

The Window

Newsletter of the Anglican-Lutheran Society

Number 49, June - August 1996

Porvoo signings planned in Norway, Estonia, UK

The Most Rev Richard Holloway, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, will preach at the first of three services to celebrate the signing of the Porvoo Agreement to be held at 6pm Sunday, September 1, at the Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim, Norway.

A week later, at 3pm on September 8, the second service is set for the Toomkirik (St Mary's Cathedral) in Tallinn, Estonia. The final service will be at Westminster Abbey, London, at 7pm on Thursday, November 28.

The Most Rev Dr Andreas Aarflot, Bishop of Oslo, will preside at the Eucharist at the Trondheim celebration. He will be assisted by Archbishop Jaan Kiivit of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church and by Archbishop Alwyn Rice Jones of the Church in Wales (Anglican). Norwegian composer Egil Hovland has written a new musical setting of the liturgy for this service.

All the participating British and Irish Anglican churches, along with the Nordic and Baltic Lutheran churches, will take part in the signing ceremony. Representatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark, which did not sign the agreement, will be present as observers.

An additional service to celebrate the Porvoo Agreement will be held at the Stavanger Cathedral in Norway at 7.30pm on Wednesday, September 4.

Membership tops 200 and it's time to renew

Membership in the Anglican-Lutheran Society has reached an all-time high of 205. That's an increase of more than 40 percent since the beginning of this year.

It's time to renew your membership if you are one of the 90 members who have not yet paid for 1996. Reminders are enclosed with this issue of *The Window*. Write to the Society office for the brochure and form for membership.

Work begins on small booklet in English of favourite hymns of Porvoo churches

Work is underway to produce a small collection of hymns from the churches involved in the Porvoo Agreement to help in celebrating the Anglican and the Lutheran traditions of northern Europe.

The Church of Sweden is taking the initiative to produce this booklet. It will include the melody lines for the best-known and most-loved hymns from the Porvoo churches, with texts both in English and in their original language.

"Porvoo is known as a document of theological and ecclesiastical significance, but what good will ever so many clever thoughts do if they are disconnected from worship?," asks Dr Johan Dalman of the Church of Sweden's Department for Theology and Ecumenical Affairs. "There needs to be an ongoing Porvoo worship process where people at the parish level can experience

the spiritual core of the agreement first hand. There needs to be a Porvoo hymn-book, even if but a modest and short-lived one."

The Anglican-Lutheran Society is involved because its co-moderator, the Rev Ronald T Englund, has been asked to co-ordinate the project with the Rev Per Harling of Sigtuna, Sweden. Each of the ten Porvoo churches has been asked to submit suggestions for the hymn book. You are also invited to give your ideas to the editorial offices of *The Window*.

North America is a chief source of English translations of Nordic hymns because of the history of the Lutheran Church in the United States and Canada. Most of the nearly nine million Lutherans in these countries trace their roots to the Nordic nations.

"This is an exciting project as Anglicans know almost none of the great hymns of the Nordic and Baltic Lutherans," says Pastor Englund. "And to a lesser extent northern European Lutherans know few hymns of the Anglican tradition."

The key to a successful Porvoo hymn book will be distribution and the willingness of congregations to try something new in their worship.

Norway-UK exchanges

Dr Ola Tjørhom of Stavanger, Norway, is a visiting professor at Trevelyan College, Durham University, England, for the Easter term. He is a professor of dogmatics at the School of Mission and Theology in Stavanger, one of the three theological schools of the Church of Norway. The Rev Canon Dr Trevor Park, Vicar of Natland, Carlisle Diocese of the Church of England, is spending five months in the Parish of Rennesøy, Diocese of Stavanger, Church of Norway. He has special responsibility for the Utstein Monastery which attracts many visitors throughout the year.



Bishop Alan Chesters (right) of the Blackburn Diocese of the Church of England and Landesbischof Christian Krause of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brunswick (Braunschweig), Germany, signed an agreement which links the two churches on May 9. The signing took place at Blackburn Cathedral during Bishop Krause's recent visit to England. The churches have promised to pray for each other, to worship together as the canons of their churches permit, to exchange visits and information and to share in Bible study and theological reflection. (Photograph courtesy of the Lancashire Evening Telegraph.)

Holdsworth to Sweden through Cleaver Fund

Kelvin Holdsworth of Edinburgh, a theological student of the Scottish Episcopal Church, will spend the autumn semester in Uppsala, Sweden, under a Studentship awarded by the Cleaver Ordination Candidates' Fund.

The Rev Dr Peter A Lynn of Lewes, East Sussex, England, Clerk to the Trustees of the Fund, reports that Mr Holdsworth will study at the Pastoral Institute of the Church of Sweden and at Uppsala University.

