



## Hilary Term 2019

Dear Members and Friends of St Benet's,

I am delighted by the opportunity this Newsletter offers to send you and your families greetings and warmest wishes from us all for what promises to be a momentous year for Britain. The situation has particular implications for a College like ours, with so many students and staff from abroad facing an uncertain future. True to our Benedictine tradition, we will seek in the future to remain a welcoming and hospitable centre of learning for students, scholars and visitors from all over the world.

You will see from the following articles what an eventful term we have just had. We are particularly proud of our success in University Sport, in the successful launch of our new degree course in Human Sciences, and in the active participation of our new Graduate students. Our Formal Dinners have been fully attended, and enhanced by distinguished guests, excellent speakers, by wine-tastings and jazz. We were privileged to play a role in the forthcoming twinning of Oxford and Padua, when the Mayor of Padua came to Sunday Lunch after participating in the civic Remembrance Day wreathlaying to mark the centenary of the First World War. The College also recognised the signal contribution made by two past Masters, Fr Felix Stephens OSB and Professor Werner Jeanrond, by electing them to Honorary Fellowships.

The New Year offers major opportunities for St Benet's, in which we hope you will participate. We are celebrating in 2018-19 the Centenary of our establishment as an integral part of the University, a Permanent Private Hall. There will be a series of events to mark this, including a lecture in London in March by Lord Alderdice, centenary dinners and receptions, as well as lectures on the Benedictine tradition in May. Later this year a film about St Benet's will be made by our distinguished alumnus Anthony Geffen. The biennial Gaudy will take place in London in November. This is also the year when our Senior Tutor, Dr Santha Bhattacharji, retires after fifteen years: there will be a dinner in June to thank her for her skilled and devoted service.

As we mark our Centenary, we are also seeking to change our status and to become a Society, helping us to integrate more closely with the Collegiate University. To this end, we are stepping up our fundraising activities, to ensure the current and long-term financial security of the Hall, and to build up an endowment, so we can offer greater support to students and staff alike, and can widen our access, so that more can benefit from the unique experience offered here.

Many thanks to you all for the support you give: we look forward to welcoming you to St Benet's in the coming months.

Sincerely,  
Professor Richard Cooper

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# Hall News

## Matriculation



Thirty-nine new St Benet's Hall undergraduates and graduate students matriculated into the University of Oxford on Saturday 13 October. Welcome!

They include those studying subjects new to St Benet's including Human Sciences, Global Governance and Diplomacy, Eastern Christian Studies and Modern South Asian Studies, and come from a total of 14 different countries, many European as well as China, Singapore, South Korea, USA and Pakistan.

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## Degree Day

Thirteen alumni and their families attended the St Benet's Hall Degree Day on 10 November.

Old Members who came back to receive their degrees ranged in age from last year's graduates to one Benetian who matriculated in 1980! Alumni came from as far away as Thailand and the United States to as nearby as other Oxford colleges where they are now pursuing further studies.

For more information about Degree Days or to book your place at a forthcoming ceremony, please visit <https://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/ma-degree-days>



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## Wine Tastings

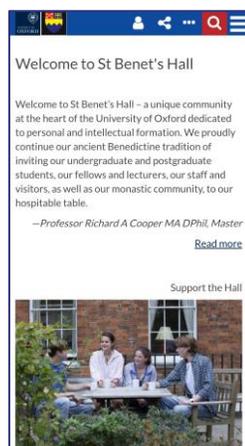
We started a new wine tasting series this term. One was a tasting of American wines, to coincide with Thanksgiving, and we had a more general tasting of sparkling wines earlier in the term. Each tasting was hosted by Professor Richard Cooper and a guest wine expert.

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## A New Website for St Benet's Hall

St Benet's Hall has a new website! A new, modernized website went live earlier this month at [www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk](http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk). A special thanks goes to the Bursar, Stephen Rumford, and the Director of Studies for Human Sciences, Dr. Pieter François, for spearheading this project.

