

The Window

Newsletter of the Anglican-Lutheran Society

Number 54, July-September 1997

Hymns from Porvoo song book to debut at Stavanger Conference September 5-8

Favourite hymns from the six Lutheran and four Anglican churches which signed the Porvoo Agreement, including some which have never been sung in English before, will be introduced at the International Conference of the Anglican-Lutheran Society to be held at the Sola Strand Hotel in Stavanger, Norway, from September 5-8.

The Rev Per Harling, a church musician and composer from the Church of Sweden, will lead a selection of songs from the forthcoming hymn book, *Together in Song*, to be published in Sweden later this year. He and the Rev Ronald T Englund of London are co-editors of this new collection of hymns in English. Hymns from Estonia, Iceland and Lithuania will be sung for the first time in English.

"Strangers no Longer" is the theme of the programme which will include the Rev Canon Tormod Wasbø of Stavanger speaking on "The Diocese of Stavanger: Links to the West, Past and Present"; The Rt Rev John Yates of the Church of England speaking on "Issues Facing the Anglican Churches Today"; and the Rev Klaus Sturm of the Evangelical Church in Württemberg, Germany, speaking on "The Church and the Challenge of New Religious Movements".

We are saddened over the death of one of our speakers, the Rt Rev Bjørn Bue, Bishop of Stavanger, on April 13, at the age of 63. He was an ecumenical leader and a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches. We are pleased that the Very Rev Per Frick Høydal, Acting Bishop of Stavanger, will preside at the opening Eucharist. The preacher will be the Rt Rev Erik Vikström, Bishop of Porvoo (Borgå), Finland, and the Lutheran president of the Anglican-Lutheran Society.

Registration deadline now August 4

Although nearly 30 men and women from five countries have registered for the Conference, there is still room for more people. The deadline for registrations has been extended by two weeks to August 4. Please contact the Anglican-Lutheran Society Office (see back page) if you wish to register. The cost is NOK2400 or UK£220 or US\$360 per person. This includes room and board for the entire conference, from Friday dinner through Monday lunch. We ask those from the UK who wish to register for a £50

registration fee payable to the "Anglican-Lutheran Society". You may pay the balance of £170 for the conference in Stavanger. Travel costs are additional. If you wish, you may join the group leaving from London Heathrow on Friday and returning on Monday. The fare is UK£182.10 return.

The local committee, headed by the Rev Harald Svendsen and the Rev Canon Tormod Wasbø, are planning a series of exciting tours including a visit to the fjords by boat, to Old Stavanger with its cathedral and museum, and to nearby Utstein Abbey.

Experiencing church life in Norway

The group will also have opportunity to experience the life of the Church of Norway. Local congregations will host participants in the Conference at their regular services on Sunday morning, September 7. On Saturday evening the participants will visit the School of Theology and Mission in Stavanger with its interesting museum. The Rev Dr Magnar Kartveit will be host. The programme has been arranged to allow for ample opportunity to relax and visit with new and old friends.

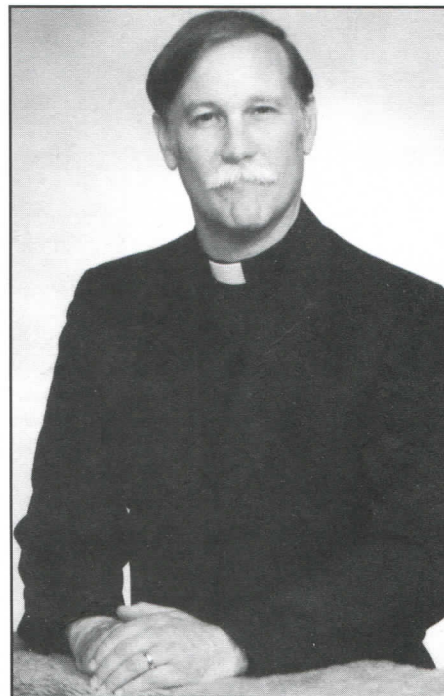
The Sola Strand Hotel is well-situated by the sea, only three minutes by car from Stavanger Airport and ten minutes by car from Stavanger. We will worship in the ancient Sola Church, which has been restored and is within walking distance.

Welcome to all to the Anglican-Lutheran Society International Conference! We look forward to hearing from you and welcome you to join us for what promises to be a wonderful weekend in beautiful Norway.

Membership renewals

Now is the time to renew your membership in the Anglican-Lutheran Society for 1997. We are pleased that nearly half of our 269 members have already renewed for this year even though we are now sending out renewal reminders for the first time. If our records show that you have not yet renewed for 1997, you will receive a special reminder letter with this issue of *The Window*.

