

# The Society for Ecumenical Studies

## Annual Report 2010

### **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 21 September 2010)

The Revd Elizabeth Welch	Presiding Officer (Chairman)
The Revd Mark Woodruff	Secretary
Mrs Hilary Martin	Treasurer (resigned December 2010)
The Revd Prebendary Paul Avis, The Revd John Bradley, The Revd Dr Donald Norwood, Christopher Sissons (co-opted April 2011)	

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. The Committee records its grateful thanks to Hilary Martin for her stewardship of the finances over many years as she steps down to concentrate on work related to science and religion. We also record our deep affection and gratitude to Dr Martin Conway for his leadership of the Society as its Chairman 2003-2010.

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### **Membership**

The Society's network of people at the end of 2010 including subscribers, honorary members and certain related bodies and institutions, stood at 87. Of these, however, only 38 were subscribing and paying members. The new Presiding Officer, the Revd Elizabeth Welch, undertook an extensive consultation of members and others in our networks and this met with a strong response from well over half the members. As a result, the Executive Committee felt emboldened to make new plans for 2011 and beyond, aided by new friends to the work of the Society David Tatem, national ecumenical officer for the United Reformed Church and Chris Sissons, the national ecumenical officer for the Methodist Church. We have been extremely grateful to them for their support. Since this valuable exercise, our immediate network numbers 88 persons of whom 59 are subscribers or otherwise active with the Society.

### **Committee and Activities**

During the year the Executive Committee met twice to conduct the Society's business, the second being an open meeting of all interested to discuss and contribute to planning the Society's future role and work. A study sessions was held following the September 2010 AGM:

- Christian Unity – Will it Ever Really Happen? – A reflection and discussion led by the Revd David Gamble, President of the Methodist Conference, 2009-2010

