

Anglican-Lutheran Society

Annual Meeting 2021

By Zoom from All-Hallows-by-the-Tower, Byward Street, London EC3 5BJ

Saturday 6th March, 2021

‘WITNESS THROUGH SERVICE AND SACRIFICE’

Martyrdom and the Church Today

The Annual General Meeting

The Ven Christine Allsopp took the chair.

APOLOGIES : were received from: John Arnold, Bp Tor Jorgensen, Gudrun Kaper, Janet Lewis, Hans-Erik Nordin, Angela Stewart, Phillip Swingler, Christof Thielemann, Richard Wottle and Eliza Zikmane.

ELECTION OF THE CO-MODERATORS : Bishop Michael Igrave and the Rev Dr Jaakko Rusama had both been proposed and seconded and no other nominations had been received before 3rd March. They were declared elected.

Christine handed the chair to Bishop Michael who thanked the members for their confidence in and patience with himself and Jaakko!

MINUTES : the minutes of the last AGM, dated 23rd March, 2019 (there having been no AGM in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic) were agreed and received by the meeting.

CO-MODERATORS’ REPORT

The year started with great expectations and with planning for the Annual Meeting to be held in March. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Annual Meeting was cancelled, and the Conference in Rome planned for October also had to be cancelled. However, the Committee worked effectively and held a normal meeting in January and three more in June, September and December on Zoom. Issues discussed were updating the plan of action, preparing for the virtual conference in May which will take up the theme of the cancelled Rome conference, making arrangements the Conference to take place in Trondheim, Norway, in 2022, and reviewing Anglican-Lutheran diocesan partnerships. Expenditure has been much reduced by holding virtual meetings and because the Annual Meeting and Rome conference did not take place.

Links outside the UK were continued by the National Coordinators in Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, and the USA. The Society’s website, www.anglican-lutheran-society.org, was updated, and we have a Facebook site and extra sites in Finland and Germany. There has been a promising increase in student members and a special Facebook site has been set up for them. The newsletter, *The Window*, appeared in January, May and October and received positive feedback from many members and supporters.

Finally, since the last AGM the Very Rev Dr John Arnold had resigned as Anglican President and Patrick Litton succeeded Lisbeth Pedersen as the Treasurer.

TREASURER'S REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENT – Patrick Litton

Patrick introduced himself, and thanked Lisbeth Pedersen, his predecessor, for making the hand-over so efficient in early in 2020. The pandemic in 2020 and the government restrictions have forced many people, including ourselves, to adapt to new ways of living and new ways of working. However, the Society's income held up well – and indeed increased, owing to many attendees for the Rome conference converting their fees into subscriptions or donations, although some held over the money for the next time we can meet. Fortunately, the recovery of some of the deposits paid for Rome accommodation flattered the top line which, combined with reduced costs (primarily owing to less travel) ensured that the Society ended the year with a creditable surplus of £5,354 (compared with a 2019: *Deficit* £1,527). The trustees also took the decision in the year to invest some of the surplus bank funds in one of the CCLA Funds to generate an income, as very little interest was being paid by the bank. At the end of the year total funds stood at £21,405 (2019: £15,558). The Society is indebted to Ray Andrews for his kind examination of the accounts.

APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS

It was proposed and seconded that **Ray Andrews** fulfil this role for the Society again in 2020. He had indicated his willingness to carry on. Agreed unanimously.

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS

USA – Tom VanPoole

On December 31, 2020 the Society's US branch (International Lutheran Episcopal Society) had a bank balance of \$2,914.30. In December \$1,045.29 was transferred into the Society UK account. Since then cheques for \$95.00 and \$285.76 transferred from the US PayPal account leaves a current US balance of \$3,245.06. There are 113 names on the list of members but regrettably not all of them are 'active'. I have been delighted to add two Mexican and two Canadian members to my email distribution list. So perhaps I should be known as the 'North American Coordinator'!

GERMANY

Our National Coordinator, the Rev Jochen Dallas, has tendered his resignation, though he remains an enthusiastic member of our Society. He reported only limited enthusiasm for ecumenism in Germany at the moment. Congregations are preoccupied with more immediate issues. He has also found it almost impossible to organize any activities with the members there. The Executive Committee is urgently seeking a successor, Jochen was thanked for all that he has done to promote the Society, to encourage members to attend meetings and conferences and to advertise our existence at several *Kirchentage*.

