



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2025

COLLEGE CHOIR IN TURKEY: A REPORT

Organ scholar Nora Rechel (2024) reports on the college choir's recent short tour in Turkey.

"In September, the college choir departed for its long-awaited tour to Turkey. The first three days were spent in Izmir, a gorgeous city on the Aegean coast, eating pastries and exploring traditional bazaars crammed to the brim with Turkish delicacies and antiquities. We performed at St John's Church, singing a programme of traditional Anglican music by composers such as Finzi, Stanford and Pärt. The concert was well attended and the choir had the opportunity to connect with various members of the local community afterwards over nibbles and wine. The morning after, the choir helped lead the service of Eucharist, before spending a day exploring the ancient city of Ephesus, followed by a dip in the sea. It goes without saying that singing the college grace amongst the waves will have been a surreal moment for many!

"The next day, we took a 6-hour coach to Istanbul and eventually settled into a central hostel with a beautiful view over the sea. A warm day in the city followed, with plenty of sightseeing and a glorious boat trip generously organised by a friend of the choir, Selda. Our Istanbul concert took



The choir after its final concert at the Crimean Memorial Church in Istanbul

place at the atmospheric Crimean Memorial Church. The choir sang exquisitely, accompanied by the organ scholars on one of Turkey's very few organs, produced in London in 1912! After some emotional farewells to choir members, we enjoyed a final meal in a local restaurant before travelling home the next day."



In Memoriam: **CONOR GEARTY, Honorary Fellow**

It is with great sadness that we report the death of an Honorary Fellow, Conor Gearty (1983). Professor Gearty studied at Wolfson College as a master's and doctoral student in 1980. He subsequently held a Fellowship at Emmanuel and served as a lecturer in law at the faculty until 1990, when he moved to King's College London. Over the course of his career, he was not only a leading legal scholar, becoming a professor at the London School of Economics, but also a highly respected barrister and founding member of Matrix Chambers. He became an Honorary Fellow of the college in 2021.

FELLOWS’ NEWS

Anurag Agarwal (2010) leads breakthrough research on blood pressure accuracy



Anurag Agarwal (2010) has led a pioneering study at Cambridge revealing why traditional cuff-based blood pressure readings often underestimate systolic pressure, potentially missing up to 30% of hypertension cases. Working with Kate Bassil from the Department of Engineering, the team’s findings, published in *PNAS Nexus*, highlight the need for smarter measurement protocols and a deeper understanding of arterial pressure dynamics, with the potential to transform clinical practice and improve outcomes for millions.

Nikita Sushentsev (2023) publishes landmark study on prostate cancer outcomes



Congratulations to Research Fellow Nikita Sushentsev (2023) on the publication of his latest study in *JAMA Oncology*. This secondary analysis of the landmark PROTECT trial – based on biopsies from over 700 men with 15 years of follow-up – offers new insights into how cribriform histology affects long-term prostate cancer outcomes. With support and funding from both Emmanuel College and Exeter College, Oxford, together with access to the Cambridge Biomedical campus, Nikita was able to dedicate himself full-time to this research.

Members meet the Master in New York, Boston and San Francisco



The Master speaks to members at lunch in Boston

In September, the Master, his wife Helen and Sarah Bendall, Development Director, spent two weeks connecting with Emmanuel members across the United States. Spending time on both coasts, they hosted well-attended events with members in New York, Boston and San Francisco.

In Cambridge, MA, they met the British High Commissioner, the president of Harvard and also our Honorary Fellow Sally Kornbluth, president of MIT. They also saw those in Harvard who welcome our students on the PRISE programme and who are involved with the exchanges funded by Herchel Smith’s bequest. They were pleased to see that this year’s Herchel Smith Scholars, who had just arrived to spend a year as special students at Harvard, were settling in well.

Garden feature – KING’S COLLEGE HAY

For the past five years, Emmanuel has embraced meadow management to support biodiversity and align with the university’s Biodiversity Action Plan. Our gardeners have created wildflower-rich meadows, enhancing habitats for pollinators and endangered species. In collaboration with King’s College, which has seen a 25% increase in biodiversity through its own meadow trial, Emmanuel receives hay bundles containing wildflower seed, each worth around £200. The meadows at King’s are to the west of the chapel and are cut each August by traditional methods using Shire horses.

Combined with our own seed harvesting and autumn sowing, this meadow supports thriving meadows in North Court and Park Terrace, creating a vibrant ribbon of flora across college grounds.



