



## Summer/Pentecost 2011 **ISSUE 9**

Lutheran Ladies Summer Get Together **p3**

LWF News **p4**

Diakonia **p5**

Interview with ELCE Chairman **p6**

Change for Church **p8**

Archbishop Tutu Visit **p9**

Chairman's Corner **p10**

## CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED LUTHERAN SYNOD IN GREAT BRITAIN

*My memories of an eventful day in the history of Lutheranism in Great Britain, by George J R Cienfiala.*

Corby, 16 April 1961

The Sunday morning service of the St John's Lutheran Church (now known as St Anne's) took place as usual at 11.00 am in the chapel of the Lutheran Church House at 8 Collingham Gardens, London SW5. Following the service, however, a 41-seater coach drew up in front of the building and 19 members of the congregation got on. Among these were the Rev'd William E Wegener (Pastor of St John's) and Pastor William B Schaeffer (Senior Representative of the Lutheran World Federation in Great Britain), also Dr Johann Schneider (a founder member of St John's), Messrs Bryson and Henderson (senior leaders from the Church Council) plus 13 other folk, including Karol Schlachter, Sylvia Dalen and yours truly (representing the Luther League, a very active young adults group).

Our destination was Corby, a new steel town in Northamptonshire. Among the many people attracted by the opportunities that this major industry provided were refugees from the Baltic countries and Central Europe, a significant number of whom were Lutherans. A flourishing Latvian congregation had already been established in the Corby area and it had built a church hall as its worship and social centre. This was also being used by the recently formed St Paul's Lutheran Church, worshipping in English, with the Rev'd Wayne Stumme as its pastor.

The late 1940s, '50 and '60s were tumultuous years in Britain. A large number of people displaced by World War II and its aftermath had come to the United Kingdom. Many moved on to the Americas and Australasia. Those that stayed, settled down. Families were re-united where possible, or new ones started. Quite naturally the many ethnic groups often came together for mutual encouragement. Religion played a significant part in this. Under the umbrella of the Lutheran Council of Great Britain, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian and Polish Lutheran Churches had been established. The Scandinavian and German churches had already been in England for many years and were linked to, and supported by, their home churches.

Quite naturally the future ministry of these churches was of great concern, especially ministry to couples from different ethnic groups where English was often their common language. All churches were also faced by the needs of their children, who were being educated in schools where English was the medium of instruction. Sunday Schools and Summer Camps in the national language only delayed the drift from the ethnic Lutheran fold.

Dr Hans Herbert Kramm, the first post-war pastor of St Mary's German Lutheran Church in London, recognised this need and encouraged the formation of an English language daughter congregation. A young Canadian pastor, the Rev'd Herbert O Hartig, was called, and on 29 July 1951 **St Mary's English Lutheran Church** was founded. Some years later it changed its name to **St John's Lutheran Church**. The

continued on next page ►

## ULS, cont'd

staff of Hothorpe Hall, the Lutheran Conference Centre in Leicestershire, developed a ministry not only to its guests, but also to the local people. As a result **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church** was formally established on 14 October 1957. It was recognised that a full-time pastor was required for this work. Wayne Stumme, a young American ex-serviceman studying at St Andrew's University in Scotland, accepted this call, and was ordained into the Lutheran Ministry at the Corby Church Hall on 30 June 1959, the first person to be ordained in this country for the English language Lutheran ministry. His work brought quick returns, with the result that **St Paul's Lutheran Church** was established on 25 May 1960. In the meantime a number of Lutherans living in the High Wycombe area of Berkshire turned to the Lutheran Council for help. Pastor William Schaeffer was requested to explore the need and it was decided to hold monthly services there, the first took place on 28 December 1958. A congregation was formally constituted early in 1961 and the name of **Augsburg Lutheran Church** was eventually chosen.

The need for some overarching organisation for English language Lutheran ministry was recognised. A constitution was drafted and the name chosen was the **United Lutheran Synod in Great Britain**. Representatives of these four congregations came together at 3.30pm on Sunday, 16 April 1961, for the **Constituent Assembly** at the Latvian Lutheran Church Hall in Corby.

Our coach reached its destination in good time at 3pm, and we were welcomed at the door by Pastor Stumme. Following a short opening service, the first act of the assembly was to approve the constitution, which had previously been accepted by each congregation. The six member Executive Committee was then elected with **Pastors William B Schaeffer as Chairman, William E Wegener as Secretary, the Treasurer was a layman from St Paul's**, and non-office holders **Pastor Wayne Stumme**, and also **Dr Hans Popper** and **Mr Henderson**, both from St John's. The Assembly was formally closed at 5pm, followed by excellent refreshments. The closing service began 6pm, **Dr Harold H Ditmanson**, the Lutheran Tutor at Mansfield College, Oxford, preached the sermon. The Chairman and the rest of the Executive Committee were installed by **Pastor Eggo Hafermann** representing the Lutheran Council of Great Britain. Being also a communion service, it did not finish until a few minutes after 8pm. Although our coach left soon afterwards, we did not reach the Lutheran Church House in London until just before 11pm. It had been a long, but very memorable day.

