

The Lutheran Church in Great Britain

SYNOD

Saturday 26 March 2011
At St Luke's Lutheran Church, Leeds

Insert image

Comprising

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE COMPANY AND CHARITY**

and

THE CHURCH SESSION

Welcome to the Synod Handbook for 2011, which contains a programme for the day and related papers to be read beforehand.

This will be our first Synod taking place under the rules of our new Constitution since we formed LCiGB as a registered Company and a registered Charity. As such, Synod has now been divided into two parts – the Annual General Meeting of the Company and Charity, and the Church Session.

Separate agendas are enclosed for each of these meetings.

We look forward to seeing you in Leeds on 26 March.

Contents of this booklet:

SYNOD LOGISTICS

- 5 Address and Map
for St Luke's Lutheran Church, Leeds
- 6 Programme for the day

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF THE COMPANY AND CHARITY

- 7 Agenda for the AGM
- 8 Voting Members for the AGM
- 10 Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for 2010
(Please see separate document)
- 10 Trustees Standing for Re-election

THE CHURCH SESSION

- 11 Agenda for the Church Session

RELATED DOCUMENTS

To be read in advance of Synod

- 12 Minutes of the Previous Synod (2010)
- 28 Bishop's Reflection
- 33 Finance Report
- 43 Congregational Reports:
 - a. St Mark's Birmingham
 - b. Wengielawit Congregation (not yet submitted)
 - c. St Luke's Leeds
 - d. Trinity Leicester and Nottingham
 - e. St Paul's Corby

- f. St Anne's London (not yet submitted)
- g. London Chinese Lutheran Church (not yet submitted)
- h. St John's High Wycombe, Reading & Cambridge (not yet submitted)
- i. Christ the King, London (not yet submitted)
- j. St Martin's Manchester
- k. St Matthew's Bradford
- l. Imani Congregation, Reading

59 Chaplaincy Reports:

- a. Birmingham (p59)
- b. Leicester (p61)
- c. Leeds (p64)

Map and directions page

Synod this year will be held at:

St. Luke's Lutheran Church,
9 Alma Road,
Headingley,
Leeds,
LS6 2AH.

Please remember that congregations are responsible for paying the travel expenses of their pastors and Appointed Representatives attending Synod.

Please see St Luke's website for an interactive map:
<http://stlukeslutheranchurch.org.uk/contact-us/>

Insert map by hand

Synod 26 March 2011

Programme for the Day

- 10.30 Registration and refreshments
- 11.00 Devotions (please note we will begin promptly)
- 11.15 The Annual General Meeting
of the Company and Charity
- 11.45 The Church Session
- 1.00 Lunch
- 2.00 Church Session continued
- 3.30 Eucharist
- 4.30 Close

The Annual General Meeting of the Company and Charity

**This section of the day will take
approximately 30 minutes.**

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Receive the trustees' annual report and the examined accounts
3. Appoint an examiner of the accounts (or authorise the board to do so)
4. Authorise the trustees to fix the remuneration of the examiner of the accounts
5. Approve amendments to the Memorandum or Articles of Association (none)
6. Vote on duly submitted resolutions (none)
7. Election of trustees

**Please note that voting at the AGM
is restricted by our Articles of Association
to the Members named below:**

****Corrected Version as at 8 March****

Trustees:

Ex-Officio

1. Bishop Jana Jeruma-Grinberga
2. Dean Thomas Bruch

Elected

3. David Lin
 - Annette Higgins (*NB: Annette Higgins forfeits her vote as a Trustee for the AGM and votes instead as Appointed Representative for St Luke's Leeds*)
4. Stanley Goh
5. Tumaini Kallaghe (*NB: Tumaini Kallaghe votes as a Trustee for the AGM and forfeits her vote as a Pastor*)
6. Robert Wojtowicz (*NB: Robert Wojtowicz votes as a Trustee for the AGM and forfeits his vote as a Pastor*)
7. Linda Bruch

Ordained and Serving Pastors of the LCiGB:

8. Timothy Dearhamer
9. John Evenson
10. Walter Jagucki
11. Roy Long
12. Mark Hardy
13. Libby Toomsalu

Member Churches (Represented by Appointed Representatives):

14. St Anne's London (Rosemary Warner)

15. London Chinese Lutheran Congregation
(Carly Chan)
16. Christ the King (Vera Erdmann Sudol)
17. St Mark's Birmingham (Wellu Shilla)
18. St Matthew's Bradford (Halina Martin)
19. St Martin's Manchester (Elizabeth Dawid)
20. Imani Congregation Reading (John Pyuza)
21. St Luke's Leeds (Annette Higgins)
22. Trinity (Marlies Adam)
23. Wengielawit (Seium Tsegai)
 - *St John's High Wycombe, Cambridge and Reading (Not represented)*
 - *St Paul's Corby (Not represented)*

Retired Pastors and Other Clergy (non-voters at the AGM)

- Paul Chong
- Robert Patkai
- Ron Englund
- Johann Schneider

Annual report and accounts for 2010

Please see separately enclosed document "Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2010"

Notification of trustees standing for re-election

The following persons will retire as trustees at the AGM but have indicated their willingness to stand for re-election as trustees:

Linda Bruch

Stanley Goh

Annette Higgins

Tumaini Kallaghe

David Lin

Robert Wojtowicz

**The AGM ends here
and is followed by the Church Session.**

The Church Session

Agenda

Minutes of 2010 Synod and Matters Arising

- 11.45 **Bishop's reflection**
- 12.00 **Theological issues and training of pastors and other ministers:** *"Interim report for Synod on the Diaconate", presentation by Dr Roy Long and Deaconess Seija Frears*
- 12.30 **Congregational developments:** *The Appointed Representative for each congregation will give a two minute Q&A*
- 1.00 **Lunch**
- 2.00 **Congregational developments** *(continued)*
- 2.20 **Outreach, missions and service:** *Chaplaincy reports*
- 2.30 **Other matters pertaining to the spiritual growth of LCiGB:** *Anniversary, Stewardship and 50/50*
- 3.00 **AOB:** *Council feedback to Synod on strategic thinking
Worship; Communications; Relationship with Other Lutheran Churches;
Ecumenical Relationships*
- 3.30 **Eucharist**

The Lutheran Church in Great Britain

Minutes of the Annual Synod

Saturday, 24 April 2010

*Held at St Andrew's URC Church in Frognall
and hosted by the Wengielawit Congregation*

Voting members in

Attendance (25):

*Akilu Tesfai
*Anna Mach
*Annette Higgins
*Bereket Woldeclassie
*Carl Bjorvang
*Carly Chan
*David Lin (voted in place
of Stanley Goh, in place of
George Lee)
*David Whyte
*Jack Parkes in place of
Katrina Kay
*Jana Jeruma-Grinberga
*John Evenson
*Libby Toomsalu
*Marja-Liisa Morgan (in
place of Christopher
Kusiluka)
*Mark Hardy
*Paul Chong
*Robert Wojtowicz
*Roy Long
*Sarah Farrow

*Timothy Dearhamer
*Tom Bruch
*Tumaini Kallaghe
*Ulrike Ellis
*Vera Erdmann-Sudol
*Walter Jagucki
*Wellu Shilla

In Attendance:

Joanna Andryszkiewicz
Mhreteab
Moses Shonga
Rosanna Mason
Samuel Azazi
Stan Royden
Tsedal Menghistu
Virge James
Yordanos Mindal

Guest Minister:

Revd Fetsum

Apologies received from:

Stanley Goh
Margaret Pickford
Elizabeth Dawid

Nb. The order of items was altered to allow late arrivals to be included in the participatory SWOT activity.

