

How to Book

By far the easiest way to book a place on the course is to use the online booking facility at the www.EarlyChurch.co.uk website.

The website shows full details of this, and other forthcoming 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, provide a contact 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 your name and the number of places you wish to book to:

EarlyChurch.co.uk, One Bell Cottage,
109 Church Street, Chesham, Bucks.
HP5 1JD

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

EarlyChurch.co.uk Website

Further courses will be offered throughout 2006, focussing on early Egyptian Christianity. Full details of all courses will be posted on the EarlyChurch website www.EarlyChurch.co.uk

Location

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



Parking - either around the **St Michael's** building or in the **St Gabriel's** car park (indicated on the map).



Please recycle this leaflet.

EarlyChurch.co.uk

An introduction to...

Clement of Alexandria



Saturday 21st January 2006

10.30am – 4.00pm

The Chapel, All Hallows Convent,
Ditchingham

The Early Church Fathers

“Early Church Fathers” is the collective title given to the leading figures involved in the shaping of Christianity in the few hundred years after the first century (c.100 - 500AD). This time period saw the clarification and formulation of the essential Christian doctrines accepted by all mainstream churches today.

But besides being occupied with doctrinal issues, the Fathers 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 Fathers 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.

This course is one of a series of short courses aiming to introduce some of the major figures from Early Church history to a wider audience, especially to those with no previous background in the subject. Additional courses are planned for later in 2006 covering such figures as Origen and St Athanasius.

If you'd like to be notified of new courses as they're scheduled, you can use the “Keep in Touch” feature on the EarlyChurch.co.uk website (see overleaf).

Clement of Alexandria

Clement (c.150-214 AD) lived and worked in one of the most important cultural, religious and trade centres of the ancient world.

The eclectic religious and philosophical atmosphere of Alexandria had given rise to various unorthodox Christian sects (collectively known as the gnostics), and Clement's opposition to such groups form a major theme in his writings.

A second major theme in Clement's work is his determination to show that Christianity is not alien to the highly prized Greek culture and philosophy of the day. Instead, Clement presented the teachings of Christ to his educated audience as the supreme philosophy.

A third theme present throughout his works is the highly ascetic character of early Christianity which led, within 100 years of his death, to the flowering of monasticism in the Egyptian desert.

Course Outline

This course touches on all of these topics and will be divided into three sessions with short refreshment breaks in between. The first two sessions will be delivered in a traditional teaching format, but the format of the third session will be slightly different.

Merely learning *about* Clement of Alexandria, carries with it the danger of failing to recognise his intense personal engagement with Christ. The third session will therefore provide us with an opportunity to engage on a more personal level with some of the ideas, metaphors and analogies used by Clement when discussing the spiritual life.

A number of selected passages from his works (along with suitable handouts) will be suggested as potential “catalysts” for your own spiritual journey. Time and space will be given for you to chew over these extracts on the day.

Who is the course aimed at?

Anyone who's read this far through the leaflet and is still interested! The course assumes a complete lack of previous knowledge, experience or study. However, clergy, lay readers or others with some knowledge will still find much of interest.

How much does the course cost?

The full cost of the day is £10 per person or £7 concessionary rate.

Lunch

There will be a one and a half hour break to allow time for lunch, and to join with the Sisters in the short midday service (if you wish). Please bring a packed lunch.

Speaker

Russell Jefford has been fascinated with the Early Church period for a number of years - an interest which led to him recently taking an MA in Patristics (Early Church history) at King's College London.

He sees much in the writings of the Early Church Fathers (especially the Eastern Fathers) which is inspirational and of relevance to contemporary Christianity. This course is one of a series attempting to spread that inspiration further afield.