



Message from the Master

Dear Alumni and Friends of St Benet's Hall,

During this Term I greatly enjoyed meeting with some of you when I visited Houston, Washington, D.C., St Louis, New York City, and Vienna. It has been a privilege to get to know you a bit better and to hear more about your time at and association with St Benet's. Since then the momentous developments in our community have taken concrete shape: the admission of female undergraduates was unanimously agreed by the Board of Trustees of St Benet's. This decision has been made possible by the Norham Gardens project of which I wrote to you already in the Hilary Term newsletter. Since then the Sisters of the Sacred Heart have decided to vacate their premises by the end of September this year. This does not leave us much time to raise the sum of 10 million pounds to purchase the premises and to adapt them to our needs.

Some of you have already sent donations in support of this project. I am most grateful for your generosity. I would like to encourage all of you to support this unique development as generously as you can. I should be very happy to discuss with you possible ways in which you may be able to help us realise this project which will secure the Hall for generations to come.

Wishing you all a good and restful summer.

Professor Werner G Jeanrond
Master of St Benet's Hall

St Benet's Hall Gaudy Friday 6 November 2015



Photograph: St Benet's Hall Gaudy 2013

The St Benet's Hall Gaudy will take place this year on Friday 6 November at the *Carlton Club*, 69 St James's Street, London SW1A 1PJ. We are delighted to announce that our special guest speaker will be the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Lord Patten of Barnes.

The invitation and booking form has now been sent out, so hopefully you will receive this in the next week or two. If you do not receive an invitation, please do let us know as it may be that our postal address details for you are not up to date. Email: alumni@stb.ox.ac.uk

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If you have any news items, articles, or photographs you would like to submit for the next edition of St Benet's News, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please email alumni@stb.ox.ac.uk

Trinity Term 2015 Events

The Right Reverend William Kenney, Tuesday Night Guest Speaker



The Right Reverend William Kenney, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Birmingham, was our guest speaker at dinner on Tuesday of 4th week.

The Bishop, having recently returned from the refugee camps of northern Iraq, spoke movingly on the importance of peace in the world and the contribution of dialogue towards that end. He talked about his visits to the Holy Land and Iraqi Kurdistan, the consequences of the international arms trade, and the plight of refugees of all backgrounds in the ongoing Middle East conflicts.

Pictured: the Bishop meeting undergraduates after dinner

St Benet's Hall Garden Play

"The Importance of Being Earnest", 22 & 23 May 2015

This year's annual St Benet's Hall Garden was another great success! Tickets sold fast for both performances, and with luck on our side, the expected rainfall fortunately held off. In the cast were undergraduates Cormac Connolly-Smith, Lance Baynham, Ed Sparrow, Tom Wilding and Will Frost, whilst Dr Yvonne Cornish, Director of Studies for History, played Lady Bracknell and Dr Mary Marshall, Director of Studies for Theology, played Miss Prism.



Visiting Monastic Research Scholars 2015

In Hilary term, St Benet's welcomed Sr Makrina Finlay OSB (pictured left) from Dinklage Abbey in Germany. In Trinity term, St Benet's welcomed back Fr Luke Dysinger OSB from Valyermo Abbey, California.

Trinity Term 2015 Events

Degree Day Ceremony, Saturday 9 May 2015

On Saturday 9 May, St Benet's Hall provided a degree day lunch and refreshments to the Benetians receiving their degree in person at the Sheldonian Theatre. Our congratulations to them all!

Alexander, Torsten	BA Classics
O'Keeffe, Jake	BA Classics
Clarke, Orme	BA PPE
Cuart, Carles	BA History
Dru, Alexander	BA History
Hudson, Christopher	BA History
Dixon, Joshua	BA Theology
Leach, Benjamin	BA Phil/Theol
Ulmann, Henry	BA Theology
Rochman, Pawel	MSt Theology
Allan, Richard	MA History
Eklund, Christopher	MA History
Kenny, Alan	MA History
Davis, Timothy	MA PPE
Bernard, Andrew	MA in absentia (English 1982-85)



Photograph taken by Dr Joseph Shaw

St Benet's International Theology Seminar, 8-9 June 2015

The Hall hosted the first St Benet's International Theology Seminar on 8 and 9 June 2015. Together with theologians from the University of Marburg in Germany under the leadership of Professor Dr Jörg Lauster, the Master and the DPhil Students of the Hall discussed and debated important issues in theology today. The topics ranged from 'Hope and Radical Hope: The Transformation of Church and World in A Global Age' to 'The Religious Roots of the Scottish Enlightenment' to 'The Bodily Nature of Theologians: Theological Methodology in Dialogue with Embodied Cognition' to 'Religious Terrorism: Facets and Features'.

