



INSTITUTE FOR
ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN STUDIES
CAMBRIDGE



Standing at the Crossroads: Challenges and Opportunities for Orthodoxy in the West

building on two decades in Cambridge

*A celebration in support of IOCS
17 June 2017, Magdalene College, Cambridge*



REFLECTIONS FROM OUR SPEAKERS ON THE WORK OF IOCS:

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We aim to be pan-Orthodox, to involve all the Orthodox different ecclesiastical families that work in this country and, of course, we hope to have an international outreach. We welcome students from abroad as well as non-Orthodox students.

So I would see our Cambridge Institute as an important sign of the times pointing to the direction which the Orthodox Church should follow here in the British Isles. We are one in faith but we do not manifest that unity as we should. Our Institute can surely contribute to that vital task.

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Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, President IOCS

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I want to see the Orthodox presence, and the Orthodox mind and the Orthodox language very deeply interwoven with what we as Christians, and we as theologians generally would want to say in our current cultural environment. Here is a life lived, a change effected by grace, a way of speaking about the environment we inhabit. And both for our Christian and for our secular environment, that is, for us all, a world of life.

Which is why I am very glad you are here and hope you will be here for a whole time longer.

”

Revd Dr Rowan Williams

“

I wish I could spend my time in institutions like this, but I can't. I wish I could spend my time talking to Christians.

I've been so excited by being here, today, in this wonderful Institute and by the way that you work here and by the fact that you do have this fantastic outreach.

If we take education out of the religious experience, it will never grow, because the seeds can't be planted. I pray with you, I would pray every minute for teachers. Teachers, teachers, teachers. And that's where Jesus placed himself.

”

David Suchet CBE

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Here we have a place where Orthodox of all different styles and stripes can meet in the heart of a world-renowned academic city, where Orthodox people from around the world can benefit in a place of advanced study. And everybody else can also benefit from the presence of an Orthodox institution, even long after all of us are gone.

If the Lord is the Builder of the house then we rejoice in all the different things that are brought to it - and it's His work, not our own. May God grant that this Institute prosper in the years to come.

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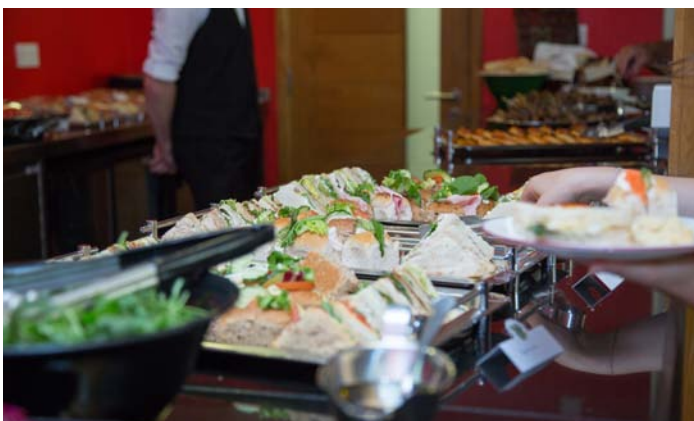
Revd Dr John Jillions, Founding Principal of IOCS

A CELEBRATION IN SUPPORT OF IOCS



A multitude of minds: from hierarchs to educators, founders and benefactors, theologians to thespians, employees and friends, were today connected and inspired to communicate a vision for the future. It was a blessing to be in the midst of such a company and share stories and strawberries together in the sunshine. 🍓

Dr Miriam Craddock



On 17 June 2017, the Master of Magdalene College, Dr Rowan Williams (Lord Williams of Oystermouth) together with Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia hosted a celebratory event at Magdalene College, Cambridge, in support of the work of the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies. The theme of the event was 'Standing at the Crossroads: Challenges and Opportunities for Orthodoxy in the West' with the tagline 'IOCS – building on two decades in Cambridge'.

Four very distinguished speakers addressed the audience:

Revd Dr John Jillions, the first principal of IOCS and one of its founders, captivated the audience by presenting a first-hand account of the early history of IOCS and the vision which inspired it.