## Reflections on developments in the ULS

In the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Publication of the Lutheran Council this event is described in these words: 'Although the beginning was humble, great things were hoped for the future'. In addition to the four congregations described, English language ministry had also begun in **Belfast** in August 1960 by Pastor David C Hoecker and in September of the same year also in **Birmingham** by Pastor Aleksanders Monstavics. This latter ministry developed into **St Mark's Lutheran Church**, still a member congregation of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain. Over the years more and more congregations joined the United Lutheran Synod (ULS), although not all survived. The hope that it would attract large numbers of the so-called Second Generation (English speaking children of Lutheran parents) did not materialise. However, over the years the ULS grew in size and importance. It became to be seen as the national Lutheran church in Great Britain. As the word **Synod** in its title confused people, at its annual assembly at Hothorpe Hall in 1978 the name was changed to **Lutheran Church in Great Britain – United Synod**. At this assembly the title of the clerical head was also changed from **Chairman** to **Dean**. The hope at that time was that the various refugee churches would come together in one Lutheran church made up of different language synods. But this was not to be and in due course the words **United Synod** were dropped to give us the present title **Lutheran Church in Great Britain**. The latest major change took place at the 2000 annual assembly when the title of **Bishop** was adopted for its clerical head. The church has also changed in other ways, the most obvious one to visitors is that English is no longer the sole language for worship; the others in use by one or more congregations are Amharic, Cantonese, Tigrinya, Mandarin, Polish, and Swahili.

*Cover photo is from the meeting in Corby in 1961, courtesy of George J R Cienicala*

## Lutheran Ladies Summer Get Together

On Saturday 18 June a group of 18 ladies met at the home of Marlies Adam in Leicestershire. The day began with Sarah Owen leading the Morning Prayers, adapted from the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* book. The service included a reading of Psalm 8 and a reading from John's gospel (14: 15-17) on 'The Promise of the Holy Spirit':

<sup>15</sup>'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.'

The hymn 'Blessed Assurance' and prayers followed the reading. The ladies sang without instruments or music, but sang with deep feeling and gusto - they would make a good Lutheran ladies Choir. *I am sure that there are good male singers within the LCiGB that would make a Lutheran Men's Choir, as well!* Thank you, Sarah and readers.

After the service, Marlies introduced a colleague from the University of Leicester Chaplaincy team, Julie-Ann Heath. Julie-Ann gave a lovely, and lively, insight into her life (so far), and how she became an Ordained Minister within the Church of England. Julie-Ann was able to connect with line 'This is my story, this is my song' from the refrain of the hymn 'Blessed Assurance'. She was sent to Sunday school, with her brother and was Confirmed at eleven years old, even though she did not realise 'what she was signing up to'. Julie-Ann left school at fifteen and started work at sixteen years old, as an Office Junior. In this job, she encountered many new aspects of life, like posh cars, and different people. She was asked by the company's director, 'What would you like to achieve and by when?' After some thought, she replied 'I would like your job by the time I'm 30 years old'. With a lot of hard work and determination she achieved this 'dream', with all the perks. She realised that there must be 'more to life than this'.

To the astonishment of her colleagues and husband, she left the job. Julie-Ann was able to try things she had never done before. She participated in an ALPHA Course, even though her 'faith had not gone anywhere'. This was the start of a 'new journey' in her life with 'brand new dreams'. Julie-Ann had a clothes shop for the 'larger lady' (which had been suggested by a friend), as she had experience in textiles. She then held an ALPHA Course in her shop, which went down well. This led on to Julie-Ann changing her 'direction in life'. She studied Theology, and is now a Non-Stipendiary Minister and has no Parish of her own. Julie-Ann is a very busy lady. She is a chaplain to international students at the University of Leicester, a work place chaplain in the centre of Leicester, takes part in services at Leicester Cathedral, and takes services at other churches. As well as all this she is an accomplished writer, and has published both children's (*Sparky* and *Mirabelle & Maude*) and adult (*The Angel at the Bottom of the Garden*) books.

She has published these books through her own publishing company, Potters Maze, which she started with a friend. She is also an artist, a wife and very modest but not afraid of coming forward and talking, plus other attributes that we are still to learn about. We were all able to ask many questions about her work, books and so on.

