



# ‘LIVING THEOLOGY’ WEEKEND

at **THE MARGARET BEAUFORT INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY (MBIT)**

**30 June and 1 July 2018**

We cordially invite you to join the *Living Theology Weekend* at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology (MBIT) in Cambridge in collaboration with the Jesuits in Britain.

We have put together an exciting set of lectures and speakers in the hope that the course will offer you an opportunity to engage with old questions in a new and creative way.

Dr Nicholas Austin SJ will lead two plenary sessions on the question of a discerning Church. Dr Susan O’Brien will explore the role of women in the Jesus movement and the early Church. Fr Mike Smith SJ will consider the question of science and religion in the thought of Teilhard de Chardin. Dr Anna Abram and Dr Ela Lazarewicz-Wyrzykowska will turn to art in exploring questions of salvation (Anna) and social message of the Bible (Ela).

Together with you, we will attempt to make theology truly alive.

The Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology is a Roman Catholic institute within the *Cambridge Theological Federation* (an ecumenical federation of eight Christian institutions and one Inter-religious Institute). Our Institute specialises in providing transformative experiences for all its students, especially through postgraduate training (Masters, MPhil/PhD and Professional Doctorate in Practical Theology degree programmes) but also through short enrichment courses, of which its Thursday women-only ‘Life in Service’ is best known. For more information about the Institute, please visit <http://www.margaretbeaufort.cam.ac.uk/>.

This short guide offers you more information about the course and speakers and some practical details related to bookings and getting to the Institute.

We look forward to seeing you in Cambridge!

Mike Smith SJ and Anna Abram  
*Organisers*

## Programme

### Saturday 30 June

9.30 – 10.00	Coffee and Registration		Common Room
10.00 – 10.15	Welcome and Introduction (Mike Smith SJ and Anna Abram)		Chapel
10.15 – 11.15	Plenary 1 -- <b>Towards a Discerning Church</b> Nick Austin SJ		Chapel
11.15 – 11.30	Coffee break		Common Room
	<b>GROUP A</b>	<b>GROUP B</b>	
11.30 – 13.00	<b>Women in the Jesus movement and the early Church</b> Susan O'Brien	<b>'Salvation': What Is It?</b> Anna Abram	Stonehill Room And Old Library
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch	Lunch	Garden and Common Room
14.00 – 15.30	<b>Teilhard de Chardin: his life, his science, and his theology</b> Fr Mike Smith SJ	<b><i>Biblia Pauperum:</i> Contemporary Art and the Social Message of the Bible</b> Dr Ela Lazarewicz-Wyrzykowska	
15.30 – 16.00	Tea break		Common Room
16.00 – 16.30	Communal Prayer		Chapel

### Sunday 1 July

9.30 – 9.45	Coffee available		Common Room
9.45 – 10.45	Plenary 2-- <b>Towards a Discerning Church</b> Nick Austin SJ		Chapel
11.00 – 12.00	Mass		Chapel
12.00 – 12.15	Coffee break		Common Room
	<b>GROUP A</b>	<b>GROUP B</b>	
12.15 – 13.15	<b>Women in the Jesus movement and the early Church</b> Susan O'Brien	<b>'Salvation': What Is It?</b> Anna Abram	Stonehill Room & Old Library
13.15 – 14.00	Lunch	Lunch	Garden and Common Room
14.00 – 15.30	<b>Teilhard de Chardin: his life, his science, and his theology</b> Fr Mike Smith SJ	<b><i>Biblia Pauperum:</i> Contemporary Art and the Social Message of the Bible</b> Dr Ela Lazarewicz-Wyrzykowska	
15.30 – 15.45	Tea break		Common Room
15.45 – 16.00	Closing Prayer		Chapel

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE LECTURES**

### **Plenary Sessions**

#### **Towards a Discerning Church**

Pope Francis has said, 'Today the Church needs to grow in discernment, in the ability to discern.' His reforms are motivated by a desire for a more discerning Church, whether at the level of the bishops' synods, at local level, or in pastoral accompaniment of individual Christians. He has emphasised that the faithful 'are capable of carrying out their own discernment in complex situations.'

What, then, is discernment? Why is it so needed today? And is it really possible for individuals and communities to discern God's will in concrete situations? These talks will explore what a discerning Church looks like, and practical steps towards responding to this call.

### **Group A**

#### **Women in the Jesus movement and the early Church**

Over the past couple of years women in the Jesus movement and the early Christianity have been the subject of both significant new attention in the Church and fresh popular cultural interpretation. We are witnessing the fruits of serious academic research undertaken since the 1990s emerging into a wider forum. In 2016, for example, Pope Francis requested that the memorial of Mary Magdalene (22 July) be elevated to a Feast within the Roman Calendar and the associated decree referred to her as 'the paradigm of ministry for women in the Church'. A few months later Pope Francis established a commission to study the issue of women deacons, particularly the nature of their activities and status in the early church. Even more recently, new evidence and interpretations underpinned the 2018 film 'Mary Magdalene' directed by Garth Davies and the Channel 4 documentary 'Jesus's Female Disciples' (April 2018), both of which generated a good deal of debate within and without Christian circles.

Over the course of two meetings we will explore the limits and strengths of interpretations old and new and discuss their implications for us as people of faith, drawing on scripture and biblical scholarship, history, art and popular culture.

#### **Teilhard de Chardin his life, his science, and his theology**

Teilhard de Chardin was a Jesuit priest who devoted his life to science and realised that science is a revelation of God. As well as studying his chosen sciences - palaeontology and geology - he was a skilled theologian and a mystic. In this course we will follow three of his main writings to look at creation as the playing out of evolution, the revelation of Christ in evolution, and what it means for us to live in a universe where we are co-creators and given the task of bringing creation to its ultimate perfection.

