

MAGDALENE

MATTERS

Spring/Summer 2023 | Issue 53

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A Journey
Through Time



MAGDALENE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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Welcome

Dear Members,

As I look out of my window in Benson Court, the large cherry tree, so splendid in full bloom just last week, has dropped most of its pink blossom as the bright green leaves take over and spring marches on. The academic year has similarly flown by and our students are already focussed on their exams and the promise of the first proper May week and Magdalene May Ball for some years! It is wonderful that life in College has finally reverted to its familiar rhythm.

The recently completed Telethon is just one example of 'business as usual' and the twelve student callers, ranging from first-year students to MPhils, spoke with hundreds of you during the fortnight of calling in late March and early April. Their enthusiasm for all things Magdalene made them the best possible ambassadors for College, and the willingness of Members to chat, advise and donate, made this the highest performing telephone campaign since 2017, when we launched our fundraising endeavour to build the New Library. The amazing total of £390,000 raised during the calling sessions is astonishing given the economic climate and is testament yet again to the loyalty and affection Members and Friends share for Magdalene.

College's decision to increase all its bursaries both full and partial across the board by 10% to mitigate the cost of living crisis faced by our students clearly resonated with Members we spoke to and we are enormously grateful for the generous response. Knowing that the global Magdalene community supports our efforts to assist our students in need of financial assistance, be that due to hardship, for research activities, medical electives or indeed when struggling with their mental health, makes all of our work worthwhile. Thank you for your willingness to help and to keep in touch, it really makes a huge difference.

I look forward to seeing some of you at one of our forthcoming events this spring and summer.

CORINNE LLOYD

Editor and Director of Development

Magdalene Matters is published by the Alumni and Development Office. For further information or if you would like to submit content for future issues please contact the Senior Communications Officer, Mr Matthew Moon, or the Editor, Mrs Corinne Lloyd.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of Magdalene College Cambridge.

Cover photo taken by Mr Matthew Moon.

FELLOWS' NEWS



Professor Brendan Burchell (1990)

Professor Brendan Burchell is leading a team conducting research on the benefits of a four-day working week. The study found that a shorter work week led to increased job satisfaction, better work-life balance, and improved mental health. The research also showed that workers were able to maintain or increase their productivity, despite working fewer hours. University coverage of the research quickly became one of the most-read Cambridge website stories ever and media coverage of the research led to over 1,500 international news articles.



Professor Tom Spencer (1973) Professor Tom Spencer is the Director of the Cambridge Coastal Research Unit in the Department of Geography.

He is a distinguished coastal scientist with expertise in understanding and managing coastal environments, including sea level rise, coastal erosion, and flooding. Recently, he has developed a new digital tool called Coastal Risk Assessment, which allows individuals and organizations to visualize the potential impact of sea level rise and coastal flooding.



Mr Felipe Schuery (2018) Mr Felipe Schuery has been awarded the Pilkington Prize 2023, which is awarded annually by the University of Cambridge

to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to teaching. The prize recognises Felipe's exceptional ability to inspire and engage students in the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics, where he teaches Portuguese. He has been commended for his innovative teaching methods, commitment to student learning and his positive impact on the department as a whole.



Professor Emily So (2005) Professor Emily So is the Director of the Cambridge University Centre for Risk in the Built Environment (CURBE)

and she is co-leading a team of UK engineers, seismologists, and geologists on a reconnaissance mission to Turkey following the devastating earthquake in February 2023. The team is investigating the damage caused and assessing the impact on buildings and infrastructure. The mission aims to help improve the resilience of buildings and infrastructure in earthquake-prone areas by identifying the most effective ways to reduce risks and increase safety.



Dr Hannah Critchlow (2003) Outreach Fellow

Dr Hannah Critchlow is a neuroscientist and science communicator known for her engaging presentations

and talks on the workings of the human brain. Recently, along with other prominent scientists, she has been touring the country as one of the speakers at GCSE Science Live. GCSE Science Live is an annual event that provides GCSE students with the opportunity to hear from leading scientists and researchers on topics related to their science curriculum.



Professor Amira Bennison (2010) Professor Amira Bennison has been

appointed as the Chair of the Cambridge University Press and Assessment

Academic Publishing Committee. In this new role, she will lead the committee responsible for overseeing the academic publishing activities of Cambridge University Press which decides which books and journals will carry the prestigious Cambridge University Press imprint.



Professor John Orr (2018) Professor John Orr was awarded the

2022 Philip Leverhulme Prize in Engineering for his exceptional early-career research in civil engineering, particularly

in the fields of concrete structures, analysis, optimization, and automation in construction. His innovative research has garnered international recognition, and his work promises to have a significant impact on the field of civil engineering in the future.



COLLEGE MUSIC

by Dr Peter Asimov (2022), Lumley Junior Research Fellow

In the short time since my arrival as Lumley Research Fellow in February 2022, I've been consistently heartened, and often astonished, by the sheer amount of musical activity and talent we possess at Magdalene. There is far more to report on than space permits; buckle up for a whistlestop tour!

The headline is the arrival of our new Director of Music and Precentor, James Potter, who has met the task of leading the Choir's first full year of choral programming since the pandemic with energy and ambition, embracing old music alongside new. With Sarah Atkins (Dean of Chapel), James conceived a Lent Termcard themed on the body of Christ and culminating musically in a performance of Dietrich Buxtehude's 1680 cantata, *Membra Jesu Nostri* (Limbs of Our Jesus). Lent Term also saw the premiere of a poignant anthem by Roderick Williams titled 'Vision of the Cross', composed specially for the unveiling of the 'Cross

THIS JANUARY, I WAS DELIGHTED TO SIT ON THE JURY FOR THE LINCOLN AWARDS, THE COLLEGE'S SCHEME (UNIQUE IN CAMBRIDGE) TO OFFER DISTINGUISHED MAGDALENE MUSICIANS SUBSTANTIAL CASH PRIZES TO PUT TOWARDS THEIR MUSIC EDUCATION.

of the Cosmos' – a crucifix embedded with moondust made by sculptor David Maude-Roxby-Montalto di Fragnito – and sung by the composer with the choir. Equally memorable, although in a different spirit, was the choir's uproarious rendition of Orlando Gibbons's Cries of London, heard at the Pepys Dinner. As I write these words, James and the choir are preparing their suitcases and stomachs for a five-city tour to Puglia, in southwestern Italy (Monopoli, Cassano, Molfetta, Bari, and Mola di Bari). Although James's predecessor, Graham Walker, bade us farewell last September, we had the pleasure of inviting him back for a visit in February to perform Rachmaninoff's Sonata for Cello and Piano to a jam-packed Benson Hall (standing room only!) as part of the Magdalene College Music Society's Monday evening recital series.

This January, I was delighted to sit on the jury for the Lincoln Awards, the College's scheme (unique in Cambridge) to offer distinguished Magdalene musicians substantial cash prizes to put towards their music education. Eight applicants were awarded prizes to support their activities, ranging from organ and voice performance to composition, songwriting and music production. The high calibre of the candidates – half of whom read subjects other than music – more than made up for the early Saturday morning start! Three of the Major Awards laureates (Priya Berks, violin; Dani Walker, flute; and Bethan Spragg, trumpet) were showcased as soloists with the Magdalene Orchestra in a concert impressively organised and conducted by Tim Tian, performing concerto movements by Barber, Chaminade and Handel, capped off with Dvořák's Symphony No. 8.

