



**ST THEOSEVIA CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY  
OPEN STUDY DAYS IN TRINITY TERM 2011**

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

Monday 23 May, 8.00pm

**Memorial Evening Meeting for Canon Donald Allchin**  
with **Metropolitan Kallistos Ware** and **Esther de Waal**  
All are welcome. A glass of wine will be served.

Saturday 28 May, 10.30 am – 4 pm

**The Byzantine Churches of Cyprus : Art and Architecture**  
Illustrated talks by **Dr Nicholas Gendle**

Saturday 18 June, 10.30am – 4pm

**Georgia and Armenia :**  
**Christian Identities and Spirituality in the Caucasus**

Professor Theo van Lint, Nikoloz Aleksidze, Archbishop Malkhaz Songulashvili

*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: Assistant Director of Studies: Revd Steffen Weishaupt,*

## The St Theosevia Centre for Christian Spirituality

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*From the Director*

Revd Dr Liz Carmichael

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April 2011

Dear Friends of St Theosevia's,

Thank you for supporting last term's programme. As well as the two Study Days a pleasant evening was spent with bring-and-share contributions of music and poetry on the subject of Prayer, including some notable original compositions.

We begin the Trinity Term programme with a Memorial Evening for Canon Donald Allchin, organized by Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, at which all are welcome, both those who knew Donald and those who did not.

This is followed by two Study Days. The first, on Saturday 28 May, will take us to Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean.. We have just installed new blackout curtains, from which Nicholas Gendle's excellent slides should benefit.

The second Day takes us to the Black Sea and beyond, to Georgia and Armenia, with talks by Professor Theo van Lint, Calouste Gulbenkian Professor of Armenian Studies; by Nikoloz Aleksidze who is one of his graduate students; and by Archbishop Malkhaz Songulashvili, TSSF, Head of the Evangelical Baptist Church in Georgia, Anglican Franciscan tertiary, and researcher at Regent's Park College..

It is notable that this year the date of Western and Eastern Easter coincides on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April, so that Trinity Term begins, remarkably, one week later on May Day, Sunday 1st May, and ends with the Nativity of St John the Baptist on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June. St John's College is named after the Baptist, and you are very welcome to attend a Eucharist for the Feast, in St John's Chapel on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June, probably at 6pm.

We are seeking a new Minutes Secretary for the St Theosevia Trustees. One evening meeting per term. Please volunteer! Meanwhile, a blessed Lent and all the joy of Easter,

LIZ CARMICHAEL

- **Newsletter subscriptions** for 2010-11: 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](mailto: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 1-2pm. Bring packed lunch, or you can buy food nearby in North Parade.
- If you are willing to help serve coffee for a study day you will have a free place. Please

## DETAILS OF EVENTS IN TRINITY TERM

Monday 23 May, 8.00pm

### **Memorial Evening Meeting for Canon Donald Allchin**

Canon Donald Allchin (1930-2010) who died two days before last Christmas, was for seven years the first Director of the St Theosevia Centre for the Study of Christian Spirituality. His friends will meet to share their memories of his life and his many-sided work. Speakers include Metropolitan Kallistos and Esther de Waal. All who knew Donald are invited to come and contribute their reminiscences. Those who did not know him personally are also most welcome to participate. A glass of wine will be served.

Saturday, 28 May, 10.30 am – 4 pm

### **The Byzantine Churches of Cyprus: Art and Architecture**

Illustrated talks with Dr Nicholas Gendle

The island of Cyprus contains a remarkable number of Orthodox churches and monasteries dating from the sixth to the fifteenth centuries. Some are architecturally significant, notably the peculiarly Cypriot five-domed churches; but the most celebrated painted churches are small buildings with outstanding Byzantine frescos, eleventh/twelfth centuries, in the beautiful setting of the Troodos Mountains. With illustrations.

Saturday 18 June, 10.30am – 4pm

### **Georgia and Armenia : Christian Identities and Spirituality in the Caucasus**

Professor Theo van Lint, Nikoloz Aleksidze, Archbishop Malkhaz Songulashvili

**Professor van Lint** will present a 13th-14th Armenian poet's spiritual *vademecum* and its context of a lay brotherhood in Anatolia. The poet is called Kostandin of Erznka, and Erznka is the Erzincan of today. **Nicholoz Aleksidze** will speak on 'Doctrine, Identity and Memory in the Early Christian Caucasus', on the formation of Armenian and Georgian identity in the first centuries of Christianity in the region, exploring how our knowledge of that period is distorted by centuries of polemics between the Armenian and Georgian Churches, and how the national Christian tradition was shaped in the light of these polemics. **Archbishop Malkhaz** speaks on 'Ancient Faith and Fresh Expressions of Church Life and Ministry in Georgia', offering some visual materials about the contextual evolution of the Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia in relation with Orthodox culture and spiritual legacy.

## OTHER EVENTS IN TRINITY TERM

### CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

The Christian Meditation Group meets on Tuesday evenings from 7.25 pm in St Theosevia's (2 Canterbury Road) for a period of quiet, meditation and fellowship.

**Inquiries:** Brenda Newey, 792838, brendanewey@talktalk.net

### THE UNICORN GROUP

*An ecumenical discussion group founded by Nicholas Zernov in 1959*

The meetings, open to all, are usually held on Friday lunchtimes at the **House of St Gregory & St Macrina, 1 Canterbury Road**. The talks, followed by discussion, run from 1-2pm. Coffee is served from 12.30pm, packed lunches may be brought. Donations are invited to cover costs.

**Friday 13 May:** Revd Dr Martin Wellings (Wesley Memorial Methodist Church and Superintendent Minister of the Oxford circuit): **The Spirituality of the Wesleys**

**Friday 27 May:** Dr Santha Bhattacharji (St Benet's Hall): **Is There a Specifically Christian Mysticism?**

**Inquiries (no booking needed):** Revd Canon Martin Coombs, 01865 243865

### MEDIEVAL ARTS GROUP & BYZANTINE STUDIES CLASS

The **Medieval Arts Group** with Dr Nicholas Gendle will continue in **Michaelmas Term**. Meetings on Tuesdays at 2pm from 4 October, at the House of St Gregory & St Macrina, 1 Canterbury Road.

The **Byzantine Studies Class** with Dr Gendle will focus on **Coptic Art and Architecture**, on Wednesdays from 27 April, 10.30am, at 9 Fyfield Rd.

**Inquiries:** Valerie Sansom, 0118 9479471

### FELLOWSHIP OF SS ALBAN AND SERGIUS (OXFORD)

The Oxford Branch is planning two meetings this term, on 26 May and 22 June. Details tba. **Inquiries:** gregory.Platten@lincoln.ox.ac.uk

**WANTED! A Minutes Secretary for the St Theosevia Trustees. If you or**