20-year career as a senior journalist and editor, he became Chief Executive of BBC News and Current Affairs, responsible for all of BBC News’ output across the UK and the world.

In 2001 he left the Corporation and, for more than a decade, was in charge of the Royal Opera House which incorporates the Royal Opera, one of the world’s leading opera companies, and the Royal Ballet, the UK’s largest ballet company.

He re-joined the BBC in 2013 as its 16th Director-General.

He was previously a non-executive director, and Deputy Chairman, of Channel 4. In 2009 he was asked by the Government and the Mayor of London to join the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and chair the Cultural Olympiad Board.

In 2006 Tony Hall was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to Opera and Ballet. He was made a life peer in 2010. He is a Trustee of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, one of the largest independent grant-making foundations in the UK.

In the summer of 2018, Tony was elected as the new President of the European Broadcasting Union, a post he took up in January 2019.

“I saw Keble first on a dark, dreary December day. It felt terrifying. But I owe the place so much. I was the first in my family to go to University and Keble opened my eyes to a whole new world. It was genuinely transformational.”
Dr Tatiana Cutts is an Assistant Professor in Law at the London School of Economics. She studied at Oxford from 2006–2015, completing a BA, BCL and DPhil.

She helped set up the campaign *Mind Your Head*, aimed at encouraging students to tell their stories of mental illness. MYH hosted more than 100 events and helped inspire similar projects in universities across the UK.

She was both OURFC Women’s Rugby Club Captain and President of the Oxford Universities Gaelic Athletic Association. Her fundraising for MYH included a calendar featuring the women’s rugby team in only their boots and socks. It became an international hit and raised more than £40,000.

In 2013, Tatiana swam the English Channel with a team of five other students. She received the Vice-Chancellor’s Civic Award and went on to continue her voluntary work as an independent mental health advocate.

As an academic, she remains dedicated to improving the dialogue surrounding mental health, the conditions for study and support services for students.

“Keble was both an intellectual and personal home for me. Rather than channelling all my efforts towards academic success, I was encouraged to contribute more broadly towards university life; that institutional outlook gave me confidence, and it gave me a unique opportunity and platform to help other students. If Oxford can be competitive, demanding and—at times—isolating, Keble only ever felt both welcoming and supportive. I am so grateful to the College—to its students, tutors and College staff—for all the support that I received throughout the five years that I spent as a graduate student and College lecturer.”

Renee Kapuku was the first student from her state school in North London to be accepted into Oxford, and the first in her family to get into university. She was elected as one of the first ethnic minority representatives on the JCR and worked with both the Oxford Women’s Campaign and the Oxford Campaign for Racial Equality to tackle discrimination on campus. Renee was also elected president of the Oxford African and Caribbean society, hosting Oxford’s first black history month, and founding the #BlackMenAndWomenOfOxford viral campaign.

She worked alongside Goldman Sachs, Linklaters and Teach First touring schools across London to deliver workshops for students of African and Caribbean heritage in secondary school. In 2017 she successfully partnered with Clifford Chance and Oxford University to co-ordinate the UK’s largest student-led conference for high-achieving Year 12 state-school students of African and Caribbean heritage.

Renee was also recognised as a Future Leader by the PowerList Foundation, received an award from the Social Mobility Foundation at the House of Lords as one of the top ten students in the UK, and became a Titular Scholar upon graduating from Oxford with a first in History. She was awarded the prestigious Kennedy Memorial Trust Scholarship after her successful acceptance to the Harvard Graduate School of Education for International Education Studies—one of the youngest of her Master’s degree and scholarship recipient cohort.

Currently, Renee works at the non-profit organisation Malaika DRC, which aims to provide education and sustainable resources to young girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She remains passionate about improving access to higher education and increasing opportunities for social mobility.

“My time at Keble played a pivotal role in allowing me to pursue my passions in an environment surrounded by support and love from various members from the Keble community. I could not imagine spending my time at Oxford anywhere else.”
Adrian ‘Ade’ Roche joined Keble as a groundsman on 1 March 1990. And in the last 29 years, no-one could accuse him of letting the grass grow under his feet—never have the hallowed Keble quads looked so good.

It takes endless patience, dedication and teamwork to keep the grass so pristine. Self-deprecating and modest, Ade has overseen the challenges of a major re-turfing of Liddon and also the laying of the new lawns at The H B Allen Centre, a major challenge given that they are planted on the basement roof, just a few feet above the occupants’ heads.

