



# INNERVIEW

*Newsletter of The Inner Temple*

*Hilary 2026*

## A 2026 First



**Helen Davies KC**  
*Treasurer*



**The Rt Hon Lady Justice May DBE**  
*Reader*



**Tracy Ayling KC**  
*Reader-Elect*

# From the Treasurer

It is with a deep sense of honour and privilege that I take up the role of Treasurer of The Inner Temple for 2026, another year of firsts for the Inn. Not only am I the first female practitioner to be appointed to this office, but this year will also be the first year in which all the Principal Officers of the Inn (and indeed any of the Inns) are female. I am greatly looking forward to working with Lady Justice Juliet May and Tracy Ayling KC, as they take up their roles as Reader (Treasurer 2027) and Reader Elect (Treasurer 2028) respectively.

That the Inner Temple is able to celebrate such milestones (and the many others reflected in the displays in the Treasury building) is, of course, a testament to the Inn's core values, including, in particular, equality and inclusivity as well as a strong sense of community. These are all ideals that are facing real challenges in the current global climate and in my year in office I intend to do all that I can to ensure that the Inn's commitment to them remains firm and flourishing.

The Inn is rightly proud of the many efforts it makes to support those from under-represented groups seeking to enter, remain in, and thrive in the profession. However, it is clear that there is still much work to be done. This includes the implementation across the profession of the recommendations of the Harman Report which should help to eradicate behaviour that has no place in the modern working world. I look forward to working with COIC and the Inn's Working Party to ensure that Inner Temple's policies and approach represent best practice in this vital area.

A number of other important projects will also form a significant part of the work of the Inn this year. They include (i) the Inn's contribution to the debate on Timing of Call, where, thanks to the invaluable work of my predecessor Richard Salter KC, Bench Table has very recently approved an approach for which the Inn will endeavour to encourage broader support, (ii) the project to develop

the car park, increasing the amount of green space and improving the environment for those who work and live in the Inn, and (iii) the project to restore the West Door to Temple Church, and the broader plans for enhancement of the Church and its facilities.

Amongst my core objectives for the year is a firm commitment to continuing to foster the enduring community that defines The Inner Temple. In that connection, I will continue to ensure that all members of The Inner Temple gain as much enjoyment from their membership as we can reasonably provide, and in that context would strongly encourage in person attendance at events whenever possible. In an increasingly challenging world, strengthening human connection wherever we can has become ever more important. Under Richard's careful and committed leadership, 2025 was a notably musical year. I hope that 2026 will be a more theatrical one, including an event involving our new Honorary Bencher, Olivia Williams, although as actors are even more notoriously last minute than members of the Bar further details will have to follow in due course.

I am truly grateful to be a member of The Inner Temple and am very much looking forward to contributing to it as Treasurer. I start the year feeling thankful for the enormous amount of work undertaken by Richard on the Inn's behalf, and for the dedication of our excellent and hardworking staff, whom I look forward to getting to know better as the year progresses.

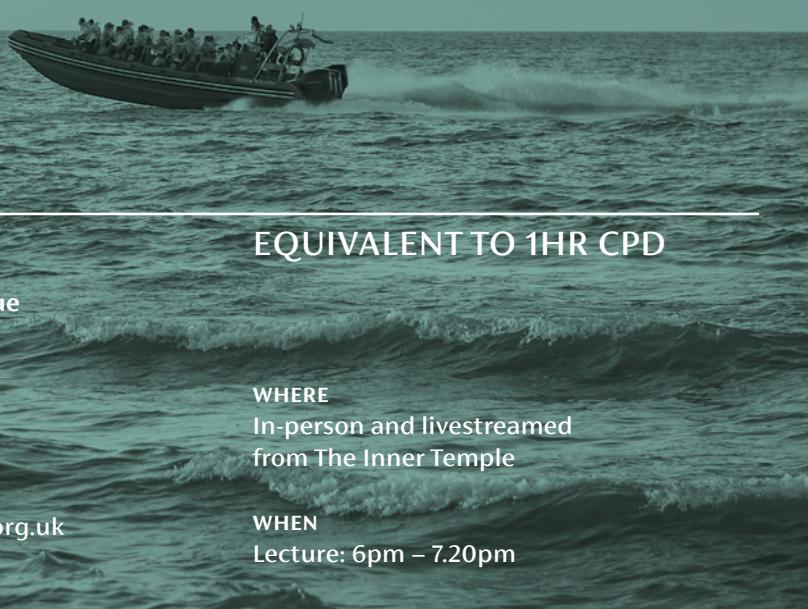
May I take this opportunity to wish all Inner Temple members, and all of our staff, a happy and successful year. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the Inn, or on one of the visits to each of the circuits I hope to make during my year in office.

**Helen Davies KC  
Treasurer**

# Social Context of the Law

TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2026

## The Duty to Rescue



### TO BOOK

[innertemple.org.uk/rescue](http://innertemple.org.uk/rescue)

#### COST

In-person £13.65  
Online: £10.50

#### ENQUIRIES

[members@innertemple.org.uk](mailto:members@innertemple.org.uk)  
020 7797 8250

### EQUIVALENT TO 1HR CPD

#### WHERE

In-person and livestreamed  
from The Inner Temple

#### WHEN

Lecture: 6pm – 7.20pm

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## INNERVIEW

Editors:  
Henrietta Amodio,  
Kate Peters and  
Sandra Alvarez

# Who's Who 2026

## TREASURER

Helen Davies KC

## READER

The Rt Hon Lady Justice Juliet May DBE

## READER ELECT

Tracy Ayling KC

## Announcements

For our full list of appointments, please go to [innertemple.org.uk/appointments](http://innertemple.org.uk/appointments)

Master Kate Brunner (The Hon Mrs Justice Brunner) was appointed to the High Court, King's Bench Division, on 17 November 2025.

Master Adam Constable (The Hon Mr Justice Constable) has been appointed Judge in Charge of the Technology and Construction Court. This is a two-year appointment that runs from 11 January 2026 to 10 January 2028.

Master Julian Flaux (The Rt Hon Sir Julian Flaux) retires as the Chancellor of the High Court with effect from 1 November 2025.

Orlando Fraser KC was awarded an OBE for Charitable and Public Service in the New Year Honours List 2026.

