
FELLOWSHIP OF ST ALBAN & ST SERGIUS NEWSLETTER

June 2008



Imbued with courage and bravery from on high,
the glorious martyr Alban stood undaunted
before the tyrant and boldly confessed
Christ as the only God of all; and he
utterly refused to offer sacrifice to false
deities. Wherefore, having laid down his life for
the Lord, he maketh earnest entreaty
on behalf of our souls.

(kontakion of St Alban)

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS PRESENTATION OF GOSPEL FACSIMILE

From 9-13 May, the Fellowship hosted a delegation of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, headed by Archbishop Luka of Konotop and Gluhov which included hierarchs and clergy, as well representatives from academic and publishing circles. The purpose of the delegation was to present copies of the new facsimile reprint of the Peresopnitsa Gospel to the British Library and the University Libraries of Oxford and Cambridge. A copy was also presented to Lambeth Palace Library.

The Peresopnitsa Gospel is the first known translation of the gospels into the literary Ukrainian language, which is dated between 1555-1561. The state importance of this Gospel can be seen from the fact that it is used in the inauguration ceremony of all new presidents of the Ukrainian Republic. During their stay in England, the delegation was also received by the Archbishop of Canterbury and Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira, respectively the patron and president of our Fellowship.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF THE FELLOWSHIP

From 4 –8 June St Vladimir’s Seminary, Crestwood, New York played host to the first American conference of the Fellowship, marking our 80th anniversary. The theme - “Rome, Constantinople, and Canterbury: Mother Churches?” – brought together world-class theologians and churchmen from Europe and North America. It is hoped that an active North American chapter of the Fellowship will now be founded.

Ancient Faith Radio has posted all of the conference talks at its website: http://ancientfaith.com/specials/svs_jan2008/

A gallery of pictures of the conference is on the site of St Vladimir’s seminary at http://www.svots.edu/option,com_zoom/Itemid,122/catid,188/

FELLOWSHIP EVANGELICAL-ORTHODOX DIALOGUE

After two years of preparation, two dozen church leaders, ecumenists, mission workers, postgraduates and theologians from both traditions gathered for a day’s exploratory discussion at the Oxford headquarters of the Fellowship on 17 April. Although not present in any official capacity, participants were drawn from a wide range of institutions and churches. The gathering was the fruition of the hope for a continuation expressed in earlier dialogue sponsored by the

Evangelical Alliance, a report of which was published by Paternoster in 2001 as *Evangelicalism and the Orthodox Church*.

The day began with introductions: to the Fellowship's history and work (Fr Stephen Platt) and to the history of Orthodox – Evangelical dialogue in this country and internationally (Dr Tim Grass). These were followed by a substantial paper from Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, on why this dialogue is important. He went to the heart of the question by offering an incisive survey of the models for the work of Christ used in Orthodox theology, models which were affirmed in informal discussion as also representing Evangelical thought. The Evangelical respondent (Professor John Briggs, who was rapporteur for the Special Commission on Orthodox Participation in the WCC), in welcoming the presentation, drew attention to the fact that Evangelical and Orthodox traditions were both marked by a certain measure of pluriformity. Participants agreed that this makes it essential to ensure that the full range of perspectives in each tradition is given a hearing in dialogue.

Discussion sessions identified topics for future consideration and clarified issues of methodology, as well as emphasising the need to 'spread the word' about this dialogue and its fruits. Prayers brought the day to a formal conclusion, and continued prayer is sought for God's guidance of this process.

The next meeting has been arranged for Thursday 4th September (10.30 – 4.30), again in Oxford, on the topic of ecclesiology, with papers and responses from each tradition; if you are interested in attending, please contact the Fellowship office.

NOTICE

The Annual General Meeting of the Fellowship of St Alban and St Sergius will take place at 3 p.m. on Wednesday 2nd July 2008 at All Saints Pastoral Centre, Shenley Lane, London Colney, Herts, AL2 1AF its business being:

- 1 To approve and adopt the minutes of the Annual meeting of the Fellowship held in August 2007
- 2 To receive the accounts and annual report of the Fellowship for the financial year ending 31st March 2008
3. To receive reports from the General Secretary, Treasurer and local branch representatives of the Fellowship
4. To elect officers of the Fellowship and council members as required
5. To conduct any other business at the discretion of the chairman

In addition to the above-mentioned business, the AGM will consider the implications of adopting a new set of governing documents for the Fellowship. It is intended that an Extraordinary General Meeting will be called for this purpose later this year.

The Reverend Stephen Platt
General Secretary
June 2008

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PILGRIMAGE TO ST ALBANS

We are sorry to announce that there will be no Fellowship pilgrimage to St Albans this year, owing to the inability of St Albans Abbey to find an available date. The General Secretary is currently discussing the possibilities for future Fellowship events with the Dean of St Albans, with a view to incorporating our visit into the programme of the main national pilgrimage in June 2009.

We will contact members in due course when details have been agreed.

WEEKEND CONFERENCE IN SALISBURY

‘The place of Mary in the Christian traditions’ – 5-7 December 2008

Leader and Principal Speaker: Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia
Other speakers to include: Dr Tina Beattie, Prof. Frances Young,
Prof. David Thompson and Canon Paul Williams.

The conference will examine how each denominational approach and tradition can enrich the other churches’ perspectives on Mary (and other areas of theology too). Kallistos Ware, Frances Young and Tina Beattie will speak about the Orthodox, Methodist, Catholic peculiar approaches to Mariology. Paul Williams will concentrate on the debates within Anglicanism on the Theology of Mary. David Thompson will raise some of the issues that the Reformed tradition has about “high Mariology” in other churches.

For further details, please contact the Secretary, Sarum College, 19 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2EE, U.K. Tel: 01722 424800
E-mail: hospitality@sarum.ac.uk. The Conference is sponsored jointly with the Salisbury Branch of the Fellowship of Saint Alban and Saint Sergius.

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