



**ST THEOSEVIA CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY  
OPEN STUDY DAYS IN TRINITY 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 28 April 10.30 am – 4 pm**

**English Gothic Splendour:  
Mediaeval Churches and Castles  
of Suffolk and Essex**

*Illustrated talks by Dr Nicholas Gendle*

**Saturday 2 June 10.30 am – 4 pm**

**The Russian Revolution 100 years on:  
impacts on Russian church life and theology**

*Fr Hyacinthe Destivelle OP*

*Prof Antoine Arjakovsky, Andrey Levitsky*

*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*

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April 2018

Dear Friends of St Theosevia's,

I hope you all survived the snow, and are enjoying the arrival of spring!

Near the start of term, on Sat 28 April, we have Dr Nicholas Gendle on the **Perpendicular churches and mediaeval castles of Suffolk**, postponed from last term due to the snow. Dr Gendle's talks are unfailingly informative and entertaining.

Later in term, on Saturday 2 June, remembering the events in Russia 100 years ago, we have an important Study Day on the impact of the **Russian Revolution** on thinking in the Russian Orthodox Church. Our distinguished speakers are Fr Hyacinthe Destivelle OP (Pontifical Council for Christian Unity, Rome; author of a recent work on the Moscow Council 1917-18); Prof Antoine Arjakowski (French historian based in Paris, of Crimean ancestry, with wide Orthodox academic links) and Andrey Levitsky (D.Phil candidate, Oxford). Please diarise the date.

Back in Hilary Term the day on the Counter-Reformation and its influence on the Orthodox world, was well attended. Santha Bhattacharji, who gave the final talk, remarks on the day's wide-ranging nature: "Metropolitan Kallistos gave a very interesting paper, controversially suggesting that a much-loved Orthodox classic actually came from an RC Counter-Reformation source, and Abbot Geoffrey of Douai managed to give a very informative potted history of the Counter-Reformation in England. He brought with him several 17th century Recusant printed books, including the first edition of Julian of Norwich. I compared and contrasted Teresa of Avila with her medieval forerunners, chiefly Catherine of Siena."

We look forward to seeing you this term.

LIZ CARMICHAEL

<p>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.</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](mailto: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 TRINITY TERM

Saturday 28 April 10.30 am – 4 pm

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

*Illustrated talks by Dr Nicholas Gendle*

Postponed from last term due to snow, this study day offers an illustrated account of a visit to East Anglian churches, mainly in Suffolk, to two castles at Framlingham & Orford, 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.

Saturday 2 June 10.30 am – 4 pm

### **The Russian Revolution and Orthodoxy, 100 years on**

*Fr Hyacinthe Destivelle OP, Prof Antoine Arjakovsky, Andrey Levitsky*

Fr Hyacinthe speaks on ‘**Conciliarity at the Moscow Council of 1917-1918**’ focusing on how the principles of ‘sobornost’ were implemented by the Council in its preparation, procedures and decisions. The talk will also reflect on the differentiation between conciliarity and synodality or collegiality, in the Russian context.

Andrey Levitsky speaks on ‘**Revolution in the Church? The Movement for Church Renewal in Russia after 1917**’, examining how the socio-political shifts of the Bolshevik Revolution triggered the drive of liberal-minded Orthodox clerics for sweeping ecclesiastical change in early Soviet Russia. Prompted by the crisis and dissolution of the Synodal system of Church government, they encouraged a wider movement for democratisation within the Church, challenging the traditional interpretation of its doctrinal legacy, canon law and episcopal authority. The movement for Church renewal adopted the ideas of Christian socialism, targeted different social strata, struggled to assert its influence and discover the optimal model for its political participation.

Antoine Arjakovsky discusses ‘**The political theology of the Russian Revolution and its consequences today.**’ The books *Landmarks (Vekhi)* in 1909 and *De profundis (Iz Glubini)*, 1918) proposed a political theology of the Russian revolution. The heirs of Dostoevsky, Khomiakov and Solovyev proposed a spiritual approach to Marxism, idealism and Nietzscheism. Their analysis was ignored by the Soviet regime until in 1989 these books were re-published in the USSR. Our thesis is that the main ideas of Berdyaev, Bulgakov, Frank, Kistiakowsky were not understood either in the revolution period or during perestroika – so it is important now to rediscover their political critique of the totalitarian ideology of bolshevism and their

proposals for a new theology of politics, law and the economy, grounded on Christian orthodoxy.

## **THE UNICORN GROUP**

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

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May** *'Together we are stronger than the storms - stories of hope from Haiti'*, Siobhan Grimes from Christian Aid. Through international humanitarian and advocacy work Christian Aid tackles both the effects and root causes of poverty. Siobhan will talk about Christian Aid's disaster relief and resilience work in Haiti and discuss examples of hospitality and hope.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May** *'Confession'*. Professor Henry Mayr-Harting, Emeritus Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History, Oxford, will focus on how and why private confession gathered momentum in the Middle Ages, and what the real problems are in the practice of private confession in the Roman Communion since – including sexual abuse in private confession and the need for some perspective.

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](mailto: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