



THE INSTITUTE FOR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES
CAMBRIDGE

Company Registration No. 3785551 Charity Registration No. 1076519

Wesley House, Jesus Lane, Cambridge CB5 8BJ, United Kingdom

Website: www.iocs.cam.ac.uk E-mail: info@iocs.cam.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)1223 741037 Fax: +44 (0)1223 741370

NEW LIFE - AND NEW BEGINNINGS



An Advent Newsletter 2007

THE INSTITUTE REVIVES

Our July 2007 Summer School was said by some of the old hands to be 'the best yet'. We brought Father Tom Hopko from the States, Archimandrite Jack Khalil from Balamand University in the Lebanon, and our first Principal, Father John Jillions, from Canada to join our regular stalwarts, Metropolitan Kallistos, Father Nicholas Sakharov, Archimandrite Ephrem Lash, and Dr Marcus Plested in a course on 'The Orthodox Approach to the Bible'. Providentially, the British Library had put together a spectacular exhibition of ancient scriptural texts and manuscripts, Jewish, Christian and Muslim, and our guided tour there was an additional highlight. (Incidentally, the whole course is available on CD from the Institute office, at £35 a set.)

Yet at our celebratory dinner, I found myself speaking of the future of the Institute and saying in some desperation: 'The Lord will provide - because he'll *have* to.' I knew that a meeting of the Board in mid-August was due to consider closure.

The first sign of that providence was in late June, when at the end of a presentation on the work of the Institute at the Greek Cathedral of St. Sophia members of the audience took up a collection and one was sufficiently moved to put down £1,000 and pledge the fruits of one day's work a week to keep the Institute going.

In the next few weeks our situation was transformed by the appearance of a hitherto unknown sponsor who wishes to remain anonymous but who made an immediate donation of £50,000 to cover the shortfall in our 2007-8 budget. Not content with first-aid measures, he has subsequently called for an estimate of a staff structure, with costings, that would be sufficient to carry out our development plans for the next five to ten years.

Such generosity has enthused others. Those who loyally supported us in difficult times have had their confidence restored, so that (for what we think is the first time in our history) our Treasurer has had to institute an investment policy, by which we aim to get a reasonable return on as yet unspent funds.

But please don't get the impression that the Institute is now a-wash with cash! We have only just taken our Academic Director off half-pay, we function with a volunteer Principal, and we are able to support a six-month replacement while Dr Plested is on leave at a rate above the breadline because an earmarked gift from another generous donor has increased by two-thirds what we could offer. We still desperately need your coffee-money! Standing Orders to the 'Cappuccino Campaign' currently contribute £5,316 to our annual budget.

SUPPORT FROM THE HOLY SYNOD OF GREECE

As a consequence of a letter from the Chairman and Principal, assisted by two visits by Father Nicholas Loudovicos to the Archbishop of Athens to put our

in person, the Synod of the Church of Greece made us in September a donation of 10,000 euros. This, apart from an earlier donation from the Patriarch of Antioch, is our first major support from an Orthodox Church. It is acknowledgement of our position as the only body teaching the Orthodox faith in English at all academic levels in the whole of Western Europe. It also recognizes that we are, because of the relatively few numbers of Orthodox in the United Kingdom, in need of outside help. The hope is that this support will encourage further assistance from Greece. But most important of all, the gift signifies that (to steal a term from another religion) we are regarded by the Greek Church as 'kosher'.

THE TASK IN HAND

We have since mid-August been re-building our activities. If course information was late in coming to you, excuse us: Certificate and Diploma courses had to be re-constituted, lecturers engaged, syllabuses determined, advertising undertaken, while at the same time we were reviving an organization that had been on the point of expiry. I've taken to joking that 'As the first disciples no doubt said, sudden resurrections are a wonderful thing - but they do make a lot of work!'

We managed in a short time to put together a distinguished team of lecturers for the first Certificate/Diploma weekend in October, with a first Module for Certificate beginners on the Icon and the Liturgy - those two aspects of Orthodoxy that first strike any newcomer. The Certificate course attracted substantial numbers. The formula of a Friday evening start with Vespers, followed by a supper worth coming for and a first lecture, with a crack-of-dawn Liturgy on Saturday, two lectures before lunch and two after worked well, with as good a student roll-up for worship as for lectures and communal meals.. Our Chaplain was heard to say 'It was like the old days!' - no doubt referring to the zest of the founding fathers and mothers.

However, one disappointment was the lack of Diploma students for Dr Norman's Russell's excellent survey of recent church history among the Greek, Russian and Middle-Eastern Churches. The audience of post-graduate students and staff were deeply appreciative and the speaker has offered to come again. Nevertheless, it is not financially viable to run a course if students do not enrol and a decision to postpone further modules till next year will have to be taken after the second part of the module, unless numbers improve.

ACCREDITATION OF COURSES

One reason for the decline in numbers of Diploma students has of course been the ban on recruitment to both courses imposed on us in 2006-7 and the uncertainty as to what would happen over accreditation henceforward.

