



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Faculty of Education, Theology, & the Arts

FETTA Newsletter February 2024

Welcome to the first FETTA Newsletter of 2024 – featuring an interview with a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing, Anthony McGowen, where you can read about the heartrending plot of his novel *Dogs of the Deadlands*, which is currently shortlisted for a Carnegie Medal. You can also learn about BA Theology, Religion, and Ethics undergraduate Nyah Hawkes, for whom St Mary's is a family affair.

In this month's FETTA student forum with PGCE secondary students, the importance of family and friendship links in choosing St Mary's came-up. Our best ambassadors and recruiters are the people who graduate from here, which is a wonderful thing. Other highlights of the forum included the praise for the pastoral care, accessibility, and general student-centred helpfulness of the staff in the School of Education.

Finally, there's lots of events coming-up across our three Schools – so if you can squeeze a bit of time to engage with some new or unfamiliar and interesting-sounding ideas, there's plenty of opportunity to do so in the wonderful world of FETTA.



Prof Jacob Phillips
Interim Dean of the Faculty of Education, Theology, and the Arts
Professor of Systematic Theology



Meet a FETTA Student.
This month we talked to Nyah Hawkes, who is studying
BA Theology Religion and Ethics



Tell us a bit about yourself and how you came to study at St Mary's

I'm a first year BA Theology Religion and Ethics student. I actually came to St Mary's through clearing, and whilst it wasn't my original plan, I'm so glad I ended up here. My mum had graduated from my exact course and my brother Jasper is a current student on the MA in Public History, having also been an undergrad here. So, it's a bit of a family affair. I knew the Uni because I had tagged along to an open day Jasper came to. In the end it was great choice and I love the campus, the relaxed atmosphere, but also the easy connection to

London. I live in halls, which means a lovely 4-minute commute to lectures and my room is bigger than my one at home, so it's great to have space.

Is there a particular member of staff you would like to give a shout out to?

Susan Longhurst and Jack Bull were both amazing in semester one. A Levels had knocked my confidence a bit and I was doubting my academic ability, but in class Susan and Jack were simultaneously challenging and really supportive. I was nervous at the start to be with lecturers who are at the top of their field, but they were so welcoming and their tutorials were really helpful. My proudest moment so far was getting my first set of essays back, I had done well and I thought...yeah, I can actually do this!

Tell us about something you do outside of university

I'm a gymnastics coach. My family run a gymnastics club and I teach the 5year olds and the 10-11s. For the older ones I focus on teaching the four pieces, vault, bars, beam and floor. It's really rewarding teaching them moves they have not thought of before, and especially watching them grow in confidence. I need to understand each student's capability and to make adjustments to routines to suit each one and then to challenge them and see their development. I understand the issues for girls in sport around puberty because I've been through that, so I'm able to support them through down days when they maybe feel less energetic. It's a small club, we all know and support each other.

What would you like to do when you graduate?

I have some work experience with Cafod which I enjoyed. I'm really interested in ethics and I would like to go into something connected with human rights, maybe working in an NGO or perhaps something connected with climate change.



Meet a FETTA Colleague

This month we talked to Anthony McGowan from the School of Liberal and Creative Arts. He is a Senior Lecturer on MA First Novel and BA Creative and Professional Writing



Tell us a bit about yourself and how you came to be a lecturer at St Mary's

For the past 25 years I've been a full-time writer, I was the Royal Literary Fund Fellow at St Mary's twice, I had experience of supporting students with academic writing and then a lecturing job came up. Now I mostly teach on the MA First Novel, but also the BA Creative and Professional Writing programme. I like to think of myself as Russell's right hand man, but monkey to his organ grinder might be more accurate.

Tony has won many awards for his writing, including the prestigious Carnegie medal for his YA novel *Lark* and is currently shortlisted for a second Carnegie for his latest book *Dogs of the Deadlands*.

Dogs of the Deadlands begins on April 26 1986, it's Natasha's birthday and she is given Zoya, a white puppy, with distinctive eyes, one blue one brown. They have one night together, before the Chernobyl reactor number four explodes, the landscape is contaminated and people are evacuated. There is a heart-breaking scene where the guards discover the concealed pup in Natasha's backpack and won't let it onto the evacuation bus, so she and Zoya are wrenched apart.

