

St Albans Cathedral Adult Learning

Spring 2019



TALKS

STUDY DAYS

COURSES



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBAY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBAN

Booking Information

Bookings can be made in the following ways:

- Online at www.stalbanscathedral.org/learning;
- By telephone through the Box Office on 01727 890290;
- By visiting our Box Office (located in the Gift Shop)

For the following, please contact Caroline Godden, Adult Learning Officer, on 01727 890205 or alo@stalbaniscathedral.org:

- Further details about any of the events in this brochure;
- Information on our Bursary Scheme – we do not wish anyone to be deterred from attending for financial reasons;
- Information on how to claim directly from your Diocesan Training Grant if you are clergy or a reader.

TALKS

Franz Liszt: Life, Music, and Franciscan Faith

Date: Wednesday 30 January

Time: 7.30-9.45pm **Price:** £12.50 (incl interval drink)

Most popular ideas about Franz Liszt's character are wrong: far from being a vain 'celebrity', he was inspired from childhood by a profound Christian faith, and his life-long connection with the Franciscans led him in mid-life to join their Third Order; later he received minor orders in the Catholic Church. Much of his work was liturgical or overtly Christian, but all his work reveals his intense and life-affirming spirituality.

This evening blends live performances of works by Liszt for solo piano (including the B minor sonata in full) with an introduction to Franciscan spirituality and the life and faith of one of the nineteenth century's most important composers.

Words, music and pictures combine to open up a fresh perspective on this fascinating man and his work.

Pianist: Florian Mitrea, *the young, Hertfordshire-based, concert pianist acclaimed as 'outstanding' by Martha Argerich* (florianmitrea.uk)

Speaker: The Rev'd Iain Lane, *Tutor in Christian Doctrine and the Visual Arts, and a Franciscan*

Venue: The Nave, St Albans Cathedral

Poetry Evening: War and Peace

Date: Friday 8 February

Time: 7.30-9.00pm

Price: £10

The marking of the Centenary since the Armistice of the First World War has seen much creative energy employed in both word and image as the huge consequences of being at war and establishing peace are explored. In this Poetry Evening, Jonathan Smith, the Archdeacon of St Albans, will be looking to poets who give insights into how humanity turns enmity into war, and the subsequent longing for and making of peace. We shall particularly be looking at some of the lesser known war poets as well as more established figures, together with those who looked to a post-conflict future.

Tutor: The Ven. Jonathan Smith, *Archdeacon of St Albans*

Venue: Chapter Room, Deanery

Driverless Cars: The Impact on Society

Date: Thursday 28 February

Time: 7.30-9.00pm

Price: £10*

Professor Helen Atkinson, CBE, draws on her expertise in engineering and education to explore some of the effects of technology, such as driverless cars, on human society. More details to follow on our website.

**Discount available for students*

Tutor: Prof. Helen Atkinson, *Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Cranfield University's School of Aerospace, Transport and Manufacturing*

Venue: Board Room, Holywell Lodge

Choose Your Own Adventure - The Jewish Approach to the Afterlife

Date: Monday 4 March

Time: 7.30-9.00pm

Price: £10

Judaism is notoriously vague about what becomes of us after we die. The Torah teaches about a Hades-like underworld, the Prophets insist on a future resurrection, and the Mystics advocate for a cosmic transmigration of souls. Join us to take a look at the many contenders for the title of 'Jewish Approach to the Afterlife,' and their context and connections with Jewish and Christian traditions.

This talk is taking place in connection with the Jewish Living Experience exhibition, which will be in the Cathedral 26 February - 7 March.

Tutor: Rabbi Adam Zagoria-Moffet, *St Albans Masorti Synagogue*

Venue: Board Room, Holywell Lodge

'Gang Signs and Prayer': Contemporary Secular Music and Christian Faith

Date: Thursday 7 March

Time: 7.30-9.00pm

Price: £6*

You'd be forgiven for thinking that modern pop, rock, electronic dance, hip-hop, R&B and grime music have nothing spiritual, or Christian, about them. But is that really true? Among the provocative lyrics of pop, the bombastic bragging of rap and the repetitive refrains of EDM, is there something of what theologians have called 'the divine spark'? Is there a memory of God, a reaching out for God, or even an articulation of God to be found in contemporary music? This talk, which comes complete with its own playlist, will inspire you to notice God's presence in the least likely of cultural places.

