

## Short evening courses

The venue for all three courses is the Chapter House at St Albans Abbey.

### T. S. Eliot's 'Four Quartets'

Tuesdays 20 & 27 April 2010

This poem, often quoted in devotional writings and sermons, is one of the deepest and richest works of the twentieth century. Resonant with echoes of many earlier texts and events in Eliot's life, *Four Quartets*, whose main subject is religious experience, repays quiet contemplation. These two lectures are step by step guides to the poem, opening the way for further exploration. Participants will benefit from bringing a copy of the poem with them to the two evenings.

**Tutor:** Revd Dr Dave Dickinson

**Time:** 8.00 pm **Cost:** £16

### St Luke, storyteller and theologian

Tuesdays 11, 18 & 25 May 2010

Many churches this year are focusing in their Sunday services on readings from the Gospel according to Luke. Following up on the lecture in January introducing this gospel given by Dr Jeffrey John, we offer this term a short course exploring the gospel in more depth. The course explores the style and artistry of the narrative and the underlying theology, enriching our understanding of familiar readings, and helping the text come to life.

**Tutor:** Revd Dr Dennis Stamps

**Time:** 8.00 pm **Cost:** £24

### A history of religious nonconformity in Hertfordshire

Tuesdays 1, 8, 15 and 22 June 2010

Jonathan Rodell is an enthusiastic teacher with a great depth of knowledge in his field at both local and national level. In this course he will share his enthusiasm for the history of nonconformity, looking at Lollardy, the first Protestants and Separatists; the Civil Wars and their aftermath, early Independents, Baptists and Quakers, the

Great Ejectment and English Presbyterianism; the Evangelical Revival and the growth of Methodism, Unitarianism and the revival of older Dissent; and finally the more recent history of the Free Churches, their political impact and causes of numerical decline. In each session the national developments will be explored through their expression in Hertfordshire, linking in to the local story behind many of today's churches and chapels.

**Tutor:** Dr Jonathan Rodell

**Time:** 8.00 pm **Cost:** £32

### 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.**



**News & events: Summer Term  
April to June 2010**

## Summer Term 2010

### Application form

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

Name(s).....

Address.....

Post code.....

Tel.....

Email.....

Church attended (if any).....

T.S. Eliot's 'Four Quartets'

Luke, storyteller & theologian

History of Nonconformity in Hertfordshire

Creative Writing Quiet Day

El Siglo de Oro

The Bible in a day

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*

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

### Certificate in Theology

At the heart of our work is the **Certificate Programme in Theological Studies** developed with Cambridge University Institute of Continuing Education.

**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.

### The Bible in a day

#### Saturday 24 April 2010

This study day is aimed at people looking for a way into a deeper knowledge of the Christian Bible. The day will offer a basic overview and framework into which to fit existing knowledge, and a foundation on which further reading or study can be based. Sessions will cover both the Old Testament (with Dr Kevin Walton), the texts which Christians share with Judaism, and the New Testament (with Dr Dennis Stamps). Both tutors are specialists in their field and bring to the day a wealth of personal knowledge and experience. If you have been looking for a way to understand and approach the less familiar parts of the Bible, this day is for you!

**Tutors:** Revd Dr Dennis Stamps & Revd Dr Kevin Walton

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

**Time:** 10.30 am to 3.30 pm **Cost:** £18

### Creative Writing Quiet Day

#### Saturday 8 May 2010

Creative writing can be a vehicle for prayer and a means of developing a relationship with God. It can take many forms, from writing a diary or journal to poetry. It might be a way forward for you in your spiritual life: one you may not have considered before, or one you may have tried and given up.

It may be that you have never written much more than a shopping list or a note to the milkman, but writing could

still be an opening to God that will surprise you! We can easily let our past educational experience lead us to believe that we can't write, but this could be to lose a God-given gift. On the other hand, you may write frequently, keep a diary, write long letters to friends or even fiction or poetry, but have never considered writing as a way of prayer. Whatever your experience, this day event could inspire you. It requires no previous experience, although those with experience are welcome too.

The workshop aims to provide a means of encouragement and motivation. It gives an opportunity to make a start, restart or develop this aspect of your spiritual life.

The workshop will be led by Revd Paul Booth, an Anglican priest, spiritual director and group facilitator, with considerable experience in this area.

**Tutor:** Revd Paul Booth

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

**Time:** 10.00 am to 3.30 pm

**Cost:** £18

### El Siglo de Oro: Christian art in the golden age of Spain

#### Saturday 22 May 2010

In the late sixteenth century, and on into the seventeenth, the great flowering of Spanish culture known as el siglo de oro, the golden century, produced a series of major artists, many of whom produced passionately devout and spiritually intense works on Christian themes. This study day will introduce the work of El Greco, and the painters working under the influence of Velázquez: in particular, Francisco de Zurbarán, Bartolomé Esteban Murillo and Juan Valdés Leal. These artists produced some of the most striking works of baroque art, and in their religious compositions blended profound mysticism with a realism which is at times disturbing.

**Tutor:** Iain Lane

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

**Time:** 10.30 am to 3.30 pm

**Cost:** £18