

The Window

Newsletter of the Anglican-Lutheran Society

Number 52, February-March 1997



The Rt Rev David Tustin, Bishop of Grimsby, will be the featured speaker at the Anglican-Lutheran Society Annual General Meeting at the Swedish Church in London on March 8.

Stavanger Conference plans progressing well

Plans for the Anglican-Lutheran Society's International Conference in Stavanger, Norway, to be held September 5-8, 1997 are developing well following an enthusiastic response to the forms sent out with the last issue of *The Window*. Some 25 people expressed interest in the conference and the Committee believes that more will want to attend when full details are announced.

The Stola Strand Hotel in Stavanger has been booked. Invited speakers will include the Rt Rev Bjørn Bue, Lutheran Bishop of Stavanger; and the Rev Klaus Sturm, assistant to the Bishop of the Evangelical Church in Württemberg, Germany, who will speak on "The church and the challenge of new religious movements." There will also be a presentation on *Together in Song*, the collection of hymns from the Porvoo churches to be published later this year.

Participants will have opportunity to visit congregations of the Church of Norway and to meet local people. There will also be ample time for relaxation and getting acquainted. The Rev Harald Svendsen, Diocesan Chaplain in Stavanger, is providing wonderful help with the local arrangements.

The cost of attending is expected to be UK£225 (US\$360) per person including room and board. Travel costs to Stavanger will be extra. The Committee is working on the best possible price for those who will be travelling from the UK.

Watch for complete information on the Stavanger Conference in the next issue of *The Window*.

Diaconate theme for ALS annual meeting at Swedish Church on Saturday, March 8

The Rt Rev David Tustin will speak on "The Diaconate as Ecumenical Opportunity" at the Annual General Meeting of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, to be held from 10.30am to 4pm on Saturday, March 8, at the Swedish Church, 6 Harcourt Street, London W1.

His lecture, set for 11.45am, is timely because of the recent publication of the Hanover Report on the Diaconate by the Anglican-Lutheran International Commission. Bishop Tustin co-chaired the committee which produced this historic document. He is also a president of the Anglican-Lutheran Society and Anglican Bishop of Grimsby, England.

All members and friends of the Society are invited to the AGM which will begin with coffee at 10.30am. Group members are encouraged to send several delegates.

Bishop Tustin will preside at the Eucharist at 11am with the Rev Helge Pettersson, rector of the Norwegian Church in London, as the preacher. Please note that the Eucharist will precede the lecture rather than follow it, as originally announced.

Following lunch at the Swedish Church, the business meeting will begin at 2pm. Tea and coffee will be served about 3.15pm, following the closing prayers.

The agenda will include reports by Valerie Phillips, secretary; the Rev Brian Coleman, treasurer; and the Rev Ronald T Englund and the Rev Flora Winfield, co-moderators.

National correspondents to report

Members will also hear reports from the Society's national correspondents: the Rev Dr Jaakko Rusama of Finland; the Rev Arndt-Bernhard Müller of Germany; and the Rt Rev Cyril Wismar of the United States. We are pleased to learn that Dr Rusama will be attending the AGM to give his report on the Society's encouraging growth in Finland.

The Rev Gareth Rowlands has recently been appointed correspondent in Wales. (See story on page 3.)

Elections will be held for two positions on the Society's Committee. Flora Winfield is resigning as Anglican co-moderator because she has accepted a staff position on the Council for Christian Unity of the Church of England. (See story on page 3.) The Committee has nominated the Rt Rev Gordon Roe, who retired last December as Anglican Bishop of Huntington, England, as

Anglican co-moderator. He has agreed to serve but sends apologies for not being able to attend the AGM owing to prior commitments for the day.

The term of the Rev Brian Coleman, treasurer, expires at the March 8 meeting. He is eligible to stand again and the Committee has nominated him for re-election. He has agreed to serve for one more year.

Delegates will consider the Committee's proposal for a modest increase in annual membership fees.

The meeting will hear the latest news about the International Conference of the Society, to be held in Stavanger, Norway, from September 5-8. The response from members and friends has been positive and plans are going forward.

Cost of the AGM day will be £5 per person which includes lunch and refreshments. Phone 0181-769 2677 for reservations.

ALS receives generous gifts from Finland and Belgium

Just as the Anglican-Lutheran Society is struggling with the problem of a shortage of funds, generous financial gifts have come from Finland and Belgium.

