

How to Book

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

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

Thanks To...

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All Hallows Convent

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



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An Introduction to...

St Gregory of Nazianzus



Saturday 10th March 2007

10.30am – 4.00pm

*The Chapel
All Hallows Convent
Ditchingham
Suffolk*

The Importance of the Early Church

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.

This course is one of a series aiming to introduce some of the major people and events from Early Church history to a wider audience, especially to those with no previous background in the subject. You'll find the presentation style informal but clear, the coffee fairly traded, and the biscuits rather nice...

The main EarlyChurch.co.uk focus in 2007 is the three important fourth-century Cappadocian Fathers.

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).

An Introduction to St Gregory of Nazianzus

Saturday 10th March

After enjoying an excellent (if rather prolonged) classical education in Alexandria and Athens, Gregory (c.330 – 390) seemed set on a gentlemanly life of ascetic retirement and contemplation on his family's extensive estate.

Events, however, dictated a different course of action and in the turmoil of the 4th century Arian controversy, Gregory was (forcibly!) ordained priest and then bishop before being called to Constantinople. The struggles of a sensitive man, with a penchant for solitude, being pressed into public service, is a recurrent theme in Gregory's writing.

Whilst at Constantinople, Gregory composed and delivered his five *Theological Orations* which have come to be seen as a classic statement and defence of Trinitarian orthodoxy. His efforts in this field earned him the title of "The Theologian" – a recognition which he shares with only two others in the tradition of the Orthodox Church.

The course will outline the life and work of St Gregory, the sensitive bishop, ascetic and friend of St Basil the Great. Particular attention will be paid to the structure and content of the *Theological Orations*. In addition, we will also consider Gregory's understanding of the process and final goal of salvation - "theosis" (deification).

Course Structure

The course will be divided into several sessions, with breaks for refreshments, each session consisting of a period of teaching with time for questions. There will also be a break at midday for lunch and time for reflection in the convent grounds.

Excerpts from St Gregory's writings will be provided as handouts on the day, the intention being not merely to provide stock quotations, but rather inspirational texts - "catalysts" for your own spiritual journey.

Who is the course 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 does the course cost?

The full cost is £15 per person, with a concessionary rate of £10 also available. Monks, nuns and anyone else attending in full habit gets in for free...

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.