



## **FRIENDS of MOUNT ATHOS**

### **SUMMER CONFERENCE AND AGM 2025**

#### **‘Axion Estin: Hidden but Everywhere on Mount Athos’**



**Date: Saturday 7 June 2025**

**Venue: Tsuzuki Theatre, St Anne’s College, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HS**

**Time: 10.45 a.m. (registration) – 17.30 p.m.**

**Entrance fee: £25 (students £15 each), lunch £25 each.**

## FOMA Summer Conference 2025

We're delighted that the key focus of this year's summer conference will be the important restoration project being undertaken at the **Axion Estin monastic cell on Mount Athos** which is being supported by FoMA members through our fund-raising activities. The cell of **Axion Estin** dates from the second half of the tenth century and is one of the oldest and most important cells on Mount Athos. It is where the Archangel Gabriel appeared in the year 982 and first chanted the hymn 'Axion Estin' ('It Is Worthy') which now forms part of almost every Orthodox church service. After being abandoned for many years and falling into disrepair, the cell has a new brotherhood of Greek monks who are determined to restore it to its former glory.



We're especially pleased that **two Fathers from Axion Estin** will travel to the UK to explain the history of the cell and its development and to give an update on this vital renovation work to preserve the cell buildings.

The conference will also feature a fascinating new documentary film about the ruined Latin **Benedictine Amalfitan monastery** on the Holy Mountain, which from the tenth century served as a bridge of spiritual unity



between the monasticism of the Eastern and Western Churches for more than 300 years. The film, made by Ukrainian historian, journalist and Doctor of Theology, **Serhii Shumylo and the Académie française**, is timed to coincide with the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicea, symbolising Christian unity.



There will also be a bookstall at the conference. Please note that the conference will be live-streamed online – details to follow on the FoMA website [www.athosfriends.org](http://www.athosfriends.org)

## Conference Programme

10:45 Coffee and registration in the Tsuzuki Theatre Foyer, St Anne's College.

11:30 **Father Philoumenos from Axion Estin** will deliver the keynote speech on the history of the cell and its broader impact on the mountain.

12.30 Buffet lunch.

13:30 **AGM**: reports, elections, approval of accounts, and any other business.

14:00 **Father Vissarion from Axion Estin** will speak on the contemporary history of the cell, specifically what has happened since the brotherhood moved in, and the key role fund-raising has played in the cell's renewal.

14:45 Tea.

15:15 Documentary (with English sub-titles) about the ruined **Latin Benedictine Amalfitan monastery**, shot on Mount Athos by **Serhii Shumylo and the Académie française**.

16.30 **Father Terry Hemming**, a retired Church of England priest, will give an illustrated talk about last year's FoMA pilgrimage to the Republic of North Macedonia.

17:30 **Vespers** (in Greek) at the Orthodox church in Canterbury Road, Oxford (a very short walk from the college – leave at 17.20 p.m.).

**Please note:**

1. There will be a Divine Liturgy at 9.00 on Saturday 7 June at the Orthodox Church in Canterbury Road, Oxford.
  2. There will be a Divine Liturgy at 10.30 (Matins at 9.15) on Sunday 8 June. This is Pentecost and the Greek parish will be celebrating its patronal festival.
- All are welcome at these services.

There is no charge for attending the AGM, but for the rest of the day's programme the charges are set out below. Please complete the slip below, ticking the payment option chosen, and return it, by email if possible, (to arrive no later than 1 June) to *the Treasurer, Peter Stevenson, at [p.stevenson696@btinternet.com](mailto:p.stevenson696@btinternet.com), or Flat 25, Cherwell Court, Banbury Road, Kidlington OX5 2BG.*

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I can attend the summer conference on 7 June. I shall be bringing ..... guest(s)  
Please reserve ..... entrance ticket(s) (£25.00 each; students £15.00)  
Please reserve ..... lunch ticket(s) (£25.00 each)  
I have paid by bank transfer to The Friends of Mount Athos, Sort Code 30-96-64, Acct No. 00058730, quoting as reference Summer + my surname , **OR**  
I have paid £..... via PayPal (please add £1 for PayPal costs), **OR**  
I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to The Friends of Mount Athos..

Name ..... Signature .....

Address .....

Email ..... Name(s) of guest(s).....