

The Window

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Newsletter of the Anglican-Lutheran Society

March 2000

Bishop Bourke to speak at AGM at Swedish Church on March 18

The Rt Rev Michael Bourke, Anglican Bishop of Wolverhampton, England, will speak at the Annual General Meeting of the Anglican-Lutheran Society to be held at the Swedish Church, Harcourt Street, London W1, on Saturday, March 18, from 10.30am to 3pm. He will discuss relationships between the Church of England and the Evangelical Churches in Germany under the title, "Meissen – fragile porcelain or robust relationship?"

Bishop Bourke chairs the Anglican Committee which oversees the implementation of the 1991 Meissen Agreement. He has long experience in ecumenical affairs with emphasis on relationships with Lutherans from Germany.

After registration and coffee, the delegates will gather at 11am for the Eucharist in the nave of the Swedish Church. The Rev Ronald T Englund, the Society's Lutheran co-moderator who now lives in Falmouth, Massachusetts, USA, will preach. The Rev Canon Guy Smith of Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire, will preside. He is treasurer of the Society.

Lunch will be served at the Swedish Church followed by the lecture by Bishop Bourke. The Annual General Meeting will begin about 2.15pm. Important business at the AGM includes the ratification of the nomination of two co-moderators for the Society, one Anglican and one Lutheran.

Co-moderator vacancies

There has been a vacancy because of the death last year of the Anglican co-moderator, Bishop Gordon Roe. The ALS Committee has nominated The Rev Brian Coleman, vicar of All Saint's Church, Guildford, England, as Anglican co-moderator. He is a founding member of the Society and was treasurer for five years.

The Rev Ronald T Englund is leaving his position as Lutheran co-moderator after serving for five years. He will remain as an editor of *The Window*, the Society's newsletter. The Committee has nominated the Rev Helge Pettersen, rector of St Olav's Church, the Norwegian Church and Seamen's Mission, in London. He has long experience in ministry to seamen, having



Bishop Michael Bourke of Wolverhampton

served Norwegian seamen's churches in Brazil, Belgium and the United States.

The Rev Brian Coleman will present the annual report of the co-moderators. Canon Guy Smith will present the treasurer's report for 1999.

All members and friends are invited to this Annual General Meeting. The cost for lunch plus morning coffee and afternoon tea will be £5, payable on the day.

Reservations requested

To help in planning, we will be grateful for you to phone us to tell how many are planning to attend. The phone and fax number for the London office of the Society (the flat of Ronald and Ruth Englund) is 020-8769 2677. The Englunds will be in the UK from March 7 and the answerphone is monitored regularly.

We welcome all to our AGM, whether or not you are a member. It will be a splendid occasion to meet friends, old and new.

Membership renewals

Membership renewals for the year 2000 are welcomed by our treasurer, Canon Guy Smith, at any time. For those who pay in UK pounds, annual fees are £15 for individuals; £20 for couples; and £30 for groups. Make cheques payable to Anglican-Lutheran Society. (Guy Smith's address is in the last paragraph to the right.) If you pay in other currency, we'll contact you later in the year.

Conference speakers set for July 21-24 in Virginia

Five distinguished church leaders from Europe and the United States will speak at "Living into Full Communion", an Anglican-Lutheran Society conference to be held July 21-24 at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia. All are invited to this North American-sponsored event.

The conference will explore world-wide Lutheran-Episcopal agreements, with focus on Called to Common Mission (CCM), the proposal for full communion between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Speakers will also discuss the 1991 Meissen Agreement between the Church of England and the Evangelical (Lutheran and Reformed) churches in Germany; and the 1996 Porvoo Agreement, which brings British and Irish Anglicans into communion with Nordic and Baltic Lutherans.

The Rt Rev David Tustin, Bishop of Grimsby, England, will speak from an Anglican perspective. The Rev. Margarethe Isberg of the Church of Sweden will speak from a Lutheran perspective. Both speakers have much ecumenical experience.

Speakers from the USA will include: Dr Michael Root, professor of systematic theology at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio; the Rev Dr William Petersen, professor of ecclesiastical and ecumenical history, Bexley Hall Seminary, Rochester, New York; and the Rev Paul Lee, ecumenical officer, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, DC.

The cost will be US\$350 (UK£215) per person for single rooms (very limited in number) and US\$310 (UK£195) per person for double rooms. Day costs are US\$25, including lunch and dinner. The conference will begin with supper on Friday and end with lunch on Monday.

