

Christine Hill was an exhibitor at St Hilda's from 1945-1948, studying Modern Languages. After three years as an assistant Lecturer at UCL and Queen Mary College in London, she spent the rest of her career, from 1956 until she retired in 1995, as lecturer in French at the University of Manchester.

She was born in 1927 in Limehouse in the East End of London where her father was a lighterman on the River Thames. He later became Works Manager of an engineering firm, an achievement of which his daughter was very proud, and the family moved to Bromley in Kent where Christine attended the local County Grammar School. Having won a State Scholarship, she was the first member of her family to go to University and she remained, throughout her life, in regular contact with St. Hilda's, and the friends she made there, attending Gaudies as long as she was physically able to do so, and supporting College when she could.

Her specialist interest was French literature of the 16th and 17th Centuries, and a copy of each of her three published works has been deposited in St. Hilda's College Library, one based on her Manchester M.A. on Symphorien Champier, and the others on texts by Robert Garnier and Antoine Héroët.

For research, conferences and holidays, she travelled widely in France and throughout Europe. In Manchester, her friends enjoyed her excellent French cuisine. Her shelves overflowed with books reflecting her wide-ranging interests, in music and art, language and literature. She knew the benefit, both academic and personal, of exploring and getting to know other countries and cultures. A devout Catholic by conversion, her religion was to her both solace, and, in its rituals, art and music, inspiration. At her request her funeral took the form of a full Requiem Mass, the Duruflé, beautifully sung by a mainly student choir.

The welfare of her students meant a great deal to her. One, having just graduated, wrote to thank her; "It was so nice knowing that there was someone looking out for you – someone that cared, had the time to talk to us, to advise us". Another, a former student President of the University of Manchester Chorus of which Chris was a member for 65 years, wrote of her as "such a lovely and supportive woman". She served as tutor for visiting students, on the Student Accommodation Committee and on others furthering staff/students relations and student participation in University governance.

In gratitude for the life-changing experience that St. Hilda's gave her, Christine left a bequest which is to provide funding for students of her College who, through financial hardship, would otherwise be unable to make the most of the opportunities available to them.