Welcome to the 2018 issue of Jesuan News.

The most significant change to College life since our previous edition has, of course, been the opening of West Court. We were handed the keys to the entirety of the building in June 2017 and I am delighted to report that since then it has had a transformational impact upon the College.

While all of the spaces, from the Webb Library to the new JCR and MCR, have opened up new possibilities for us, I would like to take this opportunity to draw particular attention to the Frankopan Hall. This 180-seat lecture space has enabled the Intellectual Forum—introduced in 2017’s edition of this magazine by its Director, Julian Huppert—to exercise an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary focus, and really widen and increase the number of voices heard in College. It has been a great pleasure for me to see students, Fellows, alumni and visitors coming together to enjoy discussions on issues as varied as earthquake recovery and homelessness, and listen to speakers as distinguished as Professor Peter Frankopan and Dr Danilo Türk, former President of Slovenia.

I am also very pleased indeed by how extensively our students are using West Court. A number of student organisations, including the Jesus College Film, Debating and Dance Societies, have staged events in West Court, and it has also hosted Boat Club Pilates sessions, JCSU bops and May Ball Committee meetings, as well as other events.

You can read in more detail about several of the above in the pages immediately ahead. Further into the magazine we are happy to record the usual dazzling mix of achievements by Jesuans past and present. Honoured by ex-President Obama in 2011 for his work on charge-coupled device imagers, Mike Tompsett recently became the proud winner of a Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering. Postgraduate Victoria Honour has done some pioneering scientific work—infectiously described here—in Greenland. In his relatively new role at the Port of London Authority, Christopher Rodrigues seems to be tapping quite inexhaustible funds of energy.

I remain immensely heartened and gratified by all that keeps Jesus College prominent at home and around the world, so please enjoy a vivid sample here of the great range of Jesuan activity.

Professor Ian White FREng
Richard Dennis

We say goodbye to Jesus College's Development Director, who is retiring

Richard arrived in 2000, when he set up the College's first permanent fundraising and alumni-relations operation. The College felt at the time that its buildings were showing their age but was perhaps a little unsure about how repairs were to be paid for. Within a few short years Richard had marshalled the generous support of Jesuans and North Court had been entirely refurbished; 12 years into the new millennium the sensitive renovation of the much older Chapel Court was done on the same basis.

Richard started his Development Office with one part-time secretary. Eighteen years later he manages a team of five, each tasked with very particular remits to help the College improve its facilities and the support it can offer to its 85 Fellows, and nearly 900 students, undergraduate and graduate, year by year. Today, Jesus College also has a dramatically enhanced programme for alumni, with many dinners and events on site (and out-and-about): everyone in Richard's time has had the opportunity to come back to College, should they wish, far more frequently than was ever the case.

The list of improvements during Richard's time is long, including: renovations to the Chapel—keeping it sound for decades to come—as well as a new organ, piano and harpsichord; significant upgrading of the College's accommodation in Malcolm Street and Jesus Lane; a major refurbishment of the Boat House; the Chapter House and Song School project in Cloisters; the endowment and funding of teaching posts; support for undergraduate students through the funding of bursaries either endowed or through the Annual Fund; funding likewise for graduate scholarships; and, of course, culminating in the advent of the remarkable West Court.

Richard says: “As I go I must thank the College's Old Members for their friendship and for their good-natured engagement with the College's Development Campaign. They have my true personal thanks for all their support—and for being such very nice people. I look forward to staying in touch in the years ahead.”

Jesuans will be delighted to know that with Ms Emily Williams appointed as the new Development Director, the College's fundraising and alumni relations are in good hands. Emily joins the College at the end of May from the University development office where she has been Senior Associate Director for the School of Arts and Humanities. Richard will become an Emeritus Fellow and so will be able to support Emily in her early days at the College.

We wish Richard extraordinarily well in his retirement.

JCCS Annual Dinner 2018

After a spectacular dinner at the Mansion House last September, this year’s JCCS Annual Dinner will return to the familiar surroundings of College on 22 September 2018.

The guest of honour will be Professor Peter Frankopan (1990), author of The Silk Roads, a fascinating new history of the world.
West Court officially opened

Royal visits are always meticulously planned, down to the finest second, with little room for manoeuvre. Such was the case on Tuesday 10 October 2017, when His Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex flew to Jesus College to open officially the newly completed West Court.

At 3.15 pm, stepping out of his helicopter, The Earl was greeted on the Rugby Pitch by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Lady Margaret Mair. They were taken by car to West Court’s main entrance on Jesus Lane. There The Earl was introduced by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant to the Master, and to Mrs Margaret White, the Bursar Dr Richard Anthony and the Head Porter Mr Grahame Appleby.

Outside the Foyer, the sky growling grey, the Master gave The Earl an introduction to the architecture of the new court, before guiding the him on a tour featuring: the Frankopan Hall, the Laura Case Medical Teaching Suite, the Intellectual Forum, the Conference and Exhibition Rooms, one of the apartments and the Roost café-bar area. Along the way The Earl was introduced to many individuals who had been closely involved with various aspects of bringing the project to fruition, along with members of the MCR and JCSU Executive Committees.

