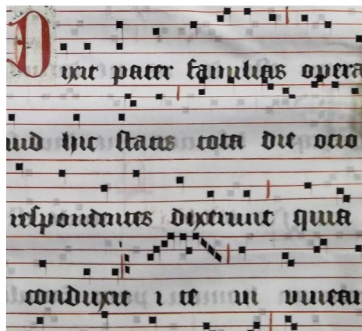


ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL STUDY CENTRE Summer 2018



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)

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

Hope in the Face of Futility: The Future of the Universe and New Creation

Date: Wednesday 11 April

Time: 7.30-9.00pm **Price:** £6

The discovery that the universe is accelerating in its expansion suggests that it is destined to a long-term future of futility, where life cannot go on. What does Christian hope say to such a picture? Is Christianity about a spiritual eternity where the physical is irrelevant – or does the resurrection of Jesus mean that there is a much more exciting future ahead?

Tutor: The Rev'd Prof David Wilkinson, *Canon Scientist*

Venue: The Lady Chapel, St Albans Cathedral

A Challenge to Church Homophobia Past & Present

Date: Thursday 26 April

Time: 8.00-9.30pm **Price:** £10

Human Rights Activist Peter Tatchell joins us to talk about the history, motives, and outcomes of his activism. He particularly draws on his experience campaigning for LGBT rights, and takes a look at the broad issues as well as focusing on the Church in particular.

Tutor: Peter Tatchell, *Human Rights Activist*

Venue: The Lady Chapel, St Albans Cathedral

Sexuality and Symbolism in the Song of Songs

Date: Wednesday 2 May

Time: 7.30-9.00pm **Price:** £10

Join Rabbi Adam from St Albans Masorti Synagogue for a study session and discussion on the Song of Songs, the book that

Rabbi Akiva said was the holiest in the entire Hebrew bible! What's the story with this short story of love and passion? How have Jewish thinkers understood the esotericism and eroticism of Song of Songs and how should we understand it today?

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

Venue: Boardroom, Holywell Lodge

Poetry Reading: Mr Betjeman's Lovely and Lonely Ladies

Date: Tuesday 15 May

Time: 8.00-9.30pm **Price:** £10

John Betjeman is sometimes dismissed as a 'populist' and a 'trite rhymers'. This is most unfair. Betjeman had an acute understanding of the human condition with its amalgam of joy and sorrow, hope and resignation. During his life he practised as a High Anglican and the struggle between faith and doubt was one he fully embraced. In particular he adored female company and many of his poems celebrate womanhood through the many seasons of life. This evening explores how Betjeman's poetry shows an appreciation of humanity reflecting the beauty of God and demonstrates compassion for human sadness and aloneness.

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

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

Shakespeare's Women

Date: Wednesday 16 May

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: The Quire, St Albans Cathedral

Energy for Everyone?

Date: Thursday 7 June

Time: 7.30-9.00pm **Price:** £10

Professor Bill David FRS joins us to talk about the challenges of securing future sustainable and affordable energy provision for both the developed and developing worlds. In addition to discussing how his Christian faith is a motivation for stewardship

and provision of appropriate resources, he will also explore some of the ethical and moral issues, both positive and negative, associated with a clean, green future for us all.

Tutor: Prof Bill David FRS, *Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and University of Oxford*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

Faith and Football

Date: Thursday 14 June

Time: 7.30-9.00pm

Price: £10

Stephen Poxon is a freelance writer, author of *A Father's Heart*, *Through the Year with William Booth*, *Through the Year with Catherine Booth*, *Through the Year with John Wesley*, and *At the Master's Side*. He is an avid football fan (Hartlepool United, Manchester City, St Albans City, and Hull City), and will talk about his newest writing project, *Faith & Football*, exploring both subjects and welcoming questions on relevant issues.

Tutor: Stephen Poxon, *Freelance Writer*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

Exploring the Earliest Story of St Alban – a Window on Late Roman Britain

Date: Tuesday 19 June

Time: 7.30-9.00pm

Price: £10

This lecture will be based on the latest research into the history of devotion to St Alban. It will explore what we might be able to learn from the earliest source about the Roman British Church and the nature of late Roman Christian culture and belief in Britain and on the Continent. The lecture will be given by Mark Laynesmith who is completing his doctorate on the Cult of St Alban of Verulamium, c. 400-750.

Tutor: Mark Laynesmith, *University of Reading*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

John Whethamstede: Renaissance Abbot

Date: Thursday 28 June

Time: 8.00-c.9.30pm

Price: £10

The rediscovery of the remains of John Whethamstede (c.1390-1465) reconnects us not only with one of St Albans' most colourful abbots but also with one of the most dramatic eras in its medieval history. He led St Albans over four decades when church, state, and society were undergoing profound change: wars, the spread of heresy, pressure for monastic reform, a rising sense of national identity. When

many monasteries faltered and faded in the face of these challenges, Abbot Whethamstede raised St Albans to fresh heights. Something of a polymath himself, it might be said that Whethamstede brought a renaissance to St Albans.