## **Group B**

### **‘Salvation’: What is It?**

Can we be saved by being moral? Is salvation an ongoing reality or a one-off act? ‘What’ exactly are we being saved from? ‘Who’ is saving? We shall attempt to address these complex yet crucial to our faith questions by considering a selected set of philosophical and theological propositions. We will also consider a number of statements on salvation in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and will explore the notion of salvation in the old English poem ‘The Dream of the Rood’, Pieter Bruegel’s painting ‘The Procession to Calvary’ and its contemporary interpretation in Lech Majewski’s film ‘The Mill and the Cross’. We will propose to view salvation as a continuing process of transformation of all things in God.

### ***Biblia Pauperum*: Contemporary Art and the Social Message of the Bible**

During the sessions we will reflect together on an art exhibition, entitled *Biblia Pauperum*, which took place in Warsaw, Poland, in September 2016. A group of artists – illustrators, collaborating with the Catholic magazine *Kontakt* (Eng. *Contact*), were commissioned to create 19 visual interpretations of a number of scriptural passages pertaining to issues of social justice, poverty and exclusion. We will consider the title, as well as the social, historical and intellectual context of the exhibition. Then, we will all engage with individual illustrations to discover the ways in which they interpret the social message of the Bible, and to indicate their place within the Catholic visual tradition. Finally, we will ask what conclusions can be drawn about the ways in which contemporary religious art, including abstract art, can be helpful in conveying this message in the present-day world.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE LECTURERS**

**Dr Anna ABRAM** is Principal of the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology in Cambridge. Before moving to Cambridge in April 2017, Anna was for 25 years at Heythrop College, University of London. Her most recent edited publications include: *The Future of Catholic Theological Ethics*. Basel, Switzerland: MDPI, 2018, online version in the special issue of *Religions*, January 2018, [http://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special\\_issues/ethics](http://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/ethics)) and a co-edited collection (together with Peter Gallagher SJ and Michael Kirwan SJ) *Philosophy, Theology and the Jesuit Tradition: ‘The Eye of Love’* (T&T Clark/Bloomsbury, 2017).

**Dr Nicholas AUSTIN SJ** teaches Theological Ethics at Heythrop College. His research interests include Virtue Theory; Ethics and Refugees; Ethics and Spirituality. His publications include his recent book, *Aquinas on Virtue: A Causal Reading* (Georgetown University Press, 2017). He is also a spiritual director in the Ignatian tradition.

**Dr Ela LAZAREWICZ-WYRZYKOWSKA** is a Hebrew Bible scholar with a background in literary and Hebrew studies. She worked as Assistant Director of MA in Pastoral Theology at Cambridge Theological Federation. Her teaching experience includes leading a course on biblical intercession at Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology. She is currently researching on reception of biblical texts in art, music and liturgies, and Christian biblical formation.

**Dr Susan O'BRIEN** is a church historian who has specialised in the post-Reformation histories of Christian revivalism and the religious life for women. She has taught in the Cambridge Theological Federation and Cambridge University Divinity Faculty and is the author of *Leaving God for God: Daughters of Charity in Britain, 1847-2017* (Darton, Longman and Todd, 2017).

**Fr Mike SMITH** is a Jesuit priest who has spent most of his life in education. He now specialises in adult education, and lectures in several places on theological topics. Beginning with a degree in physics, he has a special interest in the links between science and faith, and tries to maintain this view of reality in all his work.

## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

**To book the course, please fill in the attached form and email it to Pavlina Kasparova at [mbitbookings@gmail.com](mailto:mbitbookings@gmail.com) or post it to:**

Pavlina Kasparova,  
*Living Theology*,  
Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology,  
12 Grange Road  
Cambridge CB3 9DU

**Booking deadline: 10 June 2018.**

**Cost: £50** (it covers both days, Saturday and Sunday). There is a small number of bursaries. Please contact Dr Anna Abram [aa2008@cam.ac.uk](mailto:aa2008@cam.ac.uk) for more details.

**Payment** for the course can be made by cheque payable to 'The Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology' or cash on the first day of the course.

**Refreshments** (including sandwich lunch) will be provided.

## HOW TO GET TO THE INSTITUTE (12 GRANGE ROAD, CAMBRIDGE CB3 9 DU)

### **Map:**

<https://map.cam.ac.uk/Margaret+Beaufort+Institute+of+Theology#52.198674,0.104789,17>

### **By car**

Easiest way is from M11.

Exit M11 at Junction 12. At roundabout take exit towards Cambridge– A603, which is Barton Road. Follow it for approximately 2 miles and turn left into Grange Road. Drive for 500m. MBIT – 12 Grange Road - is on the right, on the Champneys Walk corner.

### **Parking:**

Parking at the Institute is very limited and is reserved for the Blue Badge holders.

There is free car parking along Barton Road or Kings Road, which are a couple of minutes walk from our Institute.

You can also try to park on Cranmer Road (5-7 minutes walk).

### **By train**

Taxi from the train station in Cambridge costs ca. £10

Walking takes ca. 35 minutes

Bus “U” – runs Monday to Saturday only. Get out on West Road and walk (5 minutes).

### **Accommodation**

We cannot offer accommodation onsite for this course, but we can recommend:

1. Granta House B&B  
53, Eltisley Avenue, Newnham, Cambridge, CB3 9JQ,  
Phone: 01223 560466

2. B&B, Tom and Judy Challis  
11 B Grange Road  
CB3 9AS  
01223 323201  
[tom.challis@talk21.com](mailto:tom.challis@talk21.com)

3. Selwyn College <http://www.sel.cam.ac.uk/conferences/price-list/>

4. Westminster College  
<http://www.westminster.cam.ac.uk/commercial/accommodation/booking>