

# The Window

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## Michael Root and Gordon Roe to speak at Society's AGM on Saturday March 14

Dr Michael Root and the Rt Rev Gordon Roe will speak at the Annual General Meeting of the Anglican-Lutheran Society to be held at St Mary's German Lutheran Church, Sandwich Street, London WC1, on Saturday, March 14, from 10.30am to 4pm.

Dr Root, who has been director of the Institute for Ecumenical Research in Strasbourg, France, will speak at 1.15pm on "Anglican-Lutheran Relations Outside Europe: Progress, Hopes and Disappointments". Bishop Roe, who is Anglican Co-Moderator of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, will preach at the celebration of the Eucharist at 11am.

Because some people have seen the Anglican-Lutheran Society as concerned only with the Porvoo Agreement and the churches involved (British and Irish Anglicans with Nordic and Baltic Lutherans), the Committee is keen to broaden its scope with a presentation about the relationships between our churches in other parts of the world. In addition the Society's membership is becoming more international with many more members from North America and continental European countries. Few people are better equipped to discuss the world-wide picture of Anglican-Lutheran relationships than Dr Root.

He will return to the United States in August of this year to become Professor for Systematic Theology at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. Dr Root is also a member of the drafting committee for the "revised Concordat" with the Episcopal Church which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will consider in 1999. Since 1988 he has served in Strasbourg at the ecumenical institute sponsored by the Lutheran World Federation. Earlier he had taught at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina, USA. He has taken part in Lutheran dialogues with Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Methodists. He will be a consultant at the 1998 Lambeth Conference.

Bishop Roe also has long experience in

ecumenical affairs. From 1991-96 he was Anglican chairman of the Meissen Commission which works for closer relationships between the Church of England and the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland, the federation of Lutheran, Reformed and United churches in Germany. He was Bishop of Huntingdon in the Diocese of Ely (England) from 1980-1997.

The Annual General Meeting will be held from 2.30 to 3.45pm. The Co-Moderators' Report will be presented as well as the financial reports from 1997. There will also be a discussion of the Society's future plans with opportunity for members to present their ideas. The Rev Volkmar Latossek, pastor at St Mary's and a member of the ALS Committee, will preside at the Eucharist.

The day's schedule will be: 10.30am - Coffee and welcome; 11am - Eucharist; 12.15pm - Lunch; 1.15pm - Lecture and discussion; 2.30pm - Annual General Meeting; 3.45pm - Tea and coffee. Lunch, which also includes morning and afternoon coffee, will cost £5, payable on the day.

St Mary's German Lutheran Church shares facilities with the International Lutheran Student Centre. Please use the church entrance on Sandwich Street which is a short walk from Kings Cross-St Pancras Underground and British Rail stations. The church is also within close walking distance to Russell Square and Euston underground stations.

All members and friends are invited to attend all or part of the meeting. We hope that members bring friends along to what promises to be a most enjoyable day. We urge you to inform us if you will attend (and how many people will come with you) in order to help with the catering. Please write to Pastor Volkmar Latossek, 22 Downside Crescent, London NW3 2AR. Or you may phone (0171) 794 4207 to make reservations.

We are grateful to Pastor Latossek and his congregation for inviting us to hold our 1998 meeting at St Mary's. The Swedish Church, where we have held the past two AGMs, is not available because of extensive renovations taking place.



Dr Michael Root

## Introducing changes in 'The Window'

You will note some changes in design in this first issue of *The Window* for 1998. The make-up of our newsletter is moving to Cambridge University where Andreas Löwe, the new co-editor, is working on a Ph.D at Westcott House, a theological college of the Church of England. He has joined the Rev Ronald T Englund who has been editing the newsletter with Gillian Court. Pastor Englund is in the process of moving to Falmouth, Massachusetts, USA (as well as to a flat in Streatham, London). He hopes to continue assisting in the editorial work of *The Window*, but he and his wife, Ruth, must first complete the complicated logistics of a double move.

## New address for ALS

From February 10, 1998, the Anglican-Lutheran Society's new office address will be 10 Javelin Court, Streatham Common North, London SW16 3HL, England. The office phone and fax number will remain the same: (0181) 769 2677.

This is the address of the new flat of the Rev Ronald T and Ruth O Englund. When they are in the United States, mail and messages will be checked regularly. Their address while in America will be: PO Box 611, Falmouth, MA 02541-0611, USA. They don't have a US phone number as yet.



## Abbey to honour Lutheran martyr

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran pastor and theologian who was killed by the Nazis in 1945, will be one of ten 20th-century martyrs to be honoured at Westminster Abbey. Stone statues will be unveiled by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the Anglican abbey at a special ceremony on July 9, 1998. These ecumenical stone figures will fill niches which have been vacant for more than 500 years.

