

The Window

Newsletter of the Anglican-Lutheran Society

No.44, Summer 1995

Nordic, Estonian music planned for the autumn

In celebration of the coming of the Porvoo Agreement, the Anglican-Lutheran Society has planned, for the autumn, two Nordic hymn services and an Lutheran Eucharist with an Estonian mass. The services will be in English, but the mass will be sung in Estonian.

A Nordic hymn service is set for St Leonard's (Anglican) Church, Tooting Bec Gardens, Streatham, London SW16, for Sunday, September 17, at 6.30pm. This will be an event of the Streatham Deanery of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark. The Rev Jeffry Wilcox, Rector of Streatham, and the Rev Ronald Englund of the Society will be in charge of the service.

A second Nordic hymn service will be held at Westminster Abbey on Sunday, November 12, at 6.30pm. Canon Colin Semper and Pastor Englund will lead the service.

The choirs at both hymn services, to be made up of all who are interested, will be directed by Peter Lea-Cox, Cantor at the Lutheran Church of St Anne and St Agnes in the City of London. Contact the Society if you are interested in singing.

Traditional hymns from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland will be sung, in English translations. Most of these lovely hymns are unknown in England.

The Estonian mass, composed by Urmas Sisask, will be held at the Church of St Anne and St Agnes (Lutheran), Gresham Street, London EC2, on Saturday, October 28, at 4pm. Peter Lea-Cox will direct the music. The choir rehearses at 2pm that day. Contact the Society if you wish to sing.

Everyone is invited to these special services which will give opportunity for Anglicans and others to take part in musical traditions of Lutherans in the Nordic and Baltic countries.

Society sets goals of "higher profile" and increased membership

The Committee of Anglican-Lutheran Society will seek a "higher profile and an increased membership" following its meeting at St Mary's Anglican Church, Putney, on June 8. It was the first meeting of the committee elected at the Society's annual general meeting held in March. The Society hopes to play a key role in implementing both the coming Porvoo Agreement and the Meissen Agreement between Anglicans and Lutherans in Europe.

A new brochure, for membership renewals and applications, is being included in the mailing of this issue of *The Window*. We apologize because requests for 1995 renewals are only being sent out now. The Committee hopes to double our membership.

The Committee also plans to make personal contacts with the Anglican churches in Scotland, Wales and Ireland in order to learn more about their relationships with Lutherans in Europe and to seek ways that the Society might

help in strengthening links between Anglicans and Lutherans.

The Society is planning Nordic hymn services and an Estonian mass for the autumn, in celebration of the Porvoo Agreement. (See story on left.)

Books, especially on the Lutheran Church, which are not readily available in Europe, will be on sale through the Society. (See story on back page.)

The Committee proposes September 1997 for an international conference, with Norway as the possible venue.

The Committee welcomed Marianne Haig of the Swedish Church, London, as its Lutheran lay member. The new Anglican lay member will be named in the near future.

The Committee's next meeting will be on September 14 at the Swedish Church in London.

The Committee welcomes ideas and suggestions for ways the Society can help, especially on a local level. Please contact us with your comments.



Members of the Anglican-Lutheran Society Committee met in London on June 8. From left, the Rev Brian Coleman of Guildford, Surrey, treasurer; Mrs Marianne Haig, Lutheran lay member; the Rev Flora Winfield, co-moderator; and the Rev Ronald T Englund, co-moderator. The Rev Paul Williams, secretary, recently married, was not able to attend the meeting. (photo by Jonathan Draper)

Anglican priest in a Lutheran parish in Sweden

The Rev Brian Coleman, an Anglican parish priest in Guildford, Surrey, England, who is also treasurer of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, recently returned from a three-week visit in the Church of Sweden. He writes of his experiences:

When I first heard about the negotiations leading up to the Porvoo Declaration, I wondered whether this was going to be merely a matter of making long ecclesiastical statements and having solemn signings of documents, or whether it could mean something direct and practical at a parish level. I have become convinced, over a ministry of 35 years, that the real strength of our churches is at a parochial level. It was as though my elbow were being jogged - "Why don't you do something about it? You are in a good a position to make contacts, especially through the Anglican-Lutheran Society."

So on April 26 I was flying to Arlanda in Sweden on the first part of an exchange between the Church of England and the Church of Sweden. I was to have three weeks' experience in Uppsala and in September my opposite number, Mats Johnsson, will be coming to my parish of All Saints, Guildford, for three week's experience.

