

THE EMMANUEL SOCIETY
The 37th Annual General Meeting

Friday 21 November 2025

Robert Gardner Room, 6pm

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**MINUTES OF THE 36TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EMMANUEL
SOCIETY IN THE ROBERT GARDNER ROOM, EMMANUEL COLLEGE AT 6PM
ON FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2024**

1] Chairman's Welcome

Mr Harry Hickmore, in his first AGM as Chair, warmly welcomed all those attending.

2] Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Professor Susan Rankin, Mr David Lowen, Mr Andrew Fane, Miss Jessica Cherry, Mrs Rosanna Moseley Gore, Mr Daniel McKay, Miss Shelly-Ann Meade, Mr Luke Montague, Mr Jug Parmar, Mr Rakesh Patel, Miss Jessica Reilly and Mr Kavish Shah. From the MCR: Mr Dylan Cuskelly and Mr Callum Pearman, and from ECSU: Miss Lily Sneddon.

3] The Minutes of the 35th AGM held on Friday 17th November 2023 were accepted as a true record, with a minor correction: for item 11, read 10.

4] Matters arising are covered in the agenda.

All pertinent documents are available online for the perusal of members; what follows is a summary of these documents.

5] Chairman's Review of the Year

Harry drew particular attention to the work of those in college, and in particular Dr Sarah Bendall and Mr Jack Cooper, for their help in facilitating the full and varied set of events outlined in detail in his published review.

Particular highlights, among many, had been the tour of Wren churches, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment concert, carols at Temple Church, our Northern event (dinner in Edinburgh) and a Lawyers' dinner in Cutlers' Hall, London.

He also referred to the years of dedicated service given by his predecessor as Chair, Mr Nick Allen.

Full details of Harry's Review are available online.

6] Events for 2024/5

The Secretary, Mr Ken Sheringham, listed events planned for the year ahead (for details, please see the College website and the Newsletter).

He mentioned the range and quality of events (gastronomy, astronomy, bonhomie) and the 'Emmanuel' aspect of many of them: e.g. the astronomy talk given by the chair of the Cambridge Astronomical Association, Paul Fellows (1979) in the building named after Fred Hoyle (1933).

Mr David Lowen (1964) has written to remind him that Old Emma had come out on top in the Diamond Jubilee cricket match v The College XI.

7] Finance Report and Approval of Accounts

Mr Rodney Jagelman, the Treasurer, referred to the published set of accounts, which pointed to an overall surplus of £2,300.

There had been planned deficits as before e.g. London Drinks, Carols, Society Garden Party, which had been offset by surplus elsewhere. In cases of events where members were asked to support subsidised places for recent graduates, and sometimes students, there were occasionally sponsored places that were not taken up – the generosity of those who attended the Lawyers' Dinner leading to one such case. In these instances, excess funds will be used for sponsorship at future events, a fact that will be publicised clearly when advertising.

As scrutineer, Mrs Jane Richardson was happy to approve the accounts and thanked the bursar's office – particularly Petya Arseni – for their help in assembling them.

8] College Reports

A] The Master

Referring to his published review, the Master added that the annual audit was being carried out. He noted in particular that costs of the present refurbishment of South Court and the implications of the recent budget (+ £180K) will have an impact. The bursar's recommendations for fiscal reorganisation will be invaluable.

Academically, Emmanuel remains attractive: 600 had applied for three Research Fellowships and there had been 956 undergraduate applicants, 100 more than last year.

Please see The Master's published review of the year for further details.

B] The Senior Tutor

Dr Corinna Russell attributed this spike in undergraduate applications, in part at least, to the decision to interview candidates in person, rather than online:

- Teachers in less traditional schools say the context demystifies Cambridge
- It mitigates the effect of AI
- ...and the disadvantageous circumstances in which some candidates have to conduct their interviews.

In a wider context, she spoke of the University Access and Participation initiative, which is reflected in Emma's approach to the care of its student body and seeing that a student does not just get in, but also gets on.

She paid tribute to the legacy of her predecessor, Dr Robert Henderson.

C] The Development Director

Dr Sarah Bendall referred to the success of the Emma Enables campaign and to its continuing effect, £4.9M having been raised last year.

Emma Evolves, the next phase of the college's development, will focus on three main areas. First, it will look at those in Emma: students, Fellows and staff and address not only those issues of 'getting on' and challenges related to mental health but also financial hardship. It will be important to ensure the college can attract the best, when filling gaps in the Fellowship, for instance. Secondly, it will look at realising interdisciplinary potential, and finally these areas will all be underpinned by developing areas of the college estate so far unused and ensuring that buildings are fitted to meet climate challenges in the future.

d] The ECSU President

Mr Tom Moran, President, referred to his report and pointed in particular to the successful use of Instagram as a means of communicating with freshers, to the role of less traditional games and societies and to the 'Emma Day' event as ways of bringing the community together, George Pool, Racial Equalities Officer, being specially mentioned.

The constitution had been simplified and the structure of ECSU strengthened.

9] Committee

In noting that Luke Montague and Jugdip Parmar were stepping down from the Committee, the Chair thanked both for their work, particularly in Careers.

He read from JuG's message, shared on the college's alumni Facebook and LinkedIn groups, in which he expressed thanks and the pleasure which serving on the Committee had given him and Harry thanked him in return, for his wholehearted involvement in the Society and its events.

10] AOB

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.08 pm.

KS

CHAIR'S REPORT, 21 NOVEMBER 2025

Emmanuel Members – i.e. everyone who matriculates at the College – are a group of over 10,000 in number. Spread across the globe, at various stages of life and career, what links us all is our relationship to the place where – and the people with whom – we will have spent some of the most significant years of our life.

