



**ST THEOSEVIA CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY
OPEN STUDY DAYS IN MICHAELMAS TERM 2017**

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

Saturday 4 November 10.30 am – 4 pm
Western Christian Missions
in the Middle East: Aims, Identity, Impact
Prof. Dr Heleen Murre-van den Berg
Dr Chip Coakley, Dr Anthony O'Mahony

Saturday 25 November 10.30 am – 4 pm
Reformation: exploring Luther's Spirituality,
and Calvin's impact on Greek Orthodoxy
Metropolitan Kallistos Ware
Pastor Georg Amann, Prof. Werner Jeanrond

*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

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From the Director

Revd Dr Liz Carmichael

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October 2017

Dear Friends of St Theosevia's,

With apologies for the lateness of this Newsletter! Thank you for your support of Trinity term's programme. The day on the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in its African Cultural Context was rich and fascinating; and as usual Nicholas Gendle gave a detailed and absorbing account of Coptic Egypt.

This term, on 4 November we explore some aspects of western Christian missions in the Middle East, where ancient Christian churches already existed. Prof Dr Heleen Murre-van den Berg, from Radboud University, Nijmegen, links the aims and motivations of C19th and early C20th missions with wider questions of how the 'West' looks upon the 'East' socially and politically: 'the focus on individual religious commitment, the drive to societal modernization, and the special position of the Middle East, especially the Holy Land... mostly anchored in Christian history but with, at times, strong eschatological strands.' Chip Coakley takes us into the world of mission printing presses: how and where did they function, what success did they have? Anthony O'Mahony looks at the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem in its Middle Eastern and Mediterranean context, both Christian and interfaith.

The second Study Day, on 25 November, commemorates the beginning of the Reformation in 1517. Metropolitan Kallistos takes us to C17th Constantinople to see the impact of Calvinism on the 'Protestant Patriarch' Cyril Lukaris, whose 1629 Confession of Faith 'was widely condemned throughout the Orthodox world.' Georg Amann, Pastor of the Lutheran congregation at the University Church, and Werner Jeanrond, Master of St Benet's, delve into the roots and nature of Luther's own spirituality. 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@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 MICHAELMAS TERM

Saturday 4 November 10.30 am – 4 pm

Western Christian Missions in the Middle East

Prof Dr Heleen Murre-van den Berg, Director, Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, Radboud Universiteit, Nijmegen, NL: ‘**Differing aims of western missions to Middle Eastern Christians**’. To think of mission in terms just of 'conversion' is too simple – and when working among fellow-Christians, it immediately becomes problematic. I will elaborate on these missions’ explicit and implicit aims and motivations. I distinguish three categories, still important today in the way Western Christians look at missions, but which also are part and parcel of how the ‘West’ looks upon the ‘East’ socially and politically. **Dr Chip Coakley** considers **missionary printing** in the C19th Ottoman Empire, with Catholic and Protestant presses in Constantinople, Smyrna. Beirut, Jerusalem, Kharpert and Mosul; and one in Urmia, Persia. These all faced common problems: political (getting permission from hostile authorities); practical (acquiring type and presses); and ideological (avoiding proselytizing among local Eastern Christians). Were they successful? And was all that printing worthwhile? **Dr Anthony O’Mahony** in “**Mission and Identity a Church on the Frontier**” looks at the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (re-established in 1847) in the Holy Land and the wider Middle East. Mission and identity have been central elements in the evolution of this Patriarchate throughout its history. The Latin Church existed on the frontier with Eastern Christianity, and today this includes relations with Judaism and Islam. The Patriarchate is present across several post-Ottoman and colonial states - Israel, Palestine, Jordan and Cyprus - aware that its ecclesiological self-understanding is confronted by a profoundly challenging cosmopolitan religious and political environment.

Saturday 25 November 10.30 am – 4 pm

Calvin’s impact on Greek Orthodoxy; Luther’s Spirituality

Metropolitan Kallistos presents the ‘Protestant Patriarch: Cyril Lukaris (1572 - 1638)’. Lukaris was Patriarch of Constantinople in a troubled era, when Roman Catholics and Protestants were competing for control over the Orthodox Church. He wrote a Confession of Faith, published at Geneva in 1629, which is distinctively Calvinist in much of its teaching. It was widely condemned throughout the Orthodox world. What did he take from Calvinism, and on what grounds did his opponents attack him? The career of Lukaris illuminates in a striking way the interaction between Orthodoxy and the world of the Reformation during the 17th century. **Revd Georg Amann, pastor in London and Oxford**, examines ‘**Martin Luther’s Spiritual Roots**’, exploring where Luther’s spirituality is rooted in the late mediaeval tradition and where his Reformation impulses lead him to new approaches and expressions of faith. **Dr Werner Jeanrond, Master of St Benet’s** will speak on **Martin Luther on Prayer** and more particularly on Luther’s approach to the Our Father, with vistas in other directions.

THE UNICORN GROUP

An Ecumenical group founded by Professor Nicolas Zernov in 1959

Friday 20th October: John Dunston *Johann Sebastian Bach and the Jews*. An exploration of contemporary Christian perceptions of the Jews and their impact on Bach's Passions in particular. John has conducted school choirs on tours to Europe (including East Germany) and China. He is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, sings with the Bach Choir in London and is founder/conductor of OxfordShir, the choir of the Oxford Jewish Community.

Friday 3rd November Lord Green of Deddington, KCMG *Immigration: Can and should it be Limited?* Lord Green is a former British diplomat, and founding chairman of MigrationWatch UK. He chaired Medical Aid for Palestinians and was on the Advisory Board of Concordis, a charity specialising in conflict resolution, and the board of Christian Solidarity Worldwide. Lord Green's talk will include the moral pros & cons of immigration policy and the asylum crisis in Europe.

Friday 17th November Rev Robert Wright LVO *Order! Order! - The Chaplain*. Robert speaks about his twelve years (1998- 2010) as Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, when he was also Rector of St Margaret's Westminster, and Sub-Dean of The Abbey. He was Chaplain to Betty Boothroyd, Michael Martin and John Bercow, and in practice "the vicar of Parliament," a singular ministry caring for some 10,000 passholders including Members, Parliamentary Officers, and staff.

Friday 1st December *The Symbolism of Light at Advent and Christmas*. All are invited to enjoy our Christmas spread after which we will discuss the various religious (and personal) candles and lights and their significance during Advent and Christmas.

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

MEDIEVAL ARTS GROUP

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