

In 1936, a young English tutor, Kirstie Morrison moved into the upstairs flat at 12 Norham Rd. The names of many of those who shaped IofC in Britain appear in her visitors' book.

In 1970, she bought the whole house.

When she died in 1998, she left it to IofC UK.



In 1975, Kirstie invited Charis Waddy, a longtime IofC worker passionate about building understanding of Islam in the West, to share her home.





A student visitor in the 1970s recalls 'a happy and life-enhancing encounter with two bright-eyed, sharp-witted women with an appetite for conversation'.

A lunch guest recalls Kirstie's opening gambit: 'If you opened a newspaper and found a headline about yourself, what would you like it to say?' Her own answer was, 'Aged don in daring child rescue.'





**Angela Elliott came to Oxford to train as a nurse in 1973.**

Kirstie's flat was a welcoming, warm spot for me and my friends, as we wrestled with the ethical dilemmas that confront those who work in health care.



## **Angela:**

Kirstie, no longer young herself, had a genuine love of younger folk; a store of wisdom that never descended into preachiness or moralizing; and an enthusiasm for life that made visits to her home energizing and fun.

**Angela:**

I was in awe of two such remarkably gifted women making themselves and their home accessible to nursing students; none of us were studying at the university, and yet they never made us feel in any way their intellectual inferiors.



In 1980, Kirstie and Charis moved into the downstairs flat.

In 1993, Peter, Su and Gracie Riddell moved into the upstairs flat. Francis was born not long after.





After living in a block of flats, Gracie, aged 4, was delighted with the garden.





When she said she would like a swing, Kirstie's reply was robust: 'Of course Gracie must have a swing!'





Su's father and  
nephew building  
the bike shed

In the early 2000s, after Kirstie died and Charis moved into care, the basement was converted into an IofC office.

Jit Mun Chung, from Singapore, was one of the first to work there – creating IofC's first website.