Tutor: Prof. James Clark, *University of Exeter*

Venue: The Lady Chapel, St Albans Cathedral

Praying With Your Eyes

Date: Saturday 28 July

Time: evensong at 4pm, talk at c.5pm **Price:** £10

Ian Knowles, Principal of the Bethlehem Icon Centre, joins us for a special evening which starts with evensong in the glorious setting of the Cathedral, sung by the Trinitati Cathedral Singers, and is followed by a talk exploring icons and prayer. More details will be available on our webpages.

Tutor: Ian Knowles, *Bethlehem Icon Centre*

Venue: Cathedral (for evensong), followed by Chapter Room, The Deanery (for talk)

STUDY DAYS

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

Date: Saturday 21 April

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 assumed that this multi-talented genius was not a man of faith. This day explores each of Leonardo's surviving, overtly Christian works in detail, exploring them 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; but also, and ever, a theologian.

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

Venue: Board Room, Holywell Lodge

Come & Sing: Extracts from Handel's Messiah

Date: Saturday 28 April

Time: 2.30pm rehearsal, 6.30pm performance

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

We are delighted to be joined by Guest Conductor Nicholas Freestone, who offers the opportunity to learn extracts from Handel's 'Messiah' in an afternoon, culminating in a

performance at the Cathedral in the evening. Scores (New Novello, Watkins Shaw) and cold refreshments provided. Please dress smartly. Ability to read music is helpful.

Tutor: Nicholas Freestone, *Acting Sub Organist at St Paul's Cathedral*

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

Watercolour Expressions: Spring

Date: Saturday 28 April

Time: 10am-3pm **Price:** £25

Develop your creativity while learning the skills you need to express yourself in watercolours and produce paintings full of light and colour. Fiona Pruden, a watercolour specialist who is traditionally trained with over 15 years of teaching experience, will guide you through capturing the vibrant and beautiful Spring colours around the glorious setting of the Cathedral.

Tutor: Fiona Pruden, *Watercolour Specialist*

Venue: North Transept, St Albans Cathedral

Why Painting Matters

Date: Saturday 12 May

Time: 10.30am-3.30pm **Price:** free

The visual arts are important to many people – but why? Why do paintings, in particular, matter to people? Do paintings have special qualities that distinguish them from other forms of imagery? Do they have a deeper significance than just looking attractive? Can we learn from them, and if so what? Most of what we now consider art once had a religious purpose – can it make sense to think of art as having a religious significance today? This workshop will consist of three presentations and a discussion about painting and why we might care about it.

Speakers:

The Rev'd Iain Lane, *Theologian, Cathedral Study Centre*

Dr Anthony Rudd, *Philosopher, St Olaf College, USA and University of Hertfordshire*

Stephen Taylor, *Painter, Cambridgeshire*

Chair: Professor John Lippitt, *University of Hertfordshire*

Venue: Board Room, Holywell Lodge

Interlinear Latin in a Day: The Aeneid, Books 1-6

Date: Saturday 19 May

Time: 10.30am-3.30pm **Price:** £25

Virgil was the Roman answer to the Greek's Homer. Published

soon after his death in 19 BC, his twelve-book epic, *The Aeneid*, which charts the wanderings and achievements of the exiled Trojan prince Aeneas, was quickly recognised as monumental, and has exerted a strong influence over Western culture since. This study day will explore a selection of key episodes taken from the first six books of the poem which detail Aeneas' initial journey across the Mediterranean, his whirlwind romance with Dido, Queen of Carthage, and finally his descent into the underworld. No knowledge of Latin required.

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

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

Top-Up Your New Testament Greek

Date: Saturday 16 June

Time: 10.30am-3.30pm

Price: £25

The second of our 'top up' study days, giving an opportunity to revisit and revise your New Testament Greek for students who have studied the language before to post-beginners' level, or those who studied it a long time ago and want a refresher.

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

Venue: Thicknesse Room, The Deanery

Film Morning: The Diary of a Country Priest

Date: Saturday 30 June

Time: 10am-1pm

Price: £15

French director Robert Bresson (1901-99) took a radical approach to film-making, rejecting conventional 'cinema' in search of a new cinematographic art-form, and much of his work explored spiritual themes. This study morning introduces Bresson's theory and practice as an artist and includes a full showing of his 1951 film 'The Diary of a Country Priest' (in French with English sub-titles) - a beautiful, powerful, and moving masterpiece based on a novel by Georges Bernanos and featuring Claude Laydu in what is often regarded as one of the greatest performances in the history of film.

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

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

Theology and the Tour de France

Date: Saturday 7 July

Time: 10.30am-3.30pm

Price: £25

The *Tour de France* is so much more than watching 172 lycra-clad men cycling over 2000 miles in just over 3 weeks. Once you understand the tactics, the different aims, the fact that the

riders ride as a team, that the result will be decided by a few seconds, you realise the ultimate drama that is the *Tour de France*. This study day – incorporating watching the *grand depart* – will enable you to do that, also reflecting on the theological aspects of the struggle: no event glorifies vicarious suffering so vividly, or self-sacrifice for others so nobly, or the spiritual nature of the quest or pilgrimage so revealingly.

