

The Window

Newsletter of the Anglican-Lutheran Society

No 43, Spring 1995

Society elects officers

New Moderators were elected by the Anglican-Lutheran Society at its Annual General Meeting held on March 25 at St Mary's Church (Anglican) in Putney, London.

Our new Co-Moderators are the Rev Flora Winfield (Anglican) of Oxford, and the Rev Ronald T Englund (Lutheran) of London. Their terms are for three years.

They succeed the Rev Dr Jonathan Draper (Anglican) of London and the Very Rev Walter Jagucki (Lutheran) of Leeds who both expressed a wish to step down from their posts. The Society expressed thanks for their service.

The Rev Paul Williams (Lutheran) of Harlow, Essex, who had been co-opted by the Executive Committee during the past year, was elected Secretary for a three-year term.

The one Lutheran and one Anglican lay members of the six-member Executive Committee will be named later this year. They will replace Marja-Liisa Morgan (Lutheran) of London, and Gillian Court (Anglican) who are ineligible for additional terms having served for six consecutive years. The Society thanked them for their service.

Ms Court will remain a Co-Editor of *The Window*. Ronald Englund will be the Lutheran Co-Editor, replacing the Rev Tom Bruch of London, who has resigned after serving some ten years. The Society thanked him for his long service.

The Lutheran Bishop of Porvoo (Borgå), Finland, the Rt Rev Dr Erik Wickström, a President of the Society, took part in the meetings. The other President, the Rt Rev David Tustin, Anglican Bishop of Grimsby, England, sent greetings.

The Rev Brian Coleman (Anglican) of Guildford, Treasurer, reported that the Society ended 1994 with £2,747.48 with all bills paid. The Society has bank accounts in England, Germany and the United States.

There were 24 members and several visitors at the meeting held at the end of the Society's International Conference.

ALS Conference discusses Porvoo under "Facing Full Communion"

"Facing Full Communion" was the theme of the Anglican-Lutheran Society's 1995 International Conference held at St Mary's Church, Putney, London, from March 23-25. Some 40 people attended the sessions which centred on the Porvoo Declaration calling for closer relationships between the Anglican Churches in Great Britain and in Ireland and the Lutheran Churches in the Nordic and in the Baltic countries.

Gillian Court, *The Window* Co-Editor, reports on the meetings:

On the first evening we had Lutheran Evening Prayer at which the Anglican Bishop of Kingston, the Rt Rev Martin Wharton, preached.

During Friday, excellent papers were given by Professor Lars Österlin of Lund, Sweden on "The Lessons of Anglican-Lutheran History"; the Rev Dr Eugene Brand of Geneva, on "Anglicans and Lutherans in Dialogue Worldwide"; and Professor Ola Tjørhom of Stavanger, Norway, and Colin Podmore of London on "The Porvoo Common Statement." Each session was followed by discussion.

(Further information about Dr Brand's presentation is on page three of this issue of *The Window*.)

In the evening conference members attended Bach Vespers at the Lutheran Church of St Anne and St Agnes in the City of London. Peter Lea-Cox, cantor at St Anne's, directed the Lecosaldi Ensemble in Bach's Cantata BWV1 for The Annunciation of our Lord (March 25). The Rev Flora Winfield was the preacher.

Anglican-Lutheran relations in Africa

We began Saturday with a presentation by several of our Lutheran colleagues about their own experiences of Anglican-Lutheran relations in Africa. Bishop Tord Harlin of Uppsala, Sweden, spoke about Zimbabwe; Bishop Erik Vikström of Borgå (Porvoo), Finland and the Rev

Ronald T Englund spoke about Tanzania; and the Rev John Evenson of London spoke about his experiences in Namibia and South Africa. These very personal accounts generated lively conversation.

The final session on the implementation of Porvoo and the role of the Anglican-Lutheran Society was given by our retiring Anglican Co-Moderator, the Rev Dr Jonathan Draper. The Conference closed with an Anglican Eucharist at which Dr Vikström, the Lutheran Bishop of Porvoo, preached and Dr Draper presided.

In future issues we hope to include in more detail papers and presentations from the conference. It was evident that Society members have extensive knowledge and experience on which to draw. Many interesting stories remain to be told.