The other nine and the year of their martyrdom are: Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia (1918); Manche Masemola, South Africa (1928); Fr Maximillian Kolbe, Poland (1941); Lucian Tapiedi, Papua New Guinea (1942); Esther John, Pakistan (1960); Martin Luther King, USA (1969); Wang Zhiming, China (1972); Janani Luwum, Uganda (1977); and Bishop Oscar Romero, El Salvador (1980).

Canon Anthony Harvey of the Abbey said that a special committee made the selection and "deliberately balanced the list to represent the different continents and Christian denominations and both genders." There were no Britons on the list, he said, "because Britain has not been one of the main theatres of martyrdom this century."

## Anglican-Lutheran conversations begin in African churches

A Pan-African Anglican-Lutheran commission is beginning work this year looking towards full communion between the two churches throughout the continent. The formation of this commission was decided at a consultation in Johannesburg, South Africa last December which brought together ten Lutheran and ten Anglican leaders from various parts of Africa.

This interim commission will be chaired by Bishop Ambrose Moyo of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe and Canon Sebastian Bakare of the University of Zimbabwe. Co-secretaries will be ecumenical officers, the Rev Sven Oppegaard (Lutheran World Federation Geneva) and Canon David Hamid (Anglican Consultative Committee London).

Mr Oppegaard said that "specific to the Anglican-Lutheran dialogue in Africa is its contextual character. It relates to the life and challenges of the African churches, and has strong diaconal emphasis in line with the Anglican-Lutheran 'Hanover Report', *The Diaconate as Ecumenical Opportunity*."



The Rt Rev Bengt Wadensjö, Lutheran Bishop of Karlstad, Sweden, signed the agreement on November 8, 1997, at Chelmsford Cathedral which links his diocese with the Anglican Diocese of Chelmsford. The Rt Rev John Perry (centre), Bishop of Chelmsford, and Canon David Knight, Precentor of Chelmsford Cathedral, look on.

## Anglican-Lutheran links strengthened through signing of church agreement between Chelmsford and Karlstad

Anglicans in the Diocese of Chelmsford (Essex and East London) of the Church of England and Lutherans in the Diocese of Karlstad in Sweden are making plans for exchange trips between church groups from their two countries following the signing of an agreement. The signings took place at services at Karlstad Cathedral on October 18 and at Chelmsford Cathedral on November 8. They celebrate an Anglican-Lutheran relationship which will be developed in practical ways between now and the year 2001. The agreement is particularly aimed at young people, musicians, teachers and others interested in forging links between England and Sweden.

Relationships between Karlstad and Chelmsford go back to 1986. Bishops, priests and lay people from these Lutheran and Anglican dioceses have visited each other regularly since 1987. Friendship has deepened through common Eucharist and sharing in the life of congregations. The present agreement is an implementation of the Porvoo Declaration which was ratified in 1986.

Following the signing, a group from Sweden visited East London to spend time studying the telephone counselling programme of The Samaritans. The group also met with representatives of ChildLine and The Citizens Advice Bureau. A visit to Sweden

this summer by young people from the Chelmsford Diocese is being considered.

Other aspects of the agreement call for an annual "Karlstad-Chelmsford Sunday" during which each diocese will supply worship resources and information about the link; invitations to the bishop of the other diocese to take part in ordination services; representatives to be sent to each other's conferences of clergy and laity; exchanges between parishes and deaneries, especially between confirmation candidates and other young people, church musicians, teachers and lecturers; opportunities for sabbaticals and other training extensions; and will foster theological dialogue. In addition the partners are urged to create an Internet site to exchange information and build a web of personal contacts.

## Finnish Church makes grant to Society

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland is again supporting the Anglican-Lutheran Society with a 1998 grant of Finnmarks 5,000 (UK£550 or US\$900). The Society is grateful to Dr Risto Cantell, executive director of the church's Department for International Relations in Helsinki, and to all involved in making this wonderful gift possible. The Society will receive this grant in May.



## Registrations open for June 10-14 study tour to Leipzig for visits to Bach, Luther and Händel sites in Germany

An exciting five-day study tour of some of the places in Germany linked with Bach and Luther will be sponsored by the Society from June 10-14. The Rev Ronald Englund, the Society's co-moderator, is organizing the tour which will be based in Leipzig at the guest house of the historic Leipzig Mission. Visits in Leipzig will include the Thomaskirche where Johann Sebastian Bach was cantor for many years, as well as other places connected with his life. Participants will attend a Bach cantata service, which carries on the long tradition of Bach's music in Leipzig. The group will also visit nearby Luther museums and churches in Wittenberg as well as Eisleben where Luther was born and died. There are also plans to visit Halle, an important centre of the Reformation and the birthplace of Georg Friedrich Händel.

