

01 December, 2019

# THIS WEEK

Newsletter of the SJCR



## Advent

BY CATHERINE PERKINS

Sometimes Advent is the time that I feel my degree comes in most useful. When people ask "what does Advent mean?", you'll probably hear a classicist somewhere whipping out the explanation that "advent" derives from the Latin "advenio" meaning: I arrive, come. But does that really answer the question? I'm not so sure.

For Christians, Advent is not merely the arrival of Jesus, but the waiting for that time. It is the start of the Christian calendar. It means a lot of purple, and prayer, and the fancy term "penitential" season. But mainly it's about the waiting.

One of the best books I have ever read on this was Paula Gooder's *The Meaning is in the Waiting*. Somehow she made it make sense to me more than anyone ever had before. But I think that although there is a deep theological root in the concept of Advent, it's not something that should be solely that. Advent is a time that we can all participate in, no matter what faith, or none, we have, and no matter where or who we are.

Because we're all waiting. Waiting for deadlines to be over. Waiting for the holidays to come. Waiting to see family and friends again. Waiting for whatever Christmas means to us. And when we're waiting, there's a weight of expectation. How we cope with, and reflect on that, is the meaning of Advent to me. To me, it's the reflection that the season of Advent brings that is important. With so much expectation, it's a chance to take some time out and think about what is important, to think on what we could improve, and what we're thankful for. Whether we celebrate Thanksgiving, a Christian New Year, Christmas or any other kind of festival, this is a season of thanks, reflection and hope. We can all buy into that, even just for 5 minutes every morning. It doesn't require Christmas music, or chocolate calendars, or carols and mulled wine, although these may well help. It requires a bit of mental space, a bit of quiet, and just a little bit of solitude to think.

## Spotlight on...

### Christmas Carol Service Information

**The St John's Christmas Carol Service will be held this year on Tuesday 10th December. Meet on the steps of St John's at 6:45 to walk over to the Cathedral for a moving community carol service, featuring music from the College Choir and Chapel Choir. Do come along if you are able, and bring friends - absolutely everyone is welcome! There will be refreshments in Leech Hall following the service.**



**If you want multiple carols, we would also recommend the Cathedral Advent Procession tonight at 7:30, and the DICCU carol service on Monday 2nd Decmber at 7pm. Get to the Cathedral for both early to ensure you get a seat!**

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

## Monday 2nd

UCU Strike continues

## Tuesday 3rd

19:00 College Communion with Emma Parker preaching

20:30 College Choir, Chapel

## Wednesday 4th

18:20

Christmas Tree Formal (if registered) with carols from the Chapel Choir

17:15 Choral Evensong, Chapel

14:00 Onwards - Meeting of the Trustee Board of the SJCR. (Closed)

## Thursday 5th

18:00-20:00

Language Cafe: a chance to improve your language skills in Cranmer Crossroads. Cheese and Wine provided. Email [maxime.l.honinx@durham.ac.uk](mailto:maxime.l.honinx@durham.ac.uk) if you are planning to attend.

## Saturday 7th

College Christmas Festival!

## Sunday 8th

Gym Induction - Meet Reception at 5:45

Christmas Quiz

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](mailto: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



## St John's Christmas Notices

College will be offering Mince Pies and Mulled Wine on the afternoon of Friday 13th December from 2-4pm in the Vasey Rooms for anyone whose parents are picking them up for Christmas. Please let Joe know if you would like to go!

The Catering staff are collecting gifts for children of all ages for the paediatric unit at the hospital. Please consider donating! Keep buying those raffle tickets too... the prizes will be drawn on Tuesday 10th December.

Tuesday 10th December is also the college's Christmas Jumper Day - donate £1 at reception.

Saturday 7th December is the SJCR Christmas Festival. We will be welcoming in a whole range of stall holders and student crafters to sell their produce. There will also be a craft and workshop station, festive refreshments, music and much merriment! We will be welcoming in members from the local community, so do pop in and say hello if you get a chance. Everyone is more than welcome, and encourage your friends to come along. The fair will be open from 2pm. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help out!

## Strike Action

The UCU strike continues this week for some lecturers in all departments until Wednesday 4th December. This can be a source of anxiety for many students. If you do want some more information, please feel free to talk to Alice Butler, the Academic Affairs and Student Union Liaison Officer.



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](mailto: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!



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# NOTICES

## Mega Formal

There will be a mega formal sign up during the next week for the Christmas Mega Formal on Wednesday 11th. Mega Formals are slightly different from regular formals. The dress code is black tie, no gowns, and there is a £5 charge to attend, which includes a cava reception prior to the meal. Please be aware that Mega Formals are often exceptionally popular, and priority is given to finalists.

