



*Serbian B. Litt. students in Oxford (St Stephen's House) c. 1916–1919 (Justin Popović [St Justin of Celije] seated, with Irinej Djordjević [later vicar bishop of Srem, and bishop of Dalmatia] and Demosten Ilić [standing right of Popović] – teacher to Serbian seminarians in Cuddesdon)*

full-hearted support of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Randall Thomas Davidson, the Serbian refugees were placed under the care of many distinguished Anglican clergymen, both academics and parish clergy. In Oxford they were supported by Bishop Herbert Bury (Bishop for Northern Europe), Arthur C. Headlam (Regius Professor from 1918 and President of the Committee of the tutors of the Serbian students and seminarians), G. H. Bown (of St Stephen's House), Leighton Pullan (chaplain of St John's College), James Buchanan Seaton (Principal of Cuddesdon), Walter H. Frere (of the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield), W. H. Carnegie, and Cyril Patrick Hankey (of Dorchester Missionary College). Also important was Henry Fynes-Clinton (a London Anglo-Catholic priest and leading figure in the Eastern Churches' Association), as well as the lay historian Robert W. Seton-Watson, Secretary of the Serbian Relief Fund.

Whilst many returned to Serbia after the end of hostilities, others stayed in Oxford, some taking degrees including the B.Litt. Many of the seminarians and professors went on to become outstanding spiritual, theological and pastoral leaders in the Serbian Orthodox Church. Most notably Justin Popović and Nikolai Velimirović were later introduced into the dyptichon of saints and have gained pan-Orthodox acclamation as theologians, spiritual fathers and as outspoken critics of the Communist regime. Others became bishops (Josif Cvijović, Damaskin Gradinački, Irinej Djordjević); religious philosophers and theologians (Dušan Stojanović, Pavle Jevtić); and state officials in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia (Vojislav Janić).

This fascinating encounter, forged in joint witness to freedom and justice in the face of war, allowed both sides to encounter one another's traditions and cultures in an unprecedented way. It also led to close personal ecclesial and national ties. Hence, this event is more than just an interesting moment in ecumenical relations between the Church of England and the Serbian Orthodox Church: it may rightly be regarded as part of the history of the broader church as it seeks to promote unity in terms of reconciliation, understanding and mutual love for all Christians.



# THEOLOGICAL REFUGEES IN OXFORD

Thursday, 6 September Pusey House, Oxford

# THEOLOGICAL REFUGEES IN OXFORD

**Front cover:** *Seminarians and professors from S. Sava's Seminary (Belgrade): Cuddesdon 1918*  
(Note the presence of the Anglican clergy and professors: Walter Frere, William H. Carnegie, James B. Seaton principal, and E. F. Walker).



*Serbian seminarians and professors from S. Sava's Seminary (Belgrade): Cuddesdon 1918* (Note the presence of the principal, James B. Seaton, in this group.)

## Theological Refugees in Oxford

After the outbreak of the First World War, the Serbian Orthodox Church decided that the seminarians from St Sava's Theological Seminary in Belgrade should leave for fear of Austro-Hungarian troops, who captured the city in late 1915. One group fled to Russia (to St Petersburg, later moving to Simferopol [Crimea]); another escaped to France (Paris, Nice). Eventually most of them congregated in Marseille before going to the United Kingdom in 1916. Some 55 seminarians took refuge at the colleges in Cuddesdon and Dorchester as well as St Stephen's House in Oxford. They were accompanied by a number of their professors.

Together with British supporters of the Serbian cause, Serbian politicians, university academics (Pavle Popović, Tihomir Djordjević) and churchmen had prepared the ground. A particularly prominent role was played by the charismatic church leader and theologian, Hieromonk Nikolai Velimirović (later Bishop of Ohrid and Žiča), who had gained the confidence of many church and political leaders during the War. With the

*Continued on the back page*

### SESSION ONE: 9.15-10.35 AM

1. Canon Prof. Mark Chapman: *'England and Serbia in the First World War'*
2. Prof. Dr Srboljub Ubiparipović: *'Commemorating theological refugees in Oxford: Liturgical and liturgiological perspectives of the ecumenical relations between the Church of England and the Serbian Orthodox Church'*

*Break: 11.-11.30am*

### SESSION TWO: 11.30-1PM

3. The Revd Antony Dutton: *'Henry Liddon and Serbia: Ecumenism and Politics in the late nineteenth century'*
4. Prof. Dr Angela Berlis (Bern): *'Serbian Orthodox presence in Switzerland in late 19th and early 20th century: Nikolaj Velimirović and his doctoral theses from the university of Bern'*
5. Prof. Dr Aleksandar Djakovac: *'Fr Nikolaj Velimirović in England (1915-1919): a theological response to war, violence and evil'*

*1pm: Lunch*

### SESSION THREE: 1.45-2.45PM

6. Prof. Dr Bogdan Lubardić: *'Fr Justin Popović and Anglican theologians: critical reflections on a multifaceted encounter'*
7. Prof. Dr Andrej Jeftić: *'Fr Justin Popović and the Patristic revival in Serbian theology: St Petersburg - Oxford - Athens'*

*Tea Break: 2.45-3.15pm*

### SESSION FOUR: 3.15-5.30PM

8. Prof. Dr Vladan Tatalović: *'The contribution of Fr Vojislav Janić to Serbian biblical scholarship: introducing the New Testament in Cuddesdon 1917-1918'*
9. Prof. Andrew Chandler: *'Anglican-Serbian Orthodox Encounters in Britain in the age of two World Wars'*
10. Bishop Isihije Rogić: *'Visitations of Serbian clergy to England during and after the First World War: aspects of ecclesial and ecumenical implications'*

*5.30pm: Break*

**6pm: Ecumenical Act of Remembrance in Pusey House Chapel**

*7pm: Dinner (for those who have booked)*