The Emmanuel Society attempts to capture the spirit of those years by bringing together members, through events and communications, all year round. What I've been reminded of on many occasions over the last 12 months, since the 2024 AGM, is that it is never too late to come along to Society events. In the last year I've met people 'new' to the Society, some recently graduated and others rediscovering their connection to College anew decades after leaving Cambridge.

Whilst many of our events take place in London and Cambridge, increasingly there are more events taking place further afield from these two centres. Online events too enable members from across time zones to connect and be reminded of the fascinating people who have passed through Emmanuel's gates.

History- and heritage-related events are always popular with members. Few places in Britain possess more of both than Westminster Abbey. A group of members were privileged to enjoy an out-of-hours tour of the Abbey a year ago. A hallmark of Society events is often the special access afforded through members' associations. On this occasion members saw parts of the Abbey rarely open to the public and the event was topped off with a reception with the Dean of Westminster in the Abbey's Jerusalem Chamber. This event technically took place before the 2024 AGM, but was not reported upon in my 2024 report. So special was the visit that I thought it necessary to include it here.

In the last 12 months there have been tours too of the Cambridge University Library's Curious Cures exhibition, which surveyed Medicine in the Medieval World. And – returning to the History theme – a talk from John Harding (1963), whose nine-times great-grandfather, John Malden, matriculated at Emmanuel in 1623. Hosted by Rosanna Moseley Gore (1979), John's talk managed to weave his own family tree with the history of Emmanuel, Cambridge and indeed British history.

Looking upwards rather than backwards, and after a spectacular evening of stargazing was afforded to us last year, we returned to the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge. Paul Fellows (1982) led a special guided tour and talk. Though the weather didn't quite bless the event as it did in the year prior, the evening nonetheless wowed those in attendance and we will no doubt be returning in future.

Entrepreneurs talks for Members continue to take place once a month on Zoom. Across the last twelve months fascinating sessions have been led by Melanie Shufflebotham (1988), Clare Lynch (1994), Miguel Camargo (2003), Nick Hazell (1983), Marek Sirendi (2012), Hannah Bryson-Jones (2014), David Ruiz (2001) and Manik Suri (2005).

Of course, in-person events remain the Society's bread and butter. Staples of the calendar include the biannual (September and March) London drinks, held at Bunghole Cellars in central London. For those not based in London, watch out too for Society drinks across the globe – this year, Members have enjoyed get-togethers in Brussels and New York.

50 members gathered in Edinburgh in November 2024 at the city's historic New Club for a Society dinner. And at the beginning of this month (November 2025) a similar number of Members will have gathered in York at the Merchant Taylors' Hall in November 2025.

The College and Society London Carol Service took place at the beginning of December last year. Many members have fond memories of Cambridge Christmases and this always proves a popular event, with over 300 people attending this year. As always, the college choir, directed by Emmanuel Director of Music Graham Walker, provided carols and the accompanying festive joy. This year's Carol Service is confirmed for Monday 8 December 2025, once again in the beautiful Temple Church in central London.

This year also saw the return of the Emmanuel Society Medics' Dinner; the last being held in February 2020. 180 members gathered at the Royal College of Surgeons, where Dr Richard Barnes (1974), reflecting on his 50 years at Emmanuel and further 10 at Cambridge prior to this. Given the fondness decades of Emmanuel Medics have for Dr Barnes, it was no surprise that 180 people turned out for this evening in February. After all, Richard's loyalty to Emmanuel is matched by few others. In 2026 there will be a similar dinner for members working in finance. Please see the College website – recently redesigned and refreshed - for further details.

My thanks as always go to all those in College who make possible the Society's activities every year, in particular Dr Sarah Bendall, Jack Cooper, the Master and all Officers and Committee Members of the Emmanuel Society.

I always like to take this opportunity to encourage members to return to college, especially to make use of your dining rights. If this is not possible, I hope you can still feel connected to College through the fortnightly Emma Connects emails sent out by college to all Members and in the Emmanuel Newsletters you receive at regular intervals across the year.

Be sure too to visit the Society's Facebook and LinkedIn groups – just search 'Emmanuel College Members – Cambridge' and you should find us on either platforms.

I hope to see and hear from many of you in the next year.

Harry Hickmore, Chair

SECRETARY'S REPORT ON EVENTS 2025/26, 21 NOVEMBER 2025

The programme of events for the coming year builds on previous successes and introduces some new events that the Committee hopes will be of interest to members.

Further to this report, I draw their attention to additional information that will be published online and in the College newsletter.

So, previously successful events returning by popular demand will include the College Advent Carols Service, which will be led by the Choir at Temple Church, London, on Monday 8th December. Some 400 attended the last service.

Drinks will be provided, thanks to a generous sponsor.

The Culture Club event at the Cambridge Institute of Astronomy held recently had a waiting list and so there is clearly scope for a repeat performance by our lecturer Paul Fellows BEM (1979) in the room named after Sir Fred Hoyle (1933).

There will be talks online, as before, by and for entrepreneurs.

On Friday 13th February, there will be an Emma Society Dinner focussing on members involved in or with connections to the Finance Sector. It will take place in Haberdashers' Hall and there will be a guest speaker.

We are planning a trip to the London Festival Hall on Thursday 26th February for a performance of the final two Mozart symphonies. The concert will be given by the Orchestra of the Age of the Enlightenment and is being made possible by the good offices of our Chair, Harry Hickmore. Any who came to their performance at The Barbican will know that this will be exceptional.

With a similar facilitator, we are hoping to organise an OAE Glyndebourne opera event in the summer. Details to follow.

On Tuesday 17th March, London Drinks in the Bunghole Cellars will follow what ought to be a fascinating guided walking tour of Mildmay and Newington Green, an event suggested by the opening of the Mildmay Line.

Finally, in the summer, we will be returning to Stowe, where our President, Andrew Fane, will guide us through developments old and new in this historic house.

