



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

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

An Ecumenical Centre for Christian Spirituality in Oxford

www.theosevia.org

Saturday, 9 November, 10.30 am – 4 pm

**The Spirituality and Legacies of
Fr Sophrony (Sakharov) and Metropolitan Anthony**

Metropolitan Kallistos, the Very Revd Dr Nicholas Sakharov

and Fr Stephen Platt

Saturday, 30 November, 10.30 am – 4 pm

**Christianity in Syria: Ancient Origins, Present Situation,
Uncertain Future**

Prof Sebastian Brock, Dr David Taylor, Dr Anthony O'Mahony,

and Tim Bowman

*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: Asst Director of Studies: Fr Tikhon Vasilyev, Wolfson College,
tikhon.vasilyev@wolfson.ox.ac.uk, 01865 310341*

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2 Canterbury Road, Oxford OX2 6LU Tel (01865) 310 341

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From the Director

Revd Dr Liz Carmichael

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September 2013

Dear Friends of St Theosevia's,

Thank you for supporting last term's programme, with its Study Days on the Byzantine and Romanesque churches of southern Italy and an intriguing day of comparisons and contrasts between the Russian Orthodox priest Fr Alexander Men and the American Cistercian monk and writer, Thomas Merton. In addition we held an innovative and well attended evening reception with wine, cheese, paté and talks on the Transfiguration.

This Michaelmas Term we have Study Days on 9 November on two further C20th figures, and on 30 November on ancient and present-day Christianity in Syria.

Archimandrite Sophrony (Sakharov) was born in Moscow in 1896, became an artist, moved to Paris, and in 1926 began as a monk on Mount Athos, becoming a hermit, spiritual father, and the disciple and biographer of St Silouan. After WWII he was again in Paris, writing theology. In 1959 he took charge of the new double monastery of monks and nuns at Tolleshunt Knights in Essex. At first under Moscow, the monastery moved under the Ecumenical Patriarchate in 1965. When Fr Sophrony died in 1993, the community had grown from eight to twenty-five and has since grown further.

Metropolitan Anthony Bloom was born in Switzerland in 1914, and died in London in 2003. Settling in Paris in 1923 he qualified in medicine, and took monastic vows secretly before working with the Resistance. In 1948 he was ordained priest, came to England as chaplain to the Fellowship of St Alban and St Sergius, became Archbishop of Sourozh in 1962 with responsibility of Great Britain and Ireland, and in 1963 Exarch of the Moscow Patriarchate in Western Europe. An open, friendly and compelling presence, he was widely known ecumenically as a speaker, writer and broadcaster on spirituality. His book *School for Prayer* originated as talks during the Oxford University Mission in 1969.

LIZ CARMICHAEL

Newsletter subscriptions for 2013-14: 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 MICHAELMAS TERM

Saturday, 9 November, 10.30 am – 4 pm

The Spirituality and Legacies of Fr Sophrony and Metropolitan Anthony

The Very Revd Dr Nicholas V. Sakharov BA, DPhil, a priest-monk at the Monastery of St John the Baptist, Tolleshunt Knights, Essex, will speak on the theology of Archimandrite Sophrony, his grand-uncle. As well as numerous articles, his Oxford DPhil research on this topic was published by SVS's Press: *I love, therefore I am*. He writes: "I would want to share some reminiscences of my personal contact with father Sophrony, to cover the main points of his teaching and to assess his theological legacy and significance for our orthodox spirituality." Dr Sakharov is a Visiting Lecturer at the Institute of Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge and Lecturer at the Moscow Theological Academy. His research interests embrace the modern Orthodox Theology of Personhood, Russian religious thought of the C19-20th, and New Testament Studies. He is a frequent key-note speaker on the Theology of the Person.

Fr Stephen Platt will speak on Metropolitan Anthony, "teasing out theological themes from reminiscences of personal conversations." Finally, Metropolitan Kallistos will draw together the two figures of Fr Sophrony and Metropolitan Anthony, comparing and contrasting their lives and work.

Saturday, 30 November, 10.30 am – 4 pm

Christianity in Syria: Ancient Origins, Present Situation, Uncertain Future

Dr Sebastian Brock and Dr David Taylor will give the historical background and context of Christianity in Syria. Dr Anthony O'Mahony, Director of the Centre for the Study of Eastern Christianity, Heythrop College, London, will speak on the present situation in its wider religious and political context; Monk Michael Oez (Syrian Orthodox) will possibly also speak on the current situation.

Tim Bowman will talk on the Monastery of Mar Mousa. Tim lived for a period as a recluse attached to the monastery, which was re-founded by the Jesuit priest, Fr. Paolo dall'Oglio, and plays an ecumenical and interfaith role. Founded in C6th, 80 km north of Damascus, the monastery's patron is St Moses the Abyssinian who was, in local legend, an heir to the king of Ethiopia who abandoned his heritage and became a monk in Egypt, the Holy Land and finally Syria where he was martyred by Byzantine soldiers. The monastery, under the Syriac Catholic Church which formally united with Rome in the 1780s, is a spectacular building clinging to the eastern slope of the Anti-Lebanon. Its C11th church has frescoes dating to C11-12th. Abandoned during the C19th, the buildings have been restored since 1984 with the assistance of the Syrian and Italian governments, and the new monastic foundation began there in 1991.

OTHER EVENTS IN MICHAELMAS TERM

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

The Christian Meditation Group meets on Wednesday evenings during term from 7.25pm in St Theosevia's (2 Canterbury Road) for a period of quiet, meditation and fellowship. **New participants welcome!**

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, 25 October: Pam Manix (Cambridge medievalist who conducts tours of Oxford's medieval Jewish Quarter): **Jewish Oxford**.

Friday, 8 November: Revd Dr William Whyte (University Lecturer, Anglican NSM at Kidlington): **The Ethics of the Empty Church**.

Friday, 22 November: Rabbi Dr Norman Solomon (former Vice President of the World Congress of Faiths): **Peace and Population**.

Friday, 6 December: Christmas celebration, with a talk by Revd Canon Ray Nichols (formerly Dorchester Abbey): **Christmas on the Somalia and Ethiopian Border**.

Enquiries (no booking needed): Judith Baker, 07981 345125, jpbaker10@hotmail.co.uk

MEDIEVAL ARTS GROUP & BYZANTINE STUDIES CLASS

The **Medieval Arts Group** with Dr Nicholas Gendle will resume 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 start again on 9 October. Its focus will be **Romanesque in Normandy and England, Architecture and Art**.

Enquiries: Valerie Sansom, 0118 9479471

FELLOWSHIP OF SS ALBAN & SERGIUS (OXFORD BRANCH)

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