



St John's College JCR

HT26, GM4 Minutes

Monday 9 March 2026

jcr-secretary@sjc.ox.ac.uk

1. Minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes available [here](#). All motions from the previous meeting passed.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

3. Reports from the Officers

President (Jerome): Garden Party is being planned. Please fill out AI form—there's been good uptake but we could have more. Exams next term, so College IT will run a drop-in relating to IT use for exams. Access drop-in had good uptake, reminder emails have been sent about that if you want to sign up.

Vice-President (Ruth): Had Room and Housing Ballots, which went fairly well. Ended up withholding Rural Economy from the JCR as it wasn't needed; it will go to the MCR instead.

Secretary (Mia): Not much, just more emails. Standing Policy items 14–17 expired on 8 March. [Expired Standing Policy can be viewed [here](#).]

Treasurer (Andras): Inspired by other JCRs, want to give update on finances (for Financial Motions Budget and Kendrew Arts Fund). Currently okay for KAF (Around 10% of possible funding has been spent). For FMB, we have less remaining than is needed for today's

motions, so they will need to be cut down a little. Want to fund things that will benefit the JCR at large.

Jerome: Looking at eligibility criteria for accessing funding (e.g., how many people will the funding benefit).

Andras: Sorting out punt club, should get punt cards soon.

Academic Affairs (Maxim): Alumni talk on publishing went well. Attended Educational Policy Committee, which went well. Writing report on the academic feedback form.

Access and Admissions (Inaya): (Not present at the meeting.)

Arts (Naomi): Doing Arts Week report for College's Communications Office.

Charities (Euan): Nominations for charity levy went out today: please fill out form!

Domestic Officers: Everything is going well, last guest dinner has been done. Food forum went well.

Entz: Most recent Bop went well. Trying to change things to reduce external guests to stop annoying porters and other College staff.

Environment and Ethics (Isaac): Oxford City Farm work experience next term. Trashing materials for Mods will be made available tomorrow [Tuesday 10 March].

Equality and Diversity (Lia): BAME Society tea and traitors event. LGBTQ+ event went well.

IT (Fred): Everything on the website being updated (minutes, financial motions, etc.). Still missing some Officer intros. IT loan scheme running well, but currently all laptops are on loan.

Publicity (Sam): Not much really, just continued publicising. Instagram account is there for JCR members to use for publicity. Might slightly relax policy on not publicising external events—need to have discussions about what exactly the policy should be.

Sports (Emily): Meeting with Fellow for Sports about dinner. Sidney Sussex exchange in the works.

Welfare: Welfare events have been popular and have run well. Might ask for more spaces next term as MCR aren't using all of their allowance. Easter egg hunt on Wednesday 11 March.

Women*s (Leanne): Everything's been going well.

Returning Officer (Alex): Nothing to report.

4. Ratifications

The following members nominated themselves:

- Welfare Rep: Uma Abbas and Abi Harrington
- Ethnic Minorities Rep: Lisa Okunwague Blessing
- Women's Rep: Lisa Okunwague Blessing

No objections were heard, so all Rep roles were ratified.

5. Agenda items

A. The “*Help Fund St John’s Muslim Society*” Financial Motion

Proposer: Mahnoor Kamran

Seconded: Dina Anakar Rhailoul

This JCR notes that:

- a. There is a growing Muslim population at St John’s College who should have a safe and welcoming space to practice and deepen their faith.
- b. Establishing a Muslim Society can begin to confirm the status and inclusion of Muslim students in College.
- c. Events for Muslim students in College can bring together both Muslim and non-Muslim students to further benefit mutual education.
- d. A previous event organised by Muslims at St John’s saw strong attendance with positive feedback, demonstrating our clear demand.
- e. Community, food and worship are central to the Islamic faith, and therefore, this funding can allow St John’s students to comfortably practice their faith.
- f. The Society can work alongside existing John’s societies to accelerate impact and reach, and to ensure inclusivity in College-based events.
- g. A Society can generate a space for dialogue, particularly around the College’s welfare and inclusion efforts.
- h. As Eid al-Adha approaches next term, the Muslim Society can utilise funds to host an Eid celebration in College.

This JCR believes that:

- i. Funding the Muslim Society here in college strongly aligns with the JCR’s commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion by recognising and materially supporting the religious and cultural needs of Muslim students, many of whom are JCR members.