Working Shire horse at King’s College meadow

EMMA INNOVATORS JOIN SPARK 1:0 INCUBATOR at King's Entrepreneurship Lab



Dylan (2022), centre, and Lukas (2022), right, during the incubator programme. Christopher, left, is an MBA student and Lukas's business partner

Dylan Cuskelly (2022) and Lukas Pin (2022), winners of the first two *Emma Enterprise* competitions, were selected from 180 applicants for the inaugural SPARK 1:0 incubator, an intensive four-week programme supporting 24 startups with mentorship, training and venture-building expertise.

Lukas, a PhD student in biostatistics, is the co-founder of *IntolerSense*, an AI-driven health-tech startup that helps users identify food intolerances through symptom tracking. Dylan, a PhD student in nanoscience & nanotechnology, co-founded *GreenHarvest*, which uses climate modelling and satellite data to guide sustainable agriculture. Both ventures were founded during the *Emma Enterprise* lab and went on to win.

Following the conclusion of the programme, both Lukas and Dylan had the opportunity to pitch their ventures at the House of Lords, as part of a 'Showcasing the Global Impact of Cambridge Startups' event.

A further four current students – Zain Ahmad (2024), Cherena Reynolds (2022), Neil Sardesai (2021) and Charles Walton (2023) – have joined the year-long King's E-Lab residential programme, designed to help develop innovative ideas into impactful ventures across social, corporate and community sectors.

These initiatives, alongside the *Emma Enterprise* programme, offer Emmanuel students hands-on experience, expert guidance and the chance to turn bold ideas into real-world solutions.

Members reunited at two Gatherings of Members

In September, the college welcomed members who matriculated in 1967, 1968 and 1969, followed by those who matriculated in 1970, 1971 and 1972, for truly special reunion weekends.

Members enjoyed afternoon tea in the Old Library, guided tours of the college's recent developments, and had opportunities to visit the library and museum, where there were special displays of photographs and ephemera from the relevant matriculation years.

On each Saturday night, members were treated to a sumptuous dinner and dessert, followed by informal drinks into the evening, all in excellent company. Thank you to everybody who made the journey back to their college.

Gatherings of Members are held in college twice a year. See the back page for the matriculation years who will next be invited.



Top: Members catching up over afternoon tea in the Old Library; Above: Members enjoying a special display of photographs and ephemera in the museum

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Finding Happy, a talk by Peter Samuelson (1970)

Thursday 15 January 2026, 6pm, online

Hollywood film producer, philanthropist, and masterful storyteller Peter Samuelson (1970) discusses finding professional balance and building a meaningful legacy.

Emmanuel Society City and Finance Dinner

Friday 13 February 2026, Haberdashers' Hall,
18 West Smithfield, London, EC1A 9HQ

A special Emmanuel Society dinner bringing together members working in financial services, fintech, investing, and related sectors across matriculation years and professional paths.

Listen In, a talk by Beaty Rubens (1979)

Thursday 19 February 2026, 6pm, online

In this illustrated online talk, Beaty Rubens (1979) will explore the cultural explosion of radio, the first ever form of home-based mass entertainment, in the 20th century.

Walking the Mildmay Legacy: Newington Green and Beyond

Tuesday 3 March 2026, 2pm, Canonbury Station,
Wallace Road, London, N1 2PG

Join the Emmanuel Society on a walking tour through 400 years of history around the Newington Green and surrounding Mildmay area, a corner of London closely connected to the legacy of the college's founder, Sir Walter Mildmay.

Emma Entrepreneurs London Networking Drinks

Tuesday 3 March 2026, 5pm, Bunghole Cellars,
Davy's Wine Bar, 57 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6DT

Join fellow Emma entrepreneurs, business owners or executives for an evening of conversation, connection and collaboration in Holborn, London.

Emmanuel Society London Drinks

Tuesday 3 March 2026, from 6pm, Bunghole Cellars,
Davy's Wine Bar, 57 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6DT

You are warmly invited to our next London Drinks event. This is a great opportunity for networking and a chance to catch up with fellow Emma members from across the subjects and years.

Gathering of Members 2011–13

Saturday 28 – Sunday 29 March 2026, Emmanuel College

Members who matriculated in 2011, 2012 and 2013 are welcomed back to Emma for a reunion dinner and a weekend of activities. Invitations will be sent to eligible members in January 2026.

Future Gatherings of Members

(dates in brackets refer to the year of matriculation):

- September 2026 (2003, 2004 & 2005)
- March 2027 (1995, 1996 & 1997)
- September 2027 (1987, 1988 & 1989)
- March 2028 (1979, 1980 & 1981)
- September 2028 (1966 and all years before)

Visit emma.cam.ac.uk/members/events for all events

Careers Database

Join more than 900 members by adding or updating your entry to the Emmanuel Careers Database.

Do sign up even if you graduated relatively recently, as advice on applications, surviving interviews and getting started in a new job can all be really valuable.

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