The New Library has seen its share of music-making, too – not in the study spaces, of course, but in the Cripps Gallery, where the exhibition of art by Ruth Rix and Helga Michie was the scene for two immersive vocal performances coordinated by Dr Annja Neumann. Singers embedded among the viewing public intoned moving excerpts of music and poetry evoking the artists' migrations, including Michie's arrival to the UK from Vienna via Kindertransport.

It's an exciting time for my own work, too, as a historian of French modernist music. This month will see the posthumous rediscovery in concert of a composition by Yvonne Loriod



Choir performing in Italy.

(1924–2010) – one of twentieth-century France's leading pianists, and the wife of composer Olivier Messiaen. Loriod, it transpires, was a prolific and adventurous composer in her own right in her early career, although her music was never published and scarcely performed – a trajectory shared by many women who faced barriers to professional compositional careers, even in the twentieth century. Once Loriod's piano career skyrocketed, she concealed her compositional background, but preserved her early works in her archive, where I've been working for several years. Her song cycle, *Grains de cendre* (1946), for piano, voice and ondes Martenot (an early electronic instrument), will be premiered in two concerts in Paris and Cambridge – the first performance of any of her music since the 1940s – an outcome of my research supported by Magdalene and the Leverhulme Trust.

As the first musicologist Fellow at Magdalene in nearly twenty years, I've had to figure out how to carve my niche in College life. Whilst my role is, strictly speaking, that of a researcher, I do my best to support music at Magdalene in all forms, whether by teaching, participating in the Music Society, accompanying singers at the last minute, stepping in at the organ for Midnight Mass, or buying a round of drinks for the Magdalene Jazz Band. There is plenty to keep me busy!

IRELAND, THE UK AND IRISH AMERICA

44 YEARS IN IRELAND'S

DEPARTMENT OF

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

by Mr Daniel Mulhall (2022), Parnell Fellow

I have the honour of being this year's Parnell Fellow in Irish Studies and, in light of my experience as Ambassador of Ireland in London (2013–17) and Washington (2017–22), I decided to devote my Parnell Lecture to an examination of the triangular relationship between Ireland, the UK and Irish America, which has succeeded in influencing US policy on Northern Ireland.

In the late 1850s, the Times newspaper fretted about the 'unforeseen advantage' that would accrue to Ireland on account of the presence of so many Irish immigrants in the USA. It predicted that America would become very Irish and that Irish Americans would keep up the ancient feud with the English from a position of strength in a New World. Irish America did indeed become a force in American politics in the late 19th century and thus a factor in Ireland's independence struggle. The prospect of Irish America undermining Britain's increasingly important ties with the USA in the aftermath of World War I helped persuade the British Government to accommodate Irish nationalism's demands, at least in part.

During my time in Washington, I was often asked by European colleagues why the Irish diaspora in the USA was so much more supportive of its ancestral homeland than other European ethnicities. That is because those who left Ireland in the 19th century felt a sharp sense of grievance at the circumstances of their departure. Immigrants passed that resentment on to their children and grandchildren who remained eager to support Irish nationalist causes. I have heard President Biden speak with pride about his Irish Catholic heritage and his memories of his grandfather Finnegan in Scranton, who was the son of Irish immigrants.

On arrival, the Irish were often met with suspicion and hostility, which gave the Irish a sense of cohesion embedded in their Irish and Catholic heritage. To this day, many Americans are eager to proclaim their Irish American heritage, which is, of course, an American identity, but linked to Ireland.

With the outbreak of conflict in Northern Ireland in the late 1960s, the US Administration was reluctant to become involved in what it saw as a domestic British affair. Over time, London has come to acknowledge the Irish Government's role in Northern Ireland, and to accept the reality of persistent US interest in the subject. Brexit has strengthened European interest in Northern Ireland on account of the implications of the border for the European single market.

During the 1970s, John Hume established a rapport with Senator Ted Kennedy that led to a new era for Irish American engagement. Its first harvest came in 1977 when President Carter made a presidential statement on Northern Ireland for St Patrick's Day, the first of its kind. The Congressional Friends of Ireland was established in 1981. That bipartisan





group still exists. One of its founding members was a young Senator from Delaware, Joseph Robinette Biden Jr.

Irish American lobbying resulted in President Clinton appointing Senator George Mitchell as Special Envoy to Northern Ireland. He was an inspired choice and went on to chair the negotiations that produced the Good Friday Agreement. Whenever the talks looked set to run aground, Mitchell's patience and resilience, schooled by long years in the US Senate, came to the fore.

I was in the Oval Office a number of times during the Clinton Presidency and was struck by the depth of the President's knowledge of what was happening in Northern Ireland. I recall times in Belfast when word would go around that the White House was on the line. This meant that the world's most powerful figure had picked up the phone to urge the talks' participants to embrace the necessary compromises.

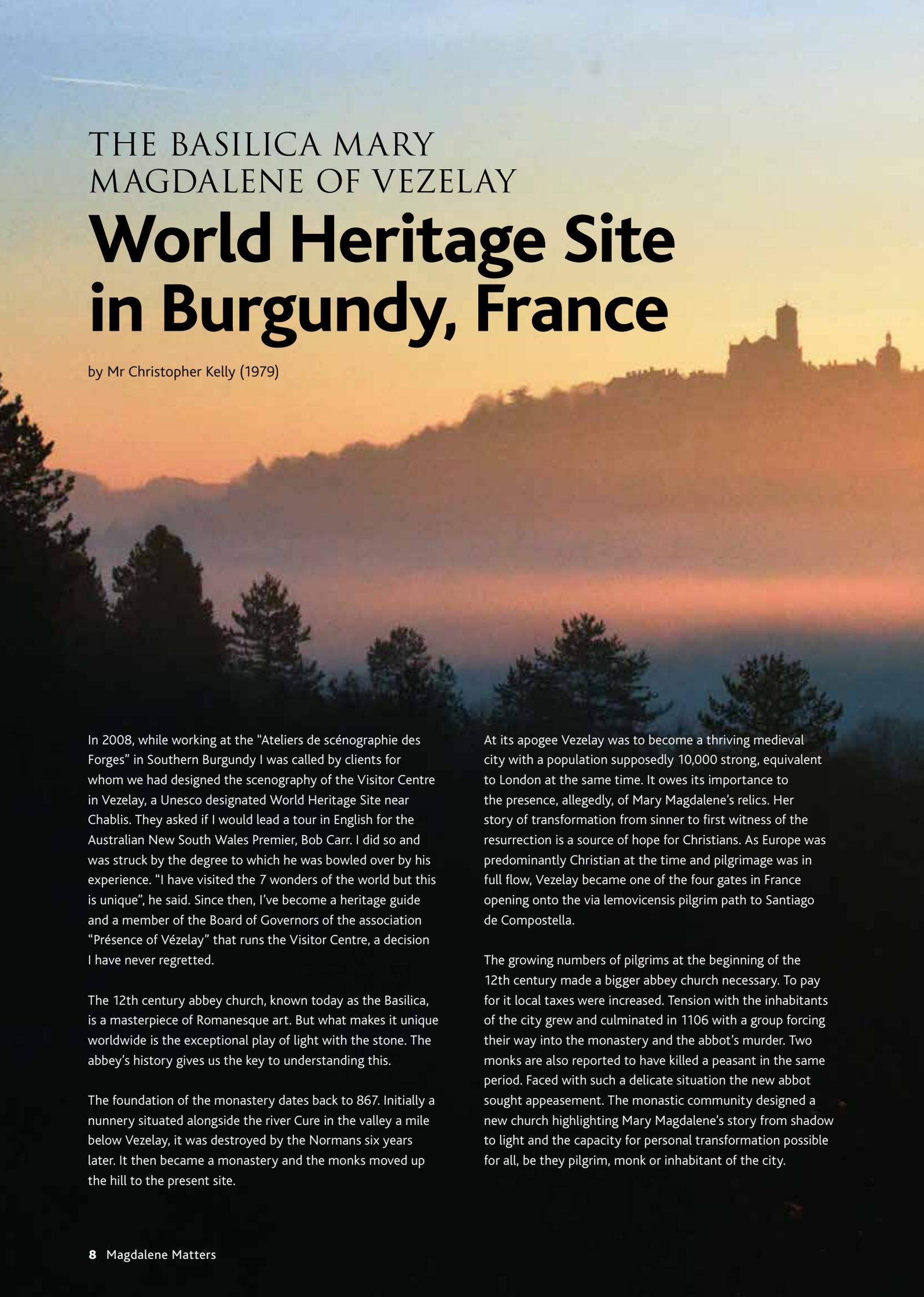
Irish America found its voice again in the wake of Brexit. Congressman Richie Neal of Massachusetts often speaks of visiting Ireland with Speaker Tom Foley, when they were stopped and searched by an armed patrol as they crossed the border. That drove Congressman Neal, when he chaired the all-powerful House Ways and Means Committee, to do all in his power to preserve the open border in Ireland. In April 2019, he persuaded Speaker Nancy Pelosi, to join a Congressional Delegation on a visit to London, Dublin, Belfast and Derry (where they crossed the border into Donegal on foot). During her visit, the Speaker said that: 'If the UK violates that international treaty and Brexit undermines the Good Friday accord, there will be absolutely no chance of a US-UK trade agreement passing the Congress.' Those remarks were impactful because Brexit advocates were relying on a US trade deal to make up for losses in UK trade with the EU. One way of looking at Brexit is as an effort to defy the logic of