Send \$50 registration fee (cheques to Anglican-Lutheran Society) to Dr Scott Ickert, 6201 N. Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA 22205, USA. Or send UK£30 registration fee to Canon Guy Smith, 11 Church Walk, Arley Kings, Stourport, Worcs, DY13 0AL, England. If you live in other countries, you may contact Ronald Englund at 508-495 1621 (USA); 020-8769 2677 (UK). E-mail to: englund@cape.com

Anglican parishes through Lutheran eyes

Exchanges between clergy and theological students from England and Germany are more frequent nowadays because of the Meissen Agreement. Here are lightly-edited excerpts from a report by Johannes Steffen, from the North Elbian Lutheran Church, who worked in a parish in Wolverhampton, England, last year:

Naturally I have focused more on things in which the thought and practice of the Church of England differs from that of the Lutheran churches. The things that unite us and that we have in common outweigh these differences. I have never had any difficulties in feeling part of the same worshipping community as the Anglicans around me.

The theological difference between Lutherans and Anglicans that has struck me most is what people expect when they worship. For most Lutherans, the most important part of a service is the sermon. Here, however, the most important part of the service is the Communion. In most parishes in the Lutheran Church that I know, Holy Communion is celebrated once or twice a month. A number of people leave the service before the Communion starts. It is added almost as an afterthought.

Churches in this parish celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday plus during the week. The Communion is the climax of the service and no one would dream of leaving the service at this stage. The sermon, though appreciated, is given less weight.

Weekday celebrations of Communion where only four or five people were present, without any kind of sermon or address, were a new experience for me. I may have received Communion more times in my ten months in this parish than I had during the previous 26 years of my life!

Extraordinary experience

Most extraordinary to me is that any wine or wafers left over are stored in a tabernacle as the "reserved sacrament." What I would call an undue importance is attached to the elements apart from the words of institution. Although everyone emphatically denies any belief in transubstantiation, this is what it seems to be. To me this is especially apparent when Communion is taken to the housebound. The bread and wine are taken from the tabernacle and administered without the words of institution because they have already been consecrated and therefore have a certain power in themselves. I always felt very keenly the deficiency of administering the elements without the biblical words. It seems that a magical quality is attached to the elements.

The greater emphasis on sermons in the

Lutheran Church also extends to occasional offices. The minister would be considered lazy if he preached for only five minutes at a wedding or funeral. This seems to be the standard length of such sermons here.

When I first arrived here I felt it bizarre to have daily matins and evensong with hardly anyone present. At first it seemed monastic and fruitless to me, but after a short while these services became very dear and meaningful to me. They are one of the great traditions of the Church of England which I hope will not be abandoned..

Running on a shoestring

The first observation of visitors from one of the big German churches when they look around a parish in England is how it is almost run on a shoestring. This may reflect more of the extreme financial luxury of the German churches than anything else.

To keep a parish going with so few employed staff is only possible with highly-committed volunteers. In Germany, the church is seen by many who work for it to be an employer and not so much *their* church. It's difficult to motivate people to do anything outside of working hours. Here people work because it is *their* church and they want to help in its mission.

The greater the commitment of the people involved in the church, the more they know each other quite well. A negative consequence of this is that it raises the threshold for outsiders to come in. In Germany most churches operate on the old community model. The church is a worship place for the whole community. Strangers are not particularly noticed. I regard this relative anonymity as a strength for it makes it easier for people to come.

In England the church seems to follow an associational model. People who go to church have joined an association or club and know each other well. It's difficult to slip into a pew without attracting attention. This makes it more difficult to explore the service in a non-committal way.

This associational model comes much closer to the idea of real fellowship at worship, instead of being an assortment of individuals. Before coming to this parish I thought of Paul's talk of the church as the body of Christ as some hazy dream. Because of greater intimacy between church members here and because of more lay involvement in services, I have come to realize that it is more than a dream, but can in fact become a reflection of reality.

What I have enjoyed most in this parish is the great emphasis on teaching. Bible courses here combine the devotional and the scholarly. I wholly support this.

German Lutheran serves in Anglo-Catholic parish

The Rev David A Cameron, vicar of Christ Church (Anglican), Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent, England, writes about Dietmar Dohrmann, a German ordinand, who spent a month last year in this Anglo-Catholic parish:

When I was a theological student at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, we were told that we should have to go on a parish placement during the summer holiday. It turned out to be a very valuable part of training for the priesthood, as it gave us opportunity to see the practical side of all the theory. I did five placements, including two in Lutheran parishes in Germany.

During Lent I must have been feeling penitent because I wrote to my old college and asked if they would like to send anyone to Fenton. I was told that all their students were fixed up for this summer – but they had had a late application from someone in Germany. Could we help?