As is traditional, a good spread was provided for lunch, which was enjoyed by all. In the afternoon Pastor Libby led a Eucharistic Service, which was moving. Thank you Pastor Libby. We were able to socialise over tea and home baked goodies provided by several ladies. Thank you one and all. Photos were taken, mainly indoors (due to the British weather), those taken outside were between the rain 'showers'. We all had a great time. Thank you Marlies for opening your home for the annual summer get together

Livija Upmalis  
St Luke's Lutheran Church, Leeds



Photo Courtesy of Annette Higgins



## Pathway for a Common Spiritual Journey: LWF Strategic Plan 2012-2017 Considered by Council

GENEVA, 10 June 2011 (LWI) - Theology, mutual accompaniment and service remain central to The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) as it approaches the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in 2017, a proposed strategic plan for the communion says.

The draft LWF Strategy 2012-2017 is being considered by the global organization's Council at its meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, 9 to 14 June, following intensive consultation with member churches and partners.

"This global strategy of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) lays out a vision and pathway for our common spiritual journey as a communion of churches, and for our service to people and the world," the draft strategy states.

Founded in 1947 as a federation of Lutheran churches, the LWF's growing understanding of itself as a communion of churches with a deep sense of mutual accountability characterizes the proposed strategy.

The draft names three priorities:

- that the LWF be strengthened in worship and ongoing theological discernment, ecumenical dialogue and interfaith collaboration;
- that member churches grow in capacity for holistic mission and deepen their relationships with each other;
- that effective and empowering diakonia (church social service) address human suffering, injustice and emergencies.

The document notes that theological reflection, advocacy and public witness, and gender justice are critical to support the priorities, while effective communication and financial sustainability are important to building the LWF's sustainability and effectiveness.

The LWF embarked on the strategic renewal as a communion of 145 member churches with 70 million members worldwide, rich in theological traditions and committed to a continuing reformation, according to the plan.

"To be Lutheran is to be freed by grace to love and serve the neighbor. Our service in the world, and our care for creation, are integral to our Lutheran identity."

Lutherans serve in a world characterized by increased connectivity and interdependence but widening economic and technological gaps, the

proposed strategy states.

"Because globalization is built on neo-liberal doctrines of individualism, idolatry of markets, and acquisition of wealth, it has led to a growing divide between rich and poor people."

Migration, climate change and shifts in the religious landscape will also shape the work of the LWF, the draft strategy maintains.

Still, theology should remain a core activity for all levels of the global Lutheran Communion and it should be enriched by the understandings gained from churches engaged with the suffering of the world.

"The anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 provides a powerful focal point for further formation as a communion and the reaffirmation of our ecumenical commitment," the proposed strategy says.

It calls for member churches to work together, share resources, learn from each other and be accountable to one another as they meet the mission challenges in their various contexts.

The plan commits to developing the capacity of member churches, encouraging interchurch relationships and networks, and the cultivation of future leaders, including women and youth.

Diakonia continues to be an essential calling of the Lutheran Communion, the draft adds, stating that alongside its ecumenical and interfaith partners the LWF must continue to work with communities to counter injustice, exclusion and the ravages of conflict and natural disasters.

"Diakonia is central to what it means to be church. Christians are called by God to live out diakonia in their daily lives and in what they do."

The proposed strategic plan calls for member churches to be better equipped to respond to human suffering and for the LWF to be an effective voice for justice, peace and human rights. It urges that LWF's global humanitarian and development programs focus on marginalized and vulnerable people.

It commits to supporting the role of member churches in their local diakonia efforts, further developing the LWF's global humanitarian and development programs and partnerships with the World Council of Churches, the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, the ACT Alliance and the YWCA.

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## Diakonia

Everybody attending the LCiGB Synod in March heard a very interesting presentation by Rev'd Dr Roy Long and Deacon Seija Frears concerning the Diaconate, a subject we will be hearing more about in the future as the LCiGB considers the possibility of having Deacons in our church. Currently, Seija is the only Lutheran Deacon working here, as she came to England with her status as Deacon already recognised.

Synod agreed to set up a working party that now meets in Leeds under the chairmanship of Dr Long, which will report back to the LCiGB Council in due course.

The Lutheran World Federation is also looking anew at Diakonia as an integral part of being Church. The Following quotation is from the most recent publication from LWF:

"From the very beginning it became imperative for the Christian community to give continuity to Jesus' diaconal mission. The memory of his teaching certainly shaped the values and qualities of their lifestyle: 'For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.' (John 13:15) and; 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you,' (John 20:21).

Thus, diakonia became a fundamental concept in the life of the Christian congregations all over the Roman Empire. Diakonia also became the term for the designation of leadership positions in the Church.