Synod opened with prayers led by Bishop Emeritus Walter Jagucki focusing attention on the recent tragedies in Poland.

1. Introductions & Apologies

1.1 Introductions

Bishop Jana introduced visitors and those attending for the first time, including Pastor Fetsum from Sweden, Rosanna Mason, who was the new LCiGB Senior Administrative Manager, Virge James from the Estonian Lutherans, who was the daughter of Dean Taul (one of the founder members of the Lutheran Council), and Stan Roydin who was representing the Nordic Lutheran congregation in Liverpool, which was founded in 1884 and was in negotiation to join the LCiGB. David Lin from LCLC was welcomed; he had worked in the LWF and was in the process of being appointed to the Council. Joanna Andryszkiewicz, from the Polish congregation of Christ the King, was attending for the first time.

1.2 Apologies

Stanley Goh, Secretary on the Council, sends apologies. He was unable to attend because his father-in-law was seriously ill in Malaysia. Stanley's presentation was therefore cancelled.

2. Presentation "Church in the Future" by Revd Timothy Dearhamer

2.1 The presentation focused on the following questions:

- What does it mean to be Church?
- Where is "Church" found?
- What is distinctively Lutheran?
- What does the future hold for Church under new governing documents?
- What is church in society; how does this relate to governance?

2.2 Bishop Jana thanked Pastor Tim and confirmed that the presentation would be uploaded to the web site. **(Action)**

3. SWOT: What next?

3.1 A participatory exercise was undertaken which followed on from the initial SWOT analysis at last year's Synod. Last year the SWOT focused on raising issues of concern in our church. This year groups were asked to concentrate on dealing with the issues and producing ideas for action. Four groups were given 45 minutes to work on the following topics (named leaders in parentheses):

1. Challenges of transient membership in congregations (Moses Shonga)
2. Finances (Carl Bjorvang)
3. Outreach (Revd Libby Toomsalu)
4. Communications (Ulrike Ellis)

3.2 Groups reported back in a plenary session, and an attached document gives basic points raised. These results will be uploaded onto the web site. **(Action)**

4. Eucharist Service was held.

The meeting broke for lunch

5. Minutes of the previous Synod meeting

5.1 Aki Tesfai moved and Bereket Woldelessie seconded that the minutes be accepted as read. All agreed.

6. Bishop's Report

6.1 The meeting received the Bishop's report.

6.2 Bishop Jana reported that next year a different sort of Annual General Report would need to be presented if the new governance documents were accepted today and we

become a registered charity. This Synod was very important as a watershed into a different future.

6.3 In addition and as follow up to last year's exercise, joint services were being held in London, and the next one would be on Ascension Day at St Anne's Lutheran Church, starting at 6.30 p.m. These have been valuable in bringing members together.

6.4 A continuing education programme for pastors and lay ministers is being developed. The next seminar is planned for 12th June in London and would be led by Dr Roy Long and Dr Heimerdinger. This would be a repetition of one presented in the north earlier in the year.

6.5 Congregations awaiting to become members of LCiGB were pending acceptance of the new constitution, and these included three Estonian congregations, and the Nordic Lutheran congregation in Liverpool, as well as the Polish group in Milton Keynes.

7. Financial Report

7.1 Accounts for 2009 and the revised budget for 2010 were received. Linda Bruch reported that the accounts this year moved to an accrual method, and this partially explained the size of the operating deficit. However, the deficit also represented an unacceptable position that needed to be addressed. The 2010 budget was received at last year's synod, but was now revised to take account of extra funding gained from the Lutheran Council to support a new central London office, and the salary of a senior administrator. It was hoped that this funding would continue for three years. Gratitude was expressed, once again, to the Lutheran Council for this grant. It was also noted that a reduction in the rent for our central office was made possible by the agreement that Bishop Jana would work four hours per week as a consultant to establish European networks in Churches Together in

England (our landlord). This work was likely to overlap with some tasks undertaken for LCiGB.

7.2 Actions to report since 2009 included the following:

1. Applications for Pastor Salary Subsidies were received, decisions taken, and funds allocated. Congratulations to successful congregations.
2. The procedure for Congregational Project funding resulted in no applications being received. The initial deadline was extended, but also applications were still invited at any time. There was money available and congregations were encouraged still to apply. Congregational representatives should look at the web site for the criteria and application forms.
3. To simplify the accounts, council agreed to close the US dollars account and the Yorkshire bank account. This had now been done.
4. It was hoped still to hold an event in 2010 for treasurers and administrators to address issues raised about financial matters, administrative requirements, and the role of trustees. Congregations would be contacted to determine the best possible timing for this event.
5. LCiGB mission collections in 2009 yielded nearly £500 for Bethphage, \$350 for victims of the Haiti earthquake (through the LWF), and £290 for the LWF Endowment Fund. Some congregations and individuals also donated separately for Haiti. This was excellent.
6. Affiliation fees still did not meet the budget, and congregations needed to make a commitment to pay their affiliation fees. LCiGB relied on them to meet the central operating costs. The deficits on operational budgets could not be allowed to continue and the Council would be looking at this issue. Meanwhile, those congregations who had not paid yet were listed

on the accounts as creditors and still needed to pay to alleviate their debt.

7. Stewardship in every sense of the word needed improvement in our church. It was very important to keep our house in good order and to encourage everyone to give both financially and in terms of time and talent. Members should volunteer to take on work for the church, offering their skills and talents.

8. Resolution: Constitutional Change

“That the Memorandum of Association and the Articles of Association of the Lutheran church in Great Britain in the form of the drafts produced to the meeting be adopted in substitution for and to the exclusion of the existing Constitution of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain.”

8.1 Bishop Jana reported that a consultation exercise had been undertaken which included looking at the issues raised during the January Synod meeting. Most congregations considered and discussed these issues and proposals in their congregational meetings. Expert advice was also sought from the Charity Commission. Given all that has been done since the January Synod, she expressed willingness to take questions of clarification only and have a discussion lasting approximately 15 minutes as a maximum.

8.2 David Whyte asked if deliberations resulted in any changes. Dean Tom Bruch reported that issues were raised with the Charity Commission Advisor assigned to us, and nothing had changed in the memorandum and articles due to his confirmation of their requirements and the acceptability of the proposed constitution. However, in drafting the rules, which actually formulate the way we shall operate, the drafting committee could make revisions and adjustments. This process was on-going, and one of the rules being accepted today was the one that governs the way Synod operates.

8.3 Synod meetings under the new rule would have two parts:

1. The legal Annual General Meeting (AGM) which would deal with business and administrative matters, including elections; and
2. the Church Session at which duly appointed representatives and clergy would discuss spiritual matters and issues pertaining to church life.

