

10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY NEWSLETTER, 1999-2009



## FOUNDATIONS



The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies Cambridge was founded in 1999, as a pan-Orthodox Institute, with the blessing of those bishops with responsibilities in the United Kingdom. They or their successors figure in the collage above. From left to right they are: Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain, the senior hierarch in the United Kingdom, who presided at the Liturgy to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the Institute on 10 October 2009; Bishop Elisey of Sourozh, who succeeded Metropolitan Anthony; Metropolitan John of Western Europe, who succeeded Archbishop Gabriel; Bishop Dositej of Britain and Scandinavia, Metropolitan Simeon of Western Europe, Metropolitan Iosif of Western Europe.

With the blessing of these Orthodox hierarchs, the Institute was constituted on 2 March 1999 as a limited company in England and Wales, and a charity governed by the terms of the Charity Act. Its aims, as expressed in its Memorandum and Article of Association are "to advance religious and theological education, particularly of members of the elect its Chairman and Directors. They may also elect additional Members.

The Board of the Institute meets regularly to determine the general policy and direction of the Institute and the Directors also serve as Trustees of the Charity. They select a Treasurer and a Secretary for the Company and appoint the Principal, to whom is entrusted the day-to-day management of the Institute with the advice of an Executive Committee of the Board comprising the Principal, the Chairman of the Board, and the Treasurer.

As a pan-Orthodox foundation, the Institute is not maintained by any one branch of the Orthodox Church, but is supported by its generous benefactors and supporters. It also benefits from donations from a number of educational trusts. It is a full member of the Cambridge Theological Federation, an ecumenical partnership established to further educational, pastoral and spiritual development among Christians of various denominations.

Orthodox Church". In practice, the Institute's teaching mission has had from its inception local, national and i n t e r n a t i o n a l dimensions, and its students have been both pre-university (through its outreach programme – The Way) and also at university level, in undergraduate, masters and doctoral courses.

The members of the Institute meet at least twice during a year and



# **ANNIVERSARY SERMON**

(extracts)

# Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia

Let us bless God for all the benefits that we have received in the past decade. Let us bless Him for all the vision of our fathers and our founders: Bishop Basil of Sergievo, who took the initiative to establish the Institute; Father John Jillions, our first Principal. Let us bless God for the generosity of our benefactors who have made possible the realisation of that vision. Let us bless God for our teachers George Bebawi, Grant White, Marcus Plested, David Frost and many others, who have created a notable spirit of friendship and co-operation between lecturers and students. Let us bless God for our students themselves, for the liveliness of their interest, for the variety of their challenging questions. I always enjoy teaching here at the Institute. There is a more lively response from the Institute students than from almost any other student that I teach. Here at the Institute the audience always laughs at my jokes!

As we give thanks to God for blessings received, as we pray to him for the continuation of those blessings, let us pause to reflect on the purpose of our Institute and more generally on the purpose of education as such. Here, the Latin and Greek words for education can provide us with vital clues. The Latin educatio is linked to the verb educere, to lead or call forth, to evoke, to awaken or kindle. In an Institute such as ours, as in any school or place of learning, the aim of the teachers is not merely to communicate information, nor yet to impose upon their pupils their own scheme of ideas. 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 who we teach may open their eyes and see for themselves. In the words of the second-century letter to Diognetus, "God persuades, he does not compel, for violence is foreign to him". Such, exactly, is to be the pattern that the true teacher should follow. Such indeed was the mode of Christ's ministry - he invited and he did not compel. Let us teachers in the Institute show the same spirit, not oppressing but evoking. And as we evoke let us show respect to the inexhaustible variety of character and outlook among our pupils. For, as St. Paul insists, there are many differentiations within the created order: there is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon and yet another glory of the stars. So it is in our Institute, and in every place of learning, one pupil differs from another in gifts and potentiality and



this is something that a true teacher will always respect.

The Greek term for education, *paideia*, emphasises another aspect of the educative endeavour, signifying training, discipline, concentration. There can be no progress in education without *ascesis*. To learn is, indeed, an experience in wonder but it is also a *podvig*, a focused effort, a rigorous exploit. In the words of David the King to Rabonah, "I will not offer to the Lord my God that which costs me nothing". This ascetic element needs also to find its proper place in our Institute.