We look forward to welcoming members at any or all these events.

Kenneth Sheringham, Secretary

MASTER'S REPORT, 21 NOVEMBER 2025

I write this in the start of my fifth year as your Master, which means that I matriculated nearly all those who graduated on a perfect Cambridge summer's day this year, given the number of four-year degrees, intermissions and PhDs. My personal understanding of the individual journeys that those graduating have been through was therefore deeper than it had been before and made for a very special day, one that underlined the vocational nature of my role and the particularly personal approach of our college.

My position allows me to see how many people are involved in those journeys. From the admissions team that handles the enquiries and run the interview process, to the porters who welcome interviewees, the interviewing academics, all of the staff who enable their time with us, their Directors of Studies, Tutors and of course, most importantly, their fellow students. It takes a village after all. But not all villages are the same. I increasingly find ours to be special, thanks to the numerous decisions taken over the centuries that have shaped today's college: from the layout of our site (retention of the Paddock being one that I am ever thankful for) to the buildings that have been added over the years and, most importantly, at least for me, to the ones that have led to our size. For me we are the right size, and I can't help but notice that we are not that much larger than a Roman First Cohort or modern Infantry battalion, structures tested over millennia: large enough to give space but small enough to prevent one from becoming lost.

As you would expect, the structure of every student's time here revolves around their chosen subject, with the faculty or department shaping the programme that Directors of Studies help our students navigate. And those programmes, underpinned by the supervision system, work and work well. The academic growth of our students is incredible, as evidenced by the results that we saw this year. But woven around those programmes is an amazing range of extracurricular activities and opportunities. These provide our students with experience of working with peers and developing and then delivering initiatives; in other words, practical experience of leading. These extracurriculars are a key part of a student's development during their time in college. And we should never forget how formative the period of 18 to 21 is in one's life. But students also develop the wider skills that today's employers are looking for. Based on the numerous conversations that I have had with members, this has always been the case. But I can't help but observe, through the eyes of students who have kept in touch after graduation, how critical they are in today's world. Why? They provide tangible examples of decision-making for our students to present to prospective employers, and I don't see that need reducing, given the job market and rapid rise of generative AI tools.

For you, as members, none of the above is a surprise. You'll receive this year's Magazine in December and it records many of the stories and characters involved in writing this chapter of our college's history. As mentioned above, these stories matter as job applicants need to show why they stand apart from other candidates: why they are bright team players with strong values. I believe that Emmanuel College helps prepare our students for their next chapter through academics, extracurricular activities and our community values. From all that I have seen over these past four years, we develop people well. Really well.

But, as I said last year, it's not a given, especially as the world is changing fast. We cannot be complacent. After four years, and despite the rapid increase in generative AI, I still believe that our success relies on engaged people who care to get the particularly personal approach that we treasure just right. Navigating it requires steady, insightful leadership and we are lucky with our Senior Tutor, Dr Corinna Russell. Over this past year she has reformed our tutorial office, has increased our team of Tutors, is carefully strengthening our network of Directors of Studies and has taken the Emma Experience programme, now in its third year, under her wing. She is also looking hard at our data to identify where we might do more to ensure that all our students thrive. There is more to be done here, and Emma Experience, which now focuses on well-being, community, skills and careers, will play a part in helping our students get on and thrive with us while equipping them to flourish out in the world.

The Year in Review

With those opening thoughts made, it is time for me to turn to the year in review. As a year it has felt bumpy on account of medical absences and several staff changes, but those changes brought the opportunity for Corinna, our Bursar Catherine Webb and me better to understand roles and to reset them for the future. At the time of writing, those changes are nearly complete, with people recovering or settling in fast. However, the year has been a busy and, by any measure, successful one.

Students

For our students, freshers week always sets the tone and this year's was again ably steered by ECSU and the MCR, who built on last year's comprehensive programme and the lessons learned from it. Combined, they set the year up very well, with those coming up rapidly becoming part of our community.

Many of our extracurricular sports continued to gain momentum. The Boat Club put out seven boats during this year's May bumps, with both our men's and women's first boats finishing fourth in their respective divisions, meaning that headship is now technically within reach for both crews. Our mixed lacrosse team won Cuppers again, sustaining their ownership of that title, while netball, squash and tennis all saw students actively take part. There are many articles later in the Magazine that will bring you the inside story to those sports.

At university level around 40 of our students won Blues or Half Blues this year. To provide you with an indication of the sorts of sports involved, six Emma rowers, the most in our Boat Club's history, were selected to represent the university in pretty much every boat during this year's successful Boat Race against Oxford. And the successful university pentathlon team was 50 per cent Emma. Every time I watch or sit down with these students, I am amazed by their skill and time management.

It was also a year that saw societies build on last year, the Poker Society and the Islamic Society being good examples, while we continued to see more being set up. For example, we now have a very well attended Yarn Society, or YarnSoc as it is known locally, and an Art Society, again well attended and, from the works I have seen, innovative given our limited spaces.

The year also saw the establishment of the Vincent Lumsden Society. Vincent came up in 1952 from Buff Bay in Jamaica and won a Blue for cricket, a foretoken of a successful international cricket career. The society, established by two exceptional students, celebrates and supports our black community through welfare, representation and outreach. Its inaugural dinner of traditional Caribbean cuisine filled the Hall and brought together students, Fellows and staff, with guests joining from schools and the local community.

Away from Cambridge our summer research programmes continue to expand, with students going to Hong Kong for the first time this year. All of us will have seen Harvard in the news and have empathy for the challenges they face. We remain close, as you would expect. As I write today, those issues have not impeded our students already in Harvard from completing their courses or those selected for this summer and the next academic year from travelling. In September, Sarah Bendall and I will catch up with these students, meet members from across Boston and spend time with Harvard faculty, deepening those relationships.

