



The Society for Ecumenical Studies

Registered Charity Number 1096515

A Body in Association with Churches Together in England

Email ecumenicalstudies@btinternet.com
www.ecumenicalstudies.org.uk

14 May 2009

Dear Friends,

Calvinus Catholicus et Ecumenicus

Friday 10 July, 5-30 pm

St Thomas More Room, St Mary's Catholic Church, Draycott Terrace, London SW1

John Calvin: Catholic and Ecumenical?

We are very fortunate indeed to be able to arrange a fascinating discussion for the very anniversary of Calvin's 500th Birthday. We are asking for a donation of only £10 to cover the venue and refreshments. Please send me a cheque to be sure of your place. Sloane Square is the nearest tube.

The first speaker is the very active international ecumenist from the United Reformed Church, the Revd Dr **Donald Norwood**, who has not long completed a year as research fellow at the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Institute at Bossey. In distinction from the reform ideas and movements of others, Calvin understood himself not as Protestant or a Reformer (an implicit criticism of Luther) but fundamentally a Catholic, ecclesiological and theologically, restoring the true Catholic tradition from within.

The second speaker is the Revd Dr **Richard Price**, a priest of the archdiocese of Westminster and Lecturer in the History of Christianity at Heythrop College, University of London. His recent researches have been in the theological legacy of St Augustine, its enduring effect in the life of the Church to this day. Richard will not only be examining the resulting relations between Catholicism and the Churches which look to the Reformation period but also the 'triangulation' provided by Eastern Christendom, the authentically Catholic and Patristic roots to thinking in the Reform and, thanks to the contemporary Ecumenical Movement and such penetrating fresh thinkers as Barth, Congar and Rahner, how a greater meeting of minds and ecclesial life among those who honour Augustine's legacy in two traditions is possible the imaginable a hundred years ago.

More on John Calvin at 500

Another event closely associated with the Society is the initiative from the Centre for the Study of the Christian Church at Exeter University (run by our member Paul Avis) and Churches Together in England, at St Luke's College, Exeter, September. 1st to 3rd. **The Calvin Colloquium** will feature Professors Ian Hazlett, Alan Sell, Peter Marshall, Anthony Lane, and Doctors Martin Davie, John Walsh, Harriet Harri and Robert Pope. Topics covered include: Calvin's place in the Reformation, his effect in Wales, his effect on Anglicanism, his place in Reformed philosophy and historical revival movements, his self-understanding as a Catholic theologian and the modern-day reception of Calvin and his tradition within Roman Catholicism, ending with what may be Calvin's challenge to the Church of today. The cost is £145-185 – booking online is easiest via <http://www.churches-together.net>, where there are also full details. Or contact Carole Golden at CTE on 020 7529 8131.

There are numerous websites to mark this important anniversary in the Church's life and experience, all with an emphasis on re-receiving and renewing the tradition for present day and future faith and mission. Have a look at www.calvin09.org.uk, www.calvin500.org, and www.calvin500.com.

Subscriptions

Thank you to all who have renewed their membership. We have few resources and absolutely depend on your support. It is not too late to subscribe if you have not done so already - £20 (£10 concessions). If you are a tax payer, please fill in a Gift Aid form (available by download from our website).

“Ecumenism of Life as a Challenge for Academic Theology”

The Proceedings of Societas Oecumenica's 14th Academic Consultation in August 2006 are now published by Verlag Otto Lembeck (ISBN 978-3-87476-572-5), Frankfurt am Main, 344 pages, price Euros 28. The contents are listed below. Our being members of SO, its Treasurer, Dr Johannes Oeldemann at the Johannes Moehler Institute in Paderborn, Germany, is very willing to let members of bodies belonging to SO have the book for Euros 22. Please contact him at:

j.oeldemann@moehlerinstitut.de

From Experience to Interpretation: Ecumenism of Life in different Cultural and Confessional Contexts

1. *Bernd Jochen Hilberath* - Ökumene des Lebens als kommunikative Theologie – Erste Vorblicke auf ein Programm
2. *Antoine Arjakovsky* - God's Love as the Foundation of an Ecumenism of Life
3. *Andrew Pierce* - Talking to the Hand. Towards a Theological Dialogue with Fundamentalism
4. *Johanna Rahner* - Ökumene des Lebens – Zeichen des Stillstands oder Fortschritt für das ökumenische Gespräch? Einige Anmerkungen aus römisch-katholischer Sicht
5. *Fedor Kozyrev* - Two Concepts of Religious Education in the Postmodern Age: “Humanitarian” versus “Holistic”
6. *Achim Budde* - Ökumenische Basis-Liturgie: Das Stundengebet als Chance gelebter Ökumene
7. *Stefanie Schardien* - “If Death us Do Part?” Euthanasia as a Challenge for Ecumenical Ethics
8. *Verena Feldhans* - Das Gewohnheitsrecht als Chance für die „Ökumene des Lebens“

Hermeneutical keys for ecumenical theology: doctrinal consensus and/or shared life?

9. *Christoph Schwöbel* - Konsens – Differenz – Referenz: Perspektiven ökumenischer Hermeneutik
10. *Anton Houtepen* - Quod requiritur et sufficit. Antwort an Christoph Schwöbel
11. *Geoffrey Wainwright* - Responsible Theology and the Ecumenism of Life? The “Exchange of Ideas” and the “Exchange of Gifts”
12. *Catherine E. Clifford* - Dialogue and Method - Theological Consensus and Ecumenism of Life
13. *Dietrich Oettler* - Die Integrative Kraft der Schau der Gestalt. Ein möglicher Beitrag - Hans Urs von Balthasars zwischen „Ökumene des Lebens“ und „Konsensökumene“
14. *Martina Bär* - Transzendentes Freiheitsdenken als philosophisches Prinzip ökumenischer Hermeneutik? Dogmenhermeneutische Überlegungen zum Begriff der „Ökumene des Lebens“ (Kasper)

From theological interpretation to common witness: easier said than done?

