

ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL STUDY CENTRE Spring 2018



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) between 10am and 4.45pm Monday to Saturday and 1pm to 4.45pm on Sunday.

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

How Can I Forgive Myself?

Date: Monday 29 January

Time: 7.30-c.9.00pm **Price:** £10

Is self-forgiveness possible? Why does forgiving ourselves sometimes seem far more difficult than forgiving others? This talk will draw on sources from philosophy, theology, literature, and real-life memoirs to explore the topic of self-forgiveness, showing its links to such characteristics as humility, pride, and self-respect. Amongst the questions to be explored are whether it is ever legitimate to forgive yourself before the person you have wronged has forgiven you, and whether self-forgiveness needs to involve eradicating self-blame and self-reproach, or merely diminishing the power they hold over us.

Tutor: Prof. John Lippitt, *Professor of Ethics and Philosophy of Religion, University of Hertfordshire*

Venue: Diocesan Board Room, Holywell Lodge

Love in a Post-Truth World

Date: Friday 9 February

Time: 7.30-c.9.00pm **Price:** £6

Attention to the truth is a work of love. Communities

disintegrate where truth is not prized. Andrew Davison, the Canon Philosopher, will turn to the subject of Christian love in the final of his three lectures surveying 'Faith, Hope and Love in a Post-Truth World'. All are welcome, whether you have been to earlier lectures or not.

Tutor: The Rev'd Dr Andrew Davison, *Canon Philosopher*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

The Dean's Lecture: Mark's Gospel

Date: Thursday 15 February

Time: 7.30-c.9.00pm **Price:** £6

Mark is the earliest gospel, the shortest and (deceptively) the simplest – and potentially the most interesting of all. It is the place to start if you are serious about understanding the gospels. How historical is it? Why does it have a weirdly abrupt ending, and no resurrection story or birth story? The pace is dramatic, as Jesus hurtles around Palestine performing miracles, throwing out demons, quarrelling with Pharisees – all expressed in short, piled-sentences and a breathless style. What was Mark really doing in creating this new genre – a 'gospel'? Come and find out how much fascination is packed into this tiny, world-changing, life-changing document.

Tutor: The Very Rev'd Dr Jeffrey John, *Dean of St Albans Cathedral*

Venue: Lady Chapel, St Albans Cathedral

Hiding in Plain Sight: The Theology of Esther and Purim

Date: Monday 19 February

Time: 7.30-c.9.00pm **Price:** £10

A talk about the Jewish festival of Purim, which re-enacts the story of the biblical Book of Esther, and the unlikely theology shared between the two. Arguably, Esther is one of the most applicable works to modern Jewish theology despite (or maybe due to) the fact that God isn't mentioned once. God's behind-the-scenes persona and Purim's nothing-as-it-seems practice all draw from this mysterious and magnificent book.

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

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

We mark International Women's Day in March by holding a series of events celebrating some notable historical women.

Shakespeare's Women*

Date: Thursday 1 March

Time: 8.00-9.30pm

Price: £10

Women play a small but significant part in Shakespeare's plays. In this lecture we shall look at women's roles and influence from the taunting of Lady Macbeth to the trickery of Beatrice, from the power of Cleopatra to the weakness of Ophelia. From this will come some insight into the social and moral importance of women in Shakespearean drama and how they affect and are affected by the male characters.

Tutor: Canon Margaret Tinsley, *Tutor in Literature*

Venue: Lady Chapel, St Albans Cathedral

Eleanor Longshanks*

Date: Saturday 3 March

Time: 7.30-c.9.00pm

Price: £12.50

Be transported back to medieval St Albans and the court of King Arthur as we weave together the history of Queen Eleanor of Castille and a legend of Camelot. In 1290 Eleanor died in Lincoln, and her heartbroken husband Edward I erected 12 monuments in her honour stretching from Lincoln to Westminster, including St Albans. Enter Edward and Eleanor's world through the ancient art of storytelling, seeing the contradictory and glorious powerhouse that she was; mother, lover, bookworm, huntress, crusader, and chess champion.

Produced by Sue Macmillan and Hannah McDowall.

Venue: Lady Chapel, St Albans Cathedral

Revelations of Divine Love*

Date: Thursday 15 March

Time: 8.00-c.9.30pm

Price: £5

A musical meditation based on the writings of the fourteenth-century Christian mystic, Julian of Norwich. On her deathbed, Julian experienced sixteen mystical visions, and after a miraculous recovery she wrote about them, including contemplations of the love of God. Her 'Revelations of Divine

Love' claims to be the first published book in English to be written by a woman. This evening combines music, dance, and story-telling to convey the beauty of her writings.

Produced by the Julian of Norwich Theatre Company.

Venue: Lady Chapel, St Albans Cathedral

STUDY DAYS

Learn to Read Latin in a Day

Date: Saturday 27 January

Time: 10.30am-3.30pm **Price:** £25

Fancy skipping all that lengthy grammar study and simply reading some Latin literature... in Latin? By using interlinear Latin-English translations this study day will guide us chronologically through 900 hundred years of Latin literature, allowing for a broad taster of how Latin works, sounds, and has influenced Western thought and literature up to the present day. No formal language skills required.

