

The Window

No. 72

Newsletter of the Anglican-Lutheran Society

March 2003

Bishops Vikström and Johannesdotter to speak at AGM March 8 in London

A Finnish and a German Lutheran Bishop will be guest speakers at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Anglican-Lutheran Society (ALS) to be held Saturday, March 8, at the Lutheran Church of St. Anne & St Agnes, Gresham Street, London EC2. The programme will begin at 10.30am and end at 3pm.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Erik Vikström, Bishop of Borgå (Porvoo), Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, will preach at the Eucharist at 11am. He is a co-president of the Anglican-Lutheran Society.

The Rt. Rev. Jürgen Johannesdotter, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schaumburg-Lippe, Germany, will speak at 1pm on "The Meissen Agreement -What next?" He is Lutheran chairman of the Meissen Commission which helps implement the ecumenical agreement, signed in 1991, between the Church of England and the Lutheran and Reformed churches in Germany.

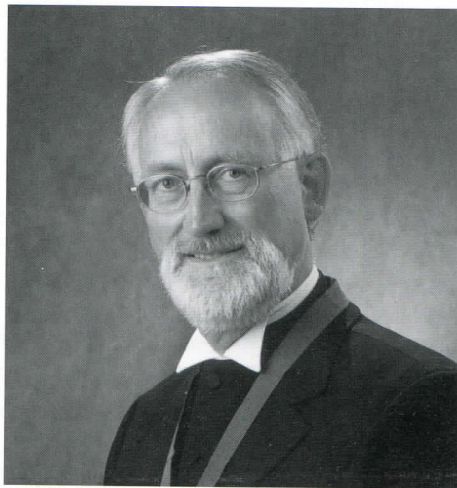
All interested persons are invited to the AGM which will begin with registration and coffee at 10.30am. Martin Luther's Deutsche Messe (German Mass) will be the liturgy at the 11am Eucharist. The Rev. Jana Jeruma-Grinberga, pastor at St Anne's, will preside. Peter Lea-Cox, Cantor at St Anne & St Agnes, together with members of the Lecosaldi Ensemble, will lead the liturgy at which Bishop Vikström will preach.

A sandwich lunch will begin at 12.15 pm followed by Bishop Johannesdotter's talk at 1pm. The Society's business meeting will begin at 2pm.

The ALS co-moderators will lead the business meeting. They are the Rt. Rev. Rupert Hoare, Dean of Liverpool, and the Rev. Tom Bruch, General Secretary of the Lutheran Council of Great Britain.

Ms. Valerie Philips of Kimpton, Hertfordshire, England will give the secretary's report. The Rev. Canon Guy Smith of Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire, England, will give the treasurer's report. Members will receive reports from the society's National Co-ordinators in Finland, Germany, Norway and North America.

Registration fee for the conference and lunch will be £5. Make reservations by



Bishop Jürgen Johannesdotter

phoning Tom Bruch at the Lutheran Council of Great Britain - +44 (0)20 7554 2900 or write to him at bruch@lutheran.org.uk

Plan to bring friends to this special meeting for Anglicans, Lutherans and others interested in ecumenism.

New editor for The Window

Canon James Rosenthal of Canterbury, England, Director of Communication for the Anglican Communion and editor of *Anglican World*, will become editor of *The Window*, beginning with the next issue.

He will succeed the Rev. Ronald T. Englund, a retired Lutheran pastor living in Falmouth, Massachusetts, USA. Pastor Englund has been trying to relinquish the editorial post for nearly a year. "Although I'm as enthusiastic as ever about the Society and its aims, I need to cut down on my many responsibilities," he said. "As my wife, Ruth, often reminds me, when I find myself over-extended with commitments, I have failed retirement."

Pastor Englund was the first editor of *The Window* when the newsletter was launched in 1984. After producing three issues, he resigned in 1985 due to his many pastoral responsibilities in London. He became editor again in 1995, when he retired as pastor of the Lutheran Church of St Anne & St Agnes in the City of London, and has edited the newsletter until now.

A "Liverpool experience" awaits all at conference of ALS September 12-15

An exciting experience of Liverpool awaits all who register for the Anglican-Lutheran Society's international conference in Liverpool, England, from September 12-15, 2003. "Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the 21st century - with a focus on Liverpool's experience" will be the theme of the weekend event.

After hearing presentations from speakers from England, Sweden and Germany, the participants will go to some 20 locations on Saturday and Sunday for first-hand experiences of social and church contexts. The Rt. Rev. Rupert Hoare, Dean of Liverpool and Anglican president of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, says that "if the theme has 'Liverpool's experience' in it, then the people who attend must experience something of Liverpool."