It’s not just the quads that come under Ade’s exacting supervision; the sports ground, Binsey Boatyard and the squash courts are Ade’s home turf too.

Oxford born and bred, Ade’s other passions include football and golf—he is never far from the green or grass. He has had a season ticket to Oxford United games since he was 12 years old and played for a local league team and for the College team until hanging up his boots in 2008. He hopes one day when he eventually retires to play on the famous Old Course at St Andrews.

He also ensures he is on hand for the Ghosts football and rugby matches in Michaelmas and relishes the chance to meet up with old teammates:

“Having played football with them for many years, I got to know some very well, treat most of them like mates and blame them for my injuries and early retirement from the game!”

Ask Dave Norwood what the two biggest parts of his life are and without hesitation he will say ‘Chess and Keble,’ one inexorably linked to the other.

Bolton born and bred, Dave was given his first chess set aged just six. His father, an electrician, had made it from bits of slate he’d found at work. No-one in the family played, so Dave taught himself. He became an international chess master at 16.

Encouraged to apply to Keble because it had a reputation for chess, Dave thought he was, in his words, a natural shoe-in but was rejected by Eric Stone. However, that galvanised him to knock down, get good grades and beleaguer Dr Stone until he reconsidered and offered Dave a place. The two remained great friends until Eric’s death in 1993:

“It was a good life lesson; it instilled tenacity, don’t take no for an answer, go round the rules.”

After Keble and a brief sojourn in finance, Dave returned to Oxford enthused by combining new technology and science. He founded the IP Group in 1999 raising £20m in just one afternoon, funding the expansion of the Chemistry Department.

Dave was the founding Chairman of Oxford Sciences Innovation, an investment company focused on supporting spinouts from the University. It has so far raised over £600m and is the lead tenant in The H B Allen Centre. He is an Honorary Fellow and a member of the Chancellor’s Court of Benefactors. He and his wife, Rebecca, were married in Keble Chapel and they divide their time between Oxford and Dartmoor.

“Oxford has always been a big part of my life—it can accommodate any number of different people and that’s the magic of the place—you can be any number of things.”

Although he doesn’t play chess as often as he used to, he still has that first board his dad made for him.
FRANK COTTRELL-BOYCE

Regarded as one of the most original and versatile writers in the UK, Liverpool born Frank has written TV soaps, stage plays, screenplays, children's books and of course the opening ceremony for the 2012 Summer Olympics, picking up plenty of plaudits along the way.

He started his career writing episodes for Coronation Street and Brookside, developing hard-hitting storylines that made headlines in their own right. He has collaborated with several film makers, most notably Michael Winterbottom and Danny Boyle. His film credits include Welcome to Sarajevo, the Oscar-nominated Hilary and Jackie, and 24 Hour Party People.

In 2004, he wrote Millions, a children's book based on his own screenplay; it won the 2004 Carnegie Medal. He has written five further books for children including The Unforgotten Coat, based on a true story which won the 2012 Guardian Children's Fiction Prize. He was also commissioned by Ian Fleming's estate to write a series of sequels to Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Frank met his wife Denise at Keble, where she was studying Theology. They married in Chapel and were the first all-Keble couple to marry. They have seven children and he says they were his harshest critics of his books.

He gained legions of new fans and media respect when he helped Keble to secure its outstanding victory against Reading in the 2017/18 University Challenge Alumni Christmas Special. Keble 240–Reading 0. TV history was made.

SARAH WHATMORE

From the dreaming spires of Oxford to the sodden North Yorkshire moors, Professor Sarah Whatmore's pioneering research encompasses both, resulting in research collaborations with communities living with flooding, and generating new approaches to flood management.

Much of her work focuses on the human impact on the natural world. In 2007, she led a large research project with collaborators from Newcastle and Durham Universities to devise a way of tackling the devastating floods in picturesque Pickering, in North Yorkshire. Combining local knowledge and academic acumen, they slowed the flow by demonstrating that upstream storage could work. Their research has helped persuade reluctant farmers and governmental bodies that working with nature, not against it, was the way forward, and it has gained national acclaim and international attention.

Her success in public engagement led to her appointment to DEFRA's Science and Advisory Council 2015–19 and as Chair of its Social Science Expert Group. In 2015 she was appointed the University’s first Academic Champion for Public Engagement with Research.