The plan then was for everything—Choir and speeches, and naturally the unveiling of a plaque—to be outdoors. Autumn weather, however, is not everyone’s friend: sometimes not even that of royalty. By around 3.45 pm, most of the assembled guests—Fellows, students, staff, alumni, donors—had taken shelter, prosecco in hand, from heavy rain in the marquee erected on the Hockey Pitch. A deft juggling of the schedule got the Choir, keeping dry in the marquee, now singing Thomas Tomkins magnificently. This was followed by speeches, out of the rain, by the Master and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stephen Toope.

Tea was taken early and on a fine red carpet The Earl toured the marquee, talking graciously to many of those gathered. The downpour proved to be more spring-like than wintery. About half-an-hour after schedule, His Royal Highness was finally able to unveil the elegant plaque just below the West Court pavilion in benevolent sunshine, and spoke enthusiastically about what a wonderful resource the new court will be for all who use it. Just before 5 pm, on time, the royal helicopter flew off into a clear blue sky.

“ The weather isn’t everyone’s friend, sometimes not even that of royalty ”
There’s been an eclectic range of topics to relish in West Court since the start of Michaelmas Term 2017. Intellectual Forum Director Julian Huppert and Deputy Director Sarah Steele have excelled themselves and given audiences much to think about over the months.

Three major conferences took place in the Frankopan Hall in October, November and January respectively. The first was on the aftermath of earthquakes, inspired by the terrible natural disaster nearly two years ago in the Marche, eastern Italy. There was focus on heritage lost but also many stimulating presentations on how to predict—and minimise the destruction of—earthquakes in vulnerable corners of the world. Delegates and speakers from Jesus College and across the University were joined by academics from the Università Politecnica delle Marche and representatives from the Comune of Amandola, which suffered heavily in August 2016.

The Rustat Conference on global mobility looked at how mobility has changed around the world and, at home, attitudes in society in the wake of the UK’s vote to leave the European Union. The season’s third IF conference, built over two days around the new, China-based Yidan Prize—the largest prize in education in the world—asked what high-quality education looks like today and how it might be brought about for children globally. The inaugural winners of the prize, in 2017, were Professor Carol Dweck of Stanford University, who addressed the conference via video, and Vicky Colbert, founder and director of the Fundación Escuela Nueva, who gave the keynote lecture at the end of the first day.

Cambridge’s spring Science Festival yielded a series of fascinating talks by eminent Jesuans, including Jeremy Baumberg on how scientific writing and research interconnect and compete across the globe, Jim Ajioka on using bioengineering to make cleaner and safer fabric dyes to reduce pollutants, and five women—Sybil Stacpoole, Rachael Bashford-Rogers, Jennifer Hirst, Emily Camm and Tessa Sinnige—holding their 13 March audience rapt with insights into their latest work in bioscience.

Memorable stand-alone events were numerous. In November 2017, Peter Frankopan gave the first Lisa Jardine Lecture on realigning perceptions of trade, value and aesthetics during the many “Renaissances” in Asia, as opposed to the single, assumed European one—an eloquent iteration of a central thread of his 2015 book, The Silk Roads (see Jesuan News 2016).

Not unconnected, on 31 January, was ex-President of Slovenia Danilo Türk’s wonderful, wide-ranging survey of China’s 21st-century engagement with the world, Europe especially, under its Belt and Road Initiative: an optimistic call by a seasoned internationalist for common understanding.

An interview the following evening in a packed Frankopan Hall by Nicky Shepard with shoe-designer Jimmy Choo was surely one of the sparkiest celebrity events the University has hosted anywhere in recent years.

This is before mentioning ex-New Zealand PM Helen Clark, Rob Shorland-Ball on Cambridge Station, a Festival of Ideas education event, Cary Parker on Kettle’s Yard, Melissa Pierce Murray on the interface between sculpture and science, Rania Abouzeid, Wendy Pearlman and Rowan Williams on Syria, and Alexis Nichols on Lucille Ball. Jesus College’s Intellectual Forum heeds no boundaries. Expect more of the same, but entirely different, from autumn this year.

For all past and future events, please go to https://www.jesus.cam.ac.uk/research/intellectual-forum
Mike Tompsett is now recognised by the world. His inventions keep winning prizes. The Royal Academy of Engineering solicits applications globally for the Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering (or QEPrize), awarded biennially. It was founded in 2011 to recognise and publicise engineers responsible for groundbreaking innovations that have provided “global benefit to humanity”, thereby encouraging young people to become engineers.

The prize was given for the first time in 2013 to the five pioneers of the World Wide Web. In 2015, it went to a chemical engineer who had developed polymers for the long-term controlled release of drugs in the treatment of cancer and mental illness.

Since the 1960s Mike has done innovative work in materials science. This latest award cites his invention of charge-coupled imaging devices and the development of the first “digital” colour camera. Digital imaging has led to vastly enhanced images and capability in many scientific and consumer areas. Charge-coupled imaging devices really kick-started the digital-camera industry. Today, however, integrated circuit technology has improved so much that CMOS (complementary metal-oxide semi-conductor) imagers, using an alternative approach, now dominate consumer applications. But charge-coupled imagers continue to be used in many science, space and astronomical applications.

Mike studied Physics at Jesus College under Dr John Adkins and completed his PhD in Cambridge in 1966. He worked at the Electric Valve Company (now Teledyne e2v) in Britain, where he invented an uncooled thermal-imaging camera-tube. He then joined AT&T Bell Laboratories in the United States, intent on developing a solid-state imaging device. There, he produced a picture of his wife Margaret—the first digital colour image—that appeared on the cover of *Electronics* magazine in 1973.

