



## Trinity Term & Summer 2019

Dear Members and Friends of St Benet's Hall,

We have had a successful Trinity Term, followed by a summer filled with Summer Schools and visitors to the Hall. We offer many congratulations to the finalists and first years who faced exams, including our first cohort of undergraduate women graduating, to whom we offer many thanks for all they have contributed to the Hall. We welcome all our leavers, graduates and undergraduates, to our alumni community, and send them every good wish as they take their next steps after completing degrees at St Benet's: please do stay in touch.

It was delightful that so many of you could join us and the Chancellor at the Cavalry & Guards Club on 15 May, to celebrate the centenary of St Benet's Hall as a Permanent Private Hall of the University. The evening had a real buzz, and it was great to see so many people able to renew contacts or establish new networks. We hope that many of you may join us at the Gaudy in November. You will see in our alumni news section that we have several updates, and there are offers of opportunities from alumni.

Activities students have been involved in include the well-received Garden Play, a production of Pierre Corneille's 17th century farce, *The Liar*. Congratulations are due for sporting achievements in Torpids (six bumps for the Men's First Eight), then in Summer Eights, and to our victorious team who retained the Men's Rugby Sevens Cup.

St. Benet's Hall has this year established the St. Benet's Institute to provide a focus on issues of Faith, Leadership and Dialogue. Its aim is to encourage better understanding and cooperation between various faith leaders, academics, policy-makers and the wider public, in order to address major challenges in public engagement. We have welcomed three Visiting Research Fellows, who promote these activities; they are The Rt Hon Lord Alderdice FRCPsych, Krish Raval CBE, and the Reverend Charlotte Bannister-Parker. The Hall is proud to have elected to an Honorary Fellowship one of its most distinguished alumni, Sir Anthony Kenny FBA, former Master of Balliol, Warden of Rhodes House and President of the British Academy, one of Britain's most celebrated philosophers.

We will remain in touch throughout the term, and hope to see you at the Gaudy or at other events taking place during the year. We now look forward to Michaelmas Term, with a record number of graduates joining us across a range of subjects, who will help to maintain the Hall's Benedictine ethos and strong sense of community around our Common Table.

Warm wishes,

Professor Richard Cooper  
Master, St Benet's Hall

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# Hall News

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## Introducing the St Benet's Institute for Faith, Leadership, and Dialogue

We are pleased to announce that St Benet's Hall has founded the St Benet's Institute for Faith, Leadership, and Dialogue.

The St Benet's Institute (SBI) is a cooperative project between St Benet's Hall, Faith in Leadership, and Lord Alderdice. The aim of the SBI is to encourage better understanding and co-operation between various faith leaders, academics, policy-makers and the wider public by creating a forum for interdisciplinary dialogue, research and cross-sectoral engagement. St Benet's Institute will draw on the learning and experience of these various traditions and disciplines to address some of our global human challenges and where possible provide policy recommendation and change.



Events already held under the St Benet's Institute span a variety of subject areas and audiences, and have included:

- *Religious Difference and Transcendence*: Lord Alderdice discussed the role of constructive interfaith dialogue during his time as Leader of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland from 1987 to 1998. Held at the Athenaeum.
- *Faith & Public Appointments*: The Minister for Implementation and Krish Raval brought together faith leaders and government officials to discuss the role of faith when making public appointments. Held at Windsor Castle.
- *Trust-building in an Age of Discontent*: Professor Rajmohan Gandhi discussed his grandfather's (Mohandas Gandhi) legacy and the role of political trust-building during times of conflict. Held at and in cooperation with the Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford.
- *Faith & Investment*: Managing Director and Vice Chairman of PIMCO, John Studzinski, held a closed-door conversation with London and European investors on his faith and how it has guided his approach to business and ethical investments. Held at the House of Lords.
- *Faith & Mystery*: Mark Patrick Hederman OSB, former abbot of Glenstal Abbey, gave a lecture on the importance of mystery and mythology, and discussed his new book *Living the Mystery*. Held at the University Church, Oxford.

The Hall was also pleased to host a visit by Government Minister, Lord Bourne, on the eve of Oxford's annual inter-faith Friendship Walk, where the work of St Benet's Hall and Institute was presented to the Minister, alongside the leaders of Oxford Three Faiths Week.

An official launch party for the St Benet's Institute is planned for later this academic year. Details to follow.