Mr Holdsworth studies at the Theological Institute of the Scottish Episcopal Church and expects to be made deacon in the summer of 1997.

He is the third Anglican from the United Kingdom to study at the Lutheran theological institute in Uppsala under a grant from the Cleaver Fund. The first was the Rev Alan Garrow of Waltham Abbey in early 1993. The Rev Nils Chittenden of Consett, County Durham, was at Uppsala in 1995.

The Cleaver Ordination Candidates' Fund was set up under the terms of the will of Mrs Friederica Frances Swinburne who died in 1916. It was founded in the Catholic tradition of Anglicanism and assists "those seeking ordination in a church within the Anglican Communion as well as those already in Holy Orders who seek a course of advanced theological study or who wish a period of sabbatical study".

Our oldest member?

Is the Rev Canon John R Ramsey of Marblehead, Massachusetts, USA, the Society's oldest member? He writes: "Thanks for all you are doing toward full communion of our 'two communions'. Hope I can live to see it - I'm 89!" He is an honorary canon of the Diocese of Albany, New York, of the Episcopal Church.

Next AGM March 8, 1997

Please note that the next Annual General Meeting of the Anglican-Lutheran Society will be held at the Swedish Church, 6 Harcourt Street, London W1, on Saturday, March 8, 1997, from 11am to 4pm. The Rt Rev David Tustin, Anglican Bishop of Grimsby, and a president of the Society, will be the speaker.



The Rev Ronald T Englund (left), Anglican-Lutheran Society co-moderator, took part in a meeting of the Lutheran-Episcopal Dialogue of Minnesota, USA, held April 11 at St Mary's Episcopal Church, St Paul. The Rev Russell W Johnson Jr (2nd from left), St Mary's rector, and the Rev Roger C Claxton (right), Lutheran pastor from Marshall, Minnesota, were elected co-chairpersons of the group. Others pictured are the Rev Canon Constance Claxton, Anglican priest from Marshall, and the Rev Dr Merlyn E Satrom, of the religion department, Augsburg College, Minneapolis. Dr Satrom was Lutheran Fellow at Mansfield College, Oxford, England, from 1976-80. He now chairs the Bishop's Committee for Ecumenical Affairs of the St Paul Area Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Claxtons are a Lutheran-Episcopal clergy couple. (Photograph by Wes Daugherty)

Lutheran-Anglican ecumenism lives in Wales

A Lutheran-Anglican clergy couple in Wales, the Rev Kathryn Johnson and the Rev Quentin Bellamy, write of their experiences:

Believe it or not, in rural North Wales there is a couple who, in light of the ongoing dialogue and work towards signing the Porvoo Agreement, is living proof of ecumenism - day by day, minute by minute. The Rev Kate Johnson, is an American who is a Lutheran pastor serving in the Lutheran Church in Great Britain in Stretford, Manchester. Kate is married to the Rev Quentin Bellamy, a vicar of the Church in Wales who is serving the Parish of St Martin of Tours in Llay, near Wrexham.

God does move in mysterious ways, for the couple met in Berkeley, California. Quentin, who was an exchange student from Cuddesdon Theological College, Oxford, was studying theology at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (Episcopal). At the same time Kate was studying and preparing for the ordained ministry at the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Both seminaries are part of a consortium, the Graduate Theological Union. As there was no room at the inn at Kate's seminary, she found board at the Episcopal seminary where, of all places, she met her future husband. It wasn't a case of love at first sight, but a strong friendship developed, based on mutual love of music and a desire to learn more about one another's

culture and vision for their prospective ministries. Kate spent Christmas in Wales where Quentin was serving as curate in Rhyl. They were engaged at Easter, and married in August 1991 by the Archbishop of Wales, the Most Rev Alwyn Rice Jones.

As a married clergy couple serving different denominations, Kate and Quentin struggle with vastly different church situations. Quentin is a full-time parish priest within a well-established tradition while Kate's ministry may be described as "tent-making" within a diaspora community. Ecumenism flows beyond their relationship for Kate is also a Local Preacher within the Methodist Church. There is a strong commitment to ecumenical relationships in their village and, in a wider sense, to build up the Body of Christ.

Needless to say, there is hot debate at the dinner table about topics such as ministry, church order and the Lord's presence in Holy Communion. Luther and Cranmer are well represented and well-argued as Kate and Quentin struggle, sometimes with despair but always with great surprise, at what God has done. Who would have guessed a second-generation Norwegian-American Lutheran and a Welshman with Pentecostal roots and a penchant for theatre organ music would meet up in Berkeley, California, to serve God's people in many and varied ways.