After taking early retirement from Bell in 1989, Mike became Director of Electron Device Research for the US Army for six years before starting, and for 12 years running, his own software company. The 2017 £1 million Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering was awarded to four individuals, including Mike: the other three winners were George Smith, who with William Boyle invented the charge-coupled principle for use as computer memory; Nobukazu Teranishi, who invented the pinned photodiode used in charge-coupled and CMOS imaging devices; and Eric Fossum, who improved on some earlier ideas that have led to today’s CMOS image-sensors and the realisation of a “camera on a chip”.

Mike donated his share of the prize to the two British secondary schools and the two Cambridge colleges that he and his wife attended—including, of course, Jesus College. The funds are directed for STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine) activities, with an emphasis on girls. “It was a thrill,” says Mike, “to be able to do this, just as it was, of course, to be at Buckingham Palace last December, for the award ceremony. The award bears the Queen’s name but she was otherwise engaged on this occasion, so Prince Charles presented the trophies. In a very relaxed manner he circulated for over an hour with the 100 guests, who included the US Ambassador.”

An important goal of the QEPrize is to attract the young to engineering. To this end, the design of the trophy is an international competition. Last year thousands of students from 32 countries submitted designs. The winner was a 15-year-old schoolboy from Wales. His design was fabricated professionally using 3-D printing.
Through personal and professional connections, I have come to believe that Jesus College's engagement with graduate students is admirable, and that the sense of community and inclusivity within the MCR itself is remarkable.

This academic year the intake of graduates rivalled that of the undergraduates, with over 160 new students joining the MCR in October. Accordingly, the Committee worked hard over the summer and through September to ensure we exceeded expectations for Freshers Fortnight. Over two weeks we hosted events ranging from treasure-hunting to wine-tasting. We especially enjoyed using new West Court facilities by hosting an international film night in the Frankopan Hall and an MCR quiz in the Brewery Room, and generally encouraging use of our common room.

Our MCR brunches are consistently well-attended and Graduate Halls are proving incredibly popular, with the first two themed ones selling out almost immediately. We’ve also organised an MCR bake-off, theatre trips, cocktail-making classes, and film and pizza nights! Our annual Halloween, Burns Night and Christmas Super Halls were as successful as ever, and I’d like to thank the catering department for all its help with these events.

At the start of Lent Term, the MCR Committee began a new venture: a “re-freshers week”. The rationale for this came from feedback in our annual graduate survey that revealed that some students who start in Lent struggle to meet friends or feel settled. Consequently, we ran a number of events, starting with welcome drinks and our second Three-Minute Thesis of the year. Speakers were Jesuan Junior Research Fellows and Post-Doctoral Associates, which provided an exciting opportunity for graduates to hear researchers talk about their current topics. Finally, our much-anticipated Graduate Conference brought Lent to a close. With a range of oral and poster presentations from graduate students, this gave our MCR members the chance to present to and vividly integrate with other College members.

I would like to thank everyone on the MCR Committee for all their hard work throughout the year. I would also like to extend thanks to senior members of the College, including the Master, the graduate-tutorial team and all members of staff, for making Jesus College a wonderful place to study and call home.

Taylor Saunders-Wood, MCR President
St Paul, the Reformation and Cranmer

JONATHAN LINEBAUGH

We welcome this year to the Jesus College Fellowship two distinguished scholars from the United States: from different disciplines but with connected interests. DR JESSICA BERENBEIM focuses on medieval English writing, Christian and secular (p.7). DR JONATHAN LINEBAUGH’s compelling research is taking him—and anyone who talks to him about it, including Jesuan News—back to early 16th-century Cambridge and to one of that era’s pioneering theologians.

On the surface—literally—flat, landlocked Cambridge might not seem the most obvious place in the world for a 35-year-old northern Virginian to have landed. Jonathan Linebaugh’s non-academic pursuits include rock-climbing, which he does, in Britain, with his 10-year-old son, and, even more challenging for East Anglia, surfing. “It’s a lifelong passion,” he says. “Figure that one out—in the UK! But there are great places for surfing in Portugal, Spain and France, so there’s some exploring to do now that I’m this side of the Atlantic. I’ve spent a lot of time in the great waves of California, Fiji and Nicaragua, but I’m from the East Coast and there you learn to be patient.”

This is Jonathan’s third year in Cambridge, where he has been at the Faculty of Divinity as lecturer in New Testament studies. He was raised near Washington DC. His father worked at George Washington University. His mother was a teacher. After high school, he attended the private liberal-arts Messiah College in Pennsylvania, where he studied economics, but realised that his leanings were theological and religious. After a final year at Messiah working on the New Testament he did a three-year Masters at Trinity Episcopal School, in Pittsburgh.

A PhD, comparing an early Jewish text to a letter by Paul, followed in 2008 at the University of Durham for three years. This was published in 2013 as God, Grace, and Righteousness: Wisdom of Solomon and Paul’s Letter to the Romans in Conversation. Once in Cambridge, colleagues advised him to get attached to a college “slowly”. He was eventually asked by Jesus College if he’d like to have “a conversation in that direction”.