If you have any feedback on the website, or would like to contribute content, please contact [communications@stb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:communications@stb.ox.ac.uk)



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## Facilities Updates

A number of updates to 38 St Giles' took place over the Christmas Vacation. Walls and ceilings were repaired and repainted in the main (south) hallway and staircase, together with various other rooms in the building. The paintings in the Refectory have been rearranged and the lights in the Chapel mended.

A new three phase electrical supply was installed into the north side of St Giles' and a new induction hob and oven installed in the kitchen, so that we can expect even better food from the kitchen team.

We are working to steadily improve St Benet's Hall and thanks to our Maintenance Manager, Jason Bean, for undertaking and managing this work.

# Prior's Report

## *Monastic Life*

The monastic community remains at two – Fr Oswald and Br Jarek, now returned after a very successful MPhil to start his doctoral studies. Despite the small number, the life of the Chapel continues as normal, with our faithful daily and Sunday congregations at Mass, and some of the Hall students and guests coming to the evening Offices of Vespers and Compline. This term, the link with the Knights of Malta Companions has been re-established, so they attend Compline on alternate Saturdays. The Master and his wife have also been extremely supportive.



Michaelmas Term began with a bang, when we held the blessing of the marriage of Thais, one of our DPhil students, in the Chapel, at which Fr Gabriel and Fr Oswald presided. It was a really joyous occasion! Fr Gabriel has also visited for a weekend – including celebrating Sunday Mass, and Fr Wulstan visited in early December, and was celebrant on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent.

## *Other Events*

During Freshers' Week, Fr Oswald gave a presentation on Benedictine Life for new students. Although entirely optional, some 15 students – both undergraduate and graduate – attended. Fr Oswald continues to spend time at the Chaplaincy on Tuesdays each week – an important outreach to the wider university and Catholic students from other colleges. Last term, he lectured on the History of the Liturgy at Blackfriars (with a further course on the Theology of the Liturgy this term). As always, we held an extra evening Mass for students and staff on both All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day; both were well attended. Also on All Saints' Day, Fr Oswald was celebrant at Mass for Rye St Anthony School – a new link for the Hall, since the new Headmistress is a long-term friend of the Ampleforth Community. From 8-11<sup>th</sup> November, both Br Jarek and Fr Oswald attended the second "Liturgy Congress" at Glenstal Abbey in Eire. Fr Oswald was among the contributing speakers at the congress, whilst Br Jarek was the "star of the show", playing Grieg's Violin Sonata no.3 on the first evening of the meeting. Despite the slight disruption to the Hall caused by the absence of the entire community (!), it was a very worthwhile experience. Fr Oswald preached at Evensong at Balliol on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November, followed by supper with the Chaplain and Choir – a delightful experience. Having started with a bang, the term finished with one too, as we celebrated the annual Advent Carol Service in the Chapel in 8<sup>th</sup> week.

To mark Christian Unity Week (18-25<sup>th</sup> January), Fr Oswald preached at St Margaret's Church (the Master's parish) on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January. Lastly, Fr Oswald has been invited to give a lecture on "Monks and Medicine" as part of a series at the University Church in February.

## *Future Events & Development*

A number of events are now being planned:

- *Lent Retreat:* On 2<sup>nd</sup> March (Sat of 7<sup>th</sup> week) we are intending to hold a one-day pre-Lent Retreat in the Hall, open to both students and Oxford residents. The day will offer talks (including some guest speakers), an opportunity to join in the Office, and time for reflection and Lectio Divina. This is already booked, and will be advertised soon.
- *Trinity Seminar:* Building on the above, we are hoping to hold a larger seminar day in the Hall with at least two invited speakers, partly in celebration of the Hall's centenary as a PPH. The topic and focus of this day is still under discussion, but we hope to finalise this as soon as possible. Planning for this is being assisted by Br Colmàn from Glenstal (himself a Benet's alumnus), Director of the Glenstal Studium.
- *Chapel Developments:* Following up on an idea from the Master, Fr Oswald has been working with one of the undergraduates to try to establish a "Hall Schola" – a small group of student singers/musicians who could add an additional level of beauty to the Hall's current liturgy, especially our Sunday Mass. We are currently working towards a group of three or four voices, (along with a student organist) who could add both more complex chant items and polyphony to the Mass (and possibly to Vespers on greater Feasts and Guest Nights). It is hoped to begin formally in 4<sup>th</sup> week, and that such an initiative will both increase student participation in the Liturgy and attract new members to the Chapel congregation (especially from amongst our Catholic students).

