



STUDY DAYS HILARY TERM 2008

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

Saturday, 2nd February, 10.30am - 4pm

Christianity in China: From the Nestorians to the Present Day

**Speakers: Dr David Taylor, Dr Lars Peter Laamann and
Dr Martin Conway**

Saturday, 16th February, 10.30am - 4pm

Franciscan and Orthodox Spirituality: Links and Affinities

**Speakers: Br Mark Turnham Elvins OFM Cap, Dr Jane Baun,
Dr Matthew Steenberg and Dr Cristina Neagu**

Saturday, 1st March, 10.30am - 4pm

VENUE: SS Philip & James (OCMS), Woodstock Rd (opp. Leckford Rd)

'City of peace': Bringing Peace to and from Jerusalem

**Speakers: Eliyahu Maclean, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bukhari, and
the Revd Yazeed Said**

Suggested donation for Study Days: £5 (free for students with card).

Inquiries: steffen.weishaupt@chch.ox.ac.uk; 01865 - 286846

The St Theosevia Centre for Christian Spirituality

2 Canterbury Road, Oxford OX2 6LU

From the Director

The Revd Dr Liz Carmichael

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December/January 2007

Dear Friends of St Theosevia ,

Three excellent Study days took place in Michaelmas Term, and we look forward to welcoming you at equally intriguing and wide-ranging Study Days in Hilary Term.

On **Saturday 2 February** the topic is **Christianity in China**, from its introduction by Syriac 'Nestorian' traders and missionaries along the Silk Road, to the arrival in later centuries of Franciscan, Jesuit and Protestant missionaries, and its current strong growth from within in modern China. What does China bring to Christian spirituality?

On **Saturday 16 February** we explore the affinities between **Franciscan and Orthodox spirituality**, their common roots and how they have encountered and influenced one another. Dr Jane Baun has a strong interest in Franciscan history and spirituality and she teaches, as did the Revd Dr Matthew Steenberg prior to his move to Leeds, at Greyfriars Hall where Br Mark O.F.M. Cap. is currently based.

The term culminates on **Saturday 1 March**. Three speakers from Jerusalem will share their spiritual motivation as peacemakers, and some practical methods they have developed to bring together people of different faiths in the Holy Land and beyond. **Eliyahu Maclean**, born in the USA, is a full-time 'pursuer of peace'.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bukhari is an hereditary Sufi sheikh whose family moved to Jerusalem from Bukhara in the early c17th. He heads the Naqshandi Sufi centre on the Via Dolorosa. With other faith leaders, Eliyahu and Sheikh Bukhari lead gatherings, pilgrimages and training programmes for peace. The **Revd Yazeed Said** is an Arab Israeli Anglican priest currently completing a Ph.D. on mediaeval Islam at Cambridge; he has been active in inter-faith dialogue and in bringing young Christian theologians to experience the present situation in Israel/Palestine. In this year when peace is again a possibility in the Holy Land, come and share in this work for peace.

Mailing list: We would like to bring this up to date. If you find a form enclosed, please return it; and in addition please see the note on the following page for subscribing to the **email list**. We look forward to welcoming you and new friends to the Hilary programme.

LIZ CARMICHAEL

Saturday, 2nd February, 10.30am - 4pm

Christianity in China: From the Nestorians to the Present Day

A day that opens up the long and fascinating history of Christianity in China, with Dr David Taylor on Syriac 'Nestorian' Christianity along the Silk Road, Dr Lars Laaman of SOAS on the Roman Catholic and Protestant missions, and Dr Martin Conway on the present strong internal revival and spread of Christianity in this vast and significant land.

Saturday, 16th February, 10.30am - 4pm

Franciscan and Orthodox Spirituality: Links and Affinities

From St Francis to the present day, Franciscan friars have engaged in spirited encounters with the Christian East, undeterred by historical, linguistic, and ecclesiastical boundaries. In this study day Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican scholars will examine the affinities between Franciscan and Orthodox spirituality, with special attention to the patristic inspiration of Francis and Clare, the lived experience of poverty and minority in Orthodox and Franciscan ascetical traditions, the Franciscan influence on religious art in Eastern Europe, and key moments in the historical encounter between the friars and the Eastern churches.

Saturday, 1st March, 10.30am - 4pm

VENUE: SS Philip & James (OCMS), Woodstock Rd (opp. Leckford Rd)

'City of peace': Bringing Peace to and from Jerusalem

God's purpose for creation, as Rowan Williams has said, is 'peace and praise'. Today, peace in the earthly Jerusalem is both a profound spiritual challenge and a *sine qua non* for the world's peace. From Jerusalem, Jewish, Muslim and Christian speakers share their experiences and what motivates them as peacemakers, and the ways they have found to create trust, understanding and a new future.

PLEASE NOTE:

- St Theosevia's is **2 Canterbury Road** (up Banbury Rd, first turn left after North Parade).
- Tea and coffee are on offer before the meeting and at lunch-time. **Bring a packed lunch for the Study Day or purchase food in North Parade.**
- Any-one willing to help serve coffee is entitled to a free Study Day place. Please notify steffen.weishaupt@chch.ox.ac.uk, 286846, if you want to assist in this way .
- If you've not yet sent your subscription for the current year, please send a minimum of £3 to cover printing and postage. Cheques payable to 'St Theosevia Trust'.
- **Join our free e-mailing list to be kept up-to-date with our events. Send a blank email to: theosevia-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**

OTHER EVENTS IN HILARY TERM

THE UNICORN GROUP

An ecumenical discussion group founded by Nicholas Zernov

The meetings are open to all, and are held at the House of St Gregory & St Macrina, 1 Canterbury Road. The talks, followed by discussion, run from 1-2pm. Coffee is served from 12.30.

Some like to bring a packed lunch. A collection is made to cover the cost of the room, mailing, etc., any surplus going to charity. Inquiries: Martin Coombs: 01865 - 243865.

Friday, 25th January **Prof Diarmaid MacCulloch**
Thomas Cramner

Friday, 8th February **Antonia Lacey**
Catherine of Siena

Friday, 22nd February **The Rt Revd John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford**
Religion in the 21st Century: is it a solution or the problem?

Friday, 7th March **Canon Hugh Wybrew**
The Church of the Triune God

THE MEDIEVAL ARTS & BYZANTINE STUDIES GROUPS

The Medieval Arts Group with Dr Nicholas Gendle continues in Hilary Term with **French Art and Architecture of the 17th Century**. Meetings on Tuesdays at 2 pm from 8th January on at St Theosevia House.

The Byzantine Studies class with Dr Gendle will focus on **Art and Architecture of Medieval Russia**. Wednesdays at 10.30am from 9th January on at 9 Fyfield Road.

Further details on registration for both groups from Anne Weizmann, 0118 9481 884, or Valerie Sansom, 0118 947 9471.

THE CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

The Christian meditation group continues to meet on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 pm in St Theosevia House for a period of quiet, meditation and fellowship.

Inquiries: Kath Greco: oxmed@btopenworld.com