

TRUE COMPANIONSHIP: SOLITUDE AND BELONGING



OXFORD CONVERGENCE 2025

29 - 30 MARCH

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE OXFORD OX1 3JP

FREE EVENT OPEN TO ALL

For immediate release

Oxford Convergence 2025: "True Companionship – Solitude and Belonging"
March 29-30, 2025 | Corpus Christi College, Oxford
Free and Open to Everyone



Oxford, UK – The second edition of Convergence, a cultural initiative fostering dialogue among people from diverse backgrounds, is set to take place **on March 29-30, 2025, at Corpus Christi College in Oxford.**

With the theme *True Companionship: Solitude and Belonging*, Convergence 2025 addresses one of the most pressing issues of our time: the epidemic of loneliness permeating modern society.

A recent study by The Guardian revealed a significant "happiness recession" in Europe, with the UK ranking lowest in life satisfaction among teenagers. This year's event aims to explore the roots of this phenomenon and its far-reaching effects on individuals and communities.

Convergence 2025 invites participants to reflect on questions of companionship and belonging in a polarised world. Cardinal Pizzaballa, echoing Rabbi Abraham Heschel, recently called for the recognition of others as part of our shared human journey, a message central to this year's discussions. **The two-day event will delve into how loneliness shapes experiences** of climate change, economic inequality, and mental health, while uncovering paths toward meaningful connection.

Through panels, free exhibitions, and collaborative dialogues, Convergence creates a unique space where diverse perspectives can converge into shared understanding.

Key Panels and Discussions

- **"Nothing in this world is indifferent to us: the quest of an integral ecology"** – A discussion on the climate crisis with **Prof. Rosalind Cornforth, Prof. Sir Brian Hoskins, and Dr. Ben Wilson.**
- **"It is not good that the man should be alone"** – A panel on loneliness and companionship in the Bible with **Prof. John Barton, Prof. Walter Moberly, and Prof. Ignacio Carbajosa.**
- **"Sharing decisions in the context of suffering and dying"** – A dialogue on personhood and end-of-life care with **Prof. Paquita de Zulueta, Dr. Caesar Atuire, and Jillian Hayes.**
- **"Changing everyday life to change the economy"** – A discussion on creating a more inclusive economy with **Lord John Bird and Prof Valentina Rotondi.**
- **"Loneliness in a time of hopelessness"** – Mental health professionals **Dr. Martin O'Sullivan, Dr. Alec Pembleton, and Dr. Giovanna Moretto** explore loneliness and the hope found in relationships.
- **A discussion with photographer Gregory Halpern** – Exploring his evocative images that reveal quiet connections between solitude and belonging.

Free Exhibitions and Live Piano Concert

- Exhibition: **The life and legacy of Cicely Saunders** – Showcasing the pioneering founder of modern palliative care.
- Exhibition: **Reality, the first companion** – A journey through scientific discoveries that deepen the mystery and wonder of our world.
- **"...Silent Music, Sonorous Solitude..."** – A lecture-recital on composers Liszt, Mompou, Górecki, and Pärt, whose works transformed modern music through contemplation and faith.

For more information, visit www.convergenceuk.org
Press contact: info@convergenceuk.org