Master Nicholas Lavender (The Hon Mr Justice Lavender) has been appointed to be the President of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the Upper Tribunal with effect from 2 October 2025, in succession to Master Ian Dove (The Hon Mr Justice Dove), who stood down from the role on 1 October 2025.

Master Juliet May (The Hon Mrs Justice May) has been appointed as Chair of the Sentencing Council for England and Wales, with effect from Monday 6 October 2025.

Master Rachel Spearing KC has been appointed Attorney General of Anguilla from January 2026.

Master Jonathan Swift (The Hon Mr Justice Jonathan Swift) has been appointed the Chairman of Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC), Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission (POAC) & Pathogens Access Appeal Commission, with effect from 15 October 2025.

## Seeking an Editor

We extremely grateful to Lily Walker-Parr for her meticulous editing of the past three editions of the Yearbook. Practising members of over 7 years' Call who are interested in taking up this important role from 2026 should contact the Assistant Editor, Henrietta Amodio, Director of the Treasury Office on [hamodio@innertemple.org.uk](mailto:hamodio@innertemple.org.uk).



# New Benchers

We are delighted to announce that the following have been elected as Masters of the Bench of The Inner Temple:

Listed in alphabetical order

## ACADEMIC BENCHERS

The Hon Justice Clyde Croft AM – Monash University Law Faculty and the Commercial Court of the Supreme Court of Victoria

Professor Michael Lobban FBA – All Souls College Oxford

Professor Andrew Simester – Dean of Law, National University of Singapore

## HONORARY BENCHERS

Tu'inukutavake Barron Afeaki – Lord Chancellor of the Kingdom of Tonga

Chief Justice Yahya Afridi – Chief Justice of Pakistan

Dato Mohammad Faiz Azmi – Executive Chairman of the Securities Commission SC, the capital markets regulator of Malaysia

Her Excellency Kimberly Prost – Judge at the International Criminal Court (Canada)

Olivia Williams – Actor

The Rt Hon Lady Morag Wise PC – Judge of Scotland's Supreme Court (Court of Session, Inner House) and President of the Scottish Tribunals

## OVERSEAS BENCHERS

Ariff Rozhan – Malaysian lawyer and member of Malaysian Inner Temple Alumni Association

Lisa Sam – Singaporean lawyer, Barrister and President of the Singapore Law Society

## Tuesday 10 March, 6pm Iftar Dinner

Join us for a special dinner to celebrate Ramadan and enjoy Iftar together.

**TO BOOK**

[innertemple.org.uk/iftar](http://innertemple.org.uk/iftar)





WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE!

6 February

## North Eastern Circuit Dinner in Newcastle

Join the Treasurer, Helen Davies KC, and members of the Inn at the North Eastern Circuit Dinner at Newcastle Mansion House.

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### TO BOOK

[innertemple.org.uk/newcastle](http://innertemple.org.uk/newcastle)



COME DINE WITH US

27 February

## Wales & Chester Circuit Dinner in Cardiff

Looking to become more involved with the Inn? Join the Treasurer, Helen Davies KC, and members of the Inn.

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### TO BOOK

[innertemple.org.uk/cardiff](http://innertemple.org.uk/cardiff)

## Recent Events



### Bar Guest Night

10 October



### Benchers' Night

16 October



Recent Events

# Western Circuit Dinner in Bristol

17 October



# In Conversation: The Lady Chief Justice and Chair of the Bar

28 October

Available to watch at [innertemple.org.uk/inconversation](https://innertemple.org.uk/inconversation)



# History Society Paradise Lost and Found

29 October

Our thanks to Professor Joe Moshenka and Dr William Poole for their insightful discussion and to Master Tom Kinninmont for moderating.

Available to watch at  
[innertemple.org.uk/paradiselost](https://innertemple.org.uk/paradiselost)





# Grand Day

5 November



## Recent Events

# Northern Circuit Dinner

14 November



# Social Context of the Law

Is the Rise in Mass Litigation  
Distorting our Legal System  
and the UK Economy?

18 November

The Inn is grateful to Martyn Day,  
Fredrik Erixon and moderator,  
Estelle Dehon KC for this fascinating  
discussion introduced by Master  
Geoffrey Nice.

Available to watch at [innertemple.org.uk/masslitigation](http://innertemple.org.uk/masslitigation)

Is the Rise in Mass Litigation  
Distorting our Legal System and the UK Economy?

Tuesday 18 November 2025  
Martyn Day  
Fredrik Erixon  
Moderated by Estelle Dehon KC





Dinner to  
Celebrate  
the Amity between  
The Inner Temple  
and the Worshipful  
Company of Solicitors  
of the City of London  
19 November



Denning Lecture 2025  
Contracts, Certainty and the Supreme Court  
1 December

The Employed Bar Forum jointly hosted the annual Denning Lecture with the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry (BACFI), supported by Marque Wealth Management.

Our thanks to speaker Professor Ewan McKendrick KC (Hon) and to Gaynor Wood, outgoing BACFI Chair.

Available to watch at [innertemple.org.uk/denninglecture2025](http://innertemple.org.uk/denninglecture2025)



# Recent Events



## Christmas Lunch

14 December



# Children's Christmas Tea

14 December



18 February 2026

# Private Guest Night

Private Guest Nights are convivial social occasions where Students, Members of Hall, and Benchers are warmly invited to host friends, family, colleagues, and clients, and to share in the Inn's renowned hospitality.

Benchers may invite one guest. Members of Hall and Students may invite multiple guests, subject to capacity.

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## TO BOOK

[innertemple.org.uk/pgn](http://innertemple.org.uk/pgn)

Benchers/Called Members and guests £115.75 each  
Under 7 years' Call and guests £81.03 each  
Students and guests £49.65 each

**DRESS CODE**  
Black tie

## Sunday 15 March 12.30pm Mothering Sunday Lunch

A buffet style Sunday lunch for members of the Inns and their guests to celebrate Mother's Day. Preceded by Choral Communion in Temple Church at 11.15am, for those who would like to attend.

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## TO BOOK

[innertemple.org.uk/mothersday](http://innertemple.org.uk/mothersday)

Open to: Members of the Inns, their families and friends

Adult £52.50; IT Student £33.10 Child (6-16 years) £26.45; Child (under 6 yrs) £14.53





## The Inner Temple Podcast

The brand new Inner Temple podcast is an exciting initiative bringing together those with experience and expertise in what it really means to both move within the profession and return to the Bar after time away.

