

The Window

No. 70

Newsletter of the Anglican-Lutheran Society

May 2002



A statue of Mary and Joseph, with the high priest (centre), is outside the Espousal Conference Center in Waltham, a suburb of Boston, Massachusetts, USA. An Anglican-Lutheran Society Conference will be held at this centre from September 20-23, 2002. The statue's plinth is inscribed: "Take and wear this ring as a pledge of my fidelity."

Exciting plans developing for Boston Conference

Exciting plans are developing for the Anglican-Lutheran Society Boston Conference to be held September 20-23, 2002 at the Espousal Retreat House and Conference Center in Waltham, Massachusetts.

The topic, "On the Power of Bishops", continues to be relevant to many issues facing the churches today. Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic speakers will lead discussions on the theme, which comes from the Augsburg Confession (*Confessio Augustana*), a 16th-century doctrinal statement of the Lutheran Church.

Two new speakers will be Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher and her husband, the Rev. Canon Peter Fisher, both of Birmingham, England. (See page three for more information about speakers at the conference.) Mrs. Fisher will replace Dr. Mary Tanner who is not able to attend because her daughter will give birth to her first child in September.

The conference will worship at the nearby Lutheran Church of the Newtons on Sunday morning, September 22. In the afternoon the group will visit Boston.

Total conference cost will be US\$350. Day costs are \$50, which includes meals. All are invited to attend.

To register, for a brochure and other information, contact Dr. Charles McDowell, 191 Brimbal Ave., Beverly, MA 01915, USA. Phone: +1 (978) 922 7799. Email: dockomd@aol.com

"Fragility of ecumenism" is theme of Mary Tanner at ALS meeting

Dr. Mary Tanner spoke on the "fragility of the ecumenical scene" at the Annual General Meeting of the Anglican-Lutheran Society held on March 9 at the Finnish Church in London.

She outlined developments which have contributed to this fragility and suggested contributions which Anglicans and Lutherans might make to strengthen prospects for Christian unity. (See page two for a summary of the lecture.)

More than 40 people, including 31 members, attended. Following morning coffee, the Eucharist was celebrated with the host pastor, The Rev. Tapani Rantala, presiding.

The Rev. Christoph Hellmich, pastor of St. Mary's with St. George's German Lutheran Church in London, was co-opted to the ALS Committee, replacing the Rev. Volkmar Latossek who has returned to Germany.

The Rev. Tom Bruch and the Rt. Rev. Rupert Hoare, co-moderators, reported on the Society's work during the past year. Reports were also presented on the Society's work in Finland, Germany and the United States.

The Rev. Canon Guy Smith, treasurer, reported cash on hand in the UK account of £3865.07 (US\$5797) at the end of 2001. The

Society also has bank accounts in Finland, Germany and the United States.

Canon Smith also noted that the Society has 243 member "units" of which 117 are in the United Kingdom. The membership is greater because there are some couples who are members. There were 60 member units in the United States, 25 in Finland, 21 in Germany and 20 in other countries.

Liverpool conference in 2003

"Presenting the Gospel Today" will be the theme of the Society's international conference to be held September 12-15, 2003 in Liverpool, England. Bishop Hoare, Dean of Liverpool, and his wife, Gesine Hoare, are in charge of arrangements.

Opportunities for the church's outreach in urban society will be featured, with The Rt. Rev. James S. Jones, Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, as one of the speakers.

Plans are being made for delegates to stay in single rooms at the halls of residence at Liverpool University with sessions to be held at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral.

Details about the 2003 Liverpool Conference will be available by the time of the Boston Conference, September 20-23, 2002. Make plans to attend both conferences.



Members and friends joined in a celebration of Holy Communion at the Annual General Meeting of the Anglican-Lutheran Society held at the Finnish Church in London on Saturday, March 9. From left: The Rev. Tom Bruch of the Lutheran Council of Great Britain, assisting minister; The Rev. Tapani Rantala of the Finnish Church, celebrant; Valerie Phillips, who belongs to both Anglican and Lutheran congregations, lector; and the Rev. Phillip Swinger of the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Our Lady and St. Thomas, Northampton, England, preacher.

