

ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL STUDY CENTRE Spring 2017



COURSES

TALKS

STUDY DAYS



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBAY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBAN

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE BOOKING SYSTEM FOR COURSES

At St Albans Cathedral Study Centre there is no longer a booking form or email booking system. Instead, please book via the Cathedral Box Office:

- online at www.stalbanscathedral.org/learning;
- by telephone on 01727 890290;
- or by visiting our Box Office (located in the Gift Shop) between 10am and 4.45pm Monday to Saturday and 1pm to 4.45pm on Sunday.

For further information about any of the events in this brochure, please contact Kirsty Borthwick, Adult Learning Assistant, on 01727 890205 or alo@stalbanscathedral.org.

We do not wish anyone to be deterred from attending for financial reasons. If you find the fees prohibitive, please contact the Adult Learning Assistant.

If you are clergy or a reader who wishes the Study Centre to claim directly from your Diocesan Training Grant, please contact the Adult Learning Assistant.

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+). These courses include membership of the Cathedral Library, which is usually open for an hour before any SACT or SACT+ class. Details can be found in the SACT leaflet or on our website.*

To achieve SACT, students study four core modules of Old Testament Studies, New Testament Studies, Christian Doctrine, and Church History, worth 20 (non-transferable) credits each. A further 40 credits are taken from optional modules, which may include languages, short courses, or an independent project. Each module ends with appropriate assessment, usually in the form of an essay or, for languages, an exam.

SACT+ is designed for those with existing experience of the study of theology, such as SACT, and expects students to undertake regular reading and independent study. SACT+ is made up of optional short course modules, up to a total of 60 credits, with assessment, which will require supported independent preparation for several weeks after the end of the course. If a course is offered both for SACT or SACT+, levels may be differentiated by assignments and learning outcomes.

SACT is run both at St Albans Cathedral and at St Andrews, Bedford, and students may take modules at either centre.

Introduction to Church History

This may be taken independently, or as a 20 credit core module (with assessment) of SACT: see page 1.

Dates: Tuesdays 10 January-21 March (excl. 14 February)

Time: 7.45-c.9.30pm

Cost: £110

This ten week course will cover the history of the Christian Church in a broadly chronological manner. Each of the sessions will focus on a particular period of church history from the first century to the present day. Within each session time will be given not only to key dates and events, individuals and movements, but to art, architecture, liturgy and, where possible, to music. The course will focus on western church history, but include material relating to the Orthodox churches and to Christianity in Africa, Asia and South America, as well as Europe and North America.

Tutor: TBC

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

Introduction to Christian Ethics

This may be taken independently, or as a 10 credit optional module (with assessment) of SACT: see page 1.

Dates: Tuesdays 10 January– 7 February

Time: 8.00-c.9.45pm

Cost: £60

What is distinctive about *Christian* ethics? How can Christians apply their understanding of moral values to the issues of contemporary life? Taking a broadly ecumenical approach, this wide-ranging course will investigate Christian moral reasoning and link theoretical issues with the moral questions facing people today. Each evening will combine a lecture with an opportunity to discuss a case study: topics will include economics, medical ethics, personal relationships, social justice, and the ethics of modern science.

Tutor: The Revd Iain Lane, *Tutor in Theology and the Visual Arts*

Venue: St Albans Cathedral Library

Creative Writing

Dates: Tuesdays 10 January– 7 March (excl. 14 February)

Time: 8.00-c.9.45pm

Cost: £85

Memorable characters are the most important element in fiction. This term, we will use a variety of techniques and practical exercises to get us writing characters who are believable and fascinating. We will begin to craft short stories with the characters we create. Join us in this lively and supportive class which draws inspiration from the surroundings at the Cathedral.

Tutor: Clare Hobba, *Writer and Teacher*

Venue: Thicknesse Room, The Deanery, St Albans Cathedral

Mindfulness

Dates: Wednesdays 18 January-15 March (excl. 15 February), Saturday 11 March (full day)

Time: 7.45-9.45pm

Cost: £170 (inc CD set)

What is mindfulness?

