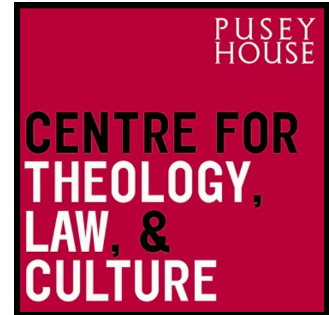




Receiving Nicaea

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.

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 pusey.conference@stx.ox.ac.uk with any queries.

Conference Schedule

Wednesday 12th November 2025

1:45–2:00. *Welcome to the Conference.*

Session 1:

2:00–3:30.

2:00–2:30. Johannes Zachuber (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. *Coffee Break.*

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*):

5:30–6:00. Evensong.

Musical Performance:

6:15–7:00. J.S. Bach’s Credo from the *Mass in B Minor*.

Dinner (*by invitation*):

7:00–7:30. Drinks Reception in the Library.

7:30. Dinner in the Hood Room.

Thursday 13th November 2025

Morning Divine Service (optional):

7:30–8:00. Morning Prayer.

8:00–8:30. Mass.

A light breakfast will be served in the Hood Room to those who attend Morning Prayer/Mass.

8:55–9:15. *Welcome coffee.*

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. Coffee break.

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. Sara Parvis (University of Edinburgh), “Women and the Reception of Nicaea from 325-381”.

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. Brendan Harris (Christ Church, Oxford), “The pro-Nicene Grammar of Deification”.

3:00–3:15. Q&A.

3:15–3:45. Coffee break.

Session 5:

3:45–5:15(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.