

The Society for Ecumenical Studies

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Dear Friends,

Annual General Meeting & Seminar, Tuesday 23 May 2006

This will be held at **5-15pm** at Christ Church & Upton Chapel, 1 Kennington Lane, London SE1. The nearest station is Waterloo and the North Lambeth tube is opposite the Church. The agenda, 2005 draft Annual Report and Accounts are enclosed. Martin Conway, our Chairman, will give a report on the 9th General Assembly of the WCC which took place earlier this year at Porto Alegre in Brazil, and at which he was an interpreter and our member Dr Mary Tanner was elected to serve as one of the new WCC Presidents. There is a good website at www.wcc-assembly.info

The Seminar will follow at **6pm – Recent Developments in Anglican-Baptist Dialogue**, at which the speakers will be Canon **Paul Avis** of the Church of England Council for Christian Unity and Professor **Paul Fiddes** of Regents Park College, Oxford.

The Seminar will be followed by a light buffet supper. Please let me know by phone or email if you are coming, for catering purposes.

Iona - September 2005

This long planned training week for 35 young ecumenical leaders took place in September last year and included representatives of most of the Church traditions in the UK. Rather than send out a summary report, and partly because much of the material is best seen in context, we have placed all the keynote addresses, Martin Conway's introduction, and the compelling responses of the participants on our website (under '2005'). If any one has difficulty with this and would like papers, please let me know. A follow up is being actively considered, possibly for 2007.

Sharing Communion in a Hungry World - October 2005

In October last year, three members of your committee took part in Churches Together in England's week of study on unity and the eucharist, in furtherance of the Society's established concern to consider Church and Communion. Hilary Martin's report is enclosed. Archbishop Vincent Nichol's address is available on our website.

Catholic Learning: Explorations in Receptive Ecumenism – January 2006

This major ecclesiological colloquium for 150 ecumenical experts and church figures took place at Ushaw College, Durham, in honour of Cardinal Walter Kasper and his recently awarded Durham DD. 12 members of the society took part. More than affective spiritual ecumenism among individual Christians, it was about what the institutions themselves can receive from other traditions' structures and experience

with integrity. A book will be published and part 1 of a full report on the Colloquium, internal to the members of the Society, is enclosed with this newsletter.

Societas Oecumenica

SO, the European ecumenical research body to which we belong, holds a biennial conference. Dr Ivana Noble's summary report on the 2004 consultation, *On the Way to Koinonia: Church Communion in Transition*, is available on the website: www.societas-oecumenica.de under 'Aktuell'.

The 2006 consultation will be in Prague, 17-22 August, *Ecumenism of Life as a Challenge for Academic Theology*. This will look at Ecumenism of Life and Hermeneutics, Ecumenism of Life and 'Consensus Ecumenism' and the move from theological interpretation to common witness. Evidently practical and spiritual realities in ecumenically shared life (not least mixed marriages) have run ahead of the step by step theological preparations in the different confessional institutions – does ecumenical theology therefore need to interpret what is happening in life as instances of theology in their own right, especially since trying to achieve doctrinal consensus remains far off. Full fees for accommodation on the campus of the International Baptist Seminary range from 280 to 350 Euros. I have a supply of brochures.

Members' Publications

***F D Maurice and the Crisis of Christian Authority*, Jeremy Morris, OUP 2005**

A study of the attempt to re-invigorate Anglican ecclesiology promoting an ecumenical breadth of spirit for present day relations. We hope to set up a study day to look at this alongside the ecclesiology of others, for instance the Catholic Mähler and the Methodist Shrewsbury in early 2007.

***Beyond the Reformation: Authority, Primacy and Unity in the Conciliar Tradition*, Paul Avis, Continuum 2006**

The abiding traces of the medieval Conciliar Movement in the Churches of the Reformation. The Reformation remains an unresolved argument in the West, so this book explores the theme of conciliar and primatial authority in relation to the ecumenical quest for unity for the fragments that are today's Church.

***Lancelot Andrewes: Mentor of Reformed Catholicism in the Post-Reformation English Church 1555-1626*, Marianne Dorman, Rose Books**

Marianne kindly arranged for the Society to participate in the celebration to mark Andrewes' 400th anniversary of consecration at Southwark. The splendid lecture by Professor Nicholas Lossky comparing Orthodox ecclesiology with Andrewes' understanding of the episcopate is circulated privately herewith to members of the society by kind permission of the Dean of Southwark.

Forthcoming Events

Mariapolis – Focolare, 24-29 July 2006, at the University of East Anglia. The ecumenical temporary 'town' for celebrating the practice of the Gospel of love together. Further details from www.focolare.org.uk

Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ, 18-20 August 2006, at The Friars, Aylesford, Kent. This is ESBVM's latest biennial conference, set to study the new ARCIC Report. Speakers include Bishop Michael Evans of East Anglia on 'Catholic Learning from ARCIC', Archimandrite Ephrem Lash on an Orthodox perspective and David Carter on the ecumenical Church context beyond Anglicanism and Roman Catholicism. The Society will be officially collaborating with this event. If you would

like to go (full cost £110, or £20-30 per day non-residential), please contact Amanda Dickie on 020 8647 5992 or at acadamat@aol.com

Oriente Lumen 'East-West' Study Days, September 9 2006, Minster Priory, Thanet, Kent; and 23 September, Carmelite Friary, Preston, Lancashire. Details awaited.