The story of the installation of the seven new leaders in the congregation in Jerusalem in Acts 6, shows how the marginalization of Greek widows challenged the church's inclusive nature. It was not only the dignity of those ignored in the daily diakonia that was at risk, but the very diaconal quality of the fellowship. To ignore this would be to ignore the devastating power of sin and its potential to destroy what God has reconciled in Christ.

The installation of the seven, all of whom had Greek names and therefore probably represented the widows' cultural and social environment, was not merely a practical matter in order to have things done better. It was an act of securing the fundamental self-understanding of the Church, for the well-being of the whole fellowship and for public witness. The seven were all 'full of the Spirit,' a reminder that the Holy Spirit, who is giving life to the Church, also is the blessing power for its diaconal lifestyle. The story concludes: 'The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem ...' (Acts 6:7).

Diakonia therefore, is related to the congregation's ethos and structures. In other words, it is both an expression of what the church is by its very nature, and what is manifested in its daily life, plans and projects. It is therefore natural to designate certain concrete actions as diakonia."

Pastor Libby Toomsalu  
(taken from 'Lutherans Up North' summer 2011)

## LWF, cont'd

The LWF should remain well governed, supported by a communion office that is financially sustainable, professional and accountable. The organization must have a clear mission and direction, adequate human and financial resources, strong leadership and adaptable communications.

"Balancing intentions with resources and institutional capacity will be key to being effective in a given year and to the LWF's ongoing sustainability," the plan states. It calls for quality governance structures that reflect the rich diversity of the communion.

The proposed strategy urges increased visibility for the LWF and its work and for communication efforts to support communion relationships and fundraising, using technologies that help connect members to the communion.

Read more about the strategic planning process and download the Strategy Proposal at: <http://www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/index.php/themes/lwf-strategic-planning-process>

There are around 140 participants in this year's Council meeting, including LWF member church representatives, invited guests, interpreters, accredited media and LWF staff. The meeting is being held at the Ecumenical Center in Geneva, Switzerland, under the theme, "Discerning Our Common Journey."

The 50-member Council is the LWF's governing body in the six-year period between Assemblies, and meets annually. The current Council was appointed at the July 2010 Eleventh Assembly in Stuttgart, Germany. It comprises the President and Treasurer as well as lay and ordained persons representing the different LWF regions.

## Interview with the Chairman of the Evangelical Church in England (ELCE)

*The following is an interview with Rev'd Jon Ehlers, Chairman of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (ELCE). 'The British Lutheran', a publication of the ELCE, conducted an interview with Bishop Jana Jeruma-Grinberga in their June issue. The questions below which are in quotations are taken from that interview but turned around in order that Rev'd Ehlers might give his perspective.*

The ELCE started in 1896 in London. Now the ELCE has congregations throughout Great Britain and has just celebrated the 50th anniversary of its congregation in Wales. How has the ELCE been able to keep their Lutheran community feeling connected across the UK and across the generations?

Community is a very important aspect of life in the ELCE. Our focus each year tends to be on our annual synod convention, where pastors and representatives of each congregation gather for a weekend of worship, fellowship, business, and fun. Here we share the highs and lows of the past year as we pray for each other and give mutual support. Various Boards and Committees of the ELCE also host regular conferences and retreats throughout the year, and all members of the ELCE are encouraged to attend. We have an annual Family Camp and Retreat, which have proven to be very popular. Our clergy have an annual pastors study week and two Barnes Conferences during each year, and this helps build collegiality among the clergy.

Over the next couple of years the practical implications of being part of a synod where we "walk together in Christ", will be further explored, and it is our prayer that this rich history of mutual support and encouragement will continue to grow and expand.

Being a relatively small church in a country that has a very prevalent State church, how do you think the ELCE has been able to keep going so strong over the past century?

Thanks for being so kind and commenting that we have been 'going strong' for a century. The honest answer is, it has nothing to do with us, but it is entirely by the grace of God. We are very small, and often find survival a struggle, but God has been wonderful to us and provided 'our daily bread' so that the ministry of Word and Sacrament continues among us in 14 congregations and 5 mission stations throughout the UK.

'What are the challenges you [ELCE] face?'

The number one challenge faced by the ELCE is how do we faithfully preach, teach, and confess repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name clearly and boldly to our friends and neighbours.

The challenges of supporting full time pastoral positions will also come into sharper focus, and our patterns of ministry, which have already begun to change, may have to further develop over the coming years. This may mean non-stipendiary, part-time, or multi parish pastorates. Congregations are also reviewing their situations and we may find that renting or sharing premise is the most affordable and viable option for the future.