Back at home, a number of our PhD students have had their research recognised on a wider stage. Most notably, Anoop Tripathi's research on cross-hybridisation of plants, which aims to develop climate resilient crops, earned him a Gates Impact Prize.

Fellows

On the Fellows' side it has been another impressive year for much of their research. Many of our Fellows have been recognised this year with medals, awards and other forms of recognition. Notable examples include Professor Bettina Varwig's receipt of both the 2024 Otto Kinkeldey award of the American Musicological Society and the 2025 Dent Medal from the Royal Musical Association, Professor Julian Hibberd's election as a Fellow of the Royal Society, and Professor Clare Pettitt's election as a Fellow of the British Academy. (Her election means that our college, based on my rudimentary research, has the largest collection of women FBAs.) This was also the year that saw Professor Mark Thomson, physicist and Fellow, selected to be the next Director General of CERN after a long campaign, a very significant appointment at a very significant time. Farther afield two of our Honorary Fellows have also been appointed to major roles: Professor Dennis Lo has become chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, while Professor Edith Heard, having completed her time with the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, has become director and chief executive of the Francis Crick Institute.

Sadly, this was also the year that the Reverend Don Cupitt died. Don, a Life Fellow, was a remarkable man who touched the lives of many, igniting curiosity and thoughtful challenge over generations. His example of discussing controversial ideas in a respectful manner set the bar that we, as a college, endeavour to live up to. There is a tribute that charts his noteworthy life in greater detail in this year's *Magazine*.

Members

On the members side, the Development Office has worked tirelessly this year, keeping people informed and organising events. The fortnightly Emma Connects has proven very popular, and my thanks go to the team that have worked hard to find the right formula and then sustain it. I would also like to thank them personally for promoting my vlogs.

Sarah Bendall, Helen and I travelled to meet members and visit universities in both the US and India this year. We were warmly met by all members, strengthened relationships and took back with us a wide range of insights that will help us improve. Having watched a riveting Indian Premier League game in Mumbai, we also came back with a renewed love for cricket.

Sarah's report describes many events. However, there is one that I would like to draw your attention to, the medics' dinner. This was the first since the pandemic and, with Dr Richard Barnes as the speaker, it was packed. It brought together Emma medics from across the generations and current medical students. Dr Barnes, having been Director of Studies for 50 years, knew nearly everyone in the room, and he drew on that knowledge during his superb after-dinner speech. His care and engagement in the journeys of most in the room were clear, as were their love and affection for him. It was an evening that provided a definition of what our particularly personal approach means.

The evening was organised by our Emmanuel Society, which puts on a range of such events, all advertised in Emma Connects. Harry Hickmore has settled in fast as our chair and is developing ideas on how better to coordinate with Emma Experience to help current students explore potential careers.

RIBA prize

Furness Lodge and Young's Court continue to be a bustling hive of activity. And I find that the design still catches my eye, an observation also recognised by the Royal Institute of British Architects, which awarded it their Eastern Region first prize. The year has also seen the new community gardens, at the back of Park Terrace, mature, bringing together students and staff under the watchful eye of our gardeners.

The Bursar

The responsibility of making all of this practically possible remains with our Bursar. Catherine Webb completed her review and has now implemented most of it. One recommendation, which you may encounter, was to establish a director of operations. Chris Ogston, fresh from the Jockey Club in Newmarket, took up the role and is settling in fast. However, a lot of Catherine's year was spent navigating and then recovering from a cancer diagnosis last November; hence her brief report this year. She has recently finished her treatment, and her strength is rapidly returning, and I for one am glad to have her counsel back.

Emma Evolves

I will close with a quick word about our future direction of travel. Emma Evolves, the development narrative for our college, has continued to advance since I first introduced it to you a couple of years ago. As you may recall, it is made up of three interlocking ambitions. The first is centred around the individual journey. We are pursuing it by progressing our reputation for accessibility, inclusion, support and academic excellence. This is our priority, and one that our Senior Tutor continues to lead on. The second is about increasing the frequency of collaborations that foster the generation of new knowledge. We are advancing this goal, incrementally, by providing research talks and improving connections among our postdocs and postgrads. The third is to optimise our facilities for the future world. The programme for this is now taking shape, with plans for better video conferencing facilities along with additional guest rooms being drawn up. We have also started the process of designing the refurbishment of the coach houses at the back of Park Terrace. Once done we hope they will provide the college with an accessible gym, a reflection space, an arts studio and a design studio, the latter two providing tailor-made spaces for human creativity, complementing those we already have for music. The design studio will also be a schoolhouse for mastering generative AI tools. It's an exciting narrative and one that looks positively into the future. We know that we must be good ancestors for those that follow us.

I hope my report has given you an overview from the Master's Lodge and look forward to discussing it with you

Doug Chalmers, Master

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT, 21 NOVEMBER 2025

As I reflect on 2024-25, I wonder how Sir Walter Mildmay's acorns have grown over the past year? He founded a community for learning; over centuries the education, religion, learning and research that form Emmanuel's purpose have developed and flourished, equipping all who have studied, taught and researched here to play important roles beyond our walls. We continue to realise his vision today.

Outreach

One acorn we've planted this year has been to show to young people for whom education at Emmanuel has felt beyond their reach that this might not be the case. Our enhanced access and outreach scheme, funded through members' generosity in Emma Enables and continuing since, has had several highlights this year. The most recent has been holding our first residential summer school for 27 students from our link areas in Sheffield and Essex who met 'widening participation' criteria such as receiving free school meals, being the first generation from their family to go on to higher education, or being young carers. They spent three nights in college in July, ending with one of the university open days, and had a full programme of academic and social activities. Feedback included comments such as it was the first time they had been able to connect with 'nerdy' students like themselves, a first-ever experience of a meal out from a student who had never been to a restaurant before, 'the library tour was definitely one of my favourite parts', 'I really enjoyed the oracy skills session, especially the discussion that I had with other humanities students', and 'my favourite non-academic activity was punting'.