The Church – Evolving or Devolving – What can we learn from the early Church for the future of the Church today? A Christian East-West Study Day with Bishop Basil of Sergievo at Turvey Abbey, 28 October 2006. The Society will be officially collaborating with this event. Please write to Turvey Abbey, Bedfordshire MK43 8DE to book a place.

Philip Morgan 1930-2005

Since our last Newsletter we heard of the death of our distinguished founding member, Philip Morgan. We send love and greetings to Greta and, as a tribute to his significant achievements, we reproduce Jean Mayland's edited obituary from The Guardian.

The Rev Philip Morgan, who has died aged 75, was passionate about church unity and an enthusiastic supporter of the ecumenical movement. His energy and commitment were enormous. He was a formidable person to have on your side, but a difficult one to deal with if you were opposed to his ideas. I shared his passion for ecumenism but sometimes had to fight him hard on particular issues. He never, however, bore a grudge and we always remained friends.

Morgan was born and brought up in Maryport, Cumbria, as a member of the Churches of Christ (or Disciples), a group originating in the drive west in the United States, which practised adult baptism and celebrated weekly holy communion. After training at Overdale Theological College, Birmingham, he was ordained in 1963 and served as minister for the Churches of Christ successively in the valleys around Merthyr Tydfil, in Avery Hill, south-east London, and Saffron Lane and South Wigston, Leicestershire. In 1967 he became general secretary of the Association of the Churches of Christ in Great Britain.

Morgan was already fired by a vision of church unity as the will of God, and began to seek ways of bringing the Churches of Christ in Great Britain into unity with the United Reformed Church (URC), itself the product of a union in 1972 between the Congregational Church in England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church of England. In 1981 this further union was achieved and Morgan was elected as moderator of the URC assembly, a post he held from 1984 to 1985.

With his phenomenal energy, he was also already deeply involved with the British Council of Churches (BCC) and, from 1980 to 1990, worked as its general secretary. He seemed to have the capacity to do what might normally be the work of three people; his enthusiasm was boundless. He inspired his colleagues at the BCC with his leadership and his longing for church unity. In addition, he was an ardent supporter of peace, a tireless worker for justice and man of prayer. He was a pioneer in welcoming the black-led churches into the BCC, and also fostered relations with the Roman Catholics, becoming involved in the Papal visit to England in 1982.

As BCC general secretary, he went as a delegate to the central committee of the World Council of Churches, where I first got to know him and enjoyed his impish sense of humour during a very difficult meeting in Jamaica. Michael Manley, the prime minister, had put a tax on petrol and there were riots and muggings everywhere, including the university campus where we were living. At another meeting, held in Buenos Aires just after the Falklands war, Morgan and the then Archbishop of York, John Habgood, made sure the British delegates spent every spare moment discussing reconciliation with the Argentinians.

When the Falkland Islanders complained that no one had heard their side of the story, Morgan, Dr Bill Johnson, of the Church of Scotland, and I were sent by the BCC to listen to them. We had a hair-raising journey and reached Port Stanley just in time for Morgan to preach a brilliant evensong sermon in the Anglican cathedral. Morgan had been totally opposed to the war, but there he was persuaded by the islanders' depth of feeling. None the less, neither he nor Archbishop Robert Runcie were willing to allow the St Paul's Cathedral service of thanksgiving at the end of the war to become a triumphalistic victory service. This opposition to Margaret Thatcher's wishes is perhaps the reason that he never received the honour he deserved.

Although devoted to the BCC, Morgan was the first to see that other ways of working in the ecumenical movement were needed, and began discussions with church leaders, including the Roman Catholics, to explore ways of developing unity and setting up instruments to make it possible. The result was the Inter-Church Process of Reflection, which, in 1990, ended in the setting-up of new Ecumenical Instruments for the Four Nations of the British Isles and the reconstitution of the BCC as the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland (CCBI). Much of its success was down to Morgan. If the moribund ecumenical life of the British churches is to be revived, it needs a man or woman of Morgan's energy and vision to bring it about.

Website – www.ecumenicalstudies.org.uk & www.sfes.org.uk

The Society's internet presence has been comprehensively upgraded. All our extant documents and study papers are there and constitute something of a useful archive record of our ongoing study of ecclesiological concerns over the last 12 years. Reading through the early Newsletters and Annual Reports, I realise that some of the earlier papers are not in our files. If you have copies of items not in the online archive, I would be very grateful to obtain them.

The site also contains a more detailed overview of events and conferences members of the Society have been involved in year by year since 2000. A small book review section needs amplification, not least as an accessible guide to the key books for student and local church enquirers. As so much important networking, fact-finding and research is conducted via the web, not the least important section of our website is the Links page with its 80+ hyperlinks to other ecumenical study bodies and institutions. We hope our website can become a forum for ecclesiological news and discussion.

Papers

We enclose the AGM Agenda & Minutes, the Draft 2005 Annual Report and Accounts, Hilary Martin's Report on *Sharing Communion in a Hungry World*, Professor Nicholas Lossky's lecture on *Andrewes, The Episcopate and Orthodoxy*, a Report (part 1) on *Catholic Learning: Durham 2006*, and two book reviews.

Subscriptions

Please send payment for your 2006-7 subscription to Hilary Martin, Treasurer SFES, at Glebelands, Brockenhurst Road, Ascot, Berkshire SL5 9HB. Please consider do so by Standing Order and Gift Aid. Forms can be printed from our website. The rates are:

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

A sizeable number of members have still not paid their 2005 subscriptions. If you no longer wish to receive the Newsletters can you please let us know direct?

With all good wishes,

The Revd Mark Woodruff, Secretary