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## Farewell to Dr Santha Bhattacharji, Senior Tutor



We say farewell, with much gratitude, to Senior Tutor, Dr Santha Bhattacharji. We were pleased to host a retirement tea for Santha which was attended by friends and colleagues, as well as students past and present.

The new Senior Tutor is Dr Bernard Gowers, a Mediæval historian, previously at Keble, where he ran the Middlebury exchange programme and the Centre for Mediæval and Renaissance Studies in Queen Street.

# Hall News

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## PPH Centenary Celebration

St Benet's Hall celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> year as a Permanent Private Hall of the University of Oxford with a reception at the Cavalry & Guards in London.

We were pleased that over 80 alumni, students, and friends could attend this celebration. The event was elevated by the presence of the Chancellor, who toasted the Hall's success during his address to the attendees.

As the Hall's numbers have grown, and brought in both women graduates and undergraduates in recent years, we hope that more old members will come back to see the Hall as it is today. We invite you to attend any events in London, Oxford, or elsewhere around the world, and hope you consider coming back for a formal meal someday soon.



## Degree Days

We welcomed back seventeen alumni, and their families and friends, at the Hall's Degree Days in Hilary and Trinity Term. 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>.

## New St Benet's Facebook Page



Follow St Benet's Hall's activities at: <https://www.facebook.com/StBenetsHall>

If you would like to contribute content, please contact [communications@stb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:communications@stb.ox.ac.uk)

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## Reducing our CO2 emissions

For the year to April 2019, the CO2 emissions from energy usage at St Benet's Hall reduced from 126 tonnes CO2 (April 2018) to 90 tonnes CO2. As might be expected with a small building footprint, St Benet's Hall has the lowest CO2 emissions of any of the 31 Colleges and Halls of the University of Oxford that report their data. The comparison includes the other small colleges that make up the University. Normalising the data against the number of undergraduate students as a proxy for size, St Benet's moved from third lowest College last year to the lowest CO2 emissions per undergraduate student (1.4 tonnes CO2/undergraduate, compared to the median of 2.7 tonnes CO2/undergraduate). Stewardship is an integral part of the Benedictine ethos of St Benet's Hall.

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## St Benet's graduate student selected to speak at a workshop in Tel Aviv

Servane Hardouin (MPhil in Egyptology) was one of ten Oxford Humanities students selected to participate in the Oxford - Tel Aviv Programme in the Study of the Ancient World. This year's topic was 'Religion and Society in the Ancient World'. Servane gave a paper in March 2019 at the workshop in Tel Aviv, speaking on sistra music and goddesses in ancient Egypt.

## Travelling Scholarship awarded to Classics student

Third year Benet's Classics student, Joe Lord, was awarded one of the Oldham Classics Travelling Scholarships from the University.

During the Easter Vacation, first year Classics students enjoyed a field trip to Rome and Ostia.



# Prior's Report

## Monastic Life

It has been a busy time for the monastic community. Fr Oswald preached at the Eucharist at St Margaret's Church, Oxford – the Master's parish – on the Sunday during the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. They were extremely welcoming, and it has brought our relationship with the local Anglican clergy to a new and closer level. Very kindly, Abbot Geoffrey Scott, the Abbot of Douai Abbey, came across to be the Sunday celebrant in the Chapel.

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February the Hall celebrated St Scholastica's Day with a sung Office of Midday Prayer and a festal lunch. These gave us an opportunity to celebrate the contribution made by our female students and staff to the Hall since we became fully co-educational, and equally to invite some guests to share this "Benedictine" feast. The old Benedictine foundations – Worcester, Trinity and Christ Church – were all represented, as were Campion Hall and Blackfriars. It was a very congenial and successful occasion. That same evening, Sr Bonifatia from Mariendonk in Germany (a friend of Dr Fran Reynolds) arrived for a week's study; she joined us (as previously) for Office and Mass in the Hall each morning.



Fr Oswald gave a series of lectures at Blackfriars in Trinity Term on the "Theology of the Liturgy" as part of the Studium's STB programme. On 20<sup>th</sup> February, he also gave the final lecture of a series held at the University Church, speaking on "Monastic Herbals and Mediaeval Medicine". About 30 people were present, and the lecture provoked some very interesting questions and discussion. The evening concluded with a "herbal tasting" – a variety of infusions and potions using plants mentioned in the talk.

