

DEANERY CONFERENCE 2017

'LET US ATTEND'

We were blessed to have Archbishop John in attendance for the whole conference, celebrating the Sunday Liturgy, contributing to the discussions and giving us inspiring words on the last day to send us out for another year.

Professor Mary Cunningham spoke of how we listen, and how we might learn to listen; Dr. Elena Narinskaya explored the poetic writings of St. Ephrem the Syrian; Fr. Porphyrios, a monk and a psychotherapist, spoke of the Church and in particular the diaconate. Protodeacon Peter Scorer gave a talk on Metropolitan Evlogii and the history of the Archdiocese; and Father Alexander Fostiropoulos gave an illustrated presentation of the recent Great and Holy Council.

The Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh Foundation presented a film of one of Metropolitan Anthony's last talks. Videos were available to buy, and there was a well-stocked bookshop.

Various workshops and discussion groups took place on two afternoons, and there were two guided walks which took the energetic out into the surrounding wooded countryside.

The conference is centred around worship, morning and evening, including a Saturday Vigil service and a Sunday Episcopal Liturgy. At the latter there were the following ordinations: as reader, Stephen (Morys) Ireland and Peter Cousins; as sub-deacon, Readers Vladimir Sparta and Stephen (Morys) Ireland; and as deacon, Sub-deacon Vladimir Sparta. Their respective parishes are: Clapham, Northampton and Keswick.

An encouraging feature of this year's conference was the participation of 40 children, who had their own comprehensive programme featuring the Ten Commandments. At the Sunday evening party – a regular lively feature of the conference - they put on various sketches showing us, vividly, what they had been learning, as well as entertaining us with their musical talents. There were contributions from a number of adults, too, and general merriment.

Our conference enables people from all over Britain to gather together as an Orthodox family to learn, to discuss, to worship and to meet in a warm and loving atmosphere. We appreciated having our dear Archbishop to lead us, and to speak to us so wisely. We look forward to welcoming him again next year.

Gillian Crow