

## Short evening courses

Short courses which carry no credits or expectations of further reading or study, but focus on specific subjects in some depth. **The venue for all three courses is the Chapter House at St Albans Abbey.**

### Rembrandt & the Bible

**Tuesdays 15, 22 & 29 September 2009**

Rembrandt was above all a painter and etcher of scenes from the Bible, both Old and New Testaments. This short course explores his work as an artist of faith, placing him in the context of contemporary Jewish and Christian theology and spirituality, and drawing on recent scholarship to shed new light on a much loved artist.

**Tutor:** Iain Lane

**Time:** 8.00 pm      **Cost:** £24

### E. M. Forster — Connections

**Tuesdays 6, 13 & 20 October 2009**

E.M. Forster's novels, popularised in the 1980s and 90s through the medium of film, often dealt with powerful religious themes. For Forster, who was a humanist, the most important of these was goodwill. These three classes will discuss the novels' treatment of religion, transcendence, spirituality, sexuality, pluralism and their connections. See how these novels from the early years of the twentieth century illuminate life for Christians in the early years of the twenty-first.

**Tutor:** Dr Dave Dickinson

**Time:** 8.00 pm      **Cost:** £24

### Jesus wins — A look at the Book of Revelation

**Tuesdays 17, 24 November & 1 December**

In these three sessions we will learn how to approach the Book of Revelation, what it is and what it is not. We will use music, art, and a careful reading of the text to help unravel this often mysterious, often confusing but ultimately uplifting account of God's triumph over evil. Participants are asked to read the whole book before the course begins.

**Tutor:** Lauryn Awbrey, Diocese of St Albans

**Time:** 8.00 pm      **Cost:** £24

## Matthew Paris Symposium

**Saturday 13 February 2010**

The Fraternity of Friends of St Albans Abbey is organising a symposium to mark the 750th anniversary of the death of Matthew Paris, the famous chronicler, cartographer and artist who was a monk at St Albans in the 13th century. A panel of distinguished speakers from major universities will explore Matthew Paris' unique and important contribution to British art, historiography and literature. StACCS is supporting the Fraternity in this event and will manage the bookings and delegate registration. Further details are now available via our web site, and booking will open in September.

### Venues and facilities

All our venues are fully accessible, but people with mobility impairment may need assistance from the cathedral staff in the Chapter House. There are kitchen and toilet facilities at all venues. There is some parking available on site at St Albans Abbey and Ashley Church; for Marlborough Road please use city centre public parking. If you require more help or advice, please contact us.

### Further information

Our web site contains more information on all our courses, venues and teaching staff. You can also download copies of this leaflet and our other material. Please go to

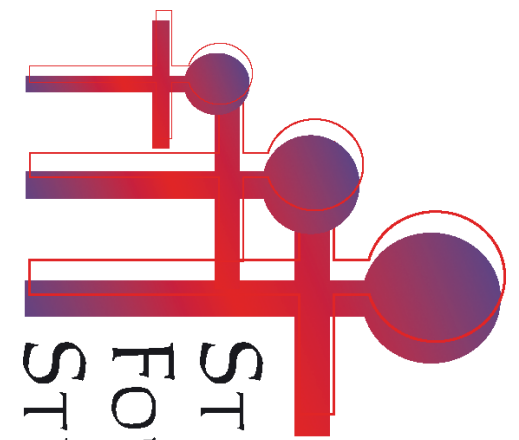
**[www.christianstudies.org.uk](http://www.christianstudies.org.uk)**

We also welcome enquiries at:

**St Albans Centre for Christian Studies**  
Sumpter Yard, St Albans, AL1 1BY  
01727 890205  
[info@christianstudies.org.uk](mailto:info@christianstudies.org.uk)

St Albans Centre for Christian Studies is an ecumenical centre for Christian learning and the adult education division of St Albans Cathedral Education Trust  
Registered Charity No. 299317

**A large print version of this leaflet is available on request.**



**ST ALBANS CENTRE  
FOR CHRISTIAN  
STUDIES**

**News & events: Autumn Term  
September to December 2009**

## Autumn Term 2009

### Application form

Please enrol me/us on the following course(s):

Name(s).....