The College has long had two Fellows in Theology, Janet Soskice—who’s in her final year—and Tim Jenkins, who’ll retire next. It was thought that having another teaching Fellow, who could also be Director of Studies, would be the right development. As Jonathan’s is quite a small subject area, he supervises students from across the University (“there just aren’t enough Fellows to go round”) but aims to prioritise those at Jesus College, where there are two theologians per year.

Why does he think young people are attracted to theology at degree level?

“It’s an interesting question. Some come from a religious tradition they want to understand more deeply. They can study the languages, texts and history of Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism—which are probably the most represented in the Faculty. Others do religion because they understand something of historical and global significance. So they want to study, for example, the New Testament texts because they’re programmatic and culture-shaping, especially in the West. If you want to understand literature, art, politics, you need to factor them in. A lot also come who aren’t part of any religious tradition but hope for a career in, say, law, politics or journalism. For that, they feel they need to expose themselves to the convictions and dynamics of multiple religious categories.”

Among Jonathan’s most recent work has been the tracing of the centrality of Paul’s letters to the English Reformation and how he was being read then. At the time humanism was budding in Cambridge. St John’s had been founded, as had Christ’s—and Jesus College of course. Thomas Cranmer came to the College to receive humanist training in 1503.

At secret meetings incendiary Lutheran texts were discussed: Cambridge was a kind of ground-zero for the Reformation.

“There was a pub in town,” Jonathan says, with some relish, called The White Horse Inn, where many secret meetings took place to discuss incendiary Lutheran texts being smuggled in from Germany. Cambridge was a kind of ground-zero for the Protestant Reformation. Thomas Cranmer was quietly studying at Jesus College but we don’t know too much about him then. He was sent to the Continent to poll opinion on whether King Henry should be allowed to annul his marriage. While away Cranmer clearly caught the Reformation bug—and got married to the niece of a German reformer.”

After his PhD, Jonathan edited a volume called Reformation Readings of Paul. In it he had an essay on Cranmer as a reader of Paul, which had not really been explored before.

“I worked through his prayerbooks, liturgies and homilies, learning that the shape and patterns in Cranmer’s theology and the formularies of the Church of England were distinctly Pauline.” Jonathan is in the right place, then? “Yes, it seems appropriate for me to be sitting in Cranmer’s College, walk in the Cloisters and keep working out how Paul’s letters and Cranmer’s reading of them helped shape the enormous changes—here—exactly 500 years ago.”
Everything is illuminated

JESSICA BERENBEIM

DR BERENBEIM is our newest Fellow in English, bringing the total in the subject at Jesus College to four. Her research area is the Middle Ages. In a lively West Court café-bar she talked about what she has discovered—in writing—about this productive era

Jesuan News: How long have you been in Cambridge?
Jessica Berenbeim: I started at the English Faculty in September and came to the College in October. I'm the medievalist. I think that amounts to a nice distribution of subject areas. And all the English Fellows here are interested in visual culture. I have a strong sense of connection to Jesus's artistic programme.

JN: What in particular are your interests in English literature and art?
JB: In the medieval period—the relationship between visual culture and literature. I teach in intersecting circles: anything medieval and anything visual, broadly speaking! An advantage of being at Jesus is that it's undoubtedly one of the colleges that's most involved in the arts. I believe there are only a handful of others that have that kind of profile. And because I am a medievalist I love the history here, its footprint and architecture. I'm very interested in nuns.

JN: What was your first contact with the College?
JB: I did an MPhil in Cambridge at St John's, 2004-5. I was looking at specific manuscripts. But one I really wanted to see was here, in the Old Library: shelfmark “Q. B. 7” (below left). It was one of the very first manuscripts in Cambridge I saw. It had diagrams to do with pastoral learning, and represented a precise meeting of literary and visual culture. It was an instructional manual and this kind of thing was extremely popular—in its time fundamental reading.

JN: You study very old manuscripts. Are there many in the States?
JB: Yes, a fair amount, and what has become available there digitally has increased exponentially in the past few years. You find very different things in American collections from what you do here; the collecting history is different. Some of the very first things I looked at in the States were medieval manuscripts of ancient literature. That was at Harvard, where I was an undergraduate.

JN: And after?
JB: In 2008 I began my PhD dissertation, which became the subject of my first book. It's about medieval English literature, art, and the ramifications of the growing use of legal documents in England at the time, and the effects they had on the prevailing culture. Some of these documents were illuminated or were depicted in illuminated manuscript books. I became really interested in the increasing circulation of documents, the kind of thing we now take for granted: title deeds, passports, ID cards. How did the circulation of this writing affect other kinds of writing and other kinds of image? I also looked at the discussion about them in poetry and polemical writing, and the representation of documents in painting and, to a lesser extent, sculpture.

JN: Tell us a bit about your life outside academia.
JB: I'm from New York, and I worked there for a while at the contemporary-art magazine Artforum. After my PhD, I had a Junior Research Fellowship at Magdalen, Oxford, which is where my now three-year-old was born. My partner is an artist, and has also been working at the Ruskin School of Art in Oxford, as a Fellow and now Visiting Tutor. He's British and we met in the UK. People often ask why I am interested in medieval manuscripts, and I often don't know how to reply. He thinks it's because the architecture of New York City is quite medieval. Really, that's about as good as anything anyone's come up with with!
At the Amakhala Game Reserve, with the Ikhala Veterinary Wildlife Services, I worked on a game-capture and wildlife-medicine programme called Vets Go Wild. The programme gives Veterinary Medicine students an opportunity to experience a very different side of the discipline to what is found in the United Kingdom or in much of the developed world, for that matter.