It is paying attention in a particular way: on purpose, moment to moment, without judgement.

There might be many reasons why you would consider participating in an 8 week Mindfulness programme. And whatever your reason, it will be an opportunity to become more aware of how life is unfolding and the way we approach that. We practise becoming present in a safe and nurturing space. We do this in periods of quiet meditation and while doing gentle exercises. You will be given CDs to practise and have opportunities to share your experiences with fellow participants.

This course has a separate application system. Please email us for an application form.

Tutor: Caroline Waterstone, *Mindfulness Teacher*

Venue: Studio, Sumpter Yard, St Albans Cathedral

Introduction to Liturgy

*This may be taken independently, or as a 10 credit optional module (with assessment) of **SACT** or **SACT+**: see page 1.*

Dates: Thursdays 23 February-30 March (excl. 2 March)

Time: 8.00-c.9.45pm

Cost: £60

If you have experienced a service in any Church you have experienced carefully crafted Liturgy. But what is Liturgy? Why do we need it? How did it develop out of Jewish worship for the purposes of the Early Church into its current shape? How has it affected and effected the shape of our Church buildings? Is it an antiquated idea in the age of Fresh Expressions of Church? Over the course of five weeks we will explore these questions and more by paying particular attention to the shape and development of the liturgy for the Eucharist, baptism, and morning and evening prayer.

Tutor: The Revd Dr Berkeley Zych, *Minor Canon Precentor, St Albans Cathedral*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery, St Albans Cathedral

A Practical Introduction to Christian Mysticism

Dates: Fridays 24 February-31 March

Time: 7.30-c.9.00pm

Cost: £60

The aims of this six week course are twofold: firstly, to introduce students to some of the major influences and key figures who have contributed to the development of Christian Mysticism and secondly, to provide students with an opportunity to experience the silence that leads to the

heart of the Trinity. The course is suitable for both those who are new to Christian meditation and also for more experienced meditators.

Tutor: David Robinson, *St Albans Cathedral Meditation Group*

Venue: Thicknesse Room, The Deanery, St Albans Cathedral

LANGUAGE COURSES

*These may be taken independently, or as 10 credit optional modules (with assessment) of **SACT or SACT+**: see page 1. For language levels, see website or contact us.*

Post-Beginners' Latin 2 (L3)

Dates: Wednesdays 11 January-8 February

Time: 8.00-c.9.45pm

Cost: £60

This five week course will teach those who have a thorough basic knowledge of Latin to develop their grasp of grammar and syntax, and start to read longer adapted passages of text. It is suitable for those who have taken the Post-beginners' Latin 1 course, and for those who have learned some Latin elsewhere or studied it a long time ago! Please ask if you are unsure about the level.

Tutor: Anthony Armstrong, *Tutor of Latin*

Venue: St Albans Cathedral Library

Post-Beginners' New Testament Greek 1 (L2)

Dates: Wednesdays 22 February – 22 March

Time: 8.00-c.9.45pm

Cost: £60

This five week course will teach those who have a very basic grasp of New Testament Greek to develop their grasp of grammar and syntax, and start to learn some vocabulary. It is suitable for those who have taken the Introduction to NT Greek course, and for those who have learned only a small amount of Greek elsewhere or studied it a long time ago! Please ask if you are unsure about the level.

Tutor: Kirsty Borthwick, *Adult Learning Assistant*

Venue: Thicknesse Room, The Deanery, St Albans Cathedral

STUDY AND DISCUSSION GROUPS

Students may turn up to any of these without booking.