The cost of the trip will be no more than UK£270 (US\$450) per person plus transport. This will include room and meals as well as travel during the tour. The tour will begin on Wednesday afternoon, June 10, and end with lunch on Monday, June 15. Because participants will be coming from various countries, the travel costs to and from Leipzig must be extra. However, we will try to co-ordinate flights from the UK to get the best fare and to enable a group to travel together. Because we can only reserve 25 beds at the Leipzig Mission guest house, it is important to give notice to our members and friends as early as possible. Several have already indicated interest in taking part.

To reserve a place on the tour, write to the Rev Brian J Coleman, 18 Vicarage Gate,

Onslow Village, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5QJ, UK. Enclose a cheque payable to the *Anglican-Lutheran Society* for UK£50 or US\$80 for each person making a reservation. The deposit will be fully refundable until May 20, should your plans change. If it is not convenient for you to send a deposit in UK pounds sterling or US dollars, please register anyway. We will work out the best way for payment. What we need is assurance that you will inform us if your plans change.

This study tour is the result of discussions at the final day of the ALS International Conference in Stavanger, Norway, last September. The group had expressed interest in trips to Leipzig and to Tallinn, Estonia. Following our journey to Germany, we hope to visit Estonia in 1999.

## Invitation to prayer

A 1998 guide for remembering the bishops, clergy and all people in the churches of the Porvoo Communion is available through the Council for Christian Unity (CCU) of the Church of England and the offices of the Nordic and Baltic Lutheran churches. There is a bishop and diocese of a Lutheran or Anglican church suggested for special prayers for each Sunday of the year. In addition there are special, relevant concerns mentioned for each Sunday and the week following.

Because the Porvoo Declaration commits the Anglican and Lutheran churches to "share a common life" and "to pray for and with one another", the booklet is a helpful guide for congregations, individuals and groups. The co-chairmen of the Porvoo Agreement Contact Group, the Rt Rev Andreas Aarflot, Lutheran Bishop of Oslo, and the Rt Rev David Tustin, Anglican Bishop of Grimsby, England, comment in the introduction that the booklet also endorses prayers for the two churches which have not signed the historic agreement. They are the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia, which is still considering the Porvoo Declaration, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark, whose bishops have not been able to endorse the declaration but wish to maintain and develop their links with the churches which have signed it.

Besides being a useful aid for regular prayers, this booklet includes helpful maps showing the dioceses of eight of the Porvoo churches.

*An Invitation to Prayer* may be ordered from the CCU, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3NZ, England. Please enclose UK£2 per copy. (Make cheques payable to the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.)

## Out of Germany: One pastor's journey

Until comparatively recently, the struggle of the church in Germany between the wars was known to English people primarily through Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Karl Barth and Bishop George Bell. Details are now being filled out and enriched by stories of other participants in this drama. The Rt Rev GORDON ROE, co-moderator of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, reviews a recent book about the journey of a pastor, Ernest Gordon, from Germany to England.

Ernest Gordon was born of an East Prussian Jewish family in 1909. His parents became Christians before the 1914-18 war, and his father, who served as a senior staff surgeon in hospital ships, was awarded the Iron Cross. The young Ernest went at the age of eight or nine to the Church of the Twelve Apostles, where one of the pastors was Adolf Kurtz, who after 1933 became a leader in the resistance to the Nazis. He was prepared for confirmation by Otto Dibelius, who later became Bishop of Berlin. After briefly considering a career in the army, Ernest Gordon was increasingly drawn towards theology and ministry in the church.

The story of his training, his growing interest in eucharistic celebration as the focus of the church's life, and of the difficulties he experienced in the Nazi-times because of his Jewish origins is told with a quiet modesty which brings home the unrelenting pressure upon Confessing Christians. Even the account of arrest and interrogation by the Gestapo is coloured by his appreciation of the judge who did his best to set him free. There are interesting insights into his contacts with

Bonhoeffer and Bell. Eventually Gordon, and after some delay his wife Leonore, escaped to Switzerland. From there they were able to obtain visas for England. Here the book ends.

The story of his life in England, his ordination in the Diocese of Southwark, his tenure of various posts in Battersea, Westminster and Ashford, Kent, are told in a subsequent volume, *Ernest in England*, obtainable from Mrs. Bettina Gordon, Virginian House, 40 Ditchingham Dam, Bungay, Suffolk NR35 2JQ, England.

This is an important description of the interaction between spirituality, theology and politics which led one moderate and sensitive pastor from Germany to England, and from the Evangelical Church in Germany to the Church of England.

*And I will walk at liberty* by Ernest Gordon. Published in 1997 by Morrow and Co, Bungay, Suffolk, England. Price UK£8.99 (US\$14.90).

