

## HILARY 2017

### **19 January, 1<sup>st</sup> week**

“ ‘Come to pray on referendum day’: The Churches and the Britain and Europe referendum, 1975”  
Dr Robert Saunders, Lecturer in Modern British History, Queen Mary University of London

On 5 June 1975 voters went to the polls in Britain's first national referendum, on membership of the European Community. In contrast to 2016, that referendum inspired an enthusiastic campaign by the churches, under the banner of "Christians for Europe". Backed by the General Synod, the British Council of Churches and much of the religious press, "Christians for Europe" issued prayers, held services and preached sermons on the merits of European integration. This paper asks why the churches were so enthusiastically European and what this might tell us about their theology and practice, in a decade when ecumenism, third world aid and the Northern Ireland "troubles" were raising new questions about the relationship between "the Church" and "the world".

### **2 February, 3<sup>rd</sup> week**

"Sex and the Church in the Long Eighteenth Century"

Professor William Gibson, Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Professor Joanne Begiato, Head of the Department of History, Philosophy and Religion, Oxford Brookes University.

This paper aims to correct the view that by the eighteenth century matters of sex and sexuality were no longer intimately connected with the Church. The paper argues that, despite recent work by scholars of the Enlightenment, sex remained closely associated with both religion in general and the Church of England in particular.

### **16 February, 5<sup>th</sup> week,**

‘Excellent organs and miscreated machines: music-making in the early nineteenth-century English parish church’, Maggie Kilbey, DPhil candidate in Continuing Education at Oxford University (Music-making in the English parish church from the 1760s to 1860s).

This paper reveals how mechanical instruments popular in fashionable late eighteenth-century households came to be used in the Anglican church. They made a significant contribution to music-making until finally rendered obsolete by changing tastes and ecclesiological reform.

### **2 March, 7<sup>th</sup> week**

‘Dorothy L. Sayers: Writer, Christian Apologist and Anglican.’

Amy Orr- Ewing, Director, Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics

Dorothy L. Sayers became well known as a writer of detective fiction and author of religious plays. Archbishop William Temple offered her the Lambeth Doctorate for her contribution to Christian thought and had she accepted, she would have been the first female recipient of this honour. This seminar will examine Sayers' work, life and Christian theology assessing her contribution as a prominent lay Anglican of the twentieth century.