geography by seeking gains in trade with faraway countries to compensate for losses sustained on Britain's doorstep, an attempt to test the proposition whether destiny is shaped more by ideology than geography. Always expect geography to win out!

Irish Americans are now solidly supportive of the Good Friday Agreement. While a percentage are emotionally committed to the legitimate goal of a united Ireland, all have the preservation of peace in Ireland as their prime aim. The Good Friday Agreement was a peace that, in W.B. Yeats's words used in a different context, came 'dropping slow'. Over the years, there were many strands that fed into that Agreement, one of which was the influence of the United States, orchestrated by pressure from Irish America.

The story of US involvement in support of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland is one in which the interests of a small country, Ireland, came, by dint of the skillful deployment of the soft power of its diaspora, to get an important hearing in the United States, even when those interests were at variance with the preferences of one of the US's prime allies, the UK.

It would, of course, be wrong to exaggerate the advantage conferred on Ireland by the influence of the post-Famine generation of Irish emigrants and their myriad descendants. No US administration is likely to damage its relationship with the UK for Irish-related reasons, but that will not stop them from making their influence felt as with the Biden Administration's consistent support for a negotiated settlement on the Northern Ireland Protocol. Ireland can never match the comprehensive ties that Britain has with America, but it has its own rapport with the US, anchored in the people-to-people links created by immigration and with a substantial added economic dimension in recent decades.



THE BASILICA MARY MAGDALENE OF VEZELAY

World Heritage Site in Burgundy, France

by Mr Christopher Kelly (1979)

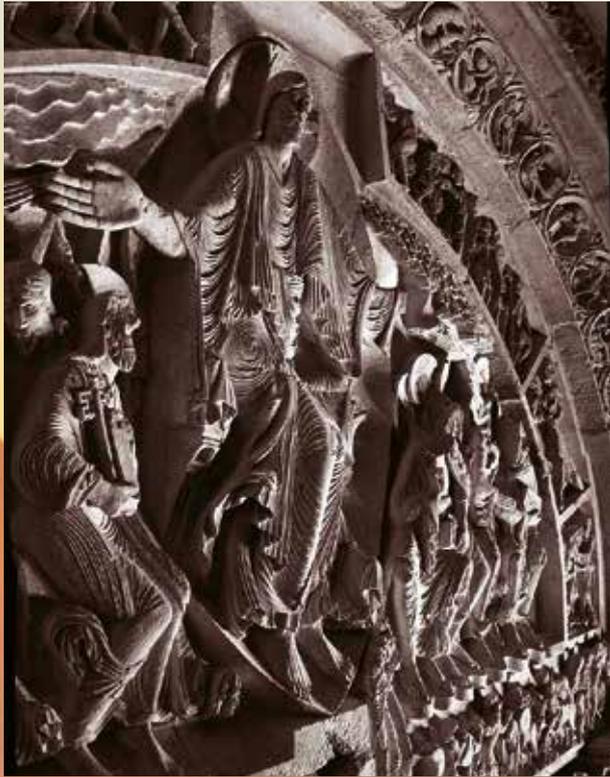
In 2008, while working at the “Ateliers de scénographie des Forges” in Southern Burgundy I was called by clients for whom we had designed the scenography of the Visitor Centre in Vezelay, a Unesco designated World Heritage Site near Chablis. They asked if I would lead a tour in English for the Australian New South Wales Premier, Bob Carr. I did so and was struck by the degree to which he was bowled over by his experience. “I have visited the 7 wonders of the world but this is unique”, he said. Since then, I’ve become a heritage guide and a member of the Board of Governors of the association “Présence of Vézelay” that runs the Visitor Centre, a decision I have never regretted.

The 12th century abbey church, known today as the Basilica, is a masterpiece of Romanesque art. But what makes it unique worldwide is the exceptional play of light with the stone. The abbey’s history gives us the key to understanding this.

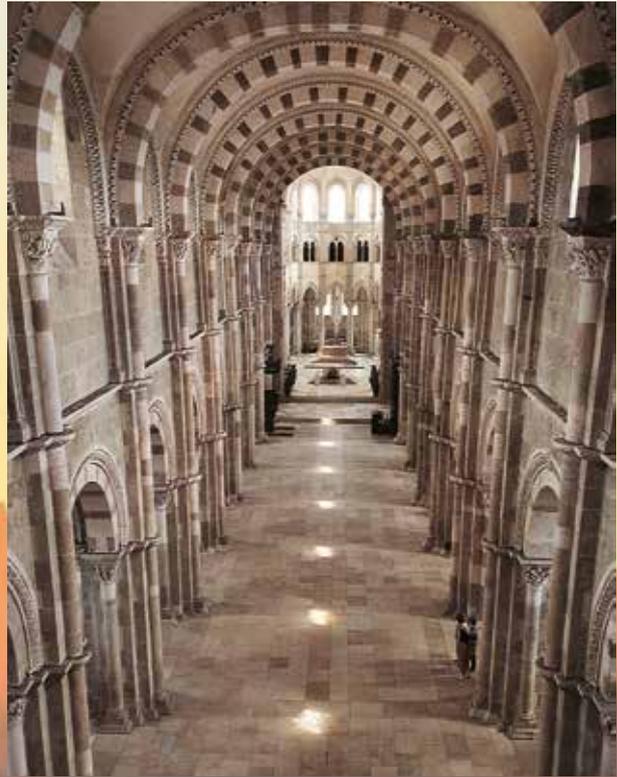
The foundation of the monastery dates back to 867. Initially a nunnery situated alongside the river Cure in the valley a mile below Vezelay, it was destroyed by the Normans six years later. It then became a monastery and the monks moved up the hill to the present site.