As soon as the Inn's doors closed last spring on the inaugural conference for those moving or returning to practice, it was immediately apparent that this was only the tip of the iceberg! The buzz on conference day was palpable. The attendees told us they were engaged, energised and enthused. They had found a safe, supportive space to listen to, and interact with, speakers and mentors who generously shared their experiences. From those on parental leave or on a career break, to people with caring responsibilities or thinking about moving practice areas, the overwhelming feedback we received was that everyone wanted to know more.

When the idea to create a podcast for The Inner Temple's Established Practitioner community came about, the decision to focus it on 'Movers and Returners' was an easy one. Supporting the profession with information and skills to aid retention and help manage absence from the Bar, the initial podcast series comprises eight episodes. Each episode is around 20 to 30 minutes long, so bite sized and easily digestible – ideal for the daily commute, doing the school run, or on a morning jog!

– and perfect for those who are balancing other life commitments.

The monthly episodes feature a variety of hosts drawn from the Inn's membership. The first two episodes, hosted by Master Rachel Spearing, focus on *Advocate*, the Bar's national pro bono charity. The episodes explore how pro bono work develops new skills, mentoring connections and practice opportunities to aid moving or returning to practice. In the first episode, Master Spearing speaks to *Advocate*'s CEO and Engagement Manager. Listeners can find out everything they need to know about how *Advocate* operates and the practicalities of taking on a pro bono case. Episode Two delves deeper with an inspiring, cross-Inn panel comprised of Sophie Cartwright KC, Sarah Lucy Cooper and Alex Findley who discuss the extent to which undertaking pro bono work has benefited them both personally and professionally.

Future episodes in the series offer interviews and conversations on juggling caring responsibilities and managing unexpected career breaks, as well as spotlights on advocacy and the employed Bar. Even if you are someone who has never taken time away from the profession – and has no intention of doing so – we hope that the podcast content is wide-ranging and informative so as to be of interest to everyone.

Please do join the Inner Temple podcast community and, if you have not done so already, check out Episode One... and enjoy listening!  
[innertemple.org.uk/podcast](http://innertemple.org.uk/podcast)



# Education & Training

Calling all alumni and former Inner Temple Debating Society Members:

## Time to Celebrate our 65th Anniversary!

### Mark Sutherland Williams

Chair of the ITDS Alumni Association and Master of the Inner Temple Debating Society

This year marks an auspicious occasion in the history of the Inner Temple Debating Society. In April 1961, the Society was founded as an official student body within the Inn, and 65 years later we are proud to report it is still going strong.

It was launched by Ivan Lawrence, (now Sir Ivan Lawrence KC) and Roger Sanders, (latterly His Honour Judge). In 1995, Judge Sanders recalled how he spotted as a student in the '60s an opportunity for the Inn to set up a debating society to meet a need in its training, writing: *"I also wanted to be a barrister and assumed that all would-be advocates would take every opportunity to learn their skills first, before putting their name on a chambers door. It is incredible to think that in those days there were no provisions for vocational training, public speaking practice or mock trials."*

And it is from there that the Inner Temple Debating Society soon developed, with early debates taking place in the then Niblett Hall (demolished in the early 1990s to be replaced by the Littleton Building.)

A former treasurer of the Society in those early days, F R Anthony, recalled in his diaries some of the debate topics in the early 60's, many of which reflected the times:

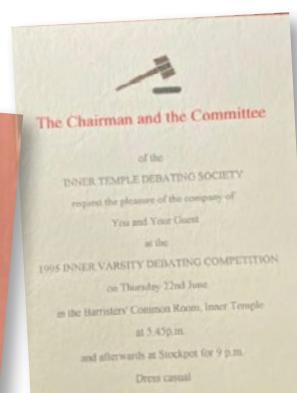
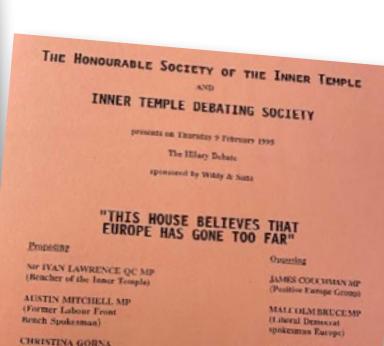
*This House Would Abolish Capital Punishment (26.6.61)*

*This House Thinks Women Should be Admitted to The Bench (5.7.62)*

*This House Considers Marriage is Outdated (17.1.63)*

*This House Thinks the Commonwealth is Disintegrating (22.1.63)*

*This House Believes that the Age of Criminal Liability Should have Remained at 8 (7.2.63)*



### Save the Date

On **Friday 24 April 2026**, the Society will be celebrating its 65th Anniversary with a Commemorative Dinner at the Inn. We invite you to start getting your committees and friends back together to mark this auspicious occasion to give thanks to the Society.

Whether you come as a table for 10 or as an individual who was once part of the ITDS, we would be delighted to see you.

Register your interest now by contacting  
**jbatterson@innertemple.org.uk**

Sixty-four years later we are still as active and engaged as we ever were, with our magnificent student body, through the generosity of the Inn, representing The Inner Temple at competitions across the country and abroad.

Since those early days, hundreds of Inner Templers will have passed through the Society, either as committee members or just keen debaters. This year, we want to welcome you back.

We need judges from all areas of law, specifically civil, criminal, public and family in and outside of London.

To volunteer, please click [here](#).

Want to reconnect? Here's how –

- **Visit our Inner Temple webpages for news and details of how Alumni can help**
- **Visit and follow our Alumni Facebook pages for nostalgia and updates**
- **Follow the ITDS on Instagram**

## PASS

Each year, we welcome a new cohort of Pegasus Access and Support Scheme (PASS) scholars to the Inn. PASS is our flagship outreach scheme designed to improve access to the profession and to support high achieving aspiring barristers from under-represented backgrounds by providing experiences and developing skills that will support a career at the Bar. All PASS scholars attended non-fee-paying schools and are at least an academic year away from starting the Bar Course.