In South Africa, I worked alongside wildlife vets to learn about and experience the challenges they face every day. The work of a wildlife vet varies greatly compared to that of a small-companion animal vet. For a start, it is much more unpredictable. The majority of the animals I worked with need to be tracked and darted, itself a difficult feat, before any procedure can be performed. It can take a significant amount of time and thought to find and get close enough to the animal you want to work on. You cannot easily get close to and do any procedure on an animal without anaesthetising it with a dart-gun. The less time the animal is kept under for the better. So any work on the animal needs to be done quickly and efficiently.

I worked with various animals, including species of antelope, buffalo, giraffe and rhinoceros. Antelope and buffalo procedures included tranquillising them, as described—known as “knock-down for movement”. There was also the treatment of malnourished and animals in poor condition, routine stock-management tasks, treatment of injured animals and, in the case of a young eland, tumour removal.

Giraffe are particularly sensitive to anaesthetic: the latter’s use on the species can be hazardous. To minimise the risk, a relatively low dose is administered to sedate the giraffe, then it is tripped. Once the vet reaches the unconscious giraffe, a procedure must be fast and the anaesthetic reversed almost immediately. The dangers of drug-use on giraffe became clear to me quickly: one we darted did not survive even a low dose of anaesthetic and was unfortunately dead before we reached it.

Rhinoceros procedures were mainly routine, for movement, pregnancy diagnosis, and supportive treatment for a mother and her calf. Typical rhino-management actions included dehorning, in this case removing a large amount of the rhino horn. This is a slightly controversial procedure and is performed as an anti-poaching measure. The idea is that if the rhinos in an area have already had their horns removed, there is less incentive for poachers to hunt them down. Rhinos face a real threat from poaching, mainly from international organisations that hunt to kill and illegally sell the horn on the black market, where it is worth roughly £50,000 per kilogramme.

Dehorning is thus considered a necessary evil in the current climate, as the alternative consequences are much worse for the individual creature and broader population of rhinos. Ideally, there should be no need to dehorn—by removing the demand for rhino horn. Education methods are being attempted and this is an area to which Dr William Fowlds, who was my constant companion from Vets Go Wild, devotes much of his time, spreading awareness to those who would not otherwise be exposed to the situation.

I would like to thank the JCCS and the Sir Robbie Jennings Fund for their generous support in 2017, which helped substantially to cover my expenses for the South Africa trip and gain invaluable experience there.
France’s refugee frontier

Jessie Slim (2014), reading French and Russian, spent five months of her MML year abroad working at one of Europe’s frontline ports-of-call for the countless refugees and migrants fleeing 21st-century war and poverty.

I t’s 10 pm. It’s pouring with rain and I’m struggling with a crowd of 50 refugee men under a ring-road flyover in northern Paris. This is it: the swarm, the horde, the infestation. They’re coming for our jobs, for our benefits!

Except it’s not and they’re not, and everyone’s laughing. Everyone is trying to stay out of the rain. Food distribution is underway and, in theory, the men are supposed to be in “one line” against the wall. But it’s wet and everyone wants to stay under the bridge. We’re trying to send people over to the food in groups of five but every time the other volunteers and I break ranks the men surge forward: “One, two, three, four, five—STOP!”

My trainers skid on the wet pavement as the crowd forces forward another inch. The guys at the front are chanting along with me, counting in broken English with broad grins on their faces. Next to me an Afghan refugee and war veteran in a blue rain poncho has decided to help with the crowd control. He has a scar on his head from a Taliban bullet but is currently engaged in a slapstick traffic-guard routine, made up of whistles and hand gestures worthy of Harpo Marx.

Situated at the very top of the 18th arrondissement under the concrete bridges of the périphérique, the Porte de la Chapelle humanitarian centre is both a literal and metaphorical crossroads: caught between the centre of the city and the banlieue. It exists outside and is contained by the metropolis. The hundreds, sometimes thousands, of migrants living under the surrounding bridges, waiting anything from days to months to gain access to the 400-bed centre, have the oppressive reminder of their liminal existence literally hanging over them at all times (below).

It is a space of “undesirables”, of transition: within a 500-metre radius of the humanitarian centre and the “illegal” migrant camps around it, there are a halfway house for recovering addicts, a waste-disposal centre and a Roma-Gypsy camp. Everything in the area is temporary: a Roma community settling in for a few years, a car pausing for a few minutes at a red light—everything and everyone at Porte de la Chapelle is waiting to move on somewhere else.

For the migrants and refugees the problem is arrival. They are trapped in a state of perpetual waiting: whether it’s for food, a bed or, ultimately, papers, the bureaucracy that dictates the lives of these vulnerable populations in Europe condemns them to a state of constant orbiting; always on the borders of society, never allowed in.

In my year abroad I volunteered to work in this transitional no-man’s-land as one of two family co-ordinators for Utopia 56—a small but efficient direct-action organisation working primarily in Paris and Calais. Every day I would come in to meet around five or 10 newly arrived families waiting in the day-centre in the hope of finding accommodation. During the day we’d provide them with clothes and toiletries; then, at night, we’d try to arrange emergency lodging for anyone who hadn’t been taken in by social services. On a nightly basis, multiple families with children as young as three months old would be left out on the pavement, likewise heavily pregnant women travelling on their own, even the odd elderly couple. The options at our disposal: a car, a van and a minuscule bookshop-squat in the Bastille area. One night a woman gave birth in the van.

