

Life & Learning @ Hereford Cathedral

PROGRAMME JANUARY TO JULY 2010

Life & Learning @ Hereford Cathedral
Opening windows onto life & faith for all people

***Welcome to the January to July programme of events for
Life & Learning @ Hereford Cathedral***

START THE YEAR WITH DANTE'S DIVINE COMEDY

The greatest Christian allegory ever written, and (it has been claimed) the greatest single achievement of the Middle Ages, Dante's *Commedia Divina* is a source of inspiration and enlightenment even today. In four sessions Canon Chris Pullin will introduce this amazing poem, exploring some of its imagery and explaining some of the theology and philosophy that underlies it. He writes,

I was a student in the USA for a year, and the seminary I attended had a leading American Dante scholar on the staff who ran an annual course on the Divine Comedy. I signed up for it because people spoke of it as a chance not to be missed, but I went along without enthusiasm on the first day. The scales fell from my eyes, and like Dorothy Sayers (who came to Dante in middle age) I wanted to say 'Why has no one ever told me about him before'? I found a whole world awaiting that combined philosophy, theology, history, mythology, cosmology, astronomy. If that begins to sound similar to the Mappa Mundi then don't be surprised to learn that Dante is an exact contemporary, and the Comedy is set in 1300 (an approximate date for the Mappa). Many aspects of the Mappa can be understood at a glance when one has a knowledge of Dante. I have read the Comedy many times since and never fail to get something fresh from it. If I was on Desert Island Discs it would be the book I took to the island.

Date: Tuesday 19 January – Tuesday 9 February

Dante's Divine Comedy

An Exploration led by the Revd Canon Chris Pullin

19 January: Introduction to Dante's Divine Comedy

26 January: Inferno

2 February: Purgatorio

9 February: Paradiso

Time: Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm on 19 and 26 January and 2 and 9 February. Includes a glass of wine

Duration: 4 weeks

Venue: Cathedral Library

Fee: £5 per session (£18 for all four)

BOOKING ESSENTIAL: Places limited to 25

Participants are encouraged to buy CH Sisson's translation, available in Oxford World Classics (ISBN 978-0-19-953564-4), as this will be used when passages are read

Date: Monday 15 February – Monday 15 March

Lent Course: Henri Nouwen's *The Return of the Prodigal Son*

A study course based on Nouwen's The Return of the Prodigal Son led by the Revd Canon Dr Maureen Palmer

Time: Monday evenings at 7.15pm on 15 and 22 February and 1, 8 and 15 March. To begin with a glass of wine at 7pm

Duration: 5 weeks

Venue: Cathedral Library

Fee: £5 per session (£22 for all 5)

BOOKING ESSENTIAL: Places limited to 25

Date: Tuesday 23 February—Tuesday 23 March

'Barefoot to Calvary...' A Personal Lenten Journey through Artistic Expression

An art course through Lent led by Kathy Priddis

Time: Tuesday mornings at 10am to 12noon on 23 February and 2, 9, 16 and 23 March

Duration: 5 weeks

Venue: College Hall

Fee: £5 per session (£20 for all 5)

BOOKING ESSENTIAL: Places limited to 20. Attendance at the first session will be essential, and it is hoped that participants will be able to attend all subsequent sessions. Beginners welcome, and all materials provided

Life and Learning in Association with the Borderlines Film Festival

28 February: Taking Liberties (*a BAFTA nominated film to be introduced by its director Chris Atkins, who will lead discussion afterwards*)

14 March: Creation (*2009 film about Darwin's struggle with grief and the implications of his theory of evolution*)

Time: 5pm

Venue: College Hall

BOOKING ESSENTIAL: Places limited to 100

Date: Wednesday 17 March

The Dream of the Rood: Looking at the Cross through Anglo-Saxon Poetry and Art

An illustrated lecture by Nick Baker

Time: 10.30am to 12noon, beginning with coffee in the Cathedral Cafe from 10.00am

Venue: Cathedral Library

Fee: £5 (free to staff and volunteers)

BOOKING ESSENTIAL: Places limited to 20

Date: Sunday 18 April

Keeping the old grey matter ticking over ...

The Dean reflects on his studies in the past few years and on recent study leave

Time: 4.30pm to 5.30pm, to begin with tea at 4pm

Venue: College Hall

Fee: £5 (free to staff and volunteers)

Date: Sunday 25 April

The Holy Blissful Martyr for to seek ...

The Dean reflects on his recent walk from Winchester to Canterbury on the 'Pilgrim's Way'

Time: 4.30pm to 5.30pm, to begin with tea at 4pm

Venue: College Hall

Fee: £5 (free to staff and volunteers)

Date: Monday 26 April – Tuesday 27 April

Reading Party at Llangasty Retreat House

A residential reading party based on Karen Armstrong's The Case for God: What Religion Really Means (2009)

Time: Noon on Monday 26 April to 4.30pm on Tuesday 27 April

Venue: Llangasty Retreat House, Brecon (details from www.llangasty.com)

Fee: £67

BOOKING ESSENTIAL: Places limited to 16

Date: Thursday 20 May

The Annual Ethelbert Lecture in association with the Montgomery Trust

Making of Martyrs

A Lecture given by Dr Jolyon Mitchell, Senior Lecturer in Communications, Theology and Ethics, University of Edinburgh

Time: 4.00pm, to begin with tea at 3.30pm

Venue: Lady Chapel

Fee: £5 (free to staff and volunteers)

Date: Saturday 26 June

Interfaith Visit to Wolverhampton

Time: 9.00am (depart) until 6.00pm (return)

Venue: A Hindu temple, Sikh Gurdwara and a Mosque

Fee: £15

BOOKING ESSENTIAL: Places limited to 45