

# **Anglican-Lutheran Society**

**Annual Meeting, 9th March, 2024 in St Mary's German Church, Sandwich Street London**

**Report by the Rev Dr Jaakko Rusama, National Coordinator in Finland**

## **Activities**

Anglican-Lutheran activities are part of national and local ecumenical work run by several organisations. Academic, educational and research links and participation in ecumenical events continued.

There are less than two hundred Anglicans living in Finland and three Anglican congregations. The Anglican-Lutheran Society's Finnish branch works closely and in good cooperation with the Church of England Chaplaincy in Finland, the St Nicholas' Anglican Church, Helsinki. With practically all major churches the Anglicans are members of the Finnish Ecumenical Council and the National Forum for Cooperation of Religions (CORE Forum). The Anglican Church receives significant financial support from the Lutheran Church and the local congregations.

## **Diocesan links and twinnings**

There are three Diocesan twinnings which we have found encouraging: The Finnish Lutheran Diocese of Tampere and the Diocese of Manchester, the Finnish Diocese of Espoo and the Diocese of Edinburgh of the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Helsinki with the Diocese St Asaph Church in Wales.

## **Communication**

Information of Anglican-Lutheran activities and events and of the Anglican-Lutheran Society is shared mainly by two means: the Anglican-Lutheran Society Finland Facebook site and the newsletter, *The Window*. The newsletter has been received with gratitude and is widely distributed electronically in Finland.

## **Membership**

In 2023, there were more than 200 active supporters, most of them from Finland, but also from more than a dozen other countries. They not only follow the news, but also share the news with others. During the year many of them were contacted and invited to become personal members. As a charity the Society needs to keep an up-to-date list of members.

## **National Coordinator**

Since 1996 the National Correspondent as a Lutheran pastor has had the Permission to Officiate in the Church of England, based on the Porvoo Common Statement. He assists the Anglican chaplaincy on a non-stipendiary basis.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland has a joint working group on Anglican relations. The Anglican-Lutheran Society in Finland is represented in the working group.

## **Funding**

For decades, the Finnish Lutheran Church has every year financially supported the Society and the work of the National coordinator, for which we are very grateful.