Widely published and regarded by many as a force of nature herself, she is an elected Fellow of the British Academy, the Academy of Social Sciences and the Royal Geographical Society, and is a member of the Council of the British Academy. She studied Geography at UCL, where she also gained an MPhil in Town Planning and a PhD. She has lectured at Leeds, Bristol and Open Universities before joining Oxford in 2004 to take up a Statutory Chair in Environment and Public Policy. She has served as Keble's sub-Warden and as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education for the University, and is now Head the Social Sciences Division.
At just 21 years old, Ronit Kanwar may be the youngest subject in the portrait exhibition, but his list of achievements is already impressive. Earlier this year he made the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia List with his social enterprise start-up Empower Energy, which is “connecting rural India to the modern economy”. The company is enabling rural families in India to use life-enhancing products through its franchisee network. It is already providing clean, safe and renewable energy solutions and has transformed lives in Odisha, east India.

He co-founded the company in his second year and, as CEO, has led the venture to success which has won numerous high-profile awards. For example, Empower was selected as one of six Hult Prize global finalists from over 100,000 entries, which culminated in pitching for $1m at the UN.

The Moritz-Heyman Scholar and former JCR President also made an impact in College, for example by successfully introducing a visiting College counsellor. He was also one of 22 first-generation students selected worldwide for the Future Leaders Foundation. As a result of this fellowship, Ronit spent three weeks hiking over 93 miles with a 40-pound backpack through bear territory in Wyoming, USA. He is also a Global Shaper, part of a community of young leaders spearheaded by the World Economic Forum, and a One Young World Lead2030 winner.

His entrepreneurial journey started at Warwick School, which he was able to attend as a result of bursaries and scholarships. Whilst at school, he started a healthy snacking company and won Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

Ronit strives to alleviate poverty on a global scale and is a proud advocate of social entrepreneurship.

“The three years I spent at College were incredibly fulfilling and memorable. I am walking away with a degree, life-long friends and a community which I will cherish forever.”

Few students can combine cattle farming with their academic studies, but whilst at Keble, the ever-avuncular Peter Rawlins lodged out in rural Kiddington where he helped raise the largest herd of short-horn dairy cattle in the country.

A drama devotee, Peter was Director of the Oxford Theatre Group and memorably appeared in front of Princess Margaret in the College’s centenary production of Pre-Raphaelites. He also took a production of Fool’s Paradise up to the Edinburgh Fringe.

After leaving Keble, he trained as a Chartered Accountant and spent 12 years with Arthur Andersen. He then spent ten years in high profile leadership and change management roles in the City of London, driving the modernisation of London’s international insurance and capital markets. He was Chief Executive of the London Stock Exchange following the UK’s “Big Bang” and helped lay the foundations of today’s wholly digital securities market. He set up his own coaching and mentoring consultancy in 1994.

Always passionate about the arts and national heritage, he has served on the boards of many national performing arts organisations. He chaired the Michael Palin Centre for Stammering in Childhood for ten years.

In 2008 Peter was diagnosed with Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis. Despite the challenges caused by living with the disease he has continued to work and is kept busy with the hectic lives of his four younger children. Amongst all this he still finds the time and energy to support the College, regularly attending events in London and in Oxford. An active Year Group Rep for 1969 and a member of the Warden’s Court, Peter has an unrivalled passion for Keble and in particular the Hall. He initiated the renovation project and volunteered to take the inaugural ride in the Hall lift at the opening in 2017.
When Caroline Criado-Perez was a teenager, she wanted to be an opera singer. Today she uses her voice to demand change and equality. She arrived at Keble in her mid-20s and became politicised after studying gender in literature. Her first national campaign, the Women’s Room project, was for female experts to be better represented in the media. It was triggered after hearing two radio debates on women’s health issues, featuring only male contributors.

But it was her crusade to stop the Bank of England from removing the only woman (other than the Queen) from British banknotes that brought Caroline into the public eye. It was a bittersweet victory when the Bank capitulated and announced that Jane Austen would appear on the new £10 note. It unleashed a torrent of horrific abuse on social media, with threats of death and sexual violence. She spearheaded an online petition calling on Twitter to introduce a button to enable site users to report abuse.

She was awarded the Liberty Human Rights Campaigner of the Year Award 2013 and later bestowed an OBE for services to equality and diversity.

She successfully campaigned for a statue of suffragette Millicent Fawcett to be erected in Parliament Square. Unveiled in 2018, it was the first statue of a woman and the first by a woman.