**Discount available for students*

Tutor: The Rev'd Lucy Dallas, *ERMC*

Venue: Board Room, Holywell Lodge

Shakespeare's Major Heroes: Flawed Saints or Deliberate Sinners?

Date: Monday 18 March

Time: 7.30-9.00pm

Price: £10

There is a fascinating spiritual and moral aspect to Shakespeare's four major heroes: Hamlet, Macbeth, Lear and Othello. This lecture will examine their qualities and failings, and how far they arise from personal weakness or evil intentions.

Tutor: Canon Margaret Tinsley, *Tutor in Literature*

Venue: Chapter Room, Deanery

Henry VI and the Battle of St Albans

Date: Wednesday 20 March

Time: 7.30-9.00pm

Price: £10

In St Albans in 1455, the 33-year-old Henry VI faced battle for the first time. It was a devastating experience for a king only just recovered from an episode of mental illness. Henry had inherited the thrones of England and France from his father Henry V, victor of Agincourt, before his first birthday. But he had already lost France, and the Battle of St Albans brought about the devastating Wars of the Roses - and Henry's ultimate destruction.

Join historian Lauren Johnson as she explores Henry VI's reign and the Battle of St Albans in this illustrated talk, with book signing.

Tutor: Lauren Johnson, *Author and Historian*

Venue: Board Room, Holywell Lodge

The Seven Churches of Revelation

Date: Monday 25 March

Time: 7.30-9.00pm

Price: £10

Kenneth Padley leads a photographic tour of these ancient sites based on his recent sabbatical visit to western Turkey. The evening will include a survey of how the sites were rediscovered and the present extent of their excavation. There will also be an exploration of text and context – how the letters written to churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 reflect specific issues of history, topography, and culture in the seven cities.

Tutor: The Rev'd Dr Kenneth Padley, *Tutor in Church History*

Venue: Chapter Room, Deanery

Alban: How a Romano-British Martyr Became an Anglo-Saxon Saint

Date: Thursday 4 April

Time: 7.30-9.00pm

Price: £10

This talk will explore how the Anglo-Saxons re-shaped earlier traditions about Alban to make him into the 'first martyr of the English'. Drawing on his expertise and doctoral research early medieval devotion to St Alban, Dr Mark Laynesmith will cover archaeology and literature, focusing especially on the work of the Northumbrian monk-historian Bede.

Tutor: The Rev'd Dr Mark Laynesmith, *University of Reading*

Venue: Board Room, Holywell Lodge

The Dream of the Rood: an Anglo-Saxon vision of the Crucifixion

Date: Wednesday 10 April

Time: 8.00-9.00pm

Price: £10

A candle-lit and atmospheric recital of the beautiful Anglo-Saxon poem of the Dream of the Rood – a vision of the Crucifixion in the voice of the Cross. Using a mixture of the original Old English and modern language to make this poetry accessible while still authentic, this evening will be a lovely and unusual opportunity for reflection as we prepare to enter into Holy Week.

Tutor: Caroline Godden, *Adult Learning Officer*

Venue: The Quire, St Albans Cathedral

STUDY DAYS

King Arthur in Medieval Welsh Literature

Date: Saturday 23 February

Time: 10.30am – 3.30pm

Price: £25

Arthur is one of the most well-known figures of British legend, but how much do we know about the earliest Arthurian tales and the culture from which they sprang? This study day will focus on the changing figure of Arthur in medieval Welsh literature, looking at texts from the *Mabinogion* and elsewhere. We will trace the development of Arthurian legend from the earliest poetry to Geoffrey of Monmouth's medieval bestseller *Historia Regum Britanniae*, which introduced Arthur to the rest of Europe, and the later Welsh tales which took inspiration from French Arthuriana.