The wide range of education, understood both as educatio and as paideia, is admirably expressed by Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain in the encyclical that he issued a few weeks ago to mark the beginning of the new school year in the parish schools of the Archdiocese. In what he says he has children in mind but his words apply equally to the rather older children who are studying in our Institute: "education" he says "should engage with the topical issues that concern people today. These issues are those of the family, discipline, crime, friendships and concern for our neighbour, the poor, the elderly, the childless, the jobless and those in the margins of life". All of that must indeed find a place in the vision of our Institute. Our education, the Archbishop insists, will only be truly fulfilling its function if it takes all this into account and if it is based upon the life of the church. Then, he concludes, we may consider the future and confront without fear or anger its many and occasional seemingly insoluble problems. To confront life's problems without fear or anger: that surely is exactly the purpose of our Institute.



# THOUGHTS FROM OUR STUDENTS

'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, USA



Uno Schultz, Sweden





Katy Wehr, USA



Dragos Herescu Romania

with an elevated The teachers span new dimensions of theology for us as well as of the human condition.'

'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 Hungary

Sherif Rezkalla



'As part of Cambridge Theological Federation, the Institute 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".'

'I have really enjoyed the 'Orthodox Approach to Pastoral Life' class this term and especially our class trip to the Essex Monastery in Novemberthe music there was so beautiful-I'm still living on the memory of it! As an Anglican studying at IOCS I wasn't sure what to expect, but I have felt very welcome here and have enjoyed learning more about Orthodoxy.'

'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.'

'I am very thankful to IOCS. It became a great place of further spiritual, personal and professional development and growth for me.'



Svetlana Vinogradova Russia



THE FIRST DECADE: SOME REFLECTIONS

Dr Marcus Plested, Academic Director



By the grace of God, IOCS has now fulfilled its first ten years of service. In Cambridge terms, where anniversaries tend to mark centuries not decades, this may seem of little note but to us it a cause of very great rejoicing and thanksgiving. The momentum that began with the award of an honorary doctorate to Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh (of blessed memory) in 1996 by the University of Cambridge, led to the establishment of a working group under the Chairmanship of Bishop Basil and, in due course, to the first admission of students back in 1999.

IOCS has since welcomed many hundreds of students through its doors, both part-time and fulltime. Our full-time students have gone on to a wide variety of callings: for instance as university lecturers, Orthodox clergy, monastics and teachers. Our part-time students have come from all over the UK, Europe and the wider world. They are now joined by a healthy cohort of distance-learners.

The Institute stands as the only Orthodox higher education institution in the UK. Formally linked to the Universities of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin, the Institute offers access to a wide variety of courses, undergraduate and postgraduate, and to world-class library and other facilities. In addition to our permanent faculty, we have long benefited from the wisdom and experience of many of the most established and gifted Orthodox academics resident in the UK and beyond.

Over the years, IOCS has sponsored a dizzying range of conferences and special events, not to mention its annual summer schools and various research projects. In the midst of all our activities and their attendant administrative demands it can often be difficult to step back and see what has been achieved over the years. It is breathtaking quite how many students have found our courses lifechanging. I am often staggered by the impact a particular lecture or thought seems to have on students – even many years after the event. I recall one student remarking recently that a certain lecture had summed up all the beauty and truth she had aspired to in her life. Such comments leave us teachers, for once, lost for words.

As Metropolitan Kallistos remarked in his anniversary sermon, there is much we must give thanks for. Indeed, I would add the bishop himself to the list. He has been not only our most regular (and popular) lecturer but also a member of our



Board of Directors since the beginning, including a pivotal stint as Chairman. I often think of the guiding vision of the Institute as 'Kallistian': a generous and genuinely pan-Orthodox understanding of the faith we hold in trust; a sense of theology as doxology, as glorification; an intuitive grasp of the centrality of the liturgical expression of our beliefs.

Metropolitan Kallistos has already expressed our thanks to many who have given so much to the Institute in order to make this ten-year celebration possible. I need not repeat those names here, save perhaps to underscore the contribution of our founding Principal, Fr John Jillions. His wife, Denise, also gave much in those early years as did Esther Banev (née Hookway), the latter an inimitable presence still remembered fondly by many of our former students.

As we go forward into our second decade, many new possibilities (and challenges) are before us .....



# THE NEXT TEN YEARS

# Professor David Frost, Principal

To be the only academic institution teaching the Orthodox faith in English in the whole of western Europe imposes great opportunities and fearful responsibilities. If Orthodoxy is to be naturalized in the United Kingdom, much depends on what we do in the next ten years.