On Saturday 25 October, we welcomed 62 of our 2025/26 PASS scholars to the Inn where they received tours of our Treasury Building from practising barristers and judges while hearing about their professional lives. Scholars engaged in an informal advocacy session, with experienced practitioners discussing what skills inform

strong advocacy before giving students the chance to pair up and try an advocacy exercise.

Our Insight Afternoon for aspiring barristers was also held on Saturday 25 October at the Inn, with a total of 143 attendees (in addition to our PASS scholars). Attendees heard from panels of barristers and judges about their varied journeys to the Bar as well as receiving advice about succeeding in the scholarship and pupillage application process.

A total of 25 members gave up their Saturday to support these two events and we are so grateful for their time and the insights they provide aspiring barristers. If you are in practice and want to support our events for aspiring barristers, please contact [outreach@innertemple.org.uk](mailto:outreach@innertemple.org.uk)

You can find more information about PASS at [innertemple.org.uk/pass](http://innertemple.org.uk/pass)

# Education & Training

## Contacts

### Outreach

#### Outreach

[outreach@innertemple.org.uk](mailto:outreach@innertemple.org.uk)

020 7797 8240

### Scholarships

#### Scholarships

[scholarships@innertemple.org.uk](mailto:scholarships@innertemple.org.uk)

020 7797 8211

#### Pegasus

[pegasus@innertemple.org.uk](mailto:pegasus@innertemple.org.uk)

020 7797 8210

### Professional Training

#### Pupils and New Practitioners

[pupils-practitioners@innertemple.org.uk](mailto:pupils-practitioners@innertemple.org.uk)

020 7438 2310

#### Established Barristers

[establishedbarristers@innertemple.org.uk](mailto:establishedbarristers@innertemple.org.uk)

020 7797 8209

### Pre-Pupillage

#### Pre-Pupillage

[pre-pupillage@innertemple.org.uk](mailto:pre-pupillage@innertemple.org.uk)

020 7438 2311

#### Call to the Bar

[call@innertemple.org.uk](mailto:call@innertemple.org.uk)

020 7797 8257

#### Qualifying Sessions

[qs@innertemple.org.uk](mailto:qs@innertemple.org.uk)

020 7438 2311

### General and Volunteering Enquiries

#### Education

[education@innertemple.org.uk](mailto:education@innertemple.org.uk)

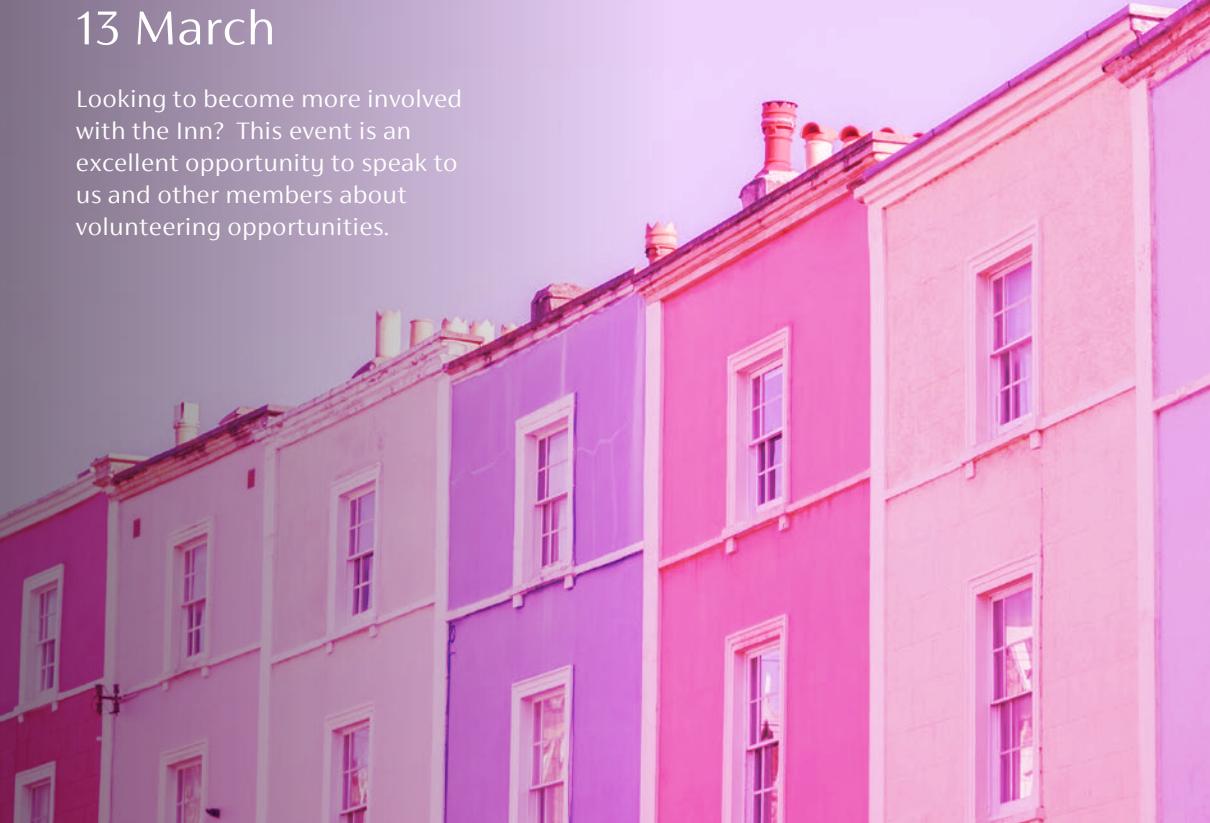
020 7797 8208

## COME DINE WITH US

## Western Circuit Dinner in Bristol

13 March

Looking to become more involved with the Inn? This event is an excellent opportunity to speak to us and other members about volunteering opportunities.



# Reader's Lecture Nights 2026

## Theme: Children in the Justice System



Monday 9 February

### Sarah-Jayne Blakemore FBA FRS

Department of Neurophysiology,  
University of Cambridge

**Inside the Adolescent Brain:  
What Developmental Science  
Reveals and Why It Matters for  
the Justice System**

Monday 2 March

### Professor David Ormerod CBE KC (Hon)

Professor of Criminal Justice at  
the Faculty of Laws, University  
College London and Barrister,  
Red Lion Chambers

**The Age of Criminal  
Responsibility**

## TO BOOK

[innertemple.org.uk/blakemore](http://innertemple.org.uk/blakemore)  
[innertemple.org.uk/ormerod](http://innertemple.org.uk/ormerod)

Equivalent to 1hr CPD

### COST

In-person £13.65; Online: £10.50

### WHERE

From The Inner Temple and livestreamed

### ENQUIRIES

[qs@innertemple.org.uk](mailto:qs@innertemple.org.uk)

### WHEN

6pm – 7.30pm



## Summer celebrations await!

Host your event in our beautiful Marquee between 16 June and 9 July 2026.

