



**ST THEOSEVIA CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY
OPEN STUDY DAYS IN TRINITY TERM 2013**

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

www.theosevia.org

Saturday 27 April, 10.30 am – 4 pm

**Byzantine and Romanesque Monuments of Apulia and
Calabria: Churches, Cathedrals, Castles**

with Dr Nicholas Gendle

Saturday, 18 May, 10.30 am – 4 pm

**Contrasting Witness: The Life, Spirituality and Work of
Fr Alexander Men and Thomas Merton OCSO**

*with Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, Revd Dr Ann Shukman and
Fiona Gardner*

Wednesday, 29 May, 8pm, preceded by a reception at 7pm

An Evening on the Transfiguration *(with illustrations)*

with Metropolitan Kallistos Ware and Dr Nicholas Gendle

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).*

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From the Director

Revd Dr Liz Carmichael

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April 2013

Dear Friends of St Theosevia's,

Thank you for supporting last term's programme. Both Study Days, the first on the 'Sacrifice of Abraham' or 'Binding of Isaac' in the Jewish and early Christian traditions, and the second on several Christian poets, were absorbing and well attended. You can watch Sebastian Brock's talk on the Binding of Isaac here: <http://vimeo.com/59988210> And the talks on poets here (thanks to James Hyndman for uploading these on Vimeo): Metropolitan Kallistos on St Simeon the Theologian: <http://vimeo.com/61031637> Santha Bhattacharji on Langland: <http://vimeo.com/61139559> Tim Naish on Ann Ridler: <https://vimeo.com/61148172>

This coming Trinity Term, as well as two study days, we will have an evening event on the Transfiguration. We hope that some of you who do not usually find it possible to come to the House for Saturday programmes will be able to come on the evening of Wed., 29 May to enjoy drinks, cheese and paté and two talks on the Transfiguration, one by Metropolitan Kallistos, the other by Nicholas Gendle, illustrated with slides of icons and mosaics. Reception from 7.00 pm, talks at 8.00 pm. The evening is open, please come, but if you intend to come, it will help if you could let Steffen know by email or phone.

The first Study Day is on Sat., 27 April and will be taken by Dr Nicholas Gendle who will, as usual, bring his immense erudition and excellent illustrations, to explore the Romanesque and Byzantine churches of Apulia (Puglia in Italian), the region of the 'heel' of Italy and the coast just to its north, and Calabria, the 'toe'.

The second Study Day, on **Sat., 18 May** (please note the **change of date** from that given in last term's newsletter) will introduce, compare and contrast the life and work of the Cistercian monk Thomas Merton and the Russian Orthodox priest Fr Alexander Men, who in their very different milieux on opposite sides of the 'iron curtain', came to deep faith and became influential Christian thinkers and critics of their own societies.

LIZ CARMICHAEL

Newsletter subscriptions for 2012-13: 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
- Free tea and coffee are available at Study Days, from 10am 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 would like to help in this way

DETAILS OF EVENTS IN TRINITY TERM

Saturday 27 April, 10.30 am – 4 pm

Byzantine and Romanesque Monuments of Apulia and Calabria: Churches, Cathedrals, Castles

Dr Nicholas Gendle will survey the architectural achievement of the c11-c12 Norman conquerors of Southern Italy: their great churches in Apulia - including the splendid white limestone cathedrals of Bari, Bitonto, Trani and Troia - constitute a new and original province of the international Romanesque style. They are rich in sculpture, and often have outstanding marble furnishings and sometimes mosaic floors. The day will start with an exploration of the mountains of Calabria where, in the 9th to 10th centuries, the Greek Orthodox population erected small churches in a rather idiosyncratic Byzantine style, some with important frescoes. There will hopefully be time to focus on some of the imposing fortresses built by that great mediaeval Emperor Frederick II to defend ports, towns and passes. The most beautiful of these, Castel del Monte, is a palace-castle with superb architectural decor in the state-rooms.

Saturday 18 May, 10.30 am – 4 pm

Contrasting Witness: The Life, Spirituality and Work of Fr Alexander Men and Thomas Merton OCSO

Fr Alexander Men (1935-1990) is counted along with Alexander Solzhenitsyn and Andrei Sakharov as one of the three great moral authorities of post-Soviet Russia. His brutal murder in September 1990 cut short his life. Through his writings and his many followers he emerges as a great Christian apologist, challenging the materialism of Marxism and secularism, finding no incompatibility between faith and science, and firm in the belief that all humanity carries the divine spark. Ann's presentation will attempt to show how he came to faith in the years of imposed atheism and became a witness for the world.

Fiona Gardner, psychotherapist and spiritual director, co-editor of *The Merton Journal*, introduces the life and work of Merton (1915-1968), Cistercian monk and hermit who cared for social justice and interfaith dialogue, and engaged with the world through his journals, poetry, essays, voluminous correspondence and many books. Merton will speak himself in an extract from one of the last talks he gave as novice-master.

Metropolitan Kallistos, who is familiar both with Merton and Men, will speak on the comparisons and contrasts between these two influential c20 Christians.

Wednesday, 29 May, 8pm, preceded by a reception at 7pm

An Evening on the Transfiguration

A summer evening event, with drinks, cheese and paté from 7pm and two talks at 8pm on the Transfiguration by Metropolitan Kallistos and Nicholas Gendle, illustrated with slides of icons and mosaics. All welcome. If you intend to come, it will help if you could let Steffen Weishaupt know by email or phone. If you forget to do so, please come anyway!

OTHER EVENTS IN TRINITY 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, 17 May: Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia will kindly give us a **guided tour of the Orthodox Church at 1 Canterbury Road**.

Meet as usual at 12.30pm at 1 Canterbury Road for your sandwiches and a hot drink.

Friday, 24 May: Pam Manix (Cambridge medievalist who conducts tours of Oxford's medieval Jewish Quarter): Jewish Oxford.

Enquiries (no booking needed): Lynda Ellis, 01491 875446, ellislynda@sky.com

MEDIEVAL ARTS GROUP & BYZANTINE STUDIES CLASS

The **Medieval Arts Group** with Dr Nicholas Gendle takes a break for the summer and resumes in **Michaelmas Term**, on Tuesdays at 2pm, at the House of St Gregory & St Macrina, 1 Canterbury Road. It will focus on **The Early Renaissance in Tuscany**, beginning on 8 October.

The **Byzantine Studies Class** with Dr Gendle, on Wednesdays, 10.30am, at SS Gregory & Macrina (**new venue!**), will also resume in **Michaelmas Term**, starting on 9 October. Its focus will be **Romanesque in Normandy and England, Architecture and Art**.

Please note that Dr Gendle will give a lunchtime lecture at **St Giles' Church** on Thursday, **9 March, 12.30pm**. The topic will be **The Life of St Francis in Early Renaissance Art**.

Enquiries: Valerie Sansom, 0118 9479471

FELLOWSHIP OF SS ALBAN & SERGIUS (OXFORD BRANCH)

Enquiries: 01865 552991, or Rebecca White, rcswhite@ntlworld.com