Since the Society depends heavily on membership subscriptions to fund its annual budget, it is extremely important that members renew as promptly as possible. We hope to equal or surpass our more than 90 percent renewal rate of last year.



The Rev Dr Scott S Ickert

Scott Ickert is named to ALS post in USA

The Rev Dr Scott S Ickert of Arlington, Virginia, is the new correspondent of the Anglican-Lutheran Society in the USA. He succeeds the Rt Rev Cyril M Wismar of Falls Village, Connecticut, who is retiring after serving as a leader of the Society from its founding in 1984.

Dr Ickert has also been much involved in the work of the Society, especially from 1990-95 when he was a member of the Faculty of Theology of Oxford University, England. During that time he was Lutheran Fellow at Mansfield College, Oxford.

He is now pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Arlington. He has a Ph.D. in church history from Catholic University, Washington, DC, where he specialized in the history and theology of the Reformation. He has also taught at the Ecumenical Institute of Theology at St Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Maryland.

We thank Cyril Wismar again for his long service as US correspondent, and welcome Scott Ickert to this voluntary post.

USA membership subscriptions and renewals may be sent to The Rev Dr Scott Ickert, Resurrection Lutheran Church, 6210 North Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA 11105-2099. Phone (703) 532 5991. Annual membership fees are: individuals US\$12; couples \$15; groups \$25.

Lutherans and Episcopalians in the USA vote on historic Concordat this summer

Just as 1996 was the "Porvoo year" for Anglicans and Lutherans in northern Europe, 1997 may be the "Concordat year" for members of these two historic church traditions in the USA.

The Episcopal Church, with 2.5 million members, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), with 5.2 million members, will decide this summer whether to accept a Concordat of Agreement which will bring them into "full communion."

No structural merger is involved, at either the local or national levels, but clergy of one church would be able to celebrate the Eucharist and administer the sacraments in congregations of the other denomination, according to worship forms and teachings of that denomination.

Dr Scott S Ickert, an ELCA pastor from Arlington, Virginia, reports on the background and the process which remains:

"Lutheran-Episcopal dialogue in the USA began in 1969. Now, after nearly 30 years, Lutherans and Episcopalians will vote whether to enter into "full communion" with each other. The latest round of Lutheran-Episcopal dialogues, LEDIII (1983-1991) produced two major reports: a) *Implications of the Gospel* and b) *Towards Full Communion and the Concordat of Agreement*.

"After a five-year study process (1991-1996) which culminated in a major review at a joint meeting of the ELCA Conference of Bishops and the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church held in October 1996. A revised text of the *Concordat* resulted and was published by the Lutheran-Episcopal Coordinating Committee.

Decisions in Philadelphia

"The final text will be presented to the 1997 General Convention of The Episcopal Church, in Philadelphia from July 16-25, and to the ELCA's 1997 Churchwide Assembly in Philadelphia from August 13-20. Both the convention and assembly will be held at the Philadelphia Convention Center.

"The purpose and the vision of the *Concordat* is expressed in its introduction: 'This *Concordat of Agreement* describes the actions of the two churches that will bring them into full communion: agreement in the doctrine of the faith, which opens the way to mutual recognition of churches and sacraments, to affirming the full authenticity of existing ordained ministers, to sharing in the ordination/installation of future bishops with recognized means of collegial and conciliar consultation to express and strengthen *koinonia* (communion) and enable common witness, life and service. The purpose of full communion is to express that visible unity in mission which Christ

wills for his people.'"

The Rev Walt Gordon, communications officer for the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota, wrote on June 10: "While the outcome is still anybody's guess, early indications suggest that the Episcopalians will approve the ground-breaking accord, while Lutheran approval is less assured."

Each church brings special gifts

He adds: "For Episcopalians, the gift to be shared is the historic episcopate, tracing the line of bishops back into the apostolic era as a means of handing on the faith and ministry of the church catholic from generation to generation and guarding the unity of the church. Lutherans bring the gift of their church's historic emphasis on catechesis and apostolic doctrine, as represented in the Augsburg Confession. The two churches are of one mind in recognizing the pivotal importance of apostolic succession, even though this commitment to keep faith with the teaching and practice of the apostles has been expressed in different ways."

The most troublesome issue for those Lutherans who are uncomfortable with the Concordat is the role of bishops envisioned in the agreement. The Rev H George Anderson, presiding bishop of the ELCA, has said that there are two reasons for this, one sociological and one theological. He said that "the theological reason is that Lutherans tend to focus on the part of the tradition that relates to the creeds, and the confessions of faith. Doctrine has been so fundamental that our identity was constituted in our teaching. Some of us fear that when we start talking about the role of bishops we are not putting teaching first, but rather adding a structural requirement to what is essential to the church."

