

St. Albans Centre for Christian Studies

Spring Term 2008

APPLICATION FORM

Please enrol me/us for: *(please tick)*

- The World's Great Religions
- St Paul in a day
- The Holy Trinity in a day
- A Christian reads...
- The Church in Acts
- Is there a gospel for Judas?

Name(s).....

Address.....

.....

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Post code.....

Tel.....

Email.....

Church attended (if any).....

I enclose payment of £.....

***Please send cheques payable to
St Albans Cathedral Education Trust to:***

The Secretary, St Albans Centre for Christian Studies,
Cathedral and Abbey Church of Saint Alban,
Sumpter Yard, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 1BY

*We do not want anyone to be deterred from attending any
events for financial reasons. If you find the fees prohibitive,
please contact the office on 01727 890205.*

*Your details will not be disclosed to any third party. If you
would prefer not to receive information about future events
at the Study Centre, please tick this box*

**St Albans Cathedral Education Trust
is a registered charity no. 299317**

Bite-size Courses

Short, 3 session, courses offered on Tuesday evenings at the **Chapter House** in St Albans Cathedral. Each course begins at 8.00 pm and the cost for each is £20.

A Christian reads...

...three novelists — James Joyce, Graham Greene and David Lodge — representing three generations of Catholic authors. What do they say about God? What are their observations on religious themes? Can we determine from their writing what they believe about God? Each lecture offers an overview of their work and introduces their novels. No previous knowledge of the books is required, but (be warned!) you may be inspired to read some of them in future!

Tutor: Dr Dave Dickinson
Tuesdays: 8th, 15th and 22nd January.

The Church in Acts

The Acts of the Apostles is the primary source we have for the early church, its practice and beliefs. These three sessions will look at the book of Acts in order to explore the life of the church. We will look at the development of ministry in the early church, the practice of worship, and the growth and mission of the Christian community.

Tutor: Canon Dennis Stamps
Tuesdays: 5th, 12th and 19th February.

Is there a gospel for Judas?

The figure of Judas, the disciple who betrayed Jesus with a kiss, has often fascinated Christians. What do we make of him? What motivated him? What became of him? This short course, suitable for Lent, considers the current high level of interest in Judas firstly by looking at how the New Testament treats him, then by offering an assessment of the recently published *Gospel of Judas* lost in a desert cave until the 1970's. The course also introduces two twenty first century novels (**not** Jeffrey Archer's!) giving alternative perspectives on Judas' story.

Tutor: Dr Dave Dickinson
Tuesdays: 26th February, 4th and 11th March.



News & events

Spring Term

January to April

2008

An ecumenical centre
for Christian learning and a division of
St Albans Cathedral Education Trust
Registered Charity No. 299317

Working with
The University of Cambridge
Institute of Continuing Education

**A large print version of this
leaflet is available**

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

01727 890205
study-centre@stalbanscathedral.org.uk

Certificate Programme

The Cambridge Certificate in Theological Studies has been developed by the Centre and the Institute of Continuing Education of the University of Cambridge. The programme has three core modules. Modules 1 and 2 are normally taken together as a one year course: there are 30 evening sessions, in two modules of 15, and 2 assignments (usually essays of around 2250 words). Module 1 focuses on biblical studies and Module 2 on doctrine and ethics. Module 3 is a one term, ten session course. You may take modules 1 and 2, or module 3, in any order, and as 'stand alone' courses. If you wish to work towards the full Cambridge Certificate there are various further modules which are taught in St Albans: two further ten week modules would be required for the Certificate (60 credits in all). Full details of core modules 1 and 2, taught each year from September, are available in a separate leaflet. No previous academic background is required. **This term an optional module is offered:**

The World's Great Religions

Religion has been a highly important part of the lives of human beings. This course is an introduction to the great religions of the world: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Sikhism. These religions will be considered in terms of their early historical development, their key beliefs and key texts.

Tutor: Dr Karim Esmail
University of Cambridge

Venue: The Chapter House

Date: Wednesdays, 9th January to 19th March

Time: 8.00 pm

Cost: £55 (£45 concessions)

Credits: 10 credits (subject to attendance and assignment)

Saturday study days: ... 'in a day' introductions

Our 'in a day' introductions aim to cover all the ground in outline and to point the way to further reading, forming a gateway to further study. They are aimed at busy people whose diaries don't allow extended study on formal courses, but who would like to know more about theology and to think through their faith.

This term we offer:

St Paul in a day

The day will be a thorough introduction to St Paul, looking at the man and his mission, the themes in his theology, and a survey of the shape and contents of his epistles. Paul is for many Christians a difficult character and his work can be hard to understand: this day offers a way to begin to engage positively with this crucial figure in the early Church.

Tutor: Canon Dennis Stamps
Venue: The Chapter House Crypt
St Albans Cathedral

Date: Saturday, 2nd February

Time: 10.30 am to 3.30 pm

Cost: £15 (including morning coffee)

There will be a lunch break, please bring a packed lunch or take lunch in the Café at the Abbey.

The Holy Trinity in a day

What is the Trinity all about? Where does the concept come from? Is it scriptural? Does it matter? Is it relevant for 21st century Christians and for the life of the Church today? Far from being an optional extra, or a dry-as-dust academic idea far removed from real life, this day aims to open up the Christian understanding of God and explain why the idea of the Trinity is important and exciting!

Tutor: Canon Iain Lane
Venue: The Chapter House Crypt
St Albans Cathedral

Date: Saturday, 23rd February

Time: 10.30 am to 3.30 pm

Cost: £15 (including morning coffee)

There will be a lunch break, please bring a packed lunch or take lunch in the Café at the Abbey.

Sacred Time

The Centre is delighted to support the visit to the Abbey of Brother Patrick FSC, a De La Salle Brother, who will give a talk exploring Christian spirituality through the concept of 'sacred time'. Br Patrick is a specialist in medieval spirituality and has taught in Cambridge, London and Yale.

Date: Saturday, 19th January
Time: 10.30 am coffee & cake, 11.00 am to 12 noon Br Patrick's lecture
Cost: Donations on the day for Christian Aid

Venue: The Chapter House Crypt, *St Albans Cathedral*

As this event is not organised directly by the Centre please contact the organiser, Dorothy Percival, to book a place: 01727 856280 or dspercival@hotmail.com.