If you would like to read ahead for this day, we recommend reading the Arthurian tales from 'The Mabinogion', translated by Sioned Davies (Oxford's World Classics series). However, no previous knowledge is required.

Tutor: Eleanor Smith, *Tutor in Medieval Welsh Studies*

Venue: Board Room, Holywell Lodge

Why be Moral? An Introduction to Moral Philosophy

Date: Saturday 9 February

Time: 10.30am – 3.30pm

Price: £25

Making moral decisions, working out what is good or bad, right or wrong is a central part of what makes us human. But how do we, or how should we, make such decisions? What makes some things right and others unacceptable or wrong? In this study day we will examine the philosophical underpinnings of our moral thought. We will look at the Utilitarians, at Immanuel Kant and others, see what answers they put forward and critically assess those answers through discussion and close analysis of their texts. The day will act as an introduction to the field of moral philosophy, and give us a chance to get to grips with some of its key figures.

Tutor: Dr Neil O'Hara, *Tutor in Philosophy*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

Imagination and Spiritual Perception

Date: Saturday 9 March

Time: 10.00am – 3.30pm

Price: £25

Imagination is sometimes viewed as fleeting and farfetched, so it can come as a surprise to learn that many of the most inspiring human beings orientated their whole lives around

this truth-bearing faculty. Albert Einstein said that whereas knowledge is limited, "imagination encircles the world". William Blake regarded it as the one indispensable thing for engaging with divine reality.

So what is imagination and what has it to do with spiritual perception? We will ask what imagination is, drawing on the insights of key thinkers and science. We will look at how it fires the work of artists and scientists, focusing particularly on the qualities of life that we can draw on, too. And, we will explore how imagination shapes our relationships, expands our inner lives, and connects us with what the Inklings Owen Barfield called 'the inside of the whole world'.

Tutor: Dr Mark Vernon, *Writer and Psychotherapist*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

Study Skills Workshop

Date: Saturday 16 March

Time: 10.00am – 12.00 noon

Price: £25

Suffering from study stress? Are you exasperated by essay writing? Are reading lists riddles to you? Whether you're new to academic writing or just want to fine-tune your skills, our workshop will provide top tips and techniques to help you develop your study style, and maybe even have fun doing it! The session will cover finding and using resources as well as planning, writing, and referencing essays.

This would be particularly helpful for students undertaking the St Albans Certificate in Theology who would like to improve their essay-writing skills.

Tutor: Megan Burnside and Naomi Gardom, *Pastoral Assistants*

Venue: Thicknesse Room, The Deanery

Serious Answers to Big Questions

Date: Saturday 16 March

Time: 10.30am – 3.30pm

Price: £25

Far more theologically testing than your average PhD viva is a primary school assembly where you invite Little People to ask Big Questions. You know that they will see right through bluffing and cant. It is of course easy to answer the questions - inaccurately, incomprehensibly, or better still not answer them at all. 'Who made God?' 'Why do people suffer?' 'Why aren't planets mentioned in the creation story?' What would your answer be?

This study day looks at ways in which we can approach answering these, and gives the opportunity for participants to bring their own questions for discussion.

Tutor: The Rev'd Dr David Munchin, *Tutor in Theology*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

Come & Sing: Stainer's 'The Crucifixion'

Date: Saturday 30 March

Time: 3.00pm rehearsal; 6.30pm performance

Price: £12 (singers); £5 (audience for the performance)

Join us to learn Stainer's *The Crucifixion* in an afternoon, with the Master of the Music at St Albans Cathedral, Andrew Lucas, for a performance at the Cathedral in the evening. This an opportunity to sing a famous reflection on the Passion in the period leading up to Good Friday, and in a wonderful space with a renowned conductor.

Scores (Novello) and refreshments provided. Please dress smartly.