The Anglican-Lutheran Society has been holding international conferences every other year. The next conference is due to be held in 1997.

Window's new look

Changes are being made in *The Window* and this issue reveals the beginning of a "new look" for our newsletter. Ronald Englund has joined Gillian Court as co-editor and will be producing future issues on a new computer which has not yet arrived at his office. Please bear with us as the new look will be completed by the next issue. We hope to include pictures in coming issues, as was the case in the past years.

We need and welcome ideas for stories, pictures and other items for future issues. Letters to the Editor are also invited. Send material to *The Window*, 27 Prentis Road, London SW16 1QB, England. Phone and fax: 0181-769 2677.

Services, lectures and other commemorations mark 50th anniversary of Bonhoeffer's death

People around the world observed the 50th anniversary, on Palm Sunday, of the martyrdom of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German Lutheran pastor and theologian, who was killed in a Nazi concentration camp in Flossenbürg, Germany, on April 9, 1945, at the age of 39 years.

Anglicans and Lutherans, together with other Christians, held many services and special events on April 9 to commemorate this martyr whose influence continues in the church.

The Window only has information of a few of the Bonhoeffer observances but we can report that the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Church (Lutheran) in Sydenham, London, held a service at which the preachers were the Rt Rev Peter Walker, Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Anglican Diocese of Oxford, and Oberkirchenrat Paul Oppenheim of Hannover, Germany, from the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland. Bonhoeffer was pastor of this German Church in Sydenham from 1933-35.

Services in England were also held at Coventry Cathedral, Worcester Cathedral and Holy Innocents, Kidderminster. The service at the Deutsche Evangelische Kirche, Bradford, had special interest because it was at this church that Bonhoeffer and fellow German pastors met in November 1933 to formulate the Bradford Declaration, a protest to Berlin.

Gillian Court, Co-Editor of *The Window* who has studied Bonhoeffer extensively, preached twice at churches in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, where ecumenical observances were held. A Bonhoeffer Forum was held in Lincoln on April 8, the eve of the anniversary. The Rev Keith Clements, a Baptist minister who is Secretary for International Affairs of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, was consultant.

Ms Court says: "In 1923 Bonhoeffer wrote: 'The young theologian should be aware that his theology is at the service of the true church of Christ, which unerringly confesses its Lord and lives in the consciousness of this responsibilityBy his study he should prepare himself to discern the spirits in the church of Christ.' The matter of 'discerning the spirits' is open to dangerously simplistic, mindless interpretation and is commonly therefore avoided by the Church. Yet, how can we read the New Testament seriously now as ever before and dismiss it as irrelevant?"

"In my study of Bonhoeffer, I was

gripped by a clear sense that, consciously or unconsciously, he followed a path familiar to us from the witness of the prophets. There is a timeless quality about his thought and belief though these inevitably took on sharp and particular focus in relation to the time at which he lived. With passion and single mindedness, he alerted church leaders internationally and ecumenically to the dangers which arise when human power seeks to usurp God's promise to the world. His persistence in exposing injustice and falsehood, his calls for repentance, his refusal to acknowledge authority in leaders with evil ideas and his determination to interpret history from the perspective of God's reconciling love in Jesus Christ are consistently biblical. There is fundamental coherence in his thought and action even in his abrupt changes of method.

"Gospel texts which had special significance for Bonhoeffer were the Sermon on the Mount, the stilling of the storm and Jesus' struggle in Gethsemane. These texts contain essential belief in the authority and vulnerability of Christ in the creation and of the values which build the community of God's Kingdom. In the midst of the tensions of defeat Bonhoeffer pointed to the mysterious in faith, to that which is beyond the known in religion, to a dimension of human relationship with God which knows that God is neither defeated nor absent but a companion in the suffering on a journey of eschatological hope. He went to his death convinced of God's faithfulness to us: 'Only for one blissful moment could you draw near to touch freedom; then, that it might be perfected in glory, you gave it to God.'"