Tutor: Anthony Armstrong, *Tutor in Latin*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

Watercolour Expressions in the Snow

Date: Saturday 27 January

Time: 10.30am-3.30pm **Price:** £25 (plus materials)

Local watercolour artist, Fiona Pruden, helps you to take inspiration from the surroundings of the Cathedral this winter. By showing you how to paint images of the Cathedral adorned by the snow, she helps you develop your creativity while learning all the skills you need to express yourself in watercolours.

This practical study day, which includes discussions and demonstrations, will encourage you to see what is important and teach simple but effective ways of creating your own interpretation.

Tutor: Fiona Pruden, *Watercolour Specialist*

Venue: North Transept, St Albans Cathedral

Top-up your New Testament Greek

Date: Saturday 3 February

Time: 10.30am-3.30pm **Price:** £25

An opportunity to revisit and revise your New Testament

Greek in a study day for students who have studied the language before to beginners' level, or those who studied it a long time ago and want a refresher.

Tutor: Kirsty Borthwick, *Tutor in New Testament Greek*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

The Historical Jesus and Inner Life

Date: Saturday 10 February

Time: 10.00am-3.30pm **Price:** £25

One of the settled results of Biblical scholarship on the New Testament is that Jesus was distinctively interested in inner life. He taught his disciples to pray privately, to watch intentions more than actions, and to find the kingdom of God 'within', not in an anticipated social revolution. It led to Christianity introducing elements of experience that we now routinely take to be part of being an individual, from free will to the value of confession. So what might this mean for us and Christianity today? What might it have to say to a world that is also interested in the individual, though some say in excess? This workshop will attempt to glimpse and apply an historical side to Jesus that can still surprise us.

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

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

'In the manner of smoke': Leonardo, Art and Faith

Date: Saturday 3 March

Time: 10.30am-3.30pm **Price:** £25

Leonardo da Vinci produced some of the most compelling images in the history of Christian art, yet it is often taken for granted that this multi-talented genius was not a man of faith. This study day explores each of Leonardo's surviving, overtly Christian works in detail, exploring their meaning and setting them in context. The picture which is revealed is of an artist of profound religious sensibility rooted in both scientific rationality and a deep awareness of the human condition: a man who embodied a unity of vision which has arguably been lost in our own age. Artist, scientist, anatomist, cartographer, musician, engineer, yes, and more besides; but also, and ever, a theologian.

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

Venue: Diocesan Board Room, Holywell Lodge

The Lowliness Of His Handmaiden: Mary the Marginalised*

Date: Saturday 10 March

Time: 10.30am-3.30pm **Price:** £25

The Bible is a rich treasure trove of narratives, and narratives within narratives. This study day on Mary considers the 'story within the story' of Mary, the mother of Jesus, in Luke's Gospel. Are there echoes of Old Testament narratives within the story of Mary? Within the character of Mary, can we hear the distant strains of one of the most neglected and problematic women in the Old Testament? If so, what does this say about Mary, and about Jesus himself? This day will consider insights into Mary from liberation theology and art to explore the riches of this central character in the story of salvation.

Tutor: The Rev'd Lucy Dallas, *St Nicholas Elstree & ERMC*

Venue: Diocesan Board Room, Holywell Lodge

STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Students may turn up to any of these without booking.

Latin Reading Group

Dates: Mondays 8 Jan, 5 Feb, 5 Mar

Time: 8.00-c9.45pm **Cost:** £10 per session

The Latin Reading Group meets once a month to read a section of a relevant Latin text. We try to cover a range of texts – recent ones include Bede's *Life of St Cuthbert*, Hildegard of Bingen's *Ordo Virtutum*, and the medieval version of Aesop's *Fables* known as the *Elegaic Romulus*. It is suitable for those with intermediate Latin and above.

Please see the website for details of the texts, or email us to be added to the mailing list for reminders about this group.

Tutor: Anthony Armstrong, *Tutor of Latin and Greek*

Venue: Thicknesse Room, The Deanery

Greek New Testament Study Group

Dates: Mondays 29 Jan, 19 Feb, 12 Mar

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. 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. 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. This term, we shall be translating the Gospel reading for the next Sunday service at the Cathedral.

Jan: Luke 2:22-52 **Feb:** Romans 4:13-end **Mar:** John 12:12-36

Tutors: The Rev'd Dr Kevin Walton, *Canon Chancellor*, and Anthony Armstrong, *Tutor of Latin and Greek*

Venue: Lawrance Room, The Deanery

Hebrew Reading Group

Dates: Wednesdays 31 Jan and 7 Mar

Time: 8-9.45pm

Cost: £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. Texts can be circulated in advance, and students are encouraged to prepare, though they will not be expected to read without assistance.

Jan: Isaiah 6:1-13 **Mar:** Isaiah 61:1-11

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

Venue: The Deanery, St Albans Cathedral

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 join us.