The city at work and at play

This "Liverpool experience" will include "the city at work and play" on Saturday afternoon and evening. Small groups will visit the stadium of Liverpool's internationally famous football (soccer) team as well as an airport chaplaincy and a retail chaplaincy. There will be visits to a Christian coffee bar in the city centre and to a night club. Some will go on a night time police patrol and to the accident and emergency ward of a hospital.

On Sunday small groups will join worshippers at an urban priority area church, a suburban church, a village church, German and Scandinavian churches, the two cathedrals (Anglican and Roman Catholic) and the Mission to Seafarers. Some will go on a "Hospital Communion run" and others take part in prison worship. One group will go to the Sikh Gurdwara.

After worship on Sunday, everyone will experience "Liverpool at Home." Volunteer hosts will entertain participants in their homes. All will have opportunity to go on three small group events - two on Saturday and one on Sunday. The last part of the conference will bring together theory and practice explored in the first two parts, in sharing the Gospel in today's world.

Speakers will include the Rt. Rev. James

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A cuckoo in the nest ? - A Roman Catholic priest on the Anglican-Lutheran Society Committee

The Rev. Phillip Swingler, St. Patrick's Church, Duston, Northampton, England, is a Roman Catholic member of the Anglican-Lutheran Society Committee. Father Swingler writes about his participation in the leadership of the Society:

Some who read this may wonder why I, as a Roman Catholic priest, appear in your columns and as a participant in the work of the Anglican-Lutheran Society and its executive committee. Well, first of all, I was a member of the Society almost from the beginning, and was later elected as a Roman Catholic observer.

Second, I came from an Anglican background and have always been committed to ecumenism and the re-integration of the Churches, Eastern and Western, in all their fullness, their visible and practical catholicity in worship, fellowship and mission - "so that the world may believe" in God in Christ, the source and means of all true human unity and peace. And I have always been fascinated by the person of Martin Luther, his spiritual journey, and his desire for the Catholic Church to proclaim clearly and without equivocation the saving presence of Christ "our Reconciliation", in Word and Sacrament.

Wonderful degree of convergence

The ecumenical search and journey of all our mainstream Christian Churches and communities in recent decades has brought us rapidly to a wonderful (amazing!) degree of convergence in liturgy and mutual understanding of fundamental doctrines, especially in the Anglican-Catholic (ARCIC) and Lutheran-Catholic dialogues - and particularly in the previously church-dividing issues of the nature of the apostolicity of the Church in faith, ministry and Christian living. High points in this search for our mutual reconciliation have been the ARCIC statement on Authority in the Church and the Lutheran-Catholic agreement on Justification in Christ. But much is yet to be done in the way of receiving and appropriating these agreements in the day-to-day life of our parishes and congregations. No unity will grow or be lasting unless it is reflected and owned by our people at the grass roots: Church history is littered with failures of "paper unions."

So I believe it is *vital* for us to be involved actively in practical sharing of insights, witness to our faith, and worship together in the degree of communion that is possible at this stage in our growing into unity such as Christ wills. The ALS is one

such means whereby we can foster and nurture the unity God has given us by His Holy Spirit, and can deepen our mutual friendship and appreciation of each other. Building of friendships between Christians of diverse traditions has always been a God-given way of paving the path to unity of our communities and to the breaking down of barriers based on prejudices and false interpretations of our differences, and also a way of facing in honest and mutual respect those things which still divide us.

It is important for us to *use* the unity we *have* already and so to move closer to each other as we gather around our common Lord and Saviour. The ALS helps us to do this - and it is also fun.

Committed to Christian unity

The Catholic Church is committed to Christian unity and our present Pope, John Paul II, has the practical unity of all Christians as one of the key objectives of his ministry. He has gone much further than any of his predecessors to heal the divisions with other Christian Communions whether be they Orthodox, Lutheran or Anglican. I am proud and happy to follow his lead. For, if the divisions of the Reformation can be overcome, in loyalty to the revelation in Christ, then so can the separation of politics, science, faith and religion which fragment our human society and the visibly one Church can be a more faithful sign and instrument of God's Kingdom. We have the privilege of playing our part in this divine vocation and mission - through our Anglican-Lutheran Society. I thank God for it!

Sjöström named canon of St Paul's Cathedral

The Very Rev. Lennart Sjöström, chairman of the Lutheran Council of Great Britain, was admitted as an honorary canon of St. Paul's Cathedral in London on February 4. Dean Sjöström is the rector of the Swedish Church in London. Attending were representatives of the Swedish and wider Lutheran community.