The story then splits. It follows Natasha - becoming a scientist, but retaining her longing for the pup. Zoya survives, and most of the book follows Zoya and pups Misha and Bratan, these wild dogs have to find their place in the dangerous, rewilded environment, surviving fights with bears, lynxes and wolves - there are amazing animal fights, which bring both heartbreak and joy. Without giving too much away, the ending is hopeful and the circle closes.

How did you go about researching *Dogs of the Deadlands*? You don't spare the reader, there are some really brutal scenes, how did you co-ordinate and choreograph the fight scenes?

I saw a documentary about the rewilding process after Chernobyl and there was one particular scene where a pack of wolves took over an abandoned farm yard. The alpha jumped on top of a building and howled; in the backdrop you could see the ruin of the Chernobyl plant and I thought that there was a novel in that. I read everything I could about the Chernobyl incident, about the rewilding and I read academic papers on how dogs and wolves interact and it is quite brutal. I watched an unhealthy number of YouTube videos of dogs and wolves fighting to get an understanding of what goes on. Short version: the wolves kill and eat the dogs before you can say 'Call of the Wild'!

How is the process of working with an editor and the cutting of sections of the book you think are good?

There were two long digressions that did not make the cut and one in particular I really loved, I really did not want to lose and it was like having a leg gnawed off, but it's a negotiation and you have to be open.

Where is your writing space and do you have writing rituals?

I like to write at the British Library. There's something about having made the effort to get there that means I have to produce something and when you write you need to take a rest and there is always something interesting to look at there. If I'm in the study at home I'm far more likely to waste time on Facebook. I try to write 1000 words a day and then I can reward myself with a beer after work.

You also wrote 20 titles for the "guided reading series" Project X. Many of our students probably learned to read on your books or are using them now as trainee teachers. How did you get involved and what's it like writing for a school reading scheme?

They were hard to write and that felt like a proper job rather than a creative one, there were a lot of constraints, but I tried to make the characters engaging, Tyger was complex, interesting and naughty but also fundamentally good. I pushed it as far as I could but the books had a job to do, so there was a lot of editing.

And you have also written specifically for dyslexic and reluctant readers, can you tell us about that?

Yes, there are four books, they have a particular type face and the paper is thick and creamy to avoid print bleed. When I first started to work on them the editor arranged for dyslexic children to workshop them with me and it became clear that some of the metaphors didn't work for them, so yes I needed to make some changes and it was interesting to do. The fourth one *Lark* won the Carnegie in 2020, which was a career highlight.

If you could have another job for a day, what would you do?

I'd be a professional cricketer

Do you have a secret talent?

I play guitar. Badly. In the 90s I had a day job as a civil servant, my friend there Tim had been in a band called the Razor Cuts. They had had a Creation records contract, but had split up. He got some money to record a solo album, but he had fat fingers and couldn't manage the C chord, so I was brought into the studio to play it for him and after that I took over several other major chords and eventually, we became a band called Dandelion Wine. The album, Model Village, is available on all the streaming services. We did well and got invited to tour Japan, but Tim was afraid to fly, so we never got there. So inside me there's a failed rock star waiting to come out!

Congratulations to:

Fr Ruwan Hewawasam Puwakpitiyage, Vice Rector of St Joeseph's College, Colombo, Sri Lanka, who has been awarded his MPhil: The Impact of the First Five Rectors of St. Joseph's College on Character Formation and Educational Leadership. He was supervised by Mary Mihovilovic and Elisabetta Canetta.

What's on in FETTA?



Launch of St. Mary's University Press

& book launch event

St Mary's University has announced the launch of the St Mary's University Press which will oversee the publication of new academic work.

The Press will produce publications that further scholarly investigation, advance interdisciplinary inquiry, stimulate public debate, and enhance cultural life in an atmosphere that is supportive, enthusiastic and pleasurable.

It will cover a broad range of subjects. Including Theology and Religious Studies, Education, Philosophy, Humanities, Psychology, Sport and Human Physiology, Business and Law, Social Sciences and Health and Applied Science.

As an inclusive Catholic University seeking to develop the whole person and to empower our community to have a positive global impact, St Mary's promotes interdisciplinary research and scholarship which it aims to disseminate through the Press.