The hospitable table at St Benet's Hall provided the material and intellectual nourishment for the discussions which were continued during our pub tours in the evenings. The seminar was a great success. We are already planning to organise follow-up sessions with theologians from a variety of European Universities.

By Ulrich Schmiedel, DPhil Candidate in Theology, St Benet's Hall



Trinity Term 2015 Events

Master's Visit to the Benedictine Monastery of St Joseph, Seoul, South Korea

The Master, Professor Werner G Jeanrond, visited South Korea in May where he presented the Opening Session, "**Hope and Radical Hope: The Transformation of Church and World in a Global Age**" at the East-West Theological Forum, Sogang University, Seoul. After the conference, Professor Jeanrond visited the Benedictine Monastery of St Joseph to discuss possibilities of monastic and academic co-operation with St Benet's Hall. St Joseph comprises of 14 monks. The Prior, Fr Pacomio, introduced the Master to the members of the community and guided him around the chapel, buildings and orchards as well as to the top of the mountain overlooking the monastery and parts of Greater Seoul and surroundings.



Alumni Events

USA Alumni and Fundraising Trips

In April, the Master of St Benet's Hall, Professor Werner G Jeanrond and Fr Wulstan Peterburs, the Procurator at Ampleforth Abbey, embarked on an alumni and fundraising trip to the USA. On Tuesday 14 April, Professor Jeanrond was invited by alumnus David Goldberg to give the weekly invocation before Houston's Mayor and City Council (see photograph right).

The following evening, St Benet's hosted a Drinks Reception at the Houston Club where Professor Jeanrond gave a lecture on *"Roman Catholic University Education Today – Potential and Challenges"*. Our special thanks to alumnus Gary Hornberger (pictured left) for his support in allowing this event to take place.



On Wednesday 15 April, the Hall hosted a special dinner for alumni and friends at the St Regis Hotel Houston, which was preceded by the Drinks Reception with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford as part of the University's Oxford in USA alumni events. The USA trip continued with a dinner for alumni and friends in Washington D.C., a visit to St Louis Abbey, and finally a Drinks Reception in New York City held at the North American Offices of the University of Oxford.



Our special thanks go to Stephen Klimczuk-Massion, David Goldberg and Gary Hornberger for their time, help and support.



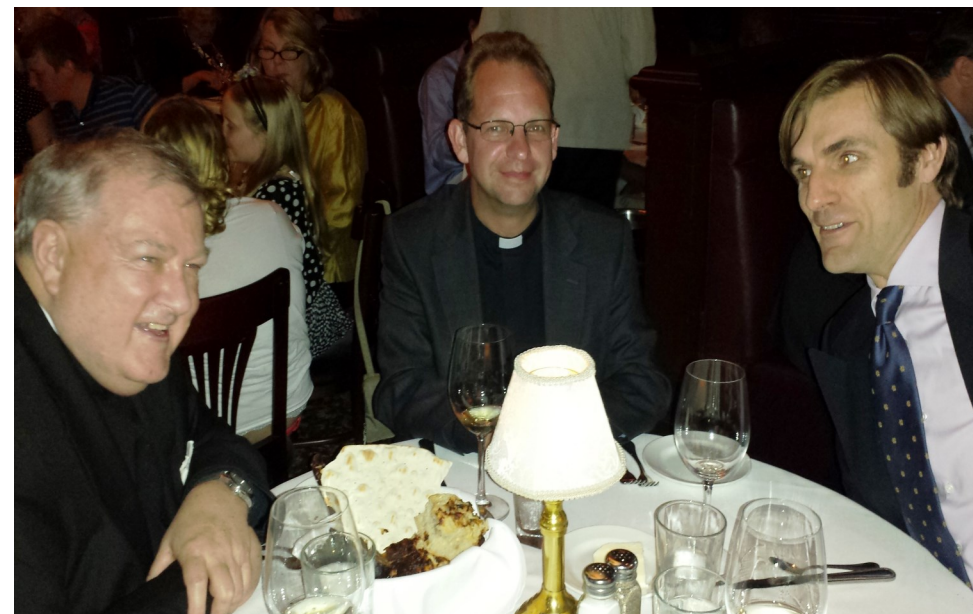
Stephen Klimczuk Massion (St Benet's Hall Board of Regents) with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Professor Andrew Hamilton



Professor Werner G Jeanrond, Mr David Goldberg (alumnus) and Fr Wulstan



Invited dinner guests R.A. (Roy) Varghese and Anila Varghese



Br Richard Oliver (alumnus), Fr Wulstan, Fernando Martel Garcia (alumnus) at the dinner in Washington D.C.