In a letter informing Dean Sjöström of the appointment, the Rt. Rev. Richard Chartres, Bishop of London (Anglican), expressed "gratitude for the way you have enriched ecumenical life in London over many years. We should like to take this opportunity to recognize the significance of your role in the Lutheran community in the United Kingdom as well as our sense of gratitude for the close and developing links we have as members of the Porvoo Communion."

Lutherans help ecumenism with their agreements

Recent ecumenical agreements which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has signed with the Episcopal Church and with three Reformed Churches are helping Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC) to move toward relationships of full communion.

Leaders from the nine churches of CUIC, representing some 22 million American Christians, met in Birmingham, Alabama, USA, in January. After 40 years of being an "observer" to the process that led to the formation of CUIC in 2002, the ELCA in 2001 had decided to continue as a "partner in mission and dialogue."

In 1997 the ELCA adopted "A Formula of Agreement" - an agreement of full communion with the Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America and the United Church of Christ. In 1999 the ELCA approved "Called to Common Mission" - a full communion agreement with the Episcopal Church.

The Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ are among the nine CUIC churches. The others are the African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, International Council of Community Churches and the Methodist Church.

The Rev. Mark N. Wilhelm, an associate director of the ELCA Division for Ministry, noted that CUIC did not find the key to reconciling their ministries in reviewing the ELCA's agreements. But they "took heart" over the possibility that it could be done, he said.

The CUIC members have "widely varying patterns of ministry in each church", the Rev. Philip L. Hougen, bishop of the ELCA's Southeastern Iowa Synod, said. He added that they face issues similar but not identical to those the ELCA faced while fashioning its recent full communion agreements.

Bishop Hougen noted that, while people from the nine churches of CUIC seem eager for ELCA input, Lutherans must be a bit humble because they don't have answers for all the issues these churches face in their quest for full communion.

The ELCA is also in full communion with the Moravian Church in America. In addition, the ELCA is involved in direct dialogue with the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church, as well as with Mennonite, Orthodox and Roman Catholic representatives.

"The Role of the Bishop" reviewed by John Arnold "Liverpool Experience"

The Very Rev. John Arnold of Canterbury, England, Anglican president of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, reviews *The Role of the Bishop, Changing Models for a Global Church*, edited by Maria Erling and Kirsi Stjerna. Dr. Arnold retired recently as Dean of Durham, England. He has had a distinguished career in ecumenism with a focus on Anglican-Lutheran relationships.

It is a cliché of ecumenical discourse to contrast Anglican insistence on the proper form of episcopacy with Lutheran concentration on the gospel content. Can the best of both traditions be combined to produce a truly reformed historic episcopate? The challenge is acute in the USA since the adoption there by Lutherans and Episcopalians of the "Called to Common Mission" agreement.

Now the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg has put us all in its debt with this deftly edited collection of papers, mainly designed to deepen the internal American Lutheran debate, but also containing wider ecumenical contributions from Dr. Gillian Evans (Church of England) and the veteran Faith and Order theologian, Günther Gassmann, together with two outstanding reflections on actual episcopal experience by Martin Lind (Linköping, Sweden) and Manas Buthelezi (South Africa).

Their testimonies alone should convince doubters both of the usefulness of personal *episcopé* for the mission of the church and also of its effectiveness as a sign of the essential unity of the church at all times and in all places.

Betraying Reformation roots?

However, the diverse historical heritage of American immigrant communities, the ambient democratic culture and pietistic interpretations of the Augsburg Confession (CA) have combined to produce a mindset in which many fear that they might be betraying their Reformation roots. Several contributors make good use, not only of CA5 and CA28, but also of Melancthon's Apology for the Augsburg Confession (especially Articles XIII and XIV) and of the more recent Niagara Report and the Porvoo Agreement, to allay suspicion.

I would add that it has always struck me as strange that Lutherans, who led the world in applying the historical-critical method to Holy Scripture, should lapse into fundamentalism when faced with the two little words *satis est* (it is sufficient) in CA7. Dare an Anglican suggest that Richard Hooker has something to contribute to the exegesis of the word *sufficient*?

German Protestantism is currently making heavy weather of its mixed ecclesiology (Lutheran, Reformed and United). This is partly due to Luther's translation of *ecclesia* as

Gemeinde. Bishop Buthelezi points to a possible way out of the current impasse in the Meissen Commission over the historic episcopate with his insistence that congregations are "creations of the church", rather than the church being a "federation of congregations." Perhaps in God's good providence the solution to our problems in Europe may come to us via Africa and America.