- j. Community and religious spaces and events foster belonging, wellbeing, and solidarity, particularly during an academically demanding term, and contribute to a more cohesive and compassionate college environment.
- k. JCR funding should be used to support initiatives that directly enhance student welfare and promote inclusive community-building.
- l. This is an excellent academic educational opportunity, one where members of the JCR can further enquire about Islam
- m. The project will struggle for funds without the JCR's support, as the central University Islamic Society does not have the funds to fund individual or college-based societies.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- n. To provide a grant of £200 to support "Help Fund St John's Muslim Society" from the Financial Motions Budget, with funds contributing towards food, logistical arrangements and religious events.

Mahnoor: We don't currently have a specific John's Muslim group. Been in touch with Lia to discuss Eid dinners. Had event last term, which went well.

Jerome: Can the University-wide society help with funding?

Mahnoor: No external funding sources are currently available.

Jerome: What events are you planning?

Mahnoor: Considering alumni workshops, educational events about Islam, and food-related events.

Andras: Friendly amend from £250 to £200.

Ruth: What kind of logistical arrangements might this be going towards?

Mahnoor: Only things like plates, cutlery, etc.

Ruth: What are your long-term funding plans?

Dina: Going to continue to search for funding and will hopefully get some external funding at some point.

B. The “Easter Celebration Reimbursement” Financial Motion

Proposer: Julia Marshall

Seconded: Leanne Mabena

This JCR notes that:

- a. St John’s College Christian Union recently hosted an Easter Celebration event for members of the college community.
- b. The event provided an opportunity for students to socialise, have fun, and reflect on the meaning of Easter from a Christian perspective in an open and welcoming environment.
- c. The event was open to all members of the college and included food, activities, and opportunities for discussion.
- d. A significant portion of the catering was sourced locally, including substantial expenditure at Najars, a local food store in Oxford, thereby supporting small businesses.
- e. Hosting the Easter Celebration involved considerable upfront costs for food, materials, and logistics, which were covered by the society.
- f. The Christian Union is an active society within college, regularly running events such as Saturday brunch, Bible study, and “Cookies and Colouring” on Sundays, which contribute to ongoing welfare and community-building within college.

This JCR believes that:

- g. The Easter Celebration was a positive and well-attended event that contributed meaningfully to college life by fostering community, friendship, and open discussion.
- h. The event was inclusive and open to all students, regardless of faith background, and provided a welcoming social space within college.
- i. Reimbursing part of the costs aligns with the JCR’s aim of supporting welfare, inclusivity, and vibrant student-led initiatives within St John’s.
- j. Providing financial support will help ensure that societies are not financially disadvantaged for organising large-scale events that benefit the wider college community.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- k. Allocate £200 from the Financial Motions Budget to the St John’s College Christian Union as reimbursement for costs incurred in hosting the Easter Celebration event, including catering and related expenses.

[SJC Christian Union is associated with [Oxford Inter-Collegiate Christian Union](#), who follow the [UCCF Doctrinal Basis](#).]

Leanne: Want to get some money back for what was spent on food. Want to celebrate Easter and have slightly larger Easter social event in College.

Jerome: Is any University-wide funding available?

Leanne: OICCU do contribute, but it's difficult for larger events like this and St John's-specific ones. (Applied for OICCU funding for this and got rejected.)

(Correction from **Julia** after meeting: "This is not wholly accurate as we have not yet applied to OICCU for funding. We are seeking JCR funding because this event was aimed at Johns students only, and because we believe Johns has a well-resourced JCR which is able to support its own college-based societies. We believe OICCU's resources should be directed towards colleges with lower JCR budgets who are not able to offer as much financial support to their own college societies.")

Andras: Friendly amend from £250 to £200.

Leanne: Already in debt a bit so not ideal, but accepted.

Ruth: What's the exact cost?

Leanne: Yet to calculate as costs of Bibles, Najar's and desserts were split, but estimate around £300.

C. The "Support for the OURFC Tour to Hong Kong and Laos" Financial Motion

Proposer: Melissa Morley

Seconded: Kate Mitchell

This JCR notes that:

- a. The Oxford University Rugby Football Club (OURFC) has a proud history of international tours.
- b. In April 2026, OURFC's Women*'s Blues will embark on a tour to Hong Kong and Laos, competing in the Hong Kong 10s Women's Invitational, an 8 team tournament against professional and semi-professional competition.
- c. The tour will include cultural and educational activities and community outreach within the developing rugby nation of Laos, through [ChildFund](#)'s Pass It Back scheme, endorsed by World Rugby. This uses rugby as a vehicle for positive impact.