FINLAND – The Rev Dr Jaakko Rusama

The Window is widely electronically distributed and shared in Finland, and news and other information provided for inclusion. The Finland Facebook site is the other method to keep contacts with the members and raise interest in the Society. In 2020 there were 158 members and supporters, the majority from Finland but also from 12 other countries, who not only follow the news but also share the news with many other people. Direct subscriptions were not collected as special events were not organised due to the pandemic. There have been no transactions on the Society's Finnish Bank Account. There is good cooperation with the Church of England Chaplaincy in Finland, the Anglican Church of St. Nicholas. Based on the Porvoo Common Statement the National Correspondent as a Lutheran pastor has since 1996 had the Permission to Officiate (PTO) in the Church of England. He and a few other Lutheran pastors with the PTO regularly assist the Anglican chaplain, the Rev Tuomas Mäkipää. Tuomas is a member of the Church of England General Synod, Chair of the House of Clergy of the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese in Europe, and the Area Dean for Finland, so he is useful in sharing information about our Society. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church

of Finland, there is a joint working group on Anglican contacts. The Anglican-Lutheran Society in Finland is represented in that committee. The Finnish Lutheran Church has for many decades annually financially supported the Society. In addition, the Church has covered the travel expenses of the Finnish member in the Executive Committee.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT - Helen Harding

During 2020 it had been a great delight to welcome a number of new members, most of whom are students. There have been 20 in the UK, one from Austria, two from Germany and one from the USA. It has been good to read about some of them in The Window. On the downside we have sadly 'lost' 14 members during the year. It doesn't really come into the Annual report, which is January to December, 2020 but, at the beginning of January 2021 we had two more students join, one from Finland and one from Mexico, and two more individual members, one from Nigeria and one from Peru (though working in Mexico). We would like more students who are studying for an accredited ministry to take up the offer of free membership. Whilst we have the contact details for all the colleges and course in the UK, we do not have them for other countries so if you are able to pass on an email address for any of these organisations, please send details to angluthsociety@outlook.com We now have members in 37 countries, three more than last year! As always, it is difficult to be absolutely precise about numbers because we have not only individual members but also couples and groups and a few honorary members. So the best estimate I can give is approximately 300+, counting groups and couples as only one. The countries where we have members are: Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Cameroon, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, UK, USA, and Zimbabwe.

ELECTIONS

Co-Presidents

Bishop Michael said that the Society is in debt to Bishop Juergen Johannesdotter and Dean Emeritus John Arnold who have both served us faithfully, effectively and enthusiastically over the years. We are, however, thrilled that Bishop Jana Jeruma-Grinberga (Lutheran) and Bishop David Hamid (Anglican) have agreed to serve as Co-Presidents going into the future. Their nomination was received with acclaim.

Bishop Jana said that she is thrilled to be offered this opportunity. She is a former Co-Moderator and she looks forward to her new role even though 'the shoes to fill are huge'. With Dean Eliza also being in Riga perhaps they can build up a Latvian branch of members.

Bishop David said it was a great honour to be asked. The living of fruitful Anglican-Lutheran relationships is his 'daily bread', being a Bishop in the Church of England Diocese in Europe. He paid tribute to both the previous Co-Presidents to whom he is grateful for their witness and work.

Secretary – Canon Dick Lewis had been proposed and seconded and there were no other nominations so he was declared elected.

Treasurer – Mr Patrick Litton had been proposed and seconded and there were no other nominations so he was declared elected.

Executive Committee – The following had been proposed and seconded and were declared elected to serve for the next three years: The Ven Christine Allsopp (Anglican), Mrs Sally Barnes (Anglican), the Very Rev Tom Bruch (Lutheran), the Rev Jonathan Collis (Anglican), the Rev Sarah Farrow (Lutheran), Mrs Helen Harding (Anglican), Dr Richard Stephenson (Lutheran), the Very Rev Eliza Zikmane (Lutheran).

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None had been notified to the Secretary.

BLESSING – The meeting was closed with a Blessing by Bishop Juergen Johannesdotter, our retiring Lutheran President.