



Message from the Master

Dear Alumni and Friends of St Benet's Hall,

Last week the Sisters of the Sacred Heart offered St Benet's Hall the opportunity to purchase their building at 11 Norham Gardens in Oxford. This is a most exciting development: acquiring this site would not only allow St Benet's finally to admit female undergraduate students, but also offer us much needed space for teaching, research, library, offices for our Directors of Studies, and accommodation for the Master and his family. The British press reported on this development, and we have received many congratulations. Everybody in the Hall is sharing the joy about this once in a lifetime opportunity for St Benet's to secure this essential and long sought after second site.

What remains to do now is to raise the funds for this project. May I appeal to you and your friends to make this acquisition happen through your generous donation – however small or big. Please support this fantastic opportunity for St Benet's Hall!

With my sincere thanks and all good wishes

Professor Werner G Jeanrond
Master of St Benet's Hall

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

St Benet's Hall is delighted to announce that Mr Peter Sutherland KCMG who is the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for Migration has been appointed President of the St Benet's Hall Board of Regents.

Mr Sutherland has a strong commitment to the Hall's academic and educational ambitions and its particular attention to the personal development of undergraduate and graduate students in a community inspired by the Benedictine tradition.



Mr Sutherland is an Honorary Fellow at St Benet's Hall. He has served as Attorney General of Ireland, as Commissioner in the European Community, as Director General of GATT and then of the WTO, as Chairman of Goldman Sachs International, as Chairman of BP, as Chairman of the London School of Economics as well as in many other roles of public and corporate leadership and service.

The St Benet's Hall Board of Regents advises the Master and St Benet's Trust in matters of strategy and development.

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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

Second Building for St Benet's Hall

11 Norham Gardens



11 Norham Gardens is just an eight minute walk from 38 St Giles, and comprises a Victorian gothic building and a modern wing that was added to the house to provide further bedrooms. Before the Society of the Sacred Heart moved to Norham Gardens in 1932, the building housed Henry Balfour, the first curator of the Pitt Rivers Museum, and, for a longer period, the first Professor of Egyptology at Oxford, Francis Llewellyn Griffith, whose finds form the backbone of the Egyptian collections at the Ashmolean Museum.

To secure this second building, we *urgently* need help from our alumni, friends and supporters. Whatever size donation you are able to make, your generosity will make a difference. To make a donation, you can arrange a bank transfer or make a cheque payable to **St Benet's Trust** and send to: St Benet's Hall, Development Office, 38 St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LN, UK.



St Benet's Hall bank details:

BANK:	Barclays
BRANCH:	York
A/C NAME:	The St Benet's Trust
SORT:	20-99-56
A/C NO:	33081184
SWIFT/BIC:	BARCGB22
IBAN:	GB10 BARC 2099 5633 0811 84

You can also make an immediate online donation via the University's Oxford Thinking Campaign (<https://www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/the-campaign>) which is a secure online transaction.

The direct webpage for Benet's Hall is: <https://www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/page.aspx?pid=2845>

If you require further information, please email development@stb.ox.ac.uk

Professor Mario Monti, “Reflections on European Integration” Wednesday 21 January 2015, St John's College Auditorium

On Wednesday 21 January, we warmly welcomed Professor Mario Monti to Oxford. Professor Monti delivered the first William E Simon lecture on his chosen theme, “Reflections on European Integration”. This sold-out lecture was chaired by the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Lord Patten of Barnes, and attracted a wide and diverse audience comprising members



of the University and members of the public travelling from all parts of the UK. For those unable to attend in person, the lecture is available to hear in full by going to the news section of our website at <http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/news>

Background: Mario Monti is the President of Bocconi University, Milan. He was Prime Minister of Italy and Minister of Economy and Finance. He is a Senator for life, appointed by the President of the Italian Republic, Giorgio Napolitano. Prof Monti chairs the Council on the Future of Europe of the Berggruen Institute on Governance and is Honorary Chairman of Bruegel, the European think-tank he founded in 2005. He served for ten years as a member of the European Commission, in charge of the Internal Market, Financial Services and Tax Policy (1995-1999), and Competition (1999-2004). His publications focus mainly on monetary and financial economics, public finance, competition policy, and the economic and political dimensions of European integration. He is the author of the report to the President of the European Commission on A New Strategy for the Single Market (May 2010).



