



April
2024

125th Anniversary bursary

We awarded 9 incoming undergraduates from lower income households a 125th Anniversary Bursary of £1,000 each. The funds are to be used to off-set St Mary's catering costs. The bursary also supports the widening access and participation plan.

May
2024



St Mary's drinks reception in London

To kickstart the anniversary celebrations, we travelled to London to host a drinks reception for our alumni and guests. We launched our 125th anniversary brochure, detailing Mary's as it was, as it is and our hopes for the future.

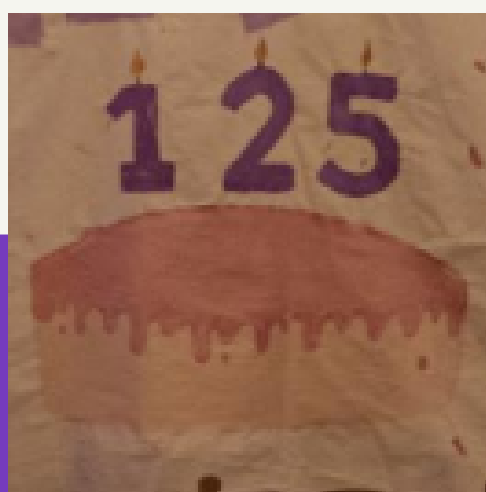
October
2024



Alumni at matriculation

13 St Mary's alumni joined us for lunch in College before joining the staff procession for the 2024/25 matriculation service in Durham Cathedral. There, they met with St Mary's new undergraduates as they start student life.

October
2024



Students' celebration and bar unveiling

In late October, our students celebrated 125 years of Mary's with a nostalgic children's birthday party. After months of renovations, Adrian Simpson unveiled the new Mary's Bar in the basement.

November
2024



125th Anniversary Gala dinner

Chancellor Dr Fiona Hill and Vice-Chancellor Professor Karen O'Brien attended the Gala Dinner along with university colleagues, alumni, students and friends of St Mary's. The Margaret Bloomfield Scholarship was announced.

November
2024



Blue Plaque unveiling

At the end of November, we, along with Durham Parish Council, unveiled a Blue Plaque at 33 Claypath, which, in 1899, was the first home of what is now St Mary's College.





125 Play written by St Mary's students

The Foot of the Hill Theatre company wrote and performed a play to celebrate 125 years of Mary's. The play was performed at the Sir Thomas Allen Assembly Rooms Theatre. A fantastic effort from our student community!



St Mary's drinks reception in London 2025

After the success of last year, we now plan to host a drinks reception annually in London. What a fantastic turnout from our alumni who reconnected with us. Same again next year!



Our final alumni dinner

To finish the anniversary celebrations, we welcomed alumni who graduated 10-25 years ago. We also launched the 125 Faces of St Mary's campaign to mark the end of this historic celebration.

Cheers to everyone who celebrated with us!

March 2025

Alumni reunion for those who graduated over 25 years ago

Over 70 alumni joined us to celebrate 125 years of Mary's, including Lily, pictured right with Assistant Principal Emma Grey. Lily was one of the first students to reside in the Fergusson building when it was built in 1952. We also celebrated the late Joan Kenworthy.



March 2025

April 2025

Alumni dinner for those who graduated up to 10 years ago

Our more recent graduates joined us for dinner and to toast the anniversary. We launched the 1899 club to support our St Mary's alumni society.



May 2025

May 2025

St Mary's staff celebration

Adrian Simpson welcomed college staff, past and present, to join him for a family picnic. Despite the gloomy weather, it was a pleasure to welcome staff from all operational areas of College and those who have moved on or retired, including former Principals Jenny Hobbs and Simon Hackett.



June 2025



Celebrating 125 years