

# Endorsements

## Richard Everett (2017):

As a playwright and script writer, a few years ago I was invited to be a Visiting Fellow to St John's College working with the Cranmer Hall students on the essential role of the imagination in the journey of faith. It was an inspiring time for me during which the Ruth Etchells Fellowship enabled me to give performances, hold seminars and workshops and develop a number of fruitful relationships with the students which continue to this day. The place of the arts and creativity are an indispensable part of ministry, and neglected at our peril. It was a privilege to deliver the Ruth Etchells lecture addressing that subject, for which I am most grateful, most especially to Dr Gillian Boughton.

## Lizzi Kew Ross (2022)

My time as the Ruth Etchell's fellow has been 'crowded with incident' and I have enjoyed every minute of it. When I met David Wilkinson and Gillian Boughton Wilmore two years before covid moved the goal posts, they were very clear about 'presence' and being part of the community. Mealtimes have been pivotal in connecting with people and it has been a privilege and inspiration to have heard about people's lives, their hopes as well as their studies. All the staff and students have been so welcoming, and I have felt 'at home' here.

Thank you!

Usual work life for me, is mostly spent in the dance studio so to be invited to reflect read and 'be', has been a gift and I am full of gratitude. As it was exam term, student's heads were concentrated downward, so my movement workshops were part of the de stress weeks. Chatting with students after a dance themed film club evening was enlightening as was attending the launch of the St Johns academic journal and hearing papers on Medieval epic poetry and the conservative evangelical church and its relationship with Trump.

I was part of a group visiting the art archives and hearing about Salvador Dali's prints exhibited here at St Johns – it made me appreciate them more at mealtimes- and joining in choral evening song and morning prayer in both the chapel and at the cathedral after early morning runs around the beautiful river have been a constant highlight. I have become part of the Argentinian tango

community meeting at Fabios and also in Tynemouth and sea bathing before tango woke me up! Attending the fabulous fashion show at Players and attending the 175<sup>th</sup> celebrations at Hatfield on their tennis court – it has been a rich and varied life.

I have worked as a choreographer/dancer/teacher for the last forty years and in the last fourteen years I have been engaged in creating site specific dance music work for unusual spaces - libraries, galleries, underneath Waterloo Station and cathedrals. I have been particularly inspired and influenced by two artists, the poet Seamus Heaney, and the filmmaker Andrei Tarkovsky.

This last term has given me time to consider the nature of poetic images in reference to time and place in their work and in connection to my own choreographic practice. I attended a lecture at the Centre for Catholic Studies on Heaney and have met a Tarkovsky scholar in the Theology department based at St Chads, so these have been wonderful conversation partners.

My fellowship began at Eastertime with rehearsals at Dance City in Newcastle and performances of Stations of the Crossing in Durham cathedral. It ended with an exhibition and lecture at Trinity Laban in 2023 featuring my collaborative process with the video artist Mark Dean.

## Judith Stevenson (2024)

The 'Ruth Etchells Fellowship' provided me with a very valuable opportunity to further my own writing, but perhaps even more rewarding was the chance to work with undergraduates, postgraduates and (sometimes) staff on their creative writing projects. I especially enjoyed the Wednesday afternoon 'drop in' sessions, when we had the chance to do some creative writing exercises, as well as look at one another's work and offer encouragement and helpful criticism.

It was also a privilege to be part of the college community, to attend formal dinners, to re-connect with old friends and make many new ones.