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1. INTRODUCTION

Dear Bulletin Readers

Honour to Mme Suzanne Martineau

We are delighted to learn from the Diocese in Europe that the former President of France, Jacques Chirac, has named Mme Suzanne Martineau chevalier de la Légion d'honneur, one of the highest dignities in the country. On Friday 7 September the Archbishop of Poitiers, Mgr Albert Rouet, presented the cross of the order to Mme Martineau in a ceremony in the Hôtel De Ville in Poitiers. Mme Martineau, a Roman Catholic historian and theologian has worked tirelessly for the unity of the Churches, and especially for the ecumenical relations between the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church in France. Professor Martineau was the first female interpreter and assistant at Vatican II. She has been present at 3 Lambeth Conferences, and is considered to be the French expert on Anglicanism. In the Diocese in Europe, Mme Martineau worked on the guidelines prepared by the Anglican-Roman Catholic Committees of France and England, Twinings and Exchanges/Jumelages et Echanges. This unique agreement (available from CCU in London) sets out how individual Anglicans or families unable to attend their own Eucharistic celebrations are welcome, after seeking the priest's approval, to receive Holy Communion in a Roman Catholic Church in France.

European Integration: Reform Treaty

European Integration: the latest draft of the Reform Treaty is now downloadable at the following address:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showPage.asp?id=1297&lang=en&mode=g>

Various updates from the CEC Church and Society Commission can be consulted at <http://www.cec-kek.org/content/EuropeUpdates.shtml>

Kirchentag in Bremen May 2009

Plans are already well advanced for the next German Protestant Kirchentag, to be held in Bremen in May 2009. The Bremen Kirchentag office is now in operation, in former post office premises at the main station. Information on the Bremen Kirchentag is available at <http://www.kirchentag.net/index.php?id=638>

Peter Fjellstedt Foundation: courses for clergy 2008

For readers interested in Porvoo, two important courses are coming up next year in Uppsala, Sweden, organised by The Peter Fjellstedt Foundation. The first course, for Anglican clergy, is 'The Nordic Churches: Theology, Churchmanship, Parish Life' from 24-27 April 2008. This is an invitation to get to know the Nordic Churches (with a special emphasis on The Church of Sweden), their theology and spirituality better. The course will give an overview of the Nordic Churches; their theology, the diverse spiritual traditions and the character of ordinary parish life. It will include study visits to Stockholm and the medieval Cathedrals of Uppsala and Stockholm and give the participants an opportunity to meet with colleagues.

The second course is for clergy from the Nordic and Baltic Porvoo signatory churches, Preparing for Ministry in Anglican Churches within the Porvoo Agreement, from 7-10 April 2008. This is a course for clergy considering serving in an Anglican parish, through the Porvoo Agreement. The Church of England recommends clergy to attend this course before applying for a position within the CofE. The course comprises Anglican theology; guidance through the liturgy; hymnbook information and Anglican churchmanship and it is also recommended for everyone interested in learning more about Anglican churches. During the course you will be informed of different options for ministry in Anglican Churches.

Go to the Peter Fjellstedt Foundation website for further information on both courses - <http://tiw-pro.web.internet.telia.com/~1743487/inenglish.php>

News from Latvia

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia, two new Bishops were consecrated on 13 October, in the Riga Dom. Bishops, Einārs Alpe and Pāvils Brūvers will begin their service in the newly created dioceses of Daugavpils and Liepāja. The largest of the dioceses, Rīgas archdiocese, will be under the supervision of the ELCL archbishop, Jānis Vanags, who will also continue to be the Church's overseeing bishop.

The ELCL reports that until now it has only had one bishop – the archbishop, but the need for more dioceses and bishops was seen by archbishop Teodors Grīnbergs (1933–1944) already in the first Republic of Latvia. This idea was not realized at that time due to the start of the Second World War followed by the Soviet Occupation. With the renewal of Latvian independence the ELCL returned to the plans for the creation of several dioceses and selection of bishops.

