25/09/2024

Ordination of Philip Scorer to the Holy Diaconate in Exeter



On Saturday 21st September 2024, His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Orthodox Church of the Holy Prophet Elias and St Anne in Exeter, Devon. During the Divine Liturgy, Philip Scorer was ordained to the Holy Diaconate by the Archbishop. Among those serving with the Archbishop were the the Revd Protopresbyter Patrick Hodson, the Revd Protopresbyter Alexander Fotiropoulos, the Revd Presbyter Trayan Goranov, and the Revd Presbyter Anastasios Brandon Gallaher. The Revd Archdeacon George Tsourous also served.

A number of visiting clergy were present to mark this significant occasion. Archpriest Benedict Ramsden, from the Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate), attended after being personally invited by Philip and Fr Anastasios. Clergy from the Anglican tradition were also in attendance, including Fr Dominic Cyrus, Vice Principal of the Church of England's South West Ministry Training Course, and Canon Dr Chris Palmer, representing Exeter Cathedral and the

Anglican Diocese as well as Fr Alex Honey. Additionally, clergy from nearby parishes, including the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches, expressed their support, and many sent their best wishes.

Philip's ordination speech was a heartfelt reflection on his spiritual journey and the people who have shaped him. He expressed deep gratitude to His Eminence, Archbishop Nikitas, for his guidance and support during this important milestone in his life. Drawing parallels between his professional work in restoring historic churches and his spiritual path, Philip likened his life to the construction of a church. He described his parents as the cornerstones of his faith, his siblings as the twin columns guiding him forward, and his children as the intricate tracery windows bringing light and joy into his life. His wife, Alice, he compared to the stained glass that unites and illuminates everything.

Philip also acknowledged the clergy who have been instrumental in his growth, referring to them as the pillars of his spiritual life, and gave thanks to the parishioners and supporters who have stood by him. In closing, he emphasised his commitment to serving with love and joy as he embarks on this new chapter of ministry.

In his address, His Eminence, Archbishop Nikitas, emphasised the transformative power of Christ's disciples, drawing a parallel to the mission of the Orthodox Church in the UK. He highlighted the importance of living Christ in daily life rather than merely preaching Him, urging all to embody the love and fellowship of Christ. The Archbishop encouraged Philip, assuring him of the guidance and support of his family, clergy, and community as he journeys toward priesthood.

His Eminence also stressed the need for priests who are humble, bold, and dedicated to defending truth and sharing the mysteries of the faith. He reminded the deacon to always ask, "What would Christ do?" in moments of difficulty and to see Christ in every person. The Archbishop called upon Philip to honour his roots while embracing the unity of the Church, following the example of the saints who preached the gospel in this land. As Philip entered the altar to receive God's grace, His Eminence urged him to remember his family, loved ones, and community in prayer, guiding them toward the Kingdom of God.

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, clergy, the Parish Council, and the congregation offered their warm wishes to the new Deacon, and a festal reception followed in St Katherines Priory hall nearby.





































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