Porvoo voting

Four of the twelve churches involved had signed the Porvoo Declaration as *The Window* went to press just before Easter. Endorsement of the historic document has been given by the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Scottish Episcopal Church, Church of Sweden and Church of Norway. The 44 dioceses of the Church of England are voting individually on Porvoo. The score is 39 in favour, none opposed with five yet to vote.

Dresden appeal

The Dresden Trust, a UK charity, is seeking to raise UK£200,000 by the end of 1995 to help rebuild the Frauenkirche (Church of our Lady) which was destroyed along with most of Dresden by bombing fifty years ago, during World War Two. The destruction took place on the night of February 13-14, 1945.

British gifts will pay for the golden orb and cross on top of the dome of this magnificent baroque building. Plans call for an exact restoration of the church which will be a symbol of reconciliation and understanding.

"In addition to providing for the orb and cross," Trust chairman Alan Russell says, "we hope to raise sufficient funds to help rebuild the crypt as well as providing a scholarship to build more permanent links between Britain and Dresden."

The German Government is directing the rebuilding with assistance from groups in France, the USA and the United Kingdom.

Contact the Dresden Trust, 3 Western Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5NP, England. Phone 0903-723137.

Society disbands

The Anglo-Orthodox Society, founded in England in 1981 to foster the revival of Orthodoxy among Anglicans, has decided to close down chiefly because of the Church of England's ordination of women as priests and the "equally great challenge in the Porvoo Declaration."

The Rt Rev Paul Burrough, president, writes in the final issue of its newsletter, dated Lent 1995, concerning Porvoo: "By this declaration the Church of England would forge ecumenical links with the Nordic and Balkan (sic!) Lutheran Churches, several of which accept no concept of apostolic succession in the ministry, other than one 'primarily in the life of the Church as a whole'".

(Editor's note: Bishop Burroughs' mistake in writing "Balkan" instead of "Baltic", which was repeated in *The Times* of London, makes one wonder how thoroughly he has read the Porvoo documents, if at all. The error also reminds one of the other small mistakes Lutherans often hear in the United Kingdom. We are often thought to be followers of Martin Luther King or called "Lutherians" suggesting some obscure European country called "Lutheria".)

Brand tells of dream of full communion

Dr Eugene Brand, in discussing "Facing Full Communion", surveyed the history of Anglican and Lutheran dialogues in his paper at the ALS International Conference in Putney, on March 24. He mentioned the "Pullach Report", "Cold Ash Report" and "Niagara Report". He emphasized that the real work between Anglicans and Lutherans takes place on the regional level - in southern and eastern Africa; in Europe with the Meissen Agreement and the Porvoo Declaration; in the United States with "Towards Full Communion and Concordat".

He spoke of regional challenges including:

1. *The USA Triangle*: The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America faces two ecumenical proposals - with the Episcopal Church and with three Reformed Churches. Many US Lutherans think the ELCA must decide whether to move in a "catholic" or "Protestant" direction.

2. *The European Quadrilateral*: This refers to Anglican-Lutheran-Methodist-Reformed relations, that is the relationships between "Leuenberg, Meissen and Porvoo churches". There are complex issues here, especially for Lutherans on the question of bishops and historic succession.

In spite of these tensions, Dr Brand has a dream that Anglicans and Lutherans may one day be in full communion and that, as "bridge churches", they may play a leading role in working towards the reuniting of the Western Church. Even the ending of the so-called East-West schism may not be completely out of reach.

He said: "There is both internal momentum and external pressure for the visible unity of the churches. What we have in common is vastly more fundamental and important than what divides us. And the combined forces of religious pluralism and secularism conspire to make us more conscious of our need for each other in order to bear a credible witness in today's world. If current trends continue, and if we are serious not about self-preservation, but about our mission in the world, our churches must wake up to how much we need each other to address this external pressure. If we fail, the alternatives are too grim to contemplate: an arcane and irrelevant row of ecclesial museum pieces, or a Christianity which has lost any sense of authority and/or historic roots, or . . ."

New libraries planned

As a result of the Meissen Agreement between the Church of England and the German Protestant Churches, a library of Anglican studies will be established in Germany and a library of German Protestant studies will be established in England.

