



### **A Message from the Warden**

Just after the College closed down I posted a message; now this message comes as we have opened up again – but virtually.

Term has begun in high spirits – but you can't hear or see them in College. The Quadrangles are deserted; badgers roam Holywell at night; the Chapel is silent; the grass in the Cloisters lush as never before. Beyond the gates, taking a walk through Oxford is like strolling through an Ackerman engraving. But all this belies the frenetic activity which is taking place virtually on Teams and Zoom.

The full academic timetable is being taught on Teams. Of course, the Oxford USP of intimate tutorials and supervisions has come into its own in our lockdown. Our students so far report a very high level of satisfaction. And, quite simply, they are just very happy to see each other again.

One New College innovation, unique in the University, has been to adapt the Library to the distanced life. Our Library website directs users to an unparalleled range of academic e-resources, across all subjects taught in College, and routinely notifies students of e-book surrogates. Most importantly, the Librarian, Christopher Skelton-Foord, has transformed our loan service into a postal loan service – so that we can continue to connect current members with physical library resources. In tandem with this we have a 'home delivery' book purchase request service – to supply both our Fellows and our students with items that they require which can no longer be accessed from the Bodleian or other libraries. Both are being heavily used, from places as distant as Singapore and Poland. In the words of one student: 'I can't tell you how grateful everybody is for this; it's saved our studies, and established a much needed contact point with the College we have had to leave'.

Meantime, the governance of the College continues as usual, with essential meetings taking place in the allotted times, including Governing Body, with the Bronze Group meeting weekly to handle operational issues.

The strength of our community is that it can remain very close in all sorts of ways:

- Once a week you can join us for Evensong in our Chapelcast series, which you can find after 5.00pm each week on Sunday on <https://www.new.ox.ac.uk/chapel>. It combines music previously recorded with new readings and reflections.
- The Choir has a new set of playlists, curated by the organist, and which you can find updated regularly at <https://www.newcollegechoir.com/>
- The JCR's Arts Week, which occurs annually during Trinity Term, is moving online. This year's committee will publish a New College Arts Week Anthology containing a variety of art and writing inspired by New College from current students, Old Members, and the New College art collections. The Anthology will be published shortly - please fill out the following form if you're interested in receiving a link to the online edition:  
<https://ncartswweek.typeform.com/to/dGL8L7>
- We will be launching 'New College Reads To You', a programme of podcasts of Fellows and Old Members reading short passages of writing that are significant to them, including: Patrick Gale reading *The Whole Day Through* (Fourth Estate, 2009) and 'Angel Hill' by Charles Causeley, Laura Marcus reading *To the Lighthouse*, and Steven Balbus reading Kip Thorne's *Black Holes and Time Warps*, as well as a new poem by Craig Raine, 'Sea Urchin'. Readings will be available twice a week on the college website.

With my best wishes to you, your friends and your families.

**Warden**