She has written two books, Do It Like a Woman (2015) and Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men (2019). Using data and case studies it clearly illustrates the hidden ways in which women are forgotten and the impact that can have on their health. It spent 14 weeks in the Sunday Times bestseller list and Nicola Sturgeon described it as “revelatory and should be required reading for policy and decision makers everywhere.”

Professor Sir Christopher Dobson was one of the world’s leading scientists whose ground-breaking research led to major breakthroughs in our understanding, prevention and treatment of Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases.

He was a Founder and Director of the Cambridge Centre for Misfolding Diseases, an Interdisciplinary Research Centre for the study of the underlying origins of neurodegenerative conditions, and a Founder of Wren Therapeutics, a biotechnology company whose mission is to find new drugs to treat Alzheimer’s disease and related conditions.

He published over 850 research papers and review articles and was elected to Fellowships of the Royal Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Academy of Medical Sciences. He was also a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences.

Recognition of the importance of his research has come through numerous awards and prizes. He was a Distinguished or Endowed Lecturer at more than 40 universities across the world as well as giving hundreds of talks and seminars around the globe. He was recognised by Honorary Fellowships of five Oxford and Cambridge colleges and also Trinity College, Dublin.

He was an Oxford undergraduate, graduate and research fellow, Assistant Professor at Harvard and Visiting Scientist at MIT. He returned to Oxford where he was Professor of Chemistry until moving to Cambridge in 2001. He became Master of St John’s College, Cambridge in 2007 and was knighted in 2018.

“I was told that I was not good enough to be offered a place at Oxford or Cambridge. Fortunately Keble disagreed and I spent four very happy years at the College that transformed me as a person, by bringing me into contact with remarkable people who are still my closest friends, and inspiring me through outstanding teaching to pursue an academic career. In short, Keble made me.”

*Christopher sadly died on Sunday 8 September aged 69.*
Dr Ian Archer is a leading authority on the history of early modern London, a stalwart of the SCR and a much loved and highly respected Tutor.

Former student Max Rushden affectionately recalls; “Ian is not only a brilliant teacher, but someone who embodies College life. There won’t be a Keble historian who doesn’t have fond recollections, not just of the teaching, but more of the company of a good man.”

Born on the outskirts of Manchester and educated at the local state grammar school, Ian came up to Oxford to read History at Trinity College in 1978. He migrated to Cambridge in 1986, but returned to Oxford in 1991, when he joined Keble as a Tutorial Fellow, and has been here ever since.

He has published a variety of books and articles and also co-wrote Past and Present, a history of Keble. He was Sub-Warden here from 2007–2012, Tutor for Graduates from 1995 to 1998 and Dean of Degrees from 1999 to 2002. He is President of the SCR and a staunch supporter of many student societies, and was a Senior Member of the LGBTQ+ for five years.

He was one of the History Faculty’s first Schools Liaison Officers and a keen advocate for access. He is a governor at the London Academy of Excellence, which has had a transformative effect on the prospects of young people in Newham.

Dr Archer was the Academic Director of the Royal Historical Society’s Bibliography on British and Irish History, and the Society’s Literary Director for nine years. He was made an Honorary Vice-President of the Society in 2016.

He is a committed advocate of the University of Georgia at Oxford programme, for which he has taught since 1992. He was appointed Academic Director of the new H B Allen Centre in 2018—a post he will hold until September 2021.

As a child growing up next to Hangzhou Bay, Professor Gui-Qiang Chen often spent hours by the shores, captivated by the changing shapes created by vast flocks of migrating birds flying overhead, and watching tidal bores surging from the bay up into the Qiantang river. He couldn’t help but ponder: what triggers these (sometimes fatal) surges? Can these natural occurrences be modelled or predicted by using mathematical equations? It was in response to these fixations and in seeking answers to these kinds of questions that Professor Chen was drawn into the world of Partial Differential Equations—a field in which he is now widely regarded as a world leader.

Well known for his work on the theory of shock waves, as caused by the supersonic boom of planes breaking the sound barrier, as well as his fundamental contributions to other areas of mathematics and science, Professor Chen started his academic career as a student at the prestigious Fudan University in Shanghai, followed by a PhD from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing. After holding senior posts in New York and Chicago, he began his tenure in 2009 as a Statutory Professor of the University of Oxford and a Professorial Fellow of Keble College.

Professor Chen has published more than 200 original research papers and more than 10 research books, and has been Editor-in-Chief or a member of the Editorial Boards for more than ten leading international scientific journals. Since 2000, he has delivered more than 250 invited lectures around the world.

