

## Anglican-Lutheran Society Conference 2016, Visby, Sweden

### DAY ONE

Well, we've all arrived safely, though not entirely without incident! Two people's baggage is still in transit, but quite where no-one knows! A series of thunderstorms at Dulles Airport, Washington DC, delayed two people's flight by two-and-a-half hours so they missed their connections and arrived a whole day later than they'd planned. Another person missed a flight by five minutes and lost a day. But everyone else had relatively smooth journeys.

Most came by plane. One took four ferry rides and several train journeys spread over a number of days. We came from all around the world, from Korea via Helsinki, Canada via Croatia, the USA, Tanzania and from mainland Europe and the UK. There are 63 of us in all.



Nearly all are staying in one hotel, the Solhem in Visby. It is very comfortable. Having checked in everyone registered for the conference and received their Welcome Pack. These contain all our conference papers, worship booklets, several maps and a free pen (!) and had been put together by Sara and Stellan who work with Richard Wottle for the Diocese of Visby.



After tea, coffee and cakes we were led through the medieval city to the cathedral and our conference venue in the cathedral parish hall. There we enjoyed a introduction to the Island of Gotland and the Diocese of Visby by Richard Wottle, *Stiftsprost* in the Diocese and Vice-Chairman of the Society for Gotlandic Church History.

Richard's presentation covered the story of the Island and its people and their Christian heritage from the earliest times to the present day.

You can find his presentation by clicking the link on the website.



It was just a short walk from the Parish Hall to the *Munkkaellaren*, a delightful restaurant where we enjoyed a wonderful fish dish and dessert.

The day ended in the quiet of the cathedral with a very simple Night Prayer led by Perran Gay.



Tomorrow we look forward to an educational tour of the Gotland and some of its 92 magnificent churches.