Alumni Events



On Friday 24 April 2015, the city of Vienna welcomed Oxford alumni and guests with a drinks and canapés reception held in the magnificent city hall. The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford opened the Alumni Weekend programme, which was the largest gathering of Oxford alumni in mainland Europe in 2015.

Later that evening, the colleges hosted their own dinners. The St Benet's Hall dinner took place at the residence of Ambassador Philip McDonagh in Vienna, and was attended by the Master and Mrs Jeanrond, alumni, and friends of the Hall. Our thanks to Ambassador McDonagh for his generosity in hosting the dinner.



Upcoming Alumni Events

Drinks Reception for Alumni & Friends

Saturday 19 September 2015 at 5pm-7pm in the Hall Garden



Every September, Oxford hosts the biggest of its collegiate University events. This inspiring programme of discussion and debate is led by some of Oxford's brightest minds. This year, the Meeting Minds: Alumni Weekend in Oxford will be held from Friday 18 – Sunday 20 September 2015.

As part of these events, St Benet's Hall will be hosting a Drinks Reception for alumni (and their families) and friends. This will be held on Saturday 19 September 2015 at 5pm-7pm in the Garden. Do please join us! *This event is free of charge* but please email alumni@stb.ox.ac.uk if you will be attending so that we know numbers for catering purposes.

This event will follow the degree day ceremony and lunch at Benet's, so it will also offer the opportunity to meet those newly graduated. We hope to see you there!

“St Benet's in London” Series

Peter Sutherland KCMG, President of the St Benet's Hall Board of Regents

Inaugural Lecture, Monday 23 November, 7pm

The Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London



St Benet's Hall will be hosting “St Benet's in London” during the 2015/16 academic year. This will be a series of events for alumni which begins this Michaelmas term with Peter Sutherland speaking on the topic of migration. Post-lecture drinks will be provided.

This event is free of charge, but as space is limited, all places *must* be booked in advance. To book your place, please email alumni@stb.ox.ac.uk with your name and matriculation year.

Please view our news page on the website to stay informed of developments.
See: <http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/news>



Dr Santha Bhattacharji, Senior Tutor, Invited Speaker at the Traherne Festival 2015

This year's Traherne Festival ran from 30 May to 1 June, and included Dr Santha Bhattacharji speaking about the mystical response to the natural world of two of Traherne's mediaeval predecessors, Bonaventure and Julian of Norwich.

Right: Denny's inspirational Traherne windows situated in the Audley Chapel in Hereford Cathedral



"Our Obsession With the Royals Goes Way Back", Time Magazine Article by Dr Susan Doran, Fellow and Tutor in History

Dr Susan Doran's article "*Our Obsession With the Royals Goes Way Back*" has been published in Time Magazine. To view Dr Doran's article online, go to: <http://time.com/3850664/charlotte-elizabeth-royal-gossip-history/>

Dr Doran's latest book, "*Elizabeth I and Her Circle*," has just been published by Oxford University Press. This is the story of Elizabeth I's inner circle and the crucial human relationships which lay at the heart of her personal and political life.



Dr Brian Klug, Senior Research Fellow in Philosophy, Trinity Term 2015 Speaking Engagements

28 April: Invited speaker, book launch for Dr Ilan Zvi Baron, *Obligation in Exile: The Jewish Diaspora, Israel and Critique* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press), at Durham University.

4 May: Guest contributor to online debate, 'Freedom of expression gives one the right to insult', organised by the Muslim Debate, a project of the Muslim Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan.

7-10 May: Invited Participant and speaker, 'The Vienna Conversations', Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue, Vienna, Austria. (7th in ongoing biannual roundtable discussion of 'Europe's missing sense of togetherness'.)

23 May: Panellist in debate, 'Je suis Charlie?', The Institute of Arts and Ideas festival of philosophy and music, Hay-on-Wye.

4 June: Opening Keynote speaker, symposium, 'Understanding Charlie: New Perspectives on Contemporary Citizenship after Charlie Hebdo', Queen's University, Belfast.

15 June: Invited Speaker and participant, Workshop on 'Antisemitism and Islamophobia', School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies, University of Oxford

18-21 June: Invited participant, 'Arab-Jewish Engagement', Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue, Vienna, Austria. (5th in ongoing biannual roundtable discussion.)

Trinity Term Review by JCR President, Steven Spisto

Trinity heralds the start of the beautiful English summer, the sounds of croquet mallets swinging across the lawn and glasses of Pimm's chinking over blooming flower beds. This was the last stretch of a long and arduous journey for our finalists. Barricading themselves in the library till the early hours, they took the challenge head on and celebrated in style. As you read this, some of our first year PPE and History students sit their first university exams capping off what for many was a challenging yet overwhelmingly successful year.