At its apogee Vezelay was to become a thriving medieval city with a population supposedly 10,000 strong, equivalent to London at the same time. It owes its importance to the presence, allegedly, of Mary Magdalene’s relics. Her story of transformation from sinner to first witness of the resurrection is a source of hope for Christians. As Europe was predominantly Christian at the time and pilgrimage was in full flow, Vezelay became one of the four gates in France opening onto the via lemovicensis pilgrim path to Santiago de Compostella.

The growing numbers of pilgrims at the beginning of the 12th century made a bigger abbey church necessary. To pay for it local taxes were increased. Tension with the inhabitants of the city grew and culminated in 1106 with a group forcing their way into the monastery and the abbot’s murder. Two monks are also reported to have killed a peasant in the same period. Faced with such a delicate situation the new abbot sought appeasement. The monastic community designed a new church highlighting Mary Magdalene’s story from shadow to light and the capacity for personal transformation possible for all, be they pilgrim, monk or inhabitant of the city.



The Great Tympanum depicts Christ with his arms wide open.



Summer solstice path of light.

ALL IMAGES © MAISON DU VISTEUR, VEZELAY

The recurrent theme in the sculpture of the Basilica is transformation and not condemnation. The Great Tympanum at the entrance depicts Christ with his arms wide open at a time when last judgments were commonplace. The iconographic programme of 153 capitals focuses on the intimate struggles of the human heart, hence their universal significance so pertinent for visitors to this day.

Many great civilisations have left us with remarkable examples of the art of building with light, most of which are connected to or assimilated with notions of the divine such as Stonehenge or the Egyptian pyramids. The Basilica also bears witness to the art of creating dialogue with sunlight – for the Romanesque builders the sun was a way of symbolizing Christ. He is the light who comes to encounter humanity. The abbey church itself built of stone was to become an image of that meeting. When the rays of sunlight touch the stone and the stone resounds to the clarity of that light, there appears to be something like a conversation between stone and sun. This exchange is a way of symbolizing the dialogue between creation and Creator, between man and God, between the Christian and Christ.

At midday solar time on the 24th June, when the sun is at its highest, a path of nine pools of light runs down the centre of the nave to celebrate the feast of the prophet John the Baptist. Situated at the entrance to the nave, he indicates the path to the one who says, "I am the path, truth, life", the words of Christ symbolized by the altar.

At Christmas the sun on its lowest path lights up the capitals on the South facing side, representing the divine light coming to encounter humanity's darker nights. From then on each day is longer – "Light shone in the darkness, darkness could not overcome it" (Jn 1,5).

At Eastertide the morning light blazes down the centre of the church from the choir windows down to the entrance doors, symbolizing the light of the resurrection announced by Mary Magdalene.

The "Madeleine", a popular name for the Basilica, and Magdalene College have in common their Benedictine origins. The Benedictine genius experienced by many a visitor here in Vezelay is to make the experience of "enlightenment" a very earthly process. It was also my experience while a student at Magdalene, thanks largely to my tutor. May that tradition continue today!

CROSSING GREENLAND

by Ms Sarah Winkelmann (2017)



Sarah Winkelmann.

By the time you read this, I will be in Greenland already, trying to cross the world's largest ice cap on skis. The expedition will cover roughly 600km from Kangerlussuaq on the west coast to Tassilaq on the east coast. During those 30 days with temperatures ranging from -10° to -40° Celsius, I will sleep in a tent and carry everything I need to survive in two sledges behind me. With a total weight of 80kg, those two sledges weigh more than me!

The preparation for this endeavour was extensive: 10 months of training. A typical training week consisted of 10-22 hours of strength, mobility and endurance training. A tried and tested method to build up the required endurance is dragging a set of 2-4 car tyres on gravel roads which simulates the weight of the sledge.

However, physical training was only the tip of the iceberg. Sorting out logistics, applying for insurances, testing equipment and finding sponsors consumed a lot more time than initially thought.

The cornerstone for my love of nature was laid in my childhood and later reawakened during my time at Magdalene. My parents, two avid sailors, raised their three children on a sailboat and taught us the vital respect for nature: nature cannot be conquered.

When I started my studies at Magdalene in 2017, I came as a heartbroken and frustrated student. My boyfriend of six years had just broken up with me and the political developments of the world at that time left me with a certain emptiness. One year later, I left as an empowered person willing to change the world.

Apart from meeting many impressive people who have inspired me to go on expeditions, I have learnt one important life lesson at Magdalene: there is no either-or. You can be an excellent student and an impressive athlete at the same time. I can be a woman in my twenties and a polar explorer.

I am hoping to reach the east coast by the end of May 2023. If you wish to track my journey, my little sister is updating my website based on my GPS data: www.sarah-winkelmann.co.uk



BACK ON THE WATER

Magdalene Boat Club

by Miss Leila Uddin (2020), Captain of Boats

Magdalene Boat Club remains the largest society in College. We are proud to involve almost a fifth of the student community as well as hosting a number of events open to all. Both the men's and women's side have seen great success recently, cementing our place as one of the highest achieving, friendliest and most fun clubs on the Cam.

The Fairbairn Cup saw a great start to the year, with a 2nd place finish for M1a, 3rd place for W1 and M2, and 5th for W2. The race also marked the end of our novice programme, after which dozens of our fantastic novices graduated into the senior squad.

In Lent Bumps W1 bumped up every day they raced to finish 6th in Division 2 and M1 finished 5th on the river, the highest MBC position since Lent Bumps records began in 1920. We look forward to our Mays campaign, where W1 are looking to continue their recent success and move up the First Division, and M1 are starting third on the river! Throughout the year we also take part in 'on Cam' and regional races. Our crews have won their respective categories at Winter Head, Christmas Head and Bedford Head so far, and are looking ahead to regatta season.

This year we are incredibly proud to have MBC representation in The Boat Races via our four trialists, all of whom won their respective races this March. All four learnt to row at MBC, a testament to our fantastic coaches and their enormous hard work.

This Easter 35 members of the club are returning to the beautiful Lake Bled in Slovenia for our annual training camp. This year we are taking our own boats for the first time, making the trip an even more ambitious achievement for a College rowing club!

The Mallory Club, which is made up of our alumni, have provided constant help and guidance throughout the year in all aspects of the club, as well as attending events and entering their own boats into races.

We are incredibly grateful to the Mallory Club, the College community, Lady Greenwood and the Master for their continued support – the club would not be what it is today without their help.



Annual training camp at the beautiful Lake Bled in Slovenia.

A YEAR WITH THE POLICE

by Mr Matt Lloyd-Rose (2003)



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ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO, A POLICE SERGEANT PEPPER SPRAYED ME IN THE FACE. I HAD NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE IT, MY EYES BURNING, MY MOUTH AND NOSE STREAMING.

I wasn't protesting or caught up in a skirmish; I was at the Met Police Crime Academy, training to be a volunteer police officer. Being pepper sprayed was part of the process. But standing there howling, I wondered what I was doing and how I had got there.

Before joining the Met, I was a primary school teacher in South London. It was my first job out of university, teaching a roomful of seven-year-olds. They were wonderful young people, full of energy and creativity. Many of

them, though, were facing serious adversity: domestic abuse at home, siblings in gangs, dads in prison, no permanent address.

A consequence of this adversity was some very challenging behaviour. In my first lesson a boy jumped on the table, shouted 'I'm King Kong!' and karate chopped another boy in the windpipe. Later, in the playground, boys from my class surrounded a new Teaching Assistant and threw their shoes at him chanting 'D**khead! D**khead!'

