



**ST THEOSEVIA CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**  
**OPEN STUDY DAYS IN HILARY TERM 2018**  
*at St Theosevia House, 2 Canterbury Road, Oxford OX2 6LU*  
*An Ecumenical Centre for Christian Spirituality in Oxford*  
[www.theosevia.org](http://www.theosevia.org)

**Saturday 10 February 10.30 am – 4 pm**  
**Spirituality of the Counter-Reformation:**  
**England, Spain and the Orthodox East**  
*Metropolitan Kallistos Ware*  
*Abbot Geoffrey Scott OSB, Douai Abbey*  
*Dr Santha Bhattacharji*

**Saturday 3 March 10.30 am – 4 pm**  
**Mediaeval Churches and Castles**  
**of Suffolk and Essex**  
*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](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

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*From the Director*

Revd Dr Liz Carmichael

*Tel (01865) 277351*

[liz.carmichael@sjc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:liz.carmichael@sjc.ox.ac.uk)

January 2018

Dear Friends of St Theosevia's,

Thank you for your support of Michaelmas Term's programme, which again was rich and fascinating. We were given much fresh insight into the impact of western missions in the Middle East down the centuries. In the second study day we learned about the surprising extent to which, under Ottoman rule, students from the Greek Orthodox world came to study in the west, to Italy and as far as Oxford, and how Calvinist thought was received in Constantinople. Luther's spirituality was intriguingly explored by the Lutheran Pastor Georg Amann, and the Roman Catholic layman Dr Werner Jeanrond, married to a Swedish Lutheran (they met at Corrymeela in N.Ireland!) These talks should be available shortly as a podcast via the Pusey House site.

This term we arrive at the 'Counter-Reformation', with an exciting Study Day on 10 February. We are glad to welcome Abbot Geoffrey Scott, Abbot of the Benedictine monastery of Douai and a teacher at Blackfriars. Douai, now in Berkshire, was founded in 1615 in Paris by English exiles, moving to Douai in 1818 and on to England in 1903. Abbot Geoffrey speaks on the survival of Roman Catholic spirituality in post-Reformation England. Metropolitan Kallistos considers the reasons for the interest shown by St Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain in two influential Counter-Reformation writers, Ignatius Loyola and Lorenzo Scupoli, whose work St Nicodemus made accessible in Greek. Dr Santha Bhattacharji will speak on the writer, mystic, and founder of Carmelite convents, St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582).

On 3 March, come for another architectural feast with Dr Nicholas Gendle, on some of the most beautiful English ecclesiastical buildings: the soaring gothic churches of East Anglia. Just as exotic as Armenia! We look forward to seeing you here.

LIZ CARMICHAEL

**Newsletter subscriptions for 2017-18: 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@yahooogroups.com](mailto:theosevia-subscribe@yahooogroups.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 10 February 0.30 am – 4 pm

**Spirituality of the Counter-Reformation: England, Spain  
and the Orthodox East**

*Abbott Geoffrey Scott of Douai Abbey, Metropolitan Kallistos Ware,  
Dr Santha Bhattacharji*

Abbot Geoffrey Scott, of Douai Abbey in Berkshire, explores ‘**The Survival of Catholic Spirituality in Counter-Reformation England.**’ His talk will concentrate on the impact of medieval survivalism and the European Catholic Reformation on the hidden world of the English Catholic recusant community, with particular reference to its book culture, from 1559 to 1700. Metropolitan Kallistos speaks on ‘**Saint Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain and Counter-Reformation Spirituality**’. Saint Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain (1748 - 1809), best known as co-editor of *The Philokalia*, also produced for Orthodox use editions of two Roman Catholic works of spirituality: the *Spiritual Combat* by Lorenzo Scupoli and the *Spiritual Exercises* of Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits. As *The Philokalia* plainly indicates, Nicodemus was thoroughly familiar with the Eastern Christian tradition of inner prayer in its fullest and purest form. Why then did he think it appropriate also to draw on western sources, and what appealed to him in these 16th century writings? Dr Santha Bhattacharji, Senior Tutor at St Benets Hall, takes us to Counter-Reformation Spain, and the Carmelite mysticism of **St Teresa of Avila**.

Saturday 3 March 10.30 am – 4 pm

**Mediaeval Churches and Castles of Suffolk and Essex**

*Illustrated talks by Dr Nicholas Gendle*

This study day offers an illustrated account of a visit to East Anglian churches, mainly in Suffolk, and to two castles at Orford & Framlingham, and Ickworth house. The tour also visited St Albans Cathedral, Hertfordshire. The church architecture of Suffolk is mainly late Gothic, characterised by tall clustered piers and large, slightly pointed windows, taking up much of the wall-space. Often grand in scale and very luminous, these fine examples of the Perpendicular style are among the best of their period in England. Here the Reformation was powerful, accounting for the relative paucity of paintings and stained glass.

## THE UNICORN GROUP

*An Ecumenical group founded by Professor Nicolas Zernov in 1959*

**Fri 26 Jan:** Revd Canon Dr Emma Percy, Chaplain and Welfare Dean Trinity College Oxford will discuss her book '**Mothering as a Metaphor for Ministry** (2014)'. Emma is a committee member of Women and the Church (WATCH) and sits on a National Research Ethics committee.

**Fri 9 Feb: Unheard Testimony, Untold Stories: The Representation of Women's Holocaust Experiences'** Dr Zoë Waxman is senior research fellow at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. She talks about her recent book 'Women in the Holocaust: A Feminist History' One review stated: *every Holocaust history is disturbing to read, but by focusing on victims' voices which have traditionally been silenced – those of women – [her] new account is one of the darkest, and most shocking.*

**Fri. 23 Feb: Post-denominational Protestant Christianity in China**, the Venerable Godfrey Stone FRGS. New church buildings and congregations are appearing; partnership is welcomed from outside China for training seminary teachers – to prepare the much-needed next generation of 'pastors' for this growing church.

**Friday 9 March 2018 Immigration Policy and Policy Constructs: The Foreign Criminal Case Study** Dr Melanie Griffiths, Chancellor's Fellow, University of Birmingham, trustee of Asylum Welcome an anthropologist working on immigration policy and enforcement measures, in Brexit Britain. She has researched on the family life rights of 'deportable' male migrants. Her DPhil, on the UK's asylum and immigration detention systems, focused on Oxford.

Meetings are open to all, in the House of St Gregory and St Macrina, 1 Canterbury Road, Oxford. At **12.30 pm** tea and coffee are served. Packed lunches may be brought. Talks and discussion run from **1.00 pm to 2.00 pm**. Donations to cover expenses are welcome. **Enquiries** (no booking needed) to Judith Baker 07981 345 125, jpbaker@hotmail.co.uk

**Mediaeval Arts Group:** no meetings but please note the Suffolk Study Day.

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](mailto:patriciasimon@tiscali.co.uk)

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

Enquiries: [fr.stephen.platt@googlemail.com](mailto:fr.stephen.platt@googlemail.com)

## OXFORD CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

For programme please contact [info@ocsg.uk.net](mailto:info@ocsg.uk.net) or call 07803 031 977