

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

EarlyChurch.co.uk Website

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 along with suggestions for further reading.

Location

All Hallows Convent, Belsey Bridge Road,
Ditchingham, Bungay, Suffolk, NR35 2DT
Tel. 01986 892 749



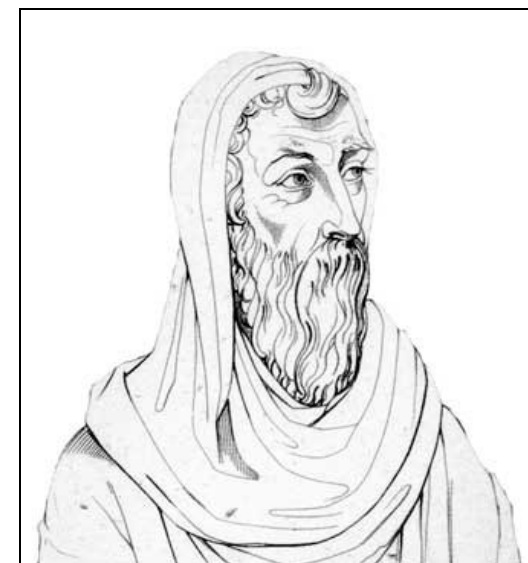
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www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/getamap

Parking - either around the **St Michael's** building or in the **St Gabriel's** car park.

EarlyChurch.co.uk

An introduction to...

St Athanasius



Saturday 8th July 2006

10.30am – 4.00pm

The Chapel,
All Hallows Convent,
Ditchingham



Please recycle this leaflet.

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.100–500 AD). 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 the third in 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 2006 covering such figures as St Cyril of Alexandria. If you’d like to be notified of new courses as they’re scheduled, you can use the “Stay in Touch” feature on the EarlyChurch.co.uk website (see overleaf).

St Athanasius

Athanasius (c.295-373 AD), the “fiery bishop of Alexandria” is best known for the vital role he played in the aftermath of the landmark Church council at Nicaea in 325 AD.

Over the best part of 45 years, he was a forceful and successful advocate of the creedal formula hammered out at Nicaea (which affirmed the full divinity of Christ) in the face of strong “Arian” opposition.

In the process of his campaign, Athanasius travelled widely, was exiled 5 times for his trouble, challenged emperors face to face, and lived in hiding alongside monks.

During his career, he also found time to compose an inspirational treatise on the event of the Incarnation, which has been seen as a classic text ever since.

However, according to some scholars, Athanasius is not completely guileless, but may have exerted a little too much force in his dealings with some of those who disagreed with his views...

Course Outline

This course will provide an overview of Athanasius’ life and work, especially his involvement in the evolution of the doctrine of the Trinity which took shape in the 4th century.

The course will be divided into three sessions with breaks for lunch and refreshments. Each session will consist of a period of teaching, with time for questions. However, rather than merely learning *about* Athanasius, each session will also provide an opportunity for us to engage with some of his ideas on a more personal level.

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

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. Monks, nuns and any others attending in full habit get in for free...

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 and holds an MA in Patristics (Early Church history).

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.