The Rt Revd Dr Martin Lind, Tuesday Night Guest Speaker

The Hall welcomed The Rt Revd Dr Martin Lind of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain as our first Tuesday dinner speaker this term. The Bishop gave a timely speech on Holocaust Memorial Day about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the subject of his doctoral thesis. Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran theologian and member of the German resistance, was imprisoned by the Nazis at Buchenwald and Flossenbürg concentration camps before his execution in April 1945.

Pictured: Nick Hanson, Junior Dean, with Bishop Martin Lind in the Calefactory

Hilary Term 2015 Events



Sir David Goodall GCMG KSG, Tuesday Night Guest Speaker

Sir David Goodall was our guest speaker at dinner on Tuesday of fourth week. Sir David studied Classics at Oxford before embarking on a career in the Foreign Office and later, the Cabinet Office. He was a senior representative of the United Kingdom in negotiations with the Irish Republic over Northern Ireland in the 1980s, and served as British High Commissioner to India from 1987 to 1991. Over dinner he offered a fascinating glimpse into the diplomatic service during the time he spent on Cyprus and in Berlin during its partition.

Pictured: Sir David talking to Simon Whittle (theology, second year) and Fr Richard Ounsworth OP in the Calefactory.



Halfway Hall Dinner

The Master and his wife hosted a special dinner for the second year undergraduates and one-year Master's students, together with their directors of studies and staff. The 'Halfway Hall' celebrates the achievement of our students in reaching the midpoint of their courses and wishes them well as they turn their thoughts towards final examinations.

Pictured: the Master, Professor Jeanrond, with the students



Hall Burns Night

The Hall celebrated a black tie Burns Night Supper with the traditional haggis, neeps and tatties, and Cranachan pudding.

JCR Secretary, Cormac Connelly-Smith (pictured left), read the Address to a Haggis and led the toast, after JCR President, Sam Marks, paraded it to bagpipe accompaniment.

Hilary Term 2015 Events

Carnival Hall Guest Night welcomed *Out of the Blue*



On Tuesday 17 February, the Hall held its termly Guest Night, which on this occasion provided some surprise for the dinner attendees! With the theme set as “Carnival”, the University’s internally renowned a cappella group *Out of the Blue* were invited to be our secret dinner guests. As the dinner progressed, the group sprung into action by surprising the diners with their first song during the starter course! The Master then warmly welcomed the group, who sang a further two songs throughout the evening. The Hall’s very own Johan Trovik (PPE undergraduate) is a current member of *Out of the Blue*, and our special thanks go to Johan for making this happen and for helping keep our secret guests under wraps!

Pictured: Out of the Blue serenading the dinner table

Leadership in the Christian Church Study Day, Saturday 21 February 2015

Professor Werner G Jeanrond welcomed participants to another successful St Benet’s study day, which took place at Ertegun House, 37A St Giles. The study day speakers were:

- Rt Rev Cuthbert Madden OSB, Abbot of Ampleforth: *Christian leadership in the Benedictine tradition*
- Timothy C. Flanagan, Founder, Catholic Leadership Institute, USA: *Christmas every Sunday—a question of leadership*
- Ingrid Betancourt, DPhil Student in Theology, University of Oxford: *Should Christians save the world?*
- Revd Dr James Hanvey SJ, Master of Campion Hall, University of Oxford: *The importance of failure and desolation in leadership*

The study day ended with a panel discussion led by Catherine Pepinster, Editor of *The Tablet*, and Visiting Fellow at St Benet’s Hall.

Mr Timothy C Flanagan’s talk is available on the news section of our website to read and download. Please go to:

<http://www.st-benets.ox.ac.uk/~Leadership-in-the-Christian-Church-Study-Day-21-February-2015>



Dynamics of Difference: Christianity and Alterity.

