

**A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Professor John Beverley Knight
(12 January 1939 – 17 January 2024)**

The Chapel, St Edmund Hall
Saturday, 26 October 2024, 2PM

Welcome to the Chapel and to this memorial service. We remember today, Professor John Beverley Knight, and give thanks for his life and service to the College and University.

The first documented reference to St Edmund Hall is from 1317, which indicates an earlier foundation. Although Oxford's oldest colleges date to the mid-thirteenth century, it was not until the sixteenth century that the colleges commonly admitted undergraduates. St Edmund Hall, therefore, has a claim to be the oldest surviving academic society in Europe to house and educate undergraduates. It continues to provide an inspiring home for our students today.

Professor Knight was a Tutorial Fellow in Economics for 39 years, from 1967 to 2006. He was hugely respected by colleagues, students and staff alike as an academic, teacher and leader. During his time on Governing Body, he took on a number of key roles including Finance Bursar and Vice Principal. Professor Knight also initiated the Oxford Chinese Economy Programme (OXCEP) at the Hall. In the Economics department, he was their first Head of Department in 2000 having previously been the Director of the Institute of Economics and Statistics.

An internationally acclaimed academic in development economics, he published five books, numerous book chapters and over 100 journal articles as well as serving as editor of leading journals during his distinguished career.

Following his retirement, he held visiting professorships at Peking University and Beijing Normal University in recognition of his ongoing research in crucial areas of the Chinese economy, including labour markets and inequality. Reflecting his longstanding interest in Africa, Professor Knight was a co-founder of the Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) in the Department of Economics. He will be remembered as a dedicated colleague and friend, and champion of the Hall, by many students and staff.

Requiescat in pace

INTROIT

THE GATHERING

Welcome and Opening Prayers

The Chaplain, The Rev'd Dr Mariama Ifode-Blease

Hymn – Abide with Me

[Henry Francis Lyte, 1847]

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see.
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and strength can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless,
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

READINGS AND TRIBUTES

Reading

The Principal, Professor Baroness Kathy Willis, CBE

Tribute

Emeritus Professor, Martin Slater

Anthem – The Lord is my Shepherd

Tribute

Professor Lina Song

Reading

Emeritus Professor, Maryanne Martin

SERMON AND PRAYERS

The Chaplain, The Rev'd Dr Mariama Ifode-Blease

Hymn – Amazing Grace

[John Newton, 1772]

Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease:
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine;
but God, who called me here below,
will be forever mine.

COMMENDATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;

thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who 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.

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

Jesus said: Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives give I unto you. Do not let your
hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you
All and also with you.

Neither death nor life
can separate us from the love of God
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Grant to us, Lord God,
to trust you not for ourselves alone,
but also for those whom we love
and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death;
that, as we believe your power to have raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead,
so may we trust your love to give eternal life to all who believe in him;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Organ

All are invited for tea in the Old Dining Hall after the service.