Training centre for deacons

While in Uppsala, I stayed at the Samariterhem, both a church hostel and a training centre for deacons. In the Swedish Church, deacons are not apprentice priests as they tend to be in the Church of England. They are a permanent order of people, the majority women, whose task is caring in the community in many ways including work with women, with people in hospitals, with elderly and with children. As it happened, many of them were away in London studying social problems in a London parish for much of the time I was there. My two immediate neighbours were an Icelandic priest studying Swedish and a nurse from Zimbabwe, studying new ways to instruct mothers about breast feeding.

I was attached for the first part of my visit to St Mary's, Stenhagen, which is part of the Holy Trinity parish. Holy Trinity (Helga Trefaldighetskirka) is an ancient church on the Karolina hill near

the Cathedral. St. Mary's is a modern suburban parish where over 50 percent of the inhabitants are immigrants. They have come to Sweden in successive waves, following political crises or wars in their own countries - from South America, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Armenia, Kurdistan, Bosnia - and are gradually evolving into a coherent, dynamic community. Many are communists or Moslems, but I was very impressed by the way Mats Johnsson knew so many by name, and that they knew and respected him. The church has become more than the centre of worship for Christians (and there too the worship is multi-lingual with Swedish, Arabic, English and other languages being used). The Church is also the focus of community, a meeting place and a source of help in need.

Packed programme planned

My programme was packed, including visits to a school, hospital (with an autopsy thrown in) and prisons. Particularly stimulating was a weekend "Confirmation Camp" in the forests of Värmland with 35 young confirmed the previous year. We had opportunity to chat I can manage a little Swedish, but most could speak good English.

In the latter part of my visit the focus shifted to the Holy Trinity group of parishes and also St Ansgar's Church, which ministers to university students. I also had discussions with the Bishop and other church leaders, both at a diocesan and national level.

I came away with an impression of a church in many ways similar to the Church of England. Broadly speaking, the Lutheran liturgy and theology were familiar and there was the same sort of ecclesiastical variety. The difference is more in the status of the Swedish Church as the state church to which nominally 88 percent of Swedes belong. Because of the church tax, collected with the state tax, the Swedish Church is prosperous, well-staffed and well-equipped. At the same time, especially in country parishes, it is not always well-attended. If the link between church and state is to be changed, and this is under discussion at present for the year 2000, the days when perhaps a quarter of the congregation are paid to be there will cease. It is very unlikely that staffing and facilities would be

maintained at anything like the current level. Like the Church of England, the Swedish Church will become dependent on the voluntary service of the unpaid, part-time laity. I came home, however, confident that the Swedish Church is well able to rise to the challenge. I would like to express my gratitude to all my friends at Uppsala for their help and kindness. I look forward very much to the return visit of Mats Johnsson and I hope he will write of his impressions. Watch this space!

Five churches endorse Porvoo; more to come

Five churches, three Anglican and two Lutheran, have endorsed the Porvoo Declaration which will bring the two churches in Europe closer together. The Church of England will vote on Porvoo on July 9 at its General Synod in York. Twelve churches, four Lutheran and eight Anglican, are participants in the proposed agreement.

The 44 dioceses of the Church of England have all voted in favour of the Porvoo Declaration, in preparation for the General Synod's decision. The total diocesan vote was overwhelmingly in favour of Porvoo. Including bishops, clergy and laity, the totals in the dioceses were 5,302 for, 215 against; with 188 abstentions. Some, who voted against or abstained, spoke of "not enough time for discussion." One deanery in the Diocese of London passed a resolution expressing "concern at the lack of time to consider such an important document as the Porvoo Common Statement and requests more time for prayer and study in the deaneries across the diocese."

Although all eight bishops of the Evangelical Church of Finland favour Porvoo, the Finnish church's May synod postponed a decision until November to allow more time for discussion in congregations. The Rt Rev Erik Vikström, Bishop of Porvoo (Borgå in Swedish), a president of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, says "there was nothing dramatic with the postponement of the decision at our general assembly. People needed only more time to do their homework. Generally the attitude was positive. It is generally believed that the Porvoo Declaration will be accepted in November."



Close ties between Anglicans and Lutherans are celebrated in Brunswick, Maine, USA. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and St Paul's Episcopal Church covenanted to have four services together each year together with other parish activities. For five years now, joint worship has taken place on Epiphany, Maundy Thursday, Pentecost and All Saints' Day. In addition the congregations hold "Education for Mission" courses, a programme of the Episcopal Church for lay training. Pictured, from left: The Rt Rev Edward C Chalfant, Episcopal Bishop of Maine; the Rev Paul Scherzer, pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran; and the Rev Jonathan B Appleyard, rector of St Paul's Episcopal Church. (Tom Jones Photography, Brunswick, Maine)

Unshakeable friend: Bell and German churches

In this 50th anniversary year of the death of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, it is appropriate to have a book on the Anglican Bishop of Chichester, George Bell, a close friend of the German churches. Gillian Court reviews Edwin Robertson's new book:

The quantity of Bishop Bell's collected papers on Germany 1932-1952 - 48 volumes now in Lambeth Palace Library - indicates the immense output of his personal and ecumenical ministry in relation to National Socialism. Edwin Robertson's most readable book valuably documents the bishop's involvement with Germany over a longer period, 1919-1957.