His expertise and extensive contributions to the Analysis of Partial Differential Equations and other scientific fields have earned Professor Chen many honours, awards and numerous fellowships of distinguished mathematical institutions and societies around the globe.

He still watches tidal waves and flocks of migrating birds.
The turf of Twickenham is about as far as you can get from Abby D’Cruz’s early childhood. Her parents worked their way out of the poverty of Mumbai and moved the family to Dubai. The day before Abby’s eighth birthday they migrated to Perth, Western Australia.

Abby arrived at Keble in 2015 having played hockey and touch rugby at a national level. She was encouraged to try Women’s Rugby by fellow Keblite and Oxford’s Vice Captain, Leanne Robinson. In 2018, Abby captained the First XV, losing by the narrowest of margins against the old enemy.

She always excelled at sport: “it’s illegal not to play something in Australia”, she says. But it was her mother’s shock diagnosis with advanced liver cancer that drove Abby towards a career in science. She completed her BSc with a First at the Australian National University in Canberra.

After a two-year break from academia, spent travelling and managing two Canberra restaurants, she was ready for new challenges. During a late night session trawling the internet researching Rhodes Scholars, she found details of an Oxford-based stem cell research project similar to the work she had already done. She emailed Professor Simon Leedham and was offered a place. One application to one course—serendipity.

She knew very little about Oxford apart from a fleeting visit during a hockey tour—bikes and old buildings being her overriding memory. Keble awarded her a de Breyne/Clarendon Scholarship and she quickly threw herself into College life becoming MCR Vice President and representing the University at local, regional and international touch football tournaments.

“Every facet of my life at Oxford has been enabled by Keble; the scholarships, the MCR and its support of Women’s Rugby. I haven’t had to ask for anything. Everything is set up so you can get the best out of your time here.”

Dr Shankar Acharya is one of India’s leading policy economists. In the 1990s he was a key figure in transforming a country struggling with its economy into a major global player. He modestly describes his contribution as being “just part of the team”, but others regard him as integral to India’s ascendency in the ranks of world-leading economies.


Since 2001 he has been Honorary Professor at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). He has authored nine books (mostly on Indian economic issues and policies) and numerous scholarly articles in academic journals.

He was the Senior Visiting Research Fellow at Merton College in 2000 and Stanford University in 2002. Since 2003 he has been a regular columnist for the Business Standard, one of India’s leading financial dailies.

He tries to return to the UK every year, primarily to see his old Keble colleagues, including the philosopher, poet and clinical neuroscientist, Professor Raymond Tallis and eminent paediatric neurologist, Dr Christopher Verity.

“The greatest gift Keble gave me apart from the teaching were my friends and my wife, Gayatri Dasgupta (LMH). Last year we celebrated out 50th wedding anniversary.”
Lucy Pearson is only the second woman to take 11 wickets in a Test match, which she did against Australia in 2003. During her nine year career opening the bowling for England, she played more than 75 matches for her country across all formats of the game and was twice named Women’s Player of the Year. She retired from cricket in 2005 with the recurrence of a stress fracture.

Lucy combined her cricketing career with a successful career in teaching, which she started in Norfolk before taking up a permanent post at Wolverhampton Grammar School and qualifying as an English teacher through the Open University. Lucy moved to Solihull School as Head of Sixth Form (and cricket coach) before being appointed Deputy Head at Wellington College, where she led the College becoming fully co-educational, assisted with the establishment of The Wellington Academy and was the first Director of the Sunday Times Festival of Education.

In 2010, Lucy became Head of Cheadle Hulme School, the first female leader in the school’s 150 year history. She was appointed to the England and Wales Cricket Board in 2016 as a non-executive Director.

Following eight years as Head, Lucy’s career took a new direction and in August 2018 she began her current role as Head of Education at the Football Association (despite, by her own admission, knowing nothing about football). Her remit is to transform the department, which qualifies the football workforce, and ensure the coaching workforce is inclusive and diverse.

As an openly gay woman, Lucy believes in the importance of different role models in helping others become comfortable with who they are: “Keble enabled me to be who and what I wanted to be. I am proud to be one of its alumni, because of its stubborn refusal to be like all the rest.”

Penn Bateman is one of the Keble’s longest serving members of staff, having joined as a Bursary Clerk in 1988. For generations of students, Penn is and was a background constant in their lives—from admissions to finals, her impressive organisational skills ensure a smooth passage through the sometimes choppy waters of College life. Her calm demeanour belies the pressure and demands of her job. She is regarded by many as an integral part of the College: she is the glue that holds it together and a magician who can conjure calm out of a crisis.