The Church of Finland will be giving 5000 Finnmarks (about UK£665 or US\$1060) from its 1997 budget. The Rev Dr Risto Cantell, executive director of the Church of Finland's Department for International Relations, says that this amount will be transferred to the Society's account in May.

The Society has received BEF9500 (UK£190 or US\$310), the collection from the Service of Installation of the Rev Dirk W. van Leeuwen as a canon of the Pro-Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Brussels, on January 12. Canon van Leeuwen, who serves St Boniface Anglican Church, Antwerp, reports that he was installed in the Stall of St Henry of Finland at the Cathedral. He writes: "As several Porvoo Churches have chaplains and churches serving the port of Antwerp, recent steps towards unity have an immediate relevance here." The Rev Timo Lappalainen of the Church of Finland took part in the service.

We are grateful for this generous support which helps and encourages the Society. Gifts such as these are essential to our work.

Spirit of Porvoo thrives in northern Sweden

The Rev Timothy Lawes, a Church of England priest, moved to northern Sweden last year with his Swedish wife, Maria. He writes of the ways the Porvoo Agreement is being implemented in his community:

In issue number 51 of *The Window* your lead article said: "The main work now remains to be done, however, as Porvoo is implemented in the lives of people in the thousands of congregations in northern Europe." In the light of this important comment, and indeed the whole of Porvoo, I thought the Society would be interested to know about a personal experience of the Porvoo Agreement being brought into reality in northern Sweden.

I was ordained deacon in 1988 and priest in 1989 in the Church of England. I worked first as a curate at Wymondham Abbey in Norfolk and, from January 1992, as rector of the Felmingham group of parishes, also in the Norwich Diocese.

In June 1996 my wife and I, with our three children, decided on a complete change of direction. After much thought and prayer we decided to move to Sweden. We moved to Skellefteå, a town in the north of the country, which is also my wife's home town. A few weeks after our arrival, I was approached by one of the local Lutheran churches to celebrate the Eucharist in English, according to the Anglican Rite. The response to this has been very encouraging. Also, when the parish learned of my wish to work as a priest in the Church of Sweden, they have given me much practical and prayerful support. The entire congregation at Morö Backe Church has given me every encouragement.

Leading worship in Swedish

The priests of the church, Thorbjörn Bolander, Erik Berggren and Per Lundström, have taken me under their wing to such an extent that I was able to lead the Sunday worship in Swedish one Sunday in January. I have also received much encouragement from the Rt Rev Rune Backlund, Bishop of the Luleå Diocese.

What the future holds I leave in God's hands, but I continue to study Swedish and work towards the day when I can play a full part in the Swedish Lutheran Church. All this is possible because of the Porvoo Agreement.

Porvoo is not just a piece of paper. It is an agreement that is working, practically and spiritually, here in the north of Sweden. It is an agreement which means that I, an Anglican priest, can begin to play a part in the life, work and witness of the Lutheran Church in Skellefteå, Sweden.

Readers are invited to send other stories of Anglican-Lutheran relationships for possible publication in The Window. We especially welcome news of parish life.



Episcopal and Lutheran congregations throughout the United States are discussing the historic vote on the Concordat of Agreement which will be held this summer at conventions of their church bodies. One of these discussions took place on January 19 at First Lutheran Church, West Barnstable, Massachusetts. The Rev Dr Eugene V N Goetchius, of the Episcopal Church (second from left), spoke to members of the Lutheran congregation. Dr Goetchius taught for 32 years at the Episcopal Divinity School and for seven years at Harvard Divinity School, both in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Members of First Lutheran Church with Dr Goetchius are, from the left, David Kern; the Rev Jonathan Ahnquist, pastor of the congregation; and Jacqueline Petersen.

Episcopalians and Lutherans in the USA to vote on Concordat of Agreement this summer

As 1996 was the "Porvoo year" bringing new unity between Lutherans and Anglicans in northern Europe, so 1997 may be the "Concordat year" for Lutherans and Episcopalians in the United States.

The 5.2 million-member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the 2.5 million-member Episcopal Church, USA, will make decisions at national assemblies this coming summer about a "Concordat of Agreement" which will bring their churches into full communion.

Congregations and regional units (synods and dioceses) of the two churches are holding special meetings and events to discuss the Concordat and to get better acquainted with each other.

Discussions began in 1969

The historic Concordat is the culmination of Episcopal-Lutheran discussions which began in the USA in 1969. In 1982 the churches entered into an Agreement on Interim Eucharistic Sharing. Full communion could not take place until there had been further study and agreement concerning the historic episcopate and the ordering of ministry (bishops, priests and deacons).

