



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

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

An Ecumenical Centre for Christian Spirituality in Oxford

www.theosevia.org

Saturday 9 November 10.30 am – 4 pm

Icons and iconography

Metropolitan Kallistos Ware,

Patricia Fostiropoulos, Aidan Hart

Saturday 23 November 10.30 am – 4 pm

Pilgrimage: theology and practice

Fr Niall Livingstone, Coarb of St Moluag,

Abbot of Lismore, Fr Stephen Platt,

Dr Daniel Dolley

*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 and Assistant Director,
Revd Dr Liz Carmichael, Fr Tikhon Vasilyev

Tel (01865) 277351
liz.carmichael@sjc.ox.ac.uk
September 2019

Dear Friends of St Theosevia's,

Thank you for your support and presence at last term's two very stimulating Study Days.

The first day, which was a joint event with the student Orthodox Society, was dedicated to the history of Orthodox communities in Oxford, and the influence of significant personalities on the growth of these communities and their ecumenical relationships. After talks in the morning by Metropolitan Kallistos and Fr Stephen Platt, Dr Dimitri Conomos led the participants to places in Oxford connected with these personalities and communities.

The second day explored the painted churches and monasteries of Moldavia, Romania, under the brilliant guidance of Dr Nicholas Gendle.

This term, the Study Day on 9 November will bring together three speakers who will share their vision of icons and iconography. Metropolitan Kallistos will offer a theological perspective, Patricia Fostiropoulos will touch upon her vision of icons as well as discussing some practical issues related to icon-painting. Aidan Hart will draw upon his rich experience as an iconographer and sculptor.

The Study Day on 23 November deals with the fascinating topic of pilgrimage. Fr Niall, hereditary Abbot of Lismore, Coarb of Saint Moluag, will share his thoughts and knowledge of Celtic saints, in particular he will speak about St Moluag, who on his way of a pilgrim 'converted the Picts of Alba, founding over 125 monasteries and earning the title Apostle of the Picts and the first Patron Saint of Scotland'. Fr Stephen Platt will reflect on the theology of pilgrimage as well as the practical aspects of his own journeys. Daniel Dolley will discuss the history of the Way of St James, and his own experience of it. We look forward to seeing you here.

TIKHON VASILYEV (Liz Carmichael is on sabbatical)

<p>Newsletter subscriptions for 2019-20: 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 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 9 November 10.30 am – 4 pm

Icons and iconography

Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, Patricia Fostiropoulos, Aidan Hart

Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware) will start this day with raising questions and offering reflections: **The Theology of the Icon.** ‘The icon is a door’ (Life of St Stephen the Younger). What does this mean? What is the connection between the doctrine of the Incarnation and the icon, and what is the place of icons in Orthodox worship? The day continues with the presentations of the two active iconographers. **Patricia Fostiropoulos** will give us **An Introduction to Icons.** Patricia’s illustrated talk will touch upon her own introduction to icons, their place in life of the church, their meaning and how they are made. After lunch **Aidan Hart** will speak on **Sculpted Icons: Uses and Limits.** Aidan will discuss the historical uses of carved and metal iconography, and share his reflections as an iconographer who has worked extensively in carved wood, stone and metal.

Saturday 23 November 10.30 am – 4 pm

Pilgrimage: theology and practise

Fr Niall Livingstone, Coarb of St Moluag, Abbot of Lismore,

Fr Stephen Platt, Dr Daniel Dolley

Fr Niall, Abbot of Lismore, Coarb of Saint Moluag will speak on **Celtic Pilgrims - then and now.** The ‘Celtic’ Church in Ireland and in Scotland was influenced by the East from where it embraced its monastic culture. This included the need to seek isolation in the desert, or *dysart*, to be able to commune more closely with God and nature. This led to different forms of Martyrdom or pilgrimage. Whilst it is widely accepted that Celtic pilgrims did subject themselves to the will of God to the extent that they might cast off in a boat without rudder or oars, there is evidence that others had a clear destination in mind. Today’s pilgrims tend to have a destination in mind such as the Bachuil Mor of St Moluag and may travel in organised groups or in twos and threes following the footsteps of the early saint and praying at relevant sites on route. **Fr Stephen Platt** continues the day with **‘Pilgrimage: practical and theological observations of an Orthodox priest’** Fr Stephen will speak about his experience of leading and receiving pilgrimage groups both at home in the United Kingdom and to Orthodox Holy places. He will reflect on the theology of pilgrimage as well as the practical aspects of his journeys. **Dr Daniel Dolley: ‘Ultreia et Suseia! Reflections on Pilgrimage from the Way of St James’.** Daniel walked the Camino de Santiago in 2016. He will discuss the history of the Way of St James, and his own experience of it, and will reflect upon the significance of this particular pilgrimage in traditional Christian piety and in our own more secular times.

THE UNICORN GROUP

An Ecumenical group founded by Professor Nicolas Zernov in 1959

Friday 25th October. The 1st of July 1939 is etched in the memory of *John Fieldsend* as the day he came to the UK on the *Kindertransport* to start a new life. John's illustrated and thought provoking talk will tell us of his journey, his life before and after that day and what happened to his family during WW2. An opportunity to hear first hand from a holocaust survivor

Friday 8th November. HOPE not hate (HNH) is the UK's largest anti-racist campaigning organisation Nick Spooner Organiser *HOPE not hate* will focus on Patterns of hate: tackling rising racism and intolerance in the UK Using research, education, community campaigns, digital media and more, HNH seeks to build community and tackle racism and fascism at the ballot box and in the community.

Friday 22nd November *The Unicorn in Myth, Theology and Spirituality* Revd Canon Professor Paul S. Fiddes, Professor of Systematic Theology, University of Oxford This talk, plentifully illustrated by images of the unicorn in tapestries and paintings, explores the iconography and mythology of the unicorn in the mediaeval and Renaissance period, as well as the popularity of unicorns on social networks, the media and advertising today. It surveys the place of the unicorn both in secular life and in the spiritual practices of the Christian church and sets out to explain the enduring attraction of the image+

Friday 6th December *The Unicorn Group at 60!* Our Christmas party will be a chance to share memories of the past 60 years of the Unicorn Group meetings. Please come and share your recollections, either firsthand experience or anecdotal. With your help we will document the last 60 years and make a booklet to mark this milestone. There will of course, be music as well as plenty to eat and drink as we share our stories. We would be especially delighted to see older or lapsed members so please encourage them to join us for our 60th anniversary celebration.

All meetings are held in **the House of SS Gregory & 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@gmail.com

OXFORD CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

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