



**ST THEOSEVIA CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY
OPEN STUDY DAYS IN HILARY TERM 2016**

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

Saturday 30 January 10.30 am – 4 pm:

**Windows into Time and Eternity:
Icons and Stained Glass**

*Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, Dr Elena Ene D-Vasilescu
Revd Dr George Westhaver*

Saturday 20 February 10.30 am – 4 pm:

**Angels in Scripture, Liturgy, Spirituality
and Byzantine Art**

*Fr Ian Graham, Fr Tikhon Vasilyev, Dr Nicholas Gendle
With a special guest appearance by Screwtape*

*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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January 2016

Dear Friends of St Theosevia's,

Thank you for your support of last term's programme with its study days on music, the life and work of Donald Allchin, and the architecture of churches and castles in Norfolk. The first two days were intriguing explorations of their topic, offering networking opportunities for the speakers and audience alike, and it was very good to link up with Pusey House where Donald was a Librarian. The day on Norfolk was a good reminder that one does not have to go overseas to find interesting, awe-inspiring churches.

This term we have two Study Days. On Saturday 30 January, a day on icons and on stained glass windows. Both, in different ways, transmit light and allow us to enter into mystery. Metropolitan Kallistos will speak on the Theology of Icons. In a new age of iconoclasm, we are reminded of the principle of the Incarnation. Dr Elena D-Vasilescu will explore the hagiography of the icons of St Anna and St Joachim. Dr George Westhaver comments: "part of the gift of icons and glass is that they don't allow us to glimpse eternal things only, but to see the temporal more clearly also." He takes us to the C12th and C13th windows of the cathedrals of Canterbury and Chartres, to find spirituality linked to the allegorical exegesis of Scripture.

On Saturday 20 February, a day on angels as encountered in Scripture, in regular church worship in the Liturgy of St John Chrysostom, and in the art of Byzantium. A popular fallen angel will also make a guest appearance!

If you have ideas for topics and speakers, we are always glad to have your suggestions. We look forward to welcoming you to these Study Days. All welcome.

Every blessing in 2016,

LIZ CARMICHAEL

<p>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.</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 HILARY TERM

Saturday 30 January 10.30 am – 4 pm

Windows into Time and Eternity: Icons and Stained Glass *Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, Dr Elena Ene D-Vasilescu,* *Revd Dr George Westhaver*

Metropolitan Kallistos speaks on '*The Theological Significance of the Icon*'. An icon is not simply a piece of ecclesiastical decoration, but it is essentially part of an act of prayer and worship. The art of the icon is a liturgical art. In the Life of St Stephen the Younger, a martyr in defence of icons, 'The icon is a door.' A door into what? Into the Age to come, into the heavenly Kingdom, into the Communion of Saints.

Dr Elena D-Vasilescu considers '*Byzantine hagiography in Patristic text and iconography*', focussing on Sts Anne and Joachim, grandparents of Jesus, referred to by writers from Origen (c.184 - c.254 AD) through Cyril of Alexandria, Gregory of Nyssa, John Chrysostom in his liturgy, to Gregory Palamas and others. A church dedicated to St Anne existed in Constantinople in the sixth century. Byzantine iconographers imagine scenes from the life Joachim and Anne, and some of these images will be presented.

In '*Doctrine and Life, Colours and Light*' George Westhaver shows in an illustrated talk how the great windows of Canterbury and Chartres invite a typological or allegorical reading of the Bible. Both the subject-matter and the arrangement of glass suggest how we can understand the spiritual life as the development of a kind of sacramental sight which is part of our incorporation into the realities presented in or through the glass. In glass which is given colour and life by light we are invited to see the material and human creation enlivened by the divine light.

Saturday 20 February 10.30 am – 4 pm:

Angels in Scripture, Liturgy, Spirituality, and Byzantine Art *Fr Tikhon Vasilyev, Fr Ian Graham, Dr Nicholas Gendle.* *Illustrated, and with a guest appearance by Screwtape*

Today we have a rare day on angelology. Fr Ian Graham looks at ways in which angels and angelic figures are presented in Scripture, considering 'the Angel of the Lord' and others. Fr Tikhon, whose current doctoral work is on angels, seeks to interpret and elucidate the teaching of the Orthodox Church on angels and humanity in the light of the Liturgy of St John Chrysostom, the most commonly celebrated liturgy in the Orthodox church. Dr Nicholas Gendle considers, with illustrations, the different ways in which scriptural angels are represented in Byzantine art. With topics such as the Annunciation, the narrative is simply translated into image, but with Abraham at Mamre (Gen.18) the angelic figures become symbolic, reflecting patristic exegesis. The popular fallen angel, CS Lewis's Screwtape, is due to make a guest appearance. Don't miss this!

THE UNICORN GROUP

An Ecumenical group founded by Professor Nicolas Zernov in 1959

Friday 29 January **Rev Shona Shaw**, Minister of Wolvercote Baptist Church, speaks on **“The Portrait of Self – Faith in Women’s Lives”**

Friday 12 February **Fr Paul King**, formally priest in charge of Holy Rood, will speak on Pope Francis’ recent encyclical **“Laudato Si”** –on the care of our Common Home

Friday 26 February **The Reverend Mary Gurr**, retired parish priest in the Diocese of Oxford and Chaplain to the Homeless since 2011, on **“Homelessness in Oxford”**

Friday 11 March **John Lennox**, Emeritus Fellow in Mathematics and Philosophy of Science at Green Templeton College on **“Science and the God Question”**

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** (no booking needed) to Judith Baker 07981 345 125, jpbaker@hotmail.co.uk

MEDIEVAL ARTS GROUP

The Medieval Arts Group with Dr Nicholas Gendle, re-starts on Tuesday 12 January and will continue to concentrate on English Art, from Turner and Constable onwards. Enquiries: Valerie Sansom, 0118 947 9471, Ann Weizmann 0118 948 1884

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

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

FELLOWSHIP OF SS ALBAN & SERGIUS (OXFORD BRANCH)

Enquiries: fr.stephen.platt@googlemail.com

OXFORD CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

For programme please contact info@ocsg.uk.net or call 07803 031 977