

# Conference 2026 'My Peace I give unto you'

## Speakers' bios and descriptions

### Friday Evening – Gillian Crow

#### *Bio*

Metropolitan Anthony was my spiritual father for the last 20 years of his life. For much of that time I was the Diocesan Secretary of his Diocese of Sourozh, and so I was involved in the process of our leaving the Moscow Patriarchate and the formation of the Deanery.

I have written on Orthodoxy for the national and religious press, and also several books, including *This Holy Man*, a biography of M. Anthony.

I am now a member of the Parish of the Dormition of the Mother of God worshipping at St. Andrews Holborn. That community was set up by Father John Lee as a continuation of M. Anthony's Cathedral parish, for those of us who wished to leave the Moscow Patriarchate and carry forward M. Anthony's vision of Orthodoxy.

#### *Talk Description*

The Cathedral of the Dormition and All Saints was known as a place of stillness, of deep inner peace, in the years when Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of Sourozh served there.

After his death, our Deanery emerged to carry forward M. Anthony's the same vision that had animated his diocese: that of an open, compassionate, outward-looking Orthodoxy, not hidebound by rules and clericalism. Our annual conferences play an important role in ensuring that this is passed on to new generations of church members. Together we can explore the ways to take forward and embody the rich legacy of churchmanship that we have received.

### Saturday Morning 1<sup>st</sup> talk Fr Antonios – pre-recorded

#### *Bio*

Fr Antonios Kakalis is an Orthodox priest of the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, serving in Edinburgh, Inverness, Braithwaite (Keswick) and Dunblane.

He is also a Senior Lecturer in Architecture at Newcastle University specialising on embodied perception of religious architecture and landscape.

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### *Talk Description*

Orthodox Church life involves co-creating space and time for shared, Christ-centred, peace. This journey builds lived stability through partaking of the Body of Christ and learning to “entrust ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.” As the late Archbishop Anastasios of Albania expressed it, Orthodox life embraces both the Liturgy and the “liturgy after the Liturgy.” It begins with the Eucharistic reality experienced within the walls of the Church in shared worship and extends into the world as a mission of service, love, and transformation.

Liturgical space and time open an arena of Eucharistic togetherness that flows into daily life through serving others and building solidarity. This vision is reflected in *sobornost*, the nineteenth-century Russian understanding of spiritual conciliarity that shapes to a certain extent the Deanery of the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain and remains a living expression of the Deanery as the organic continuation of the diocese formed by Russian émigrés, British converts, and other Orthodox faithful under Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh.

Drawing on vignettes of Orthodox life in the UK, this presentation explores peaceful coexistence as unanimity without coercion and corporate unity without loss of personal freedom as an embodied witness to the Church's universal, Eucharistic, unity.

### Saturday Morning 2<sup>nd</sup> Talk Mother Sarah from Bath

#### *Bio*

Mother Sarah has been a nun in the Parish of St John of Kronstadt, Bath, since 1980 when the parish was founded. She was tonsured by Metropolitan Kallistos with a blessing to assist in pastoral service to the community. She has over two decades of experience of work in chaplaincy, both in a hospital and university context.

#### *Talk Description*

My talk will look at the teachings of Elder Tadej of Serbia as described in his book “Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives.” We will look at the way his teaching can give us strength in our lives to live peacefully and to spread peace to others around us.

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Sunday Morning/Afternoon talk depending on the presence of Archbishop Nikitas – Karin Greenhead

### *Bio*

Karin joined the parish of The Assumption and All Saints, London in 1970 and has given presentations and workshops on aspects of Orthodoxy, the teaching of Met. Anthony and singing and reading in Church for the Diocese of Sourozh (Conferences and the Diocesan Assembly), Manchester Metropolitan University and the Met. Anthony of Sourozh Foundation (MASF) (England and Russia). She also chaired for the Diocesan (now Deanery) conferences. In her other life her practical and pedagogical work sits on the bridge between music and movement and practice as the ground on which theory is built and she presents regularly at academic and professional conferences. She is Professor of Music (Dalcroze Eurhythmics) at the Royal Northern College of Music, Director of Studies for Dalcroze UK and her practice and research interests include the developing field of entanglement, incarnation, situated action and the practice, teaching and learning of music and musical performance.

### *Talk Description*

War and Peace in heaven and on earth. *"Grant me to greet the coming day in peace"* Prayer at the beginning of the day Met. Philaret of Moscow. d.1867)

What is peace? We say we want peace and yet wars, hatred and injury to ourselves and others proliferate at all times and over all the earth.

How should we understand the Lord God's declaration: "I make peace and create evil." (Isaiah 45:7) or the many instances where God brings disaster on mankind (Jeremiah)?

The church celebrates warrior saints, and we are enjoined to "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Tim 6:12) and also to "live peaceably with all men" (Rom 12:18). Christ shows his anger by overturning tables in the temple and calling the pharisees "whited sepulchres" and tells us that the peacemakers are blessed (Matt). The apostle James reminds us to refrain from evil joy (Ja 4:16); what about the evil peace?

We will consider differences between God's war and peace and the war and peace of the world: the peace we should pray for and practice and the peace that we should not tolerate. We will explore the conditions required for God's peace on earth and the implications of praying for it. How can we have peace and what is the cost of it?

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Further:

### Monday morning 1<sup>st</sup> Session

Plenary discussion on the theme led by people attending from Parishes around the Deanery

### Monday morning 2<sup>nd</sup> Session

General reflections & thoughts for the future – considerations for next year and even the following year