



**ST THEOSEVIA CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY
OPEN STUDY DAYS IN HILARY TERM 2011**

*An Ecumenical Centre for Christian Spirituality in Oxford
at St Theosevia House, 2 Canterbury Road, Oxford OX2 6LU
www.theosevia.org*

Saturday 5 February, 10.30am – 4pm

Religious Orders Today : Purpose and Challenges

**Br Lawrence Lew OP (Blackfriars), Sr Ann Verena Taylor CJGS (Begbroke)
and Sr Magdalen (Orthodox Monastery of St John the Baptist, Essex)**

Saturday 19 February, 10.30am – 4pm

**Holy Women in Syriac Tradition
and in Early Enlightenment Europe**

Prof Sebastian Brock, Dr David Taylor, Dr Sarah Apetrei

Thursday 3 March, 8pm

**An Evening with Metropolitan Kallistos on the theme of
“Prayer”**

Bring and share music or poetry on this theme, a glass of wine will be provided.

St Theosevia House, 2 Canterbury Road, left off Banbury Rd just after North Parade. Study days FREE for students with card. Non-students £5 (on door). No booking needed, just come, for all or part of the day. Lunch break 1-2 pm (please provide your own lunch).

*Director: Revd Dr Liz Carmichael, St John's College.
Enquiries: Assistant Director of Studies: Revd Steffen Weishaupt,
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From the Director

Revd Dr Liz Carmichael

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Dear Friends of St Theosevia's,

We look forward to welcoming you at two study days in Hilary Term: on "Religious Orders Today" and on "Holy Women" in Syriac and post-Reformation settings. Both days compare and contrast Christian spirituality in East and West and introduce us to new speakers as well as featuring established friends.

Thank you for so well supporting last term's programme. You can re-live the day on "Drawing from the Wellsprings of the Desert". Copies of the DVD "The Baptism of Jesus Christ - Uncovering Bethany Beyond the Jordan" can be obtained from www.zamzam.tv/uk (cost £15.95 plus £1.50 P&P). Mustafa Gouverneur, director of the DVD, was present at this Study day and filmed the other presentations, so you can watch Sr Benedicta on St Cuthbert and St Guthlac, and Dr Elena Vasilescu on the iconography of "The Ladder", at <http://themathesontrust.org/announce/>

The first Study Day of Hilary Term, on Saturday 5 February, is on the Religious Life in today's world, with speakers from religious communities in the Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox traditions. Each will speak on the origin, aims and history of their order and the challenges to be met in the contemporary situation.

The second Study Day, on Saturday 19 February, features Sebastian Brock, David Taylor and Sarah Apetrei and focuses on "Holy Women" in the very different situations of early Syriac Christianity and post-Reformation Europe.

Finally on Thursday 3 March we have another bring-and-share evening with Metropolitan Kallistos, this time on the broad theme of "Prayer".. You are invited to bring music or poetry on this theme, and to sharing these while enjoying a glass of wine.

LIZ CARMICHAEL

- **Newsletter subscriptions** for 2010-11: 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@yahoo.com
- Free tea and coffee are available at Study Days, from 10 am and at lunch-time. Lunch break is about one hour 1-2pm. Bring packed lunch, or you can buy food nearby in North Parade.
- If you are willing to help serve coffee for a study day you will have a free place. Please contact the Assistant Director of Studies if you'd like to help in this way

DETAILS OF EVENTS IN HILARY TERM

Saturday, 5 February, 10.30 am – 4 pm

Religious Orders Today : Purpose and Challenges

with Br Lawrence Lew OP, Sr Ann Verena Taylor CJGS and Sr Magdalen

This day focuses on the experience and aims of religious orders in today's world. **Sr Magdalen** has been a member of the Orthodox monastic Community of St. John the Baptist in Essex since 1975 after graduating in theology. The Community was founded in 1959 by Archimandrite Sophrony, a close disciple of Saint Silouan the Athonite. She will speak about the Orthodox monastic tradition, its application in her Community and its roots in the Gospel commandments. **Sr Ann Verena Taylor** CJGS of Begbroke Priory is a member of the Anglican Community of the Companions of Jesus the Good Shepherd, doing pastoral work and serving on the Church of England's Advisory Council on the Religious Life. **Br Lawrence Lew, O.P.** (Blackfriars) is a deacon in formation for the priesthood in the Dominicans, the Order of Preachers. The Order values scholarship and originally arrived in Oxford in 1221. Then as now it seeks to contemplate the Truth of God and the world, as it is revealed in Christ, and experienced in creation. Their particular concern is to hand on the fruit of its contemplation through preaching and in a range of apostolates including parish ministry, and hospital and university chaplaincies.

Saturday 19 February, 10.30 am – 4 pm

Holy Women in Syriac Tradition and in Early Enlightenment Europe

with Prof Sebastian Brock, Dr David Taylor, Dr Sarah Apetrei

Sebastian Brock will introduce some lively and imaginative treatments of biblical women that are to be found in the literature of the Syriac Churches. **David Taylor** presents some portrayals of holy women from Syriac and other oriental Christian traditions which seem to challenge traditional gender roles and behaviour. **Sarah Apetrei**, University Research Lecturer in Theology, will talk about networks of 'holy women' in early Enlightenment Europe (c.1650-1700), and specifically the links between female prophets and mystics in German Pietism, Scottish Episcopalian circles, London nonconformity, and French Quietism.

Thursday, 3 March, 8 pm

An Evening with Metropolitan Kallistos on the Theme of “Prayer”

Bring your contributions of music or poetry to share, a glass of wine will be provided

WANTED! A Minutes Secretary for the St Theosevia Trustees. If you or a friend could volunteer, please contact Liz. One evening meeting per term.

OTHER EVENTS IN MICHAELMAS TERM

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

The Christian Meditation Group meets on Tuesday evenings from 7.25pm in St Theosevia's (2 Canterbury Road) for a period of quiet, meditation and fellowship.

Inquiries: Brenda Newey, 792838, brendanewey@talktalk.net

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.

Friday 28 January: Metropolitan Kallistos: **The Divine Light**

Friday 11 February: Clare and John Prangley (Pax Christi): **Living the Gospel of Peace**

Friday 25 February: TBC

Friday 11 March: Jessica Rose (on her new book): **Church on Trial**

Friday 13 May: Revd Martin Wellings (Methodist Superintendent): **The Spirituality of the Wesleys**

Friday 27 May: Dr Santha Bhattacharji: **Is There a Specifically Christian Mysticism?**

Inquiries (no booking needed): Revd Canon Martin Coombs, 01865 243865

MEDIEVAL ARTS GROUP & BYZANTINE STUDIES CLASS

The **Medieval Arts Group** with Dr Nicholas Gendle will focus on **Late Byzantine Art and Architecture**. Meetings on Tuesdays at 2pm from 11 January, at the House of St Gregory & St Macrina, 1 Canterbury Road.

The **Byzantine Studies Class** with Dr Gendle will focus on **Coptic Art and Architecture**, on Wednesdays from 12 January, 10.30am, at 9 Fyfield Rd.

Inquiries: Valerie Sansom, 0118 9479471