

# The South Creake Lectures: food for the mind and soul

By Nigel Kenyon Jones, South Creake PCC Treasurer and Webmaster

*At the heart of parish life stands the three legged stool of worship, pastoral work and teaching. Take away one of those legs and the stool falls over. Church teaching is traditionally aimed at children. But in a parish like St Mary's South Creake where, sadly, there are rarely children in the congregation and so Sunday School has ceased, the opportunity for teaching has to be with adults. Adults need teaching too.*

This thought, first raised a few years by Fr Roger Arguile, a retired clergyman helping out then in South Creake, sat quietly with the PCC until the rector, Fr Clive Wylie, got to hear of it soon after he arrived in 2012, and the result is The South Creake Lectures.

These are free lectures taking place at St Mary's. On 4 September, the lecture is 'Agincourt Revisited', to be given by the historian Dr Juliet Barker in the 600th anniversary year of that most famous of battles; on 2 October the Dean of St Albans, Dr Jeffrey John, will give a lecture entitled 'Making Sense of the Bible'.

"For me," says Fr Clive, "this was a no brainer. The church of our Lady Saint Mary is very well known in North Norfolk. The North Norfolk Music Festival uses our church for its chamber music concerts, The Yorke Trust has been putting on operas and concerts here for thirty years, and we're hosting a two-week art festival and exhibition, 'Fields of Vision', for the second time this September.

"So on top of the hundreds of pilgrims and visitors who come and see our wonderful church and worship here, and our own congregations in the Creakes Benefice, we can reach an audience ready, we hope, for spiritual and intellectual nourishment, for food for the mind and soul."

Fr Clive explains that these are not fundraising events. "We want to give something back, to educate, by giving people free access to nationally famous speakers. Just turn up and hear Juliet Barker, a top medieval historian who has written critically acclaimed books on



Agincourt and the Hundred Years War. Our beautiful angel roof is said to have been raised to celebrate Henry V's victory at Agincourt, so how amazing is that?



Or Jeffrey John, who is known to be an absolutely brilliant speaker and will be explaining what real Bible study is about, and how different was the intention of the original writers to the

literal superficial meaning that we're sometimes presented with."

The South Creake Lectures are planned to run again in 2016.

**7.00pm Friday 4 September 2015  
Juliet Barker – 'Agincourt Revisited'**

**7.00pm Friday 2 October Dr Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans – 'Making Sense of the Bible'**

For more information about the lectures and directions to Our Lady Saint Mary, Church Lane, South Creake NR21 9LX visit [www.southcreake.org](http://www.southcreake.org) or email [lectures@southcreake.org](mailto:lectures@southcreake.org)

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