As the book makes clear, the mythology of National Socialism was very confusing. There were few who truly understood its implications and very few, once war had broken out, who recognized that it was by no means true to say that every German was a Nazi. We find Bishop Bell rising with discernment and compassion above the centrifugal force of nationalism which inevitably appears in time of war.

Sense of poignancy

I write this review in Malta with an added sense of poignancy. Local personal stories of this small island's embattled role at the time testify to the way in which modern warfare engulfs

peoples who have no direct part in its creation. Bishop Bell's encouragement for the Confessing Church, his voice for political resisters in Germany, his concern for the plight of refugees during and after the war, his pleas against the mass bombing of civilian targets, his distress about the suffering in Germany immediately after the war ended, his advocacy for just and humane treatment for those Germans brought to trial for war crimes and his defence for the church in the Soviet zone of postwar Germany speak of a witness which maintained, at a price, the freedom of integrity. He believed that the church is called to think internationally, that it cannot mindlessly judge any one people in isolation as sinful and that it should look beyond itself and not turn in on its own interests.

It is reasonable to propose that those who see through the myths of their age from the basis of the Gospel are a prophetic presence in our midst. Bishop Bell commented of the Germans who lost their lives in resistance to Hitler, "They are all gone but their witness remains" (p.104). So too it may be said of him. The horizons from which he witnessed were not only relevant then. Edwin Robertson rightly points out in his final chapter that they are also relevant today (though should we not be considering the impact of a single Europe on the rest of the world?).

Above all we may do well to remember that the church internationally and ecumenically, when faced with an outbreak of evil, was weakened by lack of cohesion in its theology and belief and by its dependence on bureaucratic precedents which were inappropriate to the crisis.

Unshakeable Friend: George Bell and the German Churches by Edwin Robertson. 168 pages. Published in 1995 by the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland (CCBI), Inter-Church House, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL, England. Price £9.95.

Österlin on Lutherans in Northern Europe

A new book, *Churches in Europe in Profile*, by Prof Lars Österlin of Lund, Sweden, will be published in September by Canterbury Press in England at a price of £11.95 (US\$19.10). It will also be available through Morehouse in the USA. Relations between the Anglican and the Nordic churches receive special treatment in this book which has been written in the context of the Porvoo Agreement. This new book will be especially helpful to Anglicans wishing to know more about the Nordic Lutherans with whom they will be linked through the Porvoo Agreement. Prof. Österlin, former Dean of Linköping and professor of missions and ecumenical theology at Lund, spoke at the Anglican-Lutheran Society Conference in Putney, London, in March.

Rochester Choir visits Finland and Estonia

The Rochester Cathedral Choir England shared the Anglican musical tradition with Lutherans and others in Finland and Estonia from April 18-25. Roger Sayer, Cathedral organist, directed the choir in their six concerts in Helsinki, Tallinn and Tartu. The Rev Canon Richard Lea, precentor at the Cathedral, accompanied the group. Besides singing English church music, the choir sang "Laudate Dominum" by a 22-year-old Estonian music student, Aare Kruusimäe. It had won a competition sponsored by the Bishopsdown Trust.

Books on Lutherans available from ALS

As a service, especially in the UK, who are interested in more information about Lutheran theology, worship and hymns, the Anglican-Lutheran Society offers a selection of books, all in English, from Augsburg Fortress publishers in the USA.

You may order the following from the Society, 27 Prentis Rd, London SW16 1QB. 0181-769 2677. (Cheques to the Anglican-Lutheran Society).

Lutheran Book of Worship - Liturgies and hymns, with music. Included are many hymns from the Nordic countries and Germany. £12 + £3 postage.

Luther's Small Catechism (study edition). 88 pages. £4.50 + £1 postage.

Luther's Small Catechism. 29 pages. £1 (includes postage).

The Augsburg Confession. 38 pages. £1.30 (includes postage).

The Book of Concord. 717 pages. The Lutheran confessional writings: Three creeds, Augsburg Confession, Schmalkald Articles, Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope. Large and Small Catechism, The Formula of Concord. £21 + £3.50 postage.