The rule pertinent to Synod meetings was circulated with the agenda.

8.3 Vera Sudol asked whether it was possible for congregations to come under the LCiGB umbrella, rather than try to govern themselves and go through this complex process. Bishop Jana said the short answer was “yes” but this was very much in the next steps and required significant consideration. It was very complex and had legal implications. Dean Tom Bruch pointed out that when we discussed this, and in his presentation, it was felt that this option would not be taken up by most congregations. It was assumed congregations would not wish to be managed from a central structure. However, if many wished this to be the case, then it raised also questions of how we might manage it not only logistically and structurally, but also in terms of human and financial resources to do the extra administrative work.

8.4 The delegates were asked to vote to accept the new governing documents, and Bishop Jana read out the resolution. The vote resulted in 20 in favour and none against, with five abstentions.

9. Next Steps – appointment of Trustees, charity registration

9.1 The newly constituted body that of the LCiGB now needed to activate its registration as a company and also to register as a charity. Formalising the company registration meant that the current Directors (Bishop Jana, Dean Tom, and Angela Gawlikowski) would meet and Angela (who was no

longer a member of the Council) would resign. All the members of the current council would be appointed as directors. David Lin who was introduced earlier would be considered for appointment as a trustee and director. **At the first AGM in 2011, Council members would need to be elected. (Action)**

9.3. Revd Roy Long queried whether it would be good to have more representation on the Council from the northern congregations. Bishop Jana pointed out that the council included non-London persons, and attempts had been made to gain further involvement from congregations further north without success. Dean Tom Bruch explained that trustees were not regional representatives but were selected for the skills they had that fulfilled requirements for roles required on the board. It was important to recognise that being a trustee carried significant obligations and liabilities under UK government requirements, and the role was no longer easy-going as it might have been in the past. Trustees needed to accept their obligations and would be asked sign two forms, one confirming their eligibility to act, and the second agreeing a role and specific responsibilities. These documents would be held on file.

9.4. Vera's question was very significant because any congregation whose annual income is greater than £5000 per annum must register as a charity OR be included in the LCiGB registration. If separate registration was preferred then they needed a constitution that would meet the Charity Commission's requirements and a meeting that adopted a new constitution would need to provide a formal minute confirming that decision of the voting members. They must then also consider whether to apply for company registration. Model documents have been made available for use in congregations, but it was essential to be clear about trustee's duties, responsibilities, and liabilities, which were serious. LCiGB had established a standard model for congregations. If a congregation wished to come under the umbrella of the LCiGB then they must accept direct governance from the

LCiGB Council. Congregational councils would continue to exist, but would not hold authority over budgets. For the LCiGB this latter scenario would mean considerable extra administration and costs centrally and it was a real challenge to consider how it might work in practice. Although it was theoretically possible, it would require a great deal of consultation if it was to go ahead. Additionally it would require systems to be put into place to deal with necessary administration. The Council of LCiGB had started to consider this and there were overlapping circles of concern. In particular, issues of employment and who would take responsibility for the legal requirements of the employer-employee relationship must be thought through carefully. Payment of pastors may be simpler, but it would not necessarily alleviate the need for congregations to register as an employer for other persons, such as secretaries, organists, etc. Congregations would hear more about this in the near future.

9.4 Bereket Woldeslassie raised the issue of how congregations need to proceed and it was confirmed that our action today only related to the central LCiGB. Congregations must continue to observe their own constitutions until such time as they determined what they wished to do. There were 10 “dummy” company registrations available. These were set up and paid for by LCiGB on behalf of congregations should they wish to use them. The London Chinese Lutheran Church had already decided to do so. LCiGB would give some guidance on this in the coming weeks.

9.5 The Lutheran Council of Great Britain was offering a seminar on 2nd June bringing in two charity solicitors who would give the background about why charity law had been tightened up so much recently and would outline what the obligations and issues are for organisations and their trustees. LCiGB members were invited to register and attend. It was, in fact, partly some poor church activities that led to changes in Charity law, largely due to the misuse of money. There had

been a gradual tightening of control with more statutory requirements and greater scrutiny. It used to be fairly easy to be a trustee, but now the requirements were more onerous. We were in the UK, and must comply with the requirements that apply in the UK. All churches were facing the same issues and going through the same difficulties. Hopefully we would all come through this process stronger and better able to accomplish our real mission.

9.6 Bishop Jana thanked Tom and Linda and Alec Sandison for helping with the tasks involved in preparing for registration as a charity. The workload had been incredible, and many hours had gone into the work.

10. Future activity and events

10.1 The Theological Committee Report was tabled by Roy Long, and although the committee had not met physically during the year, several things had been done, including theological seminars in the north of England, now being started in the south as well. Next year there would be a detailed report on ministry, as it had been decided we must talk about lay ministry, which had developed in the absence of a clear policy. A paper may be ready by the end of the summer. A paper on **The History of Lutherans** that was circulated to pastors could be photocopied and distributed.

10.2 Pilgrimage 2010 was announced by Annette Higgins and would be held in Leeds to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the St Luke's church building. Forms were available, and there would be a full weekend of events. The event would take place on the weekend of 3rd – 5th September 2010.

10.3 50th Anniversary of LCiGB would be held in 2011 and Bishop Jana asked for ideas about how to celebrate. The Council would be considering this in the coming months and would decide on events. Sarah Farrow suggested a series of events that would invite everyone to the various individual congregations to bring people together. Effectively it could be

a pilgrimage around the LCiGB. Pastor Tumaini suggested a big concert that would include all the different cultural groups in the LCiGB. Another suggestion included holding a residential Synod next year or a family weekend residential party. Bishop Jana thanked everyone for their thoughts and suggested that the Council appoint a Celebration Coordinator.

10.4 Revd Tim Dearhamer pointed out that the Olympics 2012 may be a good opportunity to lift awareness of Lutheranism as the Olympics always have active chaplaincies. This was an opportunity for linkages, and Dean Tom pointed out we could perhaps work with CTE on this.

10.5 Forthcoming LCiGB events: A theological seminar had been planned for 12th June and in the autumn one might be held on governance. In July there was a ministerium and in October a retreat. In November, the Women's Retreat would be held on the weekend of 19-21 November at Bawtry Hall. The theme would be "grace". More information would be available soon.

10.6 Mission Offering 2010. Bishop Jana asked if anyone wished to propose suggestions for the mission offering this year, and she suggested the LWF Department for World Service which needed funding for disaster relief and development work. Bereket reported that their congregation focused its mission on Eritrea as there was such great need there, and they were building churches, so they opted not to participate in the central LCiGB mission activity.

11 Date and Venue of next Synod

The date of the next Synod would be 23rd April 2011, and the venue would be decided.

12 Any other business

12.1 Revd Tim Dearhamer reported he would attend the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod and while there raise awareness of the LCiGB.

12.2 Bishop Jana expressed thanks to the Eritreans for hosting the Synod, to all the group leaders, and to those who assisted with worship, Pastor Fetsum in particular as well as the Eritrean choir and Martin Knizia for providing the music.

