



St Mary's University Student Newsletter



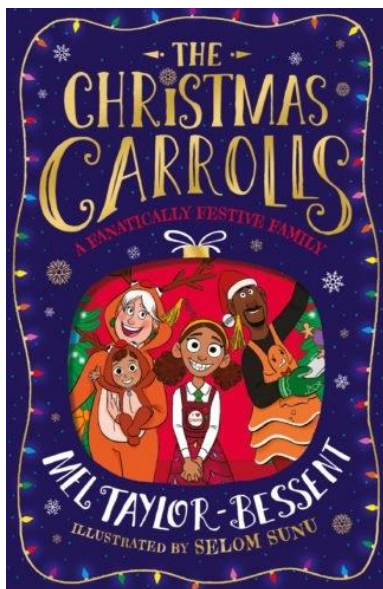
December 2021

Hello Simmie,

Welcome to your fortnightly student newsletter! This week we've got information on the talented graduates of Creative and Professional Writing in the Institute of Theology and Liberal Arts, an update on EDI activity, your chance to take part in research, and lots more.

On Monday we provided a COVID-19 update following the Government's plans to introduce temporary COVID-19 restrictions, in response to cases of the new Omicron coronavirus variant detected in the UK. **It is now compulsory for students and staff to wear a face-covering in all communal areas on campus**, as well as on public transport and shops (unless you are exempt). The full update is available [here](#).

St Mary's students have novels published



It has been an exciting time for talented graduates of Creative and Professional Writing in the Institute of Theology and Liberal Arts. The programme boasts a list of alumni including BA graduate, Mel Taylor-Bessent who has just celebrated the publication of her debut Young Adult novel, *The Christmas Carrolls*. Mel has previously founded two businesses, Little Star Writing and Authorfy, devoted to teaching Creative Writing to children. Her wonderful novel was launched at an event at Waterstones Tottenham Court Road this month and is currently being sold as a special limited edition in their shops nationwide.

Alumna Louise Fein, graduate of the Creative Writing: First Novel MA, launched her second novel, *The Hidden Child*, in September. Her first novel, *People Like Us* – begun in the MA – was published to great success last year in the UK and US, with over a dozen international editions are now in print.

Coming early in 2022 is *Mark My Words*, the third novel by MA grad Muhammad Khan. Muhammad's novella *Split* was chosen last year as a World Book Day title, a phenomenal honour. We can't wait to read his new one!

[**Discover more of our published writers here.**](#)

EDI Update: the latest news from across our student networks

We can hardly believe it's the start of December! In this week's EDI update we share information on Hannukah and the start of advent.

This week is Inclusive Sport Week, keep an eye on SMSU and Sport St Mary's social media for opportunities including Thursday 5-6pm fully accessible Hall Stars and Friday 1-2pm Wheelchair basketball for all. EVERYONE welcome!

A reminder of the [Chaplaincy's Christmas appeal](#) - you can donate non-perishable food, toiletries, and gifts (or money) until 15th December.

And for more festive fundraising fun, 10th December is [Christmas Jumper Day](#) - a day to make everyone smile and to raise money for Save the Children.

[To read the full update click here.](#)



Have you considered studying abroad?

Join St Mary's Study Abroad Programme



Attend an information session this week! The schedule is below as well on the portal. Details about all of the programmes are available in the Study and Work Abroad section of Moodle, which can be accessed through the 'My Courses' area.

Travel, learn and make new friends! Undergraduates on most courses may earn credits studying for a semester in Australia, Europe, Canada, or the USA during Year 2. All students may participate in our fantastic summer programmes in Australia, Germany, Japan, Malaysia and South Korea, and you can earn a stipend working in Europe during the summer or for one year after graduation through Erasmus+. Funding is available for all programmes!

Attend an information session this week, check out the Study and Work Abroad section of Moodle, or email goabroad@stmarys.ac.uk.

[Click here to find out more.](#)

Opportunity to take part in research! Student survey on worldview diversity

We need your views! A new research study, Building positive relationships among university students across religion and worldview diversity, (known as IDEALS UK) explores how students relate to others on campus who have a different worldview from themselves. By learning about the experiences students have with diversity – whether religious or cultural, for example – this research aims to inform university policies and practices that will make a difference to the student experience.