The sociological reason, he said, "is that many Lutherans in this country came here out of rejection of, and resistance to, state church structures in Europe, and they have placed emphasis on the 'whole people of God.'"

Pullach Conference

Clergy and lay leaders met in Pullach, Germany, May 26-31 to discuss "Lutheranism between Porvoo and Leuenberg: towards understanding episcopacy and apostolicity in the church." The VELKD (United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany) sponsored the event.

Speakers were VELKD President Friedrich Otto Scharbau of Hannover; The Rt Rev Rupert Hoare, Anglican Bishop of Dudley, England; Dr Dorothea Wendebourg of Tübingen; Bishop Dr Hans Christian Knuth of Schleswig; Dr Johani Forsberg of Helsinki; and Dr Volker Weymann of Pullach.

Ecumenism in Worcester

Lutherans, Anglicans and Catholics from Germany and England met in Worcester, England, this spring for three days of talks on whether Europe has a soul!

The Anglican Diocese of Worcester hosted this ecumenical conference which was part of an ongoing partnership with the Lutheran Propstei (archdeaconary) of Magdeburg, Germany and the Evangelische Kirche der Kirchenprovinz Sachsen.

The April conference at Holland House, the Worcester Diocese's retreat centre near Evesham, brought English Anglicans and Catholics (Archdiocese of Birmingham) together with German Protestants (Lutheran and Reformed) and Catholics (Diocese of Magdeburg).

The topic proved timely because major studies on the future of Europe had been issued by three church groups: the Evangelische churches in Germany; the Roman Catholic churches in Germany; and the Council of Churches in Britain and Ireland.

Canon Guy Smith, who organizes and convenes the Worcester Partnership with Magdeburg, says that "as far as we know this is the only ongoing conference between a part of the Church of England and the churches of the former East Germany." He explains that the idea came from the Anglican Diocese of Chichester which has been holding conferences with churches in Bavaria for a number of years.

First member from Japan

Japanese Anglicans are now linked with the Anglican-Lutheran Society as Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Holy Catholic Church in Japan) has become a group member through its Ecumenism Committee. This is the first time the Society has had a group member in Japan.

The Rev Samuel Isamu Koshiishi is general secretary of the 57,400-member church which is seeking to expand its ecumenical contacts around the world. Dr William F Honaman, secretary to the primate, reports that the NSKK has held informal talks with the 22,000-member Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church. The NSKK also published articles in Japanese on Anglican-Lutheran relationships and has been studying the Porvoo Agreement.

LWF names Oppegaard

The Rev Sven Oppegaard of the Church of Norway is the Lutheran World Federation's new assistant general secretary for ecumenical affairs. He succeeds Dr Eugene Brand of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, who retired last December. He has served the Norwegian community in Switzerland since 1995.



The Day Centre for the Elderly in Riga, Latvia, is an example of Anglican-Lutheran co-operation in this Baltic country. Enjoying coffee together are (from left) Sigita Lapina, co-director; Valentina Lescinska, a regular client; Issy Sanderson, who was co-director until she moved from Latvia this summer; and Margarita Saredere, another regular visitor to the centre.

St Saviour's in Riga: a model of co-operation between Lutherans and Anglicans in Latvia

Few places can match the Church of Saint Saviour in Riga, Latvia, for embodying the spirit of Anglican-Lutheran co-operation. Here is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia which is serving an ecumenical community, worshipping in English, with a Lutheran pastor in an Anglican church.

As recently as five years ago, this church building was functioning as a student disco! Issy H Sanderson, who was president of the church council of the congregation until she moved from Riga this summer, reports that "gargantuan efforts have been made in a short space of time, not only to restore the worship space and gather together an international ecumenical congregation, but also to build up a caring Christian community and begin an outreach programme through the Day Centre for the Elderly.

Support from Anglicans in England

This project has been made possible through wonderful support of Anglican friends in the UK. St Cuthbert's Parish Church in Bedlington, Northumberland, England made the most amazing effort to provide the day care centre with a new kitchen, including work units, cupboard, cookers and a fridge-freezer. Even catering utensils and tea towels were provided! The Rev Mark Savage, vicar, and The Rev Jeremy Thompson, curate, spearheaded this effort. Mrs Sanderson notes that "the campaign to raise funds and collect equipment was simply breathtaking! In many cases pensioners in Bedlington gave money and equipment to provide for pensioners in Riga."