Negotiations proceed for that Other University to take over accreditation of our courses, with course-content approved by representatives of the Theology

Department and everything waiting on the formal conclusion of an agreement between the University and the Institute to enter into partnership. We have been assured that all arrangements will be concluded by the end of the year and that students who begin courses before the final signing of an agreement will have their work credited to them.

Those students who have not yet completed their courses with ICE can have the credits they have gained counted as part of courses to be completed with the new body. What is more (and this has not previously been the case) all such credits may contribute to a degree of the University. Add a future possibility of 'distance learning' and you will understand our excitement at the new opportunities we can offer students.

NEW PEOPLE

The new academic year has seen two more recruits to our postgraduate body, Peter Efthymiadis from Canada and Iren Kaulics from Hungary. They join continuing students from Belarus, Macedonia, Romania, the United Kingdom and Canada.

Such recruiting of Orthodox from overseas gave us in the past Tamar Gogudaze, from Georgia, who combined toiling as our Graduate Assistant with completing an MA in Pastoral Theology with distinction and has now moved on to the University of Durham for doctoral work under Professor Andrew Louth. Our new Graduate Assistant, Razvan Porumb, is another old friend who also completed the MA in Pastoral Theology with distinction and has been accepted as an Institute student into the PhD programme of Anglia Ruskin University. Razvan has run our office with great success in the past and his return compensates to some degree for the loss of Tamar's services.

A further pleasure is the return of another wanderer, Krastu Banev, who has agreed to serve us for six months as Acting Director of Studies during the absence on leave of Dr Plested. Krastu has experienced our Institute programmes, right through to writing for Cambridge University a PhD thesis which is currently under examination. While with us, he put together an illuminating paper on the problems of east European students confronting different academic requirements in the west, and his scholarly attainments, his background in Bulgaria, his knowledge of the Institute and his warm personality make him an ideal choice to direct the studies of current students.

THE INSTITUTE A POINT OF INTERSECTION

One of our publicity brochures defines the role of the Institute in part as 'explaining East to West and vice versa'. Within the Cambridge Theological Federation we represent the insights of the Orthodox Church and its Holy Tradition to the Churches of this country. As part of this two-way traffic, our Academic Director, Dr Marcus Plested, was invited to speak at a major conference in Constantinople on the sixteen hundredth anniversary of St John Chrysostom, recounting how that saint has been received in the west (you can read his paper by accessing our website).. While there, Marcus took opportunity to discuss our situation with the Ecumenical Patriarch, and shortly

afterwards the Senior Vice-President of the Templeton Foundation invited the Principal and Vice-Principal to meet to consider a request from the Patriarch that the Foundation assist the Institute. Since the aim of the Foundation is to bridge the divide between science and religion, we look for Orthodox scholars with a scientific understanding to propose research projects under Institute auspices.

Marcus goes east again to present an invited paper in the University of Balamand, the Antiochian Orthodox foundation in the Lebanon. In January he goes for six months to Princeton University, where as a member of the Centre for Theological Enquiry he will be working on the interaction between Orthodox and Catholic theologians in the late Byzantine period. Works of interrelation such as this are part of the Institute's function as a member of the Cambridge Theological Federation, where our students meet the challenge of western insights while refining their Orthodox perceptions - and it is one reason why the emergence of the Institute from a period of turmoil has been greeted with pleasure by other members of the Federation.

A PUBLIC LECTURE

Continuing this theme of interrelation, one of our Directors, Father Michael Harper, will give a public lecture in Cambridge on how much Orthodoxy has contributed to the Christian revival movements of the west, the occasion being the centenary of the pentecostal movement in the United Kingdom. Members and Directors are warmly invited to join members of the Federation at a modest reception in the Hall of Wesley House before the lecture (date and details on page eight).

A GALA CHARITY CONCERT

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, who with Archbishop Gregorios and the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, is Patron of our International Appeal, has thrown open his home for our Gala Charity Concert on Wednesday, 21 November. His home in London is, of course, Lambeth Palace and the room we have been given is the Guard Room - a hall of dimensions to suggest that Archbishops in the past needed a lot of guarding or that guards then lived in very ample accommodation. Unfortunately, modern Archbishops also need some guarding, so all names of guests have to be handed in beforehand, for security reasons. Details of how to apply for tickets are on page seven. Tickets are from £25 (though we will not object if you add a little to the minimum). It is an opportunity to experience a superb concert of religious and secular music from the east, in a unique setting. We do not promise you all or any of the Archbishops; but as Rowan's and Mrs Williams' quarters are in close proximity to the Guard Room, they may prefer to accept our invitation to attend, rather than hear the concert through the plaster. The Guard Room takes 150, so please sign up and save us any embarrassment before our hosts.

Dr Williams is very committed to the cause of the Institute and in addition to acts of has donated £1,000 to our appeal from limited episcopal funds and wished it could be more.

AND WHILE WE ARE ON THE SUBJECT OF PATRONS . . .