The Role of the Bishop, Changing Models for a Global Church edited by Maria Elizabeth Erling and Kirsi Irmeli Stjerna. paper, 156 pages; published in 2002 by Kirk House Publishers, Minneapolis. Price: US\$14 or UK£10 or Euros 16.

Available through the Anglican-Lutheran Society, c/o Ronald Englund, 44 Lakeview Avenue, Falmouth, MA 02540, USA or 10 Javelin Court, Streatham Common North, London SW16 3HL, England, UK. Make cheques payable to "Anglican Lutheran Society." Please add US\$2 or UK£3 or Euros 2 for postage and packing.

Christian Unity Workshop

Episcopalians and Lutherans will join with ecumenical leaders from many other churches in the United States in the annual National Workshop on Christian Unity from May 12-15 in Savannah, Georgia. A number of North American members of the Anglican-Lutheran Society will attend.

Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be a speaker at this event which will involve Roman Catholic, Orthodox Protestant churches.

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Jones, Anglican Bishop of Liverpool; the Rt. Rev. Martin Lind, Lutheran bishop of Linköping, Sweden; and Pastor Christof Theilemann of Königs Wusterhausen, Berlin, Germany. Mrs. Laura Lincoln, a Lutheran from Cedar Park, Texas, USA, will be conference facilitator as the group shares experiences, insights and questions.

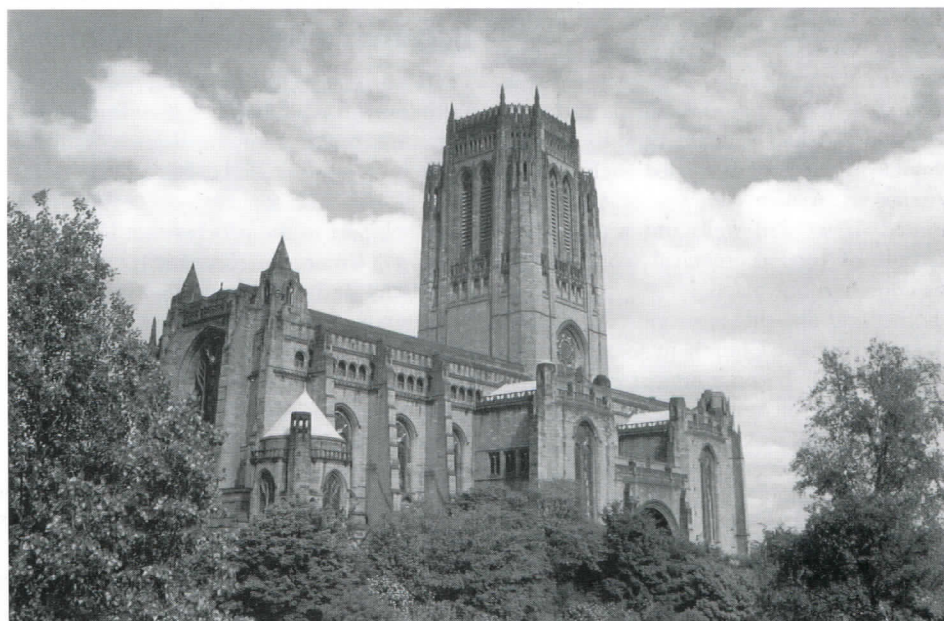
Bishop Rupert Hoare and his wife, Gesine, are heading the committee making arrangements for the conference.

Meetings will be based at Liverpool Cathedral and the nearby Carnatic Halls, where participants will have their rooms. Liverpool Cathedral is near the Roman Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King. These two magnificent buildings are linked by a street called Hope.

The conference will begin with registration from 2pm to 4pm on Friday, September 12, and conclude with lunch on Monday, September 15.

The cost of the weekend, including room and board plus all local excursions, will be £230 (US\$380 or Euros 440). For more information contact the Rt. Rev. Rupert Hoare by phone: +44 (0)151 702 7220; or by email: dean@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

You may register for the conference by sending £50 (US\$80 or Euros 75) to ALS Conference 2003, 15 Hampden, Kimpton, Hitchin, Herts. SG4 8QU, UK. Make cheques payable to: Anglican Lutheran Society. Please enroll as early as possible. Everyone is welcome!



Liverpool Cathedral, the largest Anglican cathedral in Europe, will be the venue for the Anglican-Lutheran Society's international conference to be held September 12-15, 2003. The foundation stone of this majestic building was laid by King Edward VII in 1904. Queen Elizabeth II attended the celebration to mark its completion in 1978. ALS president, the Rt. Rev. Rupert Hoare, is Dean of the cathedral.