# Development Update



Dear Benetians and Friends,

Thank you to everyone for a warm welcome last term. As you know, fundraising is an increasingly vital part of higher education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and I have been heartened by the response to this new position and our renewed focus on development. I look forward to meeting more of you.

During Michaelmas 2018, the Master and I began meeting alumni and friends of Benet's to assess the current perception and status of the Hall. It is clear that there is a great appreciation for Benet's and the community it inspires. However, there are areas where Benet's can improve. Chief among these concerns is our ongoing budget deficit.

The Master and I, with the generous support of Ampleforth Abbey, are working towards eliminating this deficit through philanthropic support. With a total operating budget of just over £1m supporting 92 students, 28 academics and 6 administrative staff, St Benet's Hall runs a very tight ship. However, income from traditional sources like college fees and conferences simply do not cover our full expenses – nor the expenses of most other colleges. We have set out a multi-year fundraising plan to address our deficit and help us achieve our goal of financial independence.

Thank you to all of our alumni and friends who have supported the Hall so far this year. We have already made significant progress towards ensuring our financial security but we are still £76,000 short of our fundraising goal for the 2018/2019 academic year. If you would like to discuss how you can help St Benet's Hall through direct philanthropic support, hosting an event, or any other means, please contact me directly at [ethan.kuhn@stb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ethan.kuhn@stb.ox.ac.uk) or +44 (0)1865 280561. Details on how to donate can be found below.

I look forward to meeting many more of you over the coming months. Thank you again for your advice and support over the preceding months and please contact us if you have any questions or comments about our plans.

With gratitude,

Ethan G Kuhn  
Director of Development

## *Benet's Events*

- 4 March 2019 – Lord Alderdice: 'Religious Experience, Religious Difference and Transcendence – a contribution to inter-faith dialogue' 5pm, Athenaeum, Pall Mall. Booking essential: [christine.gahan@stb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:christine.gahan@stb.ox.ac.uk).
- 15 May 2019 – Benet's PPH Centenary with Lord Chris Patten in London Details TBA

Other forthcoming events include: young alumni drinks, lectures, subject gatherings, and summer drinks. The Gaudy is also being planned for November 2019. Please look out for future announcements.

## *University Events*

- 22-24 March 2019 – Meeting Minds in Tokyo
- 10 April 2019 – Oxford in North America: Boston\*
- 11 April 2019 – Oxford in North America: Toronto
- 13 April 2019 – Oxford in North America: Washington, DC\*
- 20-22 September 2019 – Meetings Minds in Oxford\*
- 17-18 April 2020 – North America Alumni Weekend: New York City\*

\*Benet's staff will be in attendance

## **How to make your gift:**

Online: [www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/st-benets-hall](http://www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/st-benets-hall)

Online (from USA): [www.oxfordna.org/donate](http://www.oxfordna.org/donate) and specify St Benet's Hall  
Bank Transfer:

BANK: Barclays BRANCH: York A/C NAME: The St Benet's Trust SORT: 20-99-15  
A/C NO: 33081184 SWIFT/BIC: BARCGB22 IBAN: GB49 BARC 2099 1533 0811 84

# Academic News

Please visit <https://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/news> for regular news updates.