This is how we came to have Dietmar Dohrmann with us for a month. He is an ordinand of the Lutheran Church of Hannover, studying at Göttingen and was keen to gain practical experience. The reality of life in Fenton came as something of a shock. We pushed him in at the deep end and encouraged him to swim. Within 24 hours of arriving in England, he was speaking at Evensong.

With fearsome speed, Dietmar grew in confidence and could be seen doing all sorts of exotic things, some of which would be unusual in the Lutheran Church – like being a weekday server, thurifer, intercessor and eucharistic minister. He even acted as subdeacon to the Bishop of St Helena. In addition he participated in all the regular duties of the parish.

It has been a joy and delight to have him with us. There have been benefits on both sides, especially in celebrating our common faith that spans our differences. We all got more than we expected! We wish Dietmar every blessing. We look forward to welcoming him back and hope that "goodbye" is no more than "auf Wiedersehen."

Ecumenical Joyful Gifts

Joyful Gifts is the annual appeal to support the Leadership Program for Musicians Serving Small Congregations (LPM), a joint project of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Episcopal Church and Virginia Theological Seminary. Since 1995, LPM has offered continuing education and formation for leaders of liturgy and music. For information contact LPM Communications Office, 6230 Covered Bridge Road, Burke, VA 22015, USA.



Paintings depicting 17th century Biblical scenes have been restored in the historic Pühavaimu (Holy Spirit) Church in Tallinn, Estonia. Support from Anglicans in England has made possible this project, which is not yet complete. Anglican-Lutheran co-operation has grown significantly in this historic church where Anglican and Lutheran services in English are held regularly.

Historic art panels restored in Tallinn Church

Restored art panels painted in the 17th century were rededicated in the Pühavaimu (Holy Spirit) Church in Tallinn, Estonia, at a special service held January 16. The Rev Francis Chadwick, an Anglican from England who served in Finland and Estonia, attended the service with his wife, Jill. He sent The Window the following report:

In September 1996 the Porvoo Agreement between the British and Irish Anglican churches and the Nordic and Baltic Lutheran churches was duly signed and sealed in the ancient Cathedral Church of Tallinn. By that time what Estonian Lutherans call "The Spirit of Porvoo" had already taken root. Earlier that year the Estonian Lutheran Church played host to a meeting of the Anglo-Scandinavian Pastoral Conference, and in September of this year, the five-year-old Anglican Chaplaincy is to be admitted into the Diocese of Europe.

That this is taking place is largely due to the warmth and fellowship that has developed between the English-worshipping community and their Lutheran hosts in the Parish of Pühavaimu. Under the guidance of the Dean of Tallinn, the Very Rev Gustav Piir, this fellowship has continued to grow and is represented on the local Lutheran parish council by some of its members. It also has the valued support of members of the American Embassy.

Every Christmas the Fellowship of St Timothy and St Titus holds a carol service which is assisted by local Estonian choirs. The offerings are given to the Tallinn Children's Hospital.

During 1996 the then British Ambassa-

dor, Charles de Chassirons, drew our attention to the Sainsbury's Headley Trust which was offering financial assistance for the restoration of historic artwork in Eastern Europe. After much historical research and many meetings with local Estonian Departments, the fund finally committed £25,000 towards the restoration of the 17th century paintings that form the wooden panels of the balconies surrounding this ancient church. These depict the history of the Christian Faith from the story of Adam and Eve to the Resurrection of Jesus. They were in a serious state of deterioration.

A special service was held on Sunday, January 16, to mark the rededication of the southern gallery. This was a very memorable occasion and marked the closeness of the fellowship that has emerged between the Anglican and Lutheran churches in Estonia. The grant from the Headley Trust will enable more work to be done but additional funds still need to be found to complete the restoration of all the paintings.

Since the signing of the Porvoo Agreement, close links have been developed between the Estonian Lutheran Church and the Dioceses of Portsmouth and Rochester of the Church of England. The Archdeacon of Rochester and the Rev Francis Chadwick have shared in Confirmation Services in Estonia and plans are afoot for an Estonian Church Choir to visit Portsmouth Cathedral later this year or perhaps next year. The Porvoo spirit is very much alive in Estonia.

Berlin and London forge new church partnership

Lutherans in the Evangelical Church in Berlin-Brandenburg and Anglicans in the Diocese of London of the Church of England will be linked by a "Joint Declaration of Partnership" which was signed by their bishop at a festive service in Berlin on December 12.

