

St Edmund's College

University of Cambridge

Alumni E-News: January 2025

Happy New Year !

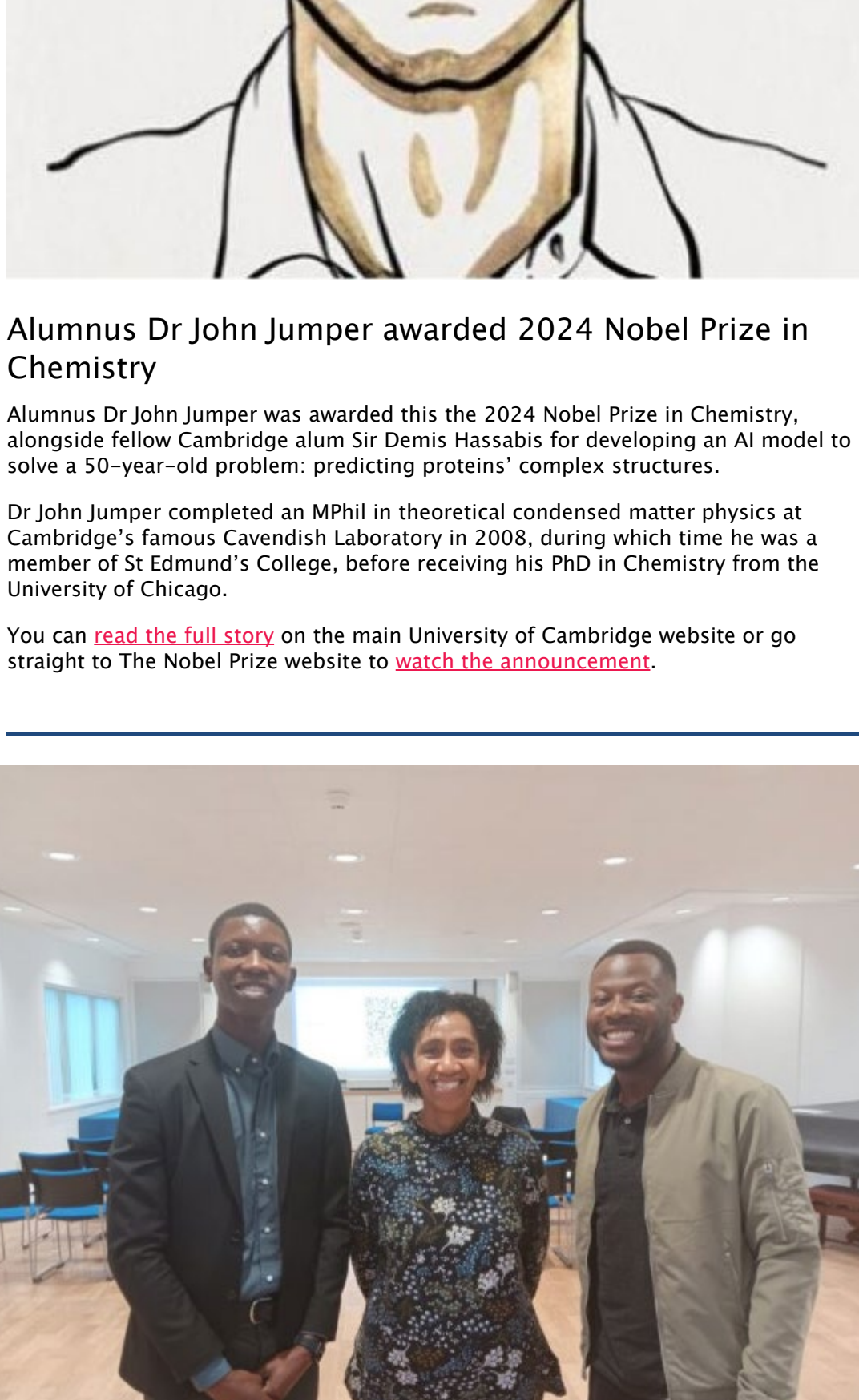
I hope you will enjoy reading about the first Nobel Prize won by a St Edmund's alumnus, how St Edmund's commemorated Black History Month, our lecture from the Director of the Vatican Observatory, and more besides. It's been a busy few months with lots to celebrate!

There are also some events coming up and we look forward to seeing many of you there. As ever, if you're keen to get involved or host an event, [get in touch](#).

Yours,

William

Interim Development Officer



Alumnus Dr John Jumper awarded 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Alumnus Dr John Jumper was awarded this the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, alongside fellow Cambridge alum Sir Demis Hassabis for developing an AI model to solve a 50-year-old problem: predicting proteins' complex structures.

Dr John Jumper completed an MPhil in theoretical condensed matter physics at Cambridge's famous Cavendish Laboratory in 2008, during which time he was a member of St Edmund's College, before receiving his PhD in Chemistry from the University of Chicago.

You can [read the full story](#) on the main University of Cambridge website or go straight to The Nobel Prize website to [watch the announcement](#).