- d. OURFC represents the pinnacle of student sport at Oxford, bringing together many of the University's top sportsmen and women. Mel and Kate's selection as well as their success in last weekend's Varsity Match reflects the exceptional standard of sporting excellence within St John's College.
- e. OURFC tours are made possible by external sponsorship and college support, ensuring that no student is excluded due to financial concerns.
- f. The estimated cost per player is currently just under £1000, a substantial amount for a student to fund individually.

This JCR believes that:

- g. No student should be excluded from representing Oxford internationally due to financial hardship.
- h. Both Mel and Kate are dedicated members of the OURFC Blues, contributing significantly both on and off the field, and have been heavily involved in increasing the reach of Women's rugby across the university and more specifically, in the college.
- i. Supporting Oxford's sporting endeavours promotes inclusivity, team cohesion, and the university's international reputation.
- j. The OURFC Hong Kong and Laos tour represents an important opportunity for sporting, cultural, and charitable exchange between Oxford and these countries.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- k. To donate £200 from the Financial Motions Budget towards supporting the OURFC 2026 tour to Hong Kong and Laos.

[Information about OURFC is listed [here](#).]

Mel: Prestigious tournament and is quite costly. Will probably cost about 1k each but only asking for £150 each. The Laos part of the tour is more outreach than competition—women's rugby is underrepresented around the world and want to give back to the sport.

Andras: Friendly amend from £300 to £150?

Mel: Would prefer to reject—it wouldn't be enough.

Ruth: Can the Blues Grant?

Mel: It's been used for funding club-related things, Varsity things, and injury rehab. All of it has been used already.

Ruth: Will this money be pooled (i.e., not only being used for St John's members)?

Mel: Yes, but others are going to their JCRs, so this amount should hopefully roughly go to us.

Andras: Friendly amend from £300 to £200.

Mel: Accepted.

D. The “Fund an SJC Ball Committee Formal Dinner to Thank the Committee” Financial Motion

Proposer: Karina Oakley

Seconded: Gui Lopes

This JCR notes that:

- a. The SJC Commemoration Ball, a completely student organised event for 1800 attendees, is happening this summer.
- b. This is one of the most important and exciting events in college!
- c. Being a part of this Ball Committee is a huge amount of work, and is completely voluntary.
- d. The Ball President (Karina Oakley) cannot afford to pay out of her own pocket to thank all of her committee members but really wants to take them to a formal dinner!

This JCR believes that:

- e. All the students on committee (all of whom are St John's students) deserve a massive thank you for all of their hard work in planning this event!

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- f. Give £160* to fund a formal dinner for the 27 committee members from the Financial Motions Budget.

(*see discussion)

Karina: The Ball is a very large event and requires a lot of planning. Most on the Ball Committee are JCR members (only a few are MCR members). Would like to thank committee members but can't do it all from own money.

Andras: Are the MCR being asked for funding as well?

Karina: Not yet but they will be.

Tom Henderson: Does the Committee not get free Ball tickets?

Karina: Kind of, but everyone will be working on the night so it's not really a free ticket. Might get free tickets for the next ball, but it is up to that future Committee and may not happen, so would like to thank Committee members now.

Fred: Is £200 necessary for the cost of the formal?

Karina: Would also like to buy wine.

Andras: Friendly amend from £200 to £160. (Disclosed that he personally is on the Ball Committee).

Mel: Unlikely that all Committee members will turn up to the formal, so it will probably cost less than anticipated.

Andras: Friendly amend down from £160 to cover the cost of however many people turn up to the formal if it's less than £160 at point of reimbursement.

E. The “*Teddy Hall relay (coppers) John’s team*” Financial Motion

Proposer: Naryani Costa Jafrate

Seconded: Emma Boaler

This JCR notes that:

- a. We're putting forward a John's relay team to represent the college in the Teddy Hall Relays this Wednesday. The team is made up entirely of JCR members.

This JCR believes that:

- b. The team is made up entirely of JCR members. We don't have an established team so this could be the start of one. And, since we didn't establish this when the sports budget was being agreed on at the start of the year, we're asking the JCR to fund our team instead - otherwise, the team relies on members to pay the fee to race, which not everyone is able to. This makes it more accessible for everyone who wants to compete!

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- c. Give £44 to the John's relay team from the Financial Motions Budget. This purely covers cost of entry for the race.

[Teddy Hall Relays is organised by Oxford University Cross Country Club.]

Naryani: The team is made up entirely of JCR members. Just want to be reimbursed for the fee to enter the race.

6. Any other business

None.