## Next ALS conference set for Cambridge

The next International Conference of the Anglican-Lutheran Society will be held at Westcott House, Cambridge University, England, from September 10-13, 1999. *Window* co-editor Andreas Löwe has already made first local arrangements. Please note the date in your diaries and watch for further information in the coming issues of *The Window*.



## "Pushing back the limits of Porvoo"

### Lutheran ordinand at Anglican Seminary

One of the practical implications of the Porvoo Agreement is not only the exchange of ministers, but also that of students preparing for the ministry. Under the terms of the Porvoo Agreement Ewa Lindquist-Beckman was able to leave the *Pastoral Institut* Uppsala for a year to be part of the community of Anglican seminarians at Westcott House, Cambridge. This is the first exchange of seminarians under the terms of the Porvoo agreement. Fellow seminarian ANDREAS LÖWE has spoken to Ewa Lindquist-Beckman at their College.

"The feeling that I am a part of the universal Church is something which in some ways comes naturally to me", Ewa Lindquist-Beckman said, as she talked about her past ecumenical experiences. After studying at the Roman Catholic Heythrop College in London, Ewa spent time working in the Lutheran Church in South India. It was there, that she gained a profound awareness of the Church as a whole, composed of many individual member churches. "You have to have your feet firmly in the local Church, but you do have to open yourself to discover the riches of the world-wide Church", Ewa illustrated. Indeed, it was in worshipping and living with others that she discovered for herself that it was not the talk about ecumenism which counted, but rather the willingness to learn from each other: "We need to educate each other about other traditions. After all, we do struggle for the same concerns."

Back home in Sweden, Ewa decided to push back the limits of the Porvoo Agreement and, with the help of the Secretary for Ecumenical Relationships of the Church of Sweden, Johan Dahlman, and her diocesan bishop, the Rt Revd Jonas Jonsson (Strängens Diocese), was able to build up the necessary contacts which brought her to the Anglican Theological College in September 1997. In many ways the transition from the Lutheran *Pastoral Institut* to the Anglican Seminary was not as smooth as could be assumed: "It's easier to go to India and feel part of the tradition there", Ewa said, "simply because you expect things there to be different. In England people look the same as in Sweden, and talk the same, and they say similar things, but you do realise that deep down we can be very different."

In practical terms this meant for instance that pastoral theological education was no longer something which lasted from eight to five, but consisted of life in community. "To live on site and to experience life in such a close-knit



Ewa Lindquist-Beckman

community can be a big challenge", Ewa made clear, "even though there are ample of pastoral activities at the *Pastoral Institut*, you can go home at 5pm." At Westcott House, the experience of pastoral placements, too, is a different one to those in which she took part at home. In Sweden theological students work as parish assistants during the vacations, whereas at Westcott House students are required to work regularly in a parish on Sundays during term time, Ewa mentioned, "You could say that in England students are given a more realistic image of what it means to be ordained".

When asked what impressed her most in Anglican parish life, Ewa pointed to the extent in which lay people were involved in the ministry of the Church. "Here, this lay ministry is recognised and not just something the lady next door does", Ewa remarked, "but in Sweden the Church is often seen as part of the establishment, and less as something belonging to the people." As a result of her experiences of Anglican parish life, Ewa Lindquist-Beckman wants to work towards a broadening of accredited lay ministries in her own Church. She emphasised: "The Church has to become more dependent on the whole people of God."

Finally, I asked Ewa what excited her most about the Porvoo process. One element of Ewa's ecumenical enthusiasm lies in seeing how a common understanding can flow from the theological agreement reached. Ewa explained, "Above all it is the realisation that people are looking at the same things which excites me. It's a bit as if you are looking at

the night sky. Everybody sees the same stars, even if the patterns are different, and to understand that is something breathtaking and wonderful."

## Lutheran delegation from America to visit Anglicans in England

A delegation from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, headed by Presiding Bishop H George Anderson, will visit the Church of England and the Anglican Consultative Council while in London from March 20-25 during a three-week trip. This tour will also include visits to Istanbul, Rome, Geneva and Strasbourg. The ten-member group will include bishops, clergy and lay leaders from various ELCA synods. While in London, the group will visit the Lutheran Church in Great Britain (LCIGB), a sister church of the ELCA in the Lutheran World Federation. Bishop Anderson will preach at the 11am Eucharist on Sunday, March 22, at the Lutheran Church of St Anne and St Agnes, Gresham Street, London EC2. The delegation will be guests of the LCIGB at a reception following the service. This will mark Bishop Anderson's first official visit to the Church of England and to the Lutheran Church in Great Britain.

### The Anglican-Lutheran Society

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