From corporate receptions to family fun days for up to 600 guests, The Inner Temple offers the perfect summer setting.

Dates are filling fast. Enquire now to secure your preferred date.

To book, call **020 7797 8230** or email [venuehire@innertemple.org.uk](mailto:venuehire@innertemple.org.uk)  
[innertemplevenuehire.co.uk](http://innertemplevenuehire.co.uk)

# 18 March Château Talbot Dinner

**TO BOOK**

[innertemple.org.uk/talbot](http://innertemple.org.uk/talbot)

Tickets: £140

Open to: Members and their guests

Join us for an evening celebrating and learning about the wines of world famous Chateau Talbot.

Jean-Paul Bignon, who owns the château with his wife, Nancy Bignon-Cordier, the great-grand daughter of the original founder, will give us an insight into the history of the Chateau, and guide guests through seven of the Chateau's finest wines, accompanying a wonderful dinner chosen to pair.

### **Aperitif:**

Caillou Blanc de Château Talbot 2023

### **First Course:**

Château Sénéjac 2020 and Connétable de Talbot 2018

### **Main Course:**

Château Talbot 2015 and Château Talbot 2010

### **Savoury Course:**

Château Talbot 2006 and Château Talbot 1996



Monday 30 March

## The Early History of the English Bar

Professor Sir John Baker KC LLD FBA

Downing Professor Emeritus of the Laws of England and Inner Temple Bencher

The legal profession began to emerge in the early years of the 13th century. By the 1250s there were legally trained judges, attorneys and pleaders, and a school of common law associated with the Common Bench. Professor Baker will show how the pleaders acquired, in the 14th century, the status and degree of Serjeant-at-Law, forming the so-called Order of the Coif. During the same period the educational system was taken over by the Inns, and already by 1388, those known as the Inns of Court had a special status. The talk will also explore the process by which the degrees of barrister and Bencher, originally acquired by participation in moots and readings, became qualifications for practice at the Bar of the King's Courts.

**BOOK**

[innertemple.org.uk/englishbar](http://innertemple.org.uk/englishbar)  
020 7797 8264

**WHERE**

In-person and livestreamed from The Inner Temple

**TICKETS**

In-Person £13.65; Online Free

**WHEN**

6pm – 7pm

## Saturday Opening

Opening Hours 10am to 5pm  
January – April 2026

### January

10 January	Lincoln's Inn
17 January	Middle Temple
24 January	Gray's Inn
31 January	The Inner Temple

### February

7 February	Lincoln's Inn
14 February	Middle Temple
21 February	Gray's Inn
28 February	The Inner Temple

### March

7 March	Lincoln's Inn
14 March	Middle Temple
21 March	Gray's Inn
28 March	The Inner Temple

## Qualifying Sessions

Library staff will be taking part in a Qualifying Session on 20 January 2026 which is a basic legal research skills presentation. This is followed on 12 February with an advanced training session. Please contact the **Education & Training Department** to book your place.

## One-to-one Training Sessions

The Library can set up training sessions for all members. They can be tailored to suit individual requirements. We can cover aspects of legal research and database searching. We are flexible and will endeavour to fit around members' busy schedules. Contact **library@innertemple.org.uk** outlining what you need help with.

## Patron-Driven Acquisition Scheme

This **Patron-Driven Acquisition Scheme** is intended to be responsive to the needs of Inner Temple Library users if they discover a book that they need is not available in the Library collection. All requests meeting the criteria will be automatically purchased whilst funds remain available. The criteria for purchase are under **Terms and Conditions** on the website.

# From Cork Boards to Clicks: 18 Years of Current Awareness



**Sally McLaren, Assistant Librarian**

Picture the scene: it's early 2007. A perfectly ordinary morning in the Library. The first task of the day? Snipping legal stories out of the newspapers, pinning them to a noticeboard and hoping someone might pause on their way past to read them. Impact? Let's just say... limited.

Back then, we were puzzling over a big question: how do we really "do current awareness"? How do we share key legal developments widely, across all areas of law, without relying on a bigger cork board and a bad drawing pin habit?

Here's what we knew from the start:

- 1. Our audience was broad.** As an Inn Library, we serve members of all four Inns of Court, so our updates needed to be wide-ranging and relevant across many practice areas.
- 2. It had to be easy.** No log-ins, no passwords, no fuss.
- 3. It needed to be delivered directly, not just wait to be found.** Email delivery was a must. (RSS wasn't everyone's cup of tea then... and still isn't!)
- 4. And it had to be free.** Because access to legal news shouldn't come with a payroll.

So, in April 2007, we launched our simple WordPress-hosted **Current Awareness Blog**, with our very first post tackling a theme that remains all too familiar: social exclusion and the law. [www.theguardian.com/society/2007/apr/02/socialexclusion.law](http://www.theguardian.com/society/2007/apr/02/socialexclusion.law)

Fast forward 18 years, and the service has grown beyond anything we imagined:

- Over 78,000 posts published
- **1.4 million** email digests delivered in 2024 alone
- And yes, it's still **100% free**

We're also delighted to count some very distinguished readers among our subscribers. As **Lady Simler, Justice of the Supreme Court**, recently told us:

*"I look forward to my daily email digest from you and read it with interest every day – no matter where I am in the world or what I am doing. So thank you very much for producing it and for keeping me up to date!"*

This little trip down memory lane is prompted by our brand-new business cards advertising the Current Awareness Blog. Perfect for handing out at parties.

Here's to 18 years of keeping the legal world informed – one click (and no drawing pins) at a time.

## Current Awareness from the Inner Temple Library

Stay up-to-date with legal news and developments with our free daily digest.