The last decade has given us a firm base on which to build. Our part-time Certificate/Foundation Degree/Honours BA in Theology, now accredited in the national system through our membership of the Cambridge Theological Federation, gives us an opportunity to offer to the various Orthodox Churches of the United Kingdom the possibility of training clergy and lay-workers in England and in the English that they will increasingly need to use for their ministry. Discussions are currently taking place to see how we can adapt the governmentsupported Foundation Degree to be an Institute/ Church collaboration that will combine academic studies with substantial training 'on the job'. So there is a prospect of an increasing number of priests who will have their theological training in common, while at the same time being rooted in their various national traditions.

One development in the last few months that will become a major part of our activity in the future has been the introduction of Distance Learning. At present we teach only our own Certificate, but negotiations are already underway to integrate the course with our regular degree programme, so that it will be possible for our students as far afield as Mexico or Greece or North America to undertake a degree programme in the comfort of their own homes.

We are only beginning to explore the potential of

this new mode of delivery; but already students thousands of miles distant are rejoicing in the opportunity to see the great names of Orthodoxy 'live', through videos we make available on the internet. The success of this first effort leads us to look at other ways in which we might serve the needs of the Church at home and abroad: for example, by teaching liturgical music, Byzantine and Slavonic, through on-line courses, supplemented by practical workshops around the country.

The internet opens further possibilities, if a mooted programme takes off and can be taught both face-toface and by Distance Learning. We anticipate a substantial and ongoing demand for the course by either method.

At the same time, we will not be neglecting what has most appealed to our Orthodox students from overseas: the MA in Pastoral Theology that has been a training-ground for some of our most distinguished graduates. It is possible for Orthodox students taking that course to harness the most modern western approaches with the insights of the Fathers in a mode of study that is predominantly practical. The course is unique, unobtainable elsewhere: as our student from Belarus put it, when asked if she found the course too demanding: 'I didn't come here to learn what the priests can teach me back home.'

We will continue to be conscious that purely 'ivorytower' learning is of little use to anyone, and we will be looking for ways in which to further serve the needs of parishes. Now that 'The Way', our introduction to Orthodox belief at parish level, is to be published, we will be looking at 'follow-up' programmes, at (for example) a course that addresses the practicalities of Christian living. Another proposal

is that we develop a catechism for parish use. A more demanding proposition is the *Youth Bible Curriculum*, developed by Orthodox and in use in Eastern Europe with the blessing of their hierarchs, which World Vision would like us to assist in introducing to the United Kingdom.

Possibilities for service open on every side: our ambitions are limited only by finance, facilities and the endurance of our tiny full-time staff. The goodwill and the capacity of our part-time staff to teach for only modest recompense seems inexhaustible: I know of no Faculty of Divinity or Department of Religious Studies in the country that can call on such an array of talent and expertise. Nevertheless, the support staff on site are overburdened, our premises are cramped, and a perennial lack of money makes it difficult to capitalize on every opportunity that presents itself.





This is all despite the appearance some two years back, and at a critical moment, of a most generous and anonymous benefactor. We need nonetheless in the next ten years to build up our financial resources by promoting a programme of sustained giving which (if properly organized) need not burden any individual with continual requests for money. We calculated that our 'Cappuccino Campaign' introduced two years ago, which encouraged supporters to give us by standing order what they might spend in a month on cups of coffee, would, if we had 200 contributors, raise one-third of our annual budget!

That would enable us to fully fulfil our charitable purpose, by offering generous bursaries and assisting poorer students. It might also allow us to have a place of our own: no doubt it is good to be 'strangers and wanderers on the earth', but it would grieve any responsible Principal to see large sums of money disappear in rent that might go into paying off a mortgage. The practical need for a building in which to teach, to worship, to house offices and store our evergrowing library, and to give some accommodation for students must be a priority for the next decade.

Most of all, in the next ten years we need to keep our chins up, our heads into the wind, our eyes on the ball – any metaphor you like to remind us that our sole purpose is to serve Christ and his Church. For ten years he has not let us down; we now need to be similarly reliable.