Comparing Porvoo and the Concordat

The Rev Dr William D Rusch, director of the Commission on Faith and Order of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, compares the major Anglican-Lutheran documents involving churches in Europe and North America. He speaks from years of experience in ecumenism with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Two significant documents are now before Anglicans and Lutherans which share the potential of bringing these two Christian families into closer relations. No doubt in Europe the better-known text is the Porvoo Common Statement. The result of conversations, formally begun in 1989, between the British and Irish Anglican churches and the Nordic and Baltic Lutheran churches, the Porvoo Statement offers these churches a relationship of communion in life and mission, while remaining autonomous. Porvoo has already been adopted by most of the churches and will be celebrated with special services later this year.

The second document, entitled the Concordat of Agreement, was developed in the United States between the Episcopal Church in the USA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is the result of some 25 years of dialogue. Building on this earlier dialogue work, it proposes that these two churches enter into a relationship of full communion where they recognize each other's faith and sacraments, provide for the interchangeability of members and ministers, and commit themselves to join in mission and service wherever possible. Thus full communion does not mean merger. Rather it entails a mutual sharing of gifts that each church brings to the other.

At the present time a Lutheran-Episcopal Coordinating Committee is at work to oversee the process of study and reflection in these two churches about this proposal. It is anticipated that in 1997 both churches will vote on the specific recommendations of the Concordat. Therefore at this time the US proposal lacks the official approval that Porvoo now has.

The Concordat and Porvoo should be viewed as complementary. Although they use different vocabulary and reflect different geographical, cultural and historical situations, they seek to bring autonomous Anglican and Lutheran

churches into a shared life, based on a similar set of convictions about mission, apostolicity and episcopacy.

Both texts ask Lutherans to affirm and accept episcopal succession as an important sign and means of unity and continuity in apostolic mission. Both request Anglicans to recognize ordained Lutheran ministers as fully authentic and open to mutual interchangeability.

Because of different histories, the American churches will have to take more challenging actions than their European counterparts. For example, all the European churches can claim in some sense to be episcopal. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America does not claim for itself such an experience of episcopacy. Unlike Porvoo, the Concordat calls upon Anglicans to suspend temporarily, in this one case, the requirement that all clergy be episcopally ordained. Such a step would be unprecedented for Anglicans.

Likewise, although the parallel should not be too sharply drawn, the Concordat demands of Lutherans that they do not require subscription to the Augsburg Confession from Episcopal clergy who would serve in Lutheran parishes. Both requests are justified by argumentation offered in the Concordat, but this requires reception by the churches.

However, in spite of such differences the commonalities of both Porvoo and the Concordat are apparent. Their inner theological rationale is the same and they both offer great possibilities and gifts to the churches in the coming years.

(For a fuller discussion see Michael Root, *The Concordat and the Northern European Porvoo Statement: Different Paths to the Same Goal* in Griffiss and Martinsen, *A Commentary on the Concordat of Agreement* - see details below.)

For additional information on Porvoo and the Concordat, the following books are available through the Anglican-Lutheran Society, 27 Prentis Road, London SW16 1QB, England:

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

Towards Full Communion and Concordat of Agreement by William A Norgren and William G Rusch. 1991; 119 pages; UK£4 plus 50p postage.

A Commentary on the Concordat of Agreement: Supporting Essays edited by James E Griffiss and Daniel Martinsen. 1994; 234 pages; UK£11.25 plus £1 postage.

(The above two books about the Concordat are also available in North America through Augsburg Fortress and Forward Publications.)

Anglican-Lutheran links are growing in Finland

The Rev Dr Jaakko Rusama, our correspondent in Finland, reports:

For decades the Anglican Church in Finland has been an active member of the National Council of Churches of Finland (the Finnish Ecumenical Council). Although there are only about 100 members in the English-speaking Anglican community, its presence has been very much appreciated by other churches. Apart from cordial discussions and occasional joint events, there has been a steady growth of mutual cooperation. For a many years Finnish Lutheran pastors have preached from time to time at Anglican services in St Nicholas' Chapel in the heart of Helsinki. This pulpit fellowship has now been extended to altar fellowship.

The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church accepted the Porvoo Agreement at its General Synod meeting in November 1995. Very soon after Porvoo had been ratified, Finnish Lutheran pastors were invited to assist the Anglican chaplain in Helsinki, the Rev Francis Chadwick, in celebrating the Eucharist. Anglican Christmas carol services have been held in Helsinki, Tampere, Hämeenlinna, Oulu, Tuusula and Pietarsaari/Jakobstad. Lutheran pastors with doctorates from Cambridge, Dr Heikki Kotila and Dr Jaakko Rusama, have led Anglican services in the St Nicholas' Chapel, Helsinki.

