



**ST THEOSEVIA CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY
OPEN STUDY DAYS IN HILARY TERM 2019**

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

An Ecumenical Centre for Christian Spirituality in Oxford

www.theosevia.org

Saturday 16 February 10.30 am – 4 pm

On Being a Christian Artist

Illustrated reflections by

Nicholas Mynheer, Noel White & Peter Brooke

Saturday 23 February 10.30 am – 4 pm

**Understanding Christian Martyrdom in
East and West**

Prof. Christian Sahrer, Ani Shahinian,

Prof. Anastasia Stylianou

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

Tel (01865) 277351

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January 2019

Dear Friends of St Theosevia's,

Happy New Year! Thank you for your support and presence at last term's Study Days. Both days, on church architecture in Hampshire and on the Anglican Non-jurors with their unexpectedly thorough theological conversations with the Orthodox, provided new insights. This term, the availability of the speakers has meant that both Study Days will be in mid to late February. May the weather be kind!

The first Study Day, Saturday 16 February, brings together three practising Christian artists. **Peter Brooke**, himself Orthodox, speaks on the utopian Cubist Roman Catholic painter, Albert Gleizes, whose principles he tries to follow in his own work. **Nicholas Mynheer**, an Anglican, is well known in Oxford, with examples of his work in several local churches. He is both a painter and sculptor, with a distinctive and thoughtful style. *'Nicholas Mynheer loves life and makes its holiness visible'* - Sister Wendy Beckett. **Noel White** is a painter in watercolour and oil, and printmaker.

On Saturday 23 February we explore an unusual range of Christian martyrdom. **Christian Sahner** (Oriental Institute, Oxford) teaches and writes about the transition from Late Antiquity to the Islamic Middle Ages, relations between Muslims and Christians, and the histories of Syria and Iran; his recent book is *Christian Martyrs under Islam: Religious Violence and the Making of the Muslim World* (Princeton, 2018). **Ani Shahinian**, Armenian D.Phil. student, speaks on C14th-15th Armenian martyrs in the Lake Van region, and how Christian martyrdom was understood. **Anastasia Stylianou**, now at Warwick University, recently completed her Ph.D on rhetorics and constructions of martyrs' blood, Protestant and Catholic, in the English Reformation. We look forward to seeing you at these intriguing days,

LIZ CARMICHAEL

<p>Newsletter subscriptions for 2018-19: Please send at least £3 (cheques to 'St Theosevia Trust') to Newsletter, St Theosevia House, 2 Canterbury Rd, OX2 6LU.</p>

- 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 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 16 February 10.30 am – 4 pm

On Being a Christian Artist: *Illustrated reflections by*
Nicholas Mynheer, Noel White and Peter Brooke

Peter Brooke spent some ten years in France studying the work and principles of the Cubist painter, Albert Gleizes (1881-1953). He wrote the major study *Albert Gleizes, for and against the twentieth century* (Yale Univ. Press, 2001). His own painting is an attempt to understand and use Gleizes's principles in non-representational and liturgical art. He will speak on '**Spirituality, Rhythm, Form** (the title of a very important essay by Gleizes) - **On the difference between a straight line and a curve**'. See www.peterbrooke.org. A rigorous simplicity typifies **Nicholas Mynheer's** work, in stone, oil paint or glass. Largely figurative his work is almost entirely biblically based and has a richly expressive linear quality. Speaking on '**Art of Faith**', 'I'd like to talk about what I think I do as an artist and how I do it, briefly, explain how I arrived at what I do then use examples of artwork to illustrate how I express my faith through my work, focusing on the Southwell Minster WW1 window and my recent St Kenelm mosaic reredos for St Kenelm's Church, Church Enstone. www.mynheer-art.co.uk **Noel White** speaks on '**Sustaining a Tradition**', see www.noelwhite.co.uk

Saturday 23 February 10.30 am – 4 pm

Understanding Christian Martyrdom in East and West
Prof. Christian Sahner, Ani Shahinian,
Prof Anastasia Stylianou

Christian Sahner introduces '**Christian Martyrs of the Early Islamic Period.**' During the C7th many predominantly Christian regions fell under Islamic political control, including Spain, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, and the Caucasus. This began a long, complex process whereby these late antique Christian societies become mediaeval Muslim societies. Although forced conversion was relatively uncommon, tensions sometimes spilled over into violence and Christians sometimes commemorated the victims as saints. This talk will introduce these Christian 'neo-martyrs' against the backdrop of ancient Christian ideas of martyrdom, as well as broad trends in the formation of Islamic civilization. **Ani Shahinian**, Oxford doctoral student, speaks on C14th-15th Armenia, particularly the martyred theologian Grigor Cerenc' Xlatec'i (1349-1425) and how such martyrdom was understood. **Anastasia Stylianou** speaks on '**Memory and the English Reformation Martyrs**' drawing on her recent doctoral research to explore the relationship between memory and martyrdom with reference to England's C16th Protestant and Catholic martyrdoms. How have historians remembered the martyrdoms of the English Reformations? And how did the early modern confessions themselves commemorate their martyrs?

THE UNICORN GROUP

An Ecumenical group founded by Professor Nicolas Zernov in 1959

Friday 25 January: Nicky Barnettson *What does welcome and providing a safe haven mean? Understanding the needs of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and other vulnerable migrants in Oxford.* Refugee Resource provides psychological, social and practical support to refugees and others who perhaps have been trafficked, or subject to domestic abuse or modern slavery, to help them heal and build new lives in the UK. A range of therapeutic and other services work holistically to promote mental health, emotional well-being, and social integration.

Friday 8 February: A Fictive Faith? Literature & the Religious Imagination. **Rev'd Joseph Simmons, SJ**, an American Jesuit pursuing a DPhil in Theology & Literature at Oxford, has written extensively on American novelist/essayist Marilynne Robinson's role in re-animating the Christian imagination in the 21st century.

Friday 22 February: Pam Manix, Project Historian for the Oxford Jewish Heritage Committee, will speak on *Oxford's remarkable medieval Jewish Quarter*. Her illustrated talk will include a surprising number of very recent developments and relevancies.

Friday 8 March "Christians and Muslims side by side: convergence and Divergence" **Dr Richard McCallum**, Senior Fellow, Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies, Oxford. Christianity and Islam have so much in common and yet are so different. Dr McCallum will explore some of the theological, liturgical and lived realities of the encounter between Christians and Muslims in the world today.

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, bring your own packed lunch. The talk begins at 1.00 p.m. Discussion follows, and the meeting closes at 2.00 p.m. Donations to cover expenses are welcome. **Enquiries** (no booking needed) to Vanessa at unicornecumenicalgroup@gmail.com

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