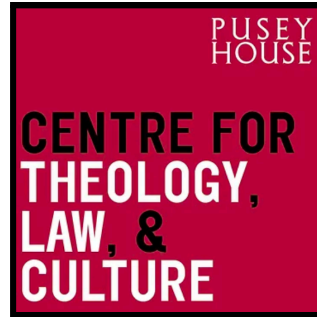
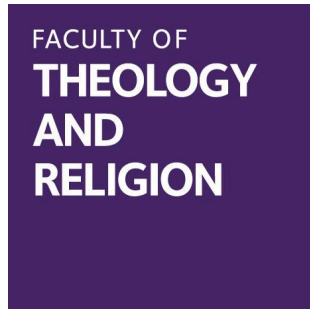




Receiving Nicaea

A Conference in Memory of Betsy Livingstone

Pusey House, Oxford

Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th November 2025

This is a one and a half day conference marking the seventeen-hundredth anniversary year of the Council of Nicaea. Our conference will examine the Council as a key moment in the Christianisation of the Roman Empire and as a major crucible in the development of orthodox Christian doctrine. We will further consider the Council's later reception in the Church's history, and the ongoing vitality of the Council's doctrinal formulae – both in theological academia and in the spiritual life of the Church – today.

The Conference includes a public lecture at 4pm on Wednesday 12th November by The Rev'd Dr Mark Smith (Clare College, Cambridge): "Nicaea Then and Now: The Council after 1700 years." Tea and coffee will be served from 3:30pm in the Saugman Common Room in St Cross College.

More information available here: <https://www.puseyhouse.org.uk/receiving-nicaea>.

Tickets (£55/£15 students, etc.) here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/pusey-house/t-noaampq>.

Please email mehmet.ciftci@stx.ox.ac.uk with any queries.

Conference Schedule

Wednesday 12th November 2025

1:00–1:45. Registration for the conference at the front desk.

1:45–2:00. *Welcome and opening remarks to the Conference by Fr George Westhaver.*

Session 1:

2:00–3:30.

2:00–2:30. Johannes Zachhuber (Trinity College, Oxford), “Nicaea between tradition and innovation”.

2:30–2:45. Q&A.

2:45–3:15. Brendan Wolfe (St Andrews), “The Other Side of the Hill: Revisiting Arianism”.

3:15–3:30. Q&A.

3:30–4:00. *Tea and coffee break in the Saugman Common Room in St Cross College.*

Public Recollection Lecture in memory of the late Elizabeth Livingstone MBE:

4:00–5:15. The Rev’d Dr Mark Smith (Clare College, Cambridge), “Nicaea Then and Now: the Council after 1700 years”.

Evening Divine Service (optional):

5:30–6:15. Evensong.

Preacher: Fr Khaled Anadolios.

Musical Performance in the Chapel:

6:30–7:15. J.S. Bach’s Credo from the *Mass in B Minor*, performed by the Oxford Bach Soloists.

Dinner (by invitation):

7:15–7:45. Drinks Reception in the Library.

7:45. Dinner in the Hood Room.

Thursday 13th November 2025

Morning Divine Service (optional):

7:30–8:00. Morning Prayer.

8:00–8:30. Holy Communion (Church of England). Roman Catholic Mass is available next door in Blackfriars Priory at 7:30am.

For those attending Morning Prayer/Mass, a cooked breakfast and coffee will be served in the St Cross College Dining Hall from 8:30am.

8:45am–9:15am. Registration for the conference at the front desk.

Session 2:

9:15–10:45.

9:15–9:45. Fr Joseph Hamilton (Domus Australia), “The West Responds: Phoebadius and the Rehabilitation of Tertullian”.

9:45–10:00. Q&A.

10:00–10:30. Mark Edwards (Christ Church, Oxford), “After Nicaea: the Councils of Antioch and Sardica”.

10:30–10:45. Q&A.

10:45–11:15. Tea and coffee break in the Saugman Common Room in St Cross College.

During the break, a book sale will be taking place in the Ursell Room of the Pusey House conference books: [A Transforming Vision: Knowing and Loving the Triune God](#) (£30); [Christ Unabridged: Knowing and Loving the Son of God](#) (£24); [The Dove Descending: Knowing and Loving in Spirit and Truth](#) (£25 pbk; £70 hbk).

Session 3:

11:15–12:45.

11:15–11:45. Fr Andrew Louth (University of Durham), “Some Neglected Canons of Nicaea I (canons 15, 16, 20)”.

11:45–12:00. Q&A.

12:00–12:30. Brendan Harris (Christ Church, Oxford), “The pro-Nicene Grammar of Deification”.

12:30–12:45. Q&A.

12:45–1:45. Lunch break.

Session 4:

1:45–3:15.

1:45–2:15. Fr Khaled Anatolios (University of Notre Dame), “Revisiting Being as Communion: Ontology and Existential Christology in Athanasius's Nicene Theology”.

2:15–2:30. Q&A.

2:30–3:00. Sara Parvis (University of Edinburgh), “Women and the Reception of Nicaea from 325–381”.