Greek New Testament Study Group

Dates: Mondays 16 January, 6 February, 20 March

Time: 8.00-9.00pm

Cost: £5 per session

This study group is for those who want an opportunity to read and discuss passages from the New Testament in the original Greek. In a one hour session, with guidance from tutors, students will have the chance to elucidate the meaning and nuance of the Greek, and contribute to an exegetical analysis of the chosen passage. Texts will be circulated in advance, and students are expected to have an existing level of Greek sufficient to be able to prepare the text independently and then translate it as part of the group. The group is open to all who want to improve their NT Greek and their reading of scripture, but may be particularly relevant to clergy and readers.

Over the next three meetings we will finish **Colossians** and begin reading **Philippians**.

16 Jan: Col 4

6 Feb: Phil 1:1-26

20 Mar: Phil 1:27-2:11

Tutors: The Revd Dr Kevin Walton, *Canon Chancellor*, and Kirsty Borthwick, *Adult Learning Assistant*

Venue: St Albans Cathedral Library (January and February); The Deanery, room TBC (March).

Latin Reading Group

The Latin reading group meets once or twice a term to read a section of a relevant Latin text. It is suitable for those with intermediate Latin and above. Please see the website for details, or email us to be added to the mailing list for reminders about this group.

Theology on Tap

Every month, on the last Monday of the month at 8pm, we meet in the Hare and Hounds on Sopwell Lane to discuss a theological topic. All are welcome: just buy a drink and come and join us.

The Cathedral Library Book Group

Every month, on the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm, the book group meets to discuss a novel of interest to a Christian audience. See the website for details, or email us to be added to the mailing list for reminders about this group. No need to book, just turn up.

STUDY DAYS

Old English in a Day

Date: Saturday 21 January

Time: 10.30am-3.30pm

Cost: £25

An opportunity to learn the language spoken by Offa of Mercia – the alleged 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 the translation of some familiar sections of the Old English text of the Old Testament. Students will be sent introductory resources in advance for those who wish to familiarize themselves with some grammar and vocabulary.

Tutor: Caroline Godden, *Tutor in Medieval Studies*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery, St Albans Cathedral

Christianity, the Modern Mind, and the Evolution of Consciousness

Date: Saturday 28 January

Time: 10.00am-3.30pm

Cost: £25

The Bible often confounds us with its apparently vengeful God or accounts of miraculous events. But the distance between then and now can be bridged by an insight that also inspired individuals such as CS Lewis and JRR Tolkien. It is the notion that our consciousness evolves, that our perception of being human and of the cosmos fundamentally shifts over time. In this workshop, we will explore this idea using the work of another Inkling, Owen Barfield and also the research of the psychiatrist, Iain McGilchrist. We will ask how it can transform our engagement with Christianity and other wisdom traditions, and expand our own sense of engagement with life and God.

Tutor: Dr Mark Vernon, *Writer, Teacher, Psychotherapist*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery, St Albans Cathedral

Dream and Reality

Date: Saturday 4 February

Time: 10.30am-3.30pm

Cost: £25

Of Mice and Men, *Death of a Salesman* and *To Kill a Mocking Bird* are key texts in understanding the American dream and the reality of life in America in the 1930s. We shall be looking at these works, with reference, of course, to Harper Lee's more recent publication *Go Set a Watchman* to examine how the writers show both the glamour of the American Dream and the reality of life for the poor, the black,

the ordinary man and woman in that society and the spiritual and moral questions which arise.

Tutor: Canon Margaret Tinsley, *Tutor in Literature*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery, St Albans Cathedral

Filming Francis

Date: Saturday 18 February

Time: 10.30am-3.30pm

Cost: £25

From the earliest days of cinema to the present day, Francis of Assisi has captivated directors who have gone on to make a wonderfully varied series of films about this enduringly attractive saint. This study day introduces the films (from 1911 to 2016) through short clips and stills, explores their differing approaches to making faith visible, and includes a full screening of arguably the best Franciscan film of all: Rossellini's acclaimed *Francesco: giullare di dio* (1950). Iain Lane shares his passion for Franciscan spirituality and the profoundly Franciscan medium of film in a day which aims to be both entertaining and thought provoking.

