

# SOCIETY FOR ECUMENICAL STUDIES

## NEWSLETTER

June 2002

### **Secretary's Notes**

With this newsletter come the minutes of the AGM, including an account of the ensuing study meeting on the diaconate, provisional details of our plans for the coming year, a couple of sheets about the forthcoming meeting of 'Societas Oecumenica', which is due to take place at the end of August in Salisbury. The organisers are keen to attract more British participants.

### **Plans for the coming year**

We will be holding a meeting at the United College of the Ascension in Birmingham through the kind co-operation of Rev. Dr, Israel Selvanayagam, on Saturday Nov. 9. There will be two main sessions. One, likely to be devoted to interfaith issues, will be organised by Israel and his colleagues, the other by ourselves. The latter will take the form of updating on recent issues and is likely to include a report on the current state of the international Roman Catholic Methodist dialogue, which, by then, will have begun its eighth quinquennium, this time on ecclesiology.

We are delighted to record the fact that two of our members, the Rev Dr. Paul MacPartlan and Rev. David Chapman, have been newly appointed members of this international commission.

We are now further ahead with our planning for the big meeting at St Alban's next May. This meeting, which will be held in conjunction with other organisations, will take place at the Abbey on 17 May. Both Cardinal Kasper and Rowan Williams will talk to us about the future of ecumenism. We will be organising an over lunchtime meeting of our own to discuss some of the issues and pose questions to the speakers.

In addition to this, we have also made a provisional booking for the week-end for up to 25 of our members to stay at the All Saints' Pastoral Centre in London Colney which is close to St Alban's. This means that we will be able to have some extra sessions of our own on the Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday morning to reflect on the theme and the presentation by the speakers and ensuing discussion. The cost of staying there is likely to be about £78. In the autumn newsletter exact details for booking, both for the Saturday at St Alban's and the week-end at London Colney, will be sent out. It will be important to have definite bookings made for London Colney by the end of the year so that we do not have to forfeit any payments at a later stage.

Mark Woodruff informs me that there is likely to be a day conference held in London on March 22 concerning the life and witness of the ecumenical pioneer, the Abbe Paul Couturier, the fiftieth anniversary of whose death occurs at that time. Various societies will be sponsoring this and we shall hope to give you fuller details later.

### **Subscriptions**

As you will remember, we did not request these last year because of the hiatus in our activities, but we would now like members to send them to our Treasurer, Sister Fidelis, at 40 Duncan Terrace, London N1 8AL. £12 per single member (£14 for married couples, £6 for retired members, £8 for retired couples).