



**ST THEOSEVIA CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY
OPEN STUDY DAYS MICHAELMAS TERM 2008**

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

Saturday 1st November, 10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m

‘To sing is to pray twice’ (*St Augustine*)

Music and the Liturgy : west and east, ancient and modern

Jessica Rose, Revd Myra Blyth, Revd Dr Liz Carmichael, Dom Peter Brady

Saturday 8th November, 10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m

Pilgrimage : Inner and Outer Adventure

Revd Canon Hugh Wybrew, Revd Dr Andrew Bunch, Dr Julia Konstantinovsky

Saturday 22nd November, 10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m

Christians of the Middle East in Homeland and Diaspora

Dr Sebastian Brock, Dr David Taylor, Anthony O’Mahony

‘Lifelines’

Sat 29 November, 7.30pm in the Auditorium, St John’s College

*An experience of poetry, music and art, with **Janet Suzman and Chris Mann**. Tickets £10 for S.African charity, in advance at St John’s Lodge & on the night if available*

St Theosevia House, 2 Canterbury Road, off Banbury Rd, left 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).

Contact: Asst Dir. of Studies: Steffen.weishaupt@chch.ox.ac.uk 07903 441620

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From the Director

Revd Dr Liz Carmichael

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September 2008

Dear Friends of St Theosevia,

Welcome to the new Michaelmas term programme. Thank you for your support during the very successful programme last term.

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

We have another varied and intriguing programme this term, covering the music of worship in varied traditions, the perennial theme of pilgrimage inner and outer, and the situation of Middle Eastern Christians today. Please see opposite for details. On Sat 29 November we have a poetry evening with a difference, an unusual charity concert involving spoken and sung poetry, and projected art. This will be in St John's.

We continue to have the help of the Revd Steffen Weishaupt, a pastor from the Rhineland Evangelical Church living at St Theosevia House. Steffen has completed a year as ecumenical assistant at Christ Church Cathedral and is now commencing his D.Phil at Christ Church on the 1992 Meissen Agreement between the Anglican and German Evangelical churches.

The House continues to host the weekly Christian Meditation group and various other related activities.

As ever, we look forward to welcoming old friends and new faces to our Michaelmas programme.

LIZ CARMICHAEL

- 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.
- 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 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

DETAILS OF EVENTS IN MICHAELMAS TERM

Saturday 1st November, 10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.:

‘To sing is to pray twice’ (*St Augustine*)

Music and the Liturgy : west and east, ancient and modern

Singing is integral to worship in every culture, and Christianity has developed what must be the richest and most varied musical traditions of any world religion. This day explores the expression of spirituality through the music of the liturgy and the daily offices of the church. Jessica Rose, choir director in the Orthodox parish of the Annunciation, presents chant in the Russian tradition; Dom Peter Brady OSB speaks on western Gregorian chant. The Revd Drs Myra Blyth (Baptist) and Liz Carmichael (Anglican) share the modern music of Iona and Taizé. With musical illustrations and live participation.

Saturday 8th November, 10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.:

Pilgrimage : the Inner and Outer Adventure

The whole of each person’s life can be envisioned as a pilgrimage; and within it come smaller pilgrimages that are stages on the spiritual journey. With Hugh Wybrew we recall the vivid accounts of early Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land. Andrew Bunch, Rector of St Giles and St Margaret’s in Oxford, will share his own recent sabbatical experience, outer and inner, as a pilgrim to Santiago de Compostela. Dr Julia Konstantinovskiy speaks on “ ‘Loving the Poverty of Christ’ – a reinterpretation of Pilgrimage in pre-revolutionary Russia.”

Saturday 22nd November, 10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.:

Christians of the Middle East in Homeland and Diaspora

Sebastian Brock, David Taylor and Anthony O’Mahony, well known for their deep and intimate knowledge of the ancient churches of the Middle East, speak about the situation of Middle Eastern Christians today, with some historical background. The focus will be especially on the Christians of Iraq, both in Iraq and in the extensive emigrant communities in western Europe, and on the many churches of Middle Eastern traditions in London.

‘Lifelines’

Sat 29 November, 7.30pm in the Auditorium, St John’s College

An intriguing experience of poetry, music and art, dealing with the lifelines of animals and the biosphere of the planet, re-sacralizing the mystery of life and evolution, with Janet Suzman and South African poet Chris Mann (former Rhodes scholar and winner of the Newdigate Prize). Tickets £10 for a S. African charity offering life-skills to disadvantaged young people, can be bought in advance at St John’s Lodge and, if available, on the night.

OTHER EVENTS IN MICHAELMAS TERM

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

THE UNICORN GROUP

An ecumenical discussion group founded by Nicholas Zernow 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:** Martin Coombs: 01865 243865.

Friday 24 Oct: The Revd David Barton (Warden of the Sisters of the Love of God, Fairacres): "The Bible: reading, sermons and all that Jazz".

Friday 7 Nov: Revd Dr Sabina Alkire (Leader of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Institute) on the Institute's purpose to advance economists' understanding of human well-being (rather than their traditional concern with production and consumption of goods and services).

Friday 21 Nov: Revd Dr Edward Bailey (Director of the Centre for the Study of Implicit Religion and Contemporary Spirituality): "What is implicit Religion?"

Friday 5 Dec, 12-2pm: Christmas Party, with Presentation at 1pm.

MEDIEVAL ARTS & BYZANTINE STUDIES GROUP

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE

The Medieval Arts Group with Dr Nicholas Gendle continues with **Early Christian and Late Antique Art and Architecture**. Meetings on Tuesday at 2pm from 7 Oct, now at the House of St Gregory & St Macrina, 1 Canterbury Road.

The **Byzantine Studies Class** with Dr Gendle will focus on **Arts and Architecture of Armenia and Georgia**, on Wednesdays from 8 Oct, 10.30am, at 9 Fyfield Rd.

Inquiries: Valerie Sansom, 0118 9479471.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

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

Inquiries: Kath Grego: oxmed@btopenworld.com