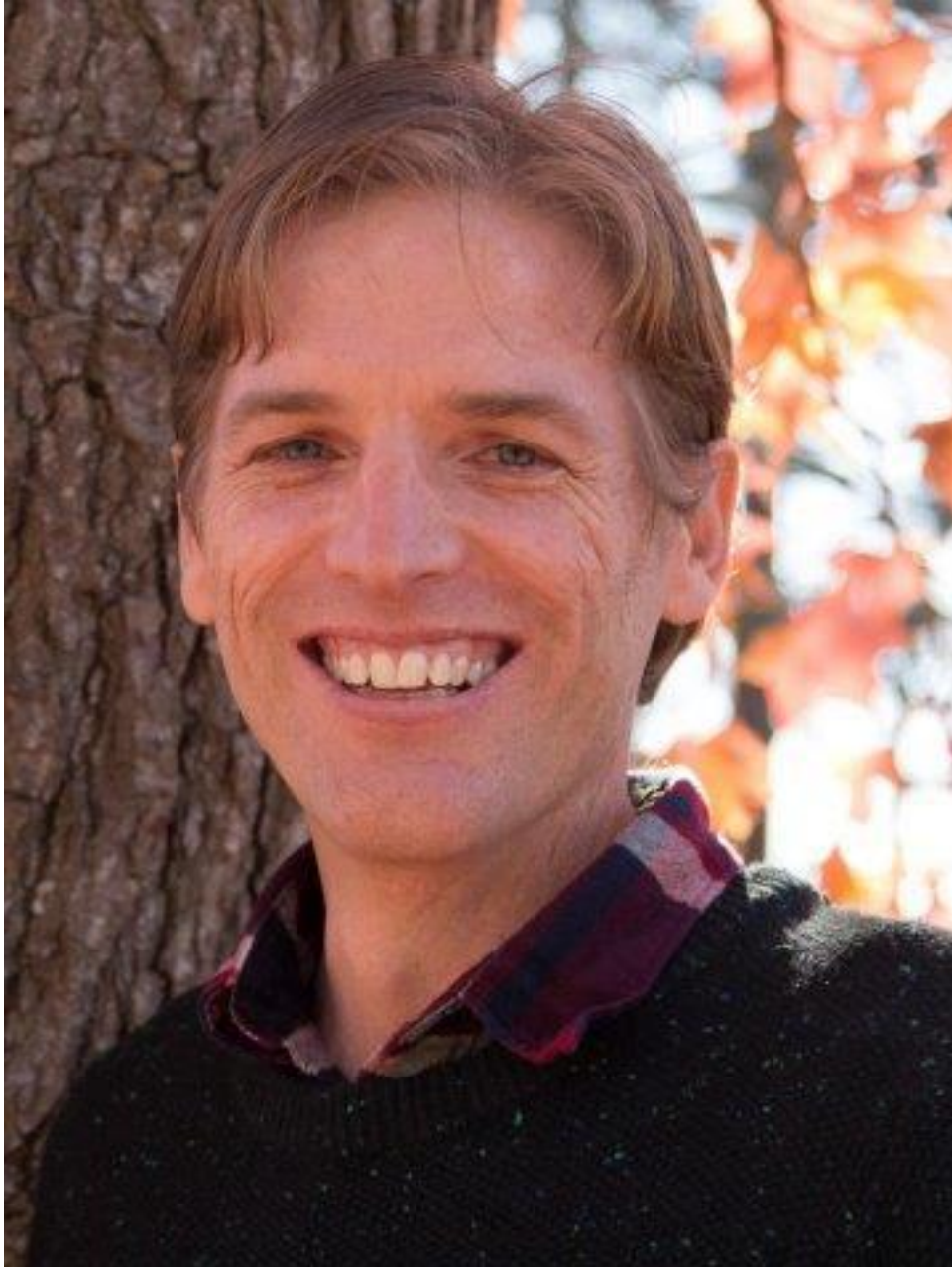
**Jit Mun writes:**

I will always cherish the lessons and warmth I experienced in Oxford. I remember the weekly lunchtime Bible studies and prayers, meals at people's homes, and cycling around Oxford – often in cold and sometimes wet weather.



Being welcomed into your home has meant more than words can fully express. Your support, patience and hospitality created a warm and safe environment that allowed me to grow.





**Nigel Heywood from Australia lived at 12 Norham Rd in the early 2000s, working on IofC's youth magazine, Global Express**

He remembers:

- Bible studies on the historical Jesus, where Leslie Marsh implored us all to think a little harder about what we were reading

## **Nigel remembers:**

- The amazing bathtub I soaked myself in during the winter (and once after falling off my bike);
- Jit Mun cooking five-star feasts;
- Peter and Su Riddell taking care of us from upstairs and their little dog getting slightly more mad as it aged.



**Nigel:**

Norham allowed us to grow in our life-journey as we took part in IofC's work. So many wonderful people passed through, and so many locals cared for us. The house was a space to make our own, a hub for friendship and community.





**Killy Sanchez, from Guatemala, arrived in Oxford in September 2004**

Our first morning living in Norham Road. It was my birthday.

Fiona just had met me but she knew about my birthday and woke up earlier and prepared a very nice breakfast for me! She was so caring from the very beginning!





**Alex Martins came to work  
on the Caux conferences**

I always thought the single bud in the middle of the garden was a symbol of sticking to one's values, no matter which way the 'crowd' goes.



**Others who lived or worked in the downstairs flat over the next 20 years included:**

Chris Lancaster (Australia)

Fiona Leggat (UK/ New Zealand)

Eve Wojciechowska (Canada)

Laura Boobyer (UK)

Christine Cross (Switzerland)

Angela Staravoytova (Ukraine)

Rob Lancaster (Australia)

Ashley Muller (Canada)

Miranda Shaw (UK)

Elizabeth Laskar (UK)

Bekie Chan (Hong Kong)



