

The Window

Newsletter of the Anglican-Lutheran Society

Number 47, January - March 1996

Paul Oppenheim to speak on Meissen at the Society's AGM on March 16

The Rev Paul Oppenheim of Hannover, Germany, co-secretary of the Meissen Commission, will be the guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting of the Anglican-Lutheran Society to be held at the Swedish Church, 6 Harcourt Street, London W1, from 11am to 4pm on Saturday, March 16.

He will discuss developments during the five years since the signing of the Meissen Agreement which links the Church of England with the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD). The document encourages partnerships between the churches at all levels, including theological colleges and students, libraries and theological conferences.

The Meissen Agreement, signed by the EKD and the Church of England in 1991, commits the two churches "to share in 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."

Oberkirchenrat Oppenheim also serves as co-secretary of the Theological Conference between the Church of England and the EKD. This Theological Conference, called for in the Meissen Agreement, will meet in West Wickham, Kent, England, from March 17-22.

A former pastor of German-speaking Protestant congregations in Malaysia and Singapore, he now supervises German pastors and parishes as well as being responsible for relationships between the EKD and various Protestant and Anglican churches in northern and western Europe.

The AGM will begin with coffee and welcoming of friends and members at 11am followed by a Eucharist at 11.30am. The Rev Lennart Sjöström, rector of the Swedish Church, will

preside and preach. Lunch will follow at 12.30pm at the Swedish Church.

The AGM will be held at 1.45pm and will include the annual report of the co-moderators: treasurer's report; and a discussion of plans for 1996 and 1997.

Okr Oppenheim will speak at 2.45pm followed by questions and discussion. The meeting will conclude with tea.

Friends of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, as well as members, are cordially invited to attend the meeting. The cost of lunch will be £5 to include morning coffee and afternoon tea. Let us know if you plan to attend.

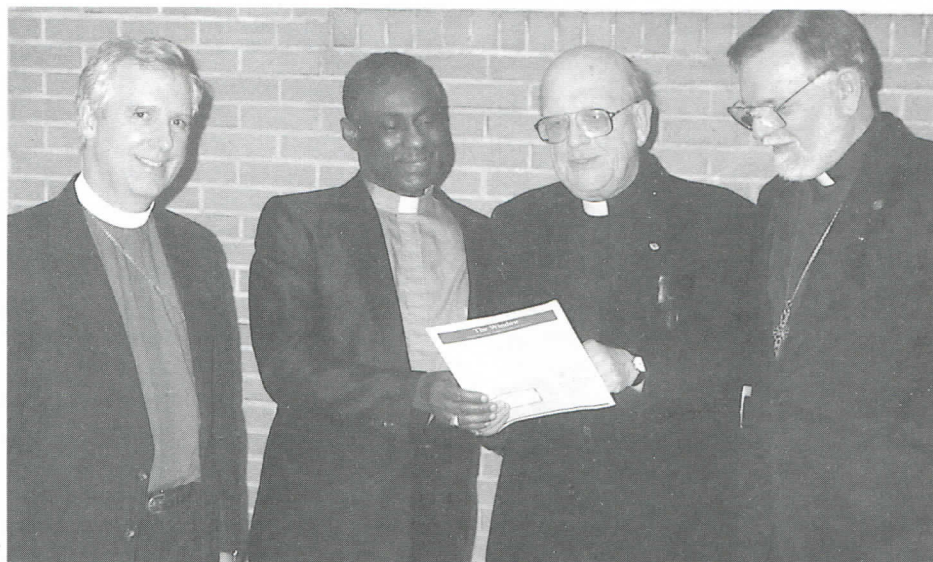
Although many members live far from London, we hope that many will be able to attend this AGM. We hope that new people will come to get acquainted with the Society and learn more about the exciting developments in Anglican-Lutheran relations around the world.

