



us enough of a basis to begin reading together some verses of Biblical Hebrew and to give us a feel for the language of the Old Testament. We will be working at a steady pace, and no previous experience, nor especially linguistics skills, are needed. Please note that places are strictly limited as this course is based on class-work rather than lectures. **Early booking is advised.**

Tutor: Dr Kevin Walton, St Albans Cathedral

Venue: The Hudson Library, St Albans Abbey

Dates: Tuesdays 7 June to 19 July, and 6 September to 22 November (no sessions on 11, 18 or 25 October).

Time: 8.00 pm **Cost:** £100

Promised Land: the history of North American Christianity

Tuesdays 7 to 28 June 2011

From the first European settlers to the War of Independence, from the Civil War to Civil Rights, religion has played a central role in American history. Even today, while churches have been exiled to the margins of European society, in the United States Christianity remains a powerful, popular force. What has led to such different fates? Over four evenings Dr Rodell, a church historian, will guide us through several hundred years of fascinating history and attempt to find an answer to the question.

Tutor: Dr Jonathan Rodell

Venue: The Chapter House Crypt, St Albans Abbey

Time: 8.00 pm **Cost:** £32

Seeing Beauty in beautiful things

Tuesdays 3 & 10 May 2011

What do Christians mean by 'revelation'? How can we come to know or understand anything about God? Can we learn anything of relevance to faith or spirituality by looking at the world around us? Is there a distinctively Christian way of looking at the world, thinking about it and representing it? This short course aims to open up these fascinating questions, drawing together Christian theology, spirituality, the arts and modern science.

Tutor: Iain Lane, Tutor in Doctrine and the Visual Arts

Venue: The Chapter House Crypt, St Albans Abbey

Time: 8.00 pm **Cost:** £16

Edwin Muir's religious thought

Tuesday 17 May 2011

This talk introduces the religious ideas in the poetry of Edwin Muir (1887-1959) who 'escaped' the restrictions of a Presbyterian childhood in the Orkneys and 'discovered' he was a Christian at the age of 52. There is a strong sense of place, time, myth, travel, and God's presence in his poems, as well as a sense of both a loss and recovery of Eden. Reading these poems we delve into "the moment of intersection of the timeless with time".

Tutor: Revd Dr Dave Dickinson, StACCS Director

Venue: The Chapter House Crypt, St Albans Abbey

Time: 8.00 pm **Cost:** £8

Wesley's Hymns on the Lord's Supper

Tuesday 24 May 2011

Published in 1745 Wesley's 166 hymns on the Lord's Supper reveal a broad understanding of the Eucharist. In a lecture to mark Wesley Day, the collection is introduced, the ecumenical significance of some of the hymns is established, and the rich theology of others is revealed. What mysteries, remembrance, celebration and means of grace do the tokens, pledges and symbols of bread and wine signify for those who "drink and eat imperishable food" ?

Tutor: Revd Dr Dave Dickinson, StACCS Director

Venue: Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans

Time: 8.00 pm **Cost:** £8

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

We also welcome enquiries at:

St Albans Centre for Christian Studies

Sumpter Yard, St Albans, AL1 1BY

01727 890205

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.

Summer Term 2011

Application form

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

Name(s).....

Address.....

Post code.....

Tel.....

Email.....

Church attended (if any).....

Hebrew for beginners

Promised Land

St Paul & spirituality

Fra Angelico in a day

Reading, hearing & seeing the Psalms

Seeing Beauty in beautiful things

Wesley Hymns

Edwin Muir

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

Saturday study mornings and days

All events include morning coffee. On full days please bring a packed lunch.

The Spirituality of St Paul

Saturday 7 May 2011

The apostle Paul does produce many different reactions both positive and negative. But what was he really like? How much was he a man of his time and how much is he, through his writings, a timeless figure? We can never really know, but this workshop tries to look at those questions both intellectually and experientially. First we will look at his writings to see what they might tell us about his spirituality, personality, psychology and culture. Then we will look experientially at our own reactions to Paul, what they say about us and our own spirituality, and how this knowledge can challenge and enrich our spiritual lives.

Tutors: Roy Gregory, Tutor in Christian Spirituality, and Revd Dr Dennis Stamps, Tutor in New Testament Studies

Venue: Ashley Church, Ashley Road, St Albans

Time: 10.00 am to 3.30 pm **Cost:** £18

Fra Angelico in a day

Saturday 14 May 2011

The Blessed John of Fiesole, more commonly known as Fra Angelico, the 'angelic brother', has enjoyed a reputation for over 500 years as a painter of profoundly beautiful and spiritual works. Yet he was also an innovative artist, at the heart of significant developments in painting in Florence in the first half of the fifteenth century. This study day will introduce and explore his life and work, focusing on the fresco scheme for the Dominican Friary of San Marco of which he was a member. We will follow Fra Angelico from his early training as an illustrator, through the years of major altarpieces and frescoes in and around Florence, to his death in Rome in 1455, and try to understand the faith behind his enduring images of grace, beauty and rich colour.

Tutor: Iain Lane, Tutor in Doctrine & the Visual Arts

Venue: The Chapter House Crypt, St Albans Abbey

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

Reading, hearing and 'seeing' the Psalms: steps towards recovering a biblical imagination

Saturday 11 June 2011

With the exception of perhaps a few individual psalms, many Christians find it difficult to make sense of, and relate to, the Psalms. In this workshop we will seek to overcome some of the common barriers to reading these ancient hymns and prayers.

We will look at who wrote the psalms and what for, and why some of them seem to be arranged in particular groups. The main sessions will focus on some of the symbols and metaphors woven into the rich fabric of the Psalms. Symbols and metaphors were used by biblical writers to testify to, and allow others to catch a glimpse of, the God of history at work in their lives, and they invite us to reflect on our own experience of God and to encounter him in new ways. The meaning and power of many biblical symbols has been lost and obscured over time. Re-animating these symbols, setting them in their original context, and unpacking the rich content of the metaphors they create, is vital to recovering a biblical imagination which still has the power to transform and shape our lives today.

The day will be interspersed with hearing the psalms as we listen to a number of different psalm settings, ranging from Tallis to Howard Goodall, and an opportunity to hear psalms sung in Hebrew.

Tutor: Alison Gray, Tutor in Old Testament Studies

Venue: The Chapter House Crypt, St Albans Abbey

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

Evening courses & lectures

Hebrew for beginners

Tuesdays 7 June to 22 November 2011

Have you ever seen Hebrew letters and wondered what they mean? Have you ever tried reading from right to left? Have you ever wondered what Jesus meant by a stroke of the Law not passing? In 15 sessions, taught over two terms, we will be studying together elements of basic Hebrew: the quiriness of the alphabet, the meaning of some common vocabulary, the versatility of the Hebrew verb, the simplicity of Hebrew sentences, and the resources available to go further. This will give