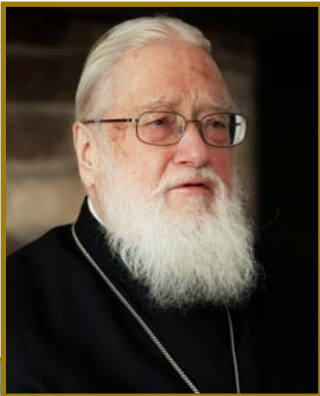




CAMBRIDGE, UNITED KINGDOM



WHO WE ARE



'In an Institute such as ours the aim of the teachers is not merely to communicate information ... it is, rather, their purpose to call forth and evoke in their pupils a sense of curiosity and wonder, a spirit of free enquiry so that those whom we teach may open their eyes and see for themselves.'

Metropolitan Kallistos Ware
President of IOCS



The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies is the pan-Orthodox house for theological studies in the ancient university city of Cambridge, England functioning with the formal approval and blessing of the Pan-Orthodox Episcopal Assembly for Great Britain and Ireland.

Founded in 1999 the Institute is situated at a major crossroad for academic exchange and attracts students and scholars from across the world.



ORTHODOXY IN A MULTI-DENOMINATIONAL CONTEXT

A Member of the Cambridge Theological Federation, IOCS is an Allied Institution of the University of Cambridge. IOCS also works in partnership with Durham University and Anglia Ruskin University and offers degrees through both these universities. At IOCS, students study together with colleagues from other traditions in the Cambridge Theological Federation: Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic and Reformed. In this diverse context IOCS students are encouraged to articulate and communicate their Orthodox faith and identity. What is an Orthodox understanding of the faith and how is it to be communicated today? How different are the concerns of the Western churches from those of the Orthodox churches? These are questions that Orthodox students face in a protective environment of dialogue and intellectual debate that will equip them to handle such issues in their home communities.



Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh, one of the founding fathers of the Institute, at one of our events in the early days of IOCS

OUR LECTURERS

Lecturers at IOCS courses and special events have included:

- » Metropolitan Kallistos Ware
- » Metropolitan John Zizioulas
- » Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev
- » Revd Professor Andrew Louth
- » Archimandrite Zacharias and Revd Dr Nikolai Sakharov, Monastery of St John the Baptist (Essex)
- » Professor Jacques Khalil
- » Revd Professor Nikolaos Loudovikos
- » † Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh
- » † Archimandrite Symeon, Monastery of St John the Baptist (Essex)
- » † Father Thomas Hopko
- » † Archimandrite Ephrem Lash



Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev giving a special lecture for IOCS in Cambridge

AN ORTHODOX HOUSE IN CAMBRIDGE

As an Orthodox house, the Institute is a Christian community that expects its students to participate fully in its liturgical and social life, and to attach themselves to one of the Orthodox congregations in Cambridge: St Ephraim's (Russian tradition, worshipping in English), St Athanasius and St Clement (worshipping in Greek and English) and St John the Evangelist (worshipping in Romanian and English).

Students are expected to attend in-house courses and all services that take place at the Institute.



RESOURCES FOR STUDY

Cambridge offers access to the major libraries of the city and university, to museums, to scholars of note, and to open lectures in many subjects of interest. IOCS itself has a fine library of Orthodox material, much of it bequeathed by Orthodox scholars.

Students are able to attend some of the classes and lectures within the Federation and at the Faculty of Divinity.

Students may improve their language skills for subsequent research by attending courses in Greek, Latin or Hebrew. In many ways the Institute is a gateway through which one enters the range of theological education in Cambridge and the world beyond.

TESTIMONIALS

What our students say:

...the Institute is a gateway through which one enters the range of theological education in Cambridge and the world beyond...

'Studying theology at IOCS in the multid denominational context of the Theological Federation is a unique and fascinating experience. The Institute offers ample resources for research and an environment that's inspiring for thought and discussion.'

