



The Society for Ecumenical Studies

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A Body in Association with Churches Together in England

www.ecumenicalstudies.org.uk

Newsletter September 2009

Dear Friends,

This is to bring you good notice of our Autumn Day Conference in Cambridge. We look forward to seeing you.

***The Christian Debt to Darwin:
Acknowledging God's Entire Creation***

Westminster College, Cambridge

Saturday 28 November 2009, 10-30 am to 4 pm

- **Professor Simon Conway Morris**, Professor of Evolutionary Palaeobiology, University of Cambridge
- **Dr Denis Alexander**, Director of the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, St Edmund's College, Cambridge

Tickets £20, including coffee, lunch and tea. Student concession - £12. To book, please send your cheque to Fr Mark Woodruff, 26 Daysbrook Road, LONDON SW2 3TD

Next year, in February in London we will be meeting to ask, 'Can Inter Faith dialogue help or hinder the Ecumenical movement?' Then in May, in collaboration with other bodies, we will be marking the 15th anniversary of Pope John Paul's Apostolic Letter, *Orientalis Lumen*, and taking stock of recent developments in East-West ecumenism, especially the Orthodox-Catholic international dialogue. More details in our winter 2009 Newsletter.

2009 has afforded many opportunities to evaluate the ecumenical legacy of John Calvin 500 years since his birth. A number of our members organised an international colloquium in Exeter in September. In London we met - on the birthday itself - and heard from our committee member and recent Bossey Institute Fellow, Dr Donald Norwood, as well as the Revd Dr Richard Price from Heythrop College. Their two complementary reflections, from the Reformed and Catholic perspectives form the principal content of this Newsletter, together with a reflection from the Orthodox perspective by Fr Maximus Lavriotes.

The AGM Minutes and 2008 Annual Report are posted on our website. The present team (Martin Conway, president; Hilary Martin, treasurer, Mark Woodruff, secretary, with John Bradley, David Carter, Alan Rainer, Maximus Lavriotes and Douglas Knight) were re-elected. And we are joined by Paul Avis and Donald Norwood.

As ever, can I please appeal to members to pay subscriptions? As you can see, we have improved the format of our Newsletter in the hope of a better service – but this costs, and we rely on your support.

Finally, many congratulations to Paul Murray, director of the Centre for Catholic Studies at the University of Durham and the driving force behind the present and hopeful Receptive Ecumenism movement, on his appointment to his own chair of Systematic Theology at Durham. It is richly deserved and we look forward to our own receptive ecumenical learning with him as the initiative develops.

The second Receptive Ecumenism conference took place at Ushaw College in January this year and a second volume of papers is in preparation, together with the further development of the resources for receptive learning in practice on the ground at parish/congregation and at diocese/district/region level, in collaboration with Churches Together in England.

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