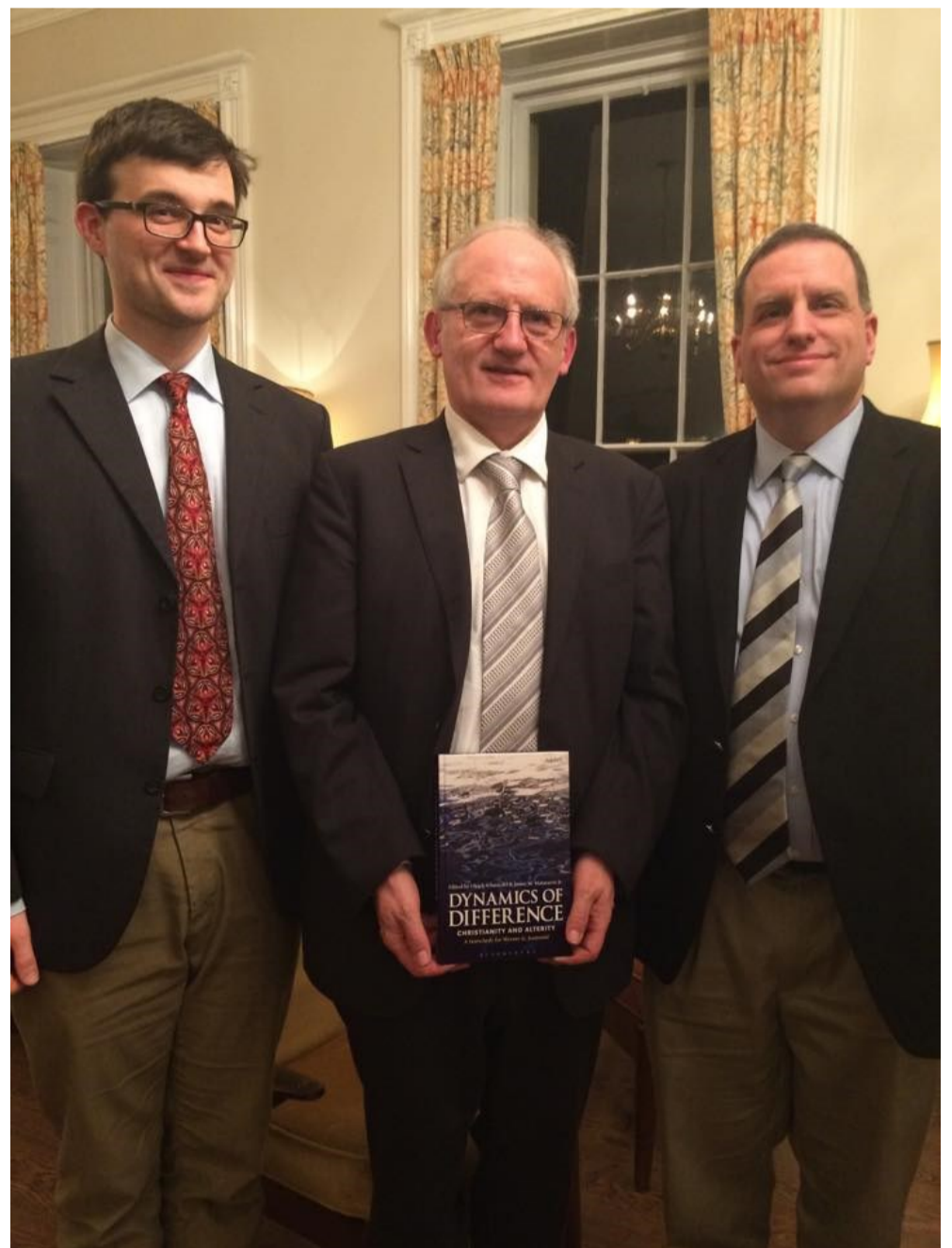
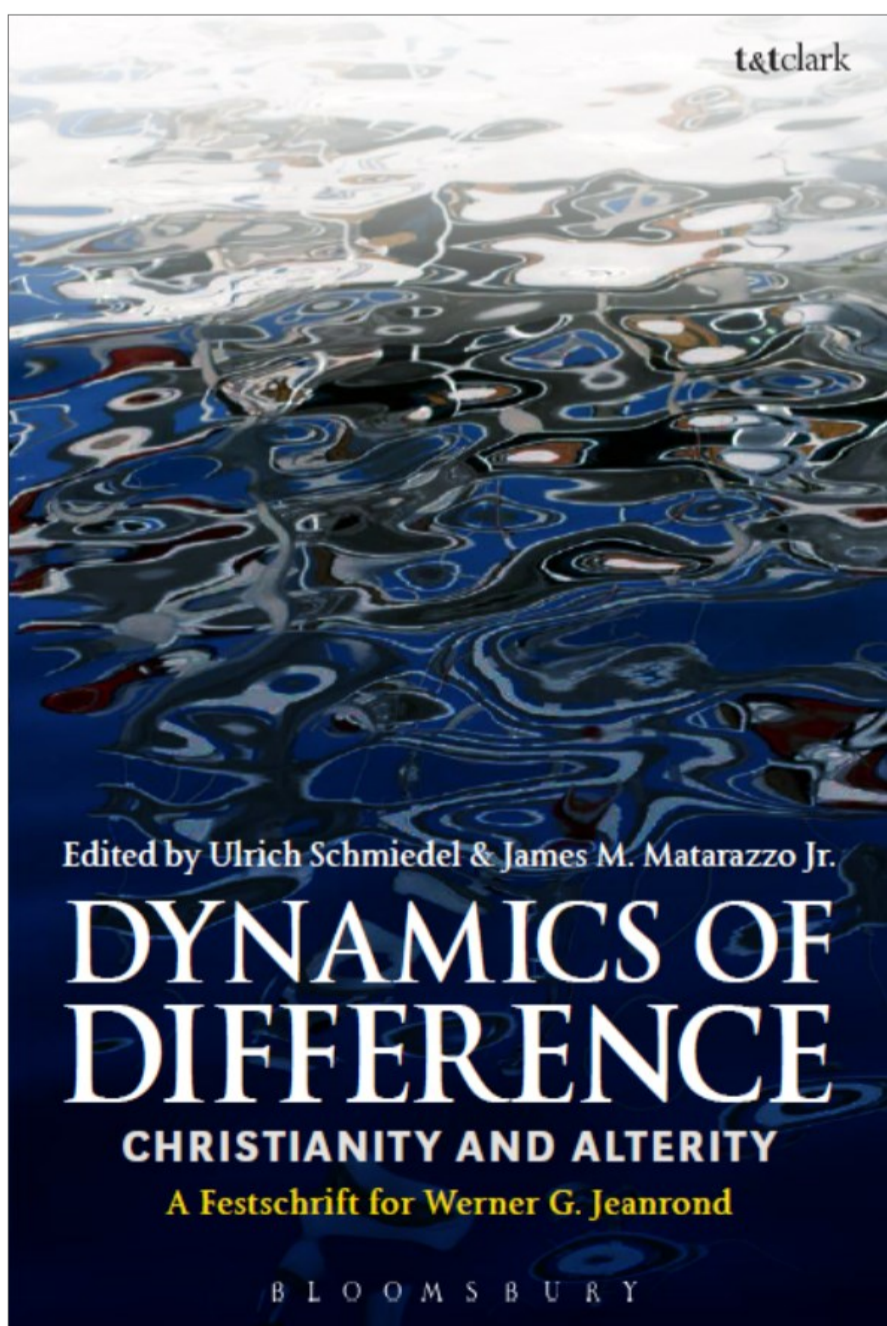
A Festschrift for Professor Werner G Jeanrond