15. *Ulrike Link-Wieczorek* - Subjekt werden in der Suchgemeinschaft - Ökumene des dritten Weges als Basis christlicher. Lebensorientierung zwischen Fundamentalismus und Relativismus
16. *Parush R. Parushev* - A Baptist's Perspective on the Ecumenical Plurality of Missional Witness to the Way of Christ
17. *Myroslav Marynovich* - Churches for Ecumenism or Ecumenism for Churches?
18. *Eddy Van der Borcht* - The Accra Confession of the WARC 2004 and Its Hermeneutics of Life
19. *René Beupère* - Inter-Church Families: Gift and Challenge
20. *Ivana Noble* - Response to René Beupère: Grace and Challenge of Interconfessional Marriages
21. *Ruth Reardon* - “Double Belonging”
22. *Thomas Knieps-Port le Roi* - Conjugal and Ecclesial Communion in Inter-church Marriage

International Ecumenical Fellowship: Cluj, Romania, 27 July to 3 August 2009

Our friends at IEF invite us to take part in their 39th International Conference: A New Heaven and a New Earth:

“The ecological crisis that humanity faces is a techno-scientific crisis of our civilization. The modern world, fascinated by its own inventions, is tempted to believe that this is all we need. We have been tempted to believe that we are “lord of nature” seeking to rule over it in a despotic way. We have forgotten that in biblical meaning “to rule” is “to serve”. Nature belongs to all creatures, and between human beings and nature there has to be HARMONY, so that nature is personified and humanized, not exploited and degraded.

“Today Christian Churches need to be aware of the sacred purpose enshrined in their ancient authority in order to help make the post-modern world aware that Planet Earth is not simply at our

disposal. We are God's overseers and we need to recover a sense of being co-workers and ennoblers of CREATION, not enemies of it. The aim of the Conference is to seek for and to point to the heavenly meaning of our planet poised as it is between self-fulfilment and self-destruction."

Details from Secretary: The Revd. Cynthia Hardiman, 20 Kent Place, South Shields, NE34 6PU. Tel. 0191 456 1643 E-mail: davidhardiman@btinternet.com

Next Newsletter – and this one

We plan another newsletter in July with details of the autumn activities and plans to honour 2010, the anniversary of the famous Edinburgh 1910 Conference. Brother Steven Smyth, General Secretary of Action of Churches Together in Scotland has asked the Society to contribute to work in Scotland, where we have a good number of members. Can I appeal for our Scottish membership to develop an initiative – it is not easy for me in London to see to this logistically, but we are keen to encourage and support.

The July Newsletter will carry Martin Conway's address on what the Church and the worlds need of the ecumenical movement in the future, given very new economic conditions, and an impending ecological and climate crisis point. Meanwhile in this edition, we present the analysis on the future of ecumenism by the Revd Dr David Cornick, to the Salvation Army Conference in Summer 2008, an event very much in the spirit of "receptive ecumenism". David is General Secretary of Churches Together in England.

We are also most grateful to Dr Reza Shah-Kazemi and Archdeacon Michael Ipgrave whose papers to our autumn 2008 conference in Cambridge on Ecumenism and the Limits of Diversity, offering Christian and Classic Islamic critiques of faith-integrity in a multi-faith environment, made for another remarkable day. Reza, who was one of the Islamic scholars contributing to "A Common Word", has very kindly offered us the paper he subsequently developed for a conference at the Al Azhar University, Cairo in January.

Cardinal Willebrands and His Ecumenical Legacy

Our friends in Societas Oecumenica, especially Dr Peter De Mey at the Theology Faculty at Leuven, have invited us to this conference to take place in Utrecht, 2-5 September. Speakers include Professor Adelbert Denaux, Dom Emmanuel Lanne osb, Metropolitan John Zizioulas, Dr Guenther Gassman, and Cardinal Walter Kasper. The conference fee is Euros 150 plus one's accommodation. Full details are on the website of the Willbrands Archief – www.willebrands.org

Finally – Ukrainian Catholic University

Over the last year I have been corresponding with the excellent team at the young and exciting UCU, the only Catholic higher education institution in the former Soviet lands, established by the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. It has won widespread ecumenical support, not least for its work to rebuild a Christian view of society, business and political life through its Business School and Liberal Arts Faculty.

As you can imagine, this is seen as an essentially ecumenical endeavour, and UCU has developed a principled expertise in finding practical ways of living out mutual Christian forgiveness and mutual learning following years of strife and enmity, and oppression from the state, both Soviet and what went before. This was not just a problem between the Greek Catholics and the Orthodox, but also between the Greek Catholics and their fellow Catholics in the Latin rite.

So there is an exciting Institute of Ecumenical Studies, led by a Russian Orthodox lay theologian and an online distance Masters with faculty from across Europe, East and West, Catholic, Orthodox and from the post-Reformation Church traditions. I have offered the promise of our warm prayers and solidarity in this endeavour – and delighted to see that we join Cardinal Kasper, Archbishop Rowan Williams, Dame Mary Tanner, Revd Konrad Raiser, and the great (and aptly named) Orthodox Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana. See www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua

With every good wish,

The Revd Mark Woodruff, Secretary