Hymns by Luther on BBC World Service

Hymns by Martin Luther will be heard on the BBC World Service's "In Praise of God" on Sunday, February 18. The programme will observe the 450th anniversary of Luther's death on February 18, 1546. Broadcasts are 9.15am GMT at 648kHz medium wave to England and northern Europe, and 9.15am GMT on short wave to all of Europe. Times vary for short wave to other countries.

The Rev Ronald T Englund, co-moderator of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, is writer and presenter of the 28-minute programme which was produced by Kristine Pommert. We thank Lutheran Hour Ministries, USA, for providing hymns sung in English.

The Society is also sponsoring Luther Anniversary services at St Anne and St Agnes Church, Gresham Street, London EC2. They were planned for Sundays, February 4, 11 and 18 at 7pm.



Episcopalians (Anglicans) and Lutherans in Connecticut, USA, braved the winter weather to attend a "Joint Lutheran-Episcopal Event" at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Hartford, Connecticut, on January 18. The 125 laypeople and clergy enjoyed dinner together followed by a dialogue on the Concordat of Agreement which, if endorsed in 1997, will bring the Episcopal Church in the USA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) into "full communion". Pictured above, from left: the Rt Rev David Hart and the Rt Rev Clarence Coleridge, assistant bishop and bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut; retired Bishop Cyril Wismar of the ELCA, who is the US representative for the Anglican-Lutheran Society; and the Rev Dr Robert Isaksen, Bishop of the New England Synod, ELCA. Bishop Wismar and the Rev Dr J Robert Wright of General Theological Seminary, New York City, led the dialogue. Bishop Isaksen presided at the Eucharist and Bishop Coleridge preached. The event took place on the Confession of St Peter, the first day of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Consecration at St Paul's to be a historic "first"

The Consecration of Canon Christopher Hill as Bishop of Stafford in the Diocese of Lichfield of the Church of England will be a historic "first" resulting from the Porvoo Agreement. The Archbishop of Canterbury will be principal consecrator of Canon Hill at St Paul's Cathedral on Thursday, March 7, at 11am.

The Rt Rev Andreas Aarflot, Bishop of Oslo, Church of Norway (Lutheran), will also be a consecrator. It will be the first time that a Norwegian bishop has taken part in the consecration of a bishop in the Church of England.

The Rt Rev Tord Harlin, Bishop of Uppsala, Church of Sweden, will also be one of the consecrators. Swedish bishops have shared in Anglican consecrations since 1927. It was Swedish Archbishop Nathan Söderblom (1866-1931) who first called for bishops of other churches, in communion with each other, to take part in consecrations as a powerful ecumenical gesture.

Canon Hill is well-known in ecumenical circles as he served at Lambeth Palace for 15 years, with three Archbishops of Canterbury, in ecumenical affairs. He was the Archbishop's Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs from 1982-89.

Society membership nears the 160 mark

Membership in the Anglican-Lutheran Society continues to grow with 157 paid individuals and groups. This tops the Committee's goal for 1995 of 150 paid members. Will we have more than 200 members by the end of this year?

Individual membership is UK£12 a year (US\$20 or 30 German marks). Group membership (churches, boards, parishes, etc.) is UK£25 a year (US\$40 or 45 German marks). Group members receive five copies of *The Window*.

The Rev Brian Coleman, ALS treasurer, asks members to pay their 1996 fees in the first half of this year, to help us meet our financial obligations. Send payments to the Society's office (see page 4). UK tax payers are invited to covenant their subscriptions and gifts. This increases contributions by nearly one-third. Contact our office for forms.

New members are invited to join the Society at any time. We welcome you.

The Porvoo Declaration - the text

Some readers have not seen the Porvoo Declaration for some time and many have not seen this document at all. Porvoo is the name of the town in Finland where this declaration was formulated for discussion and signing by the eight Nordic and Baltic Lutheran Churches and the four British and Irish Anglican churches. All the churches have endorsed the Porvoo Declaration except: the Church of Denmark which chose not to sign; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia which will make its decision later this year. Following is the text of this historic document.