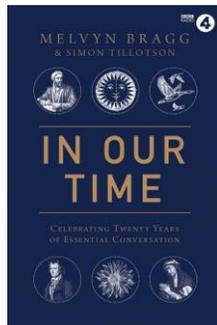
Master **Professor Richard Cooper** gave papers at Renaissance conferences last term in Tours, Rouen, Lyon, Verona and Yale. This term he will be speaking in Glasgow, Florence, Paris and Toronto.

Fellow **Professor Susan Doran** appeared in December on the US version of 'Who do you think you are?' featuring actor Josh Duhamel. Professor Doran gave a plenary paper '1603: A jagged succession' at a conference on 'New Perspectives on Regime Change 1595-1606 at the Huntington Library., San Marino California 11-12 January.



Fellow **Dr Pieter François** gave an invited lecture on Digital Humanities at Nanjing University in December. His talk focused on 'Distant Reading for European Literary History' and the 'Seshat: Global History Databank' project.

Fellow **Dr Frances Reynolds** features in a new book of highlights from a popular BBC Radio 4 series. She is a guest contributor to 'Epic of Gilgamesh' in *In Our Time: Celebrating Twenty Years of Essential Conversation*, edited by Melvyn Bragg and Simon Tillotson (Simon & Schuster: 2018)

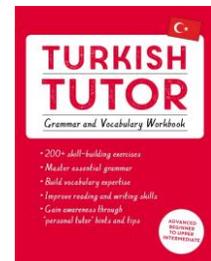


Fellow and Tutor **Dr Nick Waghorn** has been appointed as Visiting Fellow in Philosophy at the School of Humanities, University of Buckingham.

Senior Research Fellow in Philosophy **Dr Brian Klug**, gave an invited lecture, 'Wittgenstein and the Divine: Can Nonsense Make Sense?' to the Research Centre 'Religion and Transformation in contemporary Society', University of Vienna on 24 September 2018. Dr Klug also gave the Israel Studies Seminar in Oxford: 'Defining antisemitism, demonizing Zionism - The current controversy over the left and the Jews', on 27 November. In dialogue with Yaacov Yadgar, Professor of Israel Studies (Oxford), Dr Klug presented: "Beyond the Theopolitics of the Nation-State: Muslim and Jewish Critique of Modern Sovereignty" on 23 January. Dr Klug's forthcoming presentations include:

- **Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism, Birkbeck, University of London.** Invited paper for the workshop: "Antisemitism: A Matter of Definition", 2 April
- **Centre for Theology and Public Issues, University of Edinburgh.** Invited keynote lecture for the conference "Religious Populism – Populist Religion: Political Theology in Polarized Times", 2-3 September

**Dr Emine Çakir**, Tutor in Turkish, has a new book, 'Turkish Tutor: Grammar and Vocabulary Workbook'.



**Dr Louise Nelstrop**, lecturer in Theology, has recently co-directed a short film called 'Complete Surrender'. It explores why well-known continental artists are making use of female mystics and explores themes of love and female authority.

**St Benet's Hall Research Forum – Digital Humanities**  
Hilary Term 2019 – 11 Norham Gardens, Griffith Room – 5:30pm

**Week 2 – Friday 25 Jan – Matthew Thompson**  
Underwater Acoustic Localization and Referencing: An Enhanced Positioning Method for Archaeological Data Collection of Submerged Cultural Resources.

**Week 3 – Friday 01 Feb – Barbara McGillivray**  
Computational semantics and historical texts: from Ancient Greek to web Archives

**Week 4 – Tuesday 05 Feb – Paul Wordsworth**  
Scratching the surface: exploring the potential of digital epigraphy in Elkab (Upper Egypt)

**Week 5 – Friday 15 Feb – Selin Nugent**  
TBA

**Week 6 – Friday 22 Feb – Chris Green**  
It's complicated: mapping and understanding 2,500 years of English archaeology

**Week 7 – Friday 01 Mar – Kathryn Eccles**  
Interacting with collections: learning from public interaction with humanities materials