The Master was presented with *Dynamics of Difference: Christianity and Alterity. A Festschrift for Werner G Jeanrond* during a 60th birthday dinner organised by St Benet's Hall on 5 March 2015. The *Festschrift*, co-edited by Ulrich Schmiedel and James M Matarazzo Jr, both DPhil students in Theology and members of the Hall, investigates the challenge of alterity for Christianity, exploring and elaborating on this core concern in Jeanrond's hermeneutical theology. Blurring disciplinary boundaries, more than thirty of Professor Jeanrond's colleagues and companions from eleven countries track the dynamics of difference driven by the encounter with the self as other, the other as other, and God as the radical other.

Who is my other? What do I encounter when I encounter my other? And what responses and responsibilities does the encounter with my other evoke? Grappling with questions like these, the contributions to this compilation analyse alterity in the Bible, alterity in philosophy, alterity in theology, alterity in interreligious dialogues, and the radical alterity of God. Tying in with Jeanrond's explorations of the many faces and facets of the other, this *Festschrift* ultimately aims to advocate openness to the other as a necessity for both religions and reflections on religions.

The endorsement by Graham Ward, Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford, encapsulates what this compilation is about: "This collection of essays testifies to the love that Werner G Jeanrond inspired and inspires. To be able to generate such love is a gift. It is a gift that makes ... a remarkable theologian. The contributions point to the way that communication through love is disseminated and developed, and passed on to form a community of scholars and friends. In reading this book we enter into the expressions and operations of that friendship. And the result is profoundly educative."

Pictured left to right: Ulrich Schmiedel, Professor Werner G Jeanrond, James M Matarazzo Jr



Guto Dafydd wins bardic Crown at the National Eisteddfod of Wales



Alumnus Guto Dafydd (Theology, 2008-9) has won the bardic Crown at the National Eisteddfod of Wales, and has become one of the youngest ever poets to capture the National Eisteddfod crown in Llanelli. The 24-year-old was the standout competitor in a field of 32 entries for his sequence of 10 free verse poems of no more than 250 lines on the theme “Tyfu” (Growing).

Delivering the adjudication on behalf of his fellow judges, Dylan Iorwerth described the winning work as “technical mastery”. He said: “Writing about Wales today whilst describing the Wales of yesteryear is the beauty of these poems. These are the poems of today. Some relate to events this year. Within a year or two, some will need an explanatory footnote, and some people may see this as a weakness. But we’re adjudicating the competition this year. Because of the writer’s technical mastery and confidence in the treatment of language and tone – much more goes on. It is an explosion of meaning and its aftershocks continue long after the end of the poem.”



Pictured: Guto Dafydd at the crowning ceremony

Hilary Term 2015 Overview by the JCR President

Hilary is widely regarded by students as the most challenging term. Lacking the sunny weather of Trinity, but yet also the atmosphere of *Oxmas*, it can often feel like the middle book of a trilogy. It is also the first of the exam terms, with our Fresher theologians sitting prelims, and our second year classicists taking the dreaded mods. However, as you will see, students have defied the weather, and taken term on in their stride.



One of the events we held to start the term in style was Burns Night. The Hall celebrated the black tie supper with the traditional haggis, neeps and tatties, and Cranachan pudding. JCR Secretary, Cormac Connelly-Smith, read the Address to a Haggis and led the toast, while I had the honour of parading the Haggis round the table to the tune of bag-pipes.

The success of our Gerard's ChariTea events continued this term. Students were encouraged to submit charities they wished to support and for Hilary, we chose Jacari, nominated by one of our Freshers, Graziano Brady. Jacari is a student charity providing home tutoring for children aged 4-16 who don't speak English as their first language. Students spend an hour a week helping a child in the areas in which they are struggling. This method has been proven to result

in improved performance at school and an increase in the child's confidence outside the classroom.

In February, the JCR also made its annual trip to Ampleforth. Hiring a car for the weekend, a group of students—myself, Br Cuthbert, Cormac Connelly-Smith and Benedikt Boek—travelled North to meet the community. Hospitality is something Benedictines take to heart, and Ampleforth did a wonderful job of hosting us. Apart from sharing meals with the community, and taking a tour of Ampleforth school, other highlights included getting to know the local, and taking refuge from the bad weather in a Michelin starred restaurant (sometimes, needs simply must). We were also treated to tea with a previous Master of the Hall, Fr Henry, providing us current students with a valuable link to St Benet's rich past.

Students at St Benet's continually to 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. Three Benetians from across the years took leading roles in a range of plays across Oxford, all of which received rave reviews. Tom Lambert, a third year, starred in the Michael Frayn comedy "Noises Off" at the Playhouse; George Varley, a Fresher, in David Hare's "Plenty"; Tim O'Leary, a graduate student, in "The Doctor in Spite of Himself" by Molière. This term has been an exceptional showcase of some of the prodigious talent we have here at St Benet's. Other examples include our third year student, Johan Trovik, who joined the premier Oxford a cappella group, *Out of the Blue*, whose recent Shakira video rocketed the group to national and international fame. The group also gave a surprise performance at the Carnival Guest Night at St Benet's.