Address.....

Post code.....

Tel.....

Email.....

Church attended (if any).....

A Morning in *The Shack*

God's Architect

Jesus... in a day

Churchless faith

E.M. Forster — Connections

Rembrandt & the Bible

Jesus wins: *Revelations*

I enclose payment of £.....

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

The Secretary, St Albans Centre for Christian Studies  
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 Centre 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*

### Certificate in Theology

At the heart of our work is the **Certificate Programme in Theological Studies** developed with Cambridge University Institute of Continuing Education. **Module 1**, *Sources for Theology (The Bible)*, begins this term, and we also offer **Module 3**, *The Christian understanding of Jesus*, a 10 credit, single term, course.

**For full details of Certificate programme courses see our Certificate leaflet, or go to our web site: [www.christianstudies.org.uk](http://www.christianstudies.org.uk)**

### Saturday study mornings and days

Our 'in a day' introductions are gateways to further study: aimed at busy people whose diaries don't allow extended study, but who would like to know more and think through their faith. We also offer 'morning only' sessions on more specific subjects. All events include morning coffee. On full days please bring a packed lunch.

### A Morning in *The Shack*

#### Saturday 12 September 2009

The success in America last year of William Paul Young's *The Shack* has been followed by equal success in Britain. It flies off the shelves of Christian and secular book shops; some pastors give copies free to enquirers; and it has been hailed as 'one of the most faith-enhancing books I have ever read'. But it also has critics. Our morning in *The Shack* is intended to help you make your own assessment of this much talked-about work. All who enrol will receive a voucher entitling you to a discount from the full price of the book at St Andrews Bookshop, Holywell Hill, St Albans.

**Tutor:** Dr Dave Dickinson

**Venue:** Ashley Church, Ashley Road, St Albans

**Time:** 10.00 am to 12.30 pm **Cost:** £10

### Gaudi: God's Architect

#### Saturday 26 September 2009

Gaudi's still unfinished *Sagrada Familia* is an iconic image of Barcelona, familiar even to people who have never visited the city. But what inspired Gaudi's distinctive architectural vision? This study morning will explore the Catalan architect's faith and spirituality and his connections with the Arts & Crafts movement in Britain and other contemporary approaches to art and architecture.

**Tutor:** Iain Lane

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

**Time:** 10.00 am to 1.00 pm **Cost:** £10

### Jesus in a day

#### Saturday 10 October 2009

What do Christians say about Jesus? What do we really know about him as a historical figure? What do words like 'incarnation' really mean? How do we make sense of the crucifixion? Do we have to believe in the 'virgin birth'? This study day aims to open up and explain these and other similar questions, offering a framework to understand the figure at the centre of Christian faith who is also honoured as a prophet in Islam.

**Tutor:** Iain Lane

**Venue:** Marlborough Road Methodist Church

**Time:** 10.30 am to 4.00 pm **Cost:** £18

### What is churchless faith? Understanding &

#### supporting those who leave Church

#### Saturday 7 November 2009

What happens to those who leave church? Why do they leave? What happens to their faith? Is it always a bad thing? What is our attitude to it? Have we ever wondered what it would be like?

This workshop will enable you better to understand those who leave the church, what happens to their continuing faith and helpful ways the church can respond. It is for both those who wish to support and understand others and those who have themselves left church and are seeking their way forward. It is based on the work of Alan Jamieson and Jenny McIntosh. Alan conducted the original research and Jenny was later involved in further research and in setting up in 'Spirited Exchanges' — a number of initiatives to resource and support those who have left the institutional church. The workshop will explore the original research, the practical outworking of that and the implications for the church and individuals.

**Tutors:** Jenny McIntosh & Roy Gregory

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

**Time:** 10.00 am to 4.00 pm **Cost:** £18