St Edmund's College Celebrates Black History Month

October 1st 2024 marked the start of Black History Month and to celebrate, St Edmund's hosted a panel discussion on 16 October 2024 in the Garden Room, to honour the resilience, achievements and cultural contributions of St Edmund's black community and the wider black community.

Chaired by our Director of Wellbeing, Dr Nyobile Msomi, we welcomed guest speakers Godspower Major (m. 2023, [left](#)), [Dr Rafia Al-Lamki](#) ([centre](#)), and Ebenezer Ademisoje (m. 2005, [right](#)) to join us in discussing this year's Black History Month theme, 'Reclaiming Narratives' and what that means for black excellence, health and wellness.

Thank you to all who attended and participated in the Q&A session afterwards.



The 2024 Von Hügel Lecture delivered by Br Guy Consolmagno, SJ: 'Why Do We Look Up? : An Astronomer's Reflection on the Universe and the Call to Study It'

On Wednesday, 20 November, the Von Hügel Institute for Critical Catholic Inquiry hosted its annual Von Hügel Lecture, featuring Br Guy Consolmagno, SJ.

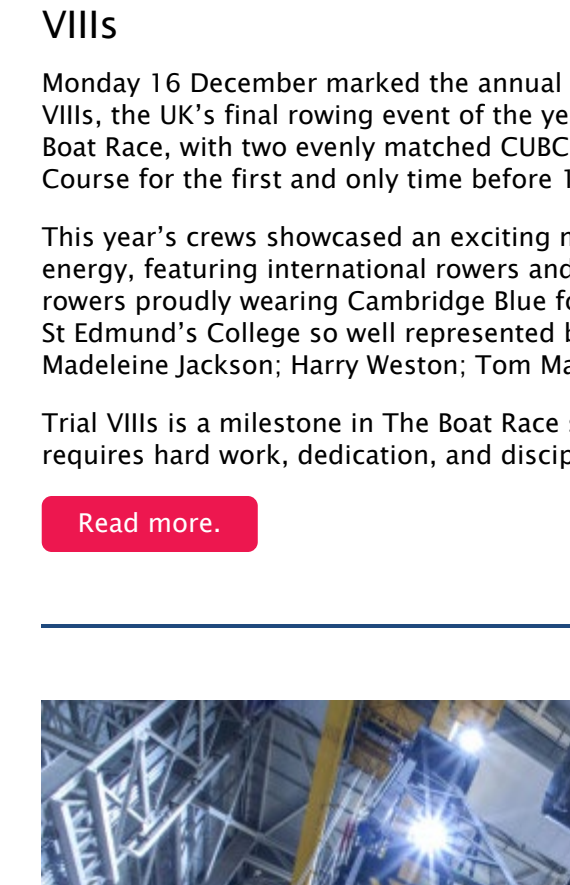
Br Guy is the Director of the [Vatican Observatory](#), and is known internationally for inspiring audiences into a deeper appreciation of the multiple, interrelated ways in which human beings are drawn to study the cosmos of which we are part.

The lecture took place in front of an audience of scholars, students, and members of the general public, from Cambridge and beyond. Br Guy told stories of astronomical discovery and cosmological pioneers, particularly highlighting the legacy of Msgr Georges Lemaitre, and reflecting deeply on the question of why humans continue to study the heavens.

This year, the Von Hügel Lecture celebrated the centenary of Lemaitre's 1924 tenure at St Edmund's House. While at St Edmund's House—now St Edmund's College—Lemaitre carried out some of the foundational work that led to what later came to be known as the 'Big Bang' theory. This lecture celebrated the interplay between science and faith, and how interdisciplinary study is a key ingredient for discovery.

Further coverage of Br Guy's significant work at the Vatican Observatory, that also includes a reference to the Von Hügel lecture, can be found [here](#): <https://www.thetimes.com/article/c306a6b1-4de4-4258-a647-bd95a878bddf>.

A recording of the lecture is available on the Von Hügel Institute's [YouTube Channel](#).



Launch of new Eddies boat

On Monday 18 November, St Edmund's College was pleased to celebrate the launch of a new boat to add to the College's Boat Club fleet. The boat, a Janousek eight, was named 'Andy Harter' at a ceremony attended by the Master, Professor Chris Young and the Boat Club President, Kathy Begley together with other members of the College and guests.

The boat purchase was made possible by a generous matched donation from Fellow Commoner Lily Bacon. A new set of oars were provided by kind donations from Fellows and Alumni. After a brief naming ceremony, members of the Boat Club put the boat on the water for the first time and rowed past to loud cheers from the bank. Good luck to 'Andy' and all who row in her!



Recent grads shine at the international Geneva Challenge

Congratulations to recent graduates [Cynthia Ugwu](#) and [Simiso Shabangu](#) for winning second prize at the prestigious Geneva Prize 2024.

The Challenge, which is also known as the Advancing Development Goals International Contest, is a global competition that invites Master's students to propose innovative solutions to a specific and relevant international development problem. It is organised by the [Geneva Graduate Institute](#).