We, the Church of Denmark, the Church of England, the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland, the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Iceland, the Church of Ireland, the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Latvia, the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Lithuania, the Church of Norway, the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Church of Sweden and the Church in Wales, on the basis of our common understanding of the nature and purpose of the Church, fundamental agreement in faith and our agreement on episcopacy in the service of the apostolicity of the Church, contained in Chapters II-IV of *The Porvoo Common Statement*, make the following acknowledgements and commitments:

A. (i) we acknowledge one another's churches as churches belonging to the One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ and truly participating in the apostolic mission of the whole people of God;

(ii) we acknowledge that in all our churches the Word of God is authentically preached, and the sacraments of baptism and the eucharist are duly administered;

(iii) we acknowledge that all our churches share in the common confession of the apostolic faith;

(iv) we acknowledge that one another's ordained ministries are given by God as instruments of his grace and as possessing not only the inward call of the Spirit, but also Christ's commission through his body, the Church;

(v) we acknowledge that personal, collegial and communal oversight (*episcopate*) is embodied and exercised in all our churches in a variety of forms, in continuity of apostolic life, mission and ministry;

(vi) we acknowledge that the episcopal office is valued and maintained in all our churches as a visible sign expressing and serving the Church's unity and continuity in apostolic life, mission and ministry.

B. We commit ourselves:

(i) to share a common life in mission and service, to pray for and with one another, and to share resources;

(ii) to welcome one another's members and to receive sacramental and other pastoral ministrations;

(iii) to regard baptized members of all our churches as members of our own;

(iv) to welcome diaspora congregations into the life of the indigenous churches, to their mutual enrichment;

(v) to welcome persons episcopally ordained in any of our churches to the office of bishop, priest or deacon to serve, by invitation and in accordance with any regulations which may from time to time be in force, in that ministry in the receiving church without re-ordination;

(vi) to invite one another's bishops normally to participate in the laying on of hands at the ordination of bishops as a sign of the unity and continuity of the Church;

(vii) to work towards a common understanding of the diaconal ministry;

(viii) to establish appropriate forms of collegial and conciliar consultation on significant matters of faith and order, life and work;

(ix) to encourage consultations of representatives of our churches, and to facilitate learning and exchange of ideas and information in theological and pastoral matters;

(x) to establish a contact group to nurture our growth in communion and to co-ordinate the implementation of this agreement.

Copies of two important books about the Porvoo Declaration are available through the Anglican-Lutheran Society. Both are published by the Council for Christian Unity of the Church of England. They are *The Porvoo Common Statement*, published in 1993, 44 pages, price £2.50 (US\$4); and *The Porvoo Declaration* (with study guide), published in 1994, 18 pages, price £1.75 (US\$2.75). Please add 30p postage for each book for UK orders and US\$2 for each book. You may pay equivalent amounts in other currency. Please make payments to Anglican-Lutheran Society, 27 Prentis Road, London SW16 1QB, England.



The Rev Patrick Irwin, Anglican chaplain from England, leading the Christmas service for the Norwegian Lutherans in Gorazde, Bosnia. The altar was set up in the Norwegians' tent.

ALS receives support from Hannover

The Anglican-Lutheran Society is grateful for a generous grant of DM2,000 (£895) from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hannover, Germany. This money is being used to support our Lutheran Anniversary celebrations; for the reprinting of our brochure; and for expanding *The Window*. We are grateful for this support from these German partners.

The Society continues to need support from churches and individuals in order to realize its many opportunities to play its part in strengthening links between Lutherans and Anglicans.

Remembering Luther

An attractive brochure, *Remembering Luther in 1996 - On Martin Luther's Trail*, is included with our newsletter this month. The EKD, the Federation of the Evangelical (Protestant) Churches in Germany, has produced this leaflet to announce events in churches and parishes linked with the 450th anniversary year of Luther's death.

