

different countries around the world. At the heart of the Fellowship is the desire of young Orthodox to work together serving the Church, Her unity, witness and renewal. Syndesmos enjoys the encouragement and blessing of all the local canonical Orthodox Churches. Syndesmos puts on LOTS of activities every year.

Fr. Philip

FrPhilip@aol.com



IOCS
Institute for Orthodox
Christian Studies
Cambridge

THE TENTH ANNUAL
SUMMER SCHOOL
5 - 10 JULY 2009

on
love

IOCS SUMMER SCHOOL - 5-10 JULY 2009

The Summer School is conceived as part of the Certificate and Diploma courses but it also represents a major theological conference in its own right. Due to the calibre of its speakers and its unique setting in the very centre of the University city of Cambridge (Sidney Sussex College) it has attracted numerous participants from all over the world. This year's theme will be 'Love' and, as in previous years, a distinguished ensemble of lecturers will participate. Among these: Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, Dr Sebastian Brock, Revd. Prof. Andrew Louth, Sister Magdalen, Dr Marcus Plested, Prof. David Frost and others.

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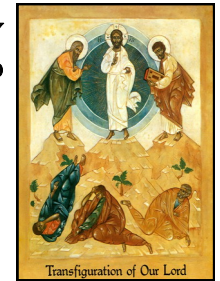
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THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX DEANERY
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND

CORNERSTONE

NUMBER 68 ■ SUMMER 2009



The Special Theme of This Issue is:-
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

On the mount Thou was transfigured, and Thy disciples, as much as they could bear, beheld Thy glory, O Christ our God; so that when they should see Thee crucified, they would know Thy passion to be willing, and would preach to the world that Thou, in truth, art the Effulgence of the Father.



"Now, we can learn all of that, no doubt, and in a much more perfect way, in our own Scriptures. But for the moment, at least, a sort of an outline of virtue can be drawn for us by secular teaching. Those who are careful to gather whatever is useful wherever they find it are like great rivers: they find increase after increase coming to them from all sides quite naturally."

ST. BASIL THE GREAT Commending a well rounded education which supports the heights of the Scriptures with the breadth of understanding drawn from the sciences and the humanities.

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I hope you derive much profit in this issue not so much by its contents but by how you respond to what is written here. It is the case that the Church has always sought to educate herself in the faithful that she might be better equipped to witness to and serve God in every age. The Church in this country is slowly responding to that call. In the last 10 years we have seen steady growth in depth and extent of Orthodox theological education in the United Kingdom and Ireland. With courses in Cambridge, Walsall, Manchester and further afield at least now we have something to enlighten and strengthen the faithful in their Christian lives beyond that which a parish can provide. Of course we still do not have a properly resourced residential seminary to train priests and that must, in my view, is a sore lack that should be urgently addressed. However, reader, this edition will have had some success if only a few of you decide to sign up to one of these courses this Autumn. **The Editor.**

SERVING THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies is the Orthodox house of theological studies in the ancient university city of Cambridge, England. It is a full member of the Cambridge Theological Federation and thus an Allied Institution of the University of Cambridge and a Regional Partner of Anglia Ruskin University. The Institute was founded in 1999 with the blessing of all Orthodox hierarchs in Western Europe. IOCS has rejoiced in having among its guest lecturers and supporters such illustrious teachers as Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Metropolitan John Zizioulas, Fr Thomas Hopko, Fr. Prof. Andrew Louth, Archimandrites Symeon and Zacharias of St John the Baptist's Monastery (Essex), and the late Metropolitan Antony of Sourozh.



CERTIFICATE AND DIPLOMA COURSES

The Institute offers a Certificate in Orthodox Christian Studies, part-time over two years, followed by a Diploma course, also part-time over a further two years. Courses are held on the third weekend of the month in Cambridge, at Wesley House, Jesus Lane. They begin with Vespers at 6 p.m. on Friday, followed by supper, and a lecture from 7.30 - 9 p.m., and then run through Saturday till late afternoon, but with time for worship and socializing - both of which are integral to the teaching. Each course comprises four modules a year plus a Summer School, and each module is taught over two successive weekends. The two-year cycle is repeated, so students may join a course



at any point in the year. The fee for each Certificate or Diploma module is £160. Full time students and those in receipt of state benefits may seek a concessionary rate. Visitors and those who wish only to hear lectures are welcome as 'auditors' and pay £15 for each session or £70 for the whole weekend (which includes meals). This is often a good way to 'taste and see'. The Institute is unable to offer overnight accommodation but it may be able to assist with finding accommodation.

YOUTH READ THIS!

"There is nothing for youth in this country!"
A cry often heard and incorrect. There is quite a lot for youth in this country and if you wish to travel too there is even more abroad a cheap train ticket away.