Book launch event : 27th February, 2024 6pm Waldegrave Drawing Room

You are warmly invited to the launch of St. Mary's University Press and the launch of its first book, "Catholic Social Thought, the Market and Public Policy – twenty-first century challenges". The book is edited by Philip Booth and Andre Alves

6:00pm Refreshments

6:30pm brief remarks Anthony McClaran & St Mary's University Press representative

6:40pm brief remarks from Philip Booth followed by Q&A

7:00pm Book on sale at special launch price £10 and further refreshments

Register for a free ticket: <https://estore.stmarys.ac.uk/product-catalogue/conferences-events/book-launches/book-launch-and-launch-of-st-mary%E2%80%99s-university-press-27th-february-2024>

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL
THOUGHT, THE MARKET
AND PUBLIC POLICY**

Twenty-First-Century Challenges



Edited by Philip Booth and
André Azevedo Alves





Women in the life and mission of the Catholic Church in the world: on the Synodal path



Keynote Speakers



Sr Marie-Kolbe Zamora, OSF
is a Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity serving in the General Secretariat of the Synod in Rome



Sr Francisca Ngozi Uti, HHCJ
is Director of the Centre for Women Studies and Intervention in Nigeria and a sister of the Congregation of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus

A special Lenten event

The participants at the Assembly of the Synod on Synodality in Rome last October recognised that "in Christ, women and men are clothed with the same baptismal dignity (Gal 3:28) and receive equally the variety of gifts of the Spirit." They said it was "urgent to ensure that women can participate in decision-making processes and assume roles of responsibility in pastoral care and ministry."

Join us for a special hybrid event this Lent, hosted by the Centre for Catholic Education, Research and Religious Literacy (CERRL) St Mary's Twickenham and CAFOD to examine how our Church can recognise and value the active contribution of women and enhance the pastoral leadership of women in all areas of the Catholic Church's life and mission, all over the world.

Tickets:

In person £10 (light lunch included) / Online free of charge

[Register here](#)

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School of Theology Research Seminars Spring Term 2024

8th February: Rev'd Dr Ashley Beck

The Synodal Pathway and the Catholic University

27th February: Prof. Philip Booth/Prof. Andre Alves

Catholic Social Thought, the Market and Public Policy – 21st century challenges (and launch of the St Mary's University Press) will be held in the Waldegrave Drawing Room starting at 6pm

13th March: Dr Pia Matthews

'Other-person-ness' and the person with profound disability

All seminars will be 5-6.30pm in the Senior Common Room unless otherwise stated. Refreshments will be provided.

More information about the School of Theology can be found at www.stmarys.ac.uk/fetta/school-of-theology

All Welcome

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The St Mary's University Faculty of Education,
Theology & the Arts is delighted to host

Benedict XVI the Theologian

A Symposium and a Book Launch to celebrate
the publication of *The Cambridge Companion
to Joseph Ratzinger*

11th March 2024

at St Mary's University Twickenham
The Waldegrave Suite, Room D121

Symposium:
10am-4.45pm

Rev Dr Michael Lang
St Mary's University
& Mater Ecclesiae College

Dr Mary McCaughey
St Mary's College, Oscott

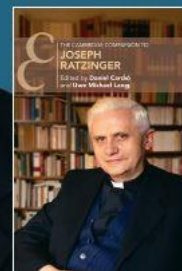
Dr Andrew Meszaros
St Patrick's Pontifical University

Prof Jacob Phillips
St Mary's University

Dr Jeremy Pilch
St Mary's University

Book launch:
5.30-7pm

Event for
*The Cambridge
Companion to
Joseph Ratzinger*



For more information and to reserve free tickets
to either of the above events – or both – visit:

www.stmarys.ac.uk/events/2024/03/benedict-theologian

Enquiries to: fetta@stmarys.ac.uk



Programme of Seminars, 2023/24. The Centre for Catholic Education, Research and Religious Literacy

The Centre for Catholic Education, Research and Religious Literacy have released their programme of seminars for 2023/24.

Schedule of seminars

All seminars will begin at midday, unless stated otherwise. The programme of seminars is as follows:

- **9th February 2024** – Prof Richard Rymarz, The Australian Institute of Theological Education.
- **16th February 2024** – Professor Tom O'Donoghue - University of Western Australia, the case for investigating the neglected matter of the experience of being a lay teacher in Catholic schools from the middle of the nineteenth century until the early 1970s.
- **13th March 2024** – Jeremy Olusola, University of Worcester, the Muslim experience of education.
- **1st May 2024** – Prof Deirdre Raftery, University College Dublin, Catholic childhoods and convent schooling: historical perspectives.