Dr. Tanner: Fragility, hope in ecumenical scene

Here is a summary of most of the lecture by Dr. Mary Tanner at the Anglican-Lutheran Society meeting on March 9, 2002 at the Finnish Church in London. If you wish to receive a full text of this lecture, contact Ronald Englund (note US address and email address on back page, lower right).

Dr. Tanner began by asking, "Where are we at the end of the ecumenical century and the beginning of a new millenium?" Mainstream churches have come out of isolation. Christians have acted together in causes for justice and peace. There has been impressive convergence and consensus on divisive and seemingly intractable issues. Who would have thought it possible for Roman Catholics and Lutherans to reach agreement on the doctrine of justification? The ecumenical movement has helped churches to realize that true unity comes not from compromise agreements on sacraments and ministry but from deep-down renewal. The ecclesial map has changed through new partnerships, especially between Lutherans and Anglicans.

Fragility of the ecumenical scene

The ecumenical scene is fragile and confused due to: 1) A resurgence of narrow denominationalism, stemming from the fear of loss of identity. 2) New tensions between East and West, as the Orthodox churches threaten to withdraw from the World Council of Churches.

3) Actions and pronouncements of churches with little thought for how they affect, or are perceived, by close partners. The ordination of women by the Anglicans was felt as a rejection by the Roman Catholics; and *Dominus Iesus*, by the Roman Catholics, with its talk of "proper churches" and "sister churches", sent a chill wind

through the ecumenical movement.

4) Complications due to changes within world Christianity, from a movement with its centre in Europe and North America to the fastest-growing Christian communities now being in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The ecumenical conversation is no longer church tradition speaking to church tradition, but culture speaking to culture.

5) Different approaches to the authority and use of Holy Scripture have created a "major fault line" for the churches. 6) Competing ecumenical circles including: the fast-growing new churches and independent Christian groups which have little interest in classic ecumenism; and the "wider-ecumenism" which includes relations with people of other faith communities.

7) Lack of agreement about the goal of the ecumenical movement which had been nothing less than "organic unity" but now has other models: "full communion", "reconciled diversity", "united not absorbed", a "uniate model."

What Anglicans and Lutherans have to offer

1) We can show it is possible to claim a vision of the sort of visible unity which God calls us to live together in and for the world. Grounded in Scripture and motivated by mission, it recognises diversity as fundamental to unity, with tension and conflict always part of the life of the Church. 2) We can show that our new relationships of visible unity, full communion and visible unity are not taken wantonly but on the basis of theological convergences and consensus that we have reached over many years. 3) We can show that it is possible to take steps together on the way to full visible unity before every jot and tittle is agreed. 4) We can show that it is possible to share in each other's life and mission in very specific ways.

Finnish Ecumenical Council is theme of Rusama book

Ecumenical Growth in Finland is the title of a new book by The Rev. Dr. Jaakko Rusama of Helsinki. This 84-page study is volume no.52 in the series of scholarly studies by the Research Institute of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland.

Dr. Rusama, who is the Anglican-Lutheran Society's national correspondent in Finland, points out how ecumenical cooperation faces "exceptional challenges" in a country where 85 percent of the population are confirmed members of the Lutheran Church. The other national church, with about one percent of the population, is the Orthodox Church of Finland. There are some ten other Christian churches in Finland, including the Anglican Church.

Dr. Rusama's very readable history of the Finnish Ecumenical Council is based largely on his 482-page study published in Finnish in 1999. Dr. Rusama was general secretary of the Council from 1984-1993 when he moved to London to become director of the Finnish Institute.

