

**CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY  
CHURCH HOUSE LONDON**

**EUROPEAN BULLETIN – No 58**

**March 2009**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

Dear Bulletin Readers,

At long last here is Bulletin 58 following number 57 that appeared in January. Thanks to all who have provided news and information. We also have an exclusive: news about the appointment of our new European Secretary.

I hope you find plenty of interest in this edition of the bulletin.

With all good wishes for the Passiontide, Holy Week and Easter seasons,

Francis Bassett  
Assistant Secretary CCU  
[francis.bassett@c-of-e.org.uk](mailto:francis.bassett@c-of-e.org.uk)

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**2. NEW EUROPEAN SECRETARY APPOINTED**

The CCU is pleased to announce that the Revd Dr Leslie Nathaniel has been appointed as its new European Secretary and as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Deputy Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs. He will be responsible for nurturing the Church of England's relationships with the Protestant Churches of Continental Europe (and their parent global bodies) on behalf of the CCU and the Archbishop, with special reference to the Porvoo, Meissen and Reuilly agreements but will also have some other responsibilities. He will be mainly based at Church House and will be supported by Elspeth Coke.

Dr Nathaniel is a priest in the Church of South India and has been based in the Mission and Ecumenical Affairs Department of the Landeskirche of Wuerttemberg in SW Germany for several years, before which he worked as International Interchange Adviser for CMS in London, combined with a parish role in St Anne's Church, Wandsworth. He looks forward to starting his new work in June.

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### **3. CLIMATE CONFERENCE AT ST ALBANS**

There is news from Helen Hutchison in St Albans Diocese that a one day conference is being planned on **Saturday November 14**. The Europe Group is the organiser working with the Diocesan Environment Group and the World Development Officer.

The main thrust of the day will be to look at issues of energy and climate change focussing on Europe and the developing world and what the future holds for us in practical and faith terms. All parishes in the Diocese will be invited to send representatives and they will particularly want to engage European and third world parish links in this debate.

Plans are also afoot to produce a video of young peoples' responses to climate change as they are debated during the visit from the Swedish diocese of Linköping in April, which will be shown at the November conference.

European Contacts Officers from neighbouring dioceses will be especially welcome and are invited to send representatives to this conference. Further details will be made available in due course.

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### **4. OXFORD DIOCESE: PARTNERSHIP WITH VÄXJÖ**

Bishop Sven will be visiting Oxford at the beginning of November and a programme for the visit is in preparation.

Oxford is organising a group to take part in "Världens Fest" (literally "The World's Feast") a gathering of people from all dioceses in Sweden taking place in Växjö from 6 to 10 June 2010. The theme of this Fest is "Another World is Possible".

For further details contact Tony Dickinson at [tony.dickinson@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:tony.dickinson@ukonline.co.uk)

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## **5. NEWS FROM CANON DR GARY WILTON, CHURCH OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EU INSTITUTIONS**

On 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> February Canon Wilton hosted a briefing event at the Church & Society Commission on the EU's negotiating position for the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in December 2009. Participants included representatives from the Church of Scotland, EKD, the Church of Sweden, the Secretariat of COMECE, CEC, A Rocha and ECEN. The briefing resulted in various national churches writing to their governments in advance of the EU Spring Council. In addition a joint letter was sent to the President of the Council from the Secretariat of COMECE and the Church & Society Commission of CEC.

On 17<sup>th</sup> February the Representation of the Church of Greece to the EU celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Canon Wilton represented the Church of England at the celebrations.

The Diocese in