

CHAPEL OF THE COLLEGE
OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST
CAMBRIDGE

PROFESSOR SIR CHRISTOPHER MARTIN DOBSON
D.Phil., Sc.D., F.R.S., F.Med.Sci.

FELLOW 2001–2007

MASTER 2007–2019

HONORARY FELLOW, DARWIN COLLEGE 2014–2019

EMERITUS JOHN HUMPHREY PLUMMER PROFESSOR
OF CHEMICAL AND STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY

8 OCTOBER 1949
8 SEPTEMBER 2019

FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 2020
SATURDAY 25 JANUARY 2020

CHRISTOPHER MARTIN DOBSON

How Professor Sir Christopher Dobson arrived anywhere on time is a mystery. Whenever he walked through the courts of St John's he would stop to talk to everyone who crossed his path to ask about their day, their news, and their families.

Sir Christopher – known to most of us simply as Chris – was part of the St John's community for 18 years so he had *a lot* of people to chat to. He became a Fellow in 2001 after moving to Cambridge from the University of Oxford. An innovative and prolific chemist with more than 800 papers and review articles to his name, his prodigious scientific work significantly advanced global understanding of neurodegenerative conditions such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. He was ever optimistic that, in time, cures would be found for these 'modern-day plagues'.

Born in Germany in 1949, Chris was the youngest of the three children of Arthur Dobson and his wife Mabel. His parents were from Bradford, Yorkshire, and both had left school at 14. His father was serving as an Army officer in post-war Germany when Chris was born. Other Army postings led Chris to spend some of his childhood in Lagos, Nigeria, before the family returned to the UK where he was educated at Hereford Cathedral School and Abingdon School near the family home in Blewberry, Oxfordshire.

Chris claimed the reason he did well at school was that he was trying to avoid doing household chores. He said: "I discovered that when I went up to my room to do my homework, I could get out of doing the washing up. Nothing is worse than doing the washing up!"

He read Chemistry at Keble College, Oxford, and graduated with a First. He followed his undergraduate degree with a DPhil at Merton College, and after several Research Fellowships he moved to America with his wife Mary Schove, now Dr Mary Dobson, to begin work at Harvard as Assistant Professor of Chemistry.

The pair had met at a dinner in Oxford, married in 1977 and went on to have two children, Richard and William. The couple rehomed a racing greyhound called Jimbo last year, fulfilling Chris's long-held dream of owning a dog. The family and Jimbo quickly became inseparable and Jimbo was the guest of honour at Evensong, the May Ball and Graduation.

Chris's plan to avoid the washing up paid off. In a life full of achievement he said co-founding the award-winning £17 million Cambridge Centre for Misfolding Diseases in 2012 was a particular highlight. In 2018 he was knighted in recognition of his contributions to Science and Higher Education. The accolade crowned the many honorary degrees, fellowships and prizes he received – including the 2009 Royal Medal of the Royal Society, the Dr H P Heineken Prize for Biochemistry and Biophysics, and the Feltrinelli Prize, awarded by the Italian Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei.

Chris was elected as the 44th Master of St John's in 2007 and for 12 years he led the College with vision, compassion and dedication. During his time as Master he directed the Quincentenary celebrations as the College marked its 500th birthday, oversaw transformational refurbishment projects across the College estate, and introduced the ground-breaking St John's Studentships.

Dr Frank Salmon, President of St John's for Chris's last four years as Master, said: "Working with Chris at such close quarters was a huge privilege. What shone through was his total commitment to all facets of the College: its people, its fabric and its character. Chris had initially wanted to train as an architect, and this helps explain the eye and attention to detail he gave to the College's buildings, most notably to the repurposing of the Old Divinity School between 2007 and 2012. He was very knowledgeable about the College's history and past personalities, thereby setting current-day activity and strategy for the future within a deeply-rooted sense of its culture.

"In all of this, Chris acknowledged the support he received from Mary. Nothing could be more significant (or impressive to those who knew how ill he was) than the fact that, after his diagnosis, Chris retained the Mastership and, with Mary's help, fulfilled almost all his duties until it became impossible for him to continue, less than three weeks before he died."

Chris Dobson radiated everything it means to be a Johnian, and his good humour and warmth was felt by the entire community. After his death, tributes flooded into the College from around the world. The loss to St John's, the University of Cambridge as a whole, and the international academic network cannot be overstated. We have all lost a pioneering scientist, a visionary leader and a true friend. The loss to his beloved family is far greater. He will be forever missed.

Jo Tynan
Head of Communications

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Julia Hwang, violin
Graham Walker, cello
Anne Denholm, harp
James Anderson-Besant, organ
George Herbert, organ

Elegy in A flat major

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry
(1848–1918)

Sicilienne

Maria Theresia von Paradis
(1759–1824)

Chorale Prelude on Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier (BWV 731)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

Christe, aller Welt Trost (BWV 670)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Fugue in F major (BWV 540ii)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Adagietto (Symphony no. 5) *

Gustav Mahler
(1860–1911)
arr. *Iain Farrington*
(b.1977)

* *The arrangement has been commissioned for this service.*

ORDER OF SERVICE

¶ *Stand*

INTROIT

REQUIEM AETERNAM

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Te decet hymnus Deus in Sion,
et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem.
Exaudi orationem meam,
ad te omnis caro veniet.
Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

*Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.
Thou art worthy to be praised, O God, in Zion,
and to thee shall prayer be offered in Jerusalem.
Hear my prayer,
for to thee shall all flesh come.
Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Words *Requiem Mass*

Music *Maurice Durufé*
(1902–1986)

SENTENCES

We are met together in remembrance of CHRISTOPHER MARTIN DOBSON: to give thanks for his contributions to Science and Education as well as to the good governance and well-being of this his College and other Colleges, for the benefit of his friendship; and to commend his soul to the gracious keeping of Almighty God.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8 vv. 38–39

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15 v. 58

HYMN

O Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
Be thou for ever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
To all who follow thee,
That where thou art in glory
There shall thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my friend.