Finally, of course the term ended with customary style with the JCR Party on Thursday of 8th Week. This year, the theme was Mardi Gras, so the Hall was suitably bedecked with garish streamers, flags, bunting and arcs of the traditional gold, green and purple balloons. Entertainment was provided this year by a particularly special band, featuring the parent of one our students', second year Lance Baynham. If the crowd are the best judge of talent, then from the reaction of party-goers, they had it with aplomb.

I hope this has given a taste of some of the things that students get up to. It is just a snapshot, and does no justice to just how active members of our JCR are. But as St Benet's moves forward, our connections with alumni, from current student to former student, will become ever more important. I trust that that relationship will thrive in the future. On that note, I would like to thank you, on behalf of the outgoing JCR committee and the JCR as a whole for your continuing support.

Have a wonderful Easter.

Samuel Marks, JCR President, Trinity 2014 – Hilary 2015

Sports Update by JCR Sports Secretary

This term has seen another set of impressive sporting results for St Benet's Hall students. Both James Charteris-Black and Sam Gomarsall have been awarded full blues for playing in their respective Varsity matches, whilst Lance Baynham received a half-blue for playing in the Lacrosse Varsity Match.

Sam Gomarsall (pictured below) played for the Oxford University Football Club, helping the team win 6-5 win on penalties. Sam was also voted man of the match by his team-mates.



James Charteris-Black (pictured below), the Oxford University Golf Club secretary this year, helped the Golf Club to a Varsity win.

Lance Baynham was part of the Oxford University Lacrosse Team (pictured bottom left) who won their game 13-10. The Lacrosse team also won the BUCS Southern Premiership League.

Ed Sparrow, Tom Scrope, Lance Baynham all helped Merton-Mansfield Rugby team to a great season, in which they got promoted from Division 3. In addition, James Wootton played for the Exeter College rugby team.

Article by Samuel Gomarsall, Sports Secretary, JCR



Forthcoming Events

St Benet's Hall Forthcoming Alumni Events

Houston, Texas, Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 April 2015

On Tuesday 14 April 2015, Professor Werner G Jeanrond and Fr Wulstan Peterburs will be hosting a special drinks reception at the Houston Club, starting from 6pm. This reception will also include a talk by Professor Jeanrond on "**Roman Catholic University Education Today – Potential and Challenges**". To book your place, please email penelope.lane@stb.ox.ac.uk or telephone 01865 280555.

On Wednesday 15 April 2015, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Andrew Hamilton, and his wife, Jennie, will be hosting a reception for Oxford Alumni & Friends at the St Regis Hotel, Houston. Details about how to register for this reception will be announced separately by the North American Oxford Office in the New Year. See their website at: <http://www.oxfordna.org/> As part of this event, Professor Werner G Jeanrond and Fr Wulstan Peterburs will be hosting a St Benet's Hall dinner at the St Regis Hotel.

Washington DC, Friday 17 April 2015

On Friday 17 April 2015, Professor Werner G Jeanrond and Fr Wulstan Peterburs will host an informal dinner for alumni and friends in Washington DC. The venue is to be confirmed, but if you wish to book your place in advance, please email penelope.lane@stb.ox.ac.uk or telephone 01865 280555.

New York City, Monday 20 April 2015

On Monday 20 April, 2015 Professor Werner G Jeanrond and Fr Wulstan Peterburs will host an evening Drinks Reception for alumni and friends in New York City. This will take place 6pm-8pm at the University of Oxford North American Office, 500 Fifth Avenue (at 42nd Street), 32nd Floor. To attend, please email penelope.lane@stb.ox.ac.uk or telephone 01865 280555.

St Benet's Hall, Oxford, Saturday 19 September 2015

The Hall will be holding a Drinks Reception in the Garden for alumni and friends from 5pm-7pm. All are welcome to attend! This event will be taking place on the day of our Degree Ceremony, so we will also be welcoming our new graduates and their families. Further details nearer the time, but you are welcome to book your place in advance. Please email penelope.lane@stb.ox.ac.uk or telephone 01865 280555.

London, Friday 6 November 2015



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 will be sent out before the summer vacation, but in the meantime, please let us know if you have changed your postal address so that these details reach you safely.

You can update your alumni details by accessing your account on the University of Oxford alumni website: <http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/> or by sending an email to alumni@stb.ox.ac.uk with your new details.