Tutor: Andrew Lucas, *Master of the Music*

Venue: Rehearsal at Dagnall Street Baptist Church, followed by performance at St Albans Cathedral

Introduction to Old English in a Day

Date: Saturday 6 April

Time: 10.30am – 3.30pm

Price: £25

An opportunity to learn the language spoken by Offa of Mercia - the founder of the Anglo-Saxon monastery here in 793 - in an informal and interactive session. In order to offer an engaging experience of the literature and language of the Anglo-Saxons, this course will introduce some basic grammar, vocabulary and historical context, culminating with an opportunity to translate some sections of a text used by an Anglo-Saxon tutor, Ælfric of Eynsham.

Tutor: Caroline Godden, *Adult Learning Officer*

Venue: Board Room, Holywell Lodge

STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Latin Reading Group

Dates: Mondays 21 Jan, 11 Feb, 4 Mar, 1 Apr

Time: 8.00pm – 9.45pm

Price: £10 per session

The Latin Reading Group meets once a month to read a section of a relevant Latin text. Texts which we have covered in the past have ranged from Bede's account of the death of Alban to Latin versions of Aesop's Fables, and we welcome suggestions for new and interesting texts to read.

Please email alo@stalbanscathedral.org for the text or to be added to the mailing list for reminders about this group. It is suitable for those with intermediate Latin and above.

Tutor: David Carter, *Tutor of Latin and Greek*, and Caroline Godden, *Adult Learning Officer*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

Old English Reading Group

Dates: Tuesdays 15 Jan, 12 Feb, 12 Mar, 9 Apr

Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm **Price:** £10 per session

This reading group is for those who have taken intermediate level Old English classes, to continue exploring the corpus of Old English prose and poetry. Please see the website for details of the texts, or email alo@stalbanscathedral.org to be added to the mailing list for reminders about this group.

Tutor: Caroline Godden, *Adult Learning Officer*

Venue: Lawrance Room, The Deanery

Greek New Testament Study Group

Dates: Mondays 14 Jan, 11 Feb, 11 Mar, 1 Apr

Time: 8.00pm – 9.00pm **Price:** £5 per session

This group is for those who want an opportunity to read and discuss passages from the New Testament in the original Greek. With guidance from tutors, students have the chance to elucidate the meaning and nuance of the Greek, and contribute to an exegetical analysis of the chosen passage. It is suitable for those with intermediate NT Greek and above.

Jan: John 2:1-25 **Feb:** Luke 6:27-49

Mar: Luke 15:1-32 **Apr:** John 12:1-26

Tutor: The Rev'd Dr Kevin Walton, *Canon Chancellor*

Venue: Lawrance Room, The Deanery

Hebrew Reading Group

Dates: Tuesdays 8 Jan, 19 Feb, 12 Mar, 9 Apr

Time: 8.00pm – 9.45pm **Price:** £10 per session

This study group is for those who want an opportunity to read passages from the Old Testament in Hebrew, with the assistance of a teacher. Students will have the chance to elucidate the meaning of the Hebrew, with aid, and contribute to an exegetical analysis of the chosen passage. Students are encouraged to prepare texts in advance, though they will not be expected to read without assistance. Please email canon@stalbanscathedral.org for the text.

Jan: 1 Kings 21:1-14 **Feb:** 1 Kings 21:15-29

Mar: 2 Kings 1:1-18 **Apr:** 2 Kings 2.1-25

Tutor: The Rev'd Dr Kevin Walton, *Canon Chancellor*

Venue: Lawrance Room, The Deanery

Book Club

On the second Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm and 6.00pm, the Book Club meets to share ideas and enjoy thought-provoking discussion inspired by our monthly novel. See the website for a list of upcoming books, or email

alo@stalbanscathedral.org to be added to the mailing list for reminders about the group. No need to book.

8 Jan: *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman

12 Feb: *An Experiment in Love* by Hilary Mantel

12 Mar: *The Knot of Vipers* by Francois Mauriac

9 Apr: *Restless* by William Boyd

Venue: Lawrance Room, The Deanery

COURSES

SACT and SACT+: if indicated, courses may be taken as part of the St Albans Certificate in Theology (SACT) or the St Albans Certificate in Theology Plus (SACT+). For more information of what these courses entail, please check our web pages or email alo@stalbanscathedral.org.

