

Anglican-Lutheran Society

Since 1984

Annual General Meeting

9th March 2024

St Mary's German Lutheran Church, London

Co-Moderators' Report

By the Rt Revd Paul Ferguson, Anglican Co-Moderator, and the Revd Dr Jaakko Rusama, Lutheran Co-Moderator

The Anglican-Lutheran Society is an independent international ecumenical organisation with members from all continents.

The main aims of the Society are to:

- *to encourage prayer for the unity of the Church, and especially between Anglicans and Lutherans;*
- *to develop opportunities for common worship, study, friendship and witness;*
- *to promote a wider interest in and knowledge of the Anglican and Lutheran traditions, and contemporary developments affecting them.*

In 2023 we had two major events:

- The Annual Meeting in March
- A reception in September

The **Annual Meeting** was held on 11 March 2023 in Coventry Cathedral, live and on Zoom.

In conjunction with the meeting, we had a seminar on “An Ecumenical response to the Violence of War”.

Coventry and its rebuilt Cathedral were a very appropriate place for discussions on peace and reconciliation.





The City of Coventry and the Cathedral were severely damaged by a German bombing campaign on 14 November 1940.

The ruins of the Cathedral stand as a reminder of destruction but also of friendship and reconciliation.



The speakers were:

Canon **Mary Gregory**, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, spoke on “Healing the wounds of history”.



The Rev **Frank-Dieter Fischbach** from the German Protestant Church (EKD) described the discussion on peace ethics in his church since the war against Ukraine began.



Mr **Matthew Carter** from Depaul International spoke on a faith perspective to assistance and the work of Depaul in Ukraine.



The speeches are well reported in the Society's newsletter, The Window, May 2023.



The participants included our Co-President Bishop **Jana Jeruma-Grinberga**, the Membership Secretary Mrs **Helen Harding** and the National Coordinator in Norway, the Revd **Fredrik Ulseth**.

The Co-Moderators

The functions of the Co-Moderators are to:

- *ensure that the work of the Society is conducted in accordance with its aims;*
- *ensure that the business of the Executive Committee is conducted in an orderly and effective manner;*
- *ensure that the requirements of this Constitution are met;*
- *ensure that the Society's Newsletter serves the aims of the Society and reflects its concerns in a balanced and proper manner;*
- *invite the nomination of persons to temporary membership of the Executive Committee when positions become vacant between Annual General Meetings;*
- *ensure that appropriate publicity be given to the Society.*



+

The Rt Revd Dr **Michael Ipgrave**, the Church of England Bishop of Lichfield, formerly of Woolwich, served as Anglican Co-Moderator from 2013 to 2023.

The Lutheran Co-Moderator is the Revd Dr **Jaakko Rusama** from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland and of Helsinki University, Finland.

○



In 2023 Bishop Michael was succeeded as Anglican Co-Moderator by the Rt Revd **Paul Ferguson**, the Church of England Bishop of Whitby. He was elected Anglican Co-Moderator at the Annual Meeting on 11 March 2023.

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met four times.

The Committee (Trustees) consists of two Co-Moderators, Secretary, Treasurer and elected Trustees – an equal number of Anglicans and Lutherans.

In 2023 on the agenda the Committee had items which included:

- Planning of future events
- Memberships
- Contacts with churches, national and international church bodies and ecumenical organisations
- Communications
- Participation in various events

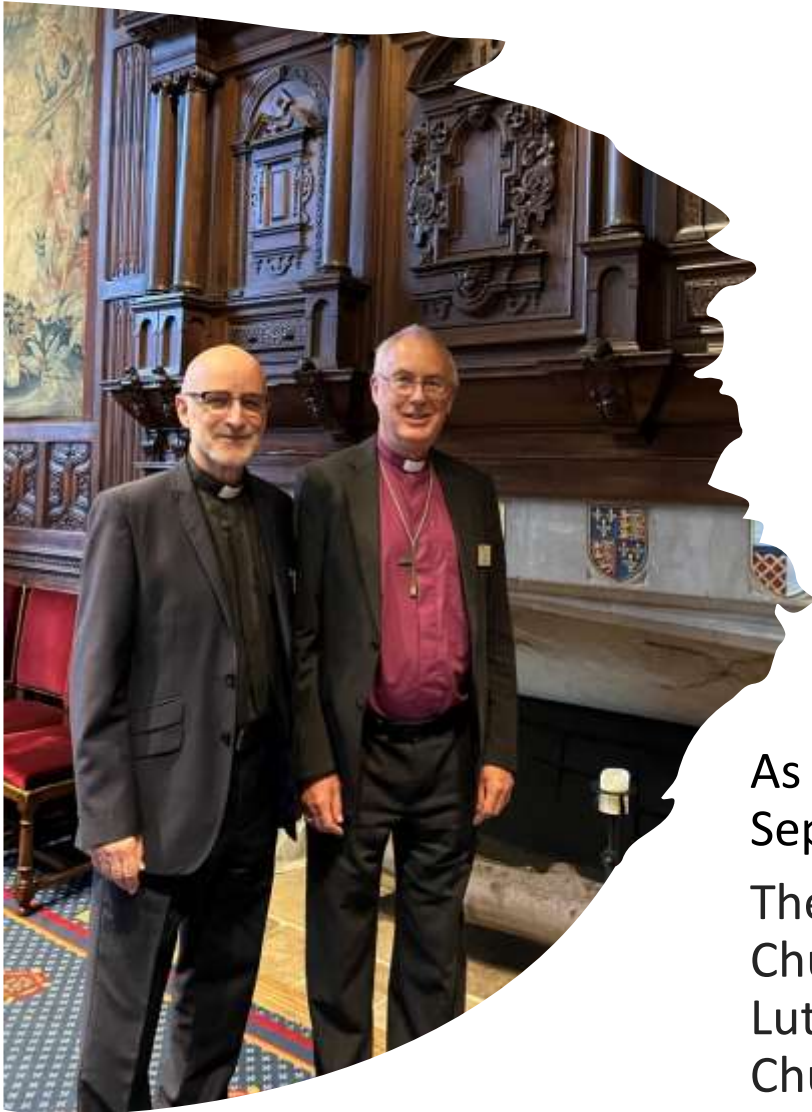


New Constitution

The Executive Committee studied carefully the Society's Constitution.