No official is looking after these people. With the exception of Médecins Sans Frontières, which does fantastic work in the area, the day-to-day job of keeping people fed, clothed and housed is coming from local communities, grassroots groups and collectives determined to help in any way possible. Utopia 56 is an amazing organisation. It demonstrates endless integrity, simplicity and humanity in the face of a complex geopolitical crisis, and addresses the situation for what it is: not a migrant crisis—but a management crisis.
Jesus and the First World War

In our final commemoration of the Great War, we recall the brief life and longer legacy of a Jesuan who, in 1918, won the highest award possible for a serving British soldier.

Bellenglise the whole attack was held up by fire of all descriptions from the front and right flank. Realising that everything depended on the advance going forward with the barrage, [this soldier] rushed up to the firing line and with the greatest gallantry led the line forward. By his prompt action and absolute contempt for danger the whole situation was changed, the men were encouraged and the line swept forward.

“\nThe centenary Jesuan narrative is largely a melancholy one”\n
This citation, reproduced in Jesus College’s First World War Roll of Honour, is for one of over 600 Victoria Crosses won between 1914 and 1918. The recipient was Bernard Vann, who matriculated (below, centre) in History at Jesus in 1907. Popular and charismatic, Bernard was also a sportsman—captain of the soccer team and a hockey blue. In 1909, his brother Arthur came up to the College. Bernard Vann left in 1910 and became a curate. From 1912, he was assistant master and chaplain at Wellingborough School, Northants. It seems he was impatient to go to the Western Front but couldn’t obtain a post as an army chaplain, so in 1915 he enlisted as a private soldier (his brother was killed in action in Belgium in September).

Rising to lieutenant-colonel in the Sherwood Foresters, Bernard was awarded the Military Cross twice and the Croix de Guerre. With a painful lack of good fortune, given how close the Armistice was, Vann was shot dead by a sniper north-east of St Quentin, on 3 October 1918. He left behind a wife, Doris, who gave birth to a son in June 1919.

Over the past five years, it would have been gratifying to trace many survival stories but the centenary Jesuan narrative—as for that of hundreds of institutions, educational and otherwise, around the country—is largely a melancholy one. In 1918, 29 Jesuans lost their lives as a result of the war. Bernard Vann’s name now lives on in the form of a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Durham, dedicated to the study of the relationship between Christianity and the armed forces (link below).

Jesuan News now brings to a close its profiles of the College’s part in the world war that ended nearly 100 years ago. We hope you have enjoyed the stories.

Information about Jesuans and the First World War can be found at: https://www.jesus.cam.ac.uk/college/about-us/history/first-world-war/roll-honour

Vann Fellowship: https://www.dur.ac.uk/theology.religion/research_centres/michaelramseycentre/vann/
A frozen magma chamber

Victoria Honour is a third-year graduate student based at the Department of Earth Sciences. Her PhD looks at emulsions in magma chamber mush (“mush” is a bit like the Slush Puppie drink). The College helped fund a recent trip she went on to Greenland.

Eighteen months after I joined Jesus College I found myself on a boat with five other scientists, sailing 400 kilometres north from the main airport on the east coast of Greenland. With us were our food and supplies for six weeks of camping in the middle of nowhere, where we were to study an area of rather interesting rock.

As an Earth Scientist, and one who studies igneous rocks (the magma-related type), fieldwork is great for seeing the rock for real, up close. When I told people I was going to Greenland, the first question was: what about the ice? Greenland is covered by a truly enormous ice-sheet, in places up to three kilometres thick. Yet on the coastline between the sea and the ice-sheet, the rock is exposed during the summer, as vegetation in the Arctic is minimal.

Our final destination for this work was the Skaergaard intrusion, a “frozen” magma chamber in east Greenland. Around 55 million years ago a large amount of basaltic magma forced its way into the earth’s crust but failed to reach the surface. The vat of magma cooled slowly, solidifying over 100,000 years. The same large-scale processes that formed the Skaergaard magma also caused the opening of the Atlantic Ocean along the mid-Atlantic ridge, pushing Greenland away from Britain.

Through the erosive action of ice, wind and snow over millions of years, a cut-through of the intrusion is exposed at the surface today. This exposure provides a fantastic natural laboratory where processes that occurred as the magma chamber crystallised from the margins inwards can be studied. Few intrusions in the world are so well exposed.

The Greenland scenery is stunning, yet harsh. On our boat journey north we hit a patch of dense sea ice, the pieces awkwardly moulding together to form a giant jigsaw. For several nights we went to sleep in the boat to the spine-tingling sound of ice scraping against the metal hull. *En route* we also ran out of fresh water, so had to stop at a passing iceberg to collect some slightly brackish water; good for cooking pasta, less tasty for drinking.

The polar bear is king of this landscape and one memorable morning we saw a large male swimming in the fjord. Two cheeky Arctic foxes found our camp and over the course of the field season they developed a nasty habit of chewing through anything we left outside our tents. The fjord that we were camped next to had numerous narwhals and seals, making the area a desirable hunting ground to the Greenlanders.