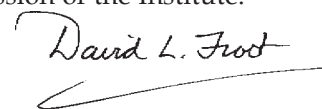
Our Board of Directors decided unanimously at its October meeting to endorse a suggestion from Metropolitan Kallistos that we invite the Ecumenical Patriarch to be Patron of the Institute. As the Ecumenical Patriarch is *primus inter pares*, 'first among equals' among the Orthodox Patriarchs, it seemed appropriate that he should be patron of a pan-Orthodox body. The position would be honorary, since our constitution has no provision for a patron. But if the Ecumenical Patriarch accepts, his patronage would indicate to the general public that we are not orphans but are supported by the universal Church. Though it is not generally understood, our authority to teach derives from the blessing given at the Institute's inception by those hierarchs who have responsibility in the United Kingdom. If (as has also been mooted) those hierarchs could constitute an overseeing Council of the Institute, this, with the patronage of the Ecumenical Patriarch, would validate our status as teachers of the world-wide Orthodox faith.

A PRESENTATION OF 'THE WAY' AND A FURTHER DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

In the new year, on Thursday evenings for twelve weeks from 10 January, the Institute will again offer its introduction to the Orthodox faith, THE WAY, at the Greek Cathedral of St. Sophia in Moscow Road, London. The course will have twelve sessions, since experience has shown us that we need two further presentations, one from Metropolitan Kallistos on 'The Person of Christ' and a second from Father Michael Harper on 'The Holy Spirit'. This is our final stage of experimentation, before we move to publication in book form and on CD so that churches at large can run the course for themselves. The authority and appeal of the perfected course will be much enhanced by having Metropolitan Kallistos as speaker on the central topic.

That presentation is at the request of Bishop Theodoritos, who has proved a most assiduous promoter of the work of the Institute. He has also invited the Institute to introduce itself to the London scene by mounting a seminar on 3 February, the Sunday following the feast of the Three Great Hierarchs, St Basil the Great, St Gregory the Theologian and St John Chrysostom, to which guests from the London universities, colleges and churches would be invited. He suggests a Cathedral Liturgy, followed by two papers, one before and one after lunch, from an Orthodox scholar and from a scholar in the western tradition, celebrating the continuing importance of these great teachers to the universal Church.

Much to tell and so little space! So do watch our website, www.iocs.cam.ac.uk, for the latest news, for course details and also for scripts of the lectures and talks Directors and staff of the Institute give as they move about, here and abroad. I conclude with heartfelt thanks to all those who have supported us and believed in the mission of the Institute.



Principal, IOCS

FOR THE INSTITUTE FOR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES,
CAMBRIDGE

Appeal Patrons: His Eminence Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain
Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury
Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Archbishop of Westminster
Charity No. 1076519

YOUR SUPPORT VERY MUCH NEEDED!

BY COURTESY OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY
IN THE GUARD ROOM OF LAMBETH PALACE, LONDON
A GALA CHARITY CONCERT

THE
BYZANTINE SINGERS
OF THE
GREEK CATHEDRAL
OF ST. SOPHIA

ICHOS:
CAHIT BAYLAV
NAJIB COUTYA
ARETI KLISSAS



'LET THERE BE LIGHT!'

SACRED AND SECULAR MUSIC FROM THE EAST

WEDNESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER, 2007, 6.30 for 7 pm

ADMISSION BY NAMED INVITATION ONLY
(Suggested donation per ticket: £25 to £100)

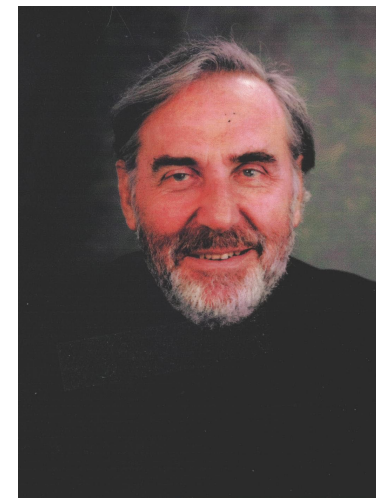
APPLY TO: 'Lambeth Concert', IOCS, Wesley House, Jesus Lane, Cambridge CB5 8BJ
Tel: (01223 741037; Fax: (01223) 741370; E-mail: info@iocs.cam.ac.uk;
Website: www.iocs.cam.ac.uk
(We can accept Credit Card payments)

PLEASE NOTE THAT, for security reasons,
NO TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

THE INSTITUTE FOR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES
A Member of the Cambridge Theological Federation

A PUBLIC LECTURE
with
A RECEPTION FOR MEMBERS, STAFF, STUDENTS AT 6 PM
(please advise 01223 741037 if you are coming)

**'The Waves Keep Coming In':
the Evangelical, Charismatic and Orthodox Axis**



Father Michael Harper

Board of Directors, Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies
Dean of the Antiochian Orthodox Community of the United Kingdom and Ireland,
formerly Canon of Chichester Cathedral, Director of the Fountain Trust, and
International Director of SOMA

**Tuesday 27 November 2007
at 7.30 pm**

**in the Dining Hall of Wesley House,
Jesus Lane, Cambridge CB5 8BJ**

**A LECTURE TO MARK THE CENTENARY
OF THE PENTECOSTAL MOVEMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN**

ALL ARE WELCOME