13 Closing Prayers were led by Pastor Tumaini Kallaghe.

SYNOD 24TH April 2010 SWOT ANALYSIS

A session at the Synod (24th April 2010) carried out a follow-up SWOT analysis, taking the original analysis held in January a step further. It looked at the present situation, suggested ways for improvements, and a wish-list (if money were no object) for the future.

GROUP 1: Challenges of transient membership (Moses Shonga)

Present Situation

Not much has changed in the last year. Congregations still struggle with problems of transient membership. Membership often includes large numbers of students and foreign Lutherans placed in the UK for short term employment. The diversity in the church means that a number of groups worship in different languages, with different cultural traditions underpinning the “transitional” and multi-cultural presence in the church.

Problems

- Often people come and go quickly, and it is difficult to retain a core group who have the skills, knowledge & experience to act as trustees
- People come from many different cultural backgrounds and church practices, and the English liturgy is often quite

different from that sought and preferred by individuals used to a different style of worship.

- People who are short term may be reluctant to get involved in congregational life
- People coming from many different cultures face problems of settling or homesickness and these require specific skills to help them.
- Many congregations have an aging membership, with few young people, who are the key to the future of the church.
- There can be language barriers and cultural differences, but we need to encourage worship in English to attract youth

Suggestions

- It is important to retain a significant core group of UK-based persons, and we need to appeal to the indigenous population and to retain those foreign Lutherans who have settled in the UK.
- We need to improve our appeal for the youth.
- Projecting our Lutheran image and identity better might help to “market” Lutheranism and clarify the difference from other churches. Might we strengthen our identity and our image, and then use that to enhance our marketing to the indigenous population? Perhaps the LCIGB should develop a “strap line”.
- In view of the lack of a significant core, it is crucial that congregations have excellent pastoral leadership in place, with knowledge about UK requirements
- We need to establish an institutional memory – documented – to help when new people take over “duties or responsibilities” in the church, so that new comers or those unfamiliar with the UK might receive information crucial to take on tasks
- More cross-congregational activities such as retreats, training, residential weekends, might help to identify leaders, provide information and raise skills.
- A common liturgy that is cross-cultural should be developed.

- **If money were no object, we would “plant” more churches in many locations with paid full time clergy providing excellent leadership.**

GROUP 2: Finance (Carl Bjorvang)

The group wished to find ways to better manage the finances.

- Some expenditure might be better if centralised in the church, e.g. pastors salary payments
- Administration could be pulled together
- Outreach could be focused regionally to ensure economies of scale
- Pool our resources to get a church going, working together
- Centralisation might lead to a top-down approach but it is difficult to have a critical mass of responsible persons in congregations to sustain the church.
- Overheads could be focused on to ensure they are really needed

If all these were implemented hopefully the lack of funds will not be such a burden.

GROUP 3: Outreach (Pastor Libby Toomsalu)

The present situation indicates no real outreach programme in place, but outreach occurs in two ways, (1) a result of chance and (2) from organised activities. The church membership is relied upon to bring friends to church, but local and regional action is required also, and in both communities and in universities. Some congregations currently advertise in local and district newspapers, on web sites and within universities.

Problems

- Pastors must be in the location of the church for it to work
- Knowledge of the history of Lutherans in an area can help

- Culture clash can occur, but language problems of the past are not a problem for younger people, so it is necessary to appeal to the young as well as the old

Future – How to do it? Training?

- Keep a positive outlook
- Pastors in all congregations
- Tent-making ministry vs full time ministry is an issue
- Establish a person responsible for outreach and visitors, establish good communications and follow up contacts.
- Sermons printed and distributed to those unable to come to services
- Advertising/marketing
- Social events
- Visiting
- Back tracking to find previous members
- Invite people to “come and see”

GROUP 4: Communications (Ulrike Ellis)

There has been a lot done already. Since last year

- The Forum is being published
- International services in London for LCIGB and LC
- The web site information page gets 30-40 hits per day
- Joint services between congregations have occurred
- Association of Polish Lutheran congregations meet at least twice a year

Suggestions for improvement

- The Forum needs to ensure we can print in black & white only
- More meetings between congregations
- Helping congregations to have their own web site or perhaps add pages for local congregations to main LCIGB web site

- English needs to be main language because the proliferation of many foreign language congregations means we are in danger of fragmentation
- Collaboration with the ELCE and more ecumenical work
- Improvements at local level

Reflections on the year

Bishop Jana Jeruma-Grinberga

“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”

(Romans 5:1-11, Epistle for the 3rd Sunday in Lent)

The process that Paul describes above – the movement from suffering through endurance to hope in the love of

God – reminds of the image of God as the refiner’s fire described by Malachi: “For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.” (Mal 3:2-3) The Christian life, the path through difficulties, sorrow, challenges, as well as joys, beauty and laughter, changes us, refining us from the rough ore of the weak sinner to the hope-filled silver of the redeemed soul.

In 2010 a fair amount of refining has gone on in the LCiGB. We suffered the travails of changing our constitution, registering as a charity, changing the way in which the church and its congregations are governed, and methods by which we run our own affairs. At times this has been difficult and challenging, but at last we seem to be emerging from most of those trials, and beginning to breathe the clean and righteous air of good administration and governance.

Inevitably, though, that has meant that some of the other work that the church does has had to be delayed this year. In a small church like ours, there is only so much capacity in terms of human resources, finance and time; and inevitably we have had to prioritise somewhat. But it seems as though we are nearing the end of this phase of the life of LCiGB, and we will be able to turn our attention to more spiritual matters in 2011.

However, there have been many events and occasions this year within the life of our church which have been memorable, and which have nourished us along the way.

The pilgrimage in Leeds in September, marking the 25th Anniversary of the church building for St Luke's, was a lovely occasion – new information gained, new friends made and shared prayer and worship enjoyed. The Women's Retreat in November was much appreciated by all participants, with the study of *The Hammer of God* by Bo Giertz a valuable and interesting activity.

The pastors of the church met twice in Ministerium meetings, discussing matters of theology and organisation, especially the crucial issue of providing pastoral care into the next 50 years of LCiGB, both in terms of lay and ordained ministry. We met together with some of the Lay Ministers for a brilliant retreat in October, a time of real spiritual rest and refreshment. And our annual conference with our brothers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in England was once again both challenging and good-humoured; the developments that have taken place in our relationship over the last few years are a real blessing and joy.

Lutherans seem to crop up increasingly frequently in ecumenical bodies and events these days, as our profile is raised by participation in bodies such as Churches Together in England, and its various local and national expressions. The 'added value' that Lutherans bring to the

ecumenical mix (our strong sense of theological doctrine and liturgical tradition, our ability to adapt to physical circumstance and our desire to work towards the fulfilment of Christ's prayer that we should all be one) is recognised in many areas where we have the ability and personnel to take part.

The joint services during Lent and Holy Week that were organised by St Anne's and LCiGB enabled us to worship together, and was very valuable for those congregations that are unable to hold services each Sunday and on weekdays. I hope and pray that this will become an annual tradition in our church, and that other areas where more than one congregation of Lutherans exists, including those outside LCiGB, will also take up this ministry. The Joint Reformation Service organised by the Lutheran Council of Great Britain on Sunday 31 October at the Danish Church in London was also very good, a tradition renewed after many years – and for those who went on to St Anne's for Reformation Bach Vespers, no better way to spend a day celebrating our Lutheran past and present.