Maria Joubert,
MA alumna, Russia



'I was impressed by the professional yet very friendly atmosphere; I am encouraged now to deepen my faith and Orthodox theological experience with a good education system guided by excellent tutors.'

Sherif Rezkalla, BA
alumnus, Egypt/Germany

'IOCS is a great place to study theology since, apart from having access to great academic staff and programmes, one has the opportunity to live in a multicultural environment in a pan-Orthodox setting.'

Iren Kaulics, MA alumna,
Hungary



'I have enjoyed the experience of direct study in Cambridge, and tremendously thankful for the chance to be exposed to the serious study of Orthodox Pastoral theology here at the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies.'

Father David Lowell,
MA alumnus, USA

'I have learned a great deal from the classes, but the distinguishing feature of IOCS is the communal environment.

The fellowship between students and professors and the community at large makes IOCS more than just an institute of higher learning.'

James Henson,
MA alumnus, USA



'As part of the Cambridge Theological Federation, IOCS made me feel comfortable and open to learn about other Christian traditions. This was a unique experience in approaching deeply one of the most important principles that Orthodox tradition defends, "love your neighbor as yourself".'

Maria Rapti, Erasmus exchange
alumna, Greece

'Reflecting on the wonderful experience I enjoyed at IOCS I cannot emphasise enough my conviction that this wonderful place is and must remain an oasis of light for all those who wish to deepen the Word of God given to us humans by our Saviour, Jesus Christ.'

Fr Marius-Emanuel Obreja
Visiting PhD Scholar, Romania



'Studying with the Institute has opened for me a new perspective of the Western Christian world. After this living experience the unique role of Orthodoxy is clearer to me than ever before.'

Egor Karpenkov,
MA alumnus, Russia



PHD IN ORTHODOX STUDIES

Our new programme is of the highest quality and available to anyone, anywhere, who has the necessary initial qualifications and a topic in Orthodox studies that he or she is passionate to explore. Your research does not necessarily require that you reside in Cambridge – though we encourage you to take as much advantage as you can of a major intellectual centre. Study can be full-time or part-time, but we can provide guidance in almost any area of scholarly interest, wherever you are, provided you can keep contact with your supervisors by personal meetings, Skype, telephone or email.

We believe we are unique in the western world as an Orthodox foundation yet part of an ecumenical Christian endeavour and allied to the internationally renowned University of Cambridge. If you are interested in doctoral studies through IOCS, our brochure will guide you through (please check our website).

We can guide you in your choice of topic and offer you a specialist supervisor drawn from some of Orthodoxy's most distinguished scholars.

MA IN THEOLOGY, MINISTRY AND MISSION

IOCS now accepts students for a postgraduate Certificate and Diploma leading to a Masters degree. The IOCS pathway bears the title *Christian Thought in the Contemporary World*. Its main aim is to explore how the Church and Christian theology can critically and creatively relate to the contemporary world and contemporary thought. Students have the opportunity to reflect on the current ecumenical situation, the dialogue between theology and science, secularisation, and the relationship between philosophy and theology.

Our MA students study together with colleagues from other traditions in the Cambridge Theological Federation.



OUR COURSES

CERTIFICATE / DIPLOMA IN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES BY DISTANCE LEARNING

For nearly seven years the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies has offered a version of its Cambridge-based courses on-line, using the internet and the latest advances in on-line teaching and learning methodology to make available some of the most distinguished teachers of Orthodox studies to students anywhere in the world.

