



The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies

St Luke's Summer

The golden leaves of a glorious St Luke's summer, covering Jesus Green with a warm rustling blanket, heralded the beginning of a new term and a new academic year – number five in the short life of the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies. Delighted by the signs of a steadily increasing student body, the Institute welcomed nearly seventy participants at its first study weekend of the new academic year, and was pleased to greet around twenty new part-time students who were joining the courses.

As in previous years, the IOCS full-time students are from outside the UK. These students come to Cambridge bringing a mixture of culture, language and life experience from which we can all be enriched. They also come with expectations, and the hope to gain not only a degree, but also an experience of life in Britain, enhancement of their English language skills and exposure to the so-called Orthodox diaspora, since they are mostly from traditionally Orthodox countries.

This year we welcome two Georgian students who are following the Certificate in



The IOCS caters for two distinct groups of students: the part-time students who come to Cambridge on a monthly basis following the Certificate or the Diploma course, and the full-time students who live in Cambridge all year round following a degree course within the Cambridge Theological Federation (CTF).

This past year there have been five full-time students (one Serb, one Russian, one Cypriot and two Romanians), and one part-time student (a Georgian) following a Masters degree course in Pastoral Theology now completing their dissertations. The MA is a modular course with an Orthodox module taught by the Institute.

Theological and Pastoral Studies, a student from the US, an MA student from the UK and two Romanian students who arrive at the beginning of Lent term to join the MA course.

The Institute seeks to develop ways to give more support and guidance to overseas students, and to manage in a constructive way the inevitable clashes that occur when cultures meet. New and current students have shared dinner together to mark the start of term, and have attended several study-skills sessions at which issues concerning cross-cultural difficulties and essay-writing have been addressed. ■

Living Orthodoxy

Much has happened already at IOCS since the fourth Summer School *Living Orthodoxy in 21st Century* which took place in July 2003. Impressions from this event, however, are still fresh in the mind, since it was an exceptional week of fellowship and study.

The Summer School was booked up well in advance of the event, with fifty-five students from the UK and abroad, including Belgium, Iceland, Sweden, Denmark, France, Germany, Romania, South Africa and the US.

A highlight of the week was a lecture by Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia, IOCS Chairman, which identified the mission of Orthodox theology in the 21st century. He pointed to the importance of ecclesiology for Orthodox theology in recent decades, and proposed that Christian anthropology should be seen as the most significant subject for Orthodox theologians in the near future.

Other speakers explored new approaches to the translation of liturgical texts; the relationship of Orthodoxy to Eastern religions; the Orthodox involvement in the ecumenical movement; Orthodox Christian social witness and action; the challenges for Orthodoxy in the New Europe; and the relationship between Science and Faith. The programme allowed a number of IOCS students to make presentations on their own areas of research and interest.

The closing lecture on Science and Faith, given by guest speaker John Polkinghorne, was cited by many students as a stimulating and memorable end to an altogether enlightening week.

As in the previous three IOCS summer schools, the programme contained a full round of Orthodox services with daily worship and the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Excursions to the Orthodox parish in Norwich and to the Monastery of St John

the Baptist in Essex gave participants a brief exposure to the life of lay and monastic Christian communities.

The congenial atmosphere and positive group dynamic was highly rated by all, and students commented on the value of a space where Orthodox and non-Orthodox could meet, discuss, and learn in an open and friendly way. ■

The fifth IOCS Summer School will take place in Cambridge from 5-9 July 2004.

CARTS conference on Sacrifice

From 30 June – 1 July 2003, the Centre for Advanced Religious and Theological Study (CARTS) hosted a conference on 'Sacrifice' at the Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge, as part of an ongoing project on the Jewish Roots of Eastern Christian Worship. Around sixty participants took part.

Speakers at the conference included Bishop Kallistos Ware (IOCS Chairman), Bishop Basil Osborne (IOCS Director), Dr George Bebawi (IOCS Director of Studies), Dr Sebastian Brock, Professor Stefan Reif, Revd Dr Gregory Woolfenden, Professor Jacob Milgrom and Dr Jo Milgrom.

It is expected that lectures from the conference will be published in due course as a basis for further development and discussion on the theme. ■

For a more detailed report on this conference and forthcoming conferences please consult the Faculty of Divinity webpage by going to:
www.divinity.cam.ac.uk

'And you shall be my witnesses...'