One of our first year undergraduates has now taken over as the Chapel Organist, having played at the Advent Carol Service last term. He is making an excellent contribution. From the beginning of Trinity, he has been joined at our Sunday Mass by our new Chapel *Schola* – led by a second year student. The addition of more complex plainsong and polyphony has been a very joyful enrichment of our Easter liturgies. Fr Oswald is hoping to find some benefactors to sponsor the new *Schola* to ensure its future.

Our pre-Lent "Retreat Day" in the Chapel on 2<sup>nd</sup> March was a great success. There were three speakers (Sr Josephine, Prioress of Stanbrook; Dr Brian Klug – speaking on 'Passover in the Jewish Tradition'; and Fr Oswald) and some 20 people attended (amazing, given it was the Saturday of Torpids!). The retreat offered an opportunity for joining in the Office and *Lectio Divina*, alongside time for reflection. Feedback from the retreatants was very positive, and it is hoped that this will be the first of a series of Hall retreats.

Sadly, just before Easter, we heard news that one of our recent graduate students, John Aroutiounian, was gravely ill in New York – he died on 3 May. We held both a Requiem Mass and a Memorial Service in the Chapel in the week of his funeral. Some 30 people filled the Chapel for the Memorial Service – the Master, many fellows and current students, alumni and members of the Oriental Studies department made it a moving and prayerful occasion. On a happier note, Br Jarek made his Solemn Profession at Glenstal Abbey in Ireland – and a little "Oxford party" went across to celebrate with him and the community, including Fr Oswald and Fr Gabriel. As we monks say: *Ad multos annos!*

Fr Oswald McBride, Prior & Chaplain

# Development Update



Dear Benetians and Friends,

Thank you!

The 2018/19 academic year saw both an increase in total philanthropic support of St Benet's Hall and a growth in alumni 'participation' over last year.

These numbers include:

- A significant pledge from a foundation to fund student access and outreach programmes, and to fund the post of a female Assistant Chaplain at the Hall for the next two years
- Full refurbishment of the Men's boat
- A new boat for the Women's Crew
- Increased funding for a scholarship in History
- Growth in gifts to fund our core needs – i.e. 'The Annual Fund'

With a new Master, Director of Development, and Alumni Relations Officer, the 2018/19 fiscal and academic year was largely focused on meeting and listening to our alumni, donors, and friends. Thank you for your willingness to get to know us, to share advice and feedback, and to support the people and programmes at Benet's with your donations.

If you have yet to meet any of the recent additions to the Hall, please consider visiting us in Oxford or at one of our events this year – or simply reach out to the Master or me to say hello or to meet over tea or a meal in London. You are always welcome.

Sincerely yours,

Ethan G. Kuhn  
Director of Development

## *Benet's Events*

17 November 2019 – Blessing of the Boat. Sunday Formal Lunch followed by a blessing of the new Women's Boat. Contact [events@stb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:events@stb.ox.ac.uk) to reserve your spot.

29 November 2019 – Gaudy. Further information below. Please contact [events@stb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:events@stb.ox.ac.uk) for bookings

30 November 2019 – St Benet's Hall Advent Retreat Day

12 February 2020 – Oriental Studies Dinner. Open to Oriental Studies alumni; there will be a small charge for the meal. Please contact [events@stb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:events@stb.ox.ac.uk).

8 June 2020 – Newman Lecture: Mary McAleese

## *St Benet's Institute Events*

13 December 2019 – Public Lecture by Professor Laurence Kirkpatrick: Faith and Fundamentalism. Charles Wellbeloved Room, Harris Manchester College, Mansfield Road, Oxford OX1 3TD.

Register here:  
<https://getinvited.to/stbenetsinstitute/faithandfundamentalism/>

For full details, see: <https://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/institute>  
Please check your email for future announcements.

