

## Pastoral Visit to England

**H**is Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone visited the communities of the Orthodox in residence in England for the Autumn Feast Day of the Monastery of the Holy Royal Martyr Edward, acting as representative of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, who is ailing.

- On Saturday, August 31, 2008 (Old Style), Bishop Ambrose liturgized with Archimandrite Alexis and Father Stephen Fretwell at the beautiful Chapel of the Holy Hieromartyr Boniface (a local Saint of England, who worked as a missionary in Germany), which belongs to our mission-



ary community on the Isle of Wight. The members of this small, but very active Orthodox community hold services on Sundays, Feast Days, and even on weekdays, though they do not often have a Priest to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. The mission also publishes *The Herald*, a fine parish magazine.

It is, indeed, noteworthy that, as far as we know, this was the first visit to the island by an Orthodox Hierarch since the schism of 1054.

- On Sunday, September 1, 2008 (Old Style), the beginning of the new ecclesiastical year, Bishop Ambrose liturgized at the Convent of the Annunciation of the *Theotokos*, in London, with Father Alexis, in the presence of a large, multi-ethnic congregation (Greek, Russian, English, Romanian, Arab, Georgian, etc.!), for which reason a wide variety of languages was used.

- On Tuesday, September 3, His Grace liturgized at the Monastery of the Holy Royal Martyr Edward, in Brookwood, Surrey, on the occasion of its Feast Day. He was assisted by Father Alexis (the Abbot of the monastery), Father Stephen Fretwell, and Hierodeacon



Sabbas. A large number of faithful were in prayerful attendance, despite the fact that it was a working day.

During this pastoral visit, apart from the liturgical program, Bishop Ambrose held informative discussions about ecclesiastical matters and gatherings for the sake of spiritual instruction and the resolution of various local problems. The need to find suitable candidates for the Priesthood, in order to cover increasing spiritual needs, was also stressed at this time.

