

The Society for Ecumenical Studies

Registered Charity Number 1096515

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Dear Friends,

University and Universality, Saturday 5th November 2005

Our next event will be a collaboration with the Oxford Centre for Christianity and Culture at Regent's Park College. A poster is enclosed. Looking at the search for truth – a process well know to ecumenists from the angle of each of their churches – it will relate the notion of theology to other disciplines of learning in the university context: compared with science and medicine, or literary and historical studies, how can 'divinity' hold up beside 'scientific' studies of fact and the theory? Is the former really non-scientific – is the latter truly objective? More important, what is the bearing of the university's discovery of truth on the life of wider society – how does this drive the churches' life as communities of faith and service in the world?

The keynote speakers are the Revd Angus Ritchie, director of the Contextual Theology Centre in East London, and Dr James Arthur, Professor of Education at Canterbury Christ Church University College.

10-30am to 4-30 pm, Regent's Park College, Pusey Street, Oxford OX1 2LB. £10 includes refreshments and a buffet lunch. Please book with Dr Nicholas Wood by 1 November. Cheques should be payable to Regent's Park College.

Lancelot Andrewes at 450

Our member, Marianne Dorman, is a leading figure in the study of the 'Mentor of Reformed Catholicism', who was also arguably a pioneer of ecumenical dialogue and work for the reconciliation of Christians, based on his immense learning, his unfaltering belief in the inviolable Unity of the Church of Christ, and the 'Disputations' he undertook at the behest of King James I with St Robert Bellarmine. Not only is 2005 the 450th anniversary of his birth, it is the 400th anniversary of his consecration as Bishop of Winchester. A service of Thanksgiving will take place in Southwark (Anglican) Cathedral to mark the very day, on Thursday 3rd November at 5-30 pm, with representatives from all the places in which he ministered.

Because of his significance in ecumenical history, the Society also hopes to observe the anniversaries, focussing particularly on those first official Anglican-Roman Catholic conversations. They not only reveal the mutual misunderstanding of Anglican and Roman Catholic positions at the time – even among the respective churches' most learned figures - but also the variety of ecclesiological self-identities and theological starting points which continue to be at play in contemporary ecumenical discussions. Interestingly this has direct bearing on Marian theology, the recent subject for ARCIC's Mary : Grace and Hope in Christ.

We hope to arrange a joint event with ESBVM and Pusey House to develop some of these themes; but sadly this has had to be put off until 2006 (technically within the natal anniversary year, as well as the 380th anniversary of Andrewes' death).

We are delighted that Marianne has agreed to a fresh circulation of her 2000 paper on *The Ecumenism of Andrewes and other Caroline Divines*. Please also see her rich website, www.mariannedorman.homestead.com which contains details of her publications, especially the recently released *Lancelot Andrewes : a Perennial Preacher*

Iona 2005 – Breaking Down Walls in the 21st Century

Our training week for under-40s, for the ecumenical leaders of the Church of the future, ended just a few weeks ago. By the great kindness of John Bradley, editor of Pilgrim Post, a first report from the November issue is enclosed. The authors, Jonathan Dean and Hilary Treavis, were delegates (all of which were nominated by the various churches of Great Britain and Ireland) and so it is especially valuable to have their insights and responses. We will produce a fuller report for the next Newsletter.

AGM

The Minutes of the meeting are enclosed, together with David Carter's paper on Covenanting, looking at the historical theological currents and the future pathways in the Anglican-Methodist unity discussions.

Subscriptions

If you have not already done so, please send payment for your 2005-6 subscription to Hilary Martin.

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 and Churches Together in England : Sharing Communion in a Hungry World

As we reported in May, the Society is now a Body in Association with Churches Together in England. This has put the Society into contact with a number of other ecumenical organisations, which offers scope for collaboration in study and reflection on areas of particular and current concern.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland is changing its role, becoming more of a framework, and passing much direct work as an instrument of the Churches to the nationally focussed CTE (England), ACTS (Scotland), CYTUN (Wales) and ICC (Ireland). The Society, through CTBI, is a Body in Association with all of these, having members in all four parts of the world.

Hilary Martin, Martin Conway and I have been attending a remarkable study conference organised by Churches Together in England for local ecumenical officers on 'Sharing Communion in a Hungry World', the key note speakers being the Revd Inderjit Bhogal (formerly of Christian Aid and part President of the Methodist Conference, currently director of the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum) and the Most Revd Vincent Nichols, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham. Given the Society's ongoing discussion about Eucharistic sharing, and its possible effects, negative and positive, on prospects for unity between groups of Christians and their Churches, we felt it important to go and listen to other perspectives, as well as to

share the range of viewpoints aired at the Society's meetings. Inderjit made a remarkable presentation on how Jesus always presents the Gospel – of justice as well as faith, hope and love – in relation to food and nourishment that is physical as well as spiritual. In comparison, he said, our celebration of the Eucharist in our separate churches is about internal Church concerns and private religious needs, rather than 'Bread...for the life of the world'; and our Eucharistic spirituality ought to be a formation in the 'lifestyle' that counters poverty, hunger and injustice. We hope to be able to circulate a version of this talk with a future Newsletter, together with a report on Archbishop Nichols paper on 'The Eucharist as Event'.

Mary : Grace and Hope in Christ

Please note that Focolare will be hosting a study evening at their centre in Welwyn Garden City on 31 January 2006 at 8pm. We hope the lectures, by ARCIC members Bishop Malcolm McMahon of Nottingham and our member Canon Nicholas Sagovsky of Westminster Abbey, will be available for wider circulation in due course. If you would like to attend, further details are available from Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL8 6JG, tel: 01707 323 620. www.focolare.org.uk

Cambridge Centre for Ecumenical Studies

We enclose a note of the forthcoming series of seminars, under the title *The Ecumenical Agenda*. Further details are on the new website, www.theofed.cam.ac.uk/ces

Edinburgh 1910 Centenary

2010 will be the Centenary of the 1910 Edinburgh Missionary Conference. Events leading up to the anniversary have already begun under the title *Towards 2010*. The first papers, by Kosuke Koyama and Andrew Walls, were given in April 2002 and can be found on the centenary website, www.towards2010.org.uk. It is likely the main commemorative event will take place in the southern hemisphere.

With all good wishes,

The Revd Mark Woodruff

PS Please let Hilary have your subscription. Thanks