Tutor: The Revd Iain Lane, *Tutor in Theology and Visual Arts*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery, St Albans Cathedral

St John of the Cross: 'Journeying Beyond the Darkness'

Date: Saturday 18 March

Time: 10.30am-3.30pm

Cost: £25

As we journey towards the Cross during Lent what better companion to help sustain us than Saint John of the Cross. This Seventeenth Century Spanish mystic entered deeply into the darkness of Christ's sacrifice and shared the wound of redemptive love. His poetry and his advice on prayer and Christian discipleship are both profound and simple. As John says, 'As the night descends remind me again that the soul that walks in love neither rests nor grows tired'.

Tutor: The Right Revd Norman Banks, *Bishop of Richborough*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery, St Albans Cathedral

'The Wonder in the Barest Reality': Seeing Salvation Through the Eyes of Stanley Spencer

Date: Saturday 25 March

Time: 10.30am-3.30pm

Cost: £25

Stanley Spencer, one of the most important and original British artists of the twentieth century, shared with Francis of Assisi both a profound sense of the infinite worth of ordinary life and commonplace things, and a perception of everyday

events transfigured by the presence of God. This study day will explore Spencer's child-like, but never childish, faith through his words and paintings: work which is both accessible and visionary, modern, but steeped in tradition.

Tutor: The Revd Iain Lane, *Tutor in Theology and Visual Arts*

Venue: Diocesan Board Room, Holywell Lodge

Come & Sing: Stainer's *The Crucifixion*

Date: Saturday 8 April

Time: 2.30pm rehearsal, 6.30pm performance

Cost: £12 (tickets to hear the performance: £5)

An opportunity 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 itself, and in a wonderful space with a renowned conductor.

Scores 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

TALKS

Europe's Other Faith? Islam in German History and its Implications for Britain Today

Date: Monday 23 January

Time: 7.30-c.9.30pm

Cost: £10

This lecture explores how Islam and Muslims figured in German history and culture from the eighteenth century until the First World War. Using a wide range of media, including scripture, secular texts, painting, and photography, the lecture looks at how Islam was represented first as an 'outsider' or 'imposter' religion, though later, as intellectual and political agendas changed, as a sister faith to Christianity and Judaism. A critical awareness of the position of Islam in German history deepens our understanding of the tensions bearing in on Muslim communities today, as they seek to position themselves within UK society without losing their faith and identity, seeking to integrate without being assimilated. A response and discussion will follow.

Tutor: Dr James Hodkinson, *Warwick University*

Venue: Crypt, St Albans Cathedral

The Gospel According to John

Date: Thursday 26 January

Time: 8.00-c.9.30pm

Cost: £6

St Clement of Alexandria called John 'The Spiritual Gospel' – meaning not that the others were unspiritual, but that John penetrates more deeply into the inner meaning of the material in the other three. John's Gospel has been obviously influenced by Greek philosophy in its presentation of Jesus as the eternal Word or Logos; and its symbolism and sacramentalism suggest a more mystical approach to the revelation of Jesus Christ. This lecture will explore the special character of the work and try to open up its thought world, showing why, despite its apparent difficulty, in many respects John is more compatible with contemporary thought than the other evangelists.

Tutor: The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John, *Dean of St Albans*

Venue: Lady Chapel, St Albans Cathedral

The Beauty and the Horror

Date: Monday 13 February

Time: 7.30-c.9.00pm

Cost: £6

The mind naturally moves to the possibility of a wise and loving power behind the universe. But time and again we are brought up short by some terrible suffering. How could love have created such a world as ours? For many people this is the biggest of all questions. Drawing on his new book *The Beauty and the Horror*, described by the Director of The Humanist Society as 'the best case that could be made', Richard Harries suggest that for the emergence of rational beings like ourselves something like the world we know seems to be necessary. However, in the end we are driven back to Christian essentials, belief in Christ, his resurrection, and life eternal.