O let me see thy footmarks,
And in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly
Is in thy strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end;
And then in heaven receive me,
My Saviour and my Friend.

Words *John Bode*
(1816–1874)

Tune WOLVERCOTE
William Ferguson
(1874–1950)

PSALM XXIII

Read by
Professor Tim Whitmarsh
Vice-Master

1. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
3. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

ANTHEM**PANIS ANGELICUS**

Panis angelicus, fit panis hominum;
 Dat panis coelicus figuris terminum;
 O res mirabilis; manducat Dominum
 Pauper servus et humilis.

*The bread of angels becomes the bread of man;
 This heavenly bread gives a reality beyond symbols.
 O marvellous thing: the poor, lowly and humble
 Feed on their Lord.*

Words *Thomas Aquinas*
 (c.1225–1274)

Music *César Franck*
 (1822–1890)

Adaptation for Choir *Wolfgang Hochstein*
 (b.1950)

READING I

ANIMALS

Read by

Graham Dobson (Brother) – Friday Service

Gillian Wilson (Sister) – Saturday Service

Have you forgotten what we were like then
when we were still first rate
and the day came fat with an apple in its mouth

it's no use worrying about Time
but we did have a few tricks up our sleeves
and turned some sharp corners

the whole pasture looked like our meal
we didn't need speedometers
we could manage cocktails out of ice and water

I wouldn't want to be faster
or greener than now if you were with me O you
were the best of all my days

*Frank O'Hara
(1926–1966)*

ANTHEM

GIVE UNTO THE LORD

Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty :
 give unto the Lord glory and strength.
Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name :
 worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
The voice of the Lord is upon the waters :
 the God of glory thundereth.
It is the Lord that ruleth the sea;
the voice of the Lord is mighty in operation :
 the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedars :
 yea, the Lord breaketh the cedars of Lebanon.
Yea, the voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire :
 the voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness,
He strippeth the forests bare :
 in his temple doth every one speak of his glory.
The Lord sitteth above the water-flood :
 and the Lord remaineth a king for ever.
The Lord shall give strength unto his people :
 the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Words *Psalm 29 vv. 1–5, 7–11*

Music *Edward Elgar*
(1857–1934)

REFLECTION

*Given by
Professor Tuomas Knowles
Fellow and Co-Founder of the Centre for Misfolding Diseases*

ANTHEM

IN PARADISUM

In paradisum deducant Angeli: in tuo adventu suscipiant te Martyres,
et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem.

Chorus Angelorum te suscipiat, et cum Lazaro quondam paupere,
aeternam habeas requiem.

*May the angels lead you into paradise; may the martyrs receive you on
your arrival*

and lead you into the holy city of Jerusalem.

*May the host of angels receive you and, with Lazarus, once a beggar,
may you have eternal rest.*

Words *Requiem Mass*

Music *Gabriel Fauré*
(1845–1924)
arr. *David Hill*
(b.1957)

READING II

TIME IS

*Read by
Sharon Hall
Member of staff*

Time is too slow for those who wait,
too swift for those who fear,
too long for those who grieve,
too short for those who rejoice;
but for those who love, time is eternity.

*Henry van Dyke
(1852–1933)*

REFLECTION

*Given by
Dr Bill Tyrrell
Friend of the Family*

PRAYERS

¶ Kneel or sit

Minister Let us pray.

Minister Lord, have mercy upon us.

All **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Minister Lord, have mercy upon us.

All **Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Unto thee, O God, be praise and thanksgiving for every act of generosity and devotion, known or unknown, in all the duties of life. More especially we praise thy name for those who, having endured faithfully, have finished their course on earth. Grant to them eternal peace; guide them still in whatever unknown paths they tread; and grant that we, strengthened by their example and fellowship, may be faithful unto death and gain with them the inheritance of the saints in light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O everlasting God, with whom a thousand years are but as one day, and in whose name are treasured here the memorials of many generations: we thank thee for the works and endeavours of all the sons and daughters of this College, and especially for those of CHRISTOPHER DOBSON whom we now remember in the silence of our hearts; and we beseech thee that we who here remain, inspired by his work and achievement, may live together in humility and the pursuit of virtue and true wisdom, so that with him we may receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding, pour into our hearts such love towards thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may attain thy promises which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening into the house and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that house, where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity: in the habitations of thy majesty and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

HYMN

¶ *Stand*

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same for ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace.

Words *Henry Lyte*
(1793–1847)

Tune PRAISE, MY SOUL
John Goss
(1800–1880)
Descant *Christopher Robinson*
(b.1936)

THE COLLEGE PRAYER

Bless, O Lord, the work of this College, which is called by the name of thy beloved disciple; and grant that love of the brethren and all sound learning may ever grow and prosper here, to thy honour and glory, and to the good of thy people, who, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, livest and reignest, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

¶ Remain standing

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Prelude in E flat major (BWV 552i)

*Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)*

All are invited to refreshments which will be served in the marquee.

The retiring collection today is in aid of



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- **Offer patients world-leading treatment and care** - delivering tailored and personalised treatment, which cares for the whole person, not just their illness.
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- **Fund modern patient environments** - allowing the hospital to build new facilities and refurbish existing ones, so that so patients are cared for in the most welcoming, dignified and peaceful environments.

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