# ANCIENT FAITH MEETS THE DIGITAL AGE



# THE CERTIFICATE BY DISTANCE LEARNING IN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES

IC XC THE INSTITUTE FOR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES CAMBRIDGE

A comprehensive study of Orthodox Christian belief

#### STUDENT ENROLMENT NOW

Orthodoxy's most distinguished teachers in English brought from the Cambridge class to your home computer. Guidance from your own personal on-line Tutor

#### FOR BROCHURES & APPLICATIONS

download from our website: www.iocs.cam.ac.uk or e-mail us at: info@iocs.cam.ac.uk or ring: +44 1223 741037 or write to: IOCS, Wesley House, Jesus Lane Cambridge CB5 8BJ, UK



# THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INSTITUTE



#### A large number of participants gathered to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies on 10 October 2009

Festivities began with a Hierarchical Liturgy in All Saints' Church, which was followed by a celebratory lunch in the Hall of Wesley House.

Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain as senior hierarch in Great Britain presided at the Liturgy. Concelebrating with him was Father Raphael Armour, Associate Chaplain of the Institute and Priest of the Russian Orthodox parish of St Ephraim the Syrian in Cambridge, together with Father Joseph Skinner from the Diocesan Cathedral, London, jointly representing Bishop Elisey of Sourozh (Moscow Patriarchate). They were joined at the altar by Father Ephrem Lash, Archimandrite of the Oecumenical Throne and a founding Member of the Institute, by Father Alexander Tefft, Chaplain of the Institute and Assistant Priest of the Antiochian Orthodox community meeting at St Botolph's, Bishopsgate, London, by Archimandrite Vassilios Papavassiliou from Thyateira House, by Father Nikolaos Vernezos, Priest of the Greek Orthodox community of St Athanasios and St Clement in Cambridge, and by Father Maxim Nikolsky, representing one of our generous benefactors.

Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Institute Director and former Chairman, gave the address.

The celebratory Liturgy and the festive meal that followed were wonderful outbursts of thanks and praise to God, and a joyful recognition of what so many have done to make the work of the Institute possible. More than eighty people came to lunch in the Hall of Wesley House and many more were at the Liturgy in All Saints' Church. In the words of participant one expressing the feelings of all those present: 'It was just what such an occasion should be and set our spirits and direction right for a further decade of service to the Church'. The Chairman of the Board of Directors, Miss Gladys Bland, thanked the current staff of IOCS for the good state of the Institute, and then cut and distributed our Tenth Birthday cake. In response, the Principal of the Institute, Professor David Frost, paid tribute to

the vision of the founding fathers and mothers and the dedication of all those who had served the Institute in the past, and observed that their faith that 'The Lord will provide' had been richly vindicated.





Archbishop Gregorios with Metropolitan Kallistos and Professor David Frost



The Chairman of the Board of Directors, Miss Gladys Bland, giving the address.



The Principal proposing the health of the Institute.



# master of arts in **PASTORAL THEOLOGY**

Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, <u>Cambridge</u> Institute for Orthodox Christian Studie

This full-time or part-time MA course attracts most of our post-graduate students and is awarded by Anglia Ruskin University. It is taught over one academic year but may also be pursued part-time for two or more years, up to a maximum of six. 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. The Institute is proud of the achievements of its past MA students and of the high proportion of distinctions awarded for their dissertations.

For more details download a brochure from our website: www.iocs.cam.ac.uk/ resources/texts/MA\_brochure\_2008.pdf or e-mail us at:info@iocs.cam.ac.uk or ring: +44 1223 741037 or write to:

IOCS, Wesley House, Jesus Lane, Cambridge CB5 8BJ, UK

#### ALL WE NEED IS 4 CAPUCCINOS! THE CAPUCCINO CAMPAIGN

The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies is the only pan-Orthodox body teaching the Orthodox Christian faith in ENGLISH in Western Europe at all levels from pre-university to postgraduate.

We have the blessing of the Orthodox Bishops but no Government or institutional funding.



#### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Sign up for a Standing Order to give the Institute £10 a month (which is 4 capuccinos out) or £25 a month (10 capuccinos).

If 200 people in the United Kingdom sign up we will have a staggering £24,000 and up to £60,000 a year!

If you grieve at the decline in knowledge about Christianity in this country, if you believe the Orthodox faith will give new joy and hope to the churches, now is the time to make a difference.