The Orthodox Theological Academy of Christ the Saviour, Durres, Albania, was the venue for the XVIIth General Assembly of Syndesmos, the World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth from 14-22 July 2003. The Assembly was hosted by Archbishop Anastasios, Primate of the Autocephalous Church of Albania, and gathered together 153 delegates and guests, representing all local Orthodox Churches, from more than forty countries. Also present were observers from the World Council of Churches, the Conference of European Churches and other ecumenical bodies. The theme of the General Assembly was 'And you shall be my witnesses...' (Acts 1:8).

IOCS Principal, Dr Marcus Plested, was present at the Assembly on behalf of both the Institute and of the Fellowship of St Alban and St Sergius, and was able to distribute materials to the participants and discuss with them the work and vision of both institutions. Other representatives from Great Britain included IOCS Member Dr Dimitri Oikonomou, a former Syndesmos President (1995-1999).

IOCS takes a keen interest in the activities of Syndesmos – which includes a thirty-strong body of theological institutions worldwide amongst its members – whilst in past years several of our students have participated in Syndesmos activities.

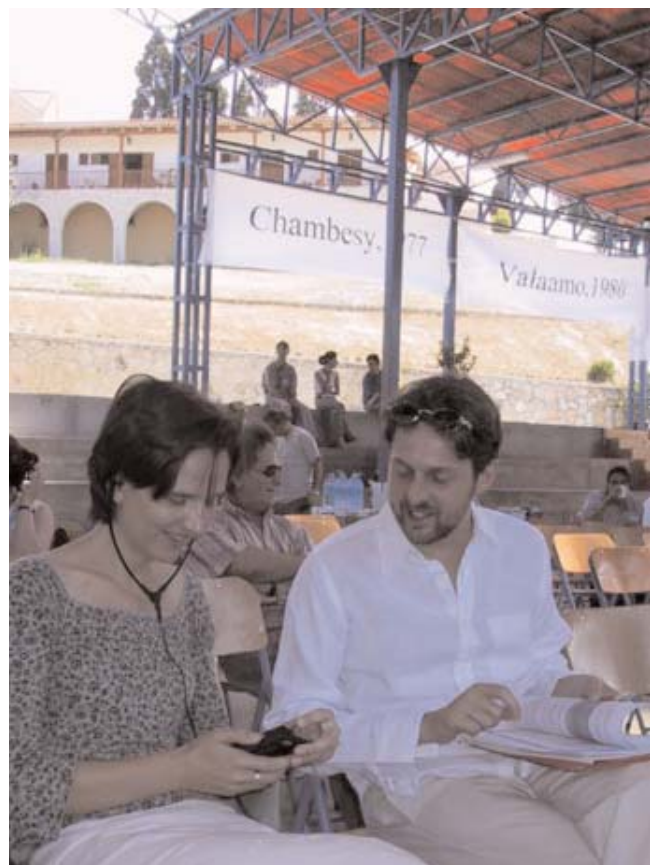
Young Orthodox (17-35 years) are encouraged to consider taking part in Syndesmos international activities as an opportunity for exposure to the Orthodox church worldwide, and to gain a deeper understanding of the universality of the faith and Christian mission. The Syndesmos calendar of events for 2004 will be available as from January at www.syndesmos.org

Syndesmos, the only pan-Orthodox organisation working under the blessing of

the canonical Orthodox bishops, was founded in 1953 by a group of young inspired Orthodox theologians (George Khodr, Jean Meyendorff, Alexander Schmemmann, et al.) in order to serve the Church in her witness of love and unity. Today, Syndesmos is made up of 121 Orthodox youth organisations worldwide.

To mark the celebration of the 50th anniversary of its founding, Syndesmos has recently published a jubilee edition entitled 'the Bond of Unity' – a compilation of texts tracing the history of the Fellowship, which includes papers on Orthodox youth and unity given by many eminent Orthodox speakers including IOCS Chairman Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia and the late Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh. Copies are available for order at www.syndesmos.org ■

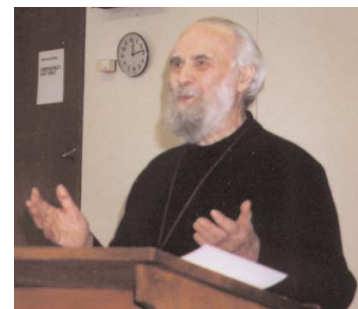
You can view a selection of more than 60 photographs, and read the report about the event on the Syndesmos website



Dr Marcus Plested at the Syndesmos Assembly, with Syndesmos Secretary-General, Rebecca Hookway

Memory Eternal, Vladika!