"Full communion" is not a move towards merger of the churches. A brochure from the ELCA Department for Ecumenical Affairs says: "Like a good marriage in which partners retain their individual heritages, full communion is an openness to share, in the closest of ways, those things which churches have in common through Christ."

If adopted, the Concordat of Agreement

would call upon the Lutheran and Episcopal churches to:

1. recognize in each other the essentials of the one, catholic and apostolic faith.
2. change their governing documents so that full communion is established.
3. have a joint commission work out details in planning for mission, common decision-making and ordination.
4. participate in the common consecration of all future bishops.
5. temporarily suspend a restriction of the Episcopal Church that limits the pastoral office to those ordained by bishops in the line of "apostolic succession", thus allowing ELCA pastors to serve Episcopal congregations and Episcopal priests to serve Lutheran congregations.
6. not insist that Episcopal ordinands subscribe to the Lutheran church's Augsburg Confession.
7. revise the ELCA constitution so that all bishops, including those no longer active, would be regular members of the Conference of Bishops, with their role to be determined.
8. make provisions in the ELCA constitution and liturgies so that only bishops would ordain clergy.

Last year the bishops of the Episcopal Church said: "The call to enter into full communion with another church is a call to conversion and an opening of the heart" because it "offers both of our churches an opportunity for conversion to a deeper living of the Gospel and greater transparency in fulfilling Christ's continuing ministry of reconciliation and making all things new."

Estonian deacon receives training in London

The exciting possibilities of the Porvoo Agreement are again becoming practical. Lagle Heinla, an ordained deacon of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church, is receiving six months of practical training in London under the supervision of an Anglican priest, the Rev Bernhard Schünemann.

Ms Heinla began serving the Estonian Lutheran Church in London at Christmas and will continue until June of this year. Shortly before coming to the UK, she served for six months in Hageri, near Tallinn, Estonia.

She was born in Khotla-Järve, in north-eastern Estonia, and received her degree from the University of Tartu. She expects to be ordained as a pastor later this year, after she completes her final examination in June.

Only five of the 120 pastors in the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church are women.

On March 17 Mr Schünemann will be inducted as priest-in-charge of the Church of St Mary the Virgin and St Nicholas in Littlemore, near Oxford. For some years he served at the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London. His wife, Elo, is Estonian and he comes from Germany.

Gillian Court resigns as Window editor

Gillian Court has resigned as co-editor of *The Window* because of the responsibilities of her work as executive secretary of the Churches Commission on Overseas Students. She has served as Anglican editor of the Society's newsletter for the past seven years.

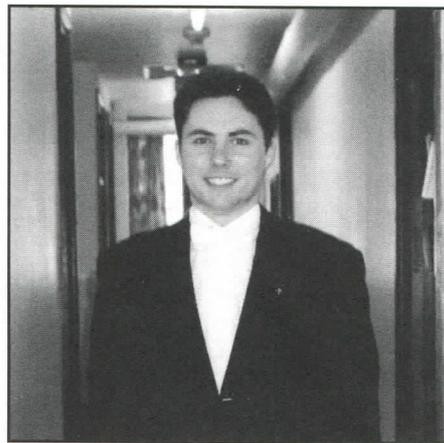
The Anglican-Lutheran Society is grateful for her fine service through the years. No successor has been named as yet. The Rev Ronald T Englund will continue as Lutheran co-editor.

Exchange for Window

The Window has begun an exchange with two publications edited by The Rev Sr Teresa, CSA, in London. They are *Distinctive Diaconate News* and *Diaconate News of Women in Ministry*. Readers wishing more information about these newsletters may write to the Rev Sr Teresa, St Andrew's House, 2 Tavistock Road, Westbourne Park, London W11 1BA, UK.

Finns read Anglican music

The Rev Dr Jaako Rusama, national correspondent of the Anglican-Lutheran Society in Finland, has written a 17-page article on Anglican church music in the *Journal of Finnish Theology*. The article, in Finnish, is titled "Angels' Song - Anglican Church Music" and discusses history, 20th century changes, church music education and important hymnals.



The Rev Gareth R Rowlands, who has been named ALS representative in Wales.

Gareth Rowlands named Wales representative

The Rev Gareth R Rowlands, assistant curate at the Parish of Shotton in the Church in Wales (Anglican), has been named a national representative of the Anglican-Lutheran Society.

He will encourage ALS membership as well as strengthening Anglican-Lutheran relations in Wales. The Society also has representatives in Finland, Germany and the United States.