As a Charity organisation it was necessary to clarify some points in the Constitution and corrections were accordingly made.

An updated Constitution was prepared for the 2024 Annual Meeting.



The Rev **Rebecca Daniel** (one of our Trustees) and the Rev Canon Dr **Jeremy Morris** (National Adviser on Ecumenical Relations at the Church of England)

As in 2022 a **reception** was held at Westminster Abbey on 25 September for Anglican and Lutheran chaplains and pastors.

The Society invited to Evensong clergy and lay members from the Church of England and various other Churches, including the Lutheran Church in Great Britain, the Council of Lutheran Churches, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in England.

After a short tour led by Canon Dr **Jamie Hawkey** in the Abbey we were served with refreshments in the famous Jerusalem Chamber at the invitation of the Dean.

German Kirchentag 7 to 11 June 2023

The 38th Kirchentag was held in June in Nuremberg (Nürnberg), "Now is the time" (St Mark 1.15).

For more than twenty years the Anglican-Lutheran Society has taken part in the Protestant Church Assembly (Deutscher Evangelischer Kirchentag).

In 2023 our Society again had a stall at the "Market of Possibilities" with informative material. The stall was well visited.

About 70,000 people took part in this very international and ecumenical event held every other year, from the UK also e.g. representatives of the Churches Together in England.
(See reports in *The Window*, October 2023)



Next time the Kirchentag will be held 30 April to 4 May 2025 in Hanover with a theme "Courageous, Strong, Stout-hearted" (1 Cor 16.13-14).

The **website** (anglican-lutheran-society.org) gives members and enquirers an easy way of accessing information about the Society and keeps up-to-date on Anglican-Lutheran issues.

For example, the themes and presentations at the AGM and information of the forthcoming Conference in Edinburgh 13 to 17 September 2024 are available on the website.



Another important channel of communication for the Society is the newsletter, **The Window**, which is published four times a year. It is sent to all members and to many ecumenical offices, theological colleges and international contacts.

The Window reports on many Anglican-Lutheran events and experiences from all corners the world, and on bilateral and multilateral ecumenical achievements and so reflects the international character of the Society.



In social media both **Facebook** and **X (Twitter)** have been used actively.

On Facebook we have five regional or thematic sites: Anglican-Lutheran Society, Anglican-Lutheran Society Benelux, Anglican-Lutheran Society Finland, Anglican-Lutheran-Society Deutschland/Germany, and Anglican Lutheran Society Students.

The work of the society is done by volunteers - there are no paid staff. And many of our activities are run by laypeople. We are blessed with committee members and national coordinators who attend meetings, plan programmes, promote the Society and in various ways support the objectives of the Society.

We have national coordinators in Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway and the United States, also active cooperation in the Benelux countries and Sweden.

The national coordinators promote the Society in their countries and, as time and money permit, organise activities for local members.

We express special thanks to:

- our secretary and the editor of The Window, the Revd Canon **Dick Lewis** with his dedication and tireless work for the Society has skillfully and innovatively produced each issue of The Window
- Mrs **Helen Harding** as Membership secretary has for many years taken care of the growing number of members
- Mr **Patrick Litton** as Treasurer has guaranteed that we have a sound economy in the Society and the resources are wisely spent.
- the Rev **Jo Jan Vandenheede** has been helping our communication on social media for many years

A special word of thanks to our Co-Presidents, Bishops **Jana Jeruma-Grinberga** and **David Hamid** who have given much of their time and their deep theological and ecumenical knowledge to the work of the Society.

We are part of Anglican Lutheran efforts to express the unity in Christ

Porvoo Communion of Churches

The Porvoo Communion is a communion of 15 Anglican and Evangelical Lutheran churches in Europe (six Anglican and nine Lutheran). A theological agreement entitled the Porvoo Common Statement establishes full communion between and among these churches.

Transitivity

The parallelism of the Anglican (Episcopal) – Lutheran ecumenical agreements in the United States (*Called to Common Mission Agreement, 1999*) and in Canada (*Waterloo Agreement, 2001*) with the Porvoo Common Statement and Declaration.

The parallelism was approved by the North American churches' synods in 2022, called *Churches Beyond Borders*, and later by many churches within the Porvoo Communion.

The Anglican Lutheran Commission on Unity and Mission (ALICUM) met only a few days' ago in Singapore

Reporting and evaluating the implementation of the main agreements between Anglicans and Lutherans.



We are part of global ecumenism



As an international ecumenical organisation, the Anglican-Lutheran Society has links especially with the *Anglican Communion* and the *Lutheran World Federation* (LWF).

In 2023 the LWF held its 13th Assembly in Krakow, Poland, and elected new President, Bishop **Henrik Stubkjær** of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark.



It may be noted that the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, the Rev Dr **Anne Burghardt** is a member of the Anglican-Lutheran Society.



The Patrons of the Society are the Archbishop of Canterbury and the President of the Lutheran World Federation.

Also, in 2023 the *World Council of Churches* elected new General Secretary, the Rev Prof **Jerry Pella**, a Presbyterian from South Africa.

