

The Society for Ecumenical Studies

Annual Report 2009

The Society's Statues & Objects

The Society was founded in 1995 and became a Registered Charity, Number 1096515, on 14 March 2003. Its objects as a registered charity are the advancement of religion and the education of the public by fostering as widely as possible the Christian Ecumenical Movement, in a way that combines practical experience in social, international and interfaith fields with theological reflection and exploration in regard to divisions between Christian denominations, in particular by providing occasions and a regular forum within which persons and groups of different backgrounds, races and theological convictions can meet for exchange of information, for discussion and to work together on study projects, where appropriate in collaboration with other groups or agencies.

Executive Committee (elected on 27 April 2009)

Dr Martin Conway	President (Chairman)
The Revd Mark Woodruff	Secretary
Mrs Hilary Martin	Treasurer
The Revd Prebendary Paul Avis, The Revd John Bradley, Mr David Carter, Dr Douglas Knight, The Revd Maximos Lavriotes, The Revd Dr Donald Norwood, Mr Alan Rainer	

Dr Paul Murray is an honorary member of the committee, corresponding on the Receptive Ecumenism initiatives, and the Society is delighted to support him in this important work.

Contact Address:

26 Daysbrook Road LONDON SW2 3TD
Tel & Fax +44 (0)20 8678 8195
Email ecumenicalstudies@btinternet.com
Website <http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.uk>

Membership

The Society's network of people at the end of 2009, including subscribers, honorary members and certain related bodies and institutions, stood at 129. Of these, however, only 41 were subscribing and paying members, raising serious doubts as to the future financial viability of the Society and its activities, as well as its role as a useful facilitator of contact and dialogue among academics, church officials and leaders nationally and locally, the ecumenical instruments and other interested and informed parties.

Committee and Activities

During the year the Executive Committee met twice to conduct the Society's business. Study sessions were held on the following topics

- Must the Ecumenical Movement change Course for the 21st Century? – A reflection and discussion led by Dr Martin Conway
- What is the Spirit saying to the Churches? – A paper to Churches Together in Hertfordshire from the Revd Mark Woodruff
- John Calvin at 500: Catholic & Ecumenical – with two penetrating assessments from Dr Donald Norwood and Dr Richard Price of Heythrop College
- The Churches' Debt to Darwin: Acknowledging God's Entire Creation – with Professor Simon Conway Morris, Professor of Evolutionary Palaeobiology at the University of Cambridge and Dr Denis Alexander, Director of the Faraday Institute, St Edmund's College, Cambridge

Newsletter

This is circulated to our members and other institutions and contacts in our extended network. It was issued three times in 2009, in March, May and September. The September issue was the first in an attractive but simple booklet format, making it much easier to read and store. Each Newsletter is also available online on our website.

The principal papers included in the Newsletters were:

- Receptive Ecumenism: An Overview, by David Carter
- Learning from Others: Baptists and Receptive Ecumenism, by Paul Fiddes
- Receptive Ecumenism: An Orthodox Perspective, by Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia
- The future of ecumenism, by the Revd Dr David Cornick
- Beyond Polemics and Pluralism: The Universal Message of the Qur'an, by Dr Reza Shah-Kazemi
- Discernment, Provocation and Retrieval, by Archdeacon Michael Ipgrave
- Calvinus Catholicus et Oecumenicus, by the Revd Dr Donald Norwood
- Calvin: A Roman Catholic Perspective, by The Revd Dr Richard Price
- A Reflection from Orthodoxy on St Augustine, St Maximus the Confessor and St Gregory Palamas, by Father Maximus Lavriotes

Website – www.ecumenicalstudies.org.uk

Papers and reports from most of our events are either on our website or accessible at a linked site. The website continues to be a means to disseminate our discussions and papers and reports by our members to a much wider readership. It now constitutes as full as possible an archive of the Society's activities and studies since preliminary meetings in 1994.

Wider Public Benefit

The recent Charities Act requires all charities to demonstrate wider public benefit. The Society for Ecumenical Studies benefits wider society in the following ways:

- Education and research
- Providing a forum to explore the positive contribution and bearing of the Christian faith on life and society
- Providing a forum to explore and enhance the role of the Christian ecumenical movement in the advancement of society through promoting Christian unity, religious harmony, inclusion of minorities and community cohesion

Income and expenditure for the year	31.12.08 – 31.12.09	
EXPENDITURE		
Book tokens:	£60	
Travel:	£90	
Postage:	£66.60	
Catering:	£233.45	
Printing:	£160.23	
Westminster College:	£150	
Advertising (The Tablet):	£288	
Website subscription:	£59.40	
Stationery:	£22.94	
Total expenditure		£1130.62
INCOME		
Subscriptions by cheque:	£291.01	
Subscriptions by Bankers' order:	£256	
June conference:	£235	
Total income		£782.01
Excess of expenditure over income		£348.61
Opening balance as of 31.12.08:		£997.41
Balance carried forward at 31.12.09:		£648.80

Martin Conway, President & Chairman

Date : 21 September 2010

SOCIETY FOR ECUMENICAL STUDIES

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