

The Society for Ecumenical Studies

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Dear Friends,

AGM

I enclose the Papers for our AGM to be held on Tuesday June 21 at Vaughan House, Francis Street, Westminster. We will be keeping AGM business short (5-30 to 6 pm), so as to get on to a slightly fuller programme than usual. From 6pm David Carter will lead us in thoughts about the current state of unity moves between the Methodist Church and the Church of England, with special emphasis on the idea of Covenant to both sides. Then Fr Stuart Wilson, Director of the *At Your Word, Lord* programme of renewal for the RC Diocese of Westminster, together Fr Mark Woodruff, will lead a discussion about AYWL's season 4, which has seen the birth of ecumenical faith sharing groups in the parishes. The diocese developed some good supporting resources (copy enclosed). Of particular interest to the Society will be how AYWL addressed the issue of hopes for Eucharistic sharing.

Subscriptions

Mrs Hilary Martin, our Treasurer, informs us that only 8 people so far this year have sent in their subscriptions.

The rates are unchanged:

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

A sizeable number of members have still not paid their 2004 subscriptions. If you no longer wish to receive the Newsletters can you please let us know direct?

SFES – Body in Association with Churches Together

In 2004 the Society's application to become a Body in Association with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland was approved. As an ecumenical body with members in all four constituent countries across a broad range of churches, this means that we are also a Body in Association with Churches Together in England, CYTUN (Wales), and ACTS (Scotland).

CTBI is engaged on a process of discernment concerning its role as a UK and Ireland body in relation to the work of the English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish national ecumenical instruments. At its spring Assembly, a number of priorities were set for planning the way ahead. Among these was a renewed emphasis on study and reflection. There had been talk of setting up an 'ecumenical institute', but as there are a number of study centres and other organisations undertaking study on a range of issues, it was felt better to make the most of what already exists and commission work according to areas of expertise. A possible role for the Society in this was discussed when we met to discuss our membership. We are glad if we can make such a contribution.

Canon Martin Reardon

Our much loved past president and founder member, Martin, died early this year. We enter into our records the splendid tribute which another of our leading members, Dr Mary Tanner, wrote for the Church Times in January. We all send our love and prayers to Ruth and the family.

Ecumenical Margins

A very challenging Day Conference was organised by the Society in October 2004 in Birmingham, with special concern for those at the Ecumenical Margins. We have collected the papers by Jean Mayland, John O'Toole, Garnet Parris and Mark Woodruff into a booklet. This is enclosed.

Iona 2005

Martin Conway writes:

Since September much progress has been made towards the week on Iona, entitled 'Breaking Down Dividing Walls in the 21st Century - a week for seeking new ecumenical inspiration', which is being jointly arranged from September 10-16 this year by the SfES in partnership with the Iona Community. Four first-rate speakers will each stay for the whole week and give one major address, while also sharing in the group work and everything else that happens in an Iona week:

Dr Alison Elliot, this year's Moderator of the Church of Scotland, and Director of Edinburgh's Centre for Theology and Public Issues;

Revd Prof. William Henn OFM cap, an American who teaches at the Gregorian University and shares on behalf of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity in a number of important dialogue groups, including the WCC Faith & Order Commission and the joint groups with the Pentecostal and Reformed Churches;

Revd Kathy Galloway, Leader of the Iona Community; and

Revd Garnet Parris, Director of the Centre for Black Theology at the University of Birmingham.

Invitations went out to all member churches of CTBI in September 2004 each to nominate one or two participants under 40. This process has proved a lot more drawn out than we had hoped, partly no doubt for procedural reasons, partly perhaps because of debates about which budget the cost involved could come from. But it has also probably been a bit of a sign that a new thrust for the ecumenical movement is not so very high on denominational agendas these days. However, with a certain amount of reminding and pressing, we have now 28 participants fully registered, and several more said to be in various pipelines which don't yet manage to produce the actual names! I am particularly astonished that neither the Methodist Conference nor the two Catholic Bishops' Conferences on this side of the Irish sea have been able yet to come up with any names for the week, although in each case their Irish counterparts were considerably quicker off the mark!

The week is planned to be both a 'normal' week on Iona, with regular worship twice a day in Iona Abbey, a pilgrimage round the island all day on the Tuesday, and the expectation that everybody will join in the chores after breakfast each morning. But with the four addresses and group work partly focussed on the Epistle to the Ephesians, we expect a high-powered week of debate, prayer and exploration of the challenges of tomorrow which will be memorable for everybody involved in ways that

can benefit not just their churches but the wider ecumenical scene. No decisions yet about how best to report back on it, but we shall surely want as well as need to do that in the autumn. Meanwhile, please pray for us all who are now preparing to take part ...

Other Future Plans

We hope to set up later this year a study day at Regents Park College, Oxford, on the ecumenical acceptance of the various forms of the practice of Baptism. We are also planning, with our member Marianne Dorman and the ESBVM something to mark the 400th anniversary of Bishop Lancelot Andrewes and his contribution to the beginnings of dialogue between Catholics and Anglicans.

Reviews

Finally, we include reviews by two of our members, David Carter and Richard Mortimer, gathered respectively from the ESBVM Newsletter and CTE's Pilgrim Post.

With all good wishes,

The Revd Mark Woodruff

PS Please let Hilary have your subscription. Thanks