1. GOYGB Youth Camp.

This means "Greek Orthodox Youth of Great Britain" but despite the name it is very inclusive of all young Orthodox from all over Europe.

<http://www.govgbcamp.org.uk/>

2. Other Youth Activities.

Recently there was the Annual Youth Festival. Next year it will be on Bank Holiday weekend 30th April to 3rd May 2010 in Ilam Derbyshire. It was superb. Your letter was deeply appreciated.

The youth may be interested in the following:

Facebook Group

Youth Festival (18 – 35yrs!)

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2227788678>

Yahoo Group (Part of The Fellowship of St. John the Baptist)

There is a messaging group to keep people up to date with what's going on, there is also have a weekly bulletin of saints lives and the readings for the day.

<http://orthodox.youth.uk.googlepages.com/>

Orthodox Youth Choir Group

There is a mailing group for choir related events to which one can subscribe here:

<http://orthodox.youth.uk.googlepages.com/music>

Google Calendar

If you want to subscribe to the combined calendar of events (embedded on the above website) [next column]

THE WISDOM OF GOD

Who can contain the wisdom of the Wise?
Count loss as gain in faith filled eyes.

Where is the key to unlock uncreated Light?
In constant prayer of day and night!

What target Heaven's arrows and guided darts?
The simple minds, the humble hearts!

Who brought life to the Virgin womb?
He who emptied a stone cold tomb!

Wisdom dwells in fools for Christ.

Power of God the Great High Priest
Who came in flesh to save the least.

Brightness of the Father, Pre-existent Word
The natal earth her ears first heard.

Who conceived creation? Wisdom from above!
Holy fools reflect His image - Love.

Who can contain the wisdom of the Wise?
In repentant sighs the one who dies... to self.

1 Cor. 1:23; 1 Cor. 4:10-11

Fr. Jonathan

The address is:

<http://www.google.com/calendar/feeds/ag5jlh7kr39dl946aodr205cp8%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic>

This is a public calendar with masses of events across UK and Europe

Further away: SYNDESMOS?

<http://www.syndesmos.org/> (PTO) >>>

This is the World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth. Founded in 1953 Syndesmos has grown into a federation of 121 youth movements and theological schools in 43

E-Quip



“for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12)

the St. Aidan’s Diploma Course in Orthodox Theology

at St. Aidan’s Orthodox Church, Clare Road, Manchester M19 2GG

From Tuesday 22nd September, 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm

- Distance Learning Available via the Deanery Web Site
 - Full Diploma or Lecture access only
- Assumes no existing knowledge or qualification
 - Deanery parish based program
 - Very low fees (zero in case of need!)

DETAILS:- <http://www.antiochian-orthodox.co.uk/e-quip.htm>

DISTANCE LEARNING

IOCS distance-learning begins in September/October 2009 with the Certificate of Higher Education in Orthodox Christian Studies, which will be taught in discrete modules over two years and is equivalent to the first year of a full-time bachelor degree. Though discrete, so that students may join the course at any time, these modules follow in sequence through the two years, and students are advised to hold as far as possible to the proposed two-monthly timetable for each module, so that staff and students may consider the same topic together. However, since the whole course repeats after two years, modules that have been missed for any reason can be picked up at a later date. The Distance Learning programme follows closely the Cambridge face-to-face courses. Students will be taught by experts drawn from the United Kingdom and abroad, who present an up-to-the-minute digest of their topic on video and sound-recording, available at any time and downloadable for private study anywhere. The estimated cost for each 10 credit point module is £200.

MAIN PASTORAL THEOLOGY

The MA is the course which attracts most of the post-graduate students. The full-time MA is taught over one academic year but it may also be pursued part-time for two or more years. The degree is validated by Anglia Ruskin University. MA students take classes and work together with their colleagues from the other houses of the Cambridge Theological Federation, representing the Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic and United Reformed traditions. In this diverse context IOCS students will be expected to articulate and communicate their Orthodox faith and identity. To receive the MA degree a student will have to successfully complete four modules and write a dissertation. The modules include some teaching (usually 2 hours per week) but the main emphasis of the course is on research and essay writing. Assignments are not oral examinations but consist mainly of written essays and class presentations.

IOCS Office Contact +44 (0)1223 741037; email info@iocs.cam.ac.uk.

ANCIENT AND MODERN MEET

Most of you will have heard of the Ancient Faith Radio – a brilliant contribution by the Orthodox Church in North America – a meeting of the very ancient with the very modern. The whole of my recent interview on the “Illumined Heart” programme was processed from beginning to end by e-mail or telephone! Yes, truly modern!

Full marks to my interviewer Kevin Allen, who was helpful from beginning to end. There were no attempts to “catch me out”, and we got on very well together. I am glad to report that the responses both in the USA and Canada and other parts of the world have been very positive. According to Kevin Allen there were virtually no critical reactions. The question of Western Rite was discussed a bit, as I had said we were not using it in any of our parishes when asked by Kevin. I am most grateful; to those who so warmly thanked me for the interview here in the UK and Ireland.