I taught for two years, then moved into educational research, but I wanted to stay involved with the community where I lived and taught. Specifically I wanted to stay involved with the young people in the area and learn more about the challenges they faced, challenges the police get closer to than anyone. I had never imagined being a police officer, but when I saw an advert for volunteers I decided to sign up.

From then on, I spent Friday nights circling my neighbourhood in a police van, dealing with everything from drug searches to mental health crises to illegal hot dog vendors – and spending a lot of time with teenagers involved with gangs.

On my first shift, someone shot a firework at our van. We jumped out and chased a shadow along the road, catching a thirteen-year-old boy. While we were searching him, a group of teenagers appeared and began shouting at us. I didn't know what to do. One moment I had been a trusted adult in a classroom, the next I was in a hostile standoff with a group of secondary school pupils.

Later that evening I asked a regular officer if a lot of policing involved dealing with teenagers. 'Too much,' he replied, 'there's all these families expecting us to be social workers, but we're not.' I asked an officer from the Gangs Taskforce how he thought the gang problem could be solved. 'A b***', was his reply, one on each of the local estates.

Police are sent to deal with teenage gang violence, but they don't feel equipped to deal with it. The same is true of mental health crises, domestic abuse, homelessness, loneliness and other knotty social issues. Most of the police officers I met wanted to spend their time arresting criminals, not tackling complex social issues. The only problem, I realised, is that in a place like South London tackling complex social issues is not just an important aspect of policing; it's a description of the job in its entirety. The 'criminals' we arrested were most often vulnerable individuals caught in damaging cycles. The emergencies we dealt with were not random one offs, but slow-motion emergencies, often playing out over years.

My time with the police was surprising, fascinating and often shocking, encountering ongoing institutional racism and an ingrained misogynistic culture. What surprised me most, as a former primary school teacher, was how relevant that experience felt. When we think about the police we often think about their power to use force. But the quality that distinguished the best officers I met was not force, but care: an authentic care for their community; the willingness to care about messy, ongoing issues, even as they elude attempts to solve them. Our society hands the police not just its most physically risky situations, but also its most complex caring duties, sending them to interact with the most vulnerable people at their most vulnerable moments.

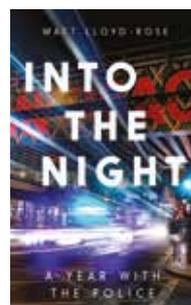


Matt Lloyd-Rose.

Care sounds like the antithesis of crime fighting. But it is the only true way to fight crime. Anything else is crime control: putting problems on ice, putting problem people out of sight. Only when the police see care as the core of their work will they help to solve the problems that frustrate them. Instead of being experts in coercion who grudgingly offer care, they need to become experts in care who grudgingly use coercion.

If we want strong, safe, resilient communities, the role of the police needs to be reimagined. When I left the Met, I wondered whether they could change – and if they did, whether they would still be 'the police', or something else entirely.

i Matt Lloyd-Rose has worked as a carer, primary school teacher, police officer, and in leadership roles across the charity and social sectors. He is the author of *The Character Conundrum: How to develop confidence, independence and resilience in the classroom*, and co-author, with Henry Eliot, of *Curiosity: An Alternative A-Z of London*. He is based in South London with his wife and two young children and balances writing with work supporting organisations to bring about social change and increase their social impact.



Into the Night: A Year with the Police was published by Picador in May 2023. Matt is now working on a book focused on the idea of 'care' and would love to hear from anyone researching or working in this area.

ISBN: 1035004240



HEALTH AND WELLBEING AT MAGDALENE

by Ms Catriona Keane, Head of Student Wellbeing

The Health and Wellbeing Service at Magdalene supports students who are experiencing physical or mental health, psychological and wellbeing difficulties. It consists of a nurse who has been supporting students for over seven years, and more recently a Head of Wellbeing who is also a counsellor and took up the post at the end of November.

The service offers short-term support to undergraduate and postgraduate students to help them maintain their physical and mental wellbeing while at College. This includes interventions such as bio psychosocial assessments, advice and information, brief solution focused therapy and other psychological interventions, health promotion and illness prevention services.

Students can come to the service with any issue impacting on their wellbeing. Whether it's mental health, physical health, disability-related or other, we will discuss what their needs are in terms of academic or clinical need, and either support them directly or refer them to the University's centralised mental health service or the NHS. For those who require longer term support or specialised treatment, the student is supported to access this provision via a private means.

To offer coordinated support to students, we work closely with the wider College Welfare Team including the Senior Tutor, Tutors, Academic Office Staff, the College Chaplain and Head Porter. These collaborative relationships ensure that the students receive the best support, tailored to their needs.

Students can register with the health and wellbeing service online or by emailing the service directly. They can also be referred by their tutor and students will obtain an appointment within 1-2 days.

Wellbeing Events and Services

In addition to the individual support, the Health and Wellbeing Service facilitated several wellbeing activities for Lent 2023. These activities were grounded in the five ways to wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Learn and Give. For example, Laughter yoga was offered to students, which is known to reduce stress and strengthen the immune system. Laughter is a positive energy that improves quality of life and makes us more resilient. Laughter helps to create a positive mental state, giving hope and optimism.

A workshop entitled "How Art Thou" was offered to students who find it difficult to articulate their feelings, express how they feel or put their feelings into words. The art-related method is designed to help students become more aware of hard-to-reach feelings or to become more aware of what they feel. The method can alleviate symptoms of distress, help students put language on their emotions and improve their general well-being and experiencing.

Tea at three has become a weekly Wednesday fixture and it encourages students to make conscious decisions to rest, reset and take a break without feeling guilty. This includes students getting together informally, building on and strengthening existing connections within Magdalene, as well as alleviating loneliness. We had a special spotty guest Mara the Dalmatian attend tea at three on the last week of term; she was a hit and students enjoyed her visit.

Plenty of studies have shown that being in nature can have a positive impact on our mood. Gardening, being in green spaces and around water can all improve our wellbeing. This became particularly clear during the pandemic, when many people in cities had limited access to natural environments. We teamed up with the Cambridge University Botanic Garden and arranged a walk from Magdalene to the Botanical Gardens to experience and learn more about the snowdrop trail. Mark, Magdalene's Head Gardener, also encourages students to volunteer with him and his team in the College grounds.

In addition to the formal and informal activities, students receive a Weekly Wednesday Wellbeing Bulletin, which provides students with updates from the Health and Wellbeing service, MCR and JCR committees, Chaplain, Gardener, Alumni Office and the library. It is centred on highlighting the academic and wellbeing support available within College and encouraging students to reach out at the point of need. It also acts as a gentle reminder to students to do one (or more) thing(s) per week to look after their mental health and engage in activities to increase their sense of belonging within the Magdalene community.



© PAUL STEPHAN

Origami Workshop.

WELLBEING FUNDRAISING

How the mental health pressures of COVID-19 forced the swift response

Anecdotally, Tutors had been reporting an increase of mental health issues among students for some years and it was noted that the University's Counselling Service was stretched. However, with the onset of COVID-19, demand for help with mental health related issues spiralled to such an extent that it became clear that the College would no longer be able to just rely on services provided across the collegiate university.

The Tutors reported an urgent need for specialist help for some of their students, help which was immediate and College based. It became clear that College had to act quickly despite the financial difficulties it was experiencing post-covid.

We approached Members, asking for help in creating an interim fund to cover the costs for a Head of Student Wellbeing in the short term thus allowing the Senior Bursar time to incorporate the costs of this new much needed post into the core budget of the College.

