

SP764: Exploring the Celtic Heritage (8 units) John & Olive Drane

DESCRIPTION:

This unique course will be based on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, off the coast of Northumberland, England, which was home to St Cuthbert (635-687), in whose honor the illuminated manuscript known as the Lindisfarne Gospels was produced. Beginning with the story of Celtic Christianity, the course will combine reflection on mission in today's world with space for personal reflection and spiritual nurture. Each day will incorporate worship drawn from different aspects of the Celtic tradition, with input from various spiritual communities on the island. Lindisfarne is accessed via a causeway at low tide, and is the end point of the 62 mile long pilgrim journey known as the St Cuthbert's Way, which begins in Melrose, Scotland. Some participants may wish to incorporate that journey in their travel plans for getting to Lindisfarne. After the course ends, others may wish to extend their stay to include a visit to the monastery of the Venerable Bede in Jarrow, as well as Durham cathedral, where St Cuthbert is buried (both of which are within less than a two hour journey).

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will (a) gain firsthand knowledge of the physical environments which gave birth to Celtic spirituality; (b) become familiar with some of the key aspects of Celtic mission and devotion; (c) understand the challenges and opportunities for creative missional engagement with a post-Christian culture; (d) learn a praxis-reflection way of doing theology.

COURSE FORMAT:

Students will arrive in Lindisfarne on Sunday 9/19/2010 before the course starts. The course will go throughout the week meeting at St. Cuthbert's Centre, and will include various walking trips around the island. Students will be responsible for their own housing on the island and this should be made as soon as possible.

RELEVANCE FOR MINISTRY:

The spirituality of the Celtic saints is widely regarded as offering a creative missional model for the 21st century.

REQUIRED READING:

Group A:

Ian Bradley, *Celtic Christianity: making myths and chasing dreams* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan 1999)

Ian Bradley, *The Celtic Way* 2nd ed (London: DLT 2004)

Timothy J Joyce, *Celtic Christianity: a sacred tradition, a vision of hope* (Orbis 1998)

Diana Leatham, *They built on rock* (Hodder 2001)

James P Mackey, *An introduction to Celtic Christianity* (T & T Clark 1993)

Donald Meek, *The quest for Celtic Christianity* (Hansel Press 2000)

Martin Wallace, *The Celtic Saints* (Appletree Press 2007)

Group B:

R Ellis & C Seaton, *The New Celts: following Jesus into millennium 3* (Eastbourne: Kingsway 1998)

John Finney, *Recovering the Past: Celtic and Roman Mission* (DLT 1996)

Andy & Jane Fitz-Gibbon, *Prophetic lifestyle and the Celtic way* (Monarch 1997)

Olive Fleming Drane, *Spirituality to Go: rituals and reflections for everyday living* (DLT 2006)

George Hunter, *The Celtic way of Evangelism* (Nashville: Abingdon 2000)

Michael Mitton, *Restoring the woven cord: strands of Celtic Christianity for the church today* 2nd ed (Oxford: BRF 2010)

Ray Simpson, *Exploring Celtic Spirituality: historic roots for our future* (London: Hodder 1995)

Group C:

David Adam & Peter Dingle, *The Eye of the Eagle: meditations on the hymn 'Be Thou My Vision'* (Triangle 1990)

David Adam, *The Holy Island of Lindisfarne* (Morehouse 2009)

Janet Backhouse, *The Lindisfarne Gospels* (Phaidon Press 1994)

Tracy Balzer, *Thin places: an evangelical journey into Celtic Christianity* (Leafwood 2007)

Christopher Bamford & William Parker Marsh, *Celtic Christianity: ecology and holiness* (Lindisfarne Books 2000)
Elizabeth Culling, *What is Celtic Christianity?* (Oxford: Grove)
Oliver Davies & Fiona Bowie, *Celtic Christian Spirituality: an anthology of medieval and modern sources* (NY: Continuum 1995)
Esther De Waal, *The Celtic way of prayer: the recovery of the religious imagination* (Image 1999)
Esther DeWaal, *Every earthly blessing: rediscovering the Celtic tradition* (Morehouse 1999)
Alfred Cooper Fryer, *Cuthbert of Lindisfarne* (Bibliobazaar 2008)
Leslie Hardinge, *The Celtic Church in Britain* (Teach Services 1995)
Philip Sheldrake, *Living between worlds|: place and journey in Celtic spirituality* (Cowley Publications 1995)
Ray Simpson, *Soul Friendship: Celtic insights into spiritual mentoring* (Hodder 1999)
Martin Wallace, *The Celtic resource book* (CHP 2009)

ASSIGNMENTS:

- (a) Pre-seminar: at least two books from group A, three from group B, and any from group C to make up a minimum of 3000 pages in all. For each book read, write a two-page (double-spaced) review indicating what you have gleaned from it, how it connects with your experience and aspirations in ministry, and any new questions that have arisen for you.
- (b) In-seminar: a daily journal
- (c) Post-seminar: a 30-40 page reflective paper