



**ST THEOSEVIA CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY
OPEN STUDY DAYS IN MICHAELMAS TERM 2009**

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

Saturday, 17 October, 10.30am – 4pm

Art and Spirituality: Spirituality through the Arts

Fr John Baggley, Nicholas Mynheer, Prof Henry Mayr-Harting

Saturday, 7 November, 10.30am – 4pm

From Stonehenge to Glastonbury : ‘the Human Face of the New Age’ and its Encounter with Christian Contemplative Prayer

Revd Simon Small (Glastonbury), Dr Miguel Farias (Oxford)

Saturday, 21 November, 10.30am – 4pm

Transition of Life: From this Life to the Life to Come

Dr Jane Baun, Fr Ian Graham, Dr Robert Twycross DM FRCP

St Theosevia House, 2 Canterbury Road, left off Banbury Rd just after North Parade. Fee for study days £5 (at the door) but **FREE for students with card**. 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

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September 2009

Dear Friends of St Theosevia,

Welcome to the Michaelmas Term 2009 programme. Thank you for your interest and support last term. One memorable highlight was the experiential day when we were blessed with bright sunshine and could use the garden for meditations on sculptures of biblical figures and for walking the Chartres labyrinth.

This coming term we have three study days, each with a distinctive focus. The first is on art in relation to liturgy and spirituality, with Fr John Baggley on the use and theology of icons in worship, Nicholas Mynheer whose paintings and sculptures can be found in many local Anglican churches, and Prof Henry Mayr-Harting whose interest focuses on Romanesque art in the churches of southern France and Spain.

The second day explores the nature of 'New Age' spirituality, the eclectic mix of old and new, western and eastern, that has attracted many of our contemporaries. Simon Small is a priest and writer whose spiritual search led him through the 'new age' towards the Christian contemplative tradition. Dr Miguel Farias has done research based in Oxford on the motivation and experiences of 'new age' pilgrims to Stonehenge and Glastonbury, and of Roman Catholic pilgrims to the Marian shrines at Lourdes and Fatima.

Finally, with Fr Ian, Jane Baun and Dr Twycross, we are invited to reflect on the liturgy, spirituality and practical experience of transition from this life to the life beyond.

We look forward to seeing you, and encourage you to make this programme widely known among your friends and to bring them along. If you have ideas for future topics or speakers, or would like to receive extra newsletters or posters, please let us know.

LIZ CARMICHAEL

- **Newsletter subscriptions** are due now for 2009-10. 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
- 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 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 if you'd like to help in this way.

DETAILS OF EVENTS IN MICHAELMAS TERM

Saturday 17 October, 10.30am – 4pm

Art in Spirituality: Spirituality through the Arts

with Revd John Baggley, Prof Henry Mayr-Harting and Nicholas Mynheer

A day on art in spirituality, full of colour and interest. Fr John Baggley will explore the Eastern tradition, looking at icons and their significance in Orthodox theology and liturgy. Nicholas Mynheer will speak out of his own experience and motivation as a contemporary sacred artist. Henry Mayr-Harting presents an aspect of the western mediaeval tradition.

Saturday 7 November, 10.30am – 4pm

From Stonehenge to Glastonbury : ‘the Human Face of the New Age’ and its Encounter with Christian Contemplative Prayer

with Revd Simon Small (Glastonbury) and Dr Miguel Farias (Oxford)

What are the attractions of ‘new age’ spirituality, and how can the Christian tradition speak to it? The **Revd Simon Small** came to the Anglican priesthood and to Christian contemplative prayer through personal involvement in ‘New Age’ spirituality. He lives in Glastonbury, where he continues the encounter with those who come there as seekers. “I would like firstly to talk about New Age spirituality as a lived human experience, drawing on my own extensive, on-going involvement. I can then reflect on contemplation in that context.” **Dr Farias**, of the Dept of Experimental Psychology, will talk on his general psychological research on the New Age and about his comparative study of ‘New Age’ and Catholic pilgrimages, focusing on Stonehenge.

Saturday 21 November, 10.30am – 4pm

Transition of Life : from this Life to the Life to Come

with Dr Jane Baun, Fr Ian Graham, Dr Robert Twycross DM FRCP

A day to reflect on the theology and spirituality of this transition. Jane Baun will speak on theological and historical aspects of intercessory prayer for the dying, the dead, and the bereaved. Fr Ian reflects on the Eastern liturgical tradition, its services and prayers. The presentation by Dr Robert Twycross comes out of his long experience of work in hospices, and as Director of Sobell House.

OTHER EVENTS IN MICHAEMAS TERM

held at St Theosevia House or next door at St Gregory and St Macrina House
(or at 9 Fyfield Rd)

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

The Christian Meditation Group meets on Wednesday evenings from 7.25pm in St Theosevia's 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, 23 October: Rt Revd Colin Fletcher (Bishop of Dorchester):

Working in Partnership – Opportunity and Limits

Friday, 6 November: Very Revd Christopher Lewis (Dean of Christ Church):

St Bernard Called Cathedrals “Foolish Extravagances”. How Right was He?

Friday, 20 November: Mike Fisher (Executive Director of Willows Counselling Service, Swindon): *Is There a Place for Spirituality and Faith in Counselling?*

Friday, 4 December: Christmas Party with Presentation

Friday, 29 Jan.: First meeting in 2010.

Inquiries: Revd Canon Martin Coombs, 01865 243865

MEDIEVAL ARTS GROUP & BYZANTINE STUDIES CLASS

The **Medieval Arts Group** with Dr Nicholas Gendle will focus on **Late Antique and Early Christian Art and Architecture**. Meetings on Tuesdays at 2pm from 6 October, at the House of St Gregory & St Macrina, 1 Canterbury Road.

The **Byzantine Studies Class** with Dr Gendle will focus on **Cities of the Byzantine World - Art and Architecture**, on Wednesdays from 7 Oct, 10.30am, at 9 Fyfield Rd.

Inquiries: Valerie Sansom, 0118 9479471