This said, the challenge is then not to concentrate on just surviving, but on looking outside our walls and discerning ways to more effectively and efficiently share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The ELCE is over a hundred years old. Can you tell us a short history of the ELCE? How did it come about?

In 1896 five German bakers in Kentish Town decided they wanted to have Lutheran Services in England. So they each pledged to donate 20% of their income to ensure that a Lutheran pastor could minister to them. They then contacted Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO, and a German-speaking pastor was sent to Kentish Town. A few years later, a second congregation, Holy Trinity, was begun in Tottenham.

These congregations continued to worship in German until the time of World War II, when it was decided to switch to English speaking services.

In the 1950's, Dr George Pearce was sent to serve in London, and he came up with a grand vision to begin Lutheran Missions throughout the UK. For the next 20 years numerous missions were planted. Many of these missions grew into independent congregations.

In 1962, Westfield House, our theological training college in Cambridge, was founded. Since then it has helped to educate hundreds of pastors, including several in the LCiGB. Recently, we have expanded Westfield House by adding Luther Hall, giving us the capability of hosting up to 23 students at one time. It is our prayer that Westfield House will continue to play a major role in the education of Lutheran pastors worldwide.

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## ELCE, cont'd

The expansion of the ELCE came to an end in the early 1970's following the death of Dr Pearce. Then began a time to catch our breath. Over the next 30 years support from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod was reduced, and the ELCE underwent some contractions with the loss of congregations in Sheffield, Liverpool, and Sunbury. But around the turn of the century, a new congregation was begun in Brandon, Suffolk, and several local congregations undertook beginning mission stations. Currently we have 14 congregations and five mission stations.

How would you describe your role as Chairman of the ELCE? What kind of responsibilities do you hold and how does this role fit into the ELCE church structure? How do you stay in touch with your wider church across the country?

The role of Chairman is, frankly, not well defined in our constitution. However, I view the position as pastor to the pastors and the members of the ELCE. It is my prayer that God might use me, and the other pastoral members of our Executive Council, as shepherds to His shepherds. This involves praying for pastors, congregations, and individuals within the ELCE. It involves regular visits to congregations and pastors to discuss congregational and synod issues and aspirations. These visits are the most rewarding aspect of being Chairman.

But the role of Chairman also carries with it a great deal of administration and paperwork. It means trying to ensure that all our endeavours run smoothly and legally. It means ensuring all our policies conform to governmental regulations, and this is not always easy. This is a particular challenge for a small church body with limited human resources and money.

The position of Chairman also means regular contact with Church leaders from the ILC (International Lutheran Council) and other denominations. This has also proven to be a real joy, and it is my goal to try and improve relations between ILC churches, especially in Europe.

'The LCiGB and the ELCE share a common history largely through the weaving of personalities and stories and events. [Such as] when the ELCE was involved in the Lutheran Council of Great Britain, associations and fellowship with the Lutheran Church of Poland in Exile, and students who studied at Westfield House. Over the decades, we've had times of warm fellowship and times of cool distance between us. Yet it seems we will always be two Lutheran churches. What is your distinctiveness as Lutherans? How do you understand your Lutheran-ness?'

This is a very intriguing question, and one that both the ELCE and the LCiGB plan on grappling with when we have our next joint clergy conference. The most obvious difference between the two churches is that the ELCE does not ordain women into the office of the pastoral ministry. While this is the most noticeable difference between us, I suspect it represents a difference in how each church reads, interprets, and applies God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions. However, our clergy will be exploring these issues together soon, and I am really looking forward to getting to know more about the LCiGB's way of interpreting the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions. It is my prayer that we can both learn a lot from each other.

'Of course the LCiGB says it is Lutheran too. Yet we are two distinct church bodies. How do you perceive the LCiGB?'

The ELCE values our relationship with the LCiGB, and we pray that our ties will increase over the coming years. However, it is our prayer that all Lutherans would once again claim their Scriptural and Confessional heritage. It is our concern that many Lutheran Churches in the LWF, with whom the LCiGB is in fellowship, have abandoned the Bible and our Confessions in order to follow the spirit of the age. And this is of grave concern to us, because Lutherans should be theologians of the cross, not theologians of glory.

How do you see the future of the ELCE?

God only knows the future of the ELCE, and, quite frankly, that gives me great comfort. The survival or growth of the ELCE is only in the hands of Jesus Christ, the Lord of His Church. We pray, plan, worship, and witness, but God reigns.

We, however, are optimistic about the future of the ELCE. The work and ministry of Westfield House continues to be a blessing to Lutherans worldwide, and we pray it will continue to go from strength to strength.