Thank you to all who have worked for the church this year – and please forgive me for not being able to mention everyone by name. The Council (David Lin, Tom Bruch, Stanley Goh, Annette Higgins, Tumaini Kallaghe, Robert Wojtowicz and Linda Bruch) have worked hard and effectively, as have all the committees of the church; Roy Long has produced reams of excellent thought and background knowledge; Sarah and Robin Farrow have

gone from height to height in their work with The Forum; Rosanna Mason has coped with almost everything we have thrown at her; Bishop Emeritus Walter has been a kind and helpful source of advice and institutional memory. Our chaplains (John Evenson, Seija Frears and Marlies Adam) have continued to develop their ministry in the university setting in ways that are innovative and deeply rooted in service.

But no time to stand still and be too self-congratulatory. There is still much work to be done to build fellowship and mutual love among our congregations; to find effective ways of reaching out to those seeking peace and grace; to enable our congregations and their members to proclaim their faith and their hope to the communities in which they live and work. The Council (Trustees) of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain pledge themselves to be alongside our congregations, members and pastors during whatever refining processes God has in store for us; together we may 'boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God'. We are still weak, and maybe we always will be; but it was for such as us that Christ was willing to die. 'But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us'. And our confidence will never lie in riches, in full bank accounts and tidy governing documents, but in the reconciliation given us by our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

+Jana

28 February 2011

Finance Report to Synod (LCiGB Church Session)

Accounts for 2010 & Budget 2011

Accounts 2010

We are grateful for support from various churches and organisations during 2010, and we thank formally and publicly the following groups:

- The Lutheran Council of Great Britain
- VELKD in Germany
- Martin Luther Bund in Germany
- The Lutheran Church in Poland
- The Arkansas/Oklahoma Synod
- LCIGB member congregations

In 2010, the Lutheran Council of GB extended its generous support for administration and also for pastors' salary subsidies and has promised additional funding for 2011. VELKD supports the LCIGB in many ways, but in particular they generously agreed to extend chaplaincy funding. The Martin Luther Bund supports our education programme. We are also grateful to Church in Poland to provide funds for the Polish ministry in the LCiGB. We are grateful also to our friends in the Arkansas Oklahoma Synod (USA) who continue, during times of financial hardship, to support the ministry in Birmingham. We are also grateful to those of you in congregations who contributed to the LCIGB, and we appreciate your continuing efforts also to move towards a new system of tithing to support the church.

The finance accounts for 2010 show a small operational surplus which is an improvement over last year's

operational deficit. It is important to note, however, that the surplus is the result of a grant for administration from the Lutheran Council that covered £10000 of salaries and rent, together with other general expenditure. We also benefited similarly from a grant to run programmes. This means we are not self-sustaining financially. We need to take steps to improve our income, while we continue to support our congregations as much as we can.

The Trustees (Council members) are painfully aware that our ability to function relies upon the generous help of others and we operate dangerously close to financial difficulties. However, our position this year as the beneficiary of funding allows us space and time to consider how best to sustain the central function of the church into the future. Our 50th Anniversary is a good time to celebrate, but also to consider how we can make it through the next 50 years!

The reporting format for our accounts is required by the Charity Commission. We take steps every year to ensure that our financial operations are in line with Charity Commission requirements. The Council of LCiGB has adopted a number of policies and procedures to maintain good financial practice. We are in the process of adopting an executive limitations policy and regularly review charity guidelines for financial operations. We are using online banking through the CAF Bank. The detail of the accounts is available for anyone to see if they wish. Please contact me if you would like further details than are in the formal accounts.

BUDGET 2011

The budget for 2011 was agreed by the Council at a meeting held on 18 December 2010 and revised in February 2011. The projected surplus is again enabled by Lutheran Council of GB assistance to sustain a senior administrator salary. In addition to a small increase in salary rates and honorarium payments (1.5%) we have agreed to increase the hours of the senior administrator from 8 to 12 per week, in acknowledgement of the heavy workload. The increased hours will start at the beginning of April 2011.

The LCIGB continues financially only because we are blessed by the generosity of church friends and individual donations. In the year of our 50th Anniversary, we present a real challenge to everyone, i.e. to lift the funds in our church to a level that will allow us to be self-financing and give us the capacity to increase our assistance to those of our member congregations that need help. We propose an anniversary challenge this year to fundraise over £10,000. Our Bishop believes in a target of £50,000!! It is important to remember that our goal is **in addition to** tithed contributions from member congregations. It would be fantastic to achieve a level of income that enables us to provide sufficient support and practical help to member congregations to make a very real difference.

To this end, we ask you to engage in celebrating the 50th Anniversary with ***Change for Church***. We ask you to give us coins, gathered in containers. Throw your loose change into a receptacle at the end of every day. Children can contribute their pennies – 50000 pennies is £500 – not

insignificant! Throw your change at the LCiGB and let's see if we can give enough change to our church that allows us to achieve change in our church. With God's help we will grow through the next 50 years!

Programme for 2011

On the 29th January 2011, a treasurers' meeting was held at which participants discussed a range of topics of interest to those trustees entrusted with financial responsibilities in congregations. Although we were few in number, the small group provided an opportunity for discussion about specific responsibilities of treasurers and also individuals' situations and needs. We had a good day together, and we agreed to hold more of these events, preferably and hopefully twice a year. Another session will be scheduled soon. Topics identified for future meetings include employment, mission, and stewardship. If you have more topics you would like to see on a programme, then please let us know. Contact me or any of the other Council members.

Mission Collection 2011

It was agreed at the LCiGB Council meeting on 11th February 2011 to dedicate a church-wide mission collection this year to support the LWF's Department of World Service. You can see more about the important work done through the projects of this LWF department in a wide range of developing countries. See the link below for further information.

http://donations.lutheranworld.org/projects_Development.php

Please designate specific collection or collections (e.g. Easter, Reformation) to donate your plate collection to this worthy cause. LCiGB are happy to collect funds from the congregations and make one bank transfer to the LWF, saving on bank charges. Cheques should be made payable to LCiGB and sent to the church office.

TITHING 2011

For those congregations who are adopting tithing, you are welcome to send in your contributions to the LCiGB however frequently you wish, monthly, quarterly, biannually. Please do not leave it to the end of the year as that would cause us cash-flow problems. Remember we are looking for 10% of donations, so do begin to send us these as soon as possible. You are welcome to send cheques to the LCiGB office. If you need to make payments by bank transfer, please talk to me as I shall need to be sure to identify each and every transaction that occurs in the bank statements. We thank all of you for trusting in God's grace and we trust you will find it to be an interesting and worthwhile exercise in stewardship.