The Book Group

On the second Tuesday of the month in the afternoon/evening, the book group meets to discuss a novel of interest to a Christian audience. See the website for more details, or email us to be added to the mailing list for reminders about this group. No need to book, just turn up.

9 Jan: *The Warden* by Anthony Trollope

13 Feb: *Unless* by Carol Shields

13 Mar: *The Power* by Naomi Alderman

Venue: Lawrance Room, The Deanery, St Albans Cathedral

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.

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

Introduction to the New Testament

This may be taken independently, or as a 20 credit core module (with assessment) of SACT

This 10-week course is an introduction to academic study of the New Testament, and will examine the structure, purpose, and themes of several genres of New Testament texts. The texts will be set in the context of the world in which they were produced and the earliest development of Christianity.

This course is running both in St Albans and in Bedford. Please note the details for each venue:

Bedford

Dates: Tuesdays 9 Jan – 20 March (excl. 13 Feb)

Time: 7.45-9.30pm **Cost:** £110

Tutor: The Rev'd Dr John Weaver, *Tutor in NT Studies*

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

St Albans

Dates: Thursdays 11 Jan – 22 March (excl. 15 Feb)

Time: 8.00-9.45pm **Cost:** £110

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

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery, **St Albans**

Anglo-Saxon Literature: Pagan or Christian?

This may be taken independently, or as a 10 credit core module (with assessment) of SACT or SACT+

Dates: Wednesdays 10 Jan – 7 Feb

Time: 8.00-9.45pm **Cost:** £60

Who were the Anglo-Saxons? Pagan Germanic tribes full of proud boasts, eager for glory and fame? Or pious Christians

famed for writing Saints' Lives, reforming the monasteries, and becoming some of our earliest martyrs? The truth is that these descriptions are intertwined, and we can see the fusion (and sometimes conflict) between the pagan and the Christian in their literature. In this 5-week course, we explore themes of creation, heroics, reflection, and wisdom in Anglo-Saxon poetry and prose to explore the faith of the people who wrote it.

Tutor: Caroline Godden, *Adult Learning Officer*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

The Book of Isaiah

This may be taken independently, or as a 10 credit core module (with assessment) of SACT or SACT+

Dates: Tuesdays 20 Feb – 20 Mar

Time: 8.00-9.45pm

Cost: £60

The Book of Isaiah speaks strongly to the situations in which it arose, but has also spoken in subsequent centuries. Christians have found within it prophecies pointing to the birth and death of Christ, and passages are read through Advent, Christmas, and Holy Week. It is therefore not surprising that it is sometimes referred to as the 'Fifth Gospel'. More recently, scholars have identified different parts to the book and even different 'Isaiahs'. All agree that it contains some of the most profound imagery of the Bible. This course aims to open up some of these aspects of this rich book. It is particularly geared to those who have a grounding in the Old Testament through previous study, and will include elements of study preparation.

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

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

Beginners' Hebrew

This may be taken independently, or as a 10 credit core module (with assessment) of SACT or SACT+

Dates: Tuesdays 9 Jan – 6 Feb

Time: 8.00-9.45pm

Cost: £60

This 5-week course is designed for complete beginners to give a taste of the elements of Biblical Hebrew: to become familiar with the alphabet, some common vocabulary, and to introduce elements of Hebrew grammar. Students will also learn how to use a dictionary and other resources to go further, and start to

approach Old Testament texts. To benefit fully from the course, some course work will need to be undertaken.

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

Venue: Thicknesse Room, The Deanery

Intermediate Old English

*This may be taken independently, or as a 10 credit core module (with assessment) of **SACT** or **SACT+***

Dates: Wednesdays 21 Feb – 21 Mar

Time: 8.00-c.9.45pm

Cost: £60

This 5-week course is designed for those who have completed our Post-beginners' course in Old English. It will build on existing understanding of grammar, while concentrating on the translation of and familiarisation with a broader range of Anglo-Saxon texts.

Tutor: Caroline Godden, *Adult Learning Officer*

Venue: Thicknesse Room, The Deanery

Mindfulness

Dates: Wednesdays 17 Jan – 14 Mar (excl. 14 Feb) and Saturday 3 March (full day)

Time: 7.45-9.45pm

Cost: £170 (inc CD set)

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. Bookings must be received by 10 January.

Tutor: Caroline Waterstone, *Mindfulness Teacher*

Venue: Studio, Sumpter Yard, St Albans Cathedral

COMING UP...

Look out for more information coming soon on a number of Study Centre events, including:

- Summer Schools in New Testament Greek and Latin (30 July - 3 August and 6 - 10 August)
- Talks and events exploring the Cathedral's mission statement to 'stand with St Alban for truth and justice'
- An Artist in Residence who will use the Cathedral's hidden historical graffiti to create a Graffiti mural, working collaboratively with the local community.

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.

Membership is free until August 2018.

Please come and visit us in our new location in the Lawrance Room of the Deanery.

St Albans Cathedral Study Centre

The Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban

Sumpter Yard

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St Albans Cathedral Study Centre



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