Currently we are preparing to launch a 24-hour a day, seven days a week Internet radio station, Lutheran Radio UK. This unique experiment, scheduled to begin in March 2012 will reach out around the world with the proclamation of Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, study, news, music, talk shows, and much more. This is an amazingly exciting project, and we pray God will use it to bring the forgiveness of Jesus Christ to many around the UK and the world. After all, that is why the ELCE and the LCiGB are here.



## LCiGB 50th Anniversary Fundraising

For the mission and development of the LCI GB

Remember the collection boxes we handed out at Synod in April 2011?

We asked you to collect your loose change and donate it to the LCI GB's 50th Anniversary fundraising appeal, to support the work of our church and ensure we can keep growing for the next 50 years!

Our theme is Donating in multiples of 50:

- 500 pennies make £5.00
- 50 x 20p coins makes £10.00
- 50 x 50p coins makes £25.00

Every donation is a blessing, and no amount is too small to count!

Of course, if you're able to write a cheque for £50, £500, or even £5,000 we would love you to do that too!

### **Gift Aid your donation to make it grow by 20%**

To enable us to reclaim Gift Aid on your donation, please contact your congregation's Treasurer for a Gift Aid form... an extra 20% just by signing a form, and the amount we reclaim soon adds up significantly.

**"Change"** has been a key theme during our 50th anniversary year. The LCI GB changed so far this year in terms of governance, policies, procedures and operations as well as in the way we communicate. There will be more change to come as we work to develop and operate in ways that are compliant with UK law and Charity Commission guidance for best practice.

We are moving into a new era for mission and development of the LCI GB. It is important to develop strategies to provide additional clergy for our congregations. Resources, both human and financial, are necessary to make progress. If you love your church, then know that it is important to give your time, talents and donations to sustain the LCI GB and its congregations into the next 50 years. In these financially stringent times, it is not only money that is needed. Knowledge, talents, skills and your time are equally important and if you can donate these, then that is a vital contribution to the church surviving into the future.



### **Questions? Queries? Want to order a collection box?**

To find out more please speak to your congregation's Treasurer

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Or contact the LCI GB Treasurer, Mrs Linda Bruch: [treasurer@lutheranchurch.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@lutheranchurch.co.uk)

Cheques can be made payable to "LCiGB" and sent to:

Mrs Linda Bruch, LCI GB Treasurer,  
13 Trevethan Road, Falmouth TR11 2AS



## Chaplaincy to University of Leicester Honoured by Visit of Archbishop Desmond Tutu

The University of Leicester has given Archbishop Tutu an honorary doctorate. Having a very busy schedule, he still agreed to visit the Chaplaincy to the University.

Archbishop Tutu holds the unique academic distinction of having a category of degree named after him. British graduates who are awarded a lower second-class degree are said to receive a "Desmond" - that is a 2:2.

Born in Transvaal in 1931, Desmond Tutu was ordained as an Anglican Priest in 1960 and came to Britain two years later to study at King's College, London for a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Theology. He returned to South Africa in 1967, teaching at the University of Fort Hare and the National University of Lesotho, during which he started to stand out as a leading critic of the apartheid regime in South Africa. In 1972, Tutu returned to the UK, working for the World Council of Churches in Kent until 1975.

Returning to his homeland, he became Bishop of Lesotho in 1976 and then Secretary-General of the South African Council of Churches. From his position as Secretary-General, he was able to use his speeches and writing to further the anti-apartheid cause. After the collapse of apartheid and the election of Nelson Mandela as President of South Africa, Tutu chaired the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which examined human rights violations. He retired as Archbishop of Cape Town in 1996.

During his visit to the Leicester Chaplaincy, the Archbishop met some of the chaplains, answered some questions and was interviewed by the local radio station, Radio Leicester.

Many of us will remember his visit for a long time, especially his infectious laughter.

Marlies Adam  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Nottingham



*Archbishop Tutu with Members of the Chaplaincy Council and Marlies Adam, Lutheran Chaplain.  
Photo courtesy of Marlies Adam.*

### In August

Each day I do see you God  
Help me to see you each day.

Ladies and men in the hot sun  
are walking beside the Thames.  
We are west of Henley,  
the bank is full with their  
bodies. They are my neighbours.

As I work to wish  
the best for each  
I begin better to see you God,  
and less of me.

Peter Mathers  
St Anne's Lutheran Church, London

Poetry

Dear Forum Readers,

When I was approached by leaders of LCiGB to serve as Chairperson of this great Church, I was told that this was a new position created by the adoption of the regulations of the Charity Commission for England and Wales and Companies House. Not long ago, before LCiGB adopted these regulations it was the Bishop, or earlier the Dean, who played the role of chairman and performed the necessary tasks – chairing the annual Synod, and between Synods, the Executive Committee meetings, now called Council meetings, four to five times a year. Not much really. Often these meetings would be held on Saturdays. It is a voluntary job, like most of the other Council positions, so I knew roughly what I was expected to do and the range of responsibilities to be entrusted with me.

