



**ST THEOSEVIA CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY
OPEN STUDY DAYS IN HILARY TERM 2009**

at St Theosevia House, 2 Canterbury Road, Oxford OX2 6LU

An Ecumenical Centre for Christian Spirituality in Oxford

www.theosevia.org

Saturday 7 February, 10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m

Medieval Art and Architecture of Armenia and Georgia

with Dr Nicholas Gendle

Saturday 21 February, 10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m

Origins and Growth of Christian Contemplative Prayer

with Dr Santha Bhattacharji

Saturday 7 March, 10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m

**Body, Mind and Spirit - Investigating Wholeness in the Western
and Eastern Traditions**

with Charles Hampton, Jessica Rose and Bishop Basil of Amphipolis

Poetry Evening: Thursday 26 February at 8pm

An evening of poetry chaired by Metropolitan Kallistos, on the theme of 'The Blessed Virgin Mary'. Please bring contributions to share.

A glass of wine will be served.

St Theosevia House, 2 Canterbury Road, left off Banbury Rd just after North Parade.
Fee for study days is £5 (pay at the door) but **FREE for students with card**. No need to book, just come. Study day lunch break is 1-2pm (please provide your own lunch).

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The St Theosevia Centre for Christian Spirituality

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From the Director

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Dear Friends of St Theosevia,

Welcome to the Hilary Term 2009 programme. Thank you for your enthusiasm and support for last term's very successful programme.

We look forward to seeing you at the coming study days, and encourage you to make this programme widely known among your friends and contacts. If you have ideas for future speakers, or would like to receive extra newsletters or posters, please let us know.

In the coming term we are glad to welcome Dr Nicholas Gendle for a day exploring the art and architecture of mediaeval Armenia and Georgia. In the second study day, Dr Santha Bhattacharji examines the development of the Christian tradition of silent contemplative prayer, from Gregory of Nyssa, through Dionysius (Denys) the pseudo-Areopagite who probably wrote in fifth-century Syria, to the *Cloud of Unknowing* in fourteenth century England. Metropolitan Kallistos chairs a poetry evening on the Blessed Virgin Mary; and finally, Jessica Rose, who last term gave us a fascinating exposition of liturgical music in the Orthodox tradition, will lead a day with Charles Hampton and Bishop Basil on the nature and wholeness of the human person: body, mind and spirit. We continue to have the help of the Revd Steffen Weishaupt, a pastor from the Rhineland Evangelical Church who has now begun work on a D.Phil at Christ Church on the 1992 Meissen Agreement between the Anglican and German Evangelical churches.

The House also hosts the weekly Christian Meditation group on Wednesday evenings, and various other activities. As ever, we look forward to welcoming old friends and new faces to our Hilary programme.

LIZ CARMICHAEL

- Tea and coffee are on offer at Study Days before the meetings and at lunch-time. Bring a packed lunch, or you can purchase food nearby in North Parade.
- **Newsletter subscriptions** are due now for 2008-9. Please send at least £3 (cheques to 'St Theosevia Trust') to **Newsletter, St Theosevia House, 2 Canterbury Rd, OX2 6LU**.
- If you would like to receive newsletters and reminders by email you can subscribe by sending a blank email to: theosevia-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
- If you are willing to help serve coffee for a study day you will have a free place. Please contact the Director or Asst Director if you'd like to help in this way.

DETAILS OF EVENTS IN HILARY TERM

Saturday, 7 February, 10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m

Medieval Art and Architecture of Armenia and Georgia

The mediaeval architecture of the Caucasus is one of the glories of Eastern Christendom. We will analyse the principal monuments of both countries, and examine the illuminated manuscripts of Armenia and the enamels and other applied arts of Georgia

Saturday, 21 February, 10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m

Origins and Growth of Christian Contemplative Prayer

Dr Santha Bhattacharji (Senior Tutor, St Benet's) leads this day on the origin and spread of the apophatic tradition of wordless contemplative prayer, looking at the shared origins of the tradition in Gregory of Nyssa and Denys the Areopagite; how the tradition moved westwards through Latin translations of Denys and the writings of the Victorines; and its flowering in C14th England in *The Cloud of Unknowing*.

Saturday, 7 March, 10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m

Body, Mind and Spirit - Investigating Wholeness in the Western and Eastern Traditions

Charles Hampton works as a pastoral psychologist and trains Anglican and Baptist clergy. He will present Aquinas's view of being human, as mediated by the late Oxford Dominican Herbert McCabe. Jessica Rose is a writer and lecturer specialising in the interface between psychology and theology. In conversation with Charles, she will ask what the Western tradition can contribute to a contemporary understanding of wholeness. Bishop Basil of Amphipolis is a bishop of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and author of 'The Healing Word' (London: DLT 2008). He will draw on the thought of Dionysius the Areopagite and Maximus the Confessor for its implications for what human wholeness might mean in Eastern Orthodox theological tradition.

Poetry Evening: Thursday 26 February at 8pm

An evening of poetry chaired by Metropolitan Kallistos, on the theme of 'The Blessed Virgin Mary'. Please bring contributions to share. A glass of wine will be served.

OTHER EVENTS IN HILARY TERM

held at St Theosevia's House or next door at St Gregory and St Macrina House

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

The Christian Meditation Group meets on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm in St Theosevia's for a period of quiet, meditation and fellowship.

Inquiries: Kath Grego, oxmed@btopenworld.com

THE UNICORN GROUP

An ecumenical discussion group founded by Nicholas Zernov in 1959

The meetings, open to all, are usually held on Friday lunchtimes at the **House of St Gregory & St Macrina, 1 Canterbury Road**. The talks, followed by discussion, run from 1-2pm. Coffee is served from 12.30pm, packed lunches may be brought. Donations are invited to cover costs. **Inquiries:** Canon Martin Coombs, 01865 243865

Friday, 30 Jan: Hilary Caldicott, who works for Advance Housing and support in Witney: **The Significance of Religious Faith for People Living with Mental Distress**

Friday, 13 Feb: Revd Dr Sabina Alkire (Leader of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Institute): **Multidimensional Poverty and Human Well-Being**

Friday, 27 Feb: Revd Steffen Weishaupt (German Protestant Church, DPhil Student at Christ Church): **What Makes a Church Catholic and Apostolic?**

Friday, 13 March: Revd Dr Darell Hannah (Rector of All Saints, Ascot Heath): **The Origin of the Four-Gospel Canon**

NB: The Trinity Term meetings will be held on **Friday, 8 May** and **22 May**.

MEDIEVAL ARTS GROUP & BYZANTINE STUDIES CLASS

The **Medieval Arts Group** with Dr Nicholas Gendle will focus on **Painting in England in the 17th century**. Meetings on Tuesdays at 2pm from 12 Jan, at the House of St Gregory & St Macrina, 1 Canterbury Road.

The **Byzantine Studies Class** with Dr Gendle will focus on **Medieval Art and Architecture of Georgia**, on Wednesdays from 13 Jan, 10.30am, at 9 Fyfield Rd.

Inquiries: Valerie Sansom, 0118 9479471