



06 October, 2019

THIS WEEK

Newsletter of the SJCR

Seeing or believing

BY CATHERINE PERKINS

At the start of a new term, I find it incredibly easy to get caught up in the excitement and pace of novelty. Especially when I come into a new place, or a new environment, I find it incredibly easy to take for granted what I believe to be the truth about that situation. What I see as the whole picture is what I believe to be the case. I rarely question it or seek to delve deeper. Realistically, there is usually another thing on my mind.

This week, I joined a Hebrew module in which I am by far the youngest student, and in the minority of undergraduates in the class. I felt daunted by the prospect of being surrounded by people who could read far more fluently than me, and seemed to be able to spurt all kinds of fancy theological theories, whilst I was still trying to work out what was going on, on a basic level. I believed I wasn't good enough.

Then we began to talk about Moses and the burning bush, a passage in the Bible in which Moses has to turn aside to choose to see, and to encounter. He could have walked past the fire in fear, but he didn't.

Like Moses, I realised that sometimes we have to choose to change our viewpoint, and in seeing differently, find a new, and truer story to believe in. For me, this meant understanding that being younger doesn't mean that your voice should stay quiet.

During one dinner this week, I was talking to a biologist about seal behaviours, and a geo-isolated phenomenon where seals slap their entire bodies by throwing themselves up, and landing again, rather than using their flippers to slap themselves. The professor who found this had taken 13.5 hours of video footage, in which time he saw less than 100 instances of this behaviour.

Quote of the Week

Life is a series of
tiny miracles.
Notice them!



Sometimes we only see what we believe to be the case, and to change our mindset requires us to step outside what we think we see. And sometimes, like the professor of seals, we have to believe in order to see.

What do you see, and what do you believe about your own self, abilities, or faith?

What do you see, and what do you believe, about the community that surrounds you? Do you choose to see or do you believe what is before you?

We want you to be a part of what we do in the SJCR, and part of that requires a shift in what we see, and an openness in what we believe to be the case. Let us know what you see and what you want to see. And let us know how we can see you better.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The essential run-down of everything happening in college this week.

Monday 14th

Borderlands Lecture -

Compulsory for all Freshers

Martin Bashir 19:30
ER201

Fresher Walkdowns from Reception

Tuesday 15th

19:00 College

Communion followed by drinks in the bar with CCR members

Wednesday 16th

NE Formal (only if registered)

17:15 Choral Evensong, Chapel with opening of LRC

NE Formal
Be at back of Leech Hall for 18:00

Trustee Meeting (closed)

If you're running a meeting or event in college and would like people to know about it via *This Week* please get in contact with Catherine at johns.comms@durham.ac.uk

Follow us on Instagram to get a daily story, letting you know the latest on what's going on in college, as things may change during the week.



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NOTICES

Laundry Cards

If you are a returning student living in who needs a laundry card, these are now kept by the Porters at Reception. Please remember to pick one up! They require a £20 cash deposit which will be returned at the end of the year when you give back the card.

Italian Classes

Miro will be running an Italian Language course for beginners on Thursdays from 18:20-20:20 (meet in reception). The course will begin on 17 October and run for 8 weeks and will be interactive. It costs £20 for all St John's Students, staff and SCR members and the fees will be donated to the LRC. The link to pay the fees is: <https://localgiving.org/charity/st-johns-college/project/lrc>

Stash

Stash orders for this term are now open and should be ordered by 24:00 on 24th October : <http://www.moette.co.uk/oc1/Durham-University/St-Johns-College>

Services Complaints form

If you are having issues with washing machine/dryers/the vending machine or equipment in the Bailey Room, please fill out this form.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeC8SQhqjQnm2Ke0cSEgrF67Bvz2H5K oM7chJd44d6Dlz66lw/viewform>

Social Media

Please familiarise yourselves with the Social Media Guidance Policy (found on the FB page and the website). This will be strictly enforced.

Please be aware that any posters put up around college have been, and will be taken down if they have not been authorised. Please leave posters in the Comms Pigeonhole, or email johns.comms@durham.ac.uk. The deadline for This Week notices is midnight on Fridays. If you feel uncomfortable about anything being advertised in college, please also do get in contact, and we can do something about it!



NOTICES

Registration for Formals

If you are a new student this Michaelmas, you will need to register with our website before you can access formal sign ups. This can be done by going to www.stjohnscommonroom.org.uk/registration. You will need your CIS login and Campus Card Number and to create a password. This will then allow you to sign up for formals when they are live (usually every Wednesday 7pm). This also applies to MCR and CCR students. Please note that once formal places have been allocated, no extra places can be created; this is due to allowing enough time to order food and wine.

DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US FOR MICHAELMAS I

**ALL COMMON ROOMS WELCOME,
MONDAY 21ST OCTOBER 19:00
PIZZA AND WINE FOR FREE!**

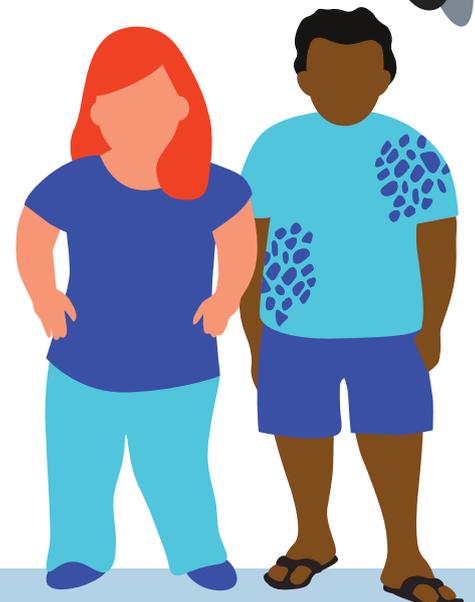
There are positions to elect, and democracy to be done, wine to be drunk, pizza to be gobbled and hustles to be made. To include important updates from Exec Members and exciting new initiatives and developments... watch this space!

Rumour has it that the raffle may also include a very exciting prize!

Be there!

Welfare Support this week:

- Pop into Jasmine's office, or arrange a meeting by emailing johns.student-support
- Welfare drop-ins daily 7-8pm in Cranmer A1, LGBTQ+ and Disability Support Wednesday afternoons.
- Anna, the College Chaplain, will be commencing her drop-ins on Wednesday from 3-4pm in Haughton B10.



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this week with your exec.

SCAN this QR code
to be taken to the
Common Room Directory for
more information on student
leaders and contact details.



SCAN ME



Joe has been catching up with all the exec members and officers after Freshers' Week and is implementing a new Individual Strategy Document to help with officer welfare.

Amy chaired the Taster SJCR Meeting on Monday, and is preparing for Michaelmas I on October 21st - she is especially excited to raffle off a FREE BAILEY BALL TICKET and is preparing to fight with Urban Oven to get decent sized pizzas again.



Clarissa organised the first film night of the term which happened on Saturday - look out for news of when the second night will be!



Catherine has been working with the MCR Caretaker President and SJCR Vice-Chair to compile mailing lists for the MCR. She is also looking to re-address the wishes of the CCR in terms of receipt of communication.



Bhawesh organised the first open FiComm meeting of term in which the Bailey Ball budget was discussed.



Please feel free to send any general enquiries to johns.comms@durham.ac.uk or johns.president@durham.ac.uk and we can signpost you on to the right people.