Known simply as 'Vladika', Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh (Moscow Patriarchate) passed away in August 2003. The funeral service took place in the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of All Saints, Ennismore Gardens. A number of directors, staff and students of the Institute were able to attend.



The oldest Orthodox Bishop in the Russian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Anthony served in Great Britain for more than fifty years as the head of the diocese of Sourozh, and earned the love and deep respect of the Orthodox communities throughout the country. As archpastor of a multinational diocese in Britain, Metropolitan Anthony has been a faithful servant of the universal Church.

The IOCS owes much to Metropolitan Anthony. It was on the occasion of the award of Cambridge University of an honorary doctorate in Divinity to Metropolitan Anthony in 1996 that the first seeds of the founding of the IOCS were sown. Since that time Vladika continued to be behind the work of the Institute in his blessing, prayers, and personal support. Two years ago, at the age of 88, Metropolitan Anthony honoured the IOCS with his presence during the June 2001 study weekend at which he delivered a memorable lecture on Prayer to our students. Metropolitan Anthony took an active part in the dialogue with the Anglican Church and other Christian communities worldwide, and was a member of the central committee of the World Council of Churches.

We pray for the repose of the soul of the servant of God, Metropolitan Anthony, and life everlasting!

Conference in Piemonte

The 11th international conference hosted by the ecumenical monastic community of Bose, Italy, gathered 150 participants – eminent scholars, theologians and students – from among the Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant communities between 14-20 September 2003. The first part of the conference was dedicated to the fathers of the Gaza desert (Barsanuphios, John and their disciple Dorotheos), and the second part to the Russian Orthodox Church Council of 1917-1918.

The conference participants heard papers both from IOCS Chairman, Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia, and from IOCS Director, Bishop Basil of Sergievo. The Institute was represented by former IOCS MA student Krastu Banev (now doctoral candidate) and IOCS Communications Officer, Esther Hookway. Orthodox hierarchs, scholars, theologians and students were present at the conference both as speakers and as participants.

A day excursion to Milan between the two parts of the conference included the opportunity to venerate the relics of the patron saint of Milan, St Ambrose, whose body lies encased beneath the alter of a 4th century church in the centre of the city.

The ecumenical community of Bose, gathering together about seventy men and women dedicated to the cenobitic life, was founded in 1968 in the small village of Bose, Italy, by Br. Enzo Bianchi, who remains its spiritual father and prior. The opportunities for monastic life offered by the more open atmosphere in the Roman Catholic church following the second Vatican council (1962) have, over the years, enabled the community to expand and to welcome brothers and sisters from different Christian traditions seeking a life of prayer.

The monastic rule practised at Bose takes its basic structure from the cenobitic monasteries of the early church and is regulated by common and private prayer, study of the fathers and scripture, and practical work – set in a framework of the fasts and feasts of the liturgical calendar.

Worship is conducted in Italian; the chant follows the Gregorian tradition with a number of Slavic elements, and the liturgical rite, whilst including elements from the Orthodox tradition, follows essentially that of the Roman Catholic church. The most striking factor of the monastic community in Bose is the Christian spirit of service and love extended to all those who visit. The youthfulness of its members, whose openness, love and warmth spring from their striving to walk in the way of Christ, makes Bose a magnet for people of many nationalities who seek spiritual comfort and refreshment.

All the brethren of the community in Bose have had some experience of the Orthodox tradition; during the period of the noviciate, the brothers spend some time on Mount Athos in Greece and several members of the community have visited the Monastery of St John the Baptist in Essex. The brethren take a lively interest in the work of the Institute in Cambridge and in establishing a closer link with its activities. ■

***Salvete!* to new students**

New student Tamar Gogvadze, following the Certificate in Theological and Pastoral Studies (CTPS) shares her story with us: I grew up in a family of Orthodox parents in Georgia (the former Soviet Republic). I began active life in the Church in my school years and afterwards became involved in a missionary group of the Department of Mission and Evangelization of the Georgian Patriarchate. To build on my experience of church life, I have taken part in several pilgrimages, and have lived in monastic communities for two years. This experience has helped me to fulfill my professional responsibilities as a lecturer in Art History at Tbilisi State University.