Further information

Please email Professor Stephen Parker (stephen.parker@stmarys.ac.uk) for the seminar Zoom links.

Date: Friday 9th February - Wednesday 13th March 2024

Venue: Online via Zoom

Find out more

For more information about this event please email stephen.parker@stmarys.ac.uk.



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Call for Papers for a symposium on the theme: Faith and Education: contemporary and global issues in historical perspective

Hosted by the Centre for Catholic Education, Research and Religious Literacy

2024 marks the 80th anniversary of the 1944 Education Act, which in England and Wales at least has defined the nature, character and governance of faith-based education, Religious Education and Collective Worship for the entirety of the post-war world to the present. Indeed, its iconic status in this regard has made it virtually impervious to radical alteration.]

However, the role of the churches and faith communities in state-funded schools and higher education has an even longer history, the fundamental issues having resonance beyond the national and parochial concerns of one jurisdiction, indeed it is of global significance. This symposium aims to bring together those at the forefront of the historical, philosophical, theological, and political debates surrounding the question of the continuous legitimacy of the state-funding of faith-based schools and universities.

Find out more: <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/events/2024/04/call-for-papers-for-a-symposium-on-the-theme-faith-and-education>

Or please email stephen.parker@stmarys.ac.uk.

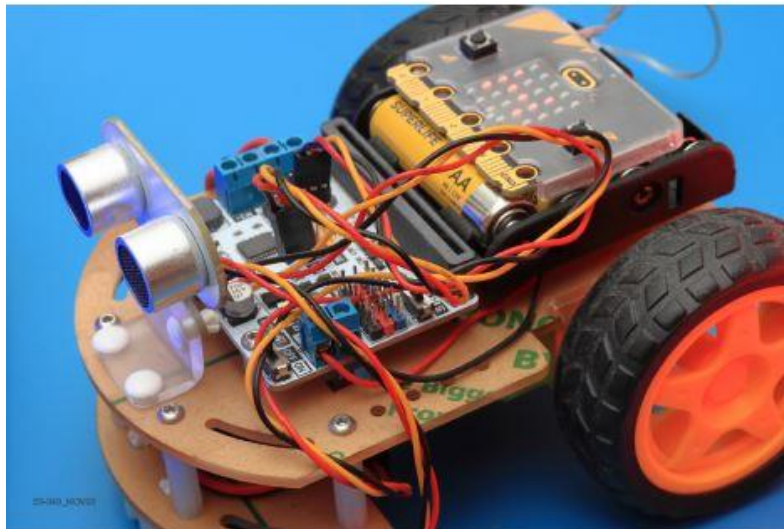


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Primary Education: Design & Technology, and Computing Exhibition

Friday 1st March 2024
9.30-11am | F2 Art Room

Join us at the BA Primary Education D&T and Computing Exhibition, where our talented Undergraduate Year 3 students will unveil their projects that seamlessly merge two cutting-edge curriculum domains:
Design & Technology, and Computing





St Mary's
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School of Liberal
& Creative Arts

School of Liberal & Creative Arts: Research Seminar Series



**Tuesday
13th February
2024**

**5.30pm
The Senior
Common Room**

Dr Sophie Belot

**'Maurice Merleau-Ponty:
how cinema can influence
philosophy'**

Please come and enjoy a lively
conversation and discussion

There will be wine and snacks.

If you would like to give a seminar paper in the series, please email Dr Michelle Paul

23-370/DEC23



Open Mic Night

Join the School of Liberal and Creative Arts for its first ever Open Mic Night on the 22nd of February at 7.30pm in St Mary's Theatre. Enjoy an evening of live music, comedy sketches, acting, poetry and more! Drama Students can get a free ticket using discount code: OPENMIC2024 The first 50 booked receive a free voucher for a drink in the Dolce Vita. Hurry !! [BOOK HERE](#)

SCALAARTS
festival



Count down to the Liberal & Creative Arts Spring SCALA Festival April 2024

Running over 20 days and featuring over 50 separate events, the festival showcases the work of students and staff working across our programmes of study, outreaching wherever possible to cultural and creative venues across the borough.

