

The Society for Ecumenical Studies

Registered Charity Number 1096515

April 25 2004

Dear Friends

AGM

I enclose the Minutes of our AGM held in February, together with the finalised accounts for 2003.

Treasurer & Subscriptions

Mrs Hilary Martin kindly agreed to become our Treasurer, following the retirement from office of Sister Fidelis Daly.

Subscriptions for 2004 are now due. Can you please let Hilary have your cheque? The rates are:

Individual Member	£10
Students, Unwaged, Retired	£5
Married Couples	£12
Retired Married Couples	£6

A sizeable number of members have still not paid their 2003 subscriptions. If you no longer wish to receive the Newsletters can you please let me know direct? Particularly in 2003 with the St Albans Conference, membership was excellent value for money and we hope that you will continue to support its work, thinking and plans to work with other societies and groups to stimulate ecumenical study across a range of concerns and subjects.

May Meeting - The Ecumenical Margins

We regret that this has had to be postponed. I am sorry that, having asked everyone to reserve this date in diaries, two of our speakers have had to withdraw for perfectly understandable reasons. We hope to turn this disappointment into an opportunity for a stronger partnership with other bodies for a joint effort in the autumn. I am sorry if this change has inconvenienced anyone's arrangements for May 15th.

Eucharistic Sharing

After the AGM, we took forward some of the discussion from our London Colney discussion in 2003 on our experience of unity in the context of eucharistic separation. I enclose the record of the discussion at Church House in February 2004. A position was set out by Ruth Reardon (Association of InterChurch Families), with a thoughtful response from Judith Maizel-Long, Jean Mayland's successor as CTBI Church Life officer. Some longstanding, close ecumenical groups have been proposed as meeting criteria for special consideration in order to receive at the Eucharist together on occasion (such as the *Groupe Des Dombes*). But it was not felt that, after all, SfES could fall into such a category, as the discussion on our Churches' doctrine and discipline revealed. Clearly, however, the subject of eucharistic unity and the desire for it spurs us on and cannot be left to one side.

Fr Paul McPartlan

Congratulations to our former President upon his appointment by Pope John Paul to the International Theological Commission of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Paul notes the trusting relationship in England & Wales between Catholic theologians and bishops, an abiding fruit of the experience of Vatican II and an experience which he will carry into the wider forum. We trust SfES's work to study and pray together will offer continued support in his own work for progress to Unity.

Focolare, Saturday June 19th

In 2003 Churches Together and Focolare held a great event to celebrate great achievements in Unity so far, *Dare to Share*. Unfortunately, Chiara Lubich was unable after all to be present. *Imagine a World... Enriched by Diversity* is an all day event at Methodist Central Hall in Westminster, 10-30 to 17-30 on June 19th with talks, reflections, performing arts and a keynote address from Chiara Lubich, '*What future for a multi-ethnic, multicultural, multifaith society?*'.

Admission £12 (£9 concessions). Further information from 020 8767 6092 or info@focolare.org.uk . Bookings by phone and fax 01707 336413, email bookings@focolare.org.uk

Cambridge Centre for Ecumenical Studies, Thursday May 20th

The Centre for Ecumenical Studies at Westcott House will take place in the Seminar Room at 2.15pm. Dr David Thompson will offer a Reformed perspective on the Anglican-Methodist covenant. Further details from The Rev'd Dr. Ian McIntosh, Centre for Ecumenical Studies, Westcott House, Jesus Lane, Cambridge CB5 8BP, 01223 741000, email imm26@cam.ac.uk

Societas Oecumenica, 24-29 August

The 13th Academic Consultation will take place in Sibiu, Romania, 24-29 August. Sibiu was the historic heart of German Lutheran church life in the country, but is now a point of friendly relations between Romanian Lutherans and Orthodox. '*On the Way to Koinonia: Church Communion in Transition*' will cover the following themes (in English, French and German):

- Uniting Europe as a Challenge to the Churches
- The Significance of Charta Oecumenica Today
- The way to visible Unity: living communion of the churches today
- The concept of sacramentality - potential for church unity

There will also be a visit to the famous Moldovan monasteries.

The Society is affiliated with SO, and so any SfES members are welcome to attend. I have application forms for any who would be interested in attending (cost - excluding travel - according to standard of accommodation Euros 150-350, with concessions for doubles). Further details on the new website www.societas-oecumenica.de

Our website

I am sorry that this is currently down for maintenance. Apologies for those who have been trying to access it. Please do not hesitate to let me have papers and articles to be uploaded there. Sharing our studies and thinking is something we can thus easily do.

St Albans 2003

The Proceedings of the St Albans Conference have been published in a handsome magazine format. Price £5, a few copies available from me. Or apply direct to Canon Iain Lane at St Albans.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Woodruff, Secretary