

Anglican-Lutheran Society Annual Meeting 2019

St George's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Southwark, London

The Business Meeting

Dr John Arnold, our Anglican President, opened the meeting with prayer.

Apologies

There was quite a long list of apologies read out by the Secretary and recorded in the minutes.

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting were agreed,

Matters Arising

GDPR - Helen Harding spoke about the General Data Protection Regulations, reporting that very few members have not completed the form and she is chasing them up.

Constitution - John reported that the Constitution as agreed at the last meeting had been approved by the Charity Commissioners.

Co-Moderators' Report

Jaakko Rusama (Lutheran Moderator) began by reminding us that our Society has been part of the wider Ecumenical Movement for more than 30 years. We aim to encourage prayer for the unity of the Church, especially between Anglicans and Lutherans; to develop opportunities for common worship, study, friendship and witness; and to promote a wider knowledge of the Anglican and Lutheran traditions and contemporary developments affecting them.

We want to build bridges, he said, and we have developed a very good network of relationships despite our small size. We have members on every continent of the world. We have international links with the LWF, CEC and with individuals through our National Coordinators. Individual members also network locally. We hold local and regional events, though in 2018 there were not so many as in 2017 with the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. We promote wider interest through The Window, the website and through Social Media, and Jaakko thanked Dick Lewis for his work as Window editor and manager of the website. He encouraged members to share The Window with other people and to try to encourage them to join the Society.

The Executive Committee now has a "Workplan" which enables them to focus their work and strategic planning and using our resources wisely, and he thanked Sally Barnes for keeping that up-to-date. We first focus on mission and the ecumenical scene, second provide material that is informative and educational, third disseminating publicity in a variety of languages and fourth recruiting and involving new members.

We have individual and Group Members, and Student Members. Last year's we created a new initiative, The Essay Competition launched in 2018 offering a prize to a student researching an ecumenical topic involving Anglicans and/or Lutherans. This is an important way of putting the Society on the map, and we hope it will encourage younger people and students to join us.

He thanked the Presidents, the Trustees and the Officers, Dick Lewis our Secretary, Helen Harding the Membership Secretary and Lisbeth Pedersen our Treasurer.

Bishop Michael Ipgrave (Anglican Moderator) Michael began by saying what a joy it had been to work with Jaakko for another year. He spoke about the Conference that took place in Durham between 24th and 29th August 2018. It focussed on the presence of Christ under the heading 'Christ is Alive! Where do we Find Him? We found him in the cosmos, in scripture and the liturgy, in music, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in deeds of love, in crumbs falling from the table, in Cities of Sanctuary and in our formal Dinner and final worship when Fr Phillip Swingler, our Roman Catholic Observer, was the preacher. It was a very good experience, he said, and you can read all about it in the October "Window".

He spoke of the importance of conferences in our Society's life. They attract a wide international range of people who create networks. The next conference will be in Rome from 19th-23rd October 2020. The theme will be "Finding Forgiveness" and we shall need to limit numbers to 42, so if you want to come get in quickly when the brochure is released. After that we plan to meet in Trondheim, Norway, from 26th-30th July 2022, when the theme will focus on "Hope".

He mentioned the need to set our Bi-Lateral focus into a wider ecumenical setting. Anglicans and Lutherans cannot properly relate to one another without acknowledging the pre-Reformation Christian story which is part of both our heritage. There is much happening between Roman Catholics and Lutherans and Roman Catholics and Anglicans, for example. He also spoke of the importance of “place” when we meet. Being in St George’s Roman Catholic Cathedral is significant, he said, and it was wonderful to meet in Durham in the presence of all the Northern Saints. ‘Locality shapes our conversation,’ he said, and once again said, ‘We look forward to Rome!’

John asked for a very special round of applause for all that they contribute to the working of our Society

Treasurer’s Report

Lisbeth Pedersen, presented the accounts which had been examined by Mr Ray Andrews. She reported that the Durham Conference had been a major part of our accounts, and she thanked Helen Harding and Dick Lewis for their careful budgeting. The generosity of the Central Lutheran Council and Visby Diocese, as well as some individual members, had enabled the Society of award bursaries to four students and one needy member, and the large number attending (20 more than had originally been anticipated) meant that the Society made a profit of around £3000 which the Executive Committee has decided to earmark for the Rome Conference in 2020. She said that, setting the conference accounting aside, the Society made a small surplus in the year ending December 2018. She thanked everyone who supports the Society financially, and in particular members who have made contributions for specific purposes. She assured the meeting that the Executive Committee made sure that money donated for particular purposes was entirely used for that purpose.

John thanked Lisbeth saying that it was a source of great comfort to him to have colleagues who are both literate and numerate. He was sure that our finances are in good hands. The meeting agreed to the appointment of Mr Ray Andrews as Examiner of our Accounts.

The National Coordinators’ Reports and the **Membership Report** were received.

The Elections

In the absence of any other nominations the Moderators, Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected and Mr Richard Stephenson (Anglican) and the Rev Sarah Farrow (Lutheran) were elected to fill the two additional places on the Executive Committee created by the change to the Constitution made last year.

The Business Meeting was concluded with the Blessing.