**Week 8 – Friday 08 Mar – Siân Brooke**  
Women can't code: Unmasking the role of stereotypes in creative coding cultures

**Week 9 – Friday 15 Mar – Iza Romanowska**  
Agent-based Modelling in Humanities Research

# Student News

## A Home for Egyptology

Thais Rocha de Silva (DPhil Oriental Studies: Egyptology)



My work as a DPhil student in Egyptology is about domestic space and privacy in the Workmen's Village from Amarna, the capital of Egypt during the reign of Akhenaten. Amarna is a fantastic site to study how ancient Egyptians lived as the city was occupied for about 20 years. The Workmen's Village housed the workforce engaged with royal projects and it is a sort of snapshot of the daily live in ancient Egypt.

I spent last October being part of the study season in Amarna investigating the findings of a domestic complex (the M50 14-15) under the direction of Dr. Anna Hodgkinson and the support of the Egypt Exploration Society.

We studied the structure and plan of the house and specific activity areas which seems to have been a workshop for glass and faience. This project was a great opportunity to refine my own analyses of the houses in the Workmen's Village, also in Amarna, for my DPhil thesis. I am investigating notions of privacy and domestic space using the establishment of activity areas in the village and the architectural remains of the houses.

Other than that, personally, it was a very productive year, with a new paper to be published soon, Confirmation of Status done and moreover, another fieldwork experience with the Amarna Project.

In the last year we carried on organising the Tea and Cake for the Egyptology and Ancient Near East Studies (EANES) department in the Oriental Institute, which happens every term at St Benet's and it is a chance to put together members of the staff, undergrad and grad students with a few sweets, coffee and tea to keep us warm and the conversation on. More Grad Seminars are on the way as well! (see the Academic News section for this term's schedule)

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## Norham Gardens: A Fresher's Report

Natalie Montegriffo (Human Sciences)

Being a fresher at St Benet's is a great experience, and being at Norham Gardens makes it even better. I have especially enjoyed socialising in the Solar, including watching horror programmes, discussing Lord of the Rings, and watching Love Actually before we left for the Christmas vacation. The table tennis tables down in the basement are a good way to take part in some friendly competition, and the kitchens and stairways are convenient places to chat to people. Also, being close to Uni Parks is lovely as it means I can get some fresh air. The walk or cycle to St Giles' is a nice break from working, and I will never forget how much fun I had during the Christmas Party, and how much I enjoyed hearing all the speakers at Tuesday formals.

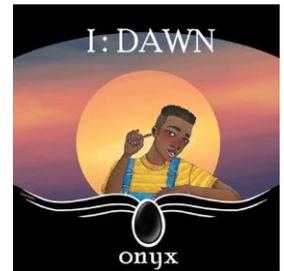
I'm glad to be back at Norham Gardens, and I hope all the freshers and other students at St Benet's have a great Hilary term.

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## Benetian on Inaugural Board for BME Magazine

Ines Bonneau (Philosophy and Theology)

Onyx was set up by a group of 8 female Oxford students of Afro-Caribbean heritage who noticed the severe lack of representation in the UK's publishing industry. However, to do something about this required them to overcome two main challenges; the first being funding. In order to do so the women applied to numerous sources and successfully managed to get over £7,000 in funding for the development, printing and circulation of the first two editions of the magazine. Prior to this funding, the group had to rely on funds from events that we hosted such as 'Art Unearthed', which was the first Black Art exhibition to have taken in place in Oxford. The exhibition attracted over 200 attendees and showcased musical and theatrical performances, including an all-female, all-BME reinterpretation of 'Medea'.



Thanks to the supporters at these events and the o2 Big Think and Oxford University's Diversity Fund, the *Onyx* team has distributed over 1000 copies in the UK and internationally, and have started to put together a plan for their next issue.

