



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

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

Saturday 24 October 10.30 am – 4 pm:

**Spirituality in sacred music: from Augustine and
Hagia Sophia to Today**

*Professor Carol Harrison, Professor Alexander Lingas,
John Duggan, composer*

Saturday 14 November 9.30 am – 5 pm *at Pusey House*

Boundless Grandeur:

The Christian Vision of A. M. Donald Allchin
*Book launch & Colloquy with Esther de Waal, Geoffrey
Rowell, David Scott, Charles Miller, Barry Orford et al.*

Saturday 28 November 10.30 am – 4 pm:

Mediaeval Churches and Monuments of Norfolk
Illustrated talks by 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).*

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

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

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From the Director

Revd Dr Liz Carmichael

Tel (01865) 277351

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October 2015

Dear Friends of St Theosevia's,

Thank you for your support of last term's study days on CS Lewis and on the situation of the Christian communities of the Middle East. Michael Ward made an intriguing case, as set out in his book *Planet Narnia*, for the traditional characteristics of the 'seven planets' as the key to the themes and the particular sequence of the seven Narnia stories. The second day opened windows on the experience of mixed communities in Lebanon, Assyrian traditions, and the current situation. The day was topical, absorbing and concerning.

This term offers three Study Days. On Sat. 24 October we have an excellent day on music ancient and modern with recorded illustrations. Carol Harrison has recently returned to Oxford as Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity. Prof Alexander Lingas speaks on the music in Hagia Sophia and concludes with reflections on contemporary attempts to understand the Byzantine vision of heavenly worship in song through academic scholarship, living tradition, and the modern revival of ancient liturgical forms (including the celebration of 'Sung' Vespers at St Peter's College, Oxford in 2001). The modern singer-composer John Duggan reflects on the influence of plainsong on his contemporary work.

On Sat. 14 November we have the launch of a new book on the life and work of Donald Allchin, the first Warden of St Theosevia's and previously a Librarian at Pusey House. We are delighted to hold this day jointly with Pusey House, which will be the venue for this event. Finally on Sat. 28 November we welcome Nicholas Gendle to share slides and reflections on his recent tour of the very beautiful mediaeval 'wool' churches and other monuments in Norfolk.

LIZ CARMICHAEL

Newsletter subscriptions for 2015-16: 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 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 24 October 10.30 am – 4 pm

Spirituality in Sacred Music: from Augustine and Hagia Sophia to Today

Professor Carol Harrison, Professor Alexander Lingas, John Duggan

Prof. Harrison speaks on ‘Mellifluous Music in early Western Christianity’, looking at the evidence we have for music, especially singing, in the West, through the work of figures such as Severus of Minorca, Nicetas of Remesiana, Ambrose and Augustine, and examining the ways in which it was described, its effect on the mind and soul, and most especially, its ability to communicate God’s transformative presence and grace. Prof. Lingas speaks on ‘Chant and Spiritual Formation in the Rite of the Great Church of Hagia Sophia’, surveying how various forms of chanting—from simple congregational psalmody to florid compositions by eponymous composers—shaped worship in the Constantinopolitan cathedral rite, and presenting modern attempts to understand and revive the Byzantine vision. John Duggan explores ‘Plainsong and the Personal’: a singular journey that begins with the daily singing of chant as a boy chorister and culminates in the influence of plainsong on his work as a composer today.

Saturday 14 November 9.30 am – 5 pm AT PUSEY HOUSE:

Boundless Grandeur: The Christian Vision of Donald Allchin

Book launch and Colloquy with Esther de Waal, Geoffrey Rowell, David Scott, Charles Miller, Barry Orford, Fiona Gardner, Denis Morgan, and David Keller. Coffee from 9am, bring own lunch (break 1-2pm). Free for students, others £5. Drinks reception at 5pm. Book on sale £18. Venue: Pusey House Chapel.

Saturday 28 November 10.30 am – 4 pm:

Mediaeval Churches and Monuments of Norfolk

Illustrated talks by Dr Nicholas Gendle

We depart Byzantium for East Anglia where in Norfolk there survive some 600 mediaeval churches, most from the C15th when the booming wool and cloth trade financed rebuilding of churches in the Perpendicular Gothic style, with tall towers and huge windows. Despite Protestant destructions, a surprising number of carved fonts, stained glass windows and painted screens survive. Enough earlier Romanesque and Gothic work survives to enable us to illustrate the larger history of English ecclesiastical architecture. We may if time allows add the late Gothic manor of Oxburgh and the Norman keep of Castle Rising.

THE UNICORN GROUP

An Ecumenical group founded by Professor Nicolas Zernov in 1959

Friday 23 October Rev Kat Bracewell, minister of New Road Baptist Church in Bonn Square will talk about the work of the Street Pastors in Oxford.

Friday 6 November The Venerable David Meara, Archdeacon Emeritus of London and former Rector of St Bride's, Fleet St, will take us on "A Short Walk Down Fleet Street: Reflections on ministry to the media world."

Friday 20 November Alexander Massey speaks, with live musical illustrations, on "Making music holy: connecting prayer, text and music."

Friday 4 December All are invited to enjoy our Christmas spread, after which Ann Spokes-Symonds will speak about "Also-Rans: The Injustice of History"

All meetings are held in the House of St Gregory and St Macrina, 1 Canterbury Road, Oxford. We welcome everyone from **12.30 pm** when tea and coffee are available. Bring a packed lunch. The talk begins at **1.00 pm**, discussion follows and the meeting closes at 2.00 pm. Open to all, no booking required. Donations to cover expenses are welcome.

Enquiries: Convenors Judith Baker 07981 34 5125, Ann Stedman 01865 559 179

MEDIEVAL ARTS GROUP

The **Medieval Arts Group** with Dr Nicholas Gendle, will start on 6 Oct and will this term move into the modern era, concentrating on English Art from Holbein onwards,

Enquiries: Valerie Sansom, 0118 947 9471, Ann Weizmann 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

The OXFORD CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH welcomes you to 'Mysticism and Poetry in the C17th', a day of study and reflection on Thomas Traherne and Henry Vaughan, Corpus Christi College, Sat. 31 Oct, 10am-4pm. Cost £35, register interest at info@ocsg.uk.net or call 07803 031 977