[www.innertemplibrary.com](http://www.innertemplibrary.com)





# Gardener's Cuttings

**Polly Cetin, Gardener**

## Late-winter flowering shrubs

When the days are short and dark, the weather outside cold and gloomy, the one thing guaranteed to lift my spirits are the late-winter flowering shrubs. We have a great selection of them in the garden, including *Salix gracilistyla* 'Mount Aso', *Daphne* spp, *Sarcococca* spp, *Viburnum x bodnantense* 'Dawn' and *Chimonanthus praecox* which offer scent and flowers all through the season.

Last autumn we planted witch hazels, *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Arnold Promise',

'Ruben' and 'Orange Beauty' in different locations around the garden. These large shrubs are unremarkable during the summer - then autumn arrives turning their foliage into stunning, vibrant colours. This is followed by displays of fragrant, spidery blooms, appearing on bare branches for many weeks in late winter and early spring in yellows, oranges, and reds-reminiscent of warm, fireside flames.

One of my favourite plants, however, is our winter flowering honeysuckle, *Lonicera x*



Pink fluffy catkins belonging to *Salix gracilistyla* 'Mount Aso'



The bright, spidery flowers of *Hamamelis* 'Arnold Promise'



The vibrant autumn colours of *Hamamelis 'Arnold Promise'*

*purpurea* 'Winter Beauty'. Particularly loved by bumble bees it provides a valuable nectar source when all else is scarce. It is semi-evergreen, so retains some of its foliage throughout winter and produces creamy white tubular flowers that smell delicious! *Lonicera purpurea* is a cross between *L. fragrantissima* and *L. standishii* both originating from China. These winter honeysuckle early blooms symbolise resilience and hope, two qualities in short supply on a damp dark day in January.

Another favourite is *Edgeworthia chrysantha*, sometimes known as yellow Daphne (they are closely related in the same family, *Thymelaceae*). From the woodlands of the far east, this gorgeous plant produces soft, silvery, downy buds on bare branches, from which clusters of highly fragrant yellow flowers emerge. Preferring a sheltered spot, we have them nestled amongst the roses in the meadow at the top of the garden.

The appearance of these flowers with intoxicating scents in the depths of winter evoke the promise of spring's imminent arrival, and with it the reawakening of nature. A reminder that a new year is beginning.



The sweetly scented, delicate blooms of *Lonicera 'Winter Beauty'*



*Edgeworthia chrysantha*'s rounded inflorescences

# Temple Church

## TEMPLE CHURCH HILARY TERM

We are holding a choral service every Wednesday evening in term-time at 6pm (unless otherwise stated)

### JANUARY

**Sunday 18 January, 11.15am**  
**Epiphany Carol Service**

**Wednesday 28 January, 6pm**  
**Choral Evensong for Candlemas**  
The Round Church was consecrated at Candlemas, 1185.

### FEBRUARY

**Wednesday 11 February, 6pm**  
**Choral Evensong for St Valentine's Day**  
In celebration of all the weddings at the Temple Church.

**Wednesday 18 February, 6pm**  
**Choral Evensong: Ash Wednesday**

**Wednesday 25 February, 6pm**  
**Choral Evensong for St David's Day**  
Sung by The London Welsh Male Voice Choir

### MARCH

**Wednesday 4 March, 6pm**  
**Choral Evensong**  
Sung by the Temple Church Choir and the Choir of Norwich Cathedral

**Sunday 15 March, 11.15am**  
**Choral Mattins: Mothering Sunday**  
Followed by Sunday lunch in The Inner Temple for members of Inner and Middle Temple and their guests. To book for the lunch: [innertemple.org.uk/mothersday](http://innertemple.org.uk/mothersday)

**Wednesday 18 March, 6pm**  
**Choral Evensong for St Patrick's Day**

**Sunday 29 March, 11.15am**  
**Choral Communion: Palm Sunday**

### APRIL

**Thursday 2 April, 1.15pm**  
**Choral Communion: Maundy Thursday**  
The Temple Singers.

**Friday 3 April, 11.15am**  
**Choral Mattins: Good Friday**  
The Temple Church Choir.

**Saturday 4 April, 8pm**  
**Choral Communion: Easter Vigil:**  
**Holy Saturday**  
The Temple Singers.

**Sunday 5 April, 11.15am**  
**Choral Communion: Easter Sunday**  
The Temple Church Choir.

**Wednesday 15 April, 6pm**  
**Easter Carol Service**

**Sunday 19 April, 11.15am**  
**Easter Carol Service**  
To include Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs.

**Wednesday 22 April, 6pm**  
**Choral Evensong for St George's day**

### Contacts

**The Reverend Robin Griffith-Jones**  
**Master of the Temple**  
07834 521 471  
[master@templechurch.com](mailto:master@templechurch.com)

**Catherine de Satgé**  
020 7353 8559  
[catherine@templechurch.com](mailto:catherine@templechurch.com)

**Temple Church**  
[www.templechurch.com](http://www.templechurch.com)



# Temple Music

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

Temple Music Foundation is delighted to announce the new season, packed with exceptional musical talent in our iconic and illustrious venues. Tickets are available to purchase now and we look forward to welcoming you. Here are some particularly special highlights:



**Tuesday 20 January | 6.30pm-7.30pm**  
**£20 | Temple Church**

### Images of the Divine

The Temple Singers return with a compelling programme reflecting sacred mysticism across centuries and Christian traditions. At its centre is **Frank Martin's Mass for Double Choir**, a powerful and private statement of faith, heard alongside works by Hildegard von Bingen, Josquin des Prez, Stravinsky, Tavener and Messiaen. **Eric Whitacre's Sainte-Chapelle**, inspired by the glowing stained glass of the Parisian chapel, imagines a young girl stepping inside and hearing the voices of angels softly singing the Sanctus, a vision that resonates with the divine encounters explored throughout the programme.

**Book Images of the Divine**

**Tuesday 27 January | 7pm-8pm**  
**Free – reserve place | Temple Church**

### Love from Afar

Performed in the Round Church, the programme is the second in a series of an innovative collaboration between singers from Siglo de Oro (dir. Patrick Allies) and scholars from the UKRI-funded Musical Lives project at King's College London. Join us as our singers breathe new life into songs rarely heard today, performing an eclectic sample from one of Europe's earliest surviving traditions of love song.