## Decorating the Christmas Tree

You may have noticed that the Christmas Tree in Leech Hall is looking a little sparse. This is because on Wednesday 4th, students are invited to decorate the Christmas Tree with your own decorations. These can be added to the tree from 5pm (formal place/dress code not required.) If you are looking for an ornament, I would definitely recommend making the most of the local Christmas market on this afternoon and picking one up - festivity and supporting local businesses in one!

### Welfare Support this week:

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



## Trustee Meeting - what?

What is a trustee meeting? Well, the SJCR is a charity, which means it is legally required to have a trustee board. This is made up of student trustees on the Exec (Joe, Connor, Bhawesh, Augustine, Richard) and external trustees who have a range of business experience and help guide the SJCR. The meetings happen twice to three times a term and are closed, but you are welcome to ask any of the Trustees about their role and what they do! We hope to have some more information about this on the website soon.



# MICHAELMAS III

**MICHAELMAS III IS TAKING PLACE ON MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER IN LEECH HALL AT 7PM. IT IS THE LAST MEETING OF THE TERM SO WE'D LOVE TO SEE MANY OF YOU THERE!**

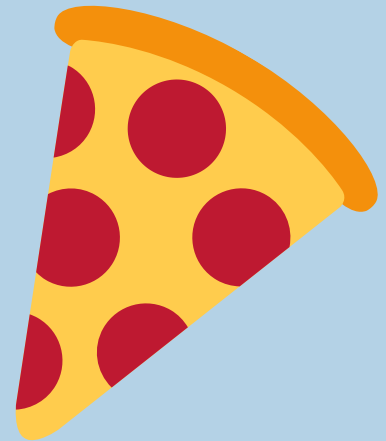
## **Motions:**

**SUBMIT ANY MOTIONS BY DECEMBER 3RD IN THE FORMAT OF THE MOTION SUBMISSION FORM**

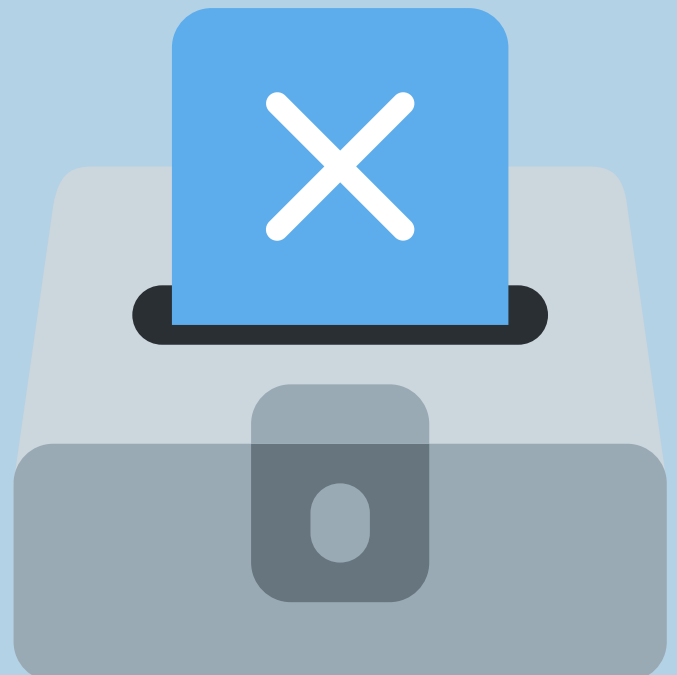
## **Elections:**

- **SUComm Member x4**
- **DUCKling x3**
- **People of Colour Representative**

**ALL POSITIONS ARE NON-MANIFESTO**



**In the spirit of democracy: make sure you check your post if you're expecting a postal vote, and get it in the post!**





# this week with your exec.

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



SCAN ME



You can ask Alice  
any questions  
about the strike.  
She also did her  
hust to be an NUS  
delegate on  
Monday.



Carla helped to coordinate the Wall  
Street the bar event on Friday.



Augustine also  
husted to be an NUS  
delegate on Monday

If anyone is interested in  
running for an Exec role for  
2020-2021, please get in touch  
with the Exec member who  
currently holds the role you're  
interested in so they can talk to  
you about it!



Joe has been working in the  
alumni office (as he does every  
week as part of his role in  
college!) and has been creating a  
Directory of roles within the  
SJCR Exec for College purposes

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