Although this new chapter in the life of St Saviour's began recently, the church celebrated its 140th anniversary on June 15. It was built in 1857 by a small group of British traders on 30 feet of British soil

which had been brought to Riga as ballast on the ships which transported the building materials. It functioned as an Anglican church, catering mainly to English-speaking seafarers until 1940 when it was taken over by the Soviets. In the 1960s it was used by the Riga Technical University as a cultural centre and students' club.

American Lutheran re-starts worship

In 1992 the first post-occupation worship services in English were held, led by the Rev Arden Haug, a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He gathered together a small international congregation and worked with them in renovating the worship space. A year later the church was formally handed back by the Latvian government to the Church of England.

The congregation is now part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia and is served by one of its pastors, the Rev Dr Juris Calitis. He had been a Lutheran pastor in Canada before returning to Latvia.

St Saviour's is now twinned with Sherborne Abbey, Dorset, England, through the Anglican Diocese of Salisbury, as well as with Holy Trinity in Utrecht, Netherlands, through the Anglican Diocese of Europe.

The Rev Eric Woods of Sherborne Abbey and his wife, Sandra, made an official visit to St Saviour's in January.

The Riga congregation now faces the huge task of renovating its church and launched a Restoration Appeal at the time of its 140th anniversary celebrations. During the anniversary there was an exhibition of "Friendship Quilts" made with contributions of patchwork from churches and individual friends from all over the world.

Issy Sanderson says that all this is "wonderful evidence of the fact that St Saviour's is again becoming a beacon of God's love in Riga."

Nordic Faith and Order Conference in August

Anglican-Lutheran relationships will feature prominently in the Nordic Faith and Order Conference to be held at the Convent of St Birgitta in Djursholm, near Stockholm, Sweden from August 29-31.

The speakers will include The Rev Norman A Hjelm, who has served with the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches, on "A comparison between the Reformed-Lutheran Dialogue and the Episcopal (Anglican)-Lutheran Dialogue in the USA"; and Prof. Ola Tjørhom of the School of Theology and Mission, Stavanger, Norway, on "What has happened so far as a consequence of the Porvoo Agreement?"

Everyone is invited to this conference. For further information write to Director Gunnel Borgegård, Nordic Ecumenical Council, S-75170 Uppsala, Sweden. Phone +46 18 169511.

Larsson, Löwe named

The Committee of the Anglican-Lutheran Society named Margareta Larsson of Sweden and J Andreas Löwe of Great Britain to positions in the Society at its meeting at the Swedish Church, London, on June 27.

Mrs. Larsson, who lives in Styrsö, Sweden, will be the Society's first representative in that country. The next edition of *The Window* will give more information about the Society's new Swedish address and account.

Mr. Löwe, who is studying in Cambridge and Oxford to be a priest in the Church of England, will become the new Anglican editor of *The Window*, succeeding Gillian Court. He is spending several weeks this summer serving in St Paul's Episcopal Parish in Washington, DC, USA.

Watch for details on these appointments in the next issue. The Society is grateful for the many who volunteer their services.

Ecumenism in Finland

As a natural consequence of the Porvoo Agreement, Anglican-Lutheran co-operation has taken another visible step in Finland. The Finnish Church Days, held June 5-8 in Lappeenranta, included an English-language Anglican Eucharist. (The Church Days, held every other year, are a rough equivalent to the German Kirchentag.)

The Rev Dr Jaakko Rusama, a Lutheran pastor, presided, assisted by the Rev Francis Chadwick, Anglican Chaplain in Finland. The Lappeenranta City Church Chamber Choir sang Anglican church music.

Among the congregation were the Lutheran Archbishop of Finland, The Most Rev John Vikström, and the General Secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches, the Rev José Belo Chipenda.

Meissen Commission reports on five years of English-German church relationships

Agreements between churches often feature grandiose language which does not translate easily into the lives of people in the pews.

The newly published *The Report of the Meissen Commission, 1991-1996* is most encouraging as it reflects the warmth which has developed between the churches and shows many practical ways in which an Anglican-Lutheran agreement can be implemented. (The German-language version of the report is *Das "Meissener Modell" bewährt sich*.)

The historic Meissen Declaration was signed in 1991 by leaders of the Church of England and the Protestant Churches of Germany (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland). This document committed the Church of England and the EKD (which includes Lutheran, Reformed and United churches) to "share a common life and mission" and "to take all possible steps to closer fellowship in as many areas of Christian life and witness as possible, so that all our members together may advance on the way to full, visible unity."