Mr Rowlands, who lives at St Andrew's House, Garden City, Deeside, Flintshire, earned his B.A. in Public Administration at the University of Glamorgan in 1993. He studied business for six months at the University of Växjö in Sweden.

He trained for the ministry in the Church in Wales at St Stephen's House, Oxford. Last year he was made a deacon and is serving in Shotton with Canon David Bryce Morris. This parish is near the border with England, only four miles from Chester.

The Rev Gareth R Rowlands, St Andrew's House, Sealand Avenue, Garden City, Deeside, Flintshire CH5 2HL, Wales. Phone: 01244-836932.

Anglican ecumenical post for Flora Winfield

The Rev Flora Winfield will become Local Unity Secretary for the General Synod of the Church of England's Council for Christian Unity on April 1. For the past three years she has been associate chaplain at Mansfield College, Oxford, and a member of the theological faculty of Oxford University. Because of her new responsibilities, she will resign as a co-moderator of the Anglican-Lutheran Society. She has served the Society for the past two years.

Her new post involves all aspects of ecumenical work throughout England. She will work closely with local ecumenical projects, partner churches as well as diocesan and county ecumenical officers.

Bibliography on Anglican-Lutheran relations ready

An extensive Anglican-Lutheran Ecumenical Bibliography is now available through the Anglican-Lutheran Society. The 33-page document, the first of its kind ever produced, includes 525 items. They date from the 16th century to the present time.

Dr Michael Root, director of the Institute for Ecumenical Research, founded by the Lutheran World Federation and based in Strasbourg, France, has compiled the extensive listing of documents related to Anglican-Lutheran relationships.

He explains: "A few years ago, I was asked by the Anglican-Lutheran International Commission to gather together all Anglican-Lutheran dialogues and prepare an extended introduction. This task was assigned to me as the consultant to the Commission from the staff of the Institute for Ecumenical Research in Strasbourg. This Institute was founded by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in 1965 to provide theological support to the Lutheran churches in their ecumenical research work, including the dialogues. The dialogue texts have been gathered together for some time, although no interested publisher has been found.

"The extended introduction has turned into a major project, a comprehensive history of Anglican-Lutheran relations from the burning of Luther's books before St Paul's Cathedral in 1520 through Porvoo and the Concordat. Duties at the Institute in relation to the American decisions in 1997 and the upcoming LWF Assembly have held up work on the text, but I hope to be done with it by the end of 1998. This history is far more extensive than many realize, including extensive contact in the mission enterprise and such little-known contacts as the English-Prussian-Hanoverian negotiations of the early 18th century.

"A product of work on this book is a large bibliography on Anglican-Lutheran relations. I believe it contains all official texts of dialogues and official responses to them. In addition, it lists as much secondary literature as I have been able to find. It now runs to 525 items. *The Window* learned of this bibliography and is willing to reproduce it for distribution at a modest cost to interested people. I am happy to share this bibliography, but hope that those who spot omissions will let me know, so that the bibliography can be kept up to date."

(See page 4 for a story on Dr Root's lectures on ecumenism in the USA this year.)

An Anglican-Lutheran Ecumenical Bibliography compiled by Michael Root. Cost: UK£4 mailed to UK addresses; UK£5 mailed to the rest of Europe; and US\$9 mailed to North America. Make cheques payable to "Anglican-Lutheran Society". Send to ALS, 27 Prentis Road, London SW16 1QB, England.

Hein-Fry Lectures in US on ecumenical decisions

"Ecumenical decisions 1997: Implications for teaching, witness and outreach" is the theme of this year's Hein-Fry Lectures in the theological seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Dr Michael Root of the Institute for Ecumenical Research, Strasbourg, France, and Dr Gabriel Fakre of Andover Newton Theological School in Massachusetts, USA, are each giving four lectures, thus covering the ELCA's eight theological schools.

The topic is timely as the ELCA will decide on three ecumenical proposals at its assembly in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania August 14-20. There is the "Concordat of Agreement" with the Episcopal Church, USA; "A Common Calling" involving the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Reformed Church in America and the United Church of Christ; and the "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification" with the Roman Catholic Church.

Dr Root has already given one lecture, at Lutheran Seminary, St Paul, Minnesota. He will lecture at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, on April 18; at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia on April 29; and at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, on May 7.

Dr Fakre has given three lectures already; at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina; at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California; and at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He will lecture at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago on April 9.