3:00–3:15. Q&A.

3:15–3:45. Tea and coffee break in the Saugman Common Room in St Cross College.

During the break, a book sale will be taking place in the Ursell Room of the Pusey House conference books: [*A Transforming Vision: Knowing and Loving the Triune God*](#) (£30); [*Christ Unabridged: Knowing and Loving the Son of God*](#) (£24); [*The Dove Descending: Knowing and Loving in Spirit and Truth*](#) (£25 pbk; £70 hbk).

Session 5:

3:45–5:20.

3:45–4:15. Morwenna Ludlow (University of Exeter), “What was a Creed for and what does it do now? Thinking about the Nicene Creed from a seat in the pew today”.

4:15–4:30. Q&A.

4:30–5:00. Rowan Williams, “Nicaea and the Theology of Power: a Twentieth Century Debate”.

5:00–5:15. Q&A.

5:15–5:20. Closing remarks.

Evening Divine Service (optional):

5:30–6:00. Evensong.

Drinks Reception in the Library

In Memory of Betsy Livingstone. The Rt Rev'd and Rt Hon Rowan Williams will offer some brief words in tribute to her.

6:00–7:00.

SPEAKERS

The Rev'd Professor Khaled Anatolios is John A. O'Brien Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. He is also a priest of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church. His recent publications include *Retrieving Nicaea: The Development and Meaning of Trinitarian Doctrine* (Baker Academic, 2011).

Professor Mark Edwards is Professor of Early Christian Studies in the Faculty of Theology & Religion. He was elected as a Fellow of the British Academy in 2023 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to scholarship.

The Rev'd Dr Joseph Hamilton is Rector of the Domus Australia, Rome, and a priest of the Archdiocese of Sydney. He received his DPhil in Patristics at Christ Church, Oxford, and his licentiate at the Patristic Institute Augustinianum in Rome.

Dr Brendan Harris is Departmental Lecturer in Philosophical Theology at the University of Oxford and Tutor in Theology at Oriel College. He was formerly Departmental Lecturer in Patristics and Tutor in Theology at Christ Church.

The Rev'd Professor Andrew Louth is Professor Emeritus of Patristic and Byzantine studies in the Department of Theology and Religion of Durham University. He is Archpriest of the Diocese of Sourozh of the Russian Orthodox Church in Great Britain and Ireland.

The Rev'd Professor Morwenna Ludlow is Professor of Christian History and Theology at the University of Exeter and is Canon Theologian of Exeter Cathedral.

Dr Sara Parvis is Senior Lecturer in Patristics at the University of Edinburgh and the author of *Marcellus of Ancyra and the lost years of the Arian controversy* (OUP, 2006).

The Rev'd Dr Mark Smith is Dean and Director of Studies in Theology at Clare College, Cambridge, and an affiliated Lecturer in the Faculty of Divinity. He is the author of *The Idea of Nicaea in the Early Church Councils* (OUP, 2018).

The Rt Rev'd and Rt Hon Rowan Williams is a former Archbishop of Canterbury and member of the House of Lords. Since 2014 he has been Chancellor of the University of South Wales and Chair of the international development charity Christian Aid.

Dr Brendan Wolfe is the Principal Editor of the St Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology. He is also the Principal Investigator of the Text & Image project, which investigates the cognitive effects of text on religious visual art, and is a co-founder of the Journal of Inklings Studies.

Professor Johannes Zachhuber is Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at the University of Oxford and Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford.

WHERE TO EAT LUNCH

The St Cross College Cafe.

Located on site, the College Café is open 9:30am – 2:30pm, and serves fresh barista-style hot drinks, cold drinks, pastries, snacks, plus hot lunch selections, such as paninis, sandwiches, salad bowls and soup. It is the quickest and most convenient way to get lunch.

Taylor's Deli, 31 St Giles, OX1 3LD.

Serves a wide variety of hot and cold sandwiches, paninis, pastries, and good coffee.

THE CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY, LAW, AND CULTURE

The Centre for Theology, Law, and Culture is an academic institute dedicated to enriching contemporary intellectual and cultural life by a rigorous engagement with theology and related academic disciplines. Based at Pusey House, it draws upon Oxford's longstanding and exceptional scholarship in Law and the Humanities, and in particular upon the Catholic tradition in the Church of England. The Centre hosts colloquia, lectures, and seminars, and supports scholars and scholarship in the pursuit of truth within the academy, and for the renewal of the Church within a pluralistic civic society.

Dr Jonathan Price is the Director of the Centre and Matraszek Fellow of Pusey House & St Cross College. The Centre is grateful for the generous support of Mr Marek Matraszek.

THE OXFORD BACH SOLOISTS

The Oxford Bach Soloists (OBS), directed by Steven Grahl and founded in 2017 by Tom Hammond-Davies, is a Baroque ensemble performing Bach's works as he might have realised them, using period instruments and Leipzig-inspired venues. Continuing Bach's community

spirit, OBS supports local scholars, students, and soloists in high-quality performances for diverse audiences. Funded by generous donors, OBS Scholarships nurture emerging musicians through solos, language coaching, and ensemble training. Collaborating with Oxford scholars, OBS combines historical insight and performance for an engaging, research-led musical experience.