Modest and self-deprecating, with a delicious sense of mischief and humour, little seems to phase her and she deals with each new drama with a level-headed, can–do approach: “The job would not be the same without a problem or two a day, but I love being busy. I like the buzz of undergraduate admissions—lots of things happen in a very short period and you only get one chance to get everything right.”

Penn married husband Dave in Chapel in 1999. Fittingly, Penn admits her favourite thing about the Keble is its family feel.

Her invaluable knowledge of the College’s workings and history ensures her status as Keble’s own Wikipedia, her door (and window) rarely closed to those who need her.
In 2016, Vitit Muntarbhorn was appointed as the first United Nations (UN) Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Ill health forced him to resign after a year in post, but in that short time he was able to set a clear mandate for the decriminalisation of consensual same-sex relations globally.

He has served in various UN positions: Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in North Korea; Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography; member of UN Commissions of Inquiry covering the Ivory Coast and Syria. He has heard the most harrowing of stories and witnessed the worst of humankind. He says he has learned to love rather than hate and uses running as a way of creating “happy endorphins”.

“My job is to protect and assist those who don’t have a voice. I want to use what power I may have constructively and find ways to deal with abuses of power. I feel very humble and very blessed that I can use information to help nurture change. I have always felt on the periphery and I write about people on the periphery.”

Vitit has taught extensively and in 2004 was awarded the UNESCO Human Rights Education Prize. In 2018, he was knighted for his contribution to International Human Rights.

He arrived at Keble during the winter of discontent and yet it was here he found fulfilment:

“I loved Oxford and the freedom it gave me. It gave me methodology to develop critically and analytically. It made me grow up. I made my best friends here and they are still my friends.”

The sky is the limit? Not as far as Dr Supriya Jaiswal is concerned. She is CEO of Astrileux, a next generation semiconductor start-up company in Silicon Valley, the first US female founded company in the field of semiconductor lithography. She designs technologies that are revolutionising the manufacture of integrated circuits at seven nanometers and smaller that will accelerate the development of faster, smaller, more powerful mobile devices in the era of zettabyte computing. This year her technology will be launched on the International Space Station, laying the foundation for electronics manufacture in space.

Supriya’s company has scooped numerous prestigious prizes including being winner of the 2016 International Materials Research Society competition and the 2018 International Electron Ion and Photon Beam best start-up award, and being nominated for the 2019 World Material’s Forum Prize. Supriya was internationally recognised for distinction and honours in optics and photonics and listed in 2016 SPIE’s Women in Optics. She has filed 40 patents in seven countries.

“I persevere with Physics, because Physics teaches you to teach yourself, and I feel now I can teach myself anything. Nowadays I believe everything begins with material science, as it is the true enabler for all future technology innovations.”

After Keble, she went on to the University of Virginia where she completed a Master’s in Atomic Physics and a PhD in Engineering Physics. She also holds professional qualifications in business and finance from the University of California. She is a keen violinist, kickboxer and global hiker. She speaks four languages, is passionate about French Literature, and in 2013 she climbed Mount Everest.

At Keble, Supriya recalls a pivotal moment: “I remember being singled out by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in Hall as someone he wanted to meet. From then onwards I felt all things were possible if you reached for them, and we have a whole lifetime to achieve them.”
Hailed by Nelson Mandela as one of South Africa’s new heroes, Justice Edwin Cameron is an internationally renowned human rights advocate and prominent campaigner in the fight against HIV/AIDS. He worked as a human rights lawyer during apartheid, defended ANC members and fought for gay and lesbian equality. Openly gay since the early 1980s, he was the first and is still the only senior African official to state publicly that he is living with HIV/AIDS, and was an outspoken critic of President Mbeki’s AIDS-denialist policies. An accomplished author, his prize-winning memoir, *Witness to Aids*, has been published worldwide. He has received many awards and honorary doctorates and is still involved in many charitable and public causes.

He spent much of his childhood in an orphanage (his father was imprisoned for car theft and his mother was unable to support him) but won a scholarship to one of South Africa’s best state schools, where he excelled and went on to Stellenbosch University to study Latin and Classics. In 1976 he was granted a coveted Rhodes Scholarship and came to Keble. He was awarded BA and then BCL first class honours, the Jurisprudence Prize and Vinerian Scholarship.