## *University Events*

20-21 March 2020 – European Alumni Weekend: Berlin

17-18 April 2020 – North America Alumni Weekend: New York City

## Would you like to support Benet's in 2019/20?

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

# Development Update

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## ST BENET'S HALL GAUDY 2019



ST BENET'S HALL  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The Master of St Benet's Hall and Professor Emanuela Tandello request  
the pleasure of your company at the

### 2019 Gaudy

Friday 29 November 2019

at the Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London, W1J 7PX

Reception at 7pm, Waterloo and Peninsular Rooms; Dinner at 8pm, Coffee Room

Partners are also invited

Registration details to follow.  
For further details and booking, please contact:  
[events@stb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:events@stb.ox.ac.uk) or 01865 280555

Black Tie

We are looking forward to the 2019 Gaudy at the Cavalry & Guards Club on 29 November! There will be a champagne reception and a three-course meal. Tickets will cost £95. We are offering an option of sponsoring a ticket to support students to attend. For further information, please email [events@stb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:events@stb.ox.ac.uk).

## FUTURE EVENT VENUES

If you are a member of a Club and would be willing to 'sponsor' St Benet's to secure a booking for the next Gaudy, or for any other alumni events, please let us know: [alumni@stb.oc.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@stb.oc.ac.uk) (or call us on 01865 280555).

## Research News

Fellow **Dr George Bitsakakis** hosted a conference at St Benet's from 8-9 February on *Endogenous Growth, Participatory Economics, and Inclusive Capitalism*.

Oriental Studies Lecturer **Dr Emine Çakir** won two OUSU Teaching Awards, one for Outstanding Tutor and one for Exceptional Feedback. Students nominate staff across the University for these very competitive awards.

The Master, **Professor Richard Cooper**, has completed an edition of poetry written on the death in 1549 of Marguerite de Navarre, sister of François Ier, and published articles on Rabelais, Dante, Renaissance Cosmography, Renaissance Antiquities, and 16C Wines. In the context of his Leverhulme Emeritus Fellowship, he has given papers at conferences in Paris on Renaissance manuscripts, in Toronto on Renaissance antiquarians, in St Etienne on Claude d'Urfé, in Durham on 18C satirical songs, and in Turin on the marriage in 1559 of the Duke of Savoy. He chairs the committee of the Entente Cordiale scholarships, for British graduates wanting to study in France, and the Academic Committee of the Maison des Sciences Humaines de Lyon.

Fellow **Professor Susan Doran** convened a day conference on 11 May at Jesus College, Oxford, to mark the death of Queen Anna of Denmark in 1619, giving a paper on 3 June at the Institute of Historical Research, and also finished lecturing on Elizabeth I at Shrewsbury School and Kent Historical Association.

Fellow, Tutor for Graduates and Director of Studies in Human Sciences, **Dr Pieter François** took up the position of Deputy Director of the new [Centre for the Study of Social Cohesion](#) at the School of Anthropology & Museum Ethnography. CSSC focuses on the study of what binds societies together and uses a number of approaches, including Big Data analytics on historical and archaeological data, ethnographic studies, and surveys. CSSC is supported by a number of large grants and employs 13 researchers. Dr François has published a foundational paper in *Nature*, the world's leading multi-disciplinary science journal, which reveals that moralizing gods only appeared after the sharpest rises in social complexity.

**Dr Nancy Hawker**, Research Associate in Arabic and Hebrew and Leverhulme Early-Career Fellow at the Faculty of Oriental Studies, has received a Fellowship at the Aga Khan University.

**Dr Jonathan Jong**, Research Associate in Anthropology has published a book (with Jamin Halberstadt), *Death Anxiety and Religious Belief* and has contributed two chapters to a new book, *Love Makes No Sense: An Invitation to Christian Theology*. Dr Jong is also working on a Templeton World Charity Foundation project: *The cognitive and cultural foundations of religion and morality*.

Senior Research Fellow in Philosophy **Dr Brian Klug**, gave a paper, 'Antisemitism and the IHRA: A Defining Moment?', at the workshop 'Antisemitism: Definition Matters', Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism, Birkbeck, University of London (2 April). Dr Klug was a speaker on 'How to Make Ethical Decisions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century', at the St Laurence Forum, Ampleforth Society, Institute of Directors, London (2 May).

**Dr Max Lau**, Research Associate in History and former rowing coach, joins the Hall from an academic post at Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo. Dr Lau recently finished fieldwork in Turkey focusing on Byzantine Emperor John II Komnenos, the Turkish Sultans Mas'ūd and Ghazi Danishmend, the Armenian Lords of the Mountains and the Crusader Princes in 1130s and 40s. This work will be incorporated in his forthcoming monograph, provisionally entitled *Phoenix Emperor: John II Komnenos and the Restoration of New Rome*.