We ended up buying some fresh narwhal meat and *mattak* (raw whale skin and fat) off one group—a local delicacy but a “slow food”: it takes ages to chew before you can swallow it.

Fieldwork is a simple life of blissful escapism. Living, working and sleeping so close to nature is a unique experience. It can be tough: tasks that take seconds in a kitchen at home become a huge palaver but you often appreciate the end result more. Our camp consisted of a bright orange kitchen, green and red sleeping tents, and a large collection of aluminium boxes used to store our dried-food supplies. The sleeping tents were bordered by a series of waist-high trip-wires attached to panic alarms, to alert us should polar bears decide to come into camp (none did, luckily). We designated a melt-water lake for drinking, and a similar one was set aside for washing dishes and ourselves.

Our geological work spanned a 15-square kilometre area and focused on a number of different objectives. I studied how permeable the mush—a slurry of crystals surrounded by magma—was just before the intrusion solidified: how far the last bit of melt could move reflects how permeable the mush was. Moving forward with the science now involves analysing the rocks I collected, discovering their chemistry and studying them under a microscope to reveal details the naked eye cannot detect.

Working together as a small team of scientists 24/7 is an intense but incredibly rewarding experience. In the end, our departure from Greenland in beautiful sunshine was bittersweet. Running water and a bed beckoned but the wilderness will be hard to forget. It is a truly spectacular environment, and I feel very privileged to have visited and worked in such a special place.
An affinity for water

Over a 45-year career CHRISTOPHER RODRIGUES (1968) has enjoyed a rich mix of sport, culture and tourism in concert with his work in finance. He has been a trustee of the National Trust, and chaired VisitBritain and the Almeida Theatre in north London. Today, he chairs the British Council, British Bobsleigh and Skeleton, the financial-services firm Openwork and the Port of London Authority. Jesuan News met him in his office in Bishopsgate’s Heron Tower.

Jesuan News: Can you explain what the Port of London Authority does?

Christopher Rodrigues: The PLA is responsible for the 95 miles of the tidal Thames from high watermark to high watermark. Our river starts at Teddington Lock, where the river has its highest tidal point, and goes down to the Estuary. The old Port used to be where Canary Wharf is but the docks have moved downriver to Tilbury. This is the working end of the Thames, where PLA pilots guide 400-metre container-ships over the ever-changing riverbed with one-metre clearance. The middle Thames around Westminster and the Tower is the tourist Thames, and upriver towards Teddington lies the leisure Thames.

After I took over as chairman in 2016 we were looking for a phrase that summed up our responsibilities as a Trust Port. We lighted on “Custodians of the tidal Thames”. As such we facilitate passenger and freight transport, and the many pleasure and leisure uses of the Thames—from rowing to walking the Thames Path—and we work to protect the environment. The riverbanks in front of royal palaces are an exception. There, our jurisdiction is low watermark to low watermark. Her Majesty has mudlarking rights, just in case jewellery is found.

JN: What do you think made you the right person for the post?

CR: In the interview I was asked, “What’s important?” “Safety,” I replied. Next question: “Well, anyone can say that, because it’s in our remit! What makes you think safety’s important?” I said, “I first fell into the Thames in 1963 and I don’t recommend it to anyone else”—although the river will be a lot cleaner after the tideway tunnel is completed in around six years’ time. Safety is our number-one responsibility: preventing accidents, training, supporting novice mariners and being there if things go wrong.

JN: So you’ve long had a real feel for the Thames?

CR: The river family is a pretty close one and gives me great pleasure. I’ve known some of my customers for 50 years because I rowed with or against them. On a sunny spring or summer day going to work on the Thames is no hardship and I also get to be a passenger on the PLA launch that follows the Boat Race.

JN: What did you read at Jesus College?

CR: Economics, Economic History and Rowing, not necessarily in that order. I also learnt a lot about life and rowing from Percy Bullock—a great philosopher and much-loved College boatman. We won the light fours in 1970 on my 21st birthday and I was referred to in the Guardian the next day as “Christ Rodrigues from Jesus”. I was also lucky enough to win the Boat Race twice and in my last year was President of the University Boat Club.

JN: Rowing has, then, been at the centre of everything…

CR: Soon after Cambridge I went to Harvard Business School and got a Harkness Fellowship to pay the way. The interview—at the English Speaking Union—was conducted by a formidable 10-person panel. We sat at a table in a long, dark room. I was seated opposite Alastair Burnet, then editor of The Economist, and Shirley Williams—Baroness Williams as she now is: not exactly lightweights and also from the Other University. We got to question three on economics and Shirley said, “Mr Rodrigues, it seems to me that had you spent rather more time studying and rather less time rowing you might be better suited to this scholarship”. I thought, it’s all over. Then from the really dark end of the room a torso leant forward: I heard a disembodied voice and saw a Hawks’ tie. The voice boomed: “Shirley, given the results of the Boat Races in which Mr Rodrigues has rowed, it’s understandable why Oxford people aren’t impressed. But from our perspective it was a very fine academic performance.”
All the world’s in China

Thanks to the generous endowment of a travel bursary fund by the Marshall Foundation (James Marshall, 1986), two of our undergraduates enjoyed pioneering stays in Beijing during the summer vacation, as part of the College’s partnership with Peking University.

“ There are nine million bicycles in Beijing. That’s a fact, it’s a thing we can’t deny ”

Taking a cue from Katie Melua’s 2005 song, I’m guessing there are that number of bicycles in Peking University (PKU) alone. Cambridge might already be overwhelmed with bicycles but PKU is on another scale.