Lunch under the  
apple tree, with  
the Creators of  
Peace advisory  
group





Encounters















Cooking together





Eating together





Celebrating together





New arrivals from Hong Kong share food from home

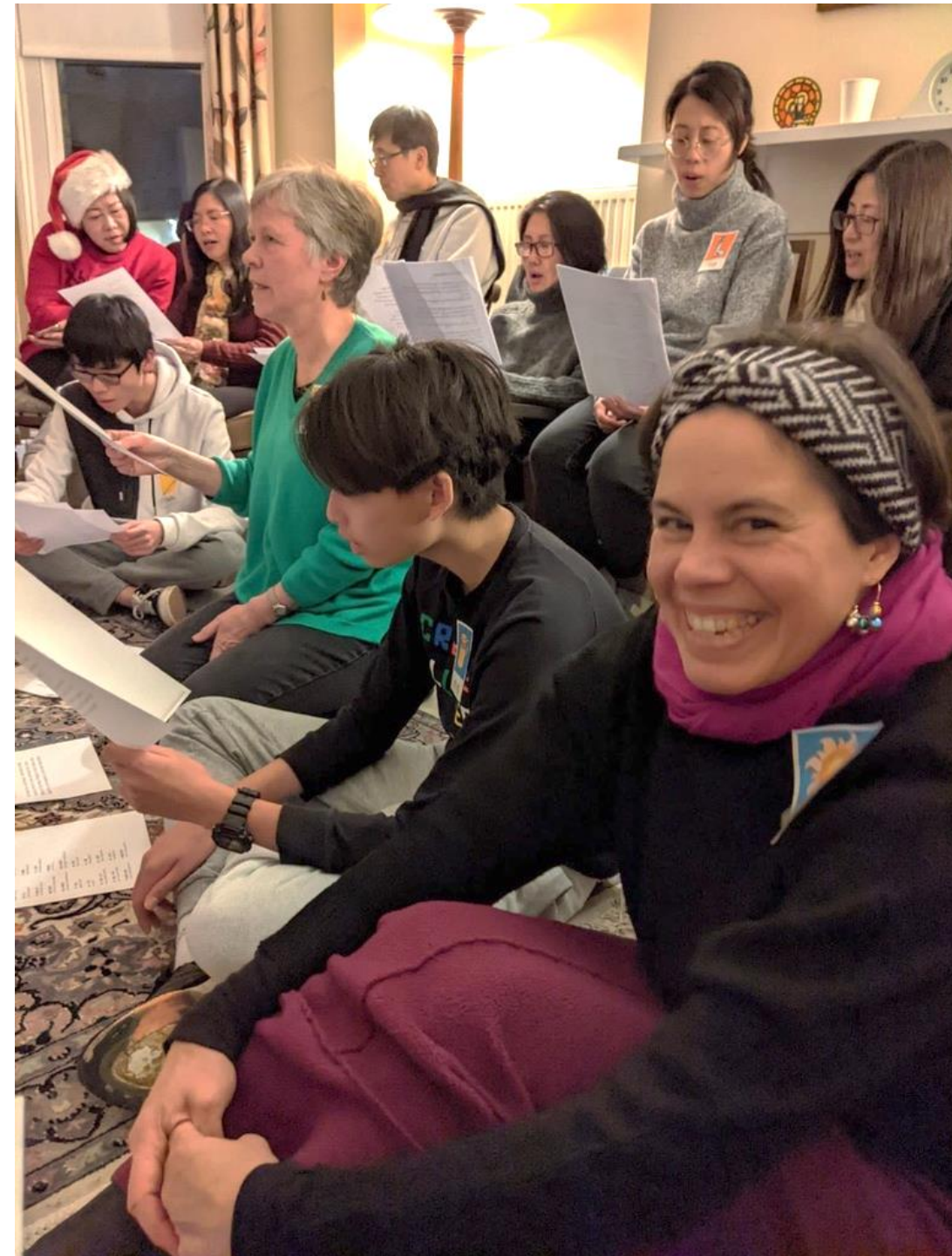




The annual Christmas party: carols around a real Christmas tree, games and a carbohydrate-laden tea



People told us they appreciated the message of hope that IofC offers and enjoyed an old-fashioned, alcohol-free occasion, with all faiths able to join in.





Creators of Peace Circles





and facilitators' training













El and Miranda planning









Never thinking  
the world is  
far away, but  
liable to walk  
through our  
doors at any  
time







Craft sessions  
where  
concentrated quiet  
replaced chatter,  
as busy fingers  
moved







Reflective events:  
Oasis evenings,  
Painting from Within,  
retreats – sparks of  
inspiration or  
liberation emerging  
from sitting in  
silence waiting for  
the inner voice





Times  
where the  
quality of  
listening felt  
like a deep,  
warm  
blanket  
around us





**Su:**

My hope is that we take away with us the ability to connect – with our God, our most genuine selves and the needs of the wider world around us. We don't need a house to do that.





We only need to step  
into moments of  
silent, inner listening,  
reconnect our  
integrity, and step  
back out to greet the  
world.