



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

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

An Ecumenical Centre for Christian Spirituality in Oxford

www.theosevia.org

Saturday 25 May 10.30 am – 4 pm

**Oxford, the Orthodox Churches, and
the Fellowship of SS Alban & Sergius**
*Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, Fr Stephen Platt,
and an afternoon tour*

Saturday 8 June 10.30 am – 4 pm

**Art and Architecture of
The Painted Churches of Romania**
Illustrated lectures 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, 01865 310341

The St Theosevia Centre for Christian Spirituality

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From the Director

Revd Dr Liz Carmichael

Tel (01865) 277351

liz.carmichael@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Easter 2019

Dear Friends of St Theosevia's,

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

The first brought three practising Christian artists, Peter Brooke, Nicholas Mynheer, and Noel White, into conversation with each other and ourselves. All were absorbing. Nicholas described the making of his recent mosaic reredos in St Kenelm's, Enstone – involving tesserae made in Venice - and the stained glass WWI memorial window in Southall Minster, ending by unfurling the full-sized cartoon for the window.

The second day brought unusual insights into the history and understanding of Christian martyrdom, with Christian Sahner on the transition from Christian late antiquity to the Islamic Middle Ages, Ani Shahinian on C14-16 Armenian martyrdom, and Anastasia Stylianou on martyrs of the English Reformation.

This term, on **Saturday 25 May** we explore the history of the recent arrival 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, the afternoon from 2 pm will consist of a tour to places in Oxford connected with these personalities and communities. This day will be a joint event with the student Orthodox Society. Transport will be arranged ad hoc, those with cars are invited to offer lifts.

On **Saturday 8 June**, Dr Nicholas Gendle takes us, with excellent illustrations and scholarship, to the painted churches and monasteries of Moldavia, Romania – not to be missed!

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 TRINITY TERM

Saturday 25 May 10.30 am – 4 pm **Oxford, the Orthodox Churches,** **and the Fellowship of SS Alban & Sergius**

*Historical reflections with Metropolitan Kallistos Ware & Fr Stephen Platt,
followed by an afternoon tour*

After an abortive plan to found a ‘Greek College’ in Oxford in the C17th, the next significant arrivals from the Orthodox east occurred in the C20th. Developments were particularly associated with scholars who settled in Oxford, not least the Russian Orthodox emigrés Nicholas and Militza Zernov. In 1928 the Fellowship of SS Alban and Sergius emerged, originally to promote understanding and friendship between Anglicans and Russian Orthodox and now, more broadly, between Christians of eastern and western traditions. The Houses of SS Gregory and Macrina and of St Theosevia, in Canterbury Rd, exist as ecumenical centres to serve the same purpose. Several flourishing Orthodox congregations now exist in Oxford, connected with the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Moscow patriarchate, and other Orthodox jurisdictions. On the morning of this Study Day Metropolitan Kallistos and Fr Stephen Platt will speak on the C20th – C21st developments and the people associated with them. The afternoon will be a tour to some significant places, with students from the Orthodox Society, followed by a reception at St Theosevia House. Those with cars are invited to share in providing transport in the afternoon.

Saturday 8 June 10.30 am – 4 pm **Art and Architecture of** **The Painted Churches of Romania**

Illustrated lectures by Dr Nicholas Gendle

This day offers an illustrated introduction to the mediaeval mural paintings of Moldavia (northern Romania). We start with the historical background and then look at the architecture of each church and its frescoes, showing how these fit into the architectural setting. The content of these paintings will be analysed in terms of subject (narrative and theological), function and style. They include the lives of Christ, his Mother, and local saints; and donor portraits, sometimes with biographical detail.

THE UNICORN GROUP

An Ecumenical group founded by Professor Nicolas Zernov in 1959

Fri 10 May *The story of the Kasiisi Porridge Project, Uganda*

Kate Wrangham-Briggs is an extraordinary woman who started The Porridge Project in 2006 after a career in teaching. The project provides a daily mug of porridge to more than 1,500 children at primary schools in rural Uganda. This modest lunch makes an extraordinary difference to all these school children – affording nourishment which improves health, academic performance and school attendance. The project is expanding rapidly and has developed a project farm, education centre and a visitors' Eco-campsite. All proceeds from the farm go to supporting the lunch

Fri 24 May *'My life as worker-priest in the coal industry'*

Revd Hugh Lee is an energy economist consulting in the worldwide coal industry. He was deputy head of Strategic Planning in the National Coal Board during the 1984-5 Miners' Strike. His current concern is how to persuade the fossil fuel companies to wind down their operations before it is too late to stop runaway climate change. Revd Lee was instrumental in starting Ebico a non-profit energy company, and the Ebico Trust, a charity that battles fuel poverty.

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 unicorncumenicalgroup@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

MEDIAEVAL ARTS GROUP

For possible gatherings please contact Ann Weizmann 0118 948 1884

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