Anglican chaplain serves Lutherans from Norway stationed in Bosnia

The Rev Patrick Irwin, an Anglican priest and former chaplain of Brasenose College, Oxford, is now a British Army chaplain serving in Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, England. He is a member of the Anglican-Lutheran Society and has visited Lutheran churches in Finland, Germany, Sweden and the USA. He writes of his experiences with Norwegian Lutherans in Gorazde, Bosnia, and in Norway:

For six months of the winter of 1994-95 I served as the United Nations chaplain in the Bosnian town of Gorazde. The British were accompanied by a Norwegian medical detachment which meant that I had a Lutheran element in my parish. Norwegian friends kindly supplied me with Church of Norway service books to enable me to take services in Norwegian. On one occasion I led a memorial service for a Norwegian soldier killed in a traffic accident; on another I was asked to light the Advent candles and say prayers on the Fourth Sunday in Advent; and on Christmas Eve I took the traditional 5pm service. I had obtained the music for Norwegian carols and the medics enjoyed practising them. We sang the carols with great enthusiasm on Christmas Eve and again on Christmas morning in a service for the local Roman Catholic community. After the Christmas Eve service we enjoyed a traditional Norwegian Christmas dinner. On Christmas Day the Norwegians naturally joined us for our Anglican fare of midnight mass, carol service and roast turkey. So our troops in Gorazde managed to celebrate Christmas in the true spirit of Porvoo.

The Norwegian soldiers in Gorazde formed part of a unit based in Tuzla and so I shared their pastoral care with the Tuzla chaplain, Per Frick Høydal, who is Dean of Stavanger Cathedral. He invited me to spend a week with him in September. From Stavanger I travelled to Oslo, where I stayed for a week with Bishop Fredrik Grønningsæter. My hosts welcomed me warmly and gave me a stimulating introduction to the church and the cuisine of Norway.

My tour was a celebration of Porvoo. In Stavanger Cathedral, dedicated to an English saint, Swithun, I administered

the sacrament at the Sunday Eucharist in the Royal Chapel in Akershus Castle. During my stay, I visited a wide variety of churches, attended twelve services, and met many clergy, both military and civilian. Buildings and worship alike conveyed an attractive atmosphere of dignified simplicity. All the clergy spoke enthusiastically about Porvoo as a springboard for the future.

One new experience made a great impression on me. In Stavanger I attended a weekday Eucharist which included the distinctively Norwegian practice of confession. This had proved popular with the soldiers in Tuzla. The dean led the congregation in a general confession and then we all went up to the altar. The dean laid hands on us individually in giving absolution. He then knelt to be given absolution himself by another pastor. Many such discoveries await all participants in the Porvoo pilgrimage!

ALS benefit piano recital with Andrew Wilde

British pianist Andrew Wilde will play Haydn, Schumann and Chopin at a piano recital which will benefit the Anglican-Lutheran Society at the Lutheran Church of St Anne and St Agnes, Gresham Street, London EC2, on Thursday, March 21, at 7.30pm. Admission will be £6 at the door. The proceeds will be shared by the Society and St Anne's Lutheran Church.

The programme will include two sonatas by Haydn, *Kinderszenen* (Scenes from Childhood) by Robert Schumann and works by Chopin.

Andrew Wilde, who is gaining a reputation as one of the most sensitive pianists of his generation, will play four Beethoven sonatas, including the Appassionata, at a recital at the Wigmore Hall, London, at 7.30pm on Friday, February 23. His Queen Elizabeth Hall recital in London last autumn was nearly sold-out and was highly acclaimed.

Literature and books related to the Anglican-Lutheran Society will be available at the St Anne's recital. We are grateful to Andrew Wilde for giving this recital which will provide much-needed support for the work of the Society.

Swedish Lutheran bishops to visit English Anglicans

History will be made when all 14 bishops of the Church of Sweden will be guests of the Church of England from April 20-25. The Swedish church leaders, led by Archbishop Gunnar Weman, will take part in the service at St Paul's Cathedral at 11am on Sunday, April 21.