Thanks to the generous and immediate response, we were able to welcome a new colleague at Magdalene, Ms Catriona Keane, with the specialist knowledge needed to assist troubled students and work closely with the Tutors in not only identifying students experiencing possible mental health issues, but also providing a preventative framework.

We are enormously grateful for the swift response from so many of you to create this much needed and most welcome post.

Mrs Corinne Lloyd,
Director of Development

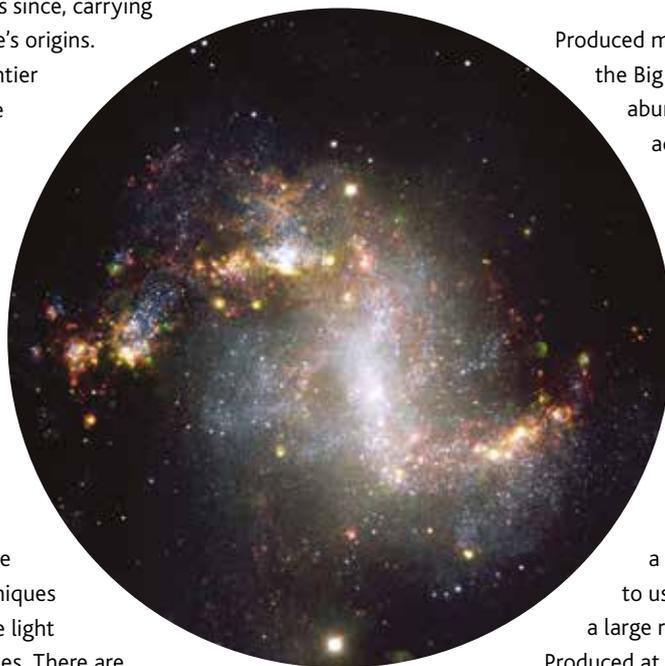


UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF THE EARLY UNIVERSE: A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

by Dr Anastasia Fialkov (2022), Senior Research Fellow

As we look up into the night sky, we find ourselves gazing into the past. The light from the stars and galaxies we see today was produced a long time ago and has been traveling to us since, carrying with it the story of the Universe's origins. Although the observational frontier is pushed deeper in cosmic time by telescopes such as the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), which sees faraway galaxies, the Universe still guards some of its most intriguing secrets. Perhaps one of the most intriguing mysteries left to unveil is the emergence of stars a few hundred million years after the Big Bang. Scientists are still uncertain about the first stars' formation processes, while the existing observational techniques do not reach so far as to see the light of the very first stars and galaxies. There are more secrets to explore: the origins of supermassive black holes, such as the one in the centre of Milky Way, the nature of dark matter (one of the most mysterious constituents of the Universe) and the incomprehensible dark

energy. Surprisingly, an answer to at least some of these questions might come from one of the Universe's simplest structures – hydrogen atoms.



Produced merely 379,000 years after the Big Bang, hydrogen is the most abundant element in nature, accounting for 75 percent of the "normal" (non-dark) matter. Like any atom, a hydrogen atom can absorb or emit photons. It turns out that one of the atomic transitions of hydrogen gives rise to photons that can tell us the story of the Universe. These photons, produced in the radio frequency of 1.42 GHz corresponding to a wavelength of 21 cm, arrive to us from all directions and from a large range of cosmic distances.

Produced at the earliest stages of cosmic history, these photons travel to us carrying information about some of the Universe's most deeply guarded secrets, such as the formation of the very first stars and black holes.



Owens Valley and one of the LWA antennas, part of the LEDA experiment (Dec 2017).

I am deeply intrigued by the power of simple hydrogen atoms to tell the story of the Universe. I am a theoretical astrophysicist at the Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge, and have dedicated my career so far to understanding what these radio signals from deep space tell us about the early Universe. For example, it turns out that this so-called 21-cm signal is sensitive to the mass of the very first stars to form and, therefore, it might be used to probe the sizes and brightness of the very first sources of light. I work with several leading teams around the world, including radio astronomers in Cambridge, to uncover the mysteries of the Universe using its simplest structures.

Very sensitive radio telescopes, such as the Hydrogen Epoch of Reionization Array (HERA) located in South Africa, are used to search for this signal with so far very inconclusive results, while the scientific community is looking forward to the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) becoming operational. The SKA is a telescope under construction in South Africa and Western Australia, and is expected to measure the 21-cm signal from a large range of cosmic times and spatial scales, effectively providing a tomographic three-dimensional scan of nearly all neutral hydrogen in the Universe.

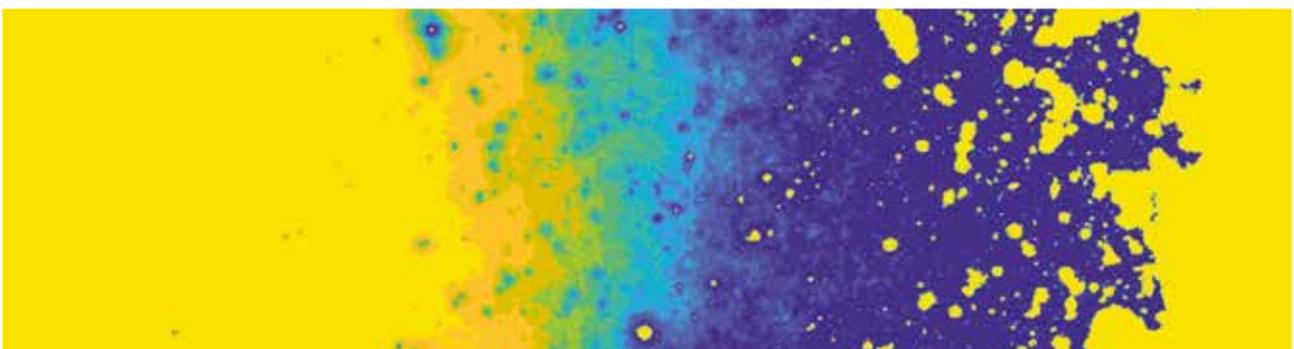
Some of the major hurdles are the noises present in the data collected by radio telescopes. The faint cosmic signals, coming from the epoch when the Universe was merely a few hundred million years old, are extremely hard to detect as they are buried under strong emission of our own Milky Way Galaxy as well as other galaxies around us. Human-made technology adds an extra layer of noise that often is hard to remove from

the data. Sophisticated data analysis algorithms, including machine learning methods, are being developed to clean the low-frequency data and extract the faint hydrogen signal from early cosmic times.

At Cambridge, we use cutting edge techniques like numerical simulations and machine learning to predict how the expected 21-cm signal depends on early astrophysical processes, e.g. the mass of the first stars. Computer simulations help test how various astrophysical and cosmological processes impact the signal's details, while machine learning methods can quickly generate mock 21-cm signals for a variety of plausible cosmic histories. These synthetic models can be fitted to data allowing us to interpret radio observations in terms of astrophysical processes (e.g. identify masses of first stars).

Looking to the future, the 21-cm cosmology community is exploring the potential of space-based surveys to probe deeper into the cosmic dark ages. Radio telescopes or arrays placed on satellites or the far side of the Moon could reveal new science inaccessible from the ground. These ambitious plans may dovetail with international plans for a sustainable base on the Moon, offering exciting synergies between space exploration and astrophysics.

Below: The predicted 21-cm signal over cosmic time and one axis on the sky. The evolution of the 21-cm brightness over cosmic time is shown along the horizontal direction from the cosmic dark ages (left) to the present day (right). The Swiss-cheese structure is the result of the primordial fluctuations in the distribution of matter and the impact of radiation from sources.



WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM EARTHQUAKE RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS?

by Professor Emily So (2005)

When a catastrophic earthquake event occurs, it causes human casualties, damage to buildings and infrastructure, and affects livelihoods, society and the wider economy. Much of the damage caused by earthquakes is visible only for a short time, because search and rescue, demolition and rebuilding often start within a few days. It is therefore important that damage assessments begin rapidly after an event. For the earthquake community, the need for speedy but systematic post-earthquake investigations has led to the formation

of several international earthquake reconnaissance teams whose aim is to be available for rapid deployment after an earthquake.

In the UK, the Earthquake Engineering Field Investigation Team (EEFIT) is a joint venture between industry and universities, and has conducted more than 30 investigations since its formation in 1982 following the Irpinia (Italy) earthquake of 1980. Similar organisations exist in several other countries (Spence, 2014). The cumulative findings of the missions

A pancake collapse of a reinforced concrete building in Besni/Adiyaman (EEFIT).





Above: Evidence of the non-compliant reinforced concrete used in the construct of damaged buildings.

Right: EEFIT field team members visiting the town of Golbasi in the earthquake area to record the characteristics of damage observed: local soil conditions leading to ground settlement, and overturning, and damage to buildings. The building in the foreground had settled by up to 600mm. No fine sand or water was found on the ground.



have been fundamental in formulating research programmes worldwide, which have studied aspects of physical damage, response and recovery from multiple events. These research programmes in turn have led to steady improvements in national and international codes of practice for building, as well as assisting in understanding the vulnerability of different types of affected facilities and in developing ways to enhance earthquake safety internationally (Spence and So, 2021).

Since 2011, academic participation in EEFIT missions has been supported by the UK's Engineering and Physical Science Research Council (EPSRC) and has deployed to most significant events around the world. Earthquakes that occurred in 2020 and 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic challenged the disaster risk resilience community to come up with alternative ways of achieving the objectives of a reconnaissance activity. With international travel being disrupted, teams were unable to physically go to the disaster-stricken areas for a field study of damage to buildings and infrastructure. During this time EEFIT relied on a hybrid approach by exploring other and innovative means of remotely accessible information on the event and partnering up with locals to carry out the fieldwork under the coordination of the remote team.

A magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck on 6 February 2023 in southern Turkey close to the Syrian border and was followed by a magnitude 7.5 earthquake just nine hours later, 100km north of the first earthquake. As of 14 of April 2023, the death toll from the earthquake sequence has reached

50,500, with 107,200 injured and millions having been forced from their homes. The World Bank estimated \$34.2 billion in direct damage, though this estimate does not include secondary costs.

EEFIT deployed a team to the affected region to learn from this earthquake sequence and adopted a hybrid approach. Despite the advances in technology, witnessing the consequences of the event allows for a better understanding of the totality of the situation, which is hard to grasp remotely. There are also limitations of remotely sensed images (satellite, drone footage and photographs). Buildings that from the outside and certainly at a distance look fine but when one gets closer or sees into a building the situation is very different indeed. Aerial views and satellite imagery fail to convey the extent of what has happened and what is visible at the time of deployment.

However, obtaining information remotely is also important for several reasons. First, it allows the field team to focus their time and resources more efficiently on critical regions known to have been impacted. For short time-sensitive missions, this can be invaluable to maximise what can be achieved. Furthermore, it allows us to pre-define critical data that can be collected and observations that can be made to reduce immediate and future hazards.

For the EEFIT February 2023 Kahramanmaraş Earthquake Sequence mission, the geotechnical field team was directed



Effects and soft-story damage to non-seismic resistant buildings.

by the remote members to assess whether a valley-blocking landslide posed a potential dam outburst flood risk in the region.

On site, the team found the large valley-blocking landslide at Değirmencik. At the time of the visit, there had been a lot of rain in the earthquake-affected area and a large volume of water was filling up behind this natural dam. The team was worried about a breach and the village directly downstream of the dam and alerted the water authority (DSI).

Collecting geohazard data (photographs, measurements and soil descriptions) from the field allows a back-analysis of failure mechanisms and trajectories and better modeling of future potential hazard and enables targeted hazard mitigation and management.

There are many aspects of an earthquake event that a reconnaissance mission would cover, including observations on infrastructure and disaster response and management. As space is limited, these will not be addressed in this article, but we shall focus on lessons learned on buildings from the February 2023 Kahramanmaraş Earthquake Sequence.

There has been unprecedented media attention both in the UK and worldwide on the Kahramanmaraş Earthquake Sequence, not only because there is a large expatriate community residing outside of Turkey, but because of the sheer scale of the impact. For a country that educates and trains some of the best earthquake engineers in the world, this is tragic.

Following the disastrous magnitude 7.6 Kocaeli earthquake in 1999, the National Government had put in place plans for the inspection and strengthening of public buildings, including schools and dormitories, hospitals and administrative buildings.

In 2001, a law was passed that required independent supervision of the design and construction of all new buildings, in all 81 provinces of the country, before the local authority could issue their construction permit. The law was aimed to ensure that the required design standards were not ignored, either by designers or builders, as they had been in buildings destroyed in previous events. However, the actual implementation of the law and its enforcement has been patchy and as reported in news media coverage of these recent events, the "legalisation" through exemptions of non-compliant buildings was evident in the earthquake-affected areas. Upon inspection of buildings in the affected area, the team found inadequate concrete used for construction, smooth reinforcement bars and poor detailing in the collapsed reinforced concrete frame structures, severely compromising the strength of the building and ability to withstand the strong ground motions.

Building construction is a complex process that involves many actors and could take years from approval of the design to completion. Profit drive pushes all players within the construction industry to take shortcuts. This has not only been seen in Turkey but in other devastating earthquakes around the world. To make a lasting impact the auditing and quality control mechanisms embedded in the legal and bureaucratic processes need to be strengthened so that code compliance is ensured. The question is how?

Time and time again, I have started a lecture with the line "The hazard itself is not what creates the disaster, it is the quality of the housing and the social fabric". Earthquake engineering is still a relatively young discipline and there is still much to learn in both the science and in coming up with innovative strategies to incentivize actors to prevent deaths from earthquakes through quality-built infrastructure. These deaths are not "part of fate's plan" (Guardian, 2023) but one of society's responsibilities. Everything can be rebuilt but lives cannot be recovered.

 **Professor Emily So (2005)** is the Director of the Cambridge University Centre for Risk in the Built Environment (CURBE) and she is co-leading a team of UK engineers, seismologists, and geologists on a reconnaissance mission to Turkey following the devastating earthquake in February 2023.

JCR UPDATE

by Mr Rory Gavin (2021), JCR President

As fireworks went off all across the nation and the world bid farewell to 2022, in Magdalene the start of 2023 heralded the transition between an outgoing and incoming JCR Committee.

From January, my committee of Entertainment Extraordinaires, Welfare Warriors, Green Gurus and IT Intellectuals have been hard at work for the undergraduate body. We have met fortnightly, and are quietly satisfied with the progress made during Lent Term.

The JCR has been devoid of its own College space for over two years but, thanks to the work Nikhil (VP) and I have put in, renovations are occurring to the Parcel Room which will give our students the JCR room they deserve.

Equally, the JCR have worked closely with the Catering Team to get our beleaguered Bar out of its Covid rut. Charity pub quizzes, crafted by Ceri and Lewis (Green and Charities Officers), as well as some new events have breathed new life into our social hub. The JCR is hoping to concoct more of these events and ensure that College has both a Bar and JCR Room, as wonderful as the rest of it.