If you would like to donate to the Institute please download the brochure from our website at: http://www.iocs.cam.ac.uk/development.html



**'THE WAY' GOES INTERNATIONAL** 

Professor David Frost, Director of 'The Way'



Up until now 'The Way', which is the Institute's outreach programme for teaching the basics of Orthodox Christian belief, has been limited by the energy and availability of its original presenters. Since we first began in 2004, we have taken what was a ten-session course to

the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Moscow Road, London (twice), to the Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Ennismore Gardens, to St Ephraim's congregation in Cambridge, and (most recently) to the developing Orthodox Community of Saint Raphael, Saint Nicholas and Saint Irene in Enfield, North London. Two of our number also took the course further afield, to the Greek Orthodox Church in Singapore and to the Antiochian Cathedral of St George in Sydney, Australia. In some cases, as many as a hundred attended, and at every presentation the response was overwhelming. At the close of the Sydney course, a middle-aged lady came up with tears in her eyes and said: 'I have come to church ever since I was a child because it seemed right – now, I understand *why*'.

Meeting a need greater than we could cope with, the Organizing Committee has permitted a number of parishes to run the course for themselves, with the consent of their bishop, on the condition that they do not add or subtract from what the presentations contain and that they report back on their experience. Among official the experimenters, we have had reports from parishes in Manchester, in Melbourne, Australia, and in Boulder, Colorado, USA.

When we first designed 'The Way', we imagined we would be offering an introduction that would bring outsiders to the Christian faith. In practice, though we have had other Christians and even the occasional unbeliever at our

presentations, we have found our audience chiefly among 'the lost sheep of the house of Orthodoxy': those who have drifted away because church language was unintelligible or church practices unexplained. Increasingly, we have noticed that 'The Way' attracts young professionals in their twenties or thirties, people who will be the leaders of the next generation. Wherever we go, whether people are regular churchgoers or still on the fringe, we meet a desperate hunger for instruction. But though the harvest is great, the labourers have till now been all too few.

Now that problem has been solved for us by World Vision, which has undertaken to fund publication of a revised and expanded course, not as a book but in CD and DVD format. The disks will contain everything that a parish might need to present the course for themselves: not just the talks and the accompanying visuals, but student handouts for each session, material by which to advertise a presentation, and comprehensive instructions on such problems as how to feed your guests, how to conduct group discussions, and how to handle the final question-and-answer sessions that are often what an audience most values. For groups who are nervous about presenting the initial talks themselves, you can train by watching the original speakers on DVD, or, if need be, you may project each talk as it was first given, on a screen or through a large television.



From its first beginnings, 'The Way' has been put together by Christians from all walks of life, clergy and laity, of either sex, young and old, and from differing backgrounds. But the whole has been vetted by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware as a faithful account of Orthodox belief, and he and Father Michael Harper have now supplemented the original ten talks with two extra presentations: Metropolitan Kallistos with a piece looking at the various ways scripture understands the saving work of Christ, and Father Michael on 'The Holy Spirit'.

Publication of the perfected course is

scheduled for Spring 2010, and we aim to keep the price of disks to the cost of reproduction and distribution. You will still need the permission of your bishop, and



a condition of use is that you stick to the content and method without unauthorised additions or excisions.

First publication of 'The Way' will be in English, with worldwide distribution. World Vision has asked that the first full translation be into Romanian, since they see it as a natural follow-up to a Youth Bible Curriculum that has been pioneered in that country with the blessing of the Orthodox Patriarch. Thereafter, we anticipate that local Orthodox committees in the various countries will translate and adapt the illustrative detail of the course to local conditions.

For full details of publication and a description of the origins and content of 'The Way' and the people behind it, do consult the IOCS website at: www.iocs.cam.ac.uk.



THE INSTITUTE FOR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES, CAMBRIDGE BA (HONS) IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY FOUNDATION DEGREE (Level 2) CERTIFICATE (Level 1)





Lane, Cambridge CB5 8BJ, UK





Passion Human

&Divine

### **SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

#### Metropolitan Kallistos Ware

Divine Passion: Does God Suffer?

Human Passion: Enemy or Friend?

#### **Dr Marcus Plested**

Dr Sebastian Brock

The 'Anger' of God: Some Thoughts from the Syriac Fathers

The Passions according to John the Solitary

#### **Professor David Frost**

Removing the Veil: Macarius on the Passions

Blake's 'Nobadaddy': The Wrath of God and the Love of Man

**PILGRIMAGE** to the Monastery of St John the Baptist, Tolleshunt Knights, Essex, for the Divine Liturgy, followed by a tour of the Monastery

For a brochure with full details, visit our website: www.iocs.cam.ac.uk, or ring 01223 741037, fax: 01223 74137, or write to: IOCS, Wesley House, Jesus Lane, Cambridge, CB5 8BJ, UK