The acorn we planted in 2023-24 of an outreach programme aimed at addressing the decline in applications to language-oriented degree courses has certainly started growing this year. Indeed, nearly 50 per cent of all applications to read modern and medieval languages from October 2025 came from those who had followed the 'Langevity' programme; five received offers from Emmanuel and another two were made offers by other colleges. We ran the course again this year and received 547 applications, compared with 329 in 2024. This year we also ran a similar course to encourage applications in the physical natural sciences: 307 applied and at the end of the webinar series 40 came to a taster day in college. We'll be interested to see in this autumn's admissions round whether this has a similar impact on applications. None of these initiatives could have taken place without support from members: your help really is changing lives.

This July we planted another acorn when for the first time we hosted a summer school run by First Star Scholars UK, which provides programmes for children in care. Around 25 students spent a week in Emmanuel, acquiring academic, life and community skills, as part of a four-year-long programme with workshops, webinars and mentoring throughout. The figures are remarkable: 14 per cent of care leavers progress to higher education but 50 per cent of the First Star Scholars do, with over 70 per cent passing GCSE English and mathematics at grade 4 or above.

Emma Experience

Other acorns planted by Emma Enables have also grown this year. The Emma Experience co-curricular programme is now well established and enjoyed, and our postdocs had their first

symposium this year. They are becoming a key part of our community; a particularly memorable occasion was at the end of this year's symposium where postgraduate students talked about their research. A panel of postdocs ended the day by giving advice to those interested in research careers. We also held our second Emma Enterprise competition, which this year was preceded by a two-day workshop at the end of Michaelmas term to give anyone interested an opportunity to learn the necessary skills. I am reminded all the time of your generosity in enabling it all to come about.

Furness Lodge and Young's Court

When Sir Walter Mildmay founded Emmanuel, our site was that of the Dominican priory that had preceded us, though he gave us 'The Pensionary' on the corner of Emmanuel Street and St Andrew's Street only three years later. Surely he would have been delighted by the expansion of the site to the south by the acquisition of land on which to build South Court, of Park Terrace and most recently of Furness Lodge and the carpark to the west. And I hope he would have felt that our latest development, which was awarded Building of the Year for the Eastern Region by the Royal Institute of British Architects, is worthy of our inheritance. The RIBA citation sums up all that we'd been hoping to achieve: 'Stanton Williams' infill scheme integrates beautifully with its context, elevating student life and enhancing a historic site ... The architects have delivered an infill scheme for Emmanuel College that sits comfortably and effortlessly on site, and which subtly elevates the experience of student life. The design stitches itself into what was historically the least glamorous part of the college grounds: Young's Court, hitherto the location for the college's car park and delivery service point from the adjacent Cambridge street ... As a model for how to conserve and enhance a historic place for future generations, this is a project which is so well integrated with its context that it feels instantly as if it was always a part of the university plan.'

Now that the buildings have been in use for two academic years, it is hard to think of Emmanuel without them. The area has been brought to life, with students in the new accommodation, postgraduate students enjoying their new MCR, meetings in Furness Lodge, a lively bar, music coming from the practice rooms, and Fiona's café buzzing with activity. Emma Enables was all about making it possible for the most talented people to make great contributions to the world around us, and it is doing all we'd hoped, and more.

When showing people round the site, the question often arises 'what's next?', and for many, they are thinking of buildings. The need is obvious when standing at the end of Camden Court by the library: when one looks east towards the Hostel there are some very shabby and dilapidated outbuildings, many of which were stables and coach houses to Park Terrace. They include notable features, such as some very elegant, curved brickwork to avoid damage by coaches as they turned corners. However, they need attention, and the most urgent work is now being addressed. There is, though, a wonderful project there waiting for us! And there are other potential building projects as well, most notably at the boathouse. Underlying all of these are the need to make our site as sustainable as possible: Mildmay wouldn't have dreamed of gas heating systems and now we must move away from them.

Emma Evolves

While building projects come with big price tags, they are meaningless without thinking of the needs they are aiming to address. And that's where our next big vision comes in, Emma Evolves which, as with Emma Enables, will have a significant philanthropic need. Today's world poses particular challenges for our community. Scientific and technological advances sit uneasily alongside potentially existential climate and geopolitical threats. And rapid economic and ideological changes highlight for us the fragility of long-established systems, beliefs and norms, with new tools such as AI disrupting traditional ways of operating. Education and its bastions of learning are not immune from the turmoil, and even with deep roots like ours this is no time for complacency. Rooted in the notion of the college as a community of learners, Emma Evolves lays the foundations for the college's long-term future, giving it the resilience to turn challenges into opportunities.

To address this, we will be planting yet more acorns to bring learners in: undergraduates, postgraduates and Fellows. We need to ensure that they can then flourish once they are here: for example, by ensuring that all undergraduates receive the support they need, especially in their first year, to strengthen their skills and confidence; by supporting and connecting research across our whole community; and by providing well-being support and facilities for all. Our aim is to send our learners out into the world equipped to have a positive impact whatever their sphere of interest or expertise. For students, this includes careers advice and opportunities for placements; workplaces are increasingly requiring skills in AI, and we must ensure that we provide opportunities to explore both human and digital creativity and the ways they interact. For our fellows, researchers and teachers it is about getting their learning, work and contributions out into the world to wide and relevant audiences. Enhancing and developing our enterprise programme will be key to helping members of our community to make a difference in the world.