Metropolitan Kallistos, the President of the Institute and also its mentor and spiritual guide, delivered an inspired talk on the situation of the Orthodox Church in the British Isles. He also highlighted a number of areas where he identified the role of the Institute as pivotal - the theology of creation, communion and encounter.

In the afternoon we delighted in a rare treat – a perspective from the realm of the arts on what it means to be a Christian in today's world. World-famous and much-loved actor David Suchet (mostly known from the internationally celebrated TV series *Poirot*) took centre stage in a conversation with the Principal of the Institute, Father Dragos Herescu. This was a moving and profound confession of faith and a plea for Christian unity which was greatly appreciated by all present.

Finally, the host of the event, Revd Dr Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, spoke about the contribution of Orthodoxy in the West and the value of an Orthodox institute in Cambridge. Dr Williams' profound theological meditation crowned the end of a day which was marked both by a spirit of communion and prayerful reflection, and by a sense of urgency and enterprise.

...A SPIRIT OF COMMUNION, URGENCY AND ENTERPRISE...

We are grateful to have had so many of our friends by our side (with more than 50 people in attendance), for the fellowship and encouraging feedback, at this stage when the Institute is celebrating two decades of existence. At this landmark anniversary, the Institute looks forward with a renewed sense of purpose, excited by the journey before us. With faith in Christ and with the help of our friends everything is possible!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



I would like to thank everyone who participated in this special Institute event on 17 June, especially our host **Archbishop Rowan Williams** and **Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia**, under whose patronage the event took place. Special thanks are due to **Fr John Jillions**, the first Principal of the Institute, who travelled from the the US to give his support to this next period in the Institute's journey. The singular contribution of **Mr David Suchet** CBE will live on in the memory of all present as a remarkable witness for how to live out our Christian vocation today. He spoke for an articulated, passionate yet inclusive witness, that is resolutely rooted in Christ so that it remains responsively connected to society. Gratitude is also due to our friend Dr Michael Basham, a former IOCS Trustee, who made a generous donation toward the cost of this event.

It was extraordinary to see many familiar faces and many new faces, old friends as well as new, a whole host of supporters, students, and friends. Our fellowship made the day a genuine celebration of two decades of existence of the Institute in Cambridge. I cannot but emphasise how particularly special it was to share the day with **His Eminence Archbishop Elisey of Sourozh** (The Moscow Patriarchate), with **Father Kyril** - the Abbot of the Monastery of St John the Baptist in Tolleshunt Knights (Ecumenical Patriarchate), and with **Dame Mary Tanner** – a leading figure of the ecumenical dialogue and former European President of the World Council of Churches (currently Chair of the Governing Council of the Cambridge Theological Federation). Many thanks also to **Mr George Pippas, the Mayor of Cambridge** who joined us briefly in the first part of the day.

This event has highlighted yet again what a unique institution IOCS is: a place of education and research steeped in the practice, tradition, and theology of the Orthodox Church; a place of encounter and dialogue between East and West – both culturally and theologically; an institution that by its very existence highlights differences and challenges, only to create the space and the means to transcend them and turn them into opportunities. I am immensely proud to be associated with the Institute, with the people that have shaped and continue to shape its history, with its ethos of a 'generous Orthodoxy', matched only by the relentlessly pioneering spirit of enquiry and innovation in education that looks to



A CELEBRATION IN SUPPORT OF IOCS

communicate the richness of Orthodoxy always 'in the present tense'.

The Institute remains the only Orthodox institution in the UK offering access to university accredited theology degrees and research (MA and PhD). For anyone seeking to learn more about the fundamentals of the Orthodox faith, the Institute offers an excellent suite of opportunities for study through our distance learning Certificate and

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The Institute has been standing at the crossroads for two decades. If you resonate with our ethos and our work please consider backing IOCS.

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Diploma – which respond to both a need for catechesis and continuing formation. Our work in Cambridge and our membership of the Cambridge Theological Federation (an ecumenical partnership of nine institutions reaching beyond the boundaries of Christian encounter into interfaith dialogue with all Abrahamic faiths), means that the Institute remains at the forefront of education, research and outreach.

