

# The Window

No. 66

Newsletter of the Anglican-Lutheran Society

April 2001

## Hoare and Bruch named moderators as ALS plans for expanded role

The Rt. Rev. Rupert Hoare of Liverpool and the Rev Tom Bruch of London were elected new co-moderators of the Anglican-Lutheran Society (ALS) at the society's annual general meeting (AGM) held March 3 at the Norwegian Church in London.

The members also studied results of a survey of ALS members worldwide about the society's future. Following a lively discussion, members cast a solid vote for the society to continue and to expand its work. (See story on page 3 for more information about the poll and discussion about the society's future.)

Bishop Hoare is dean of Liverpool Cathedral, while Pastor Bruch is general secretary of the Lutheran Council in Great Britain.

The society thanked the Rev Brian Coleman of Guildford, England, and the Rev Helge Pettersson of London, who had agreed to serve on an interim basis until more permanent leaders could be found.

The members also mourned the death, on January 1, of Marianne Lindström Haig, a member of the ALS Committee. She was a

member of the Swedish Church in London. They expressed thanks for Marianne's wonderful enthusiasm and support for Anglican-Lutheran relations through many years.

The AGM thanked the Rev. Volkmar Latossek, another Lutheran member of the ALS committee, who resigned to return to Germany. Pastor Latossek, who served St Mary's German Lutheran Church in London, is now pastor in Celle, Lower Saxony.

Paul Gobey, the organist and choir director at the Norwegian Church in London, was elected to the ALS Committee. The AGM elected the Rev. Philip Swingler of the Cathedral of Our Lady and St Thomas as its first Roman Catholic observer on the ALS Committee. It seemed natural to the members to expand ALS concerns to include relationships with Roman Catholics.

Bishop Hoare preached at the Eucharist which preceded the meeting. The Rev. Helge Pettersson presided.

The next AGM of the society will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2002. The venue will be announced later this year.

## Ratzeburg Conference plans developing well

Plans for the Anglican-Lutheran Society international conference in Ratzeburg, Germany from September 14-17, 2001, are developing well. "Worship – Liturgy – Music: Facing New Challenges" will be the theme of the weekend which will feature speakers from Germany, Norway, England and the United States.

Thirty people have already made reservations and there is room for perhaps a dozen more. The cost will be UK£195 or US\$300 (See box on page 3 for details.)

The Rev. Wolfgang Grusnick of the Domkirche in Lübeck, Germany, will give opening lecture. Dr. Terje Kvam, Domkanttor (director of music) at Oslo Cathedral, Norway and the Rt. Rev. Colin Buchanan, Anglican Bishop of Woolwich, England, will also speak. The Rev. Dr. Paul Westermeyer, professor of church music at Luther Seminary in St Paul, Minnesota, USA, will speak on "Developments in Church Music in our Two Traditions."

Sunday will be spent in historic Lübeck, which is near to the Pastoralcollege (Pastoral College) where the conference will be held. This is a center for social ministry and continuing education for the North-Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Church of Pomerania.

Welcome to all, members and friends, to this 2001 international conference!

## Finns give support to ALS

The Anglican-Lutheran Society is grateful to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland for its grant of FIM 6,000 (approx. UK£300 or US\$900) for the year 2001. The Rev. Dr. Risto Cantell, executive director of the Department for International Affairs, has notified us about this generous gift. We welcome help from other churches.

## Reuilly Agreement signing

The signing of the Reuilly Agreement between the British Anglican churches and the French Lutheran and Reformed churches will be held in Canterbury Cathedral Saturday, June 16, at 11am and in the Eglise du Saint Esprit, Paris, Sunday, July 1, at 11am. (See next issue for more news.)



New members of the Anglican-Lutheran Society Committee chat at the society's annual general meeting held at the Norwegian Church in London on March 3. From left: The Rev. Philip Swingler of Northampton; Mr. Paul Gobey of London; The Rev. Tom Bruch of London, Lutheran Co-Moderator; and the Rt. Rev. Rupert Hoare of Liverpool, Anglican Co-Moderator. Father Swingler is the first Roman Catholic observer on the committee.

## "What the ALS means to me" - by Dick Lewis

The Rev. Canon Dick Lewis of Christ Church (Anglican), Watford, England, writes about what the Anglican-Lutheran Society has meant to him:

"Membership in the Anglican-Lutheran Society is open to everyone, and that includes people like me. I am a parish priest in the Church of England with a passion for ecumenism at local, national and international levels. But I am no 'expert'. I am not the sort of person to be involved in inter-church conversations, in the forging of a Meissen or a Porvoo Agreement, or in a process like Called to Common Mission. But I do want to be informed about these things. I want to know about the new possibilities for my church that are opened up by these momentous movements. And that is just where the Anglican-Lutheran Society comes in.