There will be many opportunities for members and friends to join us in helping to realise this vision. In conversations, many people have expressed an interest in doing so and several already are. In the past year we have received donations and pledges of over £5.3 million from around 1650 donors, and we thank everyone most warmly. Many of our supporters are donating regularly, and their monthly or annual gifts provide us with a firm foundation from which to talk to others: all gifts, of whatever size, make a difference and 64 per cent of donations were under £1000. Legacies have also played a big part this year, with £3.26 million, around 60 per cent of our philanthropic income, coming from those who decide to help the generations who follow.

The Emma community

Mildmay's acorns are not, however, purely about finances. We're all members of the Emmanuel family and several members help with their time, whether this is through giving careers advice; through service on our finance and investments committees, the Emmanuel Society committee or our US 501(c)3 board; or through providing expert advice in particular areas. It is always lovely to see you and over 450 dined at High Table in 2024–25, so do get in touch if you'd like to join us: the more notice we have the better and we'll do our best to accommodate you. As a member, you dine as a guest of the college on a weekday evening or on Sundays in Full Term; you are welcome to bring a guest with you, for whom there is a charge.

Our events programme remains very active: 1379 members attended at least one of our 68 events last year, including well over 100 at our lunch for legators and loyal donors, and over 400 at a garden party to thank all of our supporters. Another highlight was the Emmanuel Society's dinner for medics in London this February, attended by 180 members, guests and current students. Richard Barnes was the guest speaker; almost all of the members present had been taught by him, though a few predated his arrival at Emmanuel, with the result that 66 years separated the youngest and oldest members. The sense of warmth and conviviality so common at Emmanuel events brought everyone together. If you have an idea for a region-, subject- or profession-specific event that the Emmanuel Society could support, we'd love to hear from you.

We want to ensure that those members who don't live near Cambridge or London can also feel connected and part of our community, so we are keen to develop our programme outside the South-East. The Emmanuel Society holds a 'regional' event each year: in 2024 we had a lovely dinner in Edinburgh and we're looking forward to visiting Merchant Taylors' Hall in York in 2025. And both the college and society hold talks on Zoom. In addition, the Master, his wife Helen and I visit members overseas: in September 2024 we were in the USA and in April 2025 we had a fascinating visit to India. We're looking forward to returning to New York, Boston and San Francisco in September 2025.

We also keep in touch through our publications. Emma Connects, our fortnightly email, is very popular and a good way of keeping up-to-date with college news and events. I have today seen the first copy off the press of this year's Emmanuel Review, and our other printed publications, the newsletter and the College Magazine, are very much part of our communications programme. This year we also produced an 'impact report', showing the ways that your contributions have made a difference.

The Development team

In the development and Emmanuel Society offices we are part of Mildmay's 'gardeners', whose role is to nurture college acorns and help them mature into oaks. We've made a few changes to the team this year, as both Holly Freeborn and Samantha Marsh (donor relations) have moved on to roles elsewhere. We thank them for all their hard work and wish them well. You might now be in touch with Claire Cosgrave (head of department), Jack Cooper, Helen Harding-Male and Chris Totney (events, stewardship and communications), Diana Ewbank (in her new role as philanthropy officer) and Chiara Centore (donor relations), Lizzie Shelley-Harris and Linda Thomson (data), or Angela Wilson, my personal assistant or me.

'I have set an acorn which, when it becomes an oak, God alone knows what will be the fruit thereof'. Thus Sir Walter Mildmay replied to Queen Elizabeth I when she remarked that he'd founded a Puritan institution. We are still planting acorns today and look forward to seeing how they mature and flourish. Thank you for helping us to nurture them.

Sarah Bendall, Development Director

ECSU REPORT, 21 NOVEMBER 2025

The ECSU committee this year has been engaged and enthusiastic in supporting the college community. With our new structure, including two vice-presidents, we have been able to hit the ground running in getting to the heart of just what our students need. With this in mind, here is a short rundown of what our officers have been up to this year:

Our vice-president for welfare, liberation & charities, George Allwood, has played a central role in shaping this new position, working tirelessly to support liberation efforts across college. He coordinated ECSU's charitable engagement, including two major food bank collections, one of which saw Emma outperform nearly all other Oxbridge colleges. Over £500 was raised for ECSU's chosen charities: Jimmy's Cambridge, Macmillan Cancer UK and the Wild Foundation. As is tradition, he has organised Emma stash for our new cohort – ensuring they are decked out in Emma colours! This is expected to raise a large amount of money for our charities too. He has also supported our liberation officers and the president in key meetings throughout the year.

Our vice-president for operations & freshers week, Saffi-Mae Graham, has been hard at work in organising freshers week, bringing together a full programme of events to welcome new students to Emma. These all went extremely well – and we saw the smoothest move-in and highest turnout a freshers events to date. She has also been instrumental in our extremely successful revival of the ECSU shop, bringing cheap sweet treats to our hungry students! She has also supported our beloved pidge [pigeon-hole] sweets scheme with welfare (which is always a bit of a military operation) as well as hosting a fantastic Halfway Hall awards night for our second years. Behind the scenes, she has ensured that college amenities continued to run smoothly.

Our amazing treasurer, Donny 'Big Dog' Feng, has worked closely with the Bursar to increase society funding by £1000, which has massively benefited the flourishing new societies in Emma this year and helped to provide more opportunities for student groups. Donny has helped to restructure the society funding committee – giving places to MCR members for the first time to ensure transparency and cooperation with the postgraduate community. He also streamlined ECSU's finances, updated shop pricing and launched a student punt scheme as a new college perk. All of this has been termed 'fenganomics' by our wonderful ROAR editors.