“The rigorous Law teaching of Professor Jim Harris, in particular, played a critical role in shaping my legal thought and practice. I remain proud to be associated with Keble as a college that actively seeks to diversify its intake and create opportunities for those excluded in the past.”

In August 2019, he retired as Justice of South Africa’s highest court, the Constitutional Court, on the 25th anniversary of his appointment as a judge. The news prompted an avalanche of tributes and praise; one anonymous post summing up national consensus:

“One of the most brilliant legal minds this country has ever produced and one of the most humble, compassionate, caring human beings you could ever meet. The dignity and rights of South Africa’s most vulnerable were protected under his watch.”

The ebullient and perennially elegant Gerard McHugh was Hall and Beverage Manager at Keble for over 11 years.

Renowned for his sartorial splendour, impeccable manners and enduring joie de vivre, Gerard was and still is beloved by staff and students alike. When he finally retired in 2013 the JCR presented him with a framed version of his iconic waistcoat and bowtie.

One of his former assistants, Ben Lay, now a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, describes him as a “sage mentor” who at a time of crisis was on hand to offer wise counsel over a cuppa:

“His avuncular concern, worldly pragmatism and a reassurance born of his deep-seated integrity, Gerard made the world seem less daunting. Fuelled constantly by tea (Gerard’s motto was “No Tea, no work!”) he could work all hours and maintain his impeccable professionalism, swearing only in Latin.”

The young Master McHugh’s first visit to Keble, back in 1974 when he applied to read Classics, did not go well. Called for interview with Adrian Hollis, Gerard recalls, “we’d just started to discuss Agamemnon and I puked.”

Instead, Gerard went to Exeter College but twenty-eight years later, after years working in the hospitality industry, he returned to Keble to take up a new role in Hall.

With his signature bow tie and enduring enthusiasm for good food, good wine and good people, Gerard’s larger than life personality ensures an enduring place in Keble’s heart and history.

“I love this place to the depths of my soul and Keble has always had the best ethos in the University. If I have sent young people out into the world so they can behave at table, that’s not a bad thing.”
Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon is a prodigy in every sense of the word. She grew up in east London and, aged 11, was the youngest girl ever to pass A-level computing. She was 17 when she arrived in Oxford to start her studies and was just 20 years old when she received her Master’s degree.

Since then she has forged an enviable CV, including positions at various large financial institutions and accumulated honorary degrees from several universities and an Honorary Fellowship from Keble. In 2013, shocked by the lack of access for young women wanting to take up careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, she co-founded Stemettes, an award-winning social enterprise aimed at inspiring and promoting the next generation of women and breaking down social stereotypes.

She set up workshops, mentoring schemes and events and since its inception, Stemettes has helped over 40,000 young women across Europe to realise their STEM potential and become part of Anne-Marie’s vision for a more diverse and balanced science and tech community. Her championing work earned her an MBE in 2017 and a place on the Forbes List of The World’s Top 50 Women in Tech 2018.

By championing innovation and raising awareness of diversity and inclusion, she herself has become a role model. She is still aiming high and hopes to reach two million people by 2025. She says, “Don’t expect the next generation to live in your world. Give them confidence and the tools to move forward, and they will design the world they need to live in themselves.”

The Revd Canon Dr Jenn Strawbridge was Keble’s first female Chaplain and her appointment back in 2010 was not without controversy. Nevertheless, during her time as Chaplain she says it was a privilege to walk alongside multiple generations of Keble students. She introduced a weekly service of Sung Compline, partnered with the Talbot Fund to create the Friends of the Chapel, and led Chapel trips to myriad places, from Devon, to Durham, to Cambridge (USA!).

Originally from Houston, Texas and with an undergraduate degree in Physics and Engineering, Jenn arrived in 2001 to start her Master’s degree after following her supervisor’s advice to apply to Keble, as he suspected she’d enjoy the flourishing life of the Chapel community. After her ordination, Jenn was again encouraged to return to Keble to embark on a DPhil and also serve as Assistant Chaplain, under the then Chaplain, Allen Shin. At the end of his tenure, Jenn applied for the role and to her complete surprise was offered the job.

Jenn played tennis and cricket for the College in her time as Chaplain and also earned a tennis Blue. She lived in College and, accompanied by her faithful Labrador, Marley, was a regular at Keble rugby matches, rowing Eights, and choir football tournaments. College rules dictated that no dogs were allowed in College so during his time at Keble, Marley identified as a cat.