Two practical results – another enquiry about “The Way” course, this time from South Africa, where the programme was heard, and an American couple coming this autumn to study in the UK and who are fixing to attend one of our Deanery churches. Thanks be to God, and thank you, Kevin!

The Interview can be heard on our Deanery website. **Fr. Michael, The Dean**

The Midlands Orthodox Study Centre

Walsall WS1 4AN

The Centre was established in 2002 to teach Orthodox Theology. Started originally to serve two local parishes, the Centre has developed significantly and now takes people from much further a-field. We aim to keep costs to a minimum, which we do by using rooms owned by the church and by doing all the teaching within one day, so that there are no accommodation costs. There are one or two guest rooms in the church house for those who travel long distances.



The courses are taught by a small team, who work together closely, with occasional visiting lecturers. The Academic Director is Dr Nikolai Lipatov and the other members of the team are Dr Mary Cunningham, Fr Stephen Maxfield, John Davis and Fr John Nankivell. Each of the team has responsibility for particular modules and all are involved in individual tutorials with students. Fr Elia Khalife, who is now resident in Walsall, does some teaching and visiting lecturers include Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia and Peter Schadler.

The courses are offered at Certificate and Diploma level, both of which are overseen and certificated by the University of Wales, Lampeter. Six modules are taught at each level, each year, and each module is assessed by a written assignment. Most of the teaching takes place on the second Saturday of the month (barring July and August) 10.00am – 5.00pm at the Orthodox Church of the Nativity of the Mother of God in Sun Street Walsall WS1 4AL [Office 63 Dale St, Palfrey, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 4AN tel 01922 633 451]

The Certificate course is intended to provide students with a good introduction to the Orthodox Church, its faith and life. This is done over two years. There are three modules in which important Church themes are introduced, three modules that cover the history of the Church from its beginning to the present day, three modules on the New Testament, two on the Old Testament, and a module on the canons of the Church. It is intended to provide a good grounding for anyone who might, for instance, need to teach Orthodoxy in schools. The modules are taught in a mixture of lectures, seminars (when a relevant original text is discussed in detail) and private tutorials. Help is given to anyone who is not used to academic study or has not done any for many years. A new module for Readers has been developed, and will be taught in the coming academic year, given the necessary approvals.

The Diploma course builds on the knowledge gained in the Certificate with modules on Spirituality, Liturgy, Doctrine, Apologetics and the Fathers. This will help those who may be intending to exercise ministry in the Church.

The courses offered are intended for a wide variety of people and interests. Students

include those interested in learning more about their faith and those who are involved in, or who will be involved in ministry in the Church. Most of the students are Orthodox Christians, but the courses are open to all. In fact the first diploma graduate was a Roman Catholic. Students will be admitted on the basis of their ability to pursue the course, demonstrated by fulfilling the undergraduate entry requirements in the UWL Admissions Policy or by other means such as interview and experience.

Students are encouraged to keep in regular contact with their tutors by email. This they do, particularly with draft assignments. The Centre has a number of tutors in different parts of the country, and aims to develop things so that students can get face-to-face help nearer home, where this is appropriate.

To register contact John Davis: anthony-davis@leopardinsolvency.co.uk For further information contact either John Davis or Fr John Nankivell: nankivell@tesco.net

St Stephens Course

(US based)



The St Stephens Diploma or Masters in Applied Orthodox Theology is a three year Diploma distance learning course offered by the Antiochian House of Studies that can then be upgraded to a MA degree from the St John of Damascus Institute of Theology at the University of Balamand (Where our beloved Metropolitan JOHN was Professor in Liturgics since 1981 and then also Dean for 8 years) after one further year after the completion of a research dissertation. The course is complimented by three one year practical

projects under the supervision of a local priest as well as three one week residency programmes. Up to now these residencies were held in the USA but as from 2010 two out of the three residencies can be done in Ireland under the direction of Fr Irenaeus who is on the USA faculty and also the European Representative. The lecturers are all world renowned academics as well as experts in their field and to whom the students have direct access. The course has stood the test of time and has seen many graduates for over 25 years now ... some of whom used this as an entry course into the Diaconate or Priesthood, and many others who form part of a healthy infrastructure of the Parishes where they serve in the various aspects of lay ministry. The programme is extremely affordable at \$800 per year, especially seen in the context of being directly exposed to an open door to all the lecturers, most of whom are Professors and adjunct Professors at a great variety of Universities. Please contact Fr Irenaeus at irenaeus@btinternet.com for more information or application forms. The next intake needs to register before the 1st of August.

Fr. Irenaeus (St. Ignatios, Belfast)