

# The Roots of Christian Mysticism

## Outline Timetable and Syllabus

This new one-year course, starting on 5 January 2003, offers a unique opportunity to explore in depth the history of Christian Mysticism. It is a structured course taught by leading scholars and practitioners, including *Laurence Freeman, Kallistos Ware, Kim Nataraja, and Peter Tyler*.

The syllabus focuses on the key figures of the mystical tradition. It leads from the New Testament roots of this tradition to the great patristic teachers and then on through the Desert Fathers, Meister Eckhardt, the English Mystics and up to modern times where there is a special emphasis on key figures such as Thomas Merton, Simone Weil, John Main and Bede Griffiths.

The course involves one evening's teaching per week for three 10 week terms (January to December 2003). It is held on Thursday evenings 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm at the London Christian Meditation Centre.

### Who is the course for?

The course is open to anyone of any spiritual tradition, or none, who wishes to explore Christian mysticism seriously and in depth. No prior knowledge or advance preparation is required, but the course will suit best those who are prepared to give time for personal study of the texts under consideration. Preference will be given to those who can commit themselves for the whole year.

Meditation is an integral part of the course, but previous experience is not necessary.

**Term one** (*January 9 - April 12*) covers in depth the period from the gospels to St. Dominic, including the Desert Fathers, Evagrius, Clement of Alexandria, Gregory of Nyssa, St. Augustine, St. Benedict and St. Francis.

**Term Two** (*1 May - 10 July*) ranges from the "Cloud of Unknowing" to Ignatius of Loyola, including Julian of Norwich, Richard Rolle, Meister Eckhart, Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross

**Term Three** (*25 Sept - 4 December*) starts with the Orthodox tradition, the English Mystics and the Quaker movement, and covers the modern period from Newman to Merton, including Simone Weil, Bede Griffiths and John Main.

The first term starts with an introductory session (5 January) and each term concludes with a retreat day, both at Cockfosters monastery, in addition to the above dates. The course finishes with a weekend retreat.

### Methods of study

Teaching will take the form of lectures, group discussions and question and answer sessions, and each week there will be a suggested reading list. No written assignments are required in this first year, but participants will be expected to study texts in their own time between sessions.

25 places are available. The course costs £150 per term and a non-returnable deposit of £50 is required with the booking form.

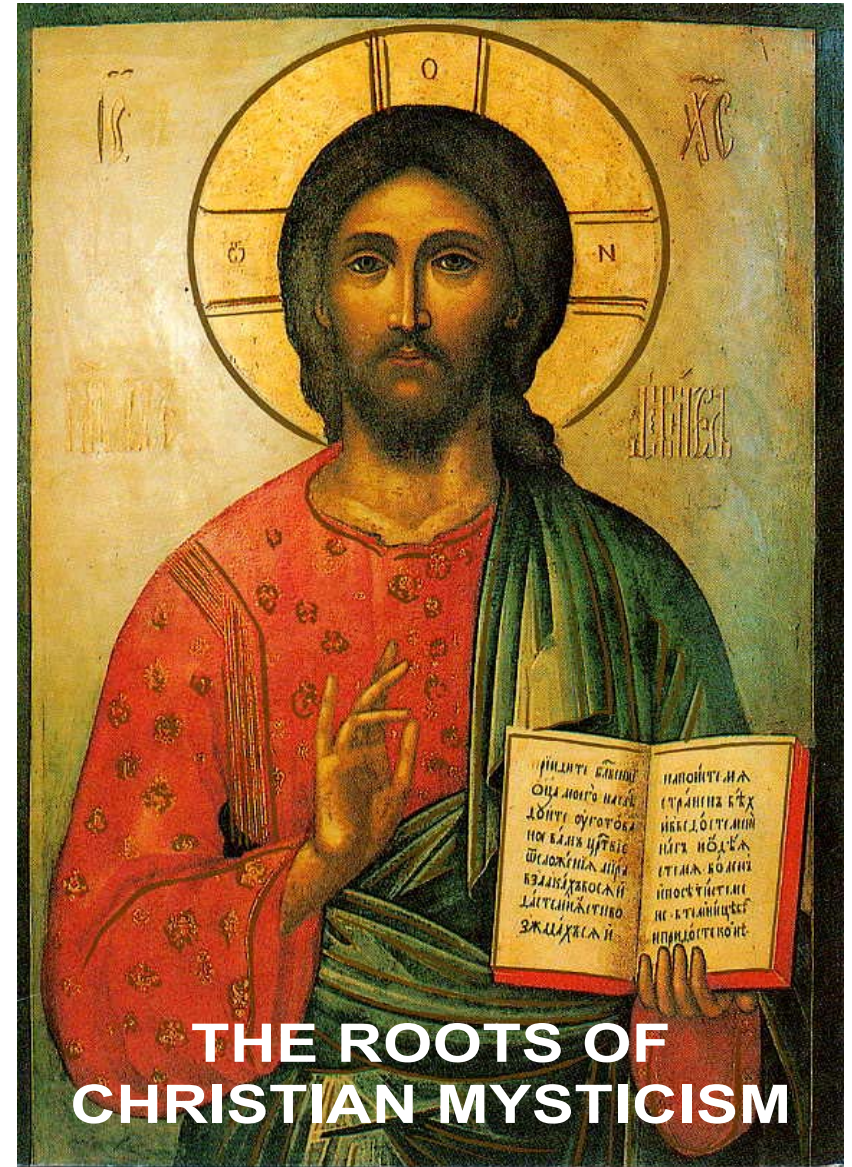
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*The course is a joint venture between the London Christian Meditation Centre, the Benedictine Centre for Spirituality at the Monastery of Christ the King, Cockfosters, and Sarum College.*

THE LONDON CHRISTIAN MEDITATION CENTRE  
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A new one-year course of study

January - December 2003