The foreword to this five-year progress report also notes that "the Meissen Agreement marked a decisive stage in the relationship between the Church of England and the Evangelical Church in Germany, which had developed in a variety of ways since 1945."

This milestone in Anglican-Lutheran relations has been strongly supported through the active work of the Meissen Commission established to oversee its implementation. The Commission was chaired by the Rt Rev Gordon Roe, then Bishop of Huntingdon and now co-moderator of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, and Bischof Dr Hans Christian Knuth of Schleswig, Germany. The personal friendship of these two church leaders, which grew out of their work on the Meissen Commission, typifies the relationships that have developed between the churches.

Strengthened partnerships

Considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the Meissen Agreement. Partnerships between the EKD churches and the Church of England have been both strengthened and initiated through Meissen. Long-standing links, such as Coventry-Dresden, have intensified. Other links have come directly from Meissen, such as Ely with Nordelbien and Blackburn with Braunschweig. Nearly half of the dioceses of the Church of England now have links with EKD churches.

Less progress has been made in the exchange of ministers and church workers. This is chiefly because the Meissen

Declaration does not provide for full interchangeability of ministries. That effectively prevents the employment of German pastors in the place of Anglican clergy. The differences in clergy stipends and conditions of service in the two countries also impede long-term exchanges. What works better is for those involved in exchanges to work alongside their colleagues in the other church. The EKD has sent a number of *Vikare* and *Vikarinnen* to work in the Church of England. (In Germany, a *Vikar* is a theology graduate involved in parish-based training prior to ordination.)

Establishment of libraries

The Meissen Agreement calls for a library of Anglican studies in Germany and a library of German Protestant studies in England. In Germany it was decided not to establish a new library as the University of Tübingen aims to acquire a complete range of Anglican publications. Plans are underway to establish a Library of German Protestant Studies at Durham University as part of a more wide-ranging ecumenical centre.

Two theological conferences have been held since the signing: in Berlin in 1995 on "Koinonia and Eucharist"; and in West Wickham, England, in 1996 on "Episkope". The Commission hopes that continuing theological conferences will lay the basis for a decision by the churches to enter further formal conversations in the next five years. This hope depends on parallel ecumenical negotiations in other countries also involving Roman Catholic and Reformed churches.

Other consultations, the increasing flow of information exchange and the sending of observers to each other's decision-making meetings have helped to implement the call to "establish forms of joint oversight" between the Church of England and EKD.

Meissen has also intensified relations between the EKD-related German congregations in the UK and the Church of England as well as between the Anglican Diocese of Europe and the EKD.

The report concludes with a call for more parish twinnings, clergy and student exchanges and placements as well as for a "more intensive practice of joint worship" for the growth of mutual understanding between members of the two churches.

The Report of the Meissen Commission, 1991-96, published in 1997 by the General Synod of the Church of England, 80 pages. Price £3.50 (or US\$6) plus 60p (\$1.10) postage (mailed to UK or Europe) from the Anglican-Lutheran Society, 27 Prentis Rd, London SW16 1QB. (Orders outside Europe add \$2.50 airmail postage). The German-language version, *Das "Meissener Modell" bewährt sich*, epd Dokumentation 5/97 is available for DM7 from GEP-Vertrieb, Postfach 50 05 50, 60394 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Music Gettysburg! trio to visit Britain in 1998

"Songs of the American Civil War" and "The Story of Gospel Song" are the two attractive programmes to be offered by Music Gettysburg! during its June 24 to July 8, 1998 tour of Great Britain. There are opportunities for Anglican churches to invite these two musicians and speaker-host who are linked with the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA.

Wayne Hill, baritone, president of the Gettysburg Construction Company, and Timothy Braband, minister of music at St James Lutheran Church in Gettysburg, will provide the music. The Rev Dr Herman Steumpfle, former professor of homiletics and president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, is host and narrator.

The group will take part in the 11am Eucharist at the Lutheran Church of St Anne and St Agnes in the City of London on Sunday, July 5. They are seeking places to give their programme and/or to take part in services as follows: June 26-27 in the Coventry area; June 28-July 1 in the Lake District and Edinburgh area; and July 3-7 in the London area.

Here is a fine opportunity to celebrate and strengthen Anglican-Lutheran relationships with an unusual programme of word and music. There are no financial obligations for dioceses or parishes which invite them. The group is providing for its own housing on the way but would appreciate proceeds from a collection to help with extra expenses.

Contact Ronald Englund at the ALS office if you are interested in booking them or seek further information about their visit.

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THE WINDOW

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