### All kinds of new things

"Shortly after the Society was launched I saw a leaflet describing its aims and inviting me to join. It looked interesting, so I did. I quickly discovered things of which I had been almost totally unaware. That there are Lutherans in England, for example, and that there has been a long history of contact and ecumenical cooperation between Anglicans and Lutherans across the world

"Through the society's newsletter, *The Window*, I get news of all sorts of exciting developments in Anglican-Lutheran relationships. The Society was very helpful when I wanted to set up a link between my parish and a German parish. Through the society's conferences I have visited Anglican and Lutheran churches in Scandinavia, Germany and the USA; I have met many people from our two communions; and I have met some of the 'people in the know', members of official conversations and continuing commissions who have willingly shared their insights and information with people like me who would otherwise remain 'in the dark.'

### Feeling a sense of involvement

"I am very glad that the society has decided to continue its work. Without it people like me would find it hard to feel any real sense of involvement in the ecumenical scene, in which Anglican-Lutheran relationships are just one small part. We in England, who often have no immediate Lutheran neighbours, can get a feel for what is happening in places where Anglicans and Lutherans do live alongside each other. That raises questions for us about how we might foster closer relationships with those Christian groups who are our neighbours here."



The Rev. Dr. Paul Westermeyer

## Musicians and theologians to speak at Ratzeburg

The Rev. Dr. Paul Westermeyer is one of several speakers at the Anglican-Lutheran Society conference in Ratzeburg, Germany, from September 14-17 who are both theologians and professional musicians.

Dr. Westermeyer is professor of church music at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA, and director of the master of sacred music program at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

He has served as an organist and choir-master in Lutheran and Episcopal churches in the USA and has served as a pastor of a Lutheran congregation. He taught at Elmhurst College in Illinois, USA, for 22 years before moving to Luther in 1990.

Last year he completed his term as president of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. He was editor of *The Hymn* from 1991 to 1998.

His most recent book, *Te Deum: The Church and Music*, (Augsburg Fortress, 1998) is a theological and musical survey of church music from the Old Testament to the present. His book, *The Church Musician*, (Harper & Row, 1988; 2nd ed., Augsburg Fortress, 1997) deals with the role of the church musician and weaves together theological and musical themes which have been his life-long interest.

Other books by Dr. Westermeyer include *Tongues of Fire*, published in 1998, which is an overview of 20th century hymnody. His *Let Justice Sing: Hymnody and Justice* (Liturgical Press, 1998) analyzes hymns on justice.

In the next issue of *The Window*, to be published in June, we will introduce other speakers who will take part in the Ratzeburg Conference.

## North Americans plan for regional activities

The Anglican-Lutheran Society has endorsed a proposal from members in North America who wish to form a committee to develop the Society's work in the United States and Canada. Both the ALS Committee and the annual general meeting have approved the plan.

Six persons have agreed to serve on this committee and others have been invited to join. Lutherans include the Rev. Dr. Scott Ickert of Arlington, Virginia; the Rev. Dr. Thomas Prinz of Alexandria, Virginia; the Rev. Ronald T Englund of Falmouth, Massachusetts; and Laura Lincoln of Cedar Park, Texas. Episcopalians include the Rev. Canon Joseph Seville of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and the Rev. Canon Stephen Smith of Buffalo, New York.

The committee will aim to strengthen the work of the society in North America by planning regional conferences, services and other events which would "explore and celebrate Anglican-Lutheran relationships." The committee would also seek to make the international programme of the ALS better known in North America. Everything would be done "in keeping with the purpose of the society" and "under the direction of the ALS Committee."

The committee plans to organize during the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU), which meets in San Diego, California, April 30 to May 1. Some 400 ecumenical leaders from church bodies throughout the USA will attend. The programme will include a celebration of Called to Common Mission, the agreement between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

### An invitation to all to attend the ALS Conference

*Worship-Liturgy-Music: Facing New Challenges*

September 14-17, 2001

at Dominsel Ratzeburg, Germany

Conference Cost UK£195 or US\$300  
(includes room, board and all fees)

Use enclosed form or send name, address,  
with phone/fax/e-mail address to:

ALS Conference 2001

15 Hampden, Kimpton, Hitchin,  
Herts. SG4 8QH, England, UK

Phone: +44 (0)1438 832649

Please include £40 or \$60 registration fee  
Cheques to: Anglican-Lutheran Society

North Americans may contact  
Ronald Englund at [englund@cape.com](mailto:englund@cape.com)  
or 508-495 1621 for more information.