**Reserve Love from Afar**



**Monday 9 February | 7.30pm**  
**£5-£50 | Temple Church**

### Four Last Songs

**Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha (soprano)**  
**Julius Drake (piano)**

Tonight's performance of these songs of farewell (to life, to art, to a vanished world) is dedicated to the memory of James Flynn KC, a brilliant man and a generous supporter of music in the Temple and beyond. The rest of the programme for this very special recital will be announced in due course. Sponsored by Brick Court Chambers

**Book Four Last Songs**



**Tuesday 24 February | 7.30pm-8.40pm**  
**£10-£30 | Temple Church**

### Things Invisible to See

**Hamish McLaren (countertenor)**  
**Ana Beard Fernández (soprano)**  
**Matthew Jorysz (piano)**

The vivid, metaphysical poetry of John Donne is an endless source of inspiration to composers. Tonight's recital centres on the world premiere of *Things Invisible to See*, a new cycle of Donne settings by Michael Berkeley. Commissioned by countertenor Hamish McLaren and performed with pianist Matthew Jorysz, the work explores themes of love, longing and mortality. Soprano Ana Beard Fernández joins them for selected songs by Shostakovich and Purcell, in a programme that traces powerful emotional threads across centuries and continents.

**Book Things Invisible to See**

# Staff News



## VICKY PORTINARI

After an incredible 32 years with The Inner Temple, Vicky now begins her well-earned retirement. As she steps into this new chapter, Vicky is still deciding what the future may hold, but we are certain that her energy and drive will lead her towards new and exciting personal ventures before long. Vicky's dedication and deep knowledge of the Inn, its members and its events, have been built over a lifetime of service. Her presence and experience will be deeply missed. We cannot thank Vicky enough for everything she has given to The Inner Temple over the last three decades.



## ADAM BRACEGIRDLE

Adam left us in September to take up an exciting new role as Head of Sales and Events at Tate (Modern and Britain), a fantastic and well deserved step up in his career. Since joining The Inner Temple originally in 2016 for three years and returning in 2020, he has brought dedication, energy and calm reliability to everything he has done. We are incredibly proud to see him move on to such a prestigious organisation and wish him every success in this next chapter. Thank you, Adam, for everything you have given to The Inner Temple.



## CHRIS JONES

We say farewell to Chris, a huge presence in the Hall at lunchtime and across so many of our events. After 11 years with The Inner Temple, Chris has become known for his big personality, great service, and natural warmth. Chris now moves on to an exciting new role at the NEC in Birmingham, bringing him closer to home and ending the long commute between London and Birmingham. His personality, energy and hospitality will be truly missed during Hall lunches and events. Thank you, Chris, for your outstanding service during your time at The Inner Temple.



## ISABELLE KELTIE

We are delighted to announce that Isabelle has been appointed as the new Assistant to the Director of the Treasury Office, having previously been working as the Treasury Office Assistant.

## LONG SERVICE

Many congratulations to members of staff who have completed significant periods of employment at the Inn.

### 20 YEARS

**LUKAS JELINEK**  
Facilities Manager

### 15 YEARS

**MD ABU SAYED**  
Team Leader, Catering

### 10 YEARS

**FARID ALI**  
Night Security

# Oral History Project

The Inner Temple Archives is seeking volunteers to help continue its highly successful oral history project, originally launched by Daire Brehan. A selection of recorded interviews can be heard on our website [innertemple.org.uk/](http://innertemple.org.uk/oral-history)  
**oral-history**

We are now inviting members and students to take part in interviewing some of the Inn's most senior members, as well as many of our long-serving staff and residents. This is a unique opportunity to help preserve the living history of The Inner Temple while developing valuable research and interviewing skills.

Successful applicants will be offered a dedicated training session led by an accredited trainer from the British Library's Oral History Department. Working in a small group, volunteers will receive practical instruction in interview techniques, guidance on effective questioning, and the opportunity to take part in a feedback session where experiences and outcomes can be shared with fellow participants.

Training will take place on 6 May.

**Benefits include:**

- The opportunity to meet experienced barristers and an invaluable opportunity to share their professional expertise stretching back many years.
- The development of research skills.
- Access to a rich store of history, gossip, and anecdotes at the Inn.
- Useful training in radio recording and editing techniques – useful to anyone considering a parallel career in the media.
- A chance to meet and learn from experts at the British Library.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Celia Pilkington  
[cpilkington@innertemple.org.uk](mailto:cpilkington@innertemple.org.uk)  
or telephone 020 7797 8251.

**Application deadline:**  
**30 March**



# Hilary Term Diary

## JANUARY

- 12 Hilary Term Law Sittings Begin  
Bar Liaison Committee
- 13 Executive Committee  
Pupils' Course Introduction and  
Criminal Case Analysis Session  
Scholarship Interview Training
- 14 **Treasurer's Reception for Benchers  
(preceded by Choral Evensong)**
- 15 Pupils' Closing Speeches and Civil  
Case Analysis Session
- 19 **Qualifying Sessions Committee**
- 20 **Legal Research 1: Basic Legal  
Research Skills**
- 22 ITSA Burns Night Supper
- 23-25 Pupils' Residential Weekend - The  
Berystede Hotel & Spa, Ascot
- 26 Investment Sub-Committee
- 27 Pegasus Trust Interviews (online)  
Estates Committee  
**Established Practitioners  
Programme: Understanding  
Accounts**  
Insight Event Midlands: Becoming a  
Barrister  
Alexander Cameron Mock Trial  
Reception
- 29 **Bench Table followed by Dinner  
for Benchers**
- 30-1 **Students' Advocacy Residential  
Weekend - Crewe Hall**
- 31 Intervarsity Debating Competition  
Library Open