Bishop Wolfgang Huber of Berlin-Brandenburg and the Rt Rev Richard Chartes of London embraced after they signed the historic document. In their joint statement the bishops state that "particular importance should be attached to Berlin and London as capital cities in the European Union. The duties and opportunities for the churches in this connection can be perceived in many situations."

Both churches commit themselves to deepening the contacts that already exist between them and to develop further the relationships between parishes and church groups. Special mention was made of co-operative ministry in hospitals, prisons and to the police. In addition groups from the two churches will work together in ecumenism, church music, ministry with children and youth, women's work and interfaith dialogue.

Exchange programmes, which include practical training and work in the "other church" on a relatively long-term basis, will also be encouraged. There are also plans for an annual Partnership Sunday.

Bishop Chartes said in his sermon at the signing that he was delighted with the growing friendship between the churches. He cited challenges which both churches face in proclaiming the gospel in London and Berlin where "great prosperity and power live side-by-side with poverty."

The partnership links Berlin Cathedral with St Paul's Cathedral in London. There are plans to link London parishes with Berlin parishes.

With this new agreement, the Berlin-Brandenburg Church and the Diocese of London hope to take further steps on the road to "reconciled differences."

CCM conference March 23

"Mission in Ecumenical View" will be the theme of a March 23 conference at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, USA. The meeting will explore possibilities created by "Called to Common Mission" (CCM), which proposes full communion between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Church. Phone 1-800-225 5987 for details.



The Very Rev Lennart Sjöström (right), Dean of the Swedish Church in London, was honoured on January 28 by King Carl Gustaf of Sweden for his long ministry among Swedes in the United Kingdom and his ecumenical work with the Church of England. He received His Majesty's Gold Medal at a ceremony at the Royal Castle, Stockholm, while Queen Sylvia of Sweden looked on. Dean Sjöström has been a leading supporter of Anglican-Lutheran relationships for many years. He is a member of the Anglican-Lutheran Society and also serves as chairman of the Lutheran Council in Great Britain.

US Lutherans develop Episcopacy statement

Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) have developed a statement titled "Historic Episcopacy in the ELCA." Produced from an internet meeting on LutherLink, it has no official status at this time. However it was developed both by those who support "Called to Common Mission" (CCM), the proposed agreement between the ELCA and The Episcopal Church, and those who have opposed the adoption of CCM.

The statement says: "The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America affirms that in the proclamation of the gospel and in baptism and Holy Communion, received in faith, God creates the one holy catholic and apostolic Church and through the centuries gives it true unity as the Body of Christ, despite outward appearances to the contrary. Several major Christian communions around the world also see the practice of episcopacy as a witness to the unity of the Church.

"Therefore, in witness to this God-given unity, and for no other purpose, the ELCA has adopted a practice of historic episcopacy, or bishops in historic succession. Bishops in the ELCA are ordained ministers, not above or separate from other ordained ministers, but charged with an office

of oversight within the holy ministry of Word and Sacrament. Bishops in historic succession regularly preside and participate in the laying on of hands at the ordination of new ministers of Word and Sacrament, not because bishops alone possess that power, but as an expression of the continuity of the ELCA's ministry of Word and Sacrament with that of the Church catholic."

All are invited to respond to this statement on the internet. We will report further developments. Contact: www.elca.org/ea

LARCO retreat April 3-4

Lutherans, Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians will come together to celebrate their experience of faith in the 21st annual LARCO retreat April 3-4 at the Serra Retreat Center in Malibu, California.

The theme will be "The Spirituality of the Book of Common Prayer". Fr. Louis Weil, professor of liturgics at Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, California, will be the retreat leader.

Cost for the two days will be US\$85.00. Contact "Lutheran/Catholic Dialogue", Ecumenical Office, 3424 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90010, USA.

London's Swahili-speaking Congregation celebrates

London's ecumenical Swahili-speaking congregation celebrated its 25th anniversary at the Lutheran Church of St Anne & St Agnes on Sunday, December 19. Many Lutherans and Anglicans were among the 116 people who gathered for the service which featured hymns for Advent and Christmas. The Furaha (Joy) Choir of the congregation led the singing. Peter Lea-Cox, St Anne's cantor, was organist.

The Rev Ronald T Englund, who founded the congregation in 1974, was guest preacher. The Rev John Shabaya, pastor of the congregation, led the service. He is a Methodist from Kenya.

Pastor Englund told about the beginning of the congregation and noted that the Rt Rev Gresford Chitemo, an Anglican bishop from Tanzania, was the preacher at the first service which was held on July 7, 1974. Preachers through the years have included a dozen Anglican and Lutheran clergy who are now bishops in Kenya and Tanzania.

The Anglican-Lutheran Society

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