Exciting new development in relationships between Church of England and Germany

Canon Guy Smith of Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire, England, reports on an exciting new development to strengthen links between the Church of England and the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD). He is treasurer of the Anglican-Lutheran Society and recently spent three months serving an Anglican congregation in Heidelberg, Germany. He writes:

One of the sore points about the relations of the Anglican Church with the EKD is that the Meissen Agreement does not allow as much common activity as the Porvoo Agreement does with the Nordic and Baltic Churches. The Meissen Commission is trying to find ways to solve this problem, which is both a theological and an organizational one. An exciting development has recently been announced, which is to use the strong partnership links between certain dioceses in England and the Landeskirche and Propstei in Germany. Mechanism already exists in the Canons (rules) of the Church of England. It's called "Local Ecumenical Partnership." What's that, you may ask?

Partnerships in Lichfield Diocese

For over ten years I lived and worked in one of these partnerships, in the diocese of Lichfield, England. In the city of Wolverhampton I was team rector of three church areas within the one parish, on the western side of town. One area was on a new housing estate, which had one church for all the denominations: United Reformed, Baptist, Methodist and Church of England. For most of the time there were two clergy, one Anglican and the other United Reformed. Services were all shared. We attended one another's communions and received the Sacrament. We had joint baptisms and confirmations. I had to learn how to baptize by total immersion! We used each other's systems when new clergy were to be appointed. It worked well, and was a good example of total ecumenical work by the one church in one place.

Something like this is proposed with the EKD (Protestant Church in Germany). It will, first of all, be on a limited experimental basis. Four dioceses have been selected in England to seek a Local Ecumenical Partnership between one parish and its partner link in the church in Germany. If it is approved on both sides, it would mean that clergy could celebrate the Sacraments in each other's churches. There could be joint confirmations. Laity could be represented on each other's church councils. Clergy could take up posts as ministers or pastors in partner churches.

There are of course difficulties. Some would say that distance and cost of travel

could make it difficult to work properly. There is also the question of language. A clergy person working in another country would need competence in the language of the partner church. But negotiations are beginning and, by the end of the year, if the guidelines of the Meissen Commission are followed and agreed, there four dioceses may well be more than just partners with their fellow Christians in Germany. It's a good start and one to be welcomed by me, especially as one of the four selected is my former parish in Kidderminster and its partner in Gommern in the Propstei of Magdeburg/Halberstadt.

First Anglican appointed as Lutheran chaplain

The Rev. Jennifer Welsh has become the first Anglican to serve as Lutheran Student Chaplain in London. Her pastoral responsibilities are for residents at the International Lutheran Student Centre and for overseas Lutheran students living elsewhere in London as well as in the rest of Britain. She began her work in January.

Originally from Canada, Mrs. Welsh once served with the Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. Her husband, the Rev. Philip Welsh, is vicar of St Stephens Church, Rochester Row, London.

Norwegian Lutheran ecumenist becomes a Roman Catholic

Professor Dr. Ola Tjørhom, Norwegian Lutheran theologian and ecumenist, became a member of the Roman Catholic Church on January 25. He has been a leader in regional and international ecumenism and took part in the process that led to the Porvoo Common Statement between Lutherans and Anglicans. He was also a Lutheran member of the Anglican-Lutheran International Working Group.

He will continue on the faculty of the Norwegian School of Mission and Theology in Stavanger, but will no longer teach dogmatic theology.

Williams and Hanson to meet

The new Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, and Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will meet in London in March. Bishop Hanson hope to "strengthen and deepen personal and church relationships."

Boston Conference papers in "Lutheran Forum"

Lectures given at "On the Power of Bishops", the Anglican-Lutheran Society conference held in Waltham, Massachusetts, (near Boston), USA, September 20-23, 2002, will appear in the Spring/Easter issue of *Lutheran Forum*. Copies will likely cost UK£2 or US\$3 or Euros 3 including postage. Contact Ronald Englund by phone or post (see below) or email: englund@cape.com

Second female bishop consecrated in Norway

The Church of Norway (Lutheran) was to consecrate its second woman bishop in February 9 when he Rev. Laila Riksaasen Dahl became Bishop of Tunsberg.

Scandinavia's first female bishop, Rosemarie Kohn, also from Norway, was consecrated in 1993. Today most Nordic countries have female bishops. In addition to the two in Norway, Sweden has two, Denmark has one and the Lutheran bishop of Greenland, a self-governing Danish territory, is also a woman. Iceland and Finland do not have woman bishops.

The Anglican-Lutheran Society

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