Porvoo Prayer Calendar 2008

The new Porvoo Prayer Calendar for 2008 has just been distributed in electronic form to bishops, dioceses, cathedrals and on our ecumenical networks. It is also downloadable from the Porvoo website at <http://www.porvoochurches.org/diary/index.htm>. The Porvoo Declaration commits the churches which have signed it 'to share a common life' and 'to pray for and with one another'. An important way of doing this is to pray through the year for the Porvoo churches and their Dioceses.

The new format Prayer Calendar replaces the Prayer Diary which was used during the first ten years after the signing of the Porvoo Declaration in 1996. The simplified Calendar provides a list of dioceses or churches covering each Sunday of the year, and it is hoped that individuals and parishes, cathedrals and religious orders will make use of the Calendar in their own cycle of prayer week by week. The Calendar may be freely copied or emailed for wider circulation.

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2. RESOURCES FROM THE GERMAN PROTESTANT CHURCHES

This autumn the EKD and associated bodies have produced a range of interesting materials.

New web-based resources are available for this year's commemoration of the Reformation on 31 October, at www.reformationstag.de, the day on which Luther, according to tradition, nailed his 95 Theses on the door of the Schlosskirche in Wittenberg.

The United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany (VELKD) is holding its General Synod this October with a completely new web page packed with news and resources on German Lutheran theology and spirituality – www.velkd.de. The section on worship and liturgy, and on the church year, has been extended, and special sections are available on pastoral issues, the latest being material on care of the

bereaved, linked to resources at www.trauernetz.de Details are also given of work at the Gemeindegemeinschaft in Celle, the Liturgical Institute in Leipzig and the Studienseminar in Pullach near Munich.

Readers may also be interested in two new publications in the series EKD-Texte, now downloadable from the EKD web site:

On the role of academic theology: Die Bedeutung der wissenschaftlichen Theologie für Kirche, Hochschule und Gesellschaft Dokumentation der XIV. Konsultation "Kirchenleitung und wissenschaftliche Theologie", EKD-Texte 90, 2007 - pdf file at http://www.ekd.de/download/ekd_texte_90.pdf

On the Church's response to HIV/AIDS: Für ein Leben in Würde. Die globale Bedrohung durch HIV / Aids und die Handlungsmöglichkeiten der Kirche Eine Studie der Kammer der EKD für nachhaltige Entwicklung , pdf file at http://www.ekd.de/download/ekd_texte91.pdf

3. FRESH EXPRESSIONS OF CHURCH –FINLAND

The news service of the Lutheran Church in Finland reports on new impetus on work with families, in the form of 'family clubs' in local congregations:

Various small groups and clubs in local Lutheran congregations were on recess during the summer but have started to meet again in September. "Family clubs" are among these groups, and congregations are adjusting to different needs that families have.

Besides the usual family clubs attended mostly by toddlers and their mothers or other caretakers, some congregations now have special clubs for target groups such as fathers with children, immigrant families, families of disabled children or couples who have gotten their first child.

Local "baby groups" for infants and their mothers are especially popular, and so are groups for women who are expecting a baby soon. In a family club (perhekerho in Finnish) a child can play with others of the same age, whereas an adult can meet other parents or caretakers in the same phase of life who live in the same area.

Porvoo and Meissen links and partnerships could well make 'church for all the family' a focus for study and sharing.

4. NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES' COMMISSION FOR MIGRANTS IN EUROPE (CCME)

CCME reports on two recent consultations covering theme which local partnership may want to take up:

Refugee resettlement to Spain: churches and NGOs initiate debate which will “help government to take positive decision”

Representatives of national NGOs, churches, national and regional government as well as EU and international organisations met in Madrid on 27th September to discuss future perspectives of Spain as a country receiving refugees through resettlement. The Spanish NGO ACCEM co-organised the event as part of the project “Refugee resettlement – broadening the basis in Europe which is coordinated by the Churches’ Commission for Migrants in Europe.