This is a great opportunity to take part in an exciting national research project! You can complete the survey here. It will take no more than 10-15 minutes. It's open to all our undergrads, postgrad, and doctoral students, regardless of belief or background.

Taking part is completely voluntary and confidential. You can [visit the research project page](#) or [follow the project on Twitter](#) for more information. Thanks for your help!

[To take part in the survey, please click here.](#)



Share your feedback

**Your feedback helps
Shape St Marys**



The St Mary's student voice helps us form our action plans and where appropriate make changes and improvements.

You know St Mary's best and it's your feedback that will help us make changes for future Simmies in the same way previous students' feedback helped make some of the changes you've seen during your time at St Mary's.

From extra study spaces and increased academic support to additional financial support to take part in enrichment activities, find out what's changed at St Mary's thanks to student feedback.

[Find out how your views help improve life for Simmies here.](#)

Academic Integrity Awareness Week: 6-10 December

St Mary's first-ever Academic Integrity Awareness Week takes place from 6 - 10 December, all students are welcome to attend any or all of the events available.

The University places considerable emphasis on ethical academic practices and ensuring that students are able to demonstrate academic integrity in their work. During the week try to think about your own practice as a student and how you can embed good academic practice within your studies.



If you have any questions or want to seek advice about any aspect of academic practice, do get in touch with your programme team or your personal tutor.

[Learn more about Academic Integrity Awareness week.](#)

Quick round up of other news



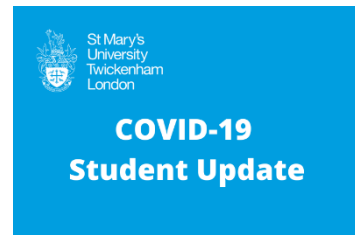
Share your blessings this Christmas by helping the homeless and the hungry

ST. MARY'S IS SUPPORTING THE FOLLOWING CHARITIES:
VINEYARD, FOOD BANK, SPEAR, AND AFGHAN REFUGEES
WE ARE ACCEPTING FOOD, TOILETRIES, AND CASH DONATIONS FROM 15 NOV - 15 DEC 2021.

COLLECTION BOXES LOCATED AROUND CAMPUS:

1. University Chapel Entrance
2. Chaplaincy
3. Library
4. Refectory
5. Student Union Office
6. Student Services Office

CASH DONATIONS MAY BE TRANSFERRED ONLINE:
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stmaryschristmas21>



12 Days of Christmas from your SU

Today was the start of your SU's 12 days of Christmas! Each day they'll be bringing you a new event or activity to take part in. Sign up to the social media channels below to make sure you don't miss out.
SU Insta: @stmaryssu
St Mary's Insta: @yourstmarys

[Find out more here.](#)

Chaplaincy Christmas Fundraising

The Chaplaincy are supporting the Vineyard Centre, SPEAR, and Afghan Refugees in their Christmas 2021 campaign appeal. They're seeking donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and treats. Collection boxes will be on campus until 15th December.

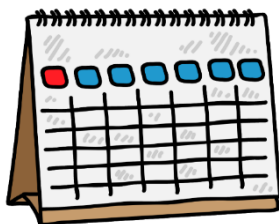
[Find out more here.](#)

Don't forget your face covering

The Government has announced temporary COVID-19 restrictions in response to cases of the new Omicron coronavirus variant detected in the UK. Face coverings are compulsory when moving around our university buildings and in communal areas (unless you are exempt)

[Find out more here.](#)

Key dates for your diary



December 2021

- 1st - 16th - [12 Activities of Christmas \(Sport St Mary's free events\)](#)
- 2nd - [PGCE: Coffee and Chat Drop-In 2pm](#)
- 3rd - SU Inclusive Sports Day
- 6 - 10th - [Academic Integrity Awareness Week](#)
- 7th - [SU musical Bingo - The Shack](#)
- 8th - Academic Integrity 'Question Time'
- 8th - [PGCE Online Open Evening 7pm](#)

Information about these campaigns will be shared on the Student Union and St Mary's University social media channels

St Mary's University 2021
Click [here](#) to unsubscribe or to change your Subscription Preferences.

Click [here](#) to view this email in your browser.