# Student News Cont'd and Sports Update

## First Graduates in Global Governance

George Anscombe-Bell, Adrianna Korte-Nahabedian and Dmitriy Miryan

*George, Dmitriy, and Adrianna are reading for the MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy, the first cohort from the GGD course to make their home at St Benet's. The course investigates a broad range of policy issues surrounding the institutions and processes of global governance and diplomacy – at international, transnational, state, and domestic levels.*

In our first term, we explored a variety of topics, ranging from the theoretical and ethical underpinnings of international governance institutions, to the intricacies of international law and to matters of global security governance regarding terrorism, cyber security and the environment. The course, while maintaining a clear academic focus, has positioned us within a diverse group of aspiring diplomatic practitioners from around the world, and an environment of rigorous debate, at a time of immense political importance for the UK and its global neighbours.

As Benet's' first GGDers, we have also taken full advantage of our time at the Hall to interact with fellow Benetians, dip our toes into rowing, and to bring together the world of GGD with the Benet's community; having already introduced several new faces to formals and other events throughout Michaelmas Term. Now in our penultimate term, we're looking ahead to our remaining time in Oxford, to contributing to postgraduate life in St. Benet's, and to our respective research; into the countering of 'state-failure' narratives in terrorist propaganda, NATO resilience in the face of modern political warfare, and the development of a comprehensive human-rights-based approach to food security.

We're thrilled to be representing Benet's in GGD this year, and look forward to seeing what life in the Hall, and on our course, holds for the next six months.

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## St Benet's Hall Boat Club Update

Caitriona Quigley (Women's Capt) and Jack Williams (Men's Capt)

The women's squad got off to a fabulous start this academic year with yet another rather historic term that saw the novice women get through to the third round of Christ Church Regatta. It was the first time ever that St Benet's Hall entered a fully-novice women's crew, which allowed them to progress past the friendly stages. The crew trained hard all term to put in a very impressive performance. The senior women, meanwhile, competed in two IWL time trials and also impressed. As more women get involved in rowing within the St Benet's community, the commitment and success of the women's boat makes itself clearer and clearer and they're very positive going forward into Torpids this term.

The men's side of the boat club has enjoyed great success in Michaelmas Term 2018. We had the greatest intake in novices in the history of the club, with 16 men training every week (more than some of the largest colleges). Thanks to the great coaching of the senior members of the club, we entered a very competitive novice boat in Christ Church Regatta. The senior men in the meantime trained throughout the term and laid the foundations for a fruitful Hilary Term 2019.

Two men's crews are currently preparing for Torpids and a single women's crew. As the club's numbers increase, and the dedication of its athletes improves, it continues to impose itself as a key name in the world of college rowing.

In other news, St Stephen's House is now officially affiliated with St Benet's Hall. Their contribution to the boat club has been especially felt this term, and we hope that they will continue to embrace and be embraced by the Benetian spirit.

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## Rugby: Small College; Big Impact

Benet's was immensely proud to have over 10% of our second year playing in the Varsity Match at Twickenham this year, with theology student Henry Martin and historian Charlie Pozniak both winning Blues.

After a shaky start, Oxford pulled away in the second half for a convincing win that included a try for Charlie. Both come from strong rugby backgrounds: Henry has been involved with Bath and England 7s, where he played on his gap year and Charlie currently trains and plays with Sale Sharks.

Both were also heavily involved in helping the St Benet's Hall 7s team win the 7s Cuppers tournament for the first time in Trinity last year. The two have been integral to Oxford's successes this season and will play a large role over the next year.



Charlie Pozniak scores during the Varsity Match

# Alumni News

## The St Benet's Hall Association

I am pleased to welcome our recent graduates to the St Benet's Hall Association, our global network of alumni spanning all generations of Benetians. As a Member of St Benet's, you join an incredible community, of which you remain a member for life.

