

## 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](http://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!

The website also contains suggestions for further reading, extracts from the writings of various Early Church figures, and an opportunity to join the mailing list.

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.

## Thanks To...

The icon of St Cyril of Alexandria on the cover is © Eileen McGuckin and used by kind permission. See [www.saintmarymagdalen.com](http://www.saintmarymagdalen.com)

## 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](http://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 Cyril of Alexandria



Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 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 fourth 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 2007 - 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 Cyril of Alexandria

The young St Cyril (c. 378-444 AD) enjoyed the patronage of his uncle Theophilus (archbishop of the powerful see of Alexandria) and received an excellent education in this important ancient cultural and intellectual centre. On his uncle's death, Cyril succeeded

him as archbishop, becoming embroiled from the start in tensions between the Christian and Jewish/pagan factions in the city.

Other tensions were to mark his career, specifically the bitter debate with the archbishop of Constantinople (Nestorius) over Christology (the "God-man" makeup of the person of Christ). This crisis came to a head at the Council of Ephesus (431 AD) at which Cyril appointed himself both judge & jury. Rather unsurprisingly, the council saw Cyril's christological perspective triumph against an alternative view put forward by Nestorius.

However, this was far from the end of the matter, and Cyril's views continued to provide a focus at the Council of Chalcedon (451 AD). The results of this council caused divisions in the Eastern Church which persist to the present day.

## Course Outline

This course will provide an overview of Cyril's life & works, his perspective on the person of Christ and his clash with Nestorius, as well as a little insight into the fascinating world of international ecclesiastical politics in the 5th century! Most importantly, we will examine the reasons why Cyril advocated his position so vehemently.

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.

A number of selected passages from his works will be offered as potential “catalysts” for your own spiritual journey, in an attempt to root what could be seen as “mere” theology/ history into food for personal contemplation.

## 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.