

# The Fellowship of St. Alban & St. Sergius

The Fellowship of St. Alban and St. Sergius is one of the older voluntary associations working for Christian unity, and in particular working to promote better understanding between the separated Christian traditions of East and West. It was founded more than forty years ago by members of the British Student Christian Movement, and members of the Russian Student Christian Movement in Paris. At the outset the majority of its members were either Anglican or Orthodox, and this remains so today. But the Fellowship has never been exclusively Anglican-Orthodox, and it includes members from all the main Christian confessions. And whereas it began as an Anglo-Russian association, it has now become widely international. On the Orthodox side it includes Russian, Serbian, Romanian, Bulgarian and Arab members, among others. In the Western world it has branches in Scandinavia, Canada and the United States. Individual members are to be found in all the continents.

The Fellowship is an unofficial body which has always believed strongly in the importance of personal meeting, and of sharing in the experience of living, working and praying together. One of its major activities is the Summer Conference held annually, for about ten days, in the month of August, at different places in Britain. This year's conference will be held at Winchester, from 4-5 August. The general theme is *The Transfiguration*. Other smaller conferences and meetings are held from time to time wherever branches of the Fellowship exist. St. Basil's House, 52 Ladbrooke Grove, London, W.11, is the permanent headquarters of the Fellowship, with a chapel used both for Orthodox and for Anglican services, and a small library. The House is also used for regular meetings, and it contains the Fellowship's offices and the Book Room. One of the most important of the Fellowship's tasks is to act as a centre for the dissemination of literature and information about the Orthodox and other Eastern Churches, in the West.

The Fellowship has also always been concerned to be a place where divided Christians of East and West could meet on a footing of complete equality, and in an atmosphere of mutual confidence and understanding. Orthodox participants in ecumenical gatherings have sometimes felt that the very way in which the questions were posed has prevented them from speaking freely out of their own tradition. In its meetings and publications the Fellowship has always sought to be a place where the Orthodox could

speak in their own terms, and where the experience of praying together in the Eucharist, even when sacramental intercommunion is not possible, would help Christians both of East and West to enter deeply into one another's traditions and experience.

Naturally since many of the Orthodox Churches live in Communist countries, members of the Fellowship have been and are deeply concerned with the situation of religious believers of all faiths in Communist lands. The very existence of such a Fellowship is an indirect result of the dispersion of Russian theologians and philosophers in the West in the years following 1917. One of the more surprising and unexpected results of the Russian Revolution has been to promote a meeting between Christian traditions separated for almost one thousand years.

Further particulars about the Fellowship and its activities can be obtained from the Secretary, the Rev. G. M. Evans, St. Basil's House, 52 Ladbroke Grove, London, W.11.

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