2018 has been a year of significant change at St Benet's, with the departure of our former Master, Professor Werner Jeanrond, to take up the Chair of Dogmatics at the University of Oslo in September 2019, and with the arrival of Professor Richard Cooper as interim Master. Professor Cooper is a distinguished Oxford scholar of the European Renaissance, whose Oxford career spans over forty years, during which he has held a number of senior college and university roles, including Junior Proctor and Chair of the Modern Languages Faculty Board.

In 2019, we have a busy programme of events, including a drinks reception for younger alumni in London, a lecture by Lord Alderdice at the Athenaeum in London on 4 March, as well as a jointly hosted summer drinks at St Benet's in June for alumni of both St Benet's and Ampleforth. Benet's staff will also be attending the University's Oxford in North America events in Boston and Washington DC on 10 and 13 April, and Meeting Minds in Oxford on 20 – 22 September.

In November 2019, we will be holding our biennial Gaudy in London, at which we will be celebrating the centenary of the Hall's admission to the University as a Permanent Private Hall. The date, venue, and guest speaker will be announced shortly and I very much hope that you will join us for this event.

In other news, in 2019, we are looking for Year Reps and new Members to sit on the Association Committee, after Tom Harrison (2008) stood down late last year. I thank Tom for his valuable contributions and participation. The Year Reps' role is to help share communications, news, and importantly encourage attendance at our events. As for the Committee, this currently comprises the Master, Ethan Kuhn (Director of Development), Christine Gahan (Alumni Relations Officer), Professor Susan Doran (Fellow Member), Nicholas Kazaz (2004), Nicholas Wingfield Digby (2006), Rahul Ahluwalia (2009), David Goldberg (2009), Roberto Weeden-Sanz (2012), Connie Cha (2015), and John Aroutiounian (2016). We would particularly like to widen the Committee to include Members who matriculated pre-2000. If you are interested in becoming a Year Rep and / or joining the Committee, please contact Christine Gahan at [alumni@stb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@stb.ox.ac.uk)

Christine is one of several new faces in the Hall, along with our new Director of Development, Ethan Kuhn. As well as being Alumni Relations Officer, Christine is PA to the Master and Director of Development: both Ethan and Christine are warmly welcomed. Christine will be building on the excellent work of Katy Griffiths, whom many of you will have met and communicated with over the last few years. I am very grateful for Katy's dedication, and wish her well in her new endeavours.

Finally, a reminder that we are keen to maintain contact with and promote links between our Members. If you would like to visit the Hall, please contact the Master, Ethan or Christine, who would be very happy to welcome you in Oxford. Likewise, if you would like to contribute any news to the termly newsletter, please write to [alumni@stb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@stb.ox.ac.uk)

All good wishes to you and to your families for 2019, and I look forward to seeing you over the coming year.

Nicholas Kazaz  
(2004 – 2007)

For and on behalf of the St Benet's Hall Association

## Alumni News

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### St Benet's Alumnus Wins Michael Von Clemm Fellowship

Congratulations to St Benet's alumnus Zakir Gul who has been awarded this year's Michael Von Clemm Fellowship to study at Harvard University as a Special Student at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in 2019-20. Zakir's focus will be Arabic, Persian and Islamic literature and philosophy.



The Michael Von Clemm Fellowship is an exchange program between Harvard University and the University of Oxford, funded by the Michael and Louise von Clemm Foundation. Students from the University of Oxford may apply for the Michael von Clemm Fellowship to spend one academic year as a Special Student at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University following their graduation from Oxford.

Zakir graduated from St Benet's Hall in 2018 with a first in Arabic and Persian.

### Alumnus Featured in University Publication

Greg Scannell (2005) talks about coming to Oxford from a working class background in a recent interview with *Quad*. Greg Scannell was the first person in his family to attend university, let alone Oxford. He was originally inspired to apply after a week studying theology at Magdalen College as part of a Sutton Trust Summer School. Since graduating in Theology, his career has been dedicated to broadening access to Oxford.

Read more at:

<https://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/quad/article/alumni-stories-theres-no-one-oxford-student>