Our welfare officers, Katie Copp, Olga Devine and Tom Speke, have truly gone above and beyond this year. Weekly tea and cake sessions were accompanied by collaborations with college societies, trips to Ely and the Botanic Garden, and much-loved Valentine's and Easter events. Looking ahead, they are planning a spooky trick-or-treat event, which will send students around college to collect goodies. They have also been involved with the allocation of college parents and children, taking on the mammoth task with grace. Feedback from both the parents and children has been excellent – a testament to their hard work. They have ensured that everyone at Emma has felt supported, cared for and heard, as well as getting stuck in on the running of pidge sweets for all students. Their work this year really cannot be undervalued, and it has been a pleasure to have them on the committee.

Our buildings & services officer, Matthew Burnell, has been an absolute star this year, definitely deserving a special shoutout! He has played a vital role in student life, supporting renovations, helping to set fair room grades, and launching a women's hour in the gym. They brought student

feedback to committees and supported day-to-day issues, from catering to laundry. This college simply would not keep ticking over on a daily basis without lovely Matthew!

ECSU would also not function without the work of Lorna Beal, our secretary. Our meetings run smoothly with her quick typing skills for the minutes! She has also organised the ECSU handover formal, our famous ECSU dinner with Doug, as well as commandeering the running of our much-loved society photographs.

Our racial equalities officer, Summer Sameer, held a wonderful motivational talk and dinner with Herdeep Dosanjh, a lawyer working in the charity sector. She also celebrated multilingualism with a film night and helped coordinate the EMMpower scheme to support students of colour in the Cambridge application process. In Michaelmas she held a BME formal, which was a hit with both Emma students and those from other colleges.

Our women's & non-binary officers, Nora Rechel and Johana Trejtnar, organised a range of meaningful events, including a joint cocktail night with the LGBTQ+ and ents officers in support of Cambridge Rape Crisis. They led the Emma contingent at the 'Reclaim the Night' protest, hosted a powerful 'Women in Leadership' panel with inspiring guests, and raised funds through a Pink Week bake sale.

Maddie Flewin and Catrin Hughes-Gibbard, our lovely LGBTQ+ officers, worked to support our thriving queer community within Emma. From music-themed queer formals to books and biscuits drop-ins, they have hosted welcoming and fun events. Highlights included a Galentine's collaboration and the projection of the Pride flag onto college walls. They also co-authored ECSU's statement in response to the supreme court ruling on the definition of 'a woman', which we are proud to have accomplished to represent our students.

The access & class act officers, Lottie Dry and Meg Owen, have been integral to making Emma a more inclusive space for class act students. They ran discounted formals, led the shadowing scheme in Emma and supported the EMMpower initiative with our amazing access and outreach team (shoutout Tom and Fran!) They also worked directly with offer-holders to ease their transition into Cambridge, being there to answer questions and queries from prospective students.

Our international officers, Raphael Lin and Yulia Hu, brought vibrancy and representation to our global student community. They updated the iFreshers Guide, added international snacks to the shop, ran a Chinese New Year formal, and continued the popular storage box provision scheme, supporting students throughout the year and during vacations.

Bringing energy and entertainment to Emma, our ents officers, Becca Walker and Zaynab Ansari, hosted many (and I mean many) wildly popular karaoke nights as well as International Women's Day cocktails, Emma Jazz and summer rounders. Their collaboration with welfare made for memorable and supportive events.

The disabilities & mental health officer, Rhiannon Barton, worked both visibly and behind the scenes to ensure access and support for all students. She conducted interviews on disability access, ran exam-season events focused on stress relief, and connected students with resources

for ADHD and autism diagnoses. Her approach to disabilities and mental health this year has been exemplary, and she has approached the role with an unrivalled level of care and commitment.

Our education & careers officer, Atila Parlar, liaised with the library committee and the Emmanuel Society to represent student needs, chose this year's subject parents, and collaborated with Emma Experience on careers events that meet student needs. He is currently organising a postgraduate careers panel, which will be very exciting indeed!

Our green and ethical officers, Ethan King and Liv Wright, have been showing off their green fingers this year. They have transformed the college garden into a flourishing space with spinach, mint, tomatoes, pumpkins and more, increasing engagement at gardening sessions throughout the year. As well as this, they organised a donation system where graduating students left kitchenware for freshers to take free of charge – which was a massive success, and will be implemented every year from now on. They also advocated for improved vegetarian and vegan options on Hall and formal menus.

The computing officers, Luka Pivovarsky and Rohan Agarwal, joined us for a second term as officers and outdid themselves! They launched ECSU's long-awaited new website, complete with a redesigned room database. They kept everyone informed via mailing lists and continued to advocate for improved computing resources in college. They also saved me from a lot of embarrassment by pointing out the mistakes in emails I intended to send to the entire student body!

And, of course, Sunday brunch at Emma would not be complete without a cheeky browse of a copy of ROAR, the college's weekly satirical magazine. Its editors, Kalina Stoyanova and Jamie McKnight, have also been active in ECSU meetings, advocating for a return to the college's 'puritan roots' by banning Maypoles, Bridgemas and women presidents. I have ignored their suggestions.

Reflecting on my year as president, I feel proud of the work I have done and grateful to have had the opportunity to glimpse into the inner workings of Emma: I have tried my very best to make it run a little more smoothly for students. It has been an honour to represent the amazing undergraduate community at Emma, and I have thoroughly enjoyed fostering a close relationship with the Senior Tutor, Bursar and Master, as we all work towards the same goal of providing for students. I am particularly glad to have improved communication between the student body and ECSU itself, running extensive census-style surveys at the end of each term to provide direction with which we can advocate for the needs of our students. I hope this will continue in years to come.

Together, this committee has worked tirelessly to represent, support and celebrate Emma's undergraduate community. Every officer has given it their all, and it has been a pleasure to work with them. They truly care about building a stronger, more inclusive college culture, rooted in trust, compassion and collective action.