Fortress Introduction to Lutheranism by Eric W Gritsch. 158 pages. Surveys the history of Lutheranism in Europe, North America and around the world. Includes a summary of the Book of Concord. £7.50 + 50p postage.

Lutheranism, Theological Movement and its Confessional Writings by Eric W Gritsch and Robert W Jenson. 214 pages. £9 + £1 postage.

Principles of Lutheran Theology by Carl F. Braaten. 144 pages. £9 + 50p postage.

Daily Readings from Luther's Writings, edited by Barbara Owen. 341 pages. £15 + £1 postage.

Lutheran-Episcopal Dialogue:

"Towards Full Communion" and Concordat of Agreement by William A Norgren and William G Rusch. 119 pages. £4 + 50p postage.

A Commentary on "Concordat of Agreement" by James E Griffiss and Daniel F Martensen. 159 pages. £8.25 + 50p postage.

Concordat of Agreement: Supporting Essays, edited by Daniel F Martensen. 234 pages. £11.25 + £1 postage.

Please write or phone for further information on Lutheran books.

Anglicans at Kirchentag

"For three days people were constantly talking with us," Colin Podmore of the Church of England's Council for Christian Unity reported about the Anglican booth at the German Kirchentag in Hamburg June 14-18. The Anglican stand focused on the Church of England; the 12 Anglican chaplaincies in Germany; and the closer links between the Church of England and the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD) through the Meissen Agreement. Some 120,000 people attended this 26th Kirchentag.

Diaconate talks held

The Lutheran World Federation and the Anglican Consultative Council held talks on the diaconate near London April 24-30 with the view of one day making a statement on the diaconate. Lutheran World Information reported that "discussions showed that, while Anglicans have generally retained the ordination of deacons and Lutherans usually have not, the problems and questions faced by both communions are strikingly similar in substance. There are impulses for an ordained permanent diaconate in both communions."

Lea-Cox to Leipzig and Halle

Peter Lea-Cox, Cantor at the Lutheran Church of St Anne and St Agnes, London, will play at the 10am and 6pm services on Sunday, August 6, at the Thomaskirche, Leipzig. This is where Bach was cantor for 27 years. He will give an organ recital at the Marktkirche Unsere Lieben Frauen, Halle, at 7.30pm Saturday, August 5. He will play the organ where Handel took lessons as a small boy. The recital will feature English music in the Anglican tradition.

Lutheran Vespers set

Lutheran Vespers will be used at the Bitton Deanery Festival of the Anglican Diocese of Bristol at 6pm on Sunday, July 16 at the United Church in Longwell Green, South Gloucestershire.

The Anglican-Lutheran Society sent Vespers (Evening Prayer) as used by English-speaking Lutherans to the Rev

Susan Shipp, ecumenical officer for the Bristol Archdeaconry. Richard Lucas will direct the music. The preacher will be the Rt Rev Michael Doe, Anglican Bishop of Swindon.

The Anglican-Lutheran Society offers advice and assistance on Lutheran liturgies and hymns in English.

UK-Latvia chaplain link

Capt. C Richard Duncan, a London-based Lutheran pastor who is Fleet Chaplain, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, held discussions with the Latvian Chief of Chaplains, the Rev Agris Iesalnieks, in Liepaja, on May 7-9, in celebration of the end of World War Two. Chaplain Duncan preached at Lutheran churches in Liepaja and Priekule. He also met with Latvia's eight military chaplains in Riga.

Bonhoeffer Conference

American clergy will take part in a conference, "The Bonhoeffer Question - Who is Jesus Christ for us today?" at Oxford, Bratislava and Vienna from July 9-21. While in England, the group will hear about the Porvoo Declaration in a presentation by the Anglican-Lutheran Society. The Rev Ronald F. Christian, assistant to the bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has organized the conference.

ANGLICAN-LUTHERAN SOCIETY

Co-Patrons

The Archbishop of Canterbury
The President of the Lutheran World Federation

Co-Presidents

The Rt Rev David Tustin
Anglican Bishop of Grimsby, England
The Rt Rev Erik Vikström
Lutheran Bishop of Porvoo (Borgå), Finland

Moderators

The Rev Ronald T Englund (Lutheran)
The Rev Flora Winfield (Anglican)

Secretary

The Rev Paul Williams (Lutheran)

Treasurer

The Rev Brian Coleman (Anglican)

National Correspondents

Ms Gudrun Kaper (Germany)
The Rt Rev Cyril Wismer (US)

THE WINDOW

Editors

The Rev Ronald T Englund
Ms Gillian Court
Editorial Office
27 Prentis Road
London SW16 1QB, England
Phone and fax: 0181-769 2677