## KEY

**Green: Qualifying Sessions**  
**Blue: Member Events**  
**Bronze: Bencher only Events**  
**Purple: CPD Events**

## FEBRUARY

- 1 Intervarsity Mooting Competition
- 2 Scholarships and Outreach Committee
- 3 **International Practice Panel**
- 4 Investment Sub-Committee
- 5 EDI Sub-Committee
- 6 **North Eastern Circuit Dinner  
(Newcastle)**
- 7 Pupils' Advocacy Applications Day  
**Circuit Skills Day (Newcastle)**
- 9 Bar Liaison Committee  
**Reader's Lecture Night**  
**(Professor Sarah-Jayne Blakemore  
FBA FRS)**
- 10 Sutton Trust Discovery Day  
Executive Committee
- 11 Archives Committee  
Pension Scheme Trustees  
**Pupillage 2: Self-Employed and  
Employed Work at the Bar**
- 12 Bar Course Scholarship Interviews  
Temple Church Trust  
**Legal Research 2: Advanced Legal  
Research Skills**  
Pupil Mock Trials
- 14 Bar Course Scholarship Interviews  
**Ethics 2**
- 16 Student Engagement and  
Support Committee
- 17 Pupil Mock Trials
- 18 **Advocacy 4: Applied Advocacy  
Private Guest Night**  
**(preceded by Choral Evensong)**
- 19 **Communication Skills for  
Barristers in the Workplace**
- 21 Bar Course Scholarship Interviews  
(online)  
**Hilary Skills Day**
- 23 Book Sub-Committee
- 24 Estates Committee  
Pupil Mock Trials  
Insight Event (Northern Circuit)
- 25 Education and Training Committee
- 26 International Committee  
Pupil Mock Trials
- 27 **Wales and Chester Circuit Dinner  
(Cardiff)**
- 28 Library Open  
**Circuit Education Day (Nottingham)**

# MARCH

2 **Reader's Lecture Night**  
**(Professor David Ormerod CBE KC (Hon))**

3 **Inns of Court Alliance for Women Panel Discussion (MT)**  
Insight Event Western Circuit (Southampton)

4 Pegasus Scholarship Trust  
PASS Skills: Interview Skills and Techniques

5 **International Practice Panel**

9 Bar Liaison Committee  
Dinner to the Universities

10 Executive Committee  
**Iftar (Breaking Fast Dinner)**

11 Library Committee

12 **Bench Table**

13 **Western Circuit Dinner (Bristol)**

15 **Mothering Sunday Lunch**

17 Sutton Trust Discovery Day  
Advocacy Training Committee  
**Social Context of the Law Series**

18 **Château Talbot Dinner**

19 Hilary Term Call Night

24 Qualifying Sessions Committee  
**Employed Bar Forum**  
Online Insight Event

28 Library Open

29 Choral Mattins Palm Sunday

30 **History Society**

# APRIL

1 Hall Closes  
Hilary Term Law Sitting Ends

13 Hall Opens  
Bar Liaison Committee  
New Practitioner Case Conference Session (online)

## SAVE THE DATE!

Calling members of the International Circuit – 24 April visit to the ICC in the Hague followed by dinner.

To register your interest, email [members@innertemple.org.uk](mailto:members@innertemple.org.uk)

# Treasury Office

**Henrietta Amodio**  
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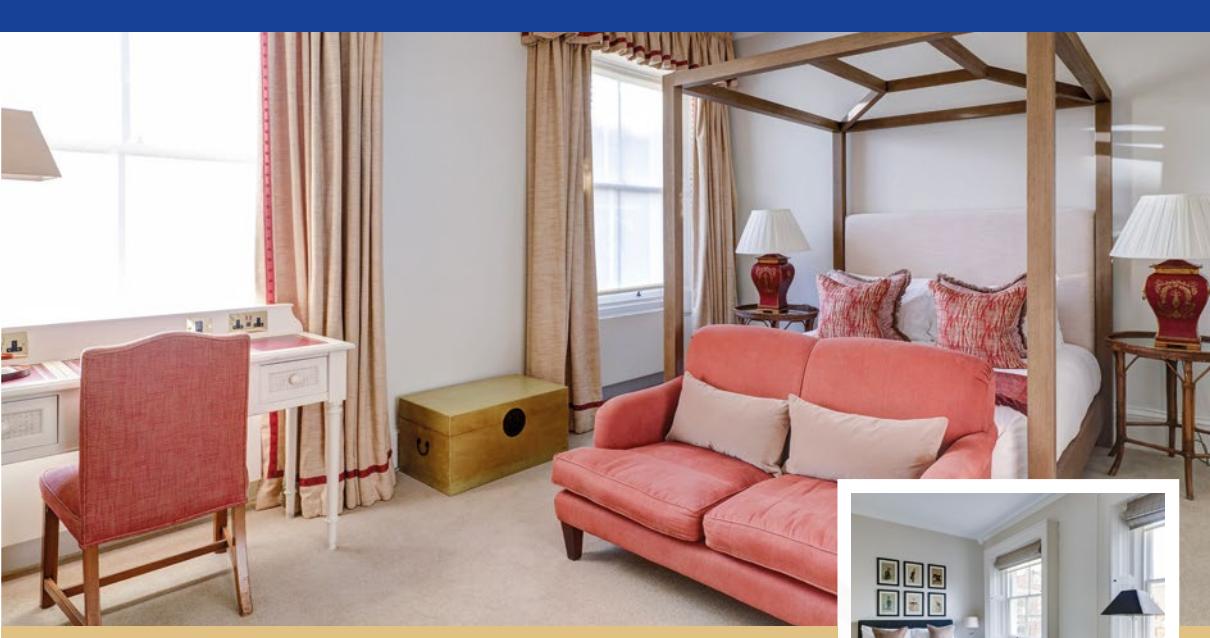
## Dine, Unwind, Discuss at Pegasus

**Pegasus Bar & Restaurant offers a welcoming setting for entertaining, relaxing, or connecting over light bites, lunch, or dinner.**

Choose from healthy options or indulge in home comforts, complemented by fine wine and champagne selections. Settle in and enjoy our refined ambiance or grab a takeaway coffee for those on the go.

**Monday to Friday 9am – 10pm**

Book a table online  
[innertemplevenuehire.co.uk](http://innertemplevenuehire.co.uk)



## Accommodation at your convenience

**The Inn's two equally stunning rooms, the Boswell and Chaucer, are available every day and are located on the third floor of 3 Dr Johnson's Buildings.**

Whether you are in town for business or pleasure, our accommodation, along with the Pegasus Bar which is open Monday-Friday, offers respite from a long day of meetings or sightseeing.

Choose from the four-poster luxury of the Chaucer or the more modern Boswell with views overlooking Temple Church.

**020 7797 8230 | [venuehire@innertemple.org.uk](mailto:venuehire@innertemple.org.uk)**  
[innertemplevenuehire.co.uk](http://innertemplevenuehire.co.uk)

2026

**£220**

per room per night