The Very Rev John Arnold, Dean of Durham, reports that a building at the Durham Cathedral will house the new library in England, after repairs and renovations are made. In addition a basic collection of books is needed. "We hope to put a couple rooms in order soon and may be able to open in 1996," Dean Arnold says.

With voting on the Porvoo Common Statement underway among the British and Irish Anglican Churches and among the Nordic and Baltic Lutheran Churches, it seems appropriate to include books from those churches in the new library.

The Anglican Library in Germany will be located in Tübingen. *The Window* hopes to report on this project soon.

Diaconate consultation

Representatives from the Anglican Communion and the Lutheran World Federation will hold a consultation on the diaconate at the Emmaus Conference Centre in West Wickham, Kent, England, from April 25-29. Some 20 participants, including observers from the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches, will take part. The consultation will prepare a report for the Anglican-Lutheran International Commission which will meet in Hannover, Germany, October 6-11.

Baltic-SEC links

The Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) is building close links with the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia.

Both the Estonians and Latvians are interested in twinnings with SEC parishes. The Overseas Committee of the SEC Mission Board recently gave £1000 to the Estonian church and £1270 to the Latvian church.

The Estonians are using their grant towards the salaries of four Sunday School teacher trainers. The Latvians have both a much-needed computer for their consistory offices.

Anglo-Nordic-Baltic Conference planned

Initiation will be the theme of the 1995 Anglo-Nordic-Baltic Theological Conference to be held July 26-31 in Verdal, near Trondheim, Norway. Many aspects of baptism and confirmation will be discussed.

Since the first meeting of the Conference in 1929, sessions to examine Anglican and Lutheran theological views have been held every other year. With the current voting by the 12 churches involved in the Porvoo Agreement, the Conference takes on special interest.

The millennium of St Olav (995-1030) will be observed on July 29, during the Conference.

Contact the Rev Dr Kenneth Stevenson, 9 Eastgate Gardens, Guildford, Surrey GKU1 4AZ, UK. Phone 0483-575489.

Liturgical surprise

Lutheran visitors to St Leonard's Church (Anglican), Streatham, London, during this past Lent were delighted to find themselves singing several familiar musical settings of the liturgy from the *Lutheran Book of Worship*.

The Rev Jeffrey Wilcox, Rector of Streatham, had received a copy of the Lutheran Book of Worship (published in North America) when he preached at a service at St Anne's Lutheran Church, London. He particularly liked the third setting of the Kyrie, *Sursum Corda*, *Sanctus* and *Agnus Dei*. "Our people found it difficult at first, but now they have grown to like the setting," Mr Wilcox reports. St Leonard's first used the setting during Lent in 1994.

This setting is a revision from the earlier *Service Book and Hymnal* which was based on the ancient chant setting of the Swedish Mass Book of 1942.

Renew membership

New memberships and renewals for 1995 are welcome at any time from those who wish to join the Anglican-Lutheran Society as well as from members.

Send UK£12 or US\$20 or DM30 (cheques payable to the Anglican-Lutheran Society) to the Rev Brian Coleman, treasurer, The Vicarage, 18 Vicarage Gate, Onslow Village, Guildford GU2 5QJ, England.

Porvoo, Meissen books available

Several books and leaflets on the Porvo Common Statement and the Meissen Agreement are available through the Council for Christian Unity of the Church of England. They include:

The Porvoo Common Statement - Conversations between the British and Irish Anglican Churches and the Nordic and Baltic Churches; 1993; Occasional Paper No.3; 44 pages.

The Porvoo Declaration - Reference to the Diocesan Synods and Study Guide; 1994; 18 pages

(These books are sold together for UK£3, including postage or US\$10 to North America by airmail or DM11 to Europe by airmail.)

Together in Mission and Ministry - The Porvoo Common Statement with Essays on Church and Ministry in Northern Europe; 1993; 218 pages; UK£8.50 including postage or US\$19.50 to North America by airmail or DM23 to Europe by airmail.

Apostolicity & Succession; House of Bishops Occasional Paper; 1994; 36 pages; UK£2.30 including postage or US\$6 to North America by airmail or DM8 to Europe by airmail.

The Meissen Agreement Texts (English and German); Occasional Paper No.2; 1992; 76 pages; UK£2.10 including postage or US\$5.75 to North America by airmail or DM6 to Europe by airmail.

