



## CONTEMPORARY FATHERS AND MOTHERS OF THE CHURCH GUIDES FOR TODAY'S WORLD



This year's series of Community Lecture Days took place between February and June and featured five very inspiring lecturers who focused on essential Orthodox personalities from recent history: Revd Dr Seraphim Aldea on *Father Sophrony Sakharov*, Dr Krastu Banev on *Saint Maria of Paris (Skoptsova)*, Dr Danut Manastireanu on *Father Dumitru Staniloae*, Irina Kirillova MBE on *Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh* and Karen Hetherington on *Saint Macarius Glukharev and Saint Macarius Nevsky*.

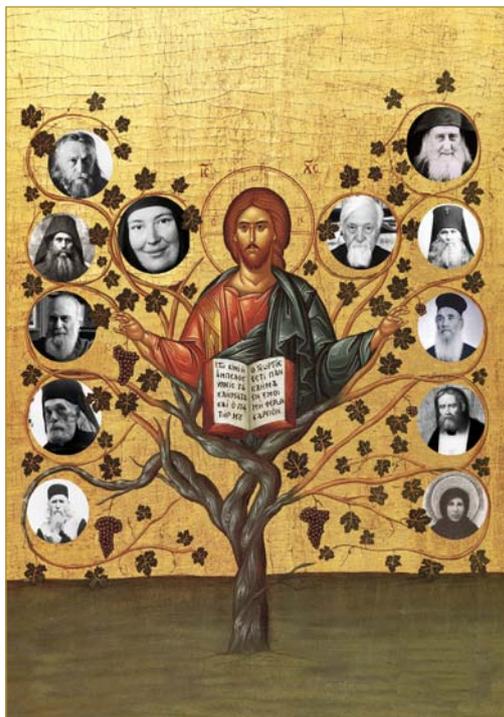
For the first time this year we broadcast the talks live via the internet which enabled a significant number of online participants to join us. They could listen and see the lectures in real time while also being able to ask questions during the Q&A sessions at the end.

As always before, the Institute's Community Lecture Days were intimate, friendly events. Participants spent their lunch and coffee breaks in inspiring conversations often triggered by the topics presented during lectures.



Photos, clockwise: Father Serafim Aldea, Dr Krastu Banev and Mrs Irina Kirillova MBE during this year's Community Days

## The Annual Conference 2016: CONTEMPORARY FATHERS AND MOTHERS OF THE CHURCH



The Institute ran its annual conference at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, between 29-31 August 2016, continuing the theme tackled by the series of Community Days. We have received a lot of positive feedback from the participants, who enjoyed the quality of the lectures and the blessed warm community atmosphere. The late summer sun also brought its contribution and made this a truly unforgettable event. The conference also included a trip to the Monastery of St John the Baptist Essex on its third day.

The speakers and topics were: Dr Christoph Schneider - *Fatherhood and Sacramentality*, Dr Ciprian Streza - *Father Dumitru Staniloae - The Liturgy: The Kingdom of the Holy Trinity*, Revd Professor Andrew Louth - *Father Sergii Bulgakov*, Dr Mangala Frost - *'Signs and Wonders': a Comparative Study of Spiritual Elders in Orthodox Christian and Hindu Traditions*, Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia on: *Elder Amphilochios of Patmos*, Dr Razvan Porumb - *Father Nicolae Steinhardt*, Revd Dr Liviu Barbu - *What it takes to be a saint today? A tentative sketch of a profile*, Sister Magdalen (Essex Monastery) - *Mother Elisabeth (1893-1993)*.



Left to right: Coffee break; Dr Christoph Schneider, Prof. Ciprian Streza



Metropolitan Kallistos and Revd Prof Andrew Louth; Dr Christine Mangala Frost; Dr Razvan Porumb



Revd Dr Liviu Barbu; conference participants; the monastery trip



## Iconography Course with Nikita Andrejev (The Prosoyon School) - 5-10 September 2016



For a week in September, the Institute had again the pleasure to host the third edition of the very popular Iconography Course taught by our friend, Nikita Andrejev. We have again witnessed the miracle of our library being transformed into an icon workshop, of seeing Christ's face taking shape little by little, colour by colour, and of enjoying - together with the participants - the results of a week's hard work: twelve new beautiful icons blessing the participants and us all.



## Ongoing project: *Providing better quality and access to continuing Christian Orthodox theological education by updating the IOCS Distance Learning Programme*

One of the Institute's most important projects is the revision of our very popular Distance Learning Certificate course, which will acquire a tighter structure, new and improved audio and video recordings and upgraded course resources. The Institute has received important funding from the *Gerald Palmer Eling Trust* which has made this essential project possible.