+Richard Harries' book, The Beauty and the Horror, will be available to buy at this event.

Tutor: The Right Revd Lord Harries of Pentregarth, *Former Bishop of Oxford*

Venue: Crypt, St Albans Cathedral

THE CANON SCIENTIST'S ANNUAL LECTURE: Science, Religion, and the Search for Extra-terrestrial Life

Date: Thursday 2 March

Time: 7.30-c.9.30pm

Cost: £6

One of the most extraordinary scientific discoveries of recent years has been the observation of exoplanets, that is planets outside the Solar System. In this lecture, Prof Wilkinson explores the implications of these discoveries for the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence and what this means for

Christian faith from what it means to be human to how Jesus can be thought about in a cosmic setting.

Tutor: The Revd Prof David Wilkinson, *Canon Scientist*

Venue: Lady Chapel, St Albans Cathedral

Chaucer and his Pilgrims

Date: Monday 13 March

Time: 8.00-c.9.45pm

Cost: £10

Geoffrey Chaucer's pilgrims were a mixed crowd, all described in a lively way and with some interesting stories to tell. This talk will focus on the Prologue to *The Canterbury Tales* within the medieval concept of pilgrimage, the characters described there and some of their tales. The emphasis will be on the church and its representatives, from the Parson to the Pardoner, as revealed by Chaucer. He may have died in 1400 but he has much to interest and amuse in the twenty first century. Extracts will be from a modern translation; no knowledge of Middle English is needed!

Tutor: Canon Margaret Tinsley, *Tutor in Literature*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery, St Albans Cathedral

Stained Glass in St Albans Abbey: Ancient and Modern

In partnership with the Friends of St Albans Abbey

Date: Thursday 16 March

Time: 7.30-c.9.30pm

Cost: Friends Members £8; Non-members £10.50

When Professor Martin Biddle came to talk to the Friends of the Abbey in March 2016 about the floor of the medieval Chapter House at St Albans which he had excavated some years earlier, he was accompanied by Dr Heather Gilderdale Scott who is a leading medieval stained glass scholar. Thousands of fragments of medieval glass from the windows of the Chapter House were recovered during the excavations: many of them too corroded to decipher, but a smaller quantity retained their colour, detail and beauty. Heather has used the skill she developed in dealing with more than 5,000 fragments of glass from Coventry's medieval Cathedral, to put the pieces together so that we can begin to appreciate the richness of the decoration in the St Albans medieval Chapter House.

Tutor: Dr Heather Gilderdale Scott

Venue: Lady Chapel, St Albans Cathedral

SUMMER SCHOOLS

Advance notice...

Our summer schools in **New Testament Greek** and **Latin** run concurrently, and students may take any or all weeks. Week 1 is for complete beginners, week 2 for post-beginners, and week 3 intermediate.

Dates: Week 1—Monday 31 Jul - Friday 4 Aug

Week 2—Monday 7 Aug - Friday 11 Aug

Week 3—Monday 14 Aug - Friday 18 Aug

Time: 10.00am-4.00pm

Cost: £140/week (students will also be expected to purchase a textbook).

Booking opens January 2017.

St Albans Cathedral Library

The Cathedral's modern theological lending library is open daily during the week, and before some evening classes.

The library will be moving to a temporary location during the course of 2017: please see the website for up to date opening times and location.

Until August 2018, membership of the Library is free. Please email if you require more information.

St Albans Cathedral Study Centre and Library

The Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban
Sumpter Yard
St Albans AL1 1BY

www.stalbanscathedral.org/learning

studycentre@stalbanscathedral.org
01727 890205

library@stalbanscathedral.org
01727 890222



St Albans Cathedral Study Centre



@StACSC

Cover image by Matthew Paris, courtesy of the Masters and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.