**Dr Mary Marshall**, St Benet's Fellow, Director of Studies and Tutor in Theology, delivered the final keynote address at the National School Chaplains Conference at Liverpool Hope University, on Friday 14 June. The conference is organised by the School Chaplains and Leaders Association (SCALA) and Dr Marshall addressed the delegates on a scriptural exploration of their conference theme, Where the Spirit Leads.

**Dr Maryyum Mehmood**, St Benet's Research Associate, contributed a short piece to a Guardian newspaper review of what the Brexit world can learn from history: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/mar/30/paths-past-historians-make-sense-brexit-world-today>

Lecturer **Dr Michael Oliver** received the Award for Excellence from the Humanities Division.

Two research seminars took place in Trinity Term: On 28 May, **William Skelton** (MPhil Cuneiform Studies) spoke on 'They Are Neither Male Nor Female: Ideologies of Gender in Canonical Mesopotamian Incantation Texts'. On 4 June, **Dr Yvonne Cornish**, Fellow and Tutor in History, gave a paper based on her chapter in a forthcoming edited book. The title of her paper was 'Celebrity and Self-Promotion: Eighteenth-Century Style'.



# Sports Update

## St Benet's Hall Boat Club Update

*Men's Report, written by the Men's Captain, Leone Astolfi:*

The Men's side of the club had a very successful Hilary Term. Sixteen rowers trained five times a week and showed levels of commitment and athleticism never seen before in the Benet's Boat Club. We participated in several IWLs throughout the term, performing well and preparing for the big event of the term: Torpids. The qualifiers were a good show of Benet's rowing. The M1 were the second-quickest boat on the river, and the M2 narrowly missed out in qualifying despite finishing in the top half of the rankings. In the main event the week after, the M1 bumped six times, secured a place in the next division, and won a historic blades. This was a great demonstration of the strength of the Benet's men's squad.

*Women's Report, jointly written by Hilary Term's Women's Captain, Lucy Hubbard, and Trinity Term's Women's Captain, Caitriona Quigley:*

The women's crew made a determined start to Hilary term despite being short on numbers due to exams and injury. This was not to be a deterrent and training was met with a positive attitude despite the snow and the early mornings. The hard work paid off with the W1 qualifying for Torpids for the first time in Benet's history. Our first day was a real test of our determination as a crew, managing to escape from Exeter at Donnington Bridge but unfortunately not being able to hold them off. Day two saw our race cancelled due to a crash further up the division but on our last two days we rowed over, narrowly missing out on an over-bump. With the precedent now set for having a women's boat in Torpids we look forward to making even more progress next year. The extra experience of bumps racing left us in a very promising place to start working towards Summer Eights. Trinity term is set to be a very busy term for training, having already seen the earliest women's session ever (Tuesday of 0th week) and undoubtedly soon to see significant development for the crew.

The women achieved their first bump in the Summer Eights.

The men's M1 boatcrew took possession of their refurbished boat in Trinity term, in time for Summer VIIIs! Thanks to a generous donation, the boat rows faster and looks great. The Men's crew achieved a bump in Div 5.

## Second Cuppers victory

In June St Benet's Hall won the Men's Rugby 7s Cuppers tournament for the second year running, beating St Catherine's (St Catz) College in the final. Congratulations to the team!



## Equestrian win

Classics student Liv Bartlett won her Blues Equestrian match against Cambridge, as part of the University Equestrian team competing for the first time ever in the National Finals and coming 5th overall.



Well done, Liv!





# Alumni News

## The St Benet's Hall Association

I am pleased to welcome our 2019 graduates to the St Benet's Hall Association, our network of alumni spanning all generations of Benetians. As a Member of St Benet's, you join a global community, of which you remain a member for life.

It has been a busy year for the Association so far, with events in Oxford, North America, and London, and with further events planned in the coming months.

In April there were meetings of alumni as part of the University's 'Oxford in North America' programme in Boston, Toronto, Washington DC, and in New York City.

In May, we were pleased to see many alumni and friends at a reception at the Cavalry & Guards Club in London to celebrate the centenary of St Benet's as a Permanent Private Hall of the University. We were honoured by attendance of the Chancellor of the University, Lord Patten, and both he and the Master delivered speeches.