Now after more than one and a half years since I assumed the position of chairman, I have discovered that, apart from chairing church meetings, a crucial task as Chairman of LCiGB is to promote communication. Communication is required among congregation leaders, pastors and Council members. Moreover, in the memorable Synod held at the historical St Luke's in Leeds last March, I heard church representatives call for more information about what the Council did for the Church and what they was planned for them in the year to come. At the same time, the practice of sharing the Minutes of the Council meeting with all congregation leaders was considered obsolete due to a growing concern regarding privacy and confidentiality. For all these reasons, a new column, 'Chairman's Corner', will now feature in every issue of 'The Forum'. And so, this is my very first message for you.

2011 is the year LCiGB will celebrate its 50th anniversary. While this landmark event was mentioned by Bishop Jana when I attended my first Council meeting in June 2010, the planning of the anniversary almost always gave way to other more imminent matters, until the last meeting in early June. At that meeting more solid planning was in place, and a day's event is now scheduled for 15 October 2011, to be held in London. Presentations, a Communion service, reception and music will be the order of the day. Each congregation of the LCiGB will be asked to set up a photo board to not only add colour to the venue but bring back fond memories of the grace and love of God given to them. We will also take the opportunity to collect the 'Change-for-Church' donation boxes that were designed to mark the

anniversary. A guest list has already been drafted. Former St Anne's pastor, Rev'd Ron Englund, has already accepted an invitation to preach. I am tasked to set up live stream cast via the Internet for the day's celebration so that friends and church members who live afar and cannot travel to London can join in with the fun. Many more goodies are promised. There will be more news about the 50th anniversary in the next issue of 'The Forum'.

Light and joyous matters aside, serious matters, especially in relation to meeting the standard requirements of Charity Commission and Companies House have been the focus of our meetings. While we do not want to lose sight of the Christian church way of serving our folks and running ministries, we have spent a lot of time and energy in sharpening our governance. Writing job descriptions for Council officers, Bishop, Dean, Chair, Vice-chair and Treasurer; drafting and formulating policies on employment, disciplinary and grievance procedures for pastors and non-clergy staff; reviewing and confirming the status of clergy, including an approved list of clergy and retired pastors; and reactivating the Finance Committee is just some of the work we have done.

The agenda of every Council meeting was almost always filled up with lots of administrative issues. Whether they were ongoing issues or new ones just sprung up out of an incident, we treated them as part of our effort to build towards a better-governed, well-refined system that would lay good ground work for stewardship of a Church that is 50 years old and yet has so much potential to grow. Indeed we have been so blessed by His gracious and abundance love that our faith as Lutherans has grown stronger than ever. Please remember the Council and the members in your prayers as we deal with complicated issues such as human resources and finances.

In the next column, I hope to share with you the result of our 'strategic planning' for the Church. If you have done this kind of corporate thinking in your job before, you know what I mean. Even if this term is new to you, we encourage you to visit this column in the next issue of 'The Forum', when I will share with you more details of what we will envisage for LCiGB for the 51st year of its ministries and beyond.

Yours in Christ,

David Lin  
*Chairperson, LCiGB*

## Services in Amharic

### London

St Anne's Lutheran Church  
Services held at St Vedast Church, Foster Lane, London EC2  
Services every Sunday: 15:00  
Website: [www.stanneslutheranchurch.org](http://www.stanneslutheranchurch.org)

## Services in Chinese

### London

London Chinese Lutheran Church  
Services held at The American Church in London, 79A Tottenham Court Road, London W1T  
Services every Sunday: 14:00  
Website: [www.lclchurch.org.uk](http://www.lclchurch.org.uk)

## Services in English

### Birmingham

St Mark's Lutheran Church  
Services held in the Worship Room, St Francis Hall, University of Birmingham Main Campus, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15  
Services every first and third Sunday of the month: 11:00  
Website: [www.chaplaincy.bham.ac.uk](http://www.chaplaincy.bham.ac.uk)

### Bradford

St Matthew's Lutheran Church  
Services held at 70 Little Horton Lane, Bradford.  
Services every first Sunday of the month: 12:00  
Contact: Mrs H Martin (telephone 0113 267 7679)

### Corby, Northants

St Paul's Lutheran Church  
Services held at Church of the Epiphany, Elizabeth Street, Corby, Northants NN17  
Occasional services  
Contact: Mr David Whyte ([david\\_whyte@talk21.com](mailto:david_whyte@talk21.com))

