



## **STUDY DAYS TRINITY TERM 2008**

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

Wednesday, 30th April, 8.15pm

### **Poetry Evening with Metropolitan Kallistos on 'Resurrection'**

Saturday, 10th May, 10.30am - 4pm

### **Journey into Love: Spirituality and Sexuality**

**Speakers: Fr Benedict Ramsden; Wendy Robinson**

Saturday, 17th May, 10.30am - 4pm

### **The Early Church in East and West: Archaeology and Spirituality**

**Speakers: Dr Martin Henig; Dr David Howlett; Dr Eliya Ribak;  
Dr Alison Salvesen**

All welcome. Suggested donation for Study Days: £5 (free for students with card).

**Inquiries:** Assistant Director of Studies: [steffen.weishaupt@chch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:steffen.weishaupt@chch.ox.ac.uk); 01865 - 286846

# The St Theosevia Centre for Christian Spirituality

2 Canterbury Road, Oxford OX2 6LU

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*From the Director*  
The Revd Dr Liz Carmichael

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March 2008

Dear Friends of St Theosevia,

Welcome to the Trinity Term programme.

Metropolitan Kallistos will lead a **poetry** evening on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, please bring poetry on the theme of **'Resurrection'**. On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May we welcome Wendy Robinson and Fr Benedict Ramsden back to Oxford to lead a long-anticipated day on **'Journey into Love: Spirituality and Sexuality'**. On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May we turn to **'The Early Church in East and West: Archaeology and Spirituality'** with Martin Henig, an Oxford archaeologist and recent co-organiser of exhibitions on Constantine in York and Trier, on the archaeology of Christianity in Roman Britain, Eliya Ribak from Reading on churches and synagogues in Byzantine Palestine, Alison Salvesen and David Howlett on St Ephrem of Syria and St Patrick of Ireland.

The Hilary Term Study Days attracted good audiences to explore the long history of Christianity in China, and unexpected links between Franciscan and Orthodox spirituality. On 1 March an audience of 50 in SS Philip and James Church (OCMS) were led into profound reflection on the significance of Jerusalem and its place in active peacemaking between Christians, Jews and Muslims.

May I thank all of you who have affirmed your wish to remain on the **mailing list** and sent a contribution for expenses. If you find a green note with this Newsletter, please do respond. If you have not received a request to confirm, it is because we know you are an active supporter of St Theosevia's and have assumed you wish to remain on the list. If you do not, please let us know! If you have not made a contribution for 2007-08 and wish to do so, please send a £3 cheque made out to St Theosevia Trust.

Many thanks to the Revd Ralph Williamson for having updated our **Website**, [www.theosevia.org](http://www.theosevia.org)

Do you have suggestions for speakers and themes for future study days? If so, please send them to me. We look forward to welcoming you and new friends to the Trinity programme.

LIZ CARMICHAEL

Wednesday, 30 April, 8.15pm

## Poetry Evening with Metropolitan Kallistos on 'Resurrection'

A 'bring and share.' poetry evening, chaired by Metropolitan Kallistos. Bring poetry by any poets of any age, on the theme of 'Resurrection'. We will provide a glass of wine.

Saturday, 10th May, 10.30am - 4pm

### Journey into Love: Spirituality and Sexuality

God is love and therefore, as William Blake says, we are set on earth a little "to learn to bear the beams of love". Our human capacity for love, with all its delights, wounds and vicissitudes, carries a divine dimension, call and imperatives that we collapse at our peril. Human desire longing for the other - and the divine Other - takes many forms, and we need to undertake many demanding transformations of desire in order to find our way. How do we bring our sexuality into our life of prayer? How can our desire and our urge for intimacy be transformed in our journey of prayer, so that we become more capable of deep mutual love? We have to learn to know ourselves well erotically. It seems as if the hand of God is on the church in our generation to make us look more deeply at its use of sexuality and gender in relation to our spiritual life.

It takes courage to address it, we hope that you will have the courage to join us in what has to be an ongoing and deep conversation.

Saturday, 17th May, 10.30am - 4pm

### The Early Church in East and West: Archaeology and Spirituality

This day explores early Christian worship and spirituality revealed both in literature and archaeology. The morning concentrates on the archaeology of Christianity in Britain and the Holy Land: 'The Church as the legacy of Roman Britain', and 'The Archaeology of Religious coexistence in Byzantine Palestine'. In the afternoon we turn to two early Christian writers: St Patrick in Ireland (title tba) and St Ephrem: 'Women, children and angels in the poetic theology of St Ephrem the Syrian'.

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

- St Theosevia's is **2 Canterbury Road** (up Banbury Rd, first turn left after North Parade).
- Tea and coffee are on offer before the meeting and at lunch-time. **Bring a packed lunch for the Study Day or purchase food in North Parade.**
- Any-one willing to help serve coffee is entitled to a free Study Day place. Please notify [steffen.weishaupt@chch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:steffen.weishaupt@chch.ox.ac.uk), 286846, if you want to assist in this way .
- If you've not yet sent your subscription for the current year, please send a minimum of £3 to cover printing and postage. Cheques payable to 'St Theosevia Trust'.
- **Join our free e-mailing list to be kept up-to-date with our events. Send a blank email to: [theosevia-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:theosevia-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)**

## OTHER EVENTS IN HILARY TERM

### **THE UNICORN GROUP**

*An ecumenical discussion group founded by Nicholas Zernov*

The meetings are open to all, and are held 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, 2nd May     **Revd Dr Liz Carmichael MBE** (Chaplain and tutor in Theology at St John's College)  
**Studying Peace**

Friday, 16 May     **Ann Spokes Symonds** (local historian)  
**Felicia Skene, Oxford resident, novelist, philanthropist, campaigner for prison reform**

### **THE MEDIEVAL ARTS & BYZANTINE STUDIES GROUPS**

Both groups will continue in October. 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 Tuesdays at 2pm from 7th October on at St Gregory House, 1 Canterbury Road.

The Byzantine Studies class with Dr Gendle will focus on **Art and Architecture of Armenia and Georgia**, on Wednesdays from 8th October, 10.30am, at 9 Fyfield Rd.

**Inquiries:** Valerie Sansom, 0118 947 9471.

### **THE CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP**

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

**Inquiries:** Kath Greco: [oxmed@btopenworld.com](mailto:oxmed@btopenworld.com)