During the one day debate at the Ministry of Labour, representatives of the Spanish Ministry of Interior as well as the Ministry of Labour underlined that it would be both logical and possible for Spain to officially declare itself a country of resettlement and to decide on an annual quota for resettlement to Spain. Spain had in recent years regularly accepted emergency cases for resettlement, but so far not committed to an annual quota.

CCME says that refugee resettlement is the process by which refugees who have to flee their home country and find initial, but insufficient or temporary protection in another country, are resettled into a third country and find permanent protection and a durable, sustainable solution there. While around one hundred thousand refugees are annually resettled to the US, Canada and Australia, resettlement is since the 1960ies scarcely used in Europe: currently only six EU member states carry out resettlement, resettling around 3.500 refugees annually. The Churches’ Commission for migrants in Europe is since 2004 actively promoting resettlement as an additional tool for refugee protection in Europe. For more information contact CCME at info@ccme.be

Combating trafficking in human beings: ”victory of Gospel is victory over slavery”

Christian anti-trafficking workshop in Kiev underlines role of churches in former USSR countries

CCME reports that Churches in the countries of the former Soviet Union are emerging as key actors in the fight against trafficking in human beings. This was the conclusion of a workshop in Kiev/Ukraine, which brought together churches from Armenia, Belarus, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine in Kiev from 2 - 6 October.

Invited by CCME, the workshop, “Current activities and challenges in Churches’ work against trafficking”, enabled participants to discuss the theological and socio-ethical foundations of Christian work against trafficking.

Churches from Ukraine and Moldova reported about their growing involvement in the struggle against trafficking. They underlined how they have managed to sensitise clergy and laity in their own churches and at the same time develop operational programmes.

Participants agreed on future exchanges between churches in the region in

order to strengthen each other's work. Representatives of the International Organisation for Migration and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe explained how, for their organisations, churches in the countries of the former Soviet Union are becoming important partners.

5. EEA3 – REPORTS FROM THE CREATION FORUM

The European Churches Environmental Network (ECEN) has made available extensive material from the Creation Forum at the Third European Ecumenical Assembly held in Sibiu last month.

Readers can download a poster display on church environmental management. This display on reducing the energy consumption of church buildings was produced by ECEN for the Assembly in Sibiu. There are three posters on:

inspection and measurements

analysis and improvements

measuring the improvements

ECEN invites people to display the posters local churches – they can be downloaded at <http://www.ecen.org/cms/index.php?page=sibiu07>

On the Sibiu Creation Forum itself, ECEN reports

“that the changes in climate that are being experienced in different parts of the world demonstrate our interconnectedness with the whole of creation and with past and future generations.

Human technological developments and economic growth built on the use of fossil fuels (putting a warming blanket of carbon gases round the earth) is already disrupting climate patterns. If carbon emissions are not reduced drastically, we are bequeathing catastrophic climate change to our children and grandchildren.

We are irreversibly damaging the ecological systems on which life – all life - depends. This is God's creation, created in and for love, which the human race is rendering uninhabitable.

This is therefore a prime concern affecting all else discussed in the Assembly: it aggravates the problems associated with migration, peace and social justice; it calls for changes of heart and will, and therefore spirituality, to recognise that we belong within and among the totality of God's creation, not apart from it as rulers and exploiters.

The Bishop of London drew the attention of the Assembly to the pictures taken from space showing the wealthier parts of the earth, not least Europe, covered in light, with the rest largely in darkness. This symbolises in a striking way that it is the consumption of energy in the rich industrialised countries that is causing misery in other parts of the world. It is our life-style in Europe that is ignoring the limits set by the ecological balances that sustain life.

But our life-style in Europe is not simply a matter of individual choice: we are part of a culture that tempts us to seek identity and status through our possessions and traps us into relying on transport that goes on putting carbon into the atmosphere. We must actively question the priority given to economic growth that is built on ever increasing production and consumption.