In summer 2017, I attended PKU’s Summer School International, a four-week programme offering modules in multiple disciplines. I was fortunate to be selected by Jesus College as one of its two representatives to travel across the globe for this opportunity. It was the first time students had been sent over, as an expression of the blossoming relationship between the College and PKU. The aim of the course is to offer a platform for international students to understand China and its idiosyncrasies that have helped mould its society and culture.

I took the modules “Transition and Public Policy in China” and “China’s Constitution and Political System”.

PKU typifies many of the characteristics of China as a whole. Not only is the campus vast, it is a busy, hustling environment. It took a lot of effort merely to find a seat in the packed canteen halls. This paled in comparison to surmounting the near-impossible task of unravelling the mystery of the food that was being served.

That aside—and that there were few Westerners—I would be hard pressed to say that PKU differs much in atmosphere from Cambridge. Around campus, there is an abundance of aspirational, driven and high-achieving students. But it was also hard to ignore the homeless and beggars that crowded popular pedestrian routes—a problem with which any Cambridge resident will be familiar and a timely reminder that these social ills are widespread, regardless of geography, political system or culture.

Exploring Beijing in my free time was a great adventure. The historical sites and gardens offered a welcome respite from the class-schedule. Overall, it truly was an eye-opening experience, which also allowed me to see other fascinating parts of China once the course was over. I will value this insight into Chinese society, culture and academia for a long time. I would like to thank PKU for its excellent hospitality and teaching, and its funding for the Summer School. I am also indebted to the Marshall Foundation for its kind donation, without which this trip would not have been possible.

Alex Osborne (2016, Land Economy)

Last July I flew out with Alex to Beijing. The wonderfully friendly welcome we received set the tone for all interactions with the Summer School staff and students.

The university organised excursions on two of the weekends. The first was to the 798 Art District, a former factory complex that has been turned into a network of galleries. The second—certainly one of the big moments of the trip—was to the Great Wall. The path up to it is so steep it was impossible to tell how much progress we were making. It was especially daunting in the 35°C heat but the moment we got to the top was breathtaking.

After classes, which always took place before lunch, we made our own excursions, visiting places such as the Forbidden City. Though only about half of it was open, it took us all day to visit. The scale of the Temple of Heaven was similar: this is a complex of religious buildings in the south of the city, with extensive gardens. There was something strange about wandering out of these sites, especially the more secluded ones, straight onto the largest and most crowded roads I’ve ever seen.

As well as the historical sites, we also visited some of the newer art galleries and museums. The Capital Museum collects cultural artefacts, some of which were a lot older than most of the things we saw, going back to the eighth century AD. The National Art Museum has mostly socialist-realist artworks and shows some contemporary art as well. Many people we ran into seemed fascinated by us: encountering a group of Westerners was a real event for the museum school parties, some of whom had come from remote parts of the north.

At the Summer School, I made friends with students from France, Canada, Singapore and Malaysia. There were also students from many different parts of China: Guangdong in the south, and Nanjing and Urumqi in the far north-west (a 33-hour train journey from Beijing)—in one class alone. I took courses on Chinese folklore and culture, and Chinese classical poetry. A highlight of the folklore course was a series of presentations given at the end on the students’ own cultural traditions.

I’m so thankful for the co-operation between Jesus College and Peking University that made such an amazing experience possible.

Rosa Price (2015, English)
Forthcoming Events

Saturday 16 June 2018
JCCS Bumps buffet in College. Marquee in the Paddock to support the Jesus boats in the May Bumps

Monday 25 June 2018
Annual Dinner of the Society of St Radegund

Saturday 30 June 2018
Donors’ Garden Party

Saturday 22 September 2018
JCCS AGM and Annual Dinner

Wednesday 27 June 2018
Fifty Years On Lunch (1968)

Monday 12 November 2018
Sixty Years On Lunch (1958)

Tuesday 27 November 2018
JCCS Westminster Abbey event

Some Summer Choir Performances

Saturday 23 June
Jesus College, Cambridge
Singing Day for Children
Boys and girls from around Cambridge join the Choristers of Jesus and St Catharine’s Colleges for a fun-filled day of singing.

Wednesday 27 June
St Mary’s Church, Framlingham
The College Choir travels to the beautiful village of Framlingham to give a concert in St Mary’s Church. Music includes Ralph Vaughan Williams’s Five Mystical Songs.

Tuesday 3 July
Jesus College, Cambridge
The Choir of Merton College, Oxford, returns to present a concert jointly with the Choirs of Jesus College in support of the work that the Muze Trust does for underprivileged children in Zambia. Music includes Leonard Bernstein’s Chichester Psalms, and works by Parry and others.

For further information about these and other performances, please visit www.jesuscollegechoir.com or contact the Choir and Chapel Office on choir@jesus.cam.ac.uk, tel. +44 (0)1223 339699

New accommodation available at Jesus College

Our West Court development offers a range of luxury accommodation in the centre of Cambridge. Jesus College alumni receive a 10% discount for accommodation bookings. Rooms start from £55 per night. To make a booking please contact us directly on +44 (0) 1223 760571 to check availability and to obtain your discount code. Website: www.jesus.cam.ac.uk/conferences/accommodation/west-court-accommodation