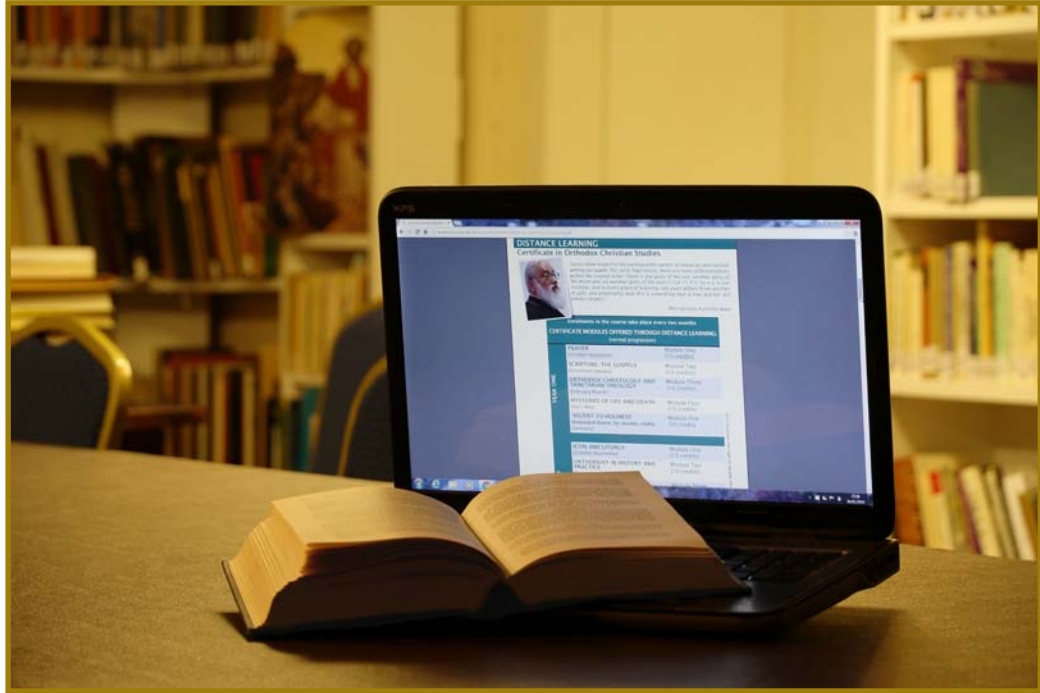
The Distance Learning programme follows our Cambridge face-to-face courses. You will be taught by experts drawn from the United Kingdom and around the world, who present an up-to-the-minute digest of their topic on video and sound recording, available at any time and anywhere for private study.

We aim to offer the whole 'Cambridge experience', so that you can sit in on the lecture room while your fellow-students discuss with the lecturer what has been said. But we also make special provision to combat 'the loneliness of the long-distance learner'.

The modules of the course are taught as separate units, so students may join the course at any time. However, the 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.

Each distance-learner will have a personal Tutor who keeps contact by e-mail, advises on study techniques, comments on drafts of work to be submitted, and conducts online discussions with groups of students at least once per week.

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BA (HONS) IN THEOLOGY, MINISTRY AND MISSION

Validated by the ancient and prestigious University of Durham, the degree is open to anyone with the necessary requirements for enrolment who wishes to study the Orthodox Christian faith in depth. Students will be attracted to it by a wish to learn and (we hope) an eagerness to teach; but it brings with it the usual professional benefits: an honours degree that opens the door both to graduate employment and to the higher reaches of the British educational system. What is more, compared to other degree courses, it is significantly cheaper, since suitable students may apply for generous bursaries to further their education, whilst also being eligible for government loans to cover fees and maintenance.

Though our BA in Theology does not lead automatically to ordination (which is entirely the decision of an Orthodox bishop), it can be an important part of preparation, and a number of Orthodox jurisdictions in this country require that candidates have a first university degree. Moreover, at a time when a government survey shows that only a third of teachers of religious education in schools have appropriate qualifications, there is clearly a need and an opportunity for dedicated instructors.

But more than anything, this is an opportunity to deepen together our knowledge of the Christian faith and to equip ourselves to spread it abroad.



The Principal of IOCS presenting THE WAY box set to Daniel, Patriarch of Romania. © Romanian Patriarchate

THE WAY COURSE

THE WAY is the outreach programme of IOCS. It is a course of 12 sessions, usually delivered over 12 weeks, and consists of a meal together, a talk on a central aspect of Christian belief, free discussion in small groups, and a “question and answer” session, where members of each group put questions to a panel.

