

# Alumni High Table Dining Rights

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*How to book and what to expect: 2019-2020*

For many years, Alumni of the House have enjoyed a tradition of High Table 'dining rights' and all members are invited to take up this invitation from time to time. If you would like further information or to discuss returning to the House more generally, please get in touch with the Development and Alumni Office via Simon Offen: [Simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Simon.offen@chch.ox.ac.uk) 01865 286075.

## **Who can attend?**

Eligible members are those who matriculated at the House for a first degree more than seven years ago or who matriculated at the House for a second degree, diploma or certificate of the University, or as a Visiting Student, more than four years ago.

A member is not entitled to bring a guest but this can often be waived and a spouse, partner, or close colleague may be welcomed. It is not possible to bring guests under 18 years old or undergraduates from Christ Church.

If a host wishes to bring a larger number of guests to dinner it is expected that s/he consults the Steward, who will arrange for them to be signed on, in order to ensure that they can be properly accommodated.

## **When is it available?**

High Table is served most evenings during term time. In order for High Table dinner to be served there must be at least two or more people have signed on and one of these must be a current Senior Member of the House.

The upper limit is twice a term.

Alumni are advised to contact the Steward's Assistant 24 hours in advance to ensure that the service is taking place. Alumni are also warmly encouraged to contact the Development Office when visiting the House and the Development Office will endeavour to facilitate any special requests.

### ***Dates of term 2019-2020***

Michaelmas 2019	Sunday 13 October	-	Saturday 7 December
Hilary 2020	Sunday 19 January	-	Saturday 14 March
Trinity 2020	Sunday 26 April	-	Saturday 20 June

## **How to book**

Please contact the Steward's PA:

Jackie Folliard, [jacqueline.folliard@chch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jacqueline.folliard@chch.ox.ac.uk) 01865 286580

Please advise of any dietary and accessibility requirements at the earliest opportunity of booking along with any gown borrowing arrangements (gowns are required)

*Christ Church Development Office*  
[Development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Development.office@chch.ox.ac.uk)

## **On the evening**

Members should arrange to be in the Common Room by 1910 hrs. Diners assemble in the Old Common Room, via the Law Library Passage on the south side of Tom Quad. This door is unlocked by 1900 hrs.

### ***Dress Code***

Jacket and tie for gentlemen. It is the custom that guests who are members of Christ Church or those from other colleges who are members of Congregation wear an appropriate gown. If you would like to borrow a gown for the evening, please advise the Steward's PA when booking.

### ***Procedure***

Before dinner the presiding member should invite one or two guests to sit beside him or her at High Table. When invited to go up to Hall, the presiding member should lead the way followed by any guests who have been selected to join him/her.

When all those dining have assembled at High Table, the Grace is read by a junior member. The post-dinner Grace ("Benedicto Benedicatur") is said by the presiding member of High Table.

When the Dean is presiding, he leaves dinner first, otherwise the member nearest the door leads the way. If members and guests are intending to take formal dessert in the Common Room, they should take their napkins with them from High Table. Gowns are not worn after dinner at formal dessert or in the Common Room.

### ***Dessert***

Dessert: (a separate service of fruit, chocolates and dessert wines) is served after dinner in the Dodgson Room or the Freind Room (according to numbers), on week nights during term time, if four or more diners request dessert when signing on. At 'Formal' dessert, which may only take place when there is at least one full member of Common Room present, the custom is for the most senior Common Room member to preside and to organise the seating around the dessert table. The drinks decanters (containing Port, Madeira, red table wine and white dessert wine) are circulated twice and each person present would normally fill one glass on each circulation. The SCR staff can also provide soft drinks when required. Formal dessert lasts between 30 and 45 minutes and those present then retire to the Common Room where coffee and other drinks are available. Guests must not be allowed to help themselves to drink and hosts are reminded to ensure that they sign for their own drinks and those of their guests on the appropriate list.

An 'informal' dessert is also available in the Common Room on request to the SCR Butler or SCR Manager. It will be served in the Common Room immediately after dinner. If members who have not already signed up for dessert also wish to take part they should inform the SCR Butler or SCR Manager after dinner in order that this may be charged fairly among those who take part. Gowns are not worn at dessert, whether formal or informal.

## **Cost**

The cost of dinner is usually ~ £20.00 pp and guests will be invoiced and may pay by battel.