



**ST THEOSEVIA CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY  
OPEN STUDY DAYS IN TRINITY TERM 2014**

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

*An Ecumenical Centre for Christian Spirituality in Oxford*

**www.theosevia.org**

Saturday 3 May, 10.30 am – 4 pm:

**Christian Communities today, exploring new ways:  
Chemin Neuf (RC /ecumenical); a Russian Orthodox  
double monastery in Ukraine; Anglican contemplatives**

*Alan Morley-Fletcher, Fr Tikhon Vasilyev,*

*Jennifer Brooker Ob.OJN*

Saturday 24 May, 10.30 am – 4 pm:

**Armenian Mystical Poetry, Architecture and Art**

*Professor Theo van Lint, Dr Nicholas Gendle,*

*Krikor Momdjian*

*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](mailto:Tikhon.vasilyev@wolfson.ox.ac.uk), 01865 310341*

## The St Theosevia Centre for Christian Spirituality

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

Director: Revd Dr Liz Carmichael, St John's College; Asst Director of Studies: Fr Tikhon Vasilyev, Wolfson College, [Tikhon.vasilyev@wolfson.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Tikhon.vasilyev@wolfson.ox.ac.uk), 01865 310341

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*From the Director*

Revd Dr Liz Carmichael

*Tel (01865) 277351*

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April 2014

Dear Friends of St Theosevia's,

Thank you for your interest in last term's programme. We were honoured to host Esther de Waal's last lecture before 'retirement', as well as Dimitri Conomos and Martin Hodson, at the very thoughtful and useful day on Christian Spirituality, Ecology and the Environment. Esther wrote to express thanks for 'a great audience of interested people', on a day with 'fascinating speakers who complimented each other.'

On the following Saturday, Dr Nicholas Gendle in his usual thorough and absorbing manner gave an illustrated introduction to Romanesque architecture in Normandy, where he was about to lead a tour.

This term, the first Study Day on 3 May will be on new expressions of Christian community life. Alan Morley Fletcher (Anglican) who heads the 'Chemin Neuf' Community in the UK, an RC foundation with an ecumenical vocation, explores how it offers new opportunities and what must still be preserved from tradition. Fr Tikhon, our Assistant Director of Studies who lives in St Theosevia House, speaks on his monastery, a recent foundation in Ukraine; and Jennifer Brooker, a member of the congregation at St Margaret's Church, introduces the new Anglican contemplative Benedictine foundation of Julian of Norwich in Waukesha, Wisconsin, of which she is an Oblate.

Then on Saturday 24 May we explore the mystical poetry, art and architecture of Armenia with Prof Theo van Lint, Dr Nicholas Gendle, and Krikor Momdjian who was educated at the Seminary of the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem, but just before graduation decided not to embrace the priesthood, and became an artist.

See you here!

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@yahoo.com](mailto:theosevia-subscribe@yahoo.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 3 May, 10.30 am – 4 pm:

### **Christian Communities today, exploring new ways: Chemin Neuf (RC and ecumenical); a Russian Orthodox double monastery in Ukraine; Anglican Benedictine contemplatives**

The **Chemin Neuf Community** began as a prayer group on a street that happened to be named New Way, in Lyon, 40 years ago. It has grown into a recognised Catholic-based community with an ecumenical vocation, and has spread worldwide. Members are from different churches and may be celibate, single or married. Alan and Ione Morley-Fletcher now live in Lambeth Palace, with a Lutheran Ordinand and a RC Sister, as a 'praying presence' at the invitation of the Archbishop.

Jennifer has chosen as her title: '**With Souls Bouncing': the Doc Marten generation takes up monasticism**'. She describes life as an oblate of the Episcopal [Anglican] Order of Julian of Norwich ([www.orderofjulian.org](http://www.orderofjulian.org)), which has been variously described as a 'traditional religious community' and an 'emerging' or 'new-monasticism' movement.

The **Holy Dormition St Basil and St Nicholas monastery** is situated in a rural area of the Donetsk Region in south-eastern Ukraine and consists of the monastery, the convent and the alms-house for elderly and disabled people. The founder of the monastery, Elder Zosima, renowned in Ukraine and Russia, laid at the foundation of the community charitable activity and traditional Orthodox liturgical service. The immense influence of the outstanding personality of the founder, and ancient monastic practices and traditions contribute to a very special atmosphere of the community, which 12 years after the death of the founder continues its growth and development. Illustrated with slides and video.

Saturday 24 May, 10.30 am – 4 pm

### **Armenian mystical poetry, architecture and art**

Dr Nicholas Gendle traces the sources and development of **Armenian architecture** from the C6th to C10th, emphasizing its original features and including remarks on sculpture and fresco which are integral parts of the sacred space. Theo van Lint, Calouste Gulbenkian Professor of Armenian Studies, speaks on **the C10th mystical poet St Grigor Narekats'i's Book of Lamentation and John Donne's Devotions**. The modern Armenian artist Krikor Momdjian ([www.krikormomdjian.nl](http://www.krikormomdjian.nl)), was educated at the Seminary of the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem, but just before graduation decided not to embrace the priesthood and became an artist instead. Krikor will speak on **the relationship between art and Armenian Christianity**.

## THE UNICORN GROUP

*An ecumenical discussion group founded by Dr Nicholas Zernov in 1959*

The meetings, open to all, are held on Friday lunchtimes at the **House of St Gregory & St Macrina, 1 Canterbury Road..** Coffee is served from 12.30 pm. Packed lunches may be brought. The talks, followed by discussion, run from

1 - 2pm. Donations are invited to cover costs.

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

**Friday 9 May.** Father Gerard Hughes ex Master of Campion Hall, who has written books on philosophy (including *Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics*), and on the philosophical side of theology: *Is God to Blame?* and *Fidelity without Fundamentalism*. He will address the topic: "**Being Faithful to One's Principles**"

**Friday 23 May.** Father Nicholas King SJ SJ is a Jesuit priest who teaches New Testament and Greek in the University of Oxford, after many years of teaching in South Africa. He recently published a single-volume translation of the entire Greek Bible (Kevin Mayhew, 2013). Father Nick is going to tell us: "**What's Special about Bible Translation**".

## MEDIEVAL ARTS GROUP

The **Medieval Arts Group** with Dr Nicholas Gendle will resume on 7 October, for Michaelmas Term.

**Enquiries:** Valerie Sansom, 01189 479 471, Ann Weitzmann 01189 481 884

## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

No plans as yet, but please contact Jacqueline Russell

[[jacq.russell@ntlworld.com](mailto:jacq.russell@ntlworld.com)] or Patricia Simon [[patriciasimon@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:patriciasimon@tiscali.co.uk)]

## FELLOWSHIP OF SS ALBAN & SERGIUS (OXFORD BRANCH)

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