Some of the Anglican-Lutheran Society members during the discussion of the society's future at the annual general meeting held March 3. From left: the Rev. Dale Gingrich of Cambridge (partly hidden); Dr. Mary Tanner of Weybridge; Mrs. Gesine Hoare of Liverpool; and Mrs. Dorothea Knights of Malvern. All those pictured are living in England.

## Anglican-Lutheran Society votes to continue following discussion of member's survey

Following a lively and helpful discussion based on responses to a survey sent to all members, the Anglican-Lutheran Society has decided to continue with a more international focus and a new relationship with the Roman Catholic Church.

This survey resulted from the feeling of some that, since the signing of major Anglican-Lutheran agreements (Meissen, Porvoo and Called to Common Mission), there is no longer need for an Anglican-Lutheran Society.

The discussion at the Annual General Meeting held at the Norwegian Church in London on March 3 was based on the five questions which the ALS committee sent to all members. Some 35 written responses came from England, Germany, Switzerland, Canada and the United States.

### Bishop Hoare chairs discussion

The Rt. Rev. Rupert Hoare, the society's new Anglican co-moderator, chaired the discussion based on the committee's five questions. Following are the questions with a summary of responses:

1. *Are we going to continue in the way in which we have done?* "Yes" was the overwhelming response. Among the comments and suggestions were: more grassroots contacts between Anglicans and Lutherans; encourage pulpit exchanges; more emphasis outside of London as well as in Germany

and Scotland; contact and communication can only increase "familiarity with each other's ways and diminish suspicion and ignorance. This has to be a good thing. As most people in this country (England) wouldn't know a Lutheran if it jumped up and bit them, there is all the more reason to keep going."

2. *Should the ALS continue to organise international conferences and nothing else?* Many answered "yes" with suggestions which included: hold local conferences, study days, retreats, summer camp, music seminars, etc.; some felt that international conferences are too costly to attend; maybe ALS should encourage parish and diocesan twinings and exchanges; plan conferences for young Anglicans and Lutherans who have not experienced Meissen and Porvoo.

3. *Should we continue to publish The Window?* All were in favor, with many compliments about the newsletter as a helpful source of information. Suggestions for *The Window* included having more short book reviews plus giving information on liturgy and hymns.

4. *Should the ALS build on its links in Britain, Germany, the Nordic countries and the USA and perhaps establish new contacts elsewhere?* Most responded in the affirmative but there was concern about overexpanding. Suggestions included closer links with the USA and

Canada as well as with the official structures of the Church of England and the Lutheran Council of Great Britain; expanding into countries where Anglican-Lutheran relations have not yet developed.

5. *Should we expand into a relationship with other denominations?* There was a mixed response. Those who said "yes" suggested links with the Roman Catholics, the Orthodox churches and the Methodists. Those who said "no" were concerned about losing focus, "biting off more than we can chew." Others cited the great affinity between Anglicans and Lutherans.

### Guest at a private meeting?

The Rev. Canon Colin Hill of Carlisle Cathedral, an Anglican member, made helpful comments. He wrote about attending an ALS annual general meeting where he "felt like a courteously treated guest at a private meeting largely consisting of people who knew each other fairly well." He added: "It is difficult to see how the ALS can avoid being something of an 'in group' heavily focused on London. The Society has, however, been significantly more successful than either the Anglo-Scandinavian Pastoral Conference or the Porvoo Communion Group, both of which give the impression of being entirely closed groups keeping their agenda and activities much to themselves. Neither has the advantage of *The Window*."

Much discussion at the annual general meeting centered around a very thoughtful letter from Bishop Erik Vikström, Lutheran bishop of Porvoo, Finland, who is Lutheran president of the Society. Bishop Erik gave cogent reasons both why the society should continue and perhaps why it should not continue. Bishop Erik's perceptive thoughts were a springboard for a lengthy and lively discussion.

Several at the AGM spoke of the value of the society's work in their lives and urged that the ALS continue with a clearer focus and renewed zeal.

Others pointed out that the Anglican-Lutheran Society is the only organization that anyone who is interested in relationships between the two churches may join voluntarily. You become a member of all other boards, committees and groups which are involved in Anglican-Lutheran relationships by being elected or named by a church body.

Many thanks to the members who responded by letter, e-mail and verbally to the survey. It has been a most helpful exercise for the society to ask "Has the ALS a future?"

The Society should come out of this self-examination, the first it has made since its founding in 1984, with renewed strength and enthusiasm.

## International group discusses regional A-L agreements at March meeting in Iceland

The Anglican-Lutheran International Working Group spent much time discussing the compatibility of various regional Anglican-Lutheran agreements at its meeting held March 23-28 in Skálholt, Iceland.