The Swedish bishops will join with the Archbishop of Canterbury and Church of England bishops for a seminar at Lambeth Palace, London. The visitors will also go to York to meet with the Archbishop of York, bishops and clergy.

Although the visit is an affirmation of the Porvoo Agreement, this is not an official Porvoo event. The Swedish bishops try to go overseas occasionally for a chance to reflect and also to make an ecumenical visit. They visited Taizé, France, on a previous trip.

Episcopacy, diaconate theme for meetings

Two theological meetings of Anglicans and Lutherans will be held in England in March. One will discuss episcopacy, the other will discuss the diaconate.

The Theological Conference established by the Meissen Agreement will meet in West Wickham, Kent, from March 17-22 to discuss the episcopacy. Some 25 theologians from the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland and the Church of England will take part.

An executive group from the Anglican-Lutheran International Commission will do the final editing of a report on the diaconate at the offices of the Anglican Consultative Council in London from March 21-22. The aim is to publish this report, which will be a major contribution to theological debate.

Books on Lutheranism

People often write and phone the Anglican-Lutheran Society office to ask about books on Luther and the Lutheran Church. We have on sale a number of books, not easily found in Europe, which give an excellent introduction to the Lutheran Church. We recommend *The Fortress Introduction to Lutheranism* (£7.50 plus postage) and *The Lutheran Book of Worship* (£12 plus postage). Phone or write for details.

Ecumenical bodies suffer financial cutbacks

Gillian Court, co-editor of *The Window*, writes this commentary on the financial problems facing ecumenical bodies due to cutbacks in funding by the churches.

Dr Konrad Raiser, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC), addressed the General Synod of the Church of England in December at the request of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. According to the *Church Times* (London, December 8), his message was gloomy. He said that the church union movement has lost its momentum though bilateral dialogues such as Porvoo and ARCIC (Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission) have achieved some success. It is a matter of serious concern to him that WCC member churches are funding the Council's work less and less. He commented further that the WCC is powerless to formulate an authoritative ecumenical position on painful conflict issues within the churches or to act in the face of growing social disintegration and the erosion of values.

In Britain we are experiencing a similar fall in the churches' giving to national ecumenical work. Smaller specialist ecumenical bodies are struggling. Some, including the Churches Commission on Overseas Students of which I am executive secretary, have had their grants from the Church of England General Synod cut by half this year and withdrawn altogether from 1997. We hear too, in the Anglican-Lutheran Society, that budgets for arranging and hosting ecumenical visits to Britain are short.

It seems that, when the churches are under financial pressure, they react by ensuring first that their "own barns are secured". The pain for those of us responsible for ecumenical work is twofold. First, some major churches are abandoning commitment to work which they called into being. If our networks collapse, the churches will lose an incalculable number of cross relationships and a level of co-operation which will take many years to rebuild.

Secondly, we know that not only is ecumenical enterprise a stronger witness than a divided voice, not least with government, but also that ecumenical sharing of resources is cost effective and can generate income for the churches.

Ecumenical agencies are being driven into a market economy mould if we are to survive. That may well be good in sharpening our perceptions about our objectives and planning and in encouraging the churches to be more realistic about the cost (and therefore value) of service than they have often been in the past. However, there is a serious down side to this change. If we become set in too sharp an economic competition with each other we jeopardize our *raison d'être* as a sign of harmony in our common calling in Christ. A thorn by any other name is just as piercing.

Pastoral Conference to be held in Tallinn

The 11th Anglo-Scandinavian Pastoral Conference will be held for the first time in Tallinn, Estonia from May 23-30. Anglicans from England and Lutherans from Scandinavia and other Nordic countries, as well as from the Baltic countries will attend. The meetings allow participants to exchange insights about the church's mission.

The Rev Dr Anders Bäckström of the Faculty of Theology at Uppsala University has been the Lutheran chairman since 1978, when the conference began. The Anglican chairman is the Rev Canon Richard Kingsbury of Caversham, Reading, England.

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