Looking forward, on 17 November, the Boat Club will be hosting a lunch in Oxford to celebrate the success of the Women's 1st Boat in Summer Vllls and the generous donation from a local family has allowed the Club to purchase a new boat.

Most significantly, we are looking forward to the **2019 Gaudy**, which will be held at the Cavalry & Gaurds Club on Friday 29 November. This is an important event in our calendar, which is open to all members of our community. Details are included in the newsletter, and I very much hope that you will be able to join us for this biennial event.

Finally, on a more sombre note, I wish to record my thanks to John Aroutiounian (St Benet's 2016 - 2017), who served as a member of the committee of the St Benet's Hall Association. John died of cancer on 3 May 2019, aged 26. At the time of his death John was studying at Columbia University Law School. He will be very sadly missed.

As ever, 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 Kuhn (Director of Development) or Christine Gahan (Alumni Relations Officer), 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) – some of the recent news we have received is covered in the coming pages.

I look forward to seeing you at a future event, and hopefully at the Gaudy on 29 November.

Nicholas Kazaz

(2004 – 2007)

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

## Alumni News

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**Lt Orme Alexander Clarke** (2011): I joined the Army in 2016 and went to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and was commissioned into the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards. In September 2018 I deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan as part of an Advisor Force Protection mission for 4 and a half months as a Platoon Commander. I was there as part of Operation TORAL, which has two main tasks: training and mentoring Afghan Forces, and providing force protection for NATO advisors via the Kabul Security Force.

**Fr Michael Fava** CBE QHC (1983) was awarded a CBE (Military Division) in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Fr Fava served as Apostolic Administrator of the Bishopric of the Armed Forces from 2015-2018 until the appointment of Bishop Mason in September 2018: 'I undertook the role alongside my role as an Army chaplain. I am presently serving as Deputy Chaplain General of HM's Land Forces at Army Headquarters, Andover'.

Congratulations to **The Rev'd David Goldberg** (2009) and, his wife, The Rev'd Canon Christine Faulstich, who are pleased to announce the birth of their son, John Felix Goldberg on 6 June, 2019 in Houston, Texas.

**Avery Gosfield** (2015), a recent graduate student at St Benet's, and director of the early music group Ensemble Lucidarium was the recipient of a Sassoon Fellowship at the Bodleian Library. Avery delivered a lecture on 'Our Renaissance Roots: The Soundscape of the Venice Ghetto, on 15 May.

**Mark Havard** (1956): I came up in 1956. At the time I was an Ampleforth monk and while I was at SBH I got my degree in Modern History. After ordination I was sent to the monastery in St Louis in the USA. I left the order and moved to New York and married and became a computer consultant. We have 2 sons and now are back in St Louis. I am retired and still retain my interest in history. I have one claim to fame. I was born and grew up in Oxford. In the early years of WWII the Sacred Heart nuns moved their convent from London to a house in Norham Gardens and my first two years of schooling were spent there. I understand that that building is now part of St Benet's Hall. I think, therefore that I am the only person who can claim to be a Benetian in both places!

**Julian Hughes** (1979): I retired in May 2019 from practice as a consultant in old age psychiatry and resigned from my post as Professor of Old Age Psychiatry at the University of Bristol. I am now devoting my time to writing. In February 2019, my co-authored book The

**Zahra Latif** (2015) used the Master of Public Policy as a stepping stone from the third sector to policymaking and she is currently working in the British government as Private Secretary in the Prime Minister's Policy Unit. She joined the course with a desire to create opportunities for marginalised groups, having worked in a grassroots capacity for charities and NGOs with a focus on community cohesion. Read more [here](#).

**Wade Newmark** (1982): After 30 years in Banking, I have decided to pursue a new career in Elderly Care. I am now the proud owner of 3 cares homes in Devon and Sussex looking after 100 residents. It is challenging but ultimately incredibly rewarding making a difference to so many people's lives. Above all the spiritual challenge of encountering terminal illness and death is one of those unspoken parts of our work which we daily face. The focus is on continuous improvement in all we do: Comfort, Care, Training and Clinical excellence. The wider benefits of a change of direction are incredible: new locations, new attitudes and new knowledge. A bit different from getting a crew on the river at 7 am! That said the same qualities of encouragement, persuasion, firm warnings still apply. So old lessons are never wasted just updated.