Linda Bruch, Treasurer

LCiGB Budget 2011	2011 unrestrict ed funds	2011 Restricted funds brought forward	Notes
	BUDGET	BUDGET	
INCOME			
Fundraising	9,000		A REAL CHALLENGE THIS YEAR !!
Bank Interest	100		
Donations	2,000		
CTE Bishop consultancy - Devt European Links	3,000		
Misc	0		
Total	14,100		
Income from reimbursables			
HMRC reimbursements	8,000		These are direct reimbursables from congregations
Synod reimbursements	180		
Other reimbursements	2,000		
Total reimbursables	10,180		
Congregational Contributions from Tithing			Tithing is the new method for congregations to contribute to the central LCiGB; figures are based upon last year in absence of clear indications from congregations about levels of potential income. We hope to exceed these figures.
St Anne's, incl Swahili & Ethiopian, London	1,530		
Wengielawit Eritrean Congregation, London	325		
London Chinese Lutheran Church, London	850		

St Luke's, Leeds	635		
St Paul's Corby	510		
Trinity, Nottingham/Leicester	315		
St Mark's, Birmingham	220		
Christ the King London			
St John's, Cambridge, Reading & High Wycombe	510		
St Matthews, Bradford	210		
St Martins, Manchester	210		
Imani Mission Congregation, Reading	180		
Additional donations	200		
Sub-Total Congregational Subscriptions	5,695		
Restricted Income			
Lutheran Council (Salary Subsidies)	12,500		Amount based on last year - exact amount still to be confirmed
Lutheran Council (Special admin funding) year 2 of grant	7,500		Year 2 of three-year grant (reduced amount for 2011 & 2012)
Lutheran Council Project 3 year grant		15,064	balance held from 2010
VELKD Germany (Chaplaincy) 3KEuros	0	2,389	balance remaining after end 2010
Arkansas/Oklahoma Synod	2,400		
Mission collection: LWF Dept of World Service	500		
Restricted Income	22,900	17,453	
TOTAL INCOME	52,875	17,453	

EXPENDITURE			
Salaries + Honorariums			
Bishop's Stipend (honorarium)	2,070		These figures represent a 1.5% increase over last year, and increased hours for the administrator.
Administrator Salary (gross)	9,830		
Salary on-costs (Bishop & Administrator)	520		HMRC Employers' National Insurance returns
Recruitment costs (admin)	0		
HMRC tax returns (congregational)	8,000		directly reimbursable (see above)
Sub-Total Salaries + Honorariums	20,420		
Office Expenses:			
Rent	6,000		
Telephone	100		
Stationery (includes printer toner cartridges)	400		
Photocopying	100		
Postage	180		
Printing (brochures, events posters, newsletters)	200		
Equipment (includes computer HW/SW)	150		
Furniture	150		
Insurance	320		
Banking charges	50		
Sub-Total Office Expenses	7,650		

Bishop's Expenses			
Travel to/from congregations, meetings, events	1,020		
Hospitality	200		
Telephone (use of personal when away from office)	50		
Sub-Total Bishop's Expenses	1,270		
Admin Meetings (Synod & Council): expenses			
Synod: venue costs, includes catering	400		
Travel to/from meetings	600		
Catering costs for meetings	80		
Sub-Total Council Meetings: expenses	1,080		
Ministerium meetings (Incl Clergy Retreat)			
Venue & catering costs	1,000		
Presenters	510		
Travel reimbursements	300		
Total Ministerium meetings	1,810		
Fees, Memberships			
LWF	500		
LC	350		
ALS	40		
Accounts audit or examination	150		
Expert advice (congregational)	400		
CRB VBS, data protection registration	0		

Sub-Total Fees, Memberships	1,440		
Projects			
Women's Work	510		
Chaplaincy Leicester	510		
Sub-total Projects	1,020		
Restricted Project funding expenditure			
VELKD chaplaincy contribution		2,389	
Poorer pastors' subsidies (LC income)	12,500		
Project development funding (LC grant)		13,064	
LC Grant - Education		2000	
LC Grant - Admin/Governance congregational	0	0	
Arkansas Oklahoma Synod: Mission Devt	2,400		
Mission Collection: LWF Dept of World Service	500		
Sub-Total Restricted Project Funding Expenditure	15,400	17,453	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2009	50,090	17,453	
Surplus/(- Deficit)	2,785	0	

Congregational reports follow
*(from those churches which submitted their reports in time
for the printing deadline)*

ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM

175 Sellywood Road, Bournville
Birmingham B30 1TJ
TEL: 0794 150 1210

MINISTER: The Rev'd John A Evenson

CHAIR OF CONGREGATION: Mrs Wellu Shilla

PLACE OF WORSHIP:
St Francis Hall, The University of Birmingham
Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT

DAYS AND TIMES OF SERVICES:
**11am, First and Third Sunday of each month and Holy
Days**

BAPTISED MEMBERSHIP: 24

Adults: 21 Children (1-16yrs): 3

PASTORAL SERVICES IN 2010:
The congregation supports a combined ministry of
Lutheran chaplaincy to university students and a worship
home for persons from the Lutheran tradition in the West
Midlands. The congregation has worshipped using various

liturgical settings during the year. All services are followed by a shared mid-day meal, an important part of our ministry as a community of Christ. We have held three congregational walking days, going to nearby West Midland forests or hills overlooking Birmingham, and many home visits and friendship meetings.

In October, the congregation also took part in a special fund raising fair for the Anna Irba Foundation Trust, an important work among the rural poor in Tamil Nadu, India.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Income through Offerings: £714

Income through Donations: LCiGB: £ 1000, Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, ELCA: £1883

Major expenditure: Pastor's salary: £3000

Charity projects and Mission Offerings: £600

ST LUKE'S LEEDS

Add paper report in by hand

St Luke's 2

TRINITY CONGREGATION
Leicester/Nottingham



MINISTERS' NAMES

1. Pastor Libby Toomsalu
2. Marlies Adam - Lay Minister

CHAIR(MAN) OF CONGREGATION

Margaret Pickford

ADDRESS, PHONE AND EMAIL

33, Seymour Road, Burton on the Wolds
Leics. LE12 5AH
m.pickford@live.co.uk

Tel: 01509 881264

PLACE(s) OF WORSHIP (Full postal address)

Lutheran Church
Homefield Road/Nutall Road
Nottingham NG8 5GH

DAYS AND TIMES OF SERVICES

1st and 3rd Sunday of the month 11am
Other special occasions as announced

BAPTISED MEMBERSHIP:

Adults: 15 Children: 2

PASTORAL SERVICES IN 2010:

Baptisms1.....



Main events

Good Friday Service
Garden party
Christmas meal

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Income through Offerings: £860.00

Income through Donations: £47.00

Major expenditure: Pastor's Salary £990.00

Pastor's transport £330.00

Rent £440.00

Charity projects and Mission Offerings: Haiti

ANY OTHER INFORMATION:

Marlies Adam, our Lay Minister, works voluntarily as the Lutheran Chaplain at the ecumenical chaplaincy in Leicester. She is also on the council of Churches Together in Leicester and Leicestershire.

Our goals as a church, are to strengthen our congregation and increase in size. We also wish to meet with Lutherans from other congregations in order to develop stronger links. Our ultimate goal is to have a resident Lutheran minister who will serve us in the Lutheran tradition and be instrumental in achieving our goals.

In order to strengthen our links with other Lutherans in the country

- Marlies invited the congregation from Milton Keynes for a Garden Party at her home. We enjoyed our time together.
- Four of our congregation (25%) plus Pastor Libby, participated in the Lutheran Women's Day in the summer – again held at Marlies' home. Two participated at the Women's residential meeting at Bawtry in November.

