

## 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](http://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.



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## All Hallows Convent

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



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**EarlyChurch.co.uk**

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

## 2007 Programme

*The Cappadocian Fathers*



*The Chapel  
All Hallows Convent  
Ditchingham  
Suffolk*

## 2007 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 three courses on offer in 2007 each focus on one of the important 4<sup>th</sup> century “Cappadocian Fathers” (St Basil the Great, St Gregory of Nazianzus, and St Gregory of Nyssa). The 4<sup>th</sup> century was an important time in Church history, with the doctrine of the Trinity being hammered out amidst heated debate and controversy.

The Cappadocian Fathers had a key place in shaping and defending the Christian concept of God as Trinity and these courses will provide an accessible introduction to their lives and work, as well as an insight into the individual personalities which lie behind their seemingly austere representations in icons!

## An Introduction to St Basil the Great

*Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January*

St Basil “the Great” was a key figure in shaping the emerging phenomenon of Christian 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 Nazianzus

*Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March*

St Gregory “The Theologian” is seen as a key defender of the doctrine of the Trinity. Gregory’s story is one of a sensitive man, with a penchant for solitude and the ascetic life, being unwillingly pressed into public service by first his father and then his friend St Basil.

## An Introduction to St Gregory of Nyssa

*Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May*

The youngest of the Cappadocians, and brother of St Basil, Gregory (bishop) of Nyssa is often seen as overshadowed by the other two. Despite receiving the least formal education of the three, his writings skilfully present the Christian faith in terms of the contemporary philosophical worldview of his day. Gregory has a tremendous amount to say on the (ancient and modern) spiritual life and is regarded by many as the founder of Christian mysticism.

## Outline of the Day

Each course will run from 10.30am to 4.00pm, and will be divided into three main sessions, with breaks for refreshments. There will also be a break at midday to allow for a lunch break and time for reflection in the Convent grounds.

Selections from the extensive writings of each author will be provided for use as a contemplative focus - the aim being to help you connect with, rather than just learn about, the ideas of these key Early Church figures.

## 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 £15 per person, with a concessionary rate of £10 also available.

## Lunch

Please bring a packed lunch!

## 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.