

## **Schola Gregoriana weekend at St. Stephen's House, Oxford**

**16 Marston Street, OX4 1JX**

**Fri. 11 to Sun. 13 August, 2017**

The programme for the weekend is attached with a booking form, and a copy of the announcement. If you have any queries about anything, please ring or e-mail to Grey Macartney on 020 8840 5832 (answerphone when frequently out) or [grey.macartney@gmail.com](mailto:grey.macartney@gmail.com)

### **Getting to St. Stephen's House ("SSH")**

**By Train** to Oxford railway station. The cheapest way to travel by train is by getting your ticket on-line in advance. Single tickets to Oxford from London are only £5 if you book before 20<sup>th</sup> July.

At the bottom of the steps from the sole entrance to the station is 'bus stand R1 from which Service 5 leaves at least once every 20 minutes. In about 18 minutes the 'bus crosses Magdalen Bridge and then a roundabout, from which the 'bus takes Cowley Road. Marston Street is the 4<sup>th</sup> on the right, for which the stop is East James Street, just beyond the Ultimate Picture Palace. The entrance to SSH is about 3 minutes' walk from this 'bus stop. Alternatively there are taxis from the station.

### **By "Oxford Tube" from London**

These coaches run every 15 minutes from various stops in central and west London. You alight at St. Clements, about 7 minutes' walk from SSH.

### **By Car**

The entrance to SSH car park is from James Street, which leads off A4158 Iffley Road at one end, and at the other end from B480 Cowley Road. The parking area is fairly limited but should suffice for us. SSH normally charge £6 a day for parking, but we hope to agree a lower rate for Schola participants.

### **Disabled**

A short flight of steps takes you from street level to the main door of SSH. There are hand rails on both sides. There are bedrooms on the ground floor. 2/3 steps or a ramp lead into the chapel. SSH do cater for wheelchairs, provided notice is given to them beforehand.

### **Bedrooms**

There are more ensuite rooms available than I had anticipated, and several of the rooms only with wash basins have access to a bathroom little used by other rooms. Soap and towels are provided.

## **Anglicans**

The Eucharist is usually celebrated at SSH at 8 am on Sundays, but should there be no priest available on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>, the beautiful local church, St. Mary and St. John, has Holy Communion at 8am. Worship here is described as 'liberal Catholic'. This is about 7 minutes' walk from SSH. About 15 minutes' walk away is Christchurch Cathedral, which also has an 8 am Holy Communion.

## **Drinks**

You are welcome to bring with you whatever drinks you like. As these are heavy to carry without a car, we are arranging for a supply of wine and soft drinks to be brought and sold at mealtimes, or by the glass at the bar in the Common Room after Compline.

## **Visit to St. Birinus, Dorchester-on-Thames on Sunday afternoon.**

Dorchester is about 9 miles from SSH and should take about 20 minutes by car. We will try to ensure everyone has a lift there, but if this proves impossible there is a 'bus from St. Aldate in central Oxford at 14.40, arriving 14.57 at the lay-by on the main road bypassing Dorchester. 10 minutes' walk to St. Birinus.

We hope for reasonable weather to have tea on the beautiful presbytery lawn after Vespers, Benediction and Prayers at Mary's grave. There is a car park on the small road leading to the church, and a public toilet.

After tea, if you need public transport to get you to a station, there is a 'bus back to central Oxford from the above mentioned lay-by at 17.57 arriving 18.29. The station is 15 mins. walk away. This same 'bus then goes on to Didcot station, due 19.07. There is also a 'bus to Reading station, leaving at the same time 17.57, due there at 19.31. (This may be the same one as goes to Oxford and Didcot going by a roundabout route.)

## **Under 18s**

We regret that there are no facilities at SSH for anyone under 18 who is not accompanied by a parent or guardian.

## **Cost of visit to St. Birinus**

There is no separate charge for the visit to St. Birinus, but a donation to the Schola (which can be gift aided) to pass on to St. Birinus for the maintenance of this gem of a church and for Mary's grave would be greatly appreciated.

Grey Macartney