- There will be a Lutheran Women's Day meeting at the home of Marlies Adam on Saturday 18th June. If anyone is interested please contact marliesadam@talktalk.net

Asking the congregation, during our refreshments, for any stories or thoughts for this report, of why we come together, there were replies of 'for the biscuits.' as PJ (5) was just taking another biscuit from the tin. We certainly do enjoy our time together after the service as we catch up on each others' news and share our time together.

Elaine, PJ's mother, related the following. She asked PJ not to play with any toy that he had brought along to the service but to listen to what Marlies had to say.

"I know what she's going to talk about" he said.

"What?" Elaine replied.

"She's going to talk about Jesus."

The service followed it's usual course and when the time arrived for the sermon Marlies stood at the lecturn and stated "Jesus said.....you are the salt of the earth"

PJ turned to his mother "I told you!"

That is why we come together, to hear the Word of God from the Bible. To learn, to be encouraged, to be strengthened, to understand and so much more, through the Word and Jesus.

St Paul's Corby

Add paper report in by hand

St Paul's 2

St Martin's

Add by hand

St Martin's 2

St Matthew's

Add by hand

St Matthew's 2

IMANI LUTHERAN CHURCH

MINISTERS' NAMES

1. REV. TUMAINI KALLAGHE (MRS)
2. FELIX KALLAGHE (LAY MINISTER)

SECRETARY OF CONGREGATION

MR. JOHN PYUZA
jpyuza@yahoo.com

PLACE(s) OF WORSHIP

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
LONDON ROAD
READING; RG1 5BD

DAYS AND TIMES OF SERVICES

FIRST, SECOND AND FOURTH SUNDAY EVERY MONTH

BAPTISED MEMBERSHIP:

Adults: 30 Children: 14

PASTORAL SERVICES IN 2010:

Baptisms 4

Main events eg. Congregational outings, Special Services:

Children summer activities
Congregation summer barbecue

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Income through Offerings: £5,882.00

Restricted and special fund: £1323.52

Major expenditure:

Church Hire	£2,210.00
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Stationery/office	£ 632.00
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Organist/guest Preachers	£ 390.00
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Others

Charity projects and Mission Offerings:

ANY OTHER INFORMATION*:

Evangelism week – May/June

Youth project – Youth club

We run Swahili Fellowship every third Sunday which involve people from all Christian Denominations

Chaplaincy reports

LUTHERAN CHAPLAINCY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Work among students and staff at the University of Birmingham is very rewarding. I am a part of a multi-faith chaplaincy that includes chaplains from most of the Christian traditions, Orthodox and Reformed Jewish traditions and representatives from Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim groups.

Most of the work I am involved with is assisting students from Asia, Africa, North America and Europe to find a caring community far away from home. While there are about fifty students here who identify with the Lutheran heritage, only a small minority of them actually want to participate in church related activities. University is often a time when re-evaluation of family and ethnic traditions are put aside in exploration of other ideas, and like other faith groups, we experience this reality on campus. However, we try to reach out to all students that we meet, and join in a variety of campus activities to broaden our contacts and ministry. This includes good contact with the Student Guild officers and assisting in advocacy for student concerns, especially necessary in this time of budget cut-backs to higher education.

Counselling and other people ministries are a large part of our work, often with persons who are not active in any faith organization. We also assist other chaplains in the day to day work of our chaplaincy centre, St Francis Hall, and work closely with the Roman Catholic, Anglican and

other groups on campus. I also participate in the campus wide student welfare organisations- and keep good contacts with Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist chaplains. We have also made personal contacts with students from other universities and colleges in the area that may lead to instruction in the Christian faith.

All in all, this ministry is one of presence, being a witness for caring love, justice and forgiveness on a campus village that encompasses more than thirty thousand souls.

The Rev'd John A Evenson, Lutheran Chaplain to the University of Birmingham

The University of Leicester Chaplaincy

The year 2010 has been a very successful year for the Leicester Chaplaincy. Since September we finally have a Coordinating Chaplain, which really has helped our work. The Chaplaincy is an Ecumenical Local Partnership and has now 11 Chaplains from the following traditions:

- Anglican
- Roman Catholic
- United Reform Church
- Methodist
- Baptist
- Quaker
- Salvation Army
- Lutheran

Weekly we offer the following:

- Morning Prayers on three mornings
- Evening Prayers twice a week
- Roman Catholic Mass twice a week
- Thursday Lunchtime worship
- Staff Fellowship (for staff employed by the University Tuesday Lunchtime)
- International Fellowship (on Tuesday evening)
- Alpha Course (Tuesday evening)

We also have at least three “Open Days” per year. The next one will be with hourly meditations and food available all day.

Our two main events each year is the Annual Chaplaincy Lecture. In 2010 the speaker was Dame Mary Tanner and we were happy to have Bishop Jana attending the lecture. The other main event is the Chaplaincy Carol Service for the University, which is held at the largest Hall at the University. Last Christmas we had over 200 people attending.

At the beginning of the academic year the Chaplaincy has a stand at both the International Student Fair and the Fresher's Fair. For both these events the Chaplaincy is open every day from morning to evening and we were very pleased last September to see that many students also visited the Chaplaincy – on one day we had just over 300 students visiting!

The Chaplains have now started to visit each department in pairs. Each pair of Chaplains spends at least one hour per week in visiting the various departments of the University, to make our presence more widely known throughout the University. The Chaplaincy is open from 8.30 in the morning until 5.30 in the evening (longer when there are evening activities planned). At all times there is at least one Chaplain on the premises for students to talk to.

To help students from abroad we have kept the Chaplaincy open on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, providing Christmas lunch and activities for those students, who could not go home. We also had a party for them on New Years Eve.

We have a particularly good relationship with the Student's Welfare Service, who refer students to us for different reasons and also take part in many of our

activities. They have also informed us immediately about illness and death of students or staff and the Chaplains have been involved during the last year in conducting funeral and memorial services.

The team of chaplains meets once a week to discuss the events of the last week and plan for the next week. I feel very privileged to work with such a dedicated team as the Lutheran Chaplain.