We have already begun the series of recordings, with new lectures being filmed and recorded with top-notch equipment. We will be able to launch the upgraded version of the course next year, when we hope to attract even more students onto our Distance Learning platform.



**Latest News**

**Community Lecture Day** - This month's IOCS Community Lecture Day will take place on Saturday 20 February 2016, and will also be broadcast live on the internet! Father Seraphim Aldea will devote his two lectures to the personality of Father Sophrony Sakharov. As before...

**Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church** - At the invitation of His All-Holiness Ecumenical

Be a supporter of the Institute!  
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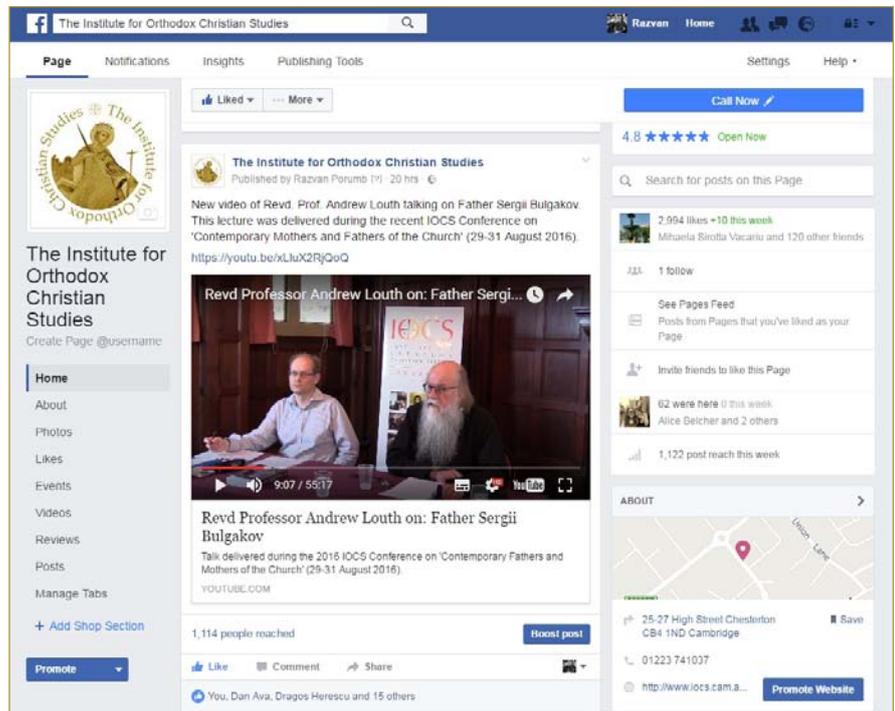
Certificate/Diploma in Orthodox Christian Studies by distance learning

**Our new website!**

This year has seen an increased and improved IOCS presence on the internet. Early in the year we were able to launch our new website, which now boasts a clearer structure, a cleaner look and a greater emphasis on quality photography. This has been a collective effort to which the entire team of the Institute has contributed, so we all take great pride in presenting it to the world! Do come visit us if you haven't done so already: [www.iocs.cam.ac.uk](http://www.iocs.cam.ac.uk)

**IOCS on Facebook / Video Library**

Our Facebook page has become one of our main communication channels with the world and close to 3,000 people are now following us on this social platform. We have posted regularly about our news, events and projects as they happened. Our most popular uploads have been the video recordings of almost all the lectures delivered at the Institute this year. Our increasing video library - to be found now on the Cambridge University server, but also on YouTube - has gathered an impressive number of lectures from very distinguished names: Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, Revd Prof Andrew Louth, Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev, Dr Sebastian Brock, Dr Marcus Plested, Aidan Hart and many others.



**Two important cooperation agreements**

This year our Institute has signed formal academic cooperation agreements with two prestigious Romanian Faculties of Theology: The Faculty of Orthodox Theology 'Andrei Saguna' of Sibiu and the Faculty of Orthodox Theology 'Dumitru Staniloae' of Iasi. We are excited to be able to work together on future projects with the distinguished academic teams of these top institutions.



**Advertising and publicity**

If our regular contributions on Facebook have ensured a greater number of students on all our current degrees, this was also helped by our continued cooperation with two major internet radio stations and websites: *Ancient Faith Radio* and *Orthodox Christian Network*. We have a series of podcasts available through the former, and we have advertised with the latter through their wide-reaching Facebook network (500,000 followers). Father Dragos Herescu, the current Acting Principal, gave interviews to both these networks detailing the new projects and courses of the Institute.