Oscar and Aine (Welfare Officers) have been overseeing weekly events at the library, designed to give stressed students a much-needed break from their work. Their upcoming 'Puppy Therapy Session' has caused quite the



Pani Puri eating contest in the Bar.



International Women's Day Formal.

excitement and has cast doubters who claimed "they were barking up the wrong tree" into the shade. Oli (Secretary) has also been delivering on his weekly newsletter and, although renaming it to 'Magdazine' was not without heated discussion, the periodical has never been so successful.

Under the supervision of Rikki (Catering Officer), the JCR has also set about establishing themed formals. A bagpiper serenaded our Burns Night Formal, multi-coloured decorations adorned Tom's (LGBT Officer) Rainbow Formal, and Pico (Women's Officer) masterminded the International Women's Day Formal. Each have been met with a warm reception and it is brilliant to see Magdalene continuing to push the boundaries in a tasteful and innovative manner.

It has been such a thrill to be the President over these past few months. I am in a privileged position to be able to see all the creativity, talent and generosity this College has to offer. I hope to keep helping showcase our College's attributes during the rest of my tenure, and I look forward to doing so.

MCR UPDATE

by Mr Diarmid Xu (2020), MCR President

At the start of the year, the MCR had another very successful Officer Elections. New, previously unfilled posts include the Environment and Sustainability Officer, JCR Liaison Officer and IT Officer. Since then, the Committee has been working hard to run various events.

These events include the regular, such as formal swaps with other Colleges and a board games night, the seasonal, such as themed post drinks and a printmaking workshop for International Women's Day, and the one-offs, such as Waltz and Origami workshops (on different nights!).

In addition, they have been making general improvements to the MCR community, from the MCR room to the rebuilding of the MCR website by our IT Officer Paul.

In February, MCR members donated multiple large boxes of clothes to help those affected by the Turkey-Syria earthquake, and later in the month, the MCR sponsored a fundraising cocktail night in support of the Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre (CRCC).

The MCR also co-hosted a series of Parlour Talks in collaboration with the SCR, with thanks to Junior Research

Fellow Dr Adrian Baez-Ortega (2020), where fantastic speakers from all fields of research come to deliver discussion evoking seminars over a drink and some snacks. Topics have ranged from how string instruments work to the role of disabled characters in the works of 19th century novelist Charles Dickens.

Last year, the Christmas Banquet turned the Hall into a winter wonderland, complete with light up deer and penguins! It was very well received; a much-needed gathering of friends during the cold and at the end of term. At the time of writing, we all look forward to the Easter Banquet which promises to be equally memorable, this time with plenty of Easter chocolates.

With Executive Elections just around the corner, I want to thank the entire committee for their tireless work and to wish them all the best for the future.



WORDS MADE STONE: THE CRAFT AND PHILOSOPHY OF LETTER CUTTING

by Dr Marcus Waithe (2010), Fellow in English and University Associate Professor

Words Made Stone stages a dialogue between the eminent letter-cutter, alphabetician and Honorary Fellow, Lida Cardozo Kindersley MBE, and myself as a Fellow in English. The book has two aims: most immediately, to follow the journey of an inscription through the various stages of work at Lida's workshop, beginning with that of listening to the client, through the processes of cutting and finishing, up to the point of fixing and letting time and the weather do their work. More broadly, the book explores the affinities between two people who work with, and curate, words in very different ways.

The blurb describes 'a free exchange between a thinking maker and making thinker', and the subtitle refers to the 'philosophy' of letter cutting. There is a deliberate allusion here to the way that our dialogue – a form not much used these days, but dating back to Plato – can test and synthesise different viewpoints. Another way of explaining this would be to say that Lida works with her hands, but like any craftsman constantly engages with intellectual challenges. There are the challenges of design, in getting the different elements to 'fit'. But she also aims to sustain a dynamic relationship between action and thought, ensuring in effect that the hands are 'thinking', not just mechanically executing.

Lida is also an educator, a fact reflected in the University's recent decision to award her an honorary doctorate. For many years, she has run a thriving apprenticeship programme, and she combines this work with a list of publications aimed at explaining apprenticeship, workshop culture (and ethics), and the principles of letter design and spacing. Among these was published our earlier (and shorter) collaboration, *The Ins and Outs of Public Lettering* (2020). For my part, *Words Made Stone* provided a rare opportunity for uniting professional literary interests with my more practical interests in craftsmanship – ranging from buildings conservation to woodwork and silversmithing.

And there is perhaps a third presence here, the linking context of Magdalene College. Our community can boast a longstanding connection with letter cutting and book design, through Will Carter (d. 2001), Honorary Fellow, who ran the Rampant Lions Press from a cottage rented from the College.



King Charles III receiving a copy of Words Made Stone from Lida in front of two green slates cut by the Cardozo Kindersley Workshop.

Carter's work was recently commemorated by an exhibition in the Robert Cripps Gallery, and this gave me an opportunity to reflect on the triangle of typographic excellence that stretches between the College, the site of Carter's former workshop on Chesterton Road (still carrying his inscription, '12 Audley Cottage'), and the Cardozo Kindersley Workshop on Victoria Road. While Lida and I were writing our book we became involved – now as artist and client – in commissioning the 'Magdalene Regular' typeface for the naming of rooms in the New Library, as well as the building's beautifully festive benefactors' stone. In this respect, the life of the College, and our dialogue, began to interact in serendipitous ways, an effect heightened by our former Master, Rowan Williams, who has written a typically thoughtful introduction.



Words Made Stone
Publisher: Cardozo Kindersley
(17 February 2023)

ISBN: 1739587804

www.kindersleyworkshop.co.uk/shop/words-made-stone.php

PRINCIPAL BENEFACTORS

THE CRIPPS FOUNDATION MR DOMINIC ARMSTRONG 1985 MR PHILIP CARNE MBE 1958 MR NORMAN CHAPLIN 1945 MR ROBERT CHARTENER 1982 & MRS KATE CHARTENER PROF NELSON CHEN 1976 & DR MARGARET WONG DR LUI CHE-WOO PROFESSOR DAVID COOPER 1972 SIR COLIN CORNESS 1951 MR JOHN CULTHURST 1927 MR GEOFFREY CRADDOCK 1977 CRAUSAZ WORDSWORTH MR GUY DAVISON 1976 MR ANDREW FISCHER 1983 SIR GRIS GREENWOOD GBE CMG QC 1973 MR ROBERT HILL 1959 MR NORMAN H C HO MR JAMES HOWELS QC 1989 & MRS ZOË

New Library Stone of Principal Benefactors, cut by Honorary Fellow, Ms Lida Lopes Cardozo Kindersley MBE (2015).

Upcoming Events

16 September

25th and 50th Anniversary Reunion
Dinner for 1998 and 1973 matriculands

22 September

Cambridge Alumni Festival –
New Library and Pepys Library Tours

13 October

Magdalene In London Dinner at
the Oxford and Cambridge Club

13 October

NRM Night

8 November

Boston Dinner

10 November

Annual New York Dinner

10 November

NRM Night

24 November

NRM Night

1 December

Annual Carol Concert

2 December

Benefactors' Event: Festive drinks
with the Master

2 December

Master's Guild Dinner

Please note that the above events may be subject
to change.

Additional events may be added; please check
www.magd.cam.ac.uk/events and look out for
updated listings in *Magdalene eMatters*. If you
are interested in attending an event or would
like additional information, please email
events@magd.cam.ac.uk.



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