Introduction to Christian Doctrine (SACT)

Dates: Thursdays 17 Jan – 28 Mar (excl. 28 Feb)

Time: 8.00pm – 9.45pm

Price: £110

This ten-week module examines the creation of the Christian creeds and the early formation of a distinct Christian understanding of God and humanity. It will explore what it means to think theologically, what sense can be made of religious language, and introduce some basic issues on the margins of theology and the philosophy of religion: for example, how God can be known, how God can act in the world, how the reality of evil might be explained. Topics covered will include the person of Jesus, incarnation and resurrection, the Holy Spirit, the Christian idea of God as Trinity, creation, sin and salvation, the Church and the churches .

Tutor: The Rev'd Iain Lane, *Tutor in Theology and the Visual Arts*

Venue: The Chapter Room, The Deanery

Abraham (SACT & SACT+)

Dates: Wednesdays 16 Jan – 13 Feb

Time: 8.00pm – 9.45pm

Price: £60

Abraham is an inspiration for Jews, Christians, and Muslims. In the story of Israel, he is pivotal in the transition from God's dealing with all nations to God's election of a particular family, and then nation, but so that ultimately all families and nations will find blessing.

The course will open up this part of the book of Genesis, showing how Abraham is a figure of faith and promise, but also reflects real questions and life issues, not least in his willingness to sacrifice his son. It will also look at critical

questions behind the text, and consider how Abraham has been received in later tradition.

Tutor: The Rev'd Dr Kevin Walton, *Canon Chancellor*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery (Class on 16 Jan in the Thickness Room)

Introduction to Philosophy (SACT & SACT+)

Dates: Wednesdays 27 Feb – 27 Mar

Time: 7.30pm – 9.15pm

Price: £60

Philosophers have tended to focus on certain 'big questions'. Is there meaning to life? What is the nature of reality? What is virtue? to name a few. Philosophy also seeks to clarify our more everyday thinking, exposing the grounds of beliefs that we often take for granted, in order to examine them under the objective light of reason. In this five-week course, we will look at the work of some great philosophers of the past, from Ancient Greece right up to modern times, and begin to wrestle with what they had to say on the big questions.

Tutors: Dr Neil O'Hara, *Tutor in Philosophy*

Venue: St Andrews, Kimbolton Rd, **Bedford**, MK40 2PF

Passion Narratives (SACT and SACT+)

Dates: Tuesdays 5 Mar – 9 Apr (excl. 26 Mar)

Time: 8.00-9.45pm

Price: £60

The passion and resurrection narratives are the climax of the four Gospels. More space is given to these events than any other events in the Gospel story. This course will explore the passion and resurrection narratives in order to discern the distinctive message in each Gospel and the common themes found in all four Gospels.

Tutor: The Rev'd Canon Dr Dennis Stamps, *Tutor in New Testament Studies*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

Latin 2 (post-beginners') (SACT and SACT+)

Dates: Thursdays 28 Feb – 28 Mar

Time: 8.00pm – 9.45pm

Price: £60

This five-week course will teach those who have a basic grasp of Latin to develop their grasp of grammar and syntax, and start to learn some vocabulary. It is suitable for those who have taken the Latin I (beginners') course, and for those who have learned only a small amount of Latin elsewhere or studied it a long time ago! Please ask if you are unsure about the level.

Tutor: Clare Harvey, *Tutor in Latin*

Venue: Thickness Room, The Deanery

St Albans Cathedral Library

The St Albans Cathedral Library is a modern theological lending library, containing books on theology, biblical studies, spirituality, philosophy, and ethics, among other disciplines. It also houses a local collection and resources on Abbey history.

It is open daily during the week from 10am-2.30pm, and for 15 minutes before evening SACT and SACT+ courses. It is also open 10am-1pm on the first Saturday of the month.

St Albans Cathedral Study Centre

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