Jenn is now Associate Professor in New Testament Studies at Oxford and the Caird Fellow in Theology and Religion at Mansfield College. She has an impressive profile in the National Church serving on the Church of England’s Faith and Order Commission, and Liturgical Commission. Jenn is part of a group planning the Lambeth Conference in 2020. She is also Associate Priest at St Andrew’s Headington (a Keble parish!), with Darren McFarland, Keble’s current Assistant Chaplain.
Andy Street was elected as the first Mayor of the West Midlands in 2017, seizing a Tory victory from a Labour stronghold. He is one of a new group of Metro Mayors: accountable to more than three million people his responsibilities include economic growth, transport, housing and employment. Ironic given that after leaving Keble, he applied to be a social worker in Birmingham but was turned down.

Instead, he joined John Lewis as a graduate trainee starting on the shop floor at Brent Cross. He quickly rose through the ranks to become Managing Director, overseeing one of the most successful periods in the company’s history. Despite a recession, he masterminded a 50% increase in gross sales and doubled the number of stores. He stepped down in 2016 after announcing his intention to run for Mayor.

His first foray into politics came in 2011 when he was asked to chair the Local Enterprise Partnership in Birmingham, a city he has loved all his life, having grown up in Solihull. He was awarded the CBE for services to the national economy in 2015 and named ‘Most Admired Leader’ by business magazine, Management Today in 2014.

Andy is gay but throughout his time at John Lewis he did not feel the need to discuss it publicly as, although it was known about, it was a complete non-issue. Running for the office of Mayor, however, he says he felt it was necessary to ‘have all this on the record’, and talked about it for the first time publicly in a newspaper interview in 2017.

Ardent about the arts, having previously served as Vice Chairman of Performance Birmingham Ltd, which is responsible for running the City’s Symphony and Town Halls, he also runs half marathons and is a passionate supporter of access and outreach at Keble.

Dr Kazbi Soonawalla originally took up engineering, but after three years of study in India, decided it wasn’t for her. Rather than wanting to know how things work she was keen to view the world through a social scientist lens. Eager to acquire this new skillset she took the decision to change direction.

The flexibility of the US education system was a huge attraction. After gaining a BA at Boston University she went on to Stanford, first to complete an MS in Statistics, then an MA in Economics and a PhD in Business Administration. After what she describes as six fantastic years on the West Coast, she was ready for her next move, this time to the UK, to take up a role as Lecturer at the LSE.

She joined Keble as a Visiting Stipendiary Lecturer in 2012 and was made a Senior Research Fellow in Accounting at the Saïd Business School (SBS) and Tutorial Fellow in Management at Keble in 2013. She much prefers academia to the business world, partly because she can wear shorts to work, but also because academia allows her the freedom to pursue her curiosities. The students keep her engaged and give insights into what makes organisations work. She was particularly drawn to the subject of accounting because, “it’s a way of putting order, structure and rigour into trying to understand decisions that are not always rational.”

Kazbi’s life these days is about finding a balance—a balance between work and her three children; a balance between Keble and SBS. As Dean, Kazbi is in charge of welfare and discipline; her decision to take on the role despite her hectic schedule comes back to her curiosity about social science and developing an understanding about how organisations function. Her mantra: it doesn’t matter what you do, but whatever you choose, give it good go.
About Fran Monks

Fran Monks ([www.franmonks.com](http://www.franmonks.com)) is a British portrait photographer. She is best known for her engaging and painterly portraits of individuals who are changing our world. Her website, How To Make A Difference ([www.howtomakeadifference.net](http://www.howtomakeadifference.net)), features her interviews and portraits of remarkable people, dating back to 2004. Monks’ work has been widely published in national and international magazines and newspapers. Her photographs are currently exhibited in the Ashmolean Museum, Examination Schools and several Oxford Colleges. Her Gratitude Project was commissioned for the Oxford Festival of the Arts in 2017.

Monks trained as a photographer at the Corcoran School of Art and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC, and Central St Martin’s School of Art, London.

About Outback Rigging

Outback Rigging ([www.outbackrigging.com](http://www.outbackrigging.com)) has provided expert rigging installation, equipment hire and venue management services throughout the UK for twenty-five years. Previous clients have included Olympia London, the Pitt Rivers and the Oxford Museum of Natural History. The Keble portrait exhibition has presented its own unique set of challenges. Outback has devised an elaborate but subtle suspension system which protects the Butterfield interiors and presents the photos in the best possible light.