The Institute has indeed been standing at the crossroads for two decades. To continue to do so, it needs real, practical support. If you resonate with our ethos and our work, if you feel that you can stand alongside our current supporters, if you want to be a part of a continuing and sustainable Orthodox presence in Cambridge, please consider backing IOCS. Visit our Friends of IOCS webpage (www.iocs.cam.ac.uk/friends-of-iocs) or our 'Support IOCS' page to find out more. Equally, we would love to let you know more about our plans and projects by email, telephone, or by arranging a visit to the Institute.

Fr Dragos Herescu, Principal of IOCS



THE FRIENDS OF IOCS



This celebration coincided with the launch of *The Friends of IOCS* - an initiative of like-minded supporters and collaborators of the Institute, whose aim is to bring together the community of IOCS supporters worldwide in order to help the work of the Institute.

The Friends of IOCS is open to students and alumni, to benefactors and donors, to all who love the Institute and are interested in building and supporting a vibrant Orthodox Christian educational ministry in Cambridge, to anyone who wants to give something back or contribute to its future. The Friends of IOCS will initially have both a UK and a USA arm, chaired by Dr Elizabeth Theokritoff and Fr David Lowell respectively.



THE FRIENDS AIM TO:

- ❖ create awareness about the work of the Institute
- ❖ foster good relations and active collaboration between IOCS and different local Christian communities
- ❖ inspire dialogue and encounter between Orthodoxy and the West through the medium of IOCS
- ❖ raise funds to support, enhance or facilitate access to education through the Institute (bursaries, scholarships, research positions, library provisions, events etc.)

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING A FRIEND OF IOCS?

- ❖ Free access or concessionary rates to conferences and events
- ❖ Friends Newsletter
- ❖ Annual Open Day Event for Friends

HOW TO BECOME A FRIEND?

For more information on how to become a Friend of IOCS, please check our dedicated web page (www.iocs.cam.ac.uk/friends-of-iocs) or drop us a line at info@iocs.cam.ac.uk



“ A big thank you for the wonderful gathering last Saturday. It was such a joy to be with so many old friends and to hear and be energised by the inspired speakers you had lined up for us! ”

Esther Banev





Welcoming Archimandrite Kyrill, the Abbot of the Monastery of St John the Baptist (Essex)



Father Dragos Herescu with Archbishop Elisey of Sourouz



The Institute's special guest for the day, the actor David Suchet (here in conversation with Father Dragos Herescu)



Father Dragos Herescu with Dr Razvan Porumb welcoming our very good friend Dr James Aitken, Reader at the Faculty of Divinity in Cambridge



Welcoming Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow and Mr. Anton Ponomarev from Faith2Share



Father Dragos with Dame Mary Tanner, Chair of the Governing Council of the Cambridge Theological Federation

As an independent pan-Orthodox Institute and educational charity, IOCS relies on donations and benefactions in order to ensure excellence in its research and teaching provision. There are many ways to support the Institute: private donations, endowments, legacies, lectureships, room or library sponsorships, scholarships etc. To make a donation (one-off or regular) please visit our 'Donations' page at www.iocs.cam.ac.uk/donations

You can either establish a donation online or download our 'Donations' form. Please note that American friends can make tax-exempt donations via 'Cambridge in America'

We welcome discussions about donations and substantial benefactions. Please email us at info@iocs.cam.ac.uk or ring us on +44 (0)1223 741 037



The staff of IOCS with our speakers for the day (from left to right): Dr Razvan Porumb (Lecturer and Vice-Principal IOCS), Revd Dr Rowan Williams (former Archbishop of Canterbury and Master of Magdalene College - host of the event), Mr David Suchet CBE (world-renowned actor and our special guest for the day), Metropolitan Kallistos Ware (President of IOCS), Revd Dr John Jillions (Founding Principal of IOCS, currently Chancellor of OCA and Associate Professor of Religion and Culture at St Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary), Father Dragos Herescu (Principal of IOCS) and Dr Christoph Schneider (Academic Director, IOCS).