THE WAY was initially presented in the UK, Singapore, USA and Australia. Following an experimental run of THE WAY course in a few Bucharest parishes in 2013, Patriarch Daniel of Romania granted his blessing for the implementation of this instructional course for adults in as many parishes as possible in Romania.



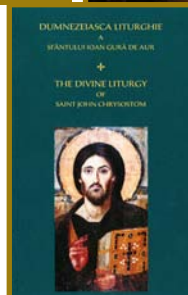
In the meantime a translation has also been finalised in Greece, where THE WAY course is expected to become part of a similar process of implementation.

The course has been published as a multi-media package which includes video sessions and all materials necessary to run the course. The box set can be purchased online via Amazon or from the Institute.



THE IOCS LITURGY PROJECT

IOCS has launched a programme of translation in 2015 to present the ancient but still living texts of the Liturgies of St John Chrysostom and St Basil the Great. The programme is also intended to assist the worship-experience of the Orthodox communities of Great Britain, whatever their ethnic background, by producing a single modern English translation of the Greek originals that can lie alongside texts in a church’s language of origin, providing a book for those who celebrate alternately in both languages but catering also for communities who celebrate mainly in their own language but occasionally in English.



The Institute has published already two books as part of this long-term project: the English Text of ‘The Divine Liturgies of St John Chrysostom and St Basil the Great’ and a bilingual Romanian-English edition of the Liturgy of St John Chrysostom - already in use in the Romanian Parish of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge. Both publications are available now through Amazon.



CONFERENCES, COMMUNITY DAYS AND OTHER EVENTS

Testimony to the great need for an Orthodox centre like IOCS in Cambridge is the fact that over the past years a great number of events have been organised here and received by enthusiastic participants. We have had so far our series of Community Days, our Annual Conferences, Icon Painting workshops, several meetings with Orthodox bishops who came to lecture for us and to visit us in our new home, and youth meetings. Moreover, all of our teaching for our MA courses run jointly with the Cambridge Theological Federation has been done in our Library/Seminar Room.



Metropolitan Kallistos Ware lecturing for one of our Community Days



Rev. Professor Nikolaos Loudovikos delivering his conference lecture



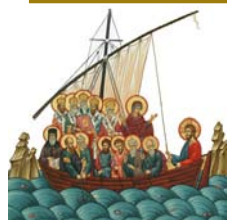
Rev. Professor Andrew Louth lecturing at IOCS

THE IOCS RESEARCH CENTRE

The Research Centre of IOCS brings together staff, research students and scholars from around the country and from overseas for monthly or bi-monthly meetings throughout the academic year. Membership as a Research Associate bestows certain privileges and is by invitation; but sessions are open to all who are interested in sharing and discussing ongoing research on Orthodox topics.

Recent presentations have included:

- * Dr Alexandra Antohin on 'Shaping Civil Society through New Models of Christian Fellowship: a Case Study of Ethiopian Orthodox Associations' (Alexandra is a Research Associate of IOCS and holds a doctorate from University College, London)
- * Dr Caroline Shepherd presented 'A study of the psychological state of hesychia in an anonymous collection of the Sayings of the Desert Fathers'
- * Fr Dragos Herescu is Assistant Lecturer at IOCS, currently completing his doctorate and also priest of the Romanian Orthodox congregation in Cambridge. He gave a paper on 'Religion in Romania: some thoughts on ethno-religiosity, on Church-State relations, and the impact of secularisation'
- * Deacon Isidoros Katsos (undertaking a doctorate at the University of Cambridge Faculty of Divinity) gave a talk on 'Divine infinity in Philo of Alexandria: "Much ado about nothing?"'
- * Dr Christine Mangala Frost (a Research Associate of the Institute and Co-ordinator of the Research Seminars) gave a foretaste of her forthcoming study on Hinduism and Orthodox Christianity, 'The Quest for the Divine: an appraisal of bhakti (the Hindu tradition of devotional love) from an Orthodox Christian perspective'



Follow our news at: www.iocs.cam.ac.uk

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Photography: © Revd Dragos Herescu. Design: Dr Razvan Porumb.