### Harrogate

St Luke's Lutheran Church  
Services held at St Peter's Church, 19-21 Cambridge St, Harrogate, HG1  
Services every third Sunday of the month: 17:00  
Contact: Mrs Joan White (telephone 0113 278 5075)

### Leeds

St Luke's Lutheran Church, 9 Alma Road, Headingley, Leeds LS6  
Services every Sunday: 10:30  
Website: [www.stlukeslutheranchurch.org.uk](http://www.stlukeslutheranchurch.org.uk)

### London

St Anne's Lutheran Church, Gresham Street, London EC2V  
Services every Sunday: 11:00 and 18:30  
Website: [www.stanneslutheranchurch.org](http://www.stanneslutheranchurch.org)

### Manchester

St Martin's Lutheran Church  
Services held at Martin Luther Church, 9 Park Rd, Stretford, Manchester M32  
Services every first Sunday of the month: 15:00  
Contact: 0161 865 1335

## Nottingham

Trinity Lutheran Church, 67 Homefield Road, Aspley, Nottingham NG8  
Services every first and third Sunday of the month: 11:00  
Website: [www.trinitylutheran.org.uk](http://www.trinitylutheran.org.uk)

## Services in Polish

### Bradford

St Matthew's Lutheran Church  
Services held at 70 Little Horton Lane, Bradford.  
Services every first Sunday of the month: 12:00  
Contact: Mrs H Martin (telephone 0113 267 7679)  
*Services are occasionally in English or bilingual*

### Cambridge

St John's Lutheran Church  
Services held at St John's Abbey Church, Newmarket Road CB5  
Services every first Sunday of the month: 12:00

### Edinburgh

St Matthew's Lutheran Church  
Services held four times a year  
Contact: Arkadiusz Kilanowski [arkil@poczta.onet.pl](mailto:arkil@poczta.onet.pl)

### High Wycombe

St John's Lutheran Church  
Services held at St John's United Reformed Church, London Road HP11  
Service second Sunday of the month: 14:30

### Leeds

St Luke's Church, Alma Road, Headingley, Leeds LS6  
Services every first Sunday of the month: 9:30  
Website: [www.stlukeslutheranchurch.org.uk](http://www.stlukeslutheranchurch.org.uk)

### London

Christ the King Lutheran Church  
Services held at Christ Church, Montpelier Place, Knightsbridge SW7  
Services every fourth Sunday of the month: 14:00

### Milton Keynes

Please contact Pastor Robert Wojtowicz by email at [rowojtowicz@yahoo.com](mailto:rowojtowicz@yahoo.com)

### Manchester

St Martin's Lutheran Church  
Services held at Martin Luther Church, 9 Park Rd, Stretford, Manchester M32  
Services every first Sunday of the month: 15:00  
Contact: 0161 865 1335

### Reading

St John's Lutheran Church  
Services held at St John's West Methodist Church, 448 Oxford Road, RG30  
Services every third Sunday of the month: 12:30

continued on next page ►



## Celebrating 50 years of the LCIGB: Members share their memories

My first visit to St Anne's in London was prompted by a programme I collected from a Tourist Information Centre. It was a dark night (no floodlights then) and I walked right past the church. A kind person redirected me. My attendance corresponded with the first Jazz Vespers almost 25 years ago (November 1986). I spent three years attending evening services while going to an Anglican church in the morning. I took formal membership following the death of my husband, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Rosemary Warner  
*St Anne's Lutheran Church, London*

## Songfest • 29 October, 2011 • St Luke's, Leeds

The day will begin at 10.30am with a Service of the Word, followed by a talk by Bishop Emeritus Walter Jagucki on why Lutherans worship the way they do. The afternoon will include the opportunity to learn and sing some new hymns as well as practise a new liturgy specially devised for smaller congregations. The day will end with a Eucharist Service involving the new liturgy. All are welcome to join the congregation of St Luke's to celebrate Reformation Sunday the following day.

## LCiGB Directory Cont

### Services in Swahili

#### London

St Anne's Lutheran Church, Gresham Street, London EC2V  
Services every first and third Sunday: 14:00  
Website: [www.stanneslutheranchurch.org](http://www.stanneslutheranchurch.org)

#### Reading

Imani Lutheran Mission Church  
Services held at St Andrew's URC, London Road, Reading, Berks RG1 5BD  
Services every Sunday of the month: 14:30pm

### Services in Tigrinya

#### London

Eritrean Wengelawit Lutheran Church  
Services held at St Andrews, Frognall Lane, Finchley NW3  
Services every Sunday: 13:30  
Website: [www.wlcl.co.uk](http://www.wlcl.co.uk)



## LCiGB Contact Information

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