Living in England has given me the possibility to know better this country, with its great history, Christian culture and royal heritage. Cambridge seems to me the homeland of education,

with its ancient colleges and legendary scholars. All that I learnt about England from afar I now see before me as a reality. I am following the CTPS course, and thus have an experience of the British educational system - one characteristic being that it offers students the opportunity to choose the most interesting question and explore it in depth.

The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies gives me the possibility to study theology in an ecumenical context. Students of different nationalities are following the Certificate course, and the atmosphere is warm and friendly. I think that IOCS has a significant role to play in the understanding between the Christian Churches and I am very grateful to be part of this Institute. ■

Flying colours for IOCS alumni

The Institute is honoured to announce the graduation of former student Stanka Spassova on 15 October in Cambridge. Stanka was awarded a Masters degree in Pastoral Theology – the third IOCS student to have been awarded this degree, and we take this opportunity to congratulate her on her achievement, and on all that she has contributed to life at the Institute during her years in Cambridge 2000-2002.

Stanka, originally from Varna in Bulgaria, graduated in Theology from Sofia



Stanka Spassova on her MA graduation day in Cambridge with IOCS staff, students and friends

University and worked for several years as a journalist for *Tsarkoven Vestnik*, the official newsletter of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, before embarking on her MA at IOCS. Stanka's graduation ceremony, at which she was presented with the MA certificate, was followed by a small champagne reception in her honour at the Institute, with staff, students and friends alike. We wish Stanka all good things for her future and many blessed years! ■

Sister Institute in Brussels visits IOCS

The religious education system in Belgium differs significantly from that of the UK, not least in the impressive fact that all school pupils (Orthodox or not) have the right to receive Orthodox Christian teaching in their religious education lessons. This is one benefit to draw from the official state recognition enjoyed by the Orthodox Church in Belgium.

St John's Institute (Centre de formation théologique St Jean le Théologien) in Brussels operates under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Belgium, and trains teachers of religious education. On completion of their course of study, they enter Belgian schools as teachers of Orthodox religious education.

St John's Institute offers parallel courses in both French and Flemish, in response to the language divide in the country. These courses cover the same curriculum, and prepare candidates for teaching in either French-speaking or Flemish-speaking Belgium.

Keen to see how the IOCS functions, a group of trainee students of St John's Institute, along with their lecturers and directors from both the French and Flemish departments, came on a day visit to Cambridge during the first week of November. IOCS staff and full-time students had lunch and discussions with the fifteen-

strong contingent. It was a friendly and informal meeting, at which issues such as curricula, study skills and appraisal, distance learning and teaching in an ecumenical context, were all addressed. Our visitors were impressed with the way in which IOCS organises its part-time Certificate and Diploma courses, and also by the recognition of IOCS by the University of Cambridge which has embraced the holistic concept behind the Orthodox approach to learning - where the learning process is understood as a combination of both worship and study.

After a short tour of Trinity College and other parts of Cambridge, we shared a cup of tea with our guests before they continued their journey to the Monastery of St John the Baptist in Essex.

We all look forward to keeping in touch with our newly made friends and Colleagues from St John's Institute, and to finding ways in which we can cooperate more closely. ■

To find out more information about the Centre de St Jean visit their webpage by going to: www.orthodoxie.be

Our missionary calling

The IOCS November study weekend was dedicated to Mission and taught at IOCS by Fr Luke Veronis, Dean of the Orthodox Theological Academy of Christ the Saviour in Durres, Albania.

This study weekend sought to identify the place of mission in Orthodox theology, discussing the historical foundation for mission from a biblical and theological perspective, and exploring the integral role of mission in the identity of an Orthodox Christian. Students were called to consider such questions as:

- Can we call the Orthodox Church one, holy, catholic, and apostolic, if we the faithful ignore our calling to be apostolic?

- Can the Church, and all faithful believers, remain indifferent to one quarter of the world that has never heard of Jesus Christ?
- How can we cultivate a missionary way of being within ourselves, and within our Church, and how will this instil a sense of enthusiasm, excitement and meaning into our daily lives?