ECSU has had a successful year, driven by a commitment to act on the issues that students care about most. I am excited to see what the future holds for us.

Astrid Westlake, *President*

MCR REPORT, 21 NOVEMBER 2025

The 2024–25 academic year was a great success for the Emmanuel MCR. With more than 250 students, in addition to a full MCR committee of 18 members, we fostered lasting friendships and enjoyed an active calendar of events.

We began Michaelmas with freshers week, led by the wonderful outgoing committee. Freshers week included a range of fun activities, such as sports and painting on the Paddock, a freshers' formal, Duck-Duckling dinners and, of course, the perennial favourite, jazz night in the Chapel. These events set the tone well for the rest of the year and helped to galvanise a very active and keen community.

Twelve MCR formals were held this year, with themes ranging from Burns Night to Alice in Wonderland (when desserts were served first and starters last). Many formals included 'afters' in the Old Library or Crew Room. Organised by our dedicated social secretary Francis Frankopan and internal events officer Junhee Lee, these extended events involved a variety of live performances and activities, including pub crawls, ceilidhs and music by the Cambridge favourite Soft Crunchy Landing. We are grateful to the bar staff who worked during these 'afters' and, above all, we would like to emphasise our immense appreciation for the catering team, who put on spectacular formals that will be remembered by Emma MCR members and friends for life.

The MCR additionally featured numerous opportunities for academic and career enrichment. Thanks to our lovely education and careers officer Stella Wernicke, 25 grad talks were given during the academic year. Throughout the seven sessions, students were able to share research projects and life experiences over food and wine, fostering discussions across disciplines. In May, the MCR hosted the graduate symposium, featuring two poster presentations, 12 talks and, for the first time, a very productive and candid panel discussion moderated by the Master with three Emmanuel post-doctoral fellows.

Through the efforts of our lovely swaps officer Gabriela Millward-Vazquez, with Grace Pepper, we successfully continued our tradition of partnering with Exeter College, Oxford. In early May, the Emma MCR hosted 30 members from the Exeter MCR. Students from both colleges were able to explore Cambridge together, to go punting and to participate in activities on college grounds, including a catered picnic, painting on the Paddock, spike ball and tennis, which was followed by Pimm's in the cloisters and an excellent formal hall. In exchange, a group of 30 Emma MCR and JCR members travelled to Exeter for a day trip exploring Oxford, punting on the Isis and dining at a delicious formal hall.

Thanks to our devoted welfare officer Minnal Balaji, welfare events were well attended throughout the year and provided a warm, welcoming atmosphere where Emma MCR members could try something new and meet people. This year the MCR held cultural celebrations for Diwali, Ramadan, lunar new year and Christmas. One notable event combined Diwali hand painting and traditional South Asian snacks with a Halloween pumpkin-carving night. A special holiday potluck and crafting event was held around the Christmas break, especially for international students who remained in Cambridge. The MCR also had popular, more casual Jack's gelato trips and movie nights. During the warmer months in Lent and Easter, MCR welfare events emphasised time outside with walks to the Grantchester meadows, university botanic gardens and punting. Such events provided an opportunity for MCR members with stressful schedules to explore Cambridge while getting to know each other better. Picnics on Parker's Piece and several trips to popular ethnic restaurants in Cambridge, especially one on the

evening of the graduate symposium, provided a casual, friendly atmosphere for MCR members to relax and bring the community closer.

At the end of Easter Term, we elected new members of the Committee to assist with summer and early Michaelmas events. Though numerous MCR members finished their courses in June, many stayed involved in college throughout the summer. We were pleased to work with catering to organise a summer formal hall in late July, which was very well attended by students in addition to many family members, including my own.

Summer came and went, and, before we knew it, it was our turn to run freshers week for the new postgraduates. Thanks to the generosity of the College, we nearly doubled the freshers week budget, which allowed us to continue our tradition of fun and inclusive events, including an especially lively Jazz & Cocktails in the Chapel, painting of beautiful new artwork for the MCR room, and an outstanding Freshers Formal followed by a ceilidh in the Old Library. This year's group of freshers is especially keen, with excellent attendance and interest in remaining involved with our community.

Overall, the MCR has had an unforgettable and lovely year, and we are immensely grateful for the dedicated support from the College and Emma members that helped facilitate it.

Joey Toker, *President*

MEMBERS OF THE EMMANUEL SOCIETY COMMITTEE

Mr Andrew Fane (1968) *President*

Mr David Lowen (1964) *Honorary Vice-President*

Lord Wilson of Dinton (2002) *Honorary Vice-President*

Dame Fiona Reynolds (2012) *Honorary Vice-President*

Mr Nick Allen (1990) *Honorary Vice-President*

Mr Harry Hickmore (2011) *Chairman*

Mr Ken Sheringham (1966) *Secretary*

Mr Rodney Jagelman (1969) *Treasurer*

Miss Jessica Cherry (2008) *Committee Member*

Miss Shelly-Ann Meade (2002) *Committee Member*

Mr Rakesh Patel (1992) *Committee Member*

Miss Jessica Reilly (2011) *Committee Member*

Mr Kavish Shah (2014) *Committee Member*

Dr Gin Warren (1978) *Committee Member*

Mrs Rosanna Moseley-Gore (1979) *Committee Member*

Mr Doug Chalmers (2021) *Master*

Dr Nigel Spivey (1977) *Vice-Master*

Dr Corinna Russell (2002) *Senior Tutor*

Dr Sarah Bendall (1984) *Development Director*

Mr Jack Cooper *Events and Communications Manager*

Mr Joey Toker (2021) *MCR President*

Ms Astrid Westlake (2023) *ECSU President*

Ms Stella Wernicke (2023) *MCR Education & Careers Officer*

Mr Atilla Parlar (2024) *ECSU Education Officer*