Marlies Adam

St Luke's Lutheran Church supports the work in the Leeds Universities Chaplaincy

MINISTERS' NAMES

Deacon/ University Chaplain Seija Frears

I work under the leadership of Bishop Emeritus Walter Jagucki in St' Luke's Lutheran church

Leeds Universities Chaplaincy, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT

Tel. 0113- 3435071

PLACE(s) OF WORSHIP (Full postal address)

As above

DAYS AND TIMES OF SERVICES

- 1.Culture Café on Tuesdays 5-7pm (2-7 students)
- 2.International Students Club(30-100 people) and Bible discussion groups (2-12people) on Wednesdays 6-9pm also in vacation time
- 3.Visiting students in residential halls on Thursday evenings and conducting an international religious survey
- 4.Once a month lunch time 'International Staff & Friends Coffee Hour' also meeting with students for private Bible tutorials on Fridays

BAPTISED MEMBERSHIP: n/a

Adults: Children:

PASTORAL SERVICES IN 2010: n/a

Main events eg. Congregational outings, Special Services:

York trip for 18 students in Easter holidays
Gospel Concert in October about 80 people

Culture Shock Comedy Drama performances for about 900 students
Reverse Culture Shock Drama for about 100 students in two performances
Cooking & Friendship events 4 times/ year 30-40 students in each event

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: operating through Leeds Universities Chaplaincy budget which was £ 2250 for international student work which also includes our Chinese work which is lead by my colleague Kim Chan

Income through Offerings: n/a
Income through Donations: all the budget
Major expenditure: International Students Club
Charity projects and Mission Offerings: n/a

ANY OTHER INFORMATION*:

1. To continue to cement the new ISC structure and keep up-dating it. To support the well being and training of the 19 volunteers.
2. To further develop the 'International Staff & Friends Coffee Hour' group and the 'Culture Café' work in Headinley Campus
3. Biblical tutorial

Please see my more detailed Annual report 2010 below /Seija Frears

Annual Report 2010
Leeds Universities Chaplaincy, Emmanuel Centre, University of Leeds LS2 9JT

www.leeds.ac.uk/chaplaincy
mob 07951 478960 | seijafrears@hotmail.com

Year 2010 has seen **the International Student Club** leaping forward regarding up-dating the work and the practicalities. By God's grace the new **ISC structure** was implemented and we had **two ISC-Advisory Council meetings in February and in September** for which we wrote **reports adding statistics** regarding how many people attended the events, the countries from which the students come and results from a survey 'what do the students like most in the Club'. During the last year the **Club became more self-supportive** as the Treasurer initiated a **regular standing order** for those wishing to support the Club financially. **The old ISC bank account was also revived** and the Treasurer started to give **regular financial reports**. The Club obtained **two big lockable storage cabinets**. Therefore the running of the Wednesday Club evenings has become easier as any of the volunteers can now bring more material as needed. In addition to all of this the new **ISC Volunteers Handbook** was finalised which helped tremendously the induction of new volunteers. During the year we got two new volunteers who successfully used the new handbook. In the ISC we currently have 19 motivated and committed volunteers.

International Students Club has had roughly **the same number of people as last year**: During the autumn we had about 70-100+ participants each week, during the spring and summer terms 40-80 people and during summer and other holiday times about 25-40. From September 2010 to January 2011 just over 300 new people were added to the weekly e-mail reminder list. They come from 67 different countries. Altogether the number of those who are on the e-mailing circuit is about 1050. According to our survey the **students most like the programs where they can get to know and learn more about British culture. The second most popular were the evenings when we learn and get to know other countries' culture and customs**. Popular also were the following: karaoke, trips and walking in the parks in Leeds, cooking & friendship events, quiz nights, films and game evenings, dramas, folkdance, visiting civic hall... Here are a few of the student comments: 'I enjoyed the friendly atmosphere.' 'I have thoroughly enjoyed it completely.'

Thank you for everything. You have made my stay really beautiful.'- 'You guys are doing a great job keep it up!!!

'**Reverse Culture Shock Drama**' was performed in the ISC evening to about 50 students at the beginning of June in a very cosy atmosphere. Leeds Met International Students Advisor Karen Griffith organised '**Life after Leeds**' event in Headingley Campus where we performed selected parts of the play for about 50 students as well. With Karen I also started a new social and cultural group for international students in Headingley Campus called '**Culture Cafe**' where 2-7 students have attended. One Japanese student told me how important this group was for her to practise English. **Arriving to England 'Culture Shock Comedy Drama**' was performed again to around 900 students. The biggest events were organised in partnership with Leeds University International Student Office in the same way as in previous years. The good co-operation has continued with officers in both institutions.

Other work:

After the Club there is an intermediate **bible discussion group** which was attended by 5-10 people. The beginners group was attended by 2-5 people. In Emmanuel Centre I have been giving biblical tutoring to a Taiwanese student who said that once a week was not enough! We also studied the catechism and baptism material. When she returned to her home country a follow up link was established with a local Lutheran church who were in touch with the student later on. When the student evaluated her year she said that the best thing was Jesus!

For 10 years already I have composed a **list of Christmas and New Year events for international students on the web site** of both universities. My colleague Kim gave me encouraging feedback from the list as one Indian and one Kenyan student had attended the Christmas events organised by the Chinese church and had wanted to give their lives to the Saviour.

I have continued **visiting students on Thursdays** in Residential Halls with Laurence Pusey and have met about 137 students or their family members, staff or volunteers in residential halls, in private homes, in our offices or hospitals. Altogether there were just over 200 contact visits or calls for pastoral counselling during this year. As a result of our visiting and an **international religious survey**, which we started in the beginning of the year, we were able to give five New Testaments to those students who had specifically requested it.

A traditional York trip during the Easter holidays for 18 students and a few colleagues. My cousin Sirkka from Finland was visiting at the same time with her three daughters helping very much with the catering. In October we organised a **Gospel Concert** for the 6th time with the Club volunteers. The evening was blessed with up-lifting music and a great atmosphere! The **Cooking & Friendship** events were organised four times and attracted 30-40 people each evening. Here is one story: 'A small group of international students from different countries met in the Club in the beginning of September when we played a game about international opinions. During the evening they each told about their culture & customs and about their own opinions regarding some questions mentioned in the game. The group wanted to meet again to continue the discussion and so they started to invite each other for a meal from their own home country and a conversation. One student invited them for an Italian meal another for a Chinese meal etc. Now nearly the whole small group was participating in the 'cooking & friendship' event to learn more about cooking!'

'**International Staff & Friends Coffee Hour**' meetings every second month on Friday lunchtime have been attended by 3-7 people. This new networking opportunity tries to help new international staff who have just arrived and look for support. In these meetings we can also advertise other activities eg the International Students' Club which is regularly attended by staff, visiting scholars and postgraduate mature students. At the end of the year one staff member wanted to make a short

presentation about 'Dialogue' to promote discussion. This was very well received and for the new year another member of staff made a short presentation about 'Folk music'. The meetings are organised now once a month on the first Friday.

As usual in December last year I participated by teaching 11 ½ hours in Chaplaincy offered module '**Medical Profession and Spirituality**' for 43 medical students from the University of Leeds. In January I marked the 3500 word journals of 11 students. I have now been teaching for six years and feel that the teaching for ever growing student groups and marking the journals takes too much of my time and energy. After serious consideration I have informed the teaching team that I'm no longer available because the chaplaincy team consists of several new members who are qualified to do the teaching if they wish. With the support of the Chaplaincy I have been able to continue **Spiritual Direction** and prayer with Claire Parvin which has been a big help for my own spiritual discernment and also a great help for my work.

Some plans for the coming year:

1. To continue to cement the new ISC structure and keep up-dating it. To support the well being and training of the 19 volunteers.
2. To further develop the 'International Staff & Friends Coffee Hour' group and the 'Culture Cafe' work in Headingley Campus.
3. Biblical tutoring

Thank you so much for all of you who have been praying and supporting the international students work in Leeds Universities Chaplaincy. It is fantastic to see God's answers to our prayers for example in practical ways regarding all the modernisation of the ISC. We have a Great God to who all things are possible. 'Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise.'

York 16th February 2011,
Respectfully submitted
Seija Frears