The success of our Gerard's ChariTea events continued this term. Students were encouraged to submit charities they wished to support and for Trinity, we chose UNICEF's Nepalese earthquake appeal. Funds for the appeal will go to supplying safe water for children and families and installing temporary toilets in temporary locations, as well as distributing water purification tablets, hygiene kits, soap and buckets.

We held the traditional Port Meadow picnic on Sunday of 8th, a great way to reflect on the events of this term, blow off some steam pre and post exam, as well as giving the finalists a final send off on behalf of the JCR. Some of us even managing to stave off sleep and make it through the whole night.

Students at St Benet's continually play a part in the wider University, a part which greatly belies our size. This is particularly noticeable in the fields of drama and sport. George Varley continues to soar to new dramatic heights, starring in his third play of the year 'Punk Rock'. Gus Streeting played the cello in the University philharmonic's exquisite rendition of Tchaikovsky's sixth symphony and Rachmaninoff's symphonic dances. Our prolific finalist Johan Trovik finished his *Out of the Blue* acapella career with a show stopping concert at the New Theatre.

Finally, of course, the term ended with customary style with the JCR Garden Party on Thursday of 8th Week. This year, the theme was 'Fiesta Havana', so the garden was suitably bedecked with flags, bunting and fairy lights. Entertainment was provided this year by a particularly special band, led by one of our finalists David Dunning. Playing well known classics by the Buena Vista social club and ending the night on a phenomenal note.

I hope this has given you an insight into the student life at the hall this term. It's hard to give a comprehensive account of how Benetians make their way through Oxford and leave their mark on the University. But as St Benet's moves forward, our connections with alumni, from current student to former student, will become vital to the future of the hall. I trust that that relationship will thrive in the future.



OxDev (Oxford Students in International Development)

OxDev (Oxford Students in International Development), is an initiative created by James Matarazzo, DPhil student in Theology and Christopher Bridgwood, BA student in Theology, and is based at St Benet's Hall. This year, OxDev will be sending five undergraduate interns to Gulu, the main city of northern Uganda, to work with a grass-roots community organisation known as the TAKS Centre (see pictures).

The TAKS Centre is a local charity that seeks to empower the people of Gulu and the surrounding region who were devastated by the Lord's Resistance Army insurgency that began in 1987 and lasted for twenty years. The LRA is now expelled from Uganda, but continues to operate in neighbouring countries. The TAKS Centre seeks to assist the community to overcome the traumas associated with the LRA insurgency by providing psychosocial support through art, drama, and sports.

While on site in Gulu, the OxDev interns will be assisting with ongoing projects, as well as each intern developing a project of his or her own in areas such as microfinance, healthcare, and education. The interns will be helping to run a holiday club for children and will be supporting a healthcare conference with local community leaders addressing issues such as HIV, TB and Malaria.



From St Benet's Hall, Benedikt Boeck – a first year undergraduate Arabist – will be an intern, alongside Chris Bridgwood – a now graduate Theologian. The four other students are members of St Peter's, Queen's, Mansfield, and Oriel colleges.



Donating to St Benet's Hall

Thank You to our Donors, Trinity Term 2015

Every gift, no matter how big or small, directly benefits St Benet's Hall and our students. As the Hall relies on support, we are continually grateful to the kindness of our donors. We would like to thank the following alumni for their support who have agreed to be named, as well as our anonymous benefactors:

- Mr Rahul Ahluwalia
- Col N H De R Channer
- Mr Gary Hornberger
- Br Richard Oliver OSB
- Mr Ben Fleetwood Smyth

How to make a Donation



Now more than ever, we need your help as we seek to secure the purchase of 11 Norham Gardens for St Benet's Hall. This exciting and long waited development allows the admittance of female undergraduate students as well as providing much needed space for teaching, research, library, offices for our Directors of Studies and accommodation for the Master and this family. Please support this fantastic opportunity. To make a donation to St Benet's Hall, send a cheque made payable to "St Benet's Trust" to the Development Office, St Benet's Hall, 38 St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LN, UK. To make a bank transfer, the details you need are below. (Please include an identifying reference with this transfer, so we know who this is from).

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A/C NO: 33081184
SWIFT/BIC: BARCGB22
IBAN: GB10 BARC 2099 5633 0811 84

You can also donate online using your credit or debit card via the University's Oxford Thinking Campaign. This is a secure online facility which will ensure your donation reaches St Benet's Hall safely. The webpage for donating to St Benet's Hall can be found here: <https://www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/page.aspx?pid=2845>