**Luke Nutkins** (2008) will be running the Great South run later this year, in memory of his sister. Details can be found here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/luke-nutkins>

**Martin Parlett** (2006) was appointed as the new Head of Programme Management for the Government of Montserrat. Martin is responsible for overseeing the full programme of capital investment projects aimed at restoring the island's key infrastructure and economic foundations, such as a new port, hospital, fibre optic link and renewable energy. He will also be building the capability for portfolio, programme and project delivery on the Caribbean island.

**Pablo de Ramón-Laca** (1999) was selected to Chair the EU Sovereign Debt Markets (ESDM) sub-committee. Pablo is the current Head of Funding and Debt Management at the Spanish Treasury.

Congratulations to **Fr Columba Stewart OSB** (1985), "the monk who saves manuscripts from ISIS," for being named this year's Jefferson Lecturer in the Humanities by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Further details can be found [here](#).

**Nick Vasquez** (1997): I am a partner at Brown Rudnick, a law firm, specialising in corporate law, but have spent some of my spare time writing and recording some guitar music. My album is available on various online platforms including itunes, Spotify and Amazon Music, searchable as "Nick Vasquez - Zaika".

## Alumni News

Dementia Manifesto was published by Cambridge University Press. I enjoyed speaking at a guest night dinner at St. Benet's in October 2018. Since I retired, I have given a lecture at a colloquium of the International Association of Catholic Bioethicists in Quebec in June and I am about to visit Australia in August to give the Annual Plunkett Lecture, along with some other gigs, in Sydney. With my wife, Anne, we continue to derive vicarious enjoyment from the lives of our three children and look forward to the occasional visit of our grandson.

**Leo Keay** (2014): I am currently pursuing an MA in International Security at the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po), with concentrations in Emerging Economies and European Studies. As part of my degree, I am also engaged in a series of internships with the Holy See (Vatican) in the Summer and Autumn.

In the Summer, I am working with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in Rome, focusing chiefly on disarmament issues, especially nuclear disarmament, but also examining wider peace and security questions such as peace-building and socio-economic development. Over the Autumn I will be working at the Holy See's Mission to the International Organisations in Vienna, covering two major conferences in the Organisation for Security Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Working with the Holy See has provided me with a unique opportunity to synthesise the knowledge of international affairs that I acquired in Paris with moral and ethical issues based on Catholic Social Teaching.

**Fr Augustine Wetta OSB** (2000): Over the past two years, I've published two books with Ignatius Press. One is the *Eight Arrow, Odysseus and the Underworld*. The second, "Humility Rules" became a bestseller.

**Robert Wilson** (2001), formerly Br. Cosmas Wilson, is engaged in a number of ventures. Robert currently works as utility coordination manager for the Chicago Transit Authority's largest expansion in the history of the Chicago Public Transit System (subway). Robert also continues work as organist, accompanying music groups including members from the Chicago Symphony Chorus and Lyric Opera Company, as well as players from the Chicago Federation of Musicians, for various Masses in the Chicago area. Robert recently completed the first edition of a Choirbook, containing motets and Mass settings for the Church year. Along with this, Robert has installed two pipe organs in Chicago, and a third, which is in his home (ten rank organ, built by the Illinois-based Wicks Organ Company). Robert is also founder of a Chicago business, focused on bicycle building and maintenance, expansion of home culinary skills, and salon services, including massage and hair. This eclectic mix of services are aimed to promote overall wellness. In his spare time, Robert writes appeals for a litigious Chicago entrepreneur.

**Audrey Yvert** (2015): At the beginning of this year, I took the role of Head of Finance and Impact at La French Tech, a government organization in France that is part of the Ministry of Finance. Among other things, I'm creating a program to help entrepreneurs with disadvantaged backgrounds launch their startup. My organization is located in Station F, the biggest incubator in France, and I'm happy to host any St Benet's alumni or student that is in Paris and wants to visit Station F.

### St Benet's Hall Merchandise

St Benet's has a range of merchandise, which includes mugs, woolen scarves, ties, t-shirts, hoodies, cufflinks and lapel pins.

To find out more or to place an order, please contact the Hall Administrator, Natalie Garbett ([natalie.garbett@stb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:natalie.garbett@stb.ox.ac.uk); 01865 280556). If you plan to attend the Gaudy, we will be able to bring orders to the event (via arrangement with Natalie).