The lectures will be published by the middle of this year. The Anglican-Lutheran Society hopes to make copies available to people outside of North America. Watch for further information in *The Window*.

Derby's European exchanges

The Church of England's Diocese of Derby has had links with churches on the continent of Europe for some 40 years. *European Exchanges*, a four-page report, relates a variety of moving stories of reconciliation between enemies, offers of help, enriching friendships and ecumenical discussion based on common problems rather than historic differences. Many of these stories relate to Lutheran churches.

The Derby Diocesan European Exchanges Group, which is chaired by the Ven Ian Gattford, Archdeacon of Derby, promotes these ecumenical visits. The Rev Tony Luke is Diocesan European Officer.

For further information write to Mr Keith Mantell, secretary, European Exchanges Group, 31 Hall Farm Road, Duffield, Belper, DE56 4FS, England.

Philipp Melanchthon, neglected Reformer

Wittenberg, one of the "Luther towns" in Germany, has an impressive memorial to the 16th century Reformation in its city centre. There are two large statues of equal size at the memorial: one of Martin Luther, the other of Philipp Melanchthon.

In 1983, the 500th anniversary year of Luther's birth, there were year-long celebrations in many countries. In 1997, the 500th anniversary of Melanchthon's birth is passing by almost unnoticed.

Admittedly Melanchthon is something less than a household name outside of Lutheran circles. Yet he is a towering figure in church history. He drafted the Augsburg Confession, one of Christianity's most important statements of faith. Lutheran churches remember him each year on June 25 because the Augsburg Confession was presented to the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire on June 25, 1530. In some countries the Lutheran church is called "The Church of the Augsburg Confession."

However Melanchthon was first a teacher who reformed the curriculum at universities throughout Germany.

Anniversary celebration in London

The Anglican-Lutheran Society joined St Anne's Lutheran Church, London, to sponsor a Melanchthon anniversary service at the Church of St Anne and St Agnes, London, on February 16, 1997, exactly 500 years after the date of his birth. Peter Lea-Cox directed the Lecosalda Ensemble in two Bach cantatas: No. 130, which includes a hymn text by Melanchthon, and No. 192, for the Festival of the Reformation. The Rev Volkmar Latossek, who is pastor of four German congregations in London and a member of the committee of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, preached the sermon.

Philipp Melanchthon, born February 16, 1497 as Philipp Schwarzerd, was Luther's colleague at Wittenberg. In 1521 he wrote *Loci Communes*, the first compendium of Lutheran doctrine. In 1530, because of the imperial ban on Luther, he led the Lutheran representatives at the Diet of Augsburg. There he wrote the Augsburg Confession, which is the central confessional document of the Lutheran churches. This document spread rapidly among the churches in Germany. During the 16th century many copies circulated, some with expanded texts and changes of wording. Almost all Lutheran churches today specify the "unaltered Augsburg Confession" of 1530 in their official confessional statements. Three years after its presentation a Danish translation was published. The first English translation appeared in 1536. Since then the Augsburg Confession has appeared in the major European languages as well as in Chinese, Japanese, Hindi, Tamil, Swahili, Zulu,

Indonesian and Malagasy.

In his sermon at the anniversary service in London, Pastor Latossek noted that Melanchthon and Luther met for the first time in 1518. He explained that "Luther was teaching Biblical theology at Wittenberg University when Philipp appeared to give his first lecture as newly-appointed professor of Greek. Luther had favoured another scholar . . . and it came as no surprise that Luther and his colleagues were suspicious when the 'little Greek' showed up."

Philipp was only 21 and not a distinguished figure. But his first lecture, about the improvement of education, was so excellent that he won the support of all. Luther asked Melanchthon to tutor him in Greek and wrote to a friend: "Melanchthon has given such a fine and learned lecture that he received much applause and admiration. He is a man worthy of any honour, perfect in Greek, profoundly intelligent, friendly and open-minded. The auditorium was packed."

Pastor Latossek said that, in disputes with catholic traditionalists, the radical reformers and the Anabaptists, "Luther is the inventing spirit; Melanchthon the structuring mind." In translating the Bible, "Luther is the genius; Melanchthon the solid rock." In university policies, "Luther attracts curiosity; Melanchthon makes sure that students return home with solid knowledge."

Pastor Latossek asked: "What would have become of the 16th century Reformation without Melanchthon? Let me guess and rewrite history. Probably there would be a Lutheran church less than half its size today. The Reformation needed Melanchthon."

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THE WINDOW

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