



**ST THEOSEVIA CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY
OPEN STUDY DAYS IN TRINITY TERM 2015**

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

An Ecumenical Centre for Christian Spirituality in Oxford

www.theosevia.org

Saturday 30 May 10.30 am – 4 pm:

CS Lewis: creative imagination, orthodox faith

Revd Dr Michael Ward, Metropolitan Kallistos Ware

Saturday 6 June, 10.30 am – 4 pm:

**Christians in the Middle East: present crisis,
future uncertainty**

*Dr Anthony O'Mahony, Mardeen Isaac,
Fr Shafiq AbouZayd*

*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*

The St Theosevia Centre for Christian Spirituality

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From the Director

Revd Dr Liz Carmichael

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April 2015

Dear Friends of St Theosevia's,

Thank you for your support of last term's study days. There was a full house to hear Dr Nicholas Gendle speak and show slides of art and architecture from his recent visit to Russia, and an equally keen audience to reflect on psychological and spiritual growth in a range of writers from the fourth to the nineteenth century.

This term we have a Study Day on 30 May (Fifth Week) devoted to the spirituality and the creative literary imagination of CS Lewis (1898 – 1963). Lewis was born in Northern Ireland, came to Oxford in 1918 as an undergraduate at Univ, taught at Magdalen and, despite finally holding a chair in Cambridge, lived in Oxford until his death in 1963. A teenage atheist, in 1931 he became a committed Christian and member of the Church of England, with wide ecumenical sympathies. Lewis was a widely read apologist for Christian belief and life, and author of imaginative works including the Narnia series for children, that convey Christian thought. Michael Ward will speak on Lewis's use of imagination; Metropolitan Kallistos will reflect on this Anglican writer's closeness to Orthodoxy.

On Saturday 6 June (6th week) we turn to the present crisis facing Christian communities in the Middle East, with Fr Shafiq AbouZayd (Melkite, Oxford), Dr Anthony O'Mahony (Heythrop College) and Mardean Isaac. What future is there for these communities with their ancient roots in countries now in turmoil, and to what extent can their traditions and spirituality survive in diaspora?

LIZ CARMICHAEL

<p>Newsletter subscriptions for 2014-15: Please send at least £3 (cheques to 'St Theosevia Trust') to Newsletter, St Theosevia House, 2 Canterbury Rd, OX2 6LU.</p>
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- 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 10 am and at lunch-time. Lunch break is about one hour, 1-2 pm. Bring packed lunch, or you can find 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 30 May, 10.30 am – 4 pm:

C.S Lewis: creative imagination, orthodox faith

Revd Dr Michael Ward; Metropolitan Kallistos Ware

C.S. Lewis is best-known for his Narnia Chronicles and works of Christian apologetics such as *Mere Christianity* and *The Problem of Pain*, but he was professionally a literary critic and literary historian with carefully thought out ideas about the imagination and its function. Dr Michael Ward will give two talks, looking at Lewis's understanding of imaginative creativity, first in theory and then in practice. Metropolitan Kallistos, who has spoken and written on Lewis in relation to Orthodoxy, will reflect on Lewis's Christian faith.

Saturday 6 June, 10.30 am – 4 pm:

Christians in the Middle East: Present crisis, uncertain future

Dr Anthony O'Mahony, Fr Shafiq AbouZayd, Mardean Isaac

We are all aware that Christian communities with ancient roots in the Middle East, are again under enormous pressure. This study day looks in detail at the present situation and how different communities are responding. Mardean Isaac is British-Assyrian and will speak on the Assyrian Christian community which has suffered multiple tragedies over the past century. Fr Shafiq is a Melkite (RC) scholar based in Oxford, whose roots are in Lebanon, a country deeply affected by the surrounding conflicts and the flow of refugees. Anthony O'Mahony is a leading scholar of Middle Eastern Christianity. He considers the situation in the Holy Land, and asks to what extent diaspora communities can preserve their distinctive Christian cultures and spirituality when scattered across the world in very different cultural and geographical contexts.

THE UNICORN GROUP

An Ecumenical group founded by Professor Nicolas Zernov in 1959

Friday 8 May **Dr Priscilla Chadwick**, a member of the Board of Education of the Church of England, will talk on **The Church School of the Future**, which is the title of the Report she chaired for the Church of England in 2012

Friday 22 May a talk by **Bernard Levy**, a British ex-serviceman who was privy to the release of prisoners from Belsen, 70 years ago. The title of his talk is '**Belsen – the After Life**'

All Meetings are held in the House of St Gregory and St Macrina, 1 Canterbury Road, Oxford. We welcome everyone from **12.30 p.m.** when tea and coffee are available to drink with a packed lunch before the talk begins at **1.00 p.m.** Discussion follows the speaker and the meeting closes at 2.00 p.m. Meetings are open to all, no booking is required. Donations to cover expenses are welcome.

Enquiries: Convenors Judith Baker 07981 345 125, Ann Stedman 01865 559179

MEDIEVAL ARTS GROUP

The **Medieval Arts Group** with Dr Nicholas Gendle does not meet in Trinity Term, but will reconvene in Michaelmas Term.

Enquiries: Valerie Sansom, 01189479471, Ann Weitzmann 0118 948 1884

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

This group meets every Tuesday evening at 7pm at St Theosevia House, 2 Canterbury Rd for one hour of reflection and silent prayer, 7-8 pm. All welcome, please contact Patricia Simon [patriciasimon@tiscali.co.uk]

FELLOWSHIP OF SS ALBAN & SERGIUS (OXFORD BRANCH)

Enquiries: fr.stephen.platt@googlemail.com