Belonging to their family

The Rev Victor Stock, rector of St Mary-Le-Bow Church in the City of London, has been looking at the Church in new ways following a recent visit to Sweden. In the Spring 1996 edition of his parish newsletter, *The Sound of Bow Bells*, he writes: "In Stockholm the other day, at an ordination, I was suddenly conscious that I was going up to the altar in a foreign country as a full member of another Church - the (Lutheran) Church of Sweden and the Church of England have long been in full communion. And as the young women and men knelt before the bishop to receive the priesthood, clothed in beautiful new chasubles, I was conscious of belonging to their family, and of their belonging to mine. It was a strengthening experience."



Easter Day at Winchester Cathedral, England, affirmed the Porvoo Agreement between Anglicans and Lutherans as Pastor Tormod Wasbø (second from right), Rector of St John's (Lutheran) Church, Stavanger, Norway, took part in celebrating the Eucharist. The Norwegian Lutheran was in Oxford and Winchester during his visit to England. Pictured at the Easter service are, from the left, The Rev Charles Stewart, precentor of the Cathedral; Canon Philip Morgan, treasurer of the Cathedral; the Rt Rev Michael Scott-Joynt, Anglican Bishop of Winchester; Pastor Wasbø; and the Ven Alec Knight, Archdeacon of Basingstoke. (Photograph by Clive McClester)

Strengthening Winchester-Stavanger links

The visit by the Rev Tormod Wasbø from Stavanger, Norway, to Winchester Cathedral in England has strengthened Lutheran and Anglican ties in these communities. Pastor Wasbø of the Lutheran Church of Norway was an "honorary canon" at Winchester during Holy Week and Easter.

Pastor Wasbø reports that the relationship between the cathedrals of Winchester and Stavanger goes back to the 12th century. Both cathedrals are dedicated to St Swithun and the Holy Trinity. Links have been occasionally kept up between the cathedrals and cities, but the celebration of the

millennium of Christian worship in Norway in 1995 and the celebration of the Porvoo Agreement this year have spurred new activity to strengthen this historic relationship. The Rt Rev Geoffrey Rowell, the Anglican Bishop of Basingstoke, in the Winchester Diocese, took part in the 1995 celebrations in the Cathedral of Stavanger.

Pastor Wasbø wrote of his visit to Winchester this year: "Staying with the Chapter of Winchester Cathedral, sharing in the celebration of Easter, can really not be described in words. All the ceremonies made a deep impression: the procession through the streets of Winchester on Palm Sunday; the blessing of the oils, renewal of vows and footwashing by the bishop on Maundy Thursday; the adoration of the cross on Good Friday; the lighting of the Easter Candle on the Vigil of Easter. To some extent the Anglican and the Lutheran ways of celebrating are not far from each other. Both churches have, in recent years, renewed and enriched the liturgical life of congregations. In both churches the Easter event is the centre and the base for a deep commitment and care for congregational life.

"It has been a great honour and a marvellous experience for me, a Lutheran clergyman, to take part in the celebration of Easter at Winchester Cathedral. This is possible because of the Porvoo Agreement."

Apologies to Sweden!

Another editing error in *The Window* (No.48) caused the last article on the back page to end in the middle of a sentence! Have readers been holding their collective breaths waiting to learn what the Bishop's Council from Uppsala are up to? In this story of the links between the Lincoln Diocese of the Church of England and the Church of Sweden, the full sentence should have read: "There will be 18 members of the Bishop's Council from Uppsala in the Lincoln Diocese on a short visit in September."

At the rate *The Window* is making such errors, the "apologies" column might become a regular feature.

New books on Luther

Four new books on Martin Luther and the Lutheran Church are now available through the Anglican-Lutheran Society. One purpose of the Society is to make available books in English on the Lutheran Church.

You may order books by post. Make cheques payable to the Anglican-Lutheran Society, 27 Prentis Road, London SW16 1QB. Following are the new titles available:

True Faith in the True God, An Introduction to Luther's Life and Thought by Hans Schwarz (translated from the German). 158 pages, paper, Augsburg, 1996, £9.00 plus postage (see below).

Martin Luther, Faith in Christ and the Gospel - selected spiritual writings by Luther, edited by Eric W Gritsch. 192 pages, paper, New City Press, 1996, £8.50 plus postage (see below).

Luther's Prayers edited by Herbert F Brokering. 112 pages, paper, Augsburg, 1994, £6.50 plus postage (see below).

Lutheran Identity and Mission, Evangelical and Evangelistic? by William Lazareth and Péri Rasolondraibe. 128 pages, paper, Augsburg, 1994, £11.00 plus postage (see below).

Please add 50 pence per book for orders sent within the UK and £1.20 per book for orders sent outside the UK.

Martensen named by ELCA

The Rev Daniel F Martensen has been named director of the Department of Ecumenical Affairs and assistant to the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He succeeds the Rev Dr William Rusch.

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