Translation of the Nicene Creed from BCP	Symbolum Nicenum
I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and giver of life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one Catholick and Apostolick Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.	Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem, factorem cæli et terræ, visibílium ómnium et invisibílium. Et in unum Dóminum, Jesum Christum, Fílium Dei unigénitum, et ex Patre natum ante ómnia sǎcula. Deum de Deo, lumen de lúmine, Deum verum de Deo vero, génitum, non factum, consubstantiálem Patri: per quem ómnia facta sunt. Qui propter nos hómines et propter nostram salútem descendit de caelis. Et incarnátus est de Spíritu Sancto ex María vírgine, et homo factus est. Crucifíxus étiam pro nobis sub Póntio Pilátio; passus et sepúltus est, et resurréxit tértia die, secúndum Scriptúras, et ascéndit in coelum, sedet ad délixeram Patris. Et íterum ventúrus est cum glória, judicáre vivos et mórtuos, cujus regni non erit finis. Et in Spíritum Sanctum, Dóminum et vivificántem: qui ex Patre Filióque procedit. Qui cum Patre et Fílio simul adorátur et conglorificátur: qui locútus est per prophétas. Et unam, sanctam, cathólicam et apostólicam Ecclésiám. Confiteor unum baptísma in remissionem peccatórum. Et exspécto resurrectionem mortuórum, et vitam ventúri sǎculi. Amen.



Elizabeth Anne Livingstone 1929–2023

Elizabeth Livingstone ('Betsy' to her friends) was born in India, a 'daughter of the Raj'. After school she went up to Oxford University, to St Anne's College (then, St Anne's Society), to read History. Very soon after graduation she became secretary to Dr F. L. Cross, the Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity and Canon of Christ Church, her immediate task being to help Cross in organizing the first Oxford Patristic Conference, which took place in 1951. Cross intended the patristic conference to cater not only for academic scholars, but also for others interested in keeping abreast with patristic studies, including, in particular, the clergy. There was also an ecumenical dimension, Cross being convinced that in returning to their patristic roots,

Christians would discover how much they had in common. Getting wind of this purpose, the Vatican attempted to frustrate it by banning Roman Catholics from attending.

Betsy's part in this—as in the other conferences Cross organized, and those Betsy organized after his death—was to coordinate a complex logistical exercise: inviting participants, getting titles for their communications, arranging the plenary lectures, and facilitating accommodation for those who attended, as well as finding venues for the lectures and the multitude of communications, which ran concurrently, arranged thematically. To make it possible to move from communication to communication, Betsy introduced a system of bells, rung to prevent speakers overrunning their allotted twenty minutes. Alongside this four-year cycle of patristic conferences were intercalated Biblical (or New Testament) conferences, with a more determinedly pastoral orientation.

Very soon another major task became part of Betsy's remit as Cross's secretary: the coordination of the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, the first edition of which appeared—to universal acclaim—in 1957. Like the Patristic Conferences, this was intended—without any compromise of scholarly standards—for more than scholars in academe, and especially for the clergy. It was Cross's dream that there would be a copy of the dictionary in every parsonage house. The dictionary demanded much the same organizational skills as the patristic conferences. The second edition appeared in 1974, in a much changed theological world—after the Second Vatican Council and theological turmoils of the 60s. Canon Cross had died in 1969, and the second edition was brought to fruition by Betsy. The third edition was edited by Betsy, who was able to rely on help from her many friends in the world of theology and Church history; it was hailed as 'a national monument' in *The Times Literary Supplement*.

Betsy had become well known in the world of scholarship, and especially the expanding world of patristic studies. She herself was, in many ways, a very private person, a devout Anglican who attended the Eucharist every day—initially in the Cathedral of Christ Church, until infirmity prevented that, and she turned to other churches that were nearer, including St Giles and Pusey House. She was self-effacing, always there, but always in the background. She dressed quietly, but elegantly, and had a fondness for the gowns of the dressmaker, 'Anna Belinda', who for years had a shop on Gloucester Green.

Helen Brock told me that, at one or two of the Patristic Conferences, Betsy roped her in to serve on the reception desk in the Schools, owing to her fluency in several modern languages. As she put it, 'after people had checked in with me, they headed straight over the steps to pay homage to Betsy standing there. Their deep respect, even reverence, for her was obvious.'

In her flat in 15 St Giles, and finally in 59 St John's Street, she entertained year by year, again with simple elegance, many people—from distinguished scholars to shy newcomers to the services in Christ Church. Her key role in facilitating the Patristic Conferences and the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church received eventual recognition with the award of an honorary Lambeth DD, an MBE, and in 2015 the award of the President of the British Academy's Medal. Shortly after that event, she had a stroke and entered a long period of decline with blindness, as well as the effects of recurrent strokes. She died on New Year's Day, 2023.

Professor Andrew Louth, editor with Canon Cross and Dr E. A. Livingstone of the fourth edition of *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (2022).