

How to Book

By far the easiest way to book a place on these courses is to use the online booking facility at the www.EarlyChurch.co.uk website. The website shows full details of the courses, and the online booking facility ensures that the administration overheads are minimal – please use it if possible!

To book a place using the website, you simply need to select the course, supply an email address and indicate the number of places you wish to book. There is no need to send any money beforehand – just pay on the day.

How else can I book?

If you do not have Internet access, then please send a note of the course title & date, your name and the number of places required to:

Russell Jefford, One Bell Cottage,
109 Church Street, Chesham, Bucks. HP5 1JD

Please note: unless an SAE is enclosed, no booking confirmation will be sent.

EarlyChurch.co.uk Website

Besides providing a booking facility, the website also contains suggestions for further reading, extracts from the writings of various Early Church figures, and the opportunity to “Stay in Touch” by joining the mailing list.



Recycle

Please recycle this leaflet.

All Hallows Convent

The Chapel, All Hallows Convent,
Ditchingham, Bungay, Suffolk NR35 2DT



St Michael and All Angels Church

St Michael and All Angels Church, Sycamore
Road, Amersham, Bucks HP6 5DR



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*Teaching on, and inspiration from,
the first five hundred years*

2005 Programme



*All Hallows Convent
Ditchingham, Suffolk*

and

*St Michael and All Angels Church
Amersham, Bucks*

2005 Programme Overview

The Early Church period (c.100–500 AD) saw the clarification and formulation of the essential Christian doctrines accepted by all mainstream churches today.

But besides being occupied with doctrinal issues, the leading figures of the Church of the time were also engaged in taking the teaching passed on by the first apostles and working out its implications for the culture in which they found themselves. The study of the events & people of the Early Church period is, therefore, not merely of academic interest, but can also provide inspiration for us in the continuing task of wrestling with the message of Christ in contemporary society.

The courses on offer in 2005 begin with an overview of the people, councils and events of the 4th century, during which the doctrine of God as Trinity was formed. The remaining courses each focus on one of the three important 4th century “Cappadocian Fathers” (St Gregory of Nazianzus, St Basil the Great and St Gregory of Nyssa) and will provide an introduction to their lives, work and unique contribution to the issues of their day.

The Search for the Christian Doctrine of God

January 15th (Amersham) 22nd (Ditchingham)

The Christian doctrine of God as Trinity was hammered out in the 4th century, following the condemnation of the preaching of a popular

Alexandrian priest (Arius). This course will provide an overview of what Arius taught, the initial response of the Church (at the council of Nicaea) and the ensuing debate over the next 60 years. The various Church factions, councils and exasperated emperors of the period, make for an entertaining day!

An Introduction to St Gregory of Nazianzus

April 9th (Amersham) 30th (Ditchingham)

One of only three people to be granted the title of “Theologian” by the Orthodox Church, Gregory was a defender of the doctrine of the Trinity, a sensitive bishop, ascetic and friend of St Basil.

An Introduction to St Basil the Great

July 9th (Ditchingham) 16th (Amersham)

St Basil “the Great” was a key figure in early monasticism and keenly involved in social welfare as well as a theologian, bishop and an astute ecclesiastical and secular politician.

An Introduction to St Gregory of Nyssa

October 22nd (Amersham) 29th (Ditchingham)

The youngest of the Cappadocians, and brother of St Basil, Gregory (bishop) of Nyssa had much of importance to say on the spiritual life and is regarded by many as the founder of Christian mysticism.

Course Outline

Each course will be divided into several sessions, with breaks for refreshments. Courses at Amersham will run during the afternoon only, from 1.30pm – 5.00pm.

Courses at Ditchingham, however, will run from 10.30am to 4.00pm, the longer day allowing for a lunch break and time for reflection in the convent grounds. For the courses on the Cappadocian Fathers, selections from the writings of each figure will be provided for use as a contemplative focus.

Who are the courses aimed at?

Anyone who’s read this far and is still interested! A complete lack of previous experience or study is assumed, although clergy, lay readers or others with some knowledge will still find much of interest.

How much do the courses cost?

The full cost is £10 per person at both locations. At Ditchingham, a concessionary rate of £7 is also available.

Lunch

Please bring a packed lunch for courses at Ditchingham.

Speaker

Russell Jefford holds an MA in Patristics (Early Church history), is an Associate of All Hallows, and sees much in the writings of the Early Church Fathers which is inspirational and of relevance to contemporary Christianity.