The 13-member working group was established in 1998 by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Anglican Communion. Its purpose is to continue the formal contact which began 30 years ago between the two worldwide Christian communions.

Reports were given on regional agreements between Anglicans and Lutherans which have resulted in different forms of church fellowship. "Compatibility" was an issue which received considerable attention. Can these new regional agreements be extended throughout our communions?

The national and regional agreements discussed were: the Meissen Common Statement (1988) between the Church of England and the Evangelical Church of Germany; the Porvoo Common Statement (1996) between the British and Irish Anglican churches and the Nordic and Baltic Lutheran churches; the Reuilly Common Statement (1999) between the British and Irish Anglican churches and the French Lutheran and Reformed churches; Called to Common Mission (1999) between the Episcopal Church, USA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The working group also discussed the soon to be decided Waterloo Declaration between the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Delegates also studied the proposal for covenanting now before Anglican and Lutheran churches in Australia, as well as significant developments in Anglican and Lutheran relations in Africa and in Brazil.

The working committee will submit its final report about these matters to its respective parent bodies next year.

The Anglican-Lutheran International Working Group is chaired by Lutheran Bishop Ambrose Moyo of Zimbabwe and Anglican Bishop David Tustin of England.

## Anglicans meet in Bahamas

The new Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Ecumenical Relations (IASCER) met for the first time in December 2000 in Nassau, the Bahamas. The group discussed relationships with various Christian communions, including Anglican-Lutheran agreements. IASCER plans to meet again in South Africa in December.

## ELCA to seek exceptions to Episcopal agreement

While Lutherans and Episcopalians in many parts of the USA are celebrating their new relationship of full communion, the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is recommending a bylaw which allows for exceptions to the ordination procedures required by its new agreement with the Episcopal Church.

The bylaw seeks to answer opponents of "Called to Common Mission" (CCM) who claim this full communion agreement threatens Lutheran identity and gives too much authority to bishops. This minority in the ELCA is fiercely opposed to CCM.

CCM calls for bishops to ordain clergy. The bylaw, "Ordination in Unusual Circumstances", would allow ELCA bishops to authorize, for pastoral reasons, another pastor to ordain after consultation with the synodical council and the presiding bishop.

Under CCM, a bishop must preside at all ordinations. Prior to CCM, Lutheran bishops presided at ordinations but could delegate another pastor to preside.

To be adopted, the bylaw requires a two-thirds majority at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly which will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, from August 8-14, 2001.

## Ecumenical leaders to retire

Changes are taking place in the ecumenical departments of Lutheran and Episcopal churches in the United States. Two leaders in Anglican-Lutheran affairs are retiring.

The Rev. Canon David Perry, deputy for ecumenical and interfaith relations for the Episcopal Church, USA, is retiring this month. The Rt Rev. C. Christopher Epting, Episcopal Bishop of Iowa, will succeed Canon Perry.

The Rev. Daniel F. Martensen, director of the Department for Ecumenical Affairs, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will retire on October 31.

## Oldest member dies at 93

The Rev. Canon John R. Ramsey, an Episcopal priest for 67 years and the oldest member of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, died in Danvers, Massachusetts, on September 13, 2000 at the age of 93 years. He taught in seminaries in Illinois and the Philippines. He also served parishes in Maryland, New Hampshire, New York.

His father, John Rathbone Ramsey, was a member of the United States House of Representatives from 1917-1921. His mother was Alice Huyler Ramsey, who in 1909 was the first woman to drive an automobile across the United States.

## Anglo-Baltic-Nordic group to study theology and music in Aarhus, Denmark

The Anglo-Nordic-Baltic Conference will meet in Aarhus, Denmark, from July 25-30 with "Theology and Music" as its theme. The Rt. Rev. Kenneth Stevenson, Anglican Bishop of Portsmouth, England, will chair the event which will be hosted by Lutheran Bishop Kjeld Holm of Aarhus.

The conference will focus on the use of music in the worship of the church through the centuries as well as the development of the Anglican and Lutheran traditions since the Reformation. This will include the contribution of the Danish hymn writer, Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig and music in the English cathedral tradition.

Representatives from Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, and Sweden will take part. The next conference will be held in 2003, probably in Latvia.

Note: *The Window* hopes to report regularly about Anglican-Lutheran international and regional conferences. Help us by sending information to the editor (see address below.)

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### The Anglican-Lutheran Society

#### Patrons

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The President of the Lutheran World Federation

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The Ven John Arnold,  
Dean of Durham, England  
The Rt Rev Erik Vikström,  
Lutheran Bishop of Porvoo (Borgå), Finland

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The Rev Tom Bruch (Lutheran)

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Paul Gobey (Lutheran)  
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