To meet the challenge, ECEN believes that governments must act urgently to establish forms of carbon rationing. At the same time, we must experiment with simpler ways of living that can show our politicians and industrialists that radical alternatives can promise a much happier future for the human race. “

Proposed action from the Creation Forum

“That the Time of Creation, beginning on 1 September, be used imaginatively in all our churches for praise and prayer for creation and also, crucially, for bringing people together to plan action.

This action should include inspiring and equipping Christians, in the words of the Youth statement “to re-think their life-style in accordance with the biblical witness” or in the words of the Catholic Bishops of England, “to live simply, sustainably, and in solidarity with the poor”.

Action should be taken – as is already happening – to practice eco-management of church buildings and institutions, not least as a witness to the wider community. This then gives us the right to bring pressure on our Governments to re-orient their political and economic priorities, putting first the safeguarding of the Earth's life-supporting resources. Economies must be a sub-set of ecology, not the other way round.

This political advocacy must also include pressing the urgency of negotiating a successor to the Kyoto treaty to ensure that global carbon emissions are drastically cut in the next 10 years. Also, that the right to emit carbon within the agreed cap is shared equitably among all nations

Action to be seen as an opportunity to work with others, not least people of other faiths

There is a need to strengthen the networks that provide inspiration, support and the opportunity to share good practice, in particular the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN), which in addition to its Assemblies, has working groups on Creation time, climate change, mobility, eco-management, creation theology, water and education.

For more details, see <http://www.ecen.org/cms/index.php?page=sibiu07>

6. PORVOO PRIMATES/PRESIDING BISHOPS AND CONTACT GROUP MEETINGS

The following press release was issued at the conclusion of the Porvoo Contact Group meeting in Dublin:

**Emphasis on Communion, Interfaith work and Migration in Europe
- The Meeting of Porvoo Churches in Dublin, October 2007**

The presiding bishops of the Porvoo Churches met in Dublin from 8-9 October to discuss issues of common concern to the churches of the Porvoo Communion. These included living in communion, cooperation with people of other faiths and migration and integration in Europe.

The Porvoo Contact Group, comprising one representative from each church, continued working through the week on issues suggested by the presiding bishops, and issues from a previous Church Leaders' Meeting in Cardiff 2006. The group agreed on five areas of work to be carried forward. The first is a theological conference on "Ethics and Communion" to be held in London in January 2008, the second an interfaith consultation to be held in Scotland in November 2008. Thirdly, Denmark has been asked to host a consultation in early 2009 on "Migration and Integration". Work will continue on the role of the deacon within the Porvoo Communion and a study will be conducted on a process for the possible enlargement of the Communion. Each member of the Contact Group presented a country report describing developments with their churches and society.

The Porvoo Communion is a communion of churches, mostly in Northern Europe, that have signed an agreement to "share a common life in mission and service". The churches that signed the agreement are The Evangelical-Lutheran Churches of Estonia, Lithuania, Sweden, Norway, Iceland and Finland and the Anglican churches of Wales, Ireland, Scotland and England. Two churches from South Europe also belong to the Porvoo Communion. They are the Lusitanian Church in Portugal and the Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain. The Evangelical Lutheran Churches of Denmark and Latvia have observer status.

7. ... ECUMENICAL FORUM OF EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN

LONDON FORUM DAY 2007: SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER

The Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women is holding its Forum Day this year on Saturday 17 November at Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1.

The day starts at 10:30 and finishes at 4pm. The theme will be "Conflict and Resolution" with a keynote address by Flora Winfield, International Affairs Secretary at Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. There will be ecumenical worship during the day and opportunities to share news about Christian women in other parts of Europe.

The cost of the day will be £15 per person.

For further details and booking contact Ruth Clarke at ruth.clarke4@btinternet.com.

8. ...AND FINALLY

The Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) signed a new agreement in Chicago on 25 September. The agreement comes into force on 1 January 2008, and renews a partnership which has existed since 1991.

The agreement includes pastoral provision for members of each other's church living abroad, on theological co-operation, and looks forward to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation to be commemorated in 2017.

To download the full text of the Agreement in English and German, go to:
<http://www.ekd.de/download/EKD-ELCA-AGREEMENT.pdf>

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