Fr Luke Veronis lecturing Diploma students during IOCS study weekend

Through his words and example, Fr Luke conveyed an understanding of mission as integral to the Christian way of life, guiding students through a process of reflection on the life-changing experience that missionary work offers, and reminding us that a Church without mission is as unthinkable as a Church without liturgy. In the light of this statement Fr Luke challenged students to reflect on the significance of the Gospel calling, 'Go forth and make disciples of all nations' (Mt. 28:18).

Fr Luke also gave a public lecture at the Faculty of Divinity which dealt specifically with the theme of the resurrection of the Orthodox Church in Albania 1992-2003.

For the past ten years, Fr Luke has worked in Albania with his family as a missionary alongside His Beatitude, Archbishop Anastasios, Primate of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church in Albania. Fr Luke is one of about twenty-five Orthodox missionaries in Albania, contributing to the resurrection of the Orthodox Church since the fall of

Communism in the early 1990s. Fr Luke gained an extraordinary experience working with refugees during the Kosovo war, catechising the young and old in remote villages of Albania, setting up a youth centre in Tirana, directing the Sons of Light national Orthodox youth movement as well as teaching at the Theological Academy in Durres. ■

For further information about the Orthodox Church in Albania, visit <http://www.orthodoxalbania.org>

Out and about

IOCS academic staff Dr Marcus Plested and Dr George Bebawi are often invited to give papers, speak at conferences and seminars or to contribute an Orthodox perspective to a range of issues of Christian concern. A recent Radio 3 broadcast featured an interview with Dr Plested on the Orthodox services of Holy Week and Easter. A Christmas 2003 broadcast from Anglia Television also features the Principal speaking from the IOCS premises about the Orthodox church in Britain. Dr Plested has given papers on Wisdom in the Patristic Tradition at patristics seminars in Durham and Cambridge, the XIV International Patristics Conference (Oxford), and at the inaugural meeting of the Orthodox Theological Research Forum (Oxford). Dr Plested also gave a paper on the Mother of God in the Early Church at the Annual Conference of the Fellowship of St Alban and St Sergius (Durham) and led a day course on the Origins of Christian Asceticism as part of the Mercian Study Course (Walsall).

In July 2003 Dr George Bebawi was invited by Revd Bengt Pohjanen, director of a small Orthodox Centre in the northern Swedish town of Overkalix, close to the arctic circle, to give a paper at the Centre. Dr Bebawi spoke about the Human Person in Orthodox Theology to a group of former Lutheran pastors, each of whom had set out on a journey of discovery of the Orthodox church. ■

Study weekends during Lent and Trinity terms 2004

Certificate Modules (level 1)

| Date | Title | Lecturer(s)* |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 9 – 11 January 2004 | Liturgical Time | Archimandrite Ephrem Fr Stephen Platt |
| 23 – 25 January 2004 | Modern Russian Religious Thought | Fr Nikolai Sakharov |
| 6 - 8 February 2004 | Sanctifying Life and Death | Fr Michael Fortunatto Fr Kyrill Jenner |
| 12 – 14 March 2004 | Orthodox Britain | Fr John Nankivell Archimandrite Deinol |
| 7 - 9 May 2004 | The Martyrs | Mr David Melling Dr Marcus Plested |
| 11 – 13 June 2004 | Sanctity and Asceticism | Dr Mary Cunningham Dr Augustine Casiday Dr Marcus Plested |
| 5 – 9 July 2004 | Summer School 'What is Man?' | Various lecturers |

Diploma Modules (level 2)

| Date | Title | Lecturer(s)* |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 9 – 11 January 2004 | Prayer of the Heart | Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia |
| 6 - 8 February 2004 | Marriage, Monasticism and Ordination | Fr Gregory Woolfenden |
| 12 – 14 March 2004 | The Canons of the Orthodox Church | Bishop Basil of Sergievo |
| 7 – 9 May 2004 | Scripture: Liturgy and Doxology | Bishop Basil of Sergievo Dr George Bebawi |
| 11 – 13 June 2004 | Scripture: St Paul | Dr Mike Thompson |

*subject to change

Study weekends cost £70 for the Certificate course and £80 for the Diploma course (concessions available for full-time students and those receiving state benefits).

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