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

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

What Happened to the Second Coming?

Date: Saturday 21 July

Time: 10.30am-3.30pm

Price: £25

Christians believe that Jesus will come again in glory at the end of time, to judge the living and the dead. At least, this is what they say when they recite the creed. But we have been waiting for two thousand years, even though it looks like the earliest Christians, and maybe even Jesus himself, thought that the second coming was just around the corner. Could Jesus have been wrong? In this study day, we will reconsider how biblical prophecies work and what they are for, and in doing so discover what it really means to live in hope.

Please bring a Bible for this study day.

Tutor: Richard Ounsworth, OP

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Latin Reading Group

Dates: Mondays 23 Apr, 21 May, 25 Jun, 23 Jul

Time: 8.00-c9.45pm

Price: £10 per session

The Latin Reading Group meets once a month to read a section of a relevant Latin text. We shall be continuing with Bede's *Life of St Cuthbert*, although no previous knowledge of this is required for new members.

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: Anthony Armstrong, *Tutor of Latin and Greek*

Venue: Thicknesse Room, The Deanery

Old English Reading Group

Dates: Tuesdays 8 May, 12 Jun, 10 Jul

Time: 8.00-c9.45pm

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 us to be added to the mailing list for reminders about this group.

Tutor: Caroline Godden, *Adult Learning Officer*

Venue: The Deanery

Greek New Testament Study Group

Dates: Mondays 30 Apr, 4 Jun, 16 Jul

Time: 8.00-9.00pm

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.

Apr: Acts 10:44-11:18 **June:** Mk 3:13-end **Jul:** Mk 6:30-end

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

Venue: Thicknesse Room, The Deanery

Hebrew Reading Group

Dates: Wednesday 23 May

Time: 8-9.45pm

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

Please email canon@stalbanscathedral.org for the text.

Tutor: The Revd Dr Kevin Walton, *Canon Chancellor*

Venue: The Deanery

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.

Book Club

On the second Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm and 6pm, 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 us to be added to the mailing list for reminders about the group. No need to book.

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 Philosophy (SACT & SACT+)

Date: Thursdays 19 Apr - 24 May (excl. 10 May)

Time: 8-c.9.45pm **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 5-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.

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

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

Faith and Culture (SACT & SACT+)

Date: Wednesdays 20 June - 18 July

Time: 8-c.9.45pm **Price:** £60

Christian faith and culture are inseparable in practice, yet the relation between the two is interpreted differently by theologians. On the one hand, Christian faith is universal and is not the property of any particular culture or cultures. On the other hand however, any attempt to live and understand the reality of being Christian must be deeply cultural and specific to its context, because culture defines how we understand the world. In this course, we shall study the basic issues at stake in relating faith to culture, and some seminal approaches to understanding how best to approach these issues.

Tutor: Dr Jacob Phillips, *Tutor in Theology*

Venue: Chapter Room, The Deanery

Hebrew 2 (SACT & SACT+)

Date: Tuesdays 17 Apr – 15 May

Time: 8-c.9.45pm **Price:** £60

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

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

Venue: Room tbc, The Deanery

Hebrew 3 (SACT & SACT+)

Date: Tuesdays 5 Jun – 10 Jul (excl. 26 Jun)

Time: 8-c.9.45pm **Price:** £60

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

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

Venue: Thicknesse Room, The Deanery

Old English I (SACT & SACT+)

Date: Wednesdays 6 Jun – 11 Jul (excl. 4 Jul)

Time: 8-c.9.45pm **Price:** £60

This five-week course is designed for complete beginners, and will introduce the basics of grammar while taking in the historical context of the language and some of its evolution through the last thousand years. Students will be expected to learn vocabulary on a weekly basis, and will use translation exercises and Anglo-Saxon learning techniques to bring confidence when translating simple texts.

Tutor: Caroline Godden, *Adult Learning Officer*

Venue: Thicknesse Room, The Deanery

SUMMER SCHOOLS

New Testament Greek and Latin

Week 1 (beginners): Monday 30 July - Friday 3 August

Week 2 (post-beginners): Monday 6 August - Friday 10 August

Time: 10.00am-4.00pm

Price: £140/week if booked before 1 July
(£150/week if booked after 1 July)

Students will also be expected to purchase a textbook.

Our Summer Schools in New Testament Greek and Latin run concurrently, and students may take either or both weeks.

These summer schools are suitable for all, but may be particularly relevant to sixth formers exploring university options of Classics, Theology or Medieval Studies, undergraduates or postgraduates taking related courses, and any other interested adults who want something unusual to do with their summer!

There is no accommodation available at the Cathedral, but we may be able to assist anyone who needs somewhere to stay in St Albans. Bursaries may be available.

Greek Tutor: Dr Gill Knight, Tutor of Greek

Latin Tutor: Anthony Armstrong, Tutor of Latin

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

The Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban

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