The German Evangelical Churches - An Introduction following the Meissen Agreement; Occasional Paper No.1; 1992; 32 pages; UK£3.30 including postage or US\$10 to North America by airmail or DM11 to Europe by airmail.

Anglo-German Ecumenical Links - An Information Pack from the Meissen Commission; 1994; 30 pages; UK£1 including postage or US\$4 to North America by airmail or DM4 to Europe by airmail.

Was ist die Anglikanische Kirchen-Gemeinschaft? (What is the Anglican Communion?); in German; UK£1.50 for ten copies including postage or US\$4.50 to North America by airmail or DM5 to Europe by airmail.

The prices in US dollars and German marks are for orders sent to the Anglican-Lutheran Society, 27 Prentis Road, London SW16 1QB, England. We can handle your cheques without any charges for exchange of currency.

The Window hopes to report on other publications about the Porvoo Declaration and the Meissen Agreement.

Some introductions

We introduce the three new officers of the Anglican-Lutheran Society elected at the Annual General Meeting held in London on March 24:

The Rev Ronald T Englund, Lutheran Co-Moderator, retired as pastor of St Anne's Lutheran Church in London, a congregation of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain, at the end of 1994. He and his wife, Ruth, have lived in London for nearly 22 years. Pastor Englund was with the World Association for Christian Communication, his first ten years in London. After leading congregations in New Jersey, USA, 15 years, Pastor Englund served congregations in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 1968-72.

The Rev Flora Winfield, Co-Moderator, is Associate Chaplain at Mansfield College, Oxford. Born in Portsmouth, she read theology and church history at St David's University College, Lampeter, Wales, and trained for ministry at Ripon College, Cuddesdon. Ordained a deacon, she was curate in an ecumenical parish in Milton Keynes, England, from 1989-92 and was Ecumenical Officer for Gloucester County from 1992-94. She was ordained a priest in 1994. Her husband, the Rev Jonathan Gough, Chaplain to the Forces, is serving the British Army in Bosnia.

The Rev Paul R Williams, Secretary, is a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in England, serving Redeemer Lutheran Church, Harlow, Essex. Born in Peoria, Illinois, USA, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Valparaiso University, Indiana, USA, in 1984 and a Master of Theology from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1989. He was ordained in 1990. Paul Williams and Laura Jean Darling will marry on May 27 at St Mary and St Ethelburga (Anglican) Church in Lyminge, Kent.

Farewell Dr Ickert

The Rev Dr Scott S Ickert, Lutheran Fellow at Mansfield College, Oxford, will leave England in May to return to become pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Arlington, Virginia, USA. Dr Ickert, who has played a leading role in the Anglican-Lutheran Society will be sorely missed by many in the UK. He was key person in organizing the recent ALS Conference in Putney, London. We wish him and his family every blessing as they return to America.

Anglicans, Lutherans, Catholics to meet

English Anglicans, German Lutherans and German Roman Catholics will discuss "Church and Society towards the year 2000" at a seminar to be held April 20-24 in Magdeburg, Germany.

It will mark the first meeting between the three Christian Communion in the former German Democratic Republic.

The Anglican Diocese of Worcester will send ten delegates, headed by Bishop Philip Goodrich. Ten-member delegates from the Lutheran and Catholic Churches will involve Bishop Christoph Demke of the Evangelical Church of the Church Province, Saxony, and Roman Catholic Bishop Leopold Nowak of Magdeburg.

Derby-Osnabrück link

Among the many exchanges stemming from the Meissen Agreement and the Porvoo Declaration, the Anglican Diocese of Derby, England, has produced a newsletter (No.2, Feb 1995) to report on links with churches in France and Germany, many of which are Lutheran.

Among the exchange visits reported was the September 1994 visit by a delegation from the Diocese to Derby's 'twin city of Osnabrück, Germany. Plans call for a return visit by a delegation from Osnabrück to Derby; a pilgrimage from Derbyshire and Osnabrück to the Luther and Bach places in Germany; and a twinning between Darby Cathedral and the Marienkirche in Osnabrück.

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