The festival has been curated by a collaborative staff/ student team and whether you're interested in film screenings, live performances, installations, music, debate, exhibitions, new research, literature, local heritage, digital futures, journalism, photography, partying or simply seeing St Mary's campus with fresh eyes, there is something here for everyone.

Just a few of the first week highlights already confirmed:

Sunday April 21st - 6.30pm: A cordial evening of music and poetry to launch proceedings in the Waldegrave drawing Room.

From Monday 21st April and running throughout the festival - an exhibition of students photographic work at The Exchange in Twickenham.

From Monday 21st April and running throughout the festival looped screens of short films from our BA Film Studies students at The Riverside Gallery in Richmond

Monday 22nd April - 7.30pm: The Level 6 BA Acting Festival opens with a production of 'Proof' by David Auburn in the St Mary's Theatre, playing in rep throughout the week with Benedict Andrew's version of 'Three Sisters' the plays transfer to the Old Sorting Office in Barnes for the second week of the festival.

Tuesday 23rd April - 7.30pm: The Level 6 Acting students production of 'Animal Farm' opens on tour at West Thames College prior to returning to the St Mary's theatre for the second week of the festival.

Wednesday 24th April - 10am: one of six mornings throughout the festival dedicated to student research. Presentations, Q&As and debates on campus.

Thursday 25th April - 7.30pm. The level 6 Acting students production of 'Chaos' by Laura Lomas opens on tour at Hounslow Arts Centre prior to returning to the St Mary's Theatre for the second week of the festival.

Many more events to follow.... full details of the festival will be available on-line very shortly. For more information please contact mark.griffin@stmarys.ac.uk



Third Year BA Acting Showcase on 14 February 2024

We are delighted to announce that this year's third year BA Acting Showcase will take place at the Leicester Square Theatre on 14 February at 1pm. This annual event will be attended by agents, students, staff, family and friends and gives the students the opportunity to demonstrate all they have learnt over the past three years.

Everyone is welcome to come along and see the student monologues, while also enjoying some food and drink. For a free ticket, contact: tracey.french@stmarys.ac.uk



Walpole Prize

St Mary's University awards an annual prize in recognition of the contribution of staff to enhancing the student learning experience by developing creative and/or innovative approaches to learning, teaching and/or assessment. It may be awarded to an individual or a team.

The aim of the prize is to recognise and reward outstanding achievement and innovation. The prize consists of a sum of £1,000. All members of staff are eligible. To apply, complete the [application form](#) and submit to adf@stmarys.ac.uk. Deadline for applications is Monday 22nd April by 5pm.

For info:
<https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/ctess/Learning-and-Teaching/teaching-awards/walpole-prize.aspx>

Call for Papers: The Festival of Learning and Teaching is St Mary's annual conference to celebrate practice across the university and share innovations in teaching and learning. All staff and students at St Mary's, our collaborative partners and the wider HE sector are warmly invited to [submit a proposal](#). The overarching theme for festival 2024 is "the value of professional reflection". In coming together as a community of educators, we can develop our practice by sharing ideas, insights and opening up opportunities for collaboration. Proposals are invited (but are not limited to) the sub-themes:

- Artificial intelligence in higher education
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Sustainability
- Authentic assessment
- Open category



To propose a session please provide a brief outline (200 words) by 5pm Friday 19th April 2024. Please contact adf@stmarys.ac.uk if you would like to be involved in reviewing proposals and shaping the festival programme.

For

info: <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/announcements/2024/01/festival-learning-teaching>

Notices from our SU this month: Simmie Elections



www.stmaryssu.co.uk

Save the dates!!!

The SU will be announcing the candidates running in this year's Simmie Elections on the 16th February, following their Annual General meeting from 4pm-6pm!

If you'd like to see the candidates in-person, you can attend the Annual General Meeting in G7.

Candidates will be spending a week campaigning online during digital week, so that they can speak a bit more about their manifestos.

Voting week starts on the 23rd February at 12pm, so make sure to cast your vote because every vote counts.

During voting week, the SU will be hosting 'Candidate Question Time' in the Theatre (7pm-10pm) where you can scrutinise the candidates and hear what they have to say!

Save these dates:

- Annual General Meeting and candidate February, G7, 4pm-6pm
- Digital February – 23rd February
- Voting February, 12pm – 1st March, 12pm
- February, 2pm
- Candidate Question February, 7pm - 10pm
- Elections Results March, 6:30pm – 8:30pm