At Cambridge, Cynthia did an MPhil in Criminological Research, and Simiso studied for an MPhil in Development Studies.

Their entry was called Project REACH, which addressed this year's theme on 'The Challenges of Youth Empowerment' by aiming to improve educational access for youth in Internally Displaced Persons' camps.

A wonderful example of how members of our community are shaping the future.

Read the [full story on the Cambridge website](#)



Eddies rowers play their part in the 2024 Cambridge Trial Vllls

Monday 16 December marked the annual Cambridge Trial Vllls race in London. Trial Vllls, the UK's final rowing event of the year, serves as a dress rehearsal for The Boat Race, with two evenly matched CUBC crews rowing the full Championship Course for the first and only time before 12-13 April 2025.

This year's crews showcased an exciting mix of seasoned experience and youthful energy, featuring international rowers and returning Blues alongside many college rowers proudly wearing Cambridge Blue for the first time. We were delighted to see St Edmund's College so well represented by our students: Annie Wertheimer; Madeleine Jackson; Harry Weston; Tom Macky; Matt Heywood and Douwe de Graaf.

Trial Vllls is a milestone in The Boat Race selection process, and reaching this stage requires hard work, dedication, and discipline. Well done to all our Eddies' students.

[Read more.](#)



St Edmund's alumnus leads exoplanet iLocator project awarded \$4.3m in research grants

Jointly led by Ohio State and The University of Notre Dame, the iLocator team was recently awarded a pair of grants that will significantly bolster iLocator's planned scientific capabilities: a \$2.7 million award from the National Science Foundation's Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI) as well as \$1.6 million from NASA's Astrophysics Research and Analysis (APRA) program.

[Dr Jonathan Crass](#) (m. 2010), the co-principal investigator of the iLocator program and the instrument scientist in the Imaging Science Laboratory at Ohio State, said "We want to build new instruments with new technology so we can push the boundaries of science."

[Read more.](#)



Alumna Alexandra Grigore wins Gates Cambridge Impact Prize 2025

We're delighted to announce that alumna Alexandra Grigore (2012, PhD Nanotechnology) has won a highly prestigious Gates Cambridge Impact Prize 2025.

Alexandra Grigore is the Chief Strategy Officer and Co-Founder of Simprints, the world's first open-source biometric ID platform with privacy at its core.

The Gates Cambridge Scholarship was set up in 2000 following an historic donation from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Since 2001 2,156 scholars have been selected, representing 112 different countries.

The eight winners of the Impact Prize include current scholars and alumni. They will receive £5,000 each and be invited to participate in our 2025 anniversary events. To learn more about Alex and the other winners, go to the [Impact Prize 2025 webpage](#).

College welcomes new Fellow Benefactor

St Edmund's College's newest Fellow Benefactor, Jeffrey Wei Liu, has made a generous gift to the College to support its ambitious estate development plans. Mr Liu was elected as a Fellow Benefactor at a meeting of the Governing Body in September 2024 and will be formally admitted to the role in a ceremony this spring.

[Read more.](#)



Alumni Events



Book now: Alumni Society Drinks – Davy's Wine Bar

The St Edmund's Alumni Society are delighted to invite you to join them for the annual winter get-together in London on 27 February 2024.

This ever popular alumni event is the perfect opportunity to meet and chat with St Edmund's alumni in a relaxed and informal atmosphere whilst enjoying fantastic wine and delicious nibbles. Meet up with old friends, make new connections, and share a drink with the Master Prof Chris Young.

Tickets are just £10.00 per person (Alumni & Guests), subsidised by the Alumni Society, and as always partners and friends are more than welcome to attend.

The event will be hosted at [Davy's at St. James](#) and should once again be a fantastic evening.

[Register now!](#)

Save the Date: St Edmund's in Dublin

The Master and Development Director will be in Dublin between 18 and 21 February 2025 visiting alumni and supporters. If you're in the area or traveling to the city and want to catch up with Kate or Chris, mark your calendars and send an email to development@st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk to let us know!

We'll be arranging an informal drop-in event at a suitable venue in the city so keep an eye out for more information!

Save the Date: Alumni Guest Night – 28 March 2025

Tickets for the Alumni Guest Night on 28 March 2025 will go on sale on at the end of this month. Save the date and get a group of friends together!

Guest nights in College are one of the best ways to reunite with old friends and meet other alumni, and share the unique experience of an Eddies formal hall with your friends and family.

Tickets are generously subsidised by the St Edmund's College Alumni Society.

Interested in hosting an event?

If you're interested in hosting an event, traveling to somewhere new and want to meet up with your fellow Eddies, or want to become a regional representative for the Alumni Society, we want to hear from you!

[Email us!](#)

Support Us



The St Edmund's you know and love, from the fabric of the buildings you've lived and worked in, to the books in the Library, the food in Hall, the punts on the river, and so many other aspects of the student experience would not exist without the generosity of our supporters.

[Donate Now.](#)

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