

SOCIETY FOR ECUMENICAL STUDIES

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2001

Secretary's Notes

The main aim of this letter is to give notice of the AGM and provide the Agenda. As previously notified, the AGM will be at Church House, Great Smith St, London SW1 at 4.30 pm on Tues 13 February.

You will remember that the main purpose of this meeting will be to consider our future direction as well as to receive the routine business. We therefore hope as many as possible will be present.

We are grateful to those of you who have already written expressing your views. There is still time to do so. Later, I summarise some of the views that have already been received.

AGENDA FOR AGM.

1. Opening prayer by Convenor.
2. Minutes (in March 2000 newsletter, but I will try to have a few spare copies available).
3. Financial statement (given below)
4. Report on recent activities.
5. Election of Acting Convenor, Secretary, Treasurer and other Committee members.
6. Discussion of our future in the light. of which the Committee will meet, probably on March 8, to do any necessary planning.

Financial Statement (Provisional)

Balance reported at last AGM £	£1591-67
Income (subs)	£292-00
Expenditure	£487-20
New balance	£1361-47

The above is based on figures supplied to me by the Treasurer. You will note there is a shortfall in the balance. We will check on this and aim to have a fully accurate set of accounts for the meeting. However, what follows below in general explanation of our income and expenditure does represent the overall situation.

Factors in this situation: Fewer have paid their subs! However, some moneys failed to arrive because the GPO did not send on all the Treasurer's post while she was away from her address in Islington and staying in Kensington.

Expenditure is higher because of a Committee decision normally to give an honorarium to speakers as well as their

expenses. Secretarial expenses came to £103-94. Other expenses were for meetings (including honoraria), as already noted.

Proposals, suggestions for the future.

Nine people responded directly to Martin Conway's letter from the last mailing. Each person has made somewhat different suggestions, but I note that

(1) There seems to be reasonable support for the idea of a longer, possibly annual Conference, though there one person has said 'not necessarily every year'; there is also some difference as to length, overnight or 2-3 days for example.

(2) On other issues, one person did favour concentrating on one issue at a time; another warned that such concentration would have to be carefully thought out as choosing the wrong issue might put people off. Relatively little was said about regional groups though two members said it would be a pity to limit our activities to them. A couple of members talked about involving younger people and one suggested the need to involve more people with a concern for local ecumenism. Several people said they valued the information in newsletters and/or wanted the Society to stimulate them.

We will pick up these and other ideas on 13 February.

Enclosure.

With this mailing, I send a copy of the talk given by Marianne Dorman at our meeting in Oxford last March on the ecumenism of Lancelot Andrewes and other Caroline divines. On a personal note.

Martin mentioned in his letter that I am anxious to and over to some one else, as secretary, in the relatively near future. I feel that someone is needed who is much better at promoting the Society; also someone who has better computer presentational skills than I have. Nor, to put too fine a point on it, am I the world's most efficient person! I hope it is a measure of my commitment to ecumenism that I have been prepared to do something which certainly does not come naturally to me.

With my warmest best wishes to all members for 2001.

David Carter (Secretary)