For copies of *Ecumenical Growth in Finland* contact The Research Institute, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, Box 239, FIN-33101 Tampere, Finland. Tel: +358-3-2190111; Email: ktk@evl.fi

Lutheran-Catholic dialogue

The USA Lutheran and Roman Catholic Dialogue gave attention to the history and ministry of bishops, making the ALS Boston Conference in September more timely, at its meeting May 1-5 in Washington, DC, the Rev. Dr. Scott Ickert reports. He and Dr. Michael Root of Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, are ALS members who are among the official participants.

ALS membership fees set

The Annual General Meeting of the Anglican-Lutheran Society discussed annual membership fees at the Finnish Church in London on March 9. Members referred a decision to the ALS Committee which met on May 15. Fees may be paid in three currencies: pounds sterling, euros or US dollars.

Annual membership fees have been set as follows: in UK pounds - £15 individual; £20 couples (sent to same address); £30 groups (who receive five copies of *The Window*).

Euros - 18 individual; 23 couples; 36 group. US dollars - \$25 individual; \$35 couples; \$50 group.

Contact the Rev. Canon Guy Smith, treasurer, 11 Church Walk, Arley Kings, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcs, DY13 0AL, England. Tel: 01299-822 281; Email: gandmsmith@talk21.com



Lunch was a time to get acquainted at the Annual General Meeting of the Anglican-Lutheran Society held March 9 at the Finnish Church in London. Four who travelled long distances to attend were, from left, the Rev. Libby Toomsalu of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Leeds, England; Thomas Lewis and his father, Robert Lewis, of Cardiff, Wales; and the Rev. Peter Hayler of the Newport and Gwent Industrial Mission in Wales.

Six speakers "On the Power of Bishops" at Boston Conference September 20-23

Six guest lecturers will speak on the role of bishops in Christian churches at the Anglican-Lutheran Society Conference, "On the Power of Bishops", from September 20-23, 2002, at the Espousal Center in Waltham, near Boston, Massachusetts. The speakers are from Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic traditions.

Here are introductions to five speakers. The sixth, The Rev. Francis A. Sullivan, SJ, was featured in *The Window* No.69.

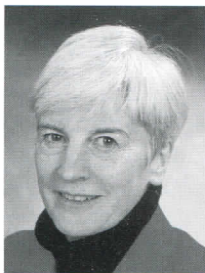
The Rev. Dr. Ian T. Douglas

Dr. Douglas is associate professor of World Mission and Global Christianity and Director of Anglican, Global and Ecumenical Studies at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. He is also a priest associate at St. James's Episcopal Church in Cambridge and is a leader in the Anglican Church in mission, evangelism and ecumenism.



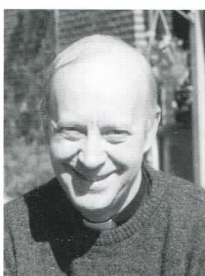
Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher

A lecturer in Biblical Studies and Languages at St. John's College in Nottingham, England, Elizabeth Fisher is an Anglican with long experience in ecumenism. She is co-chair of the Council of Christian Unity of the Church of England; co-moderator, Churches in Dialogue Commission, Council of European Churches. She also served in Anglican dialogues with French Lutheran and Reformed churches, and UK United Reformed and Methodist churches.



The Rev. Canon Peter Fisher

Canon Fisher, the husband of Elizabeth, has spent half of his ministry in parish work and half in theological education. He is principal of the Queen's Foundation, an ecumenical theological college (Anglican, Methodist, and United Reformed) in Birmingham, England. He also teaches systematic theology at the college.



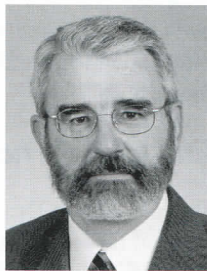
The Rev. Prof. Günther Gassmann

Professor Gassmann is a Lutheran theologian, author and pastor from Germany. He served as Director of the Commission on Faith and Order, World Council of Churches. He has taught at Gettysburg Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, USA, and will be teaching at the Divinity School of Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, USA, in the autumn of this year.



Dr. Michael J. Root

A leading ecumenist in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Dr. Root is professor of systematic theology at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, USA. He is a leader in Lutheran-Episcopal and Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogues. He lectures and writes extensively about these relationships in the USA and overseas. He will lecture twice at the ALS Boston Conference.



"Good Work" project advanced by Society

The Anglican-Lutheran Society (ALS) is enabling material from a report on "good work", issued by the Council of Churches of Britain and Ireland (CCBI), to return to English-speaking and German-speaking countries via Finland.

It all began when the Rev. Peter Hayler, industrial chaplain of the Anglican Diocese of Monmouth, Church in Wales, asked for help with the project at the ALS Annual General Meeting at the Finnish Church in London on March 9.

He explained that the CCBI had produced in 1997 a report, "Unemployment and the Future of Work", which called not only for more jobs but for good jobs. He added that "The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland took hold of the idea of 'Good Work' and fleshed it out, producing ten 'bullet points' or 'middle axioms.' In addition to the original version, a secular version was produced.

These were then discussed at 'New Strategies for Engaging with Working People', a conference of the European Conference

Latvian Lutheran Archbishop admitted as Sarum Canon at Salisbury Cathedral in April

Archbishop Janis Vanags of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia was admitted as a Sarum Canon of Salisbury Cathedral, England, on April 22. The Latvian Archbishop was admitted with Archbishop Joseph Marona, Church of the Province of the Sudan, at this Anglican service.

Canon David Durston of the Cathedral gave a brief address when he presented Archbishop Vanags to the Bishop of Salisbury. He noted that Janis Vanags had grown up in Latvia during the time of Marxist materialism under Soviet rule. He told of Vanags' spiritual search which included brief membership in the Movement for Krishna Consciousness. Young Vanags became a Christian and was baptized at the age of 22.

Like many Latvian Christians, Vanags suffered for his faith as he studied theology and was ordained in 1985 to serve two churches in the industrial town of Saldus. Everything changed in 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed and Latvia regained independence. He was elected Archbishop of Latvia in 1993, a year after Archbishop Gailitis died.

The honour received by Archbishop Vanags is fitting as the Anglican Diocese of Salisbury has an active link with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia.

Group of Urban-Industrial Mission, held in Driebergen, Netherlands, in September 2000. Since then industrial missions both in Finland and Germany have been working to stimulate public and corporate debate on the nature of work, using the ten 'middle axioms' as a starting point. The subject is also being discussed in the corridors and board rooms of the European Union."

The Finnish-Urban Industrial Mission has produced a booklet about this ongoing project, which is being translated into German and English. When Peter Hayler sought the help of the Anglican-Lutheran Society to help carry forward this translation work, The Rev. Dr. Jaakko Rusama of Helsinki, Finland, was pleased to take up the challenge.

A follow-up conference, "Work for the Future," will be held in Sipoo, Finland, from September 21-25, 2002. All interested persons are invited to request further information about Good Work and to attend the conference.

For further information contact The Rev. Peter Hayler - email: haylers@diastart.net or Ms. Marja Kantanen - email: marja.kantanen@evl.fi

Canadian Anglicans and Lutherans seek logo for joint work together

Lutherans and Anglicans in Canada are holding a contest to find a new logo to use in their ministry together. June 30 is the deadline for submissions in the contest which is being sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC).

The Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission (JALC) says that the new logo should communicate "Canadian Anglicans and Lutherans in full communion" and may be a blend of the logos of each church, or may be something entirely new.

Canadian Anglicans and Lutherans began full communion with the adoption of the Waterloo Declaration in July 2001.

Solidarity with Madagascar

Episcopalians and Lutherans in the United States joined with Presbyterians to express their solidarity with Christians in Madagascar during the bitter political conflict over who actually won last December's presidential election in that island nation in the Indian Ocean.

Episcopal Presiding Bishop Frank T. Griswold, Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church, USA, offered their prayers and support "as you fulfill your prophetic and pastoral responsibilities in the Gospel of the Lord in this time of crisis."

The letter was written to the Rev. Benjamin Rbenorolahy, president of the Malagasy Lutheran Church; Archbishop Remi Joseph Rabenirina of the Anglican Diocese of Antananarivo in the Church of the Indian Ocean; and the Rev. Edmond Razafimahefa, president of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar.

Women plan joint meeting

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Church will meet together for the first time July 11-13 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. "Listen, God is Calling" will be the theme.

Study pilgrimage to Sweden

Roman Catholics, Lutherans and Anglicans from Great Britain will join in a study-pilgrimage to the Abbey of St. Bridget in Vadstena, Sweden, from July 4-9, 2002. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is joining with the Lutheran Council of Great Britain to sponsor the trip.

Cost of the pilgrimage will be UK£185 per person (US\$278) which includes accommoda-

tion, meals and local travel. The cost for couples sharing a room is UK£350 (US\$525). Participants will be responsible for arranging and paying for their travel to Vadstena.

For more information contact the Rev. Tom Bruch, Lutheran Council of Great Britain. Tel: +44 020 7554 2900. Email: Bruch@lutheran.org.uk

New Moravian-Episcopal link

The Northern Province of the Moravian Church in America will vote on establishing interim eucharistic sharing with the Episcopal Church in June. This action will follow the decision in April by the Moravian church's Southern Province to establish interim eucharistic sharing with the Episcopalians. A similar resolution will be submitted to the 2003 General Convention of the Moravian Church.

These resolutions are modelled on the 1982 eucharistic sharing agreement with several Lutheran churches. They are seen as an important step in the process towards full communion. An approved liturgy of the host church is used, and ministers from both traditions stand at the altar during the communion prayer.

Dr. John Arnold to retire

The Very Rev. Dr. John Arnold, Anglican Dean of Durham, England, and a president of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, will retire on December 31. A long-time international ecumenical leader, Dr. Arnold was awarded the Ecumenical Prize of the Catholic Academy of Bavaria last year. He shared this prize with The Rt. Rev. Stephen Sykes, principal of St John's College, Durham, and former Anglican bishop of Ely, England.

IEF meets in Germany, UK

The International Ecumenical Fellowship (IEF) held meetings recently in Germany and England. The Rev. Ernst Schnellbacher, a Lutheran pastor living in Neckargemünd, Germany, and a long-time Anglican-Lutheran Society member, reports that the Central German Group met from March 8-10 at the newly-opened Cistercian Nunnery of Helfta near Eisleben.

Pastor Schnellbacher also took part in the conference of the British Region held April 12-14 at the Benedictine Abbey of Ampleforth, England.

The International Ecumenical Fellowship was founded in Switzerland in 1967. Its aim is to "seek in fellowship to serve the will of God and unite the People of God, by hearing the Word of God, declaring the praise of God and breaking the Bread of God unto the glory of God."

Tenth anniversary celebration for Porvoo Agreement

Anglican and Lutheran leaders will join in a Tenth Anniversary Commemoration of the signing of the Porvoo Agreement to be held in Helsinki and Porvoo, Finland, from October 11-13, 2002. The Porvoo Agreement links Anglican churches in Britain and Ireland with Lutheran churches in the Nordic and Baltic countries in full communion.

"Common Mission and Service" will be the conference theme. It will open with a Eucharist at Porvoo Cathedral, at 7pm on Friday, October 11. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Erik Vikström, Bishop of Porvoo, will preside and preach. Other speakers will include the Very Rev. Dr. John Arnold, Anglican Dean of Durham, England, and the Rev. Dr. Juha Pihkala, Lutheran Bishop of Tampere, Finland.

For further information contact the Rev. Dr. Jaakko Rusama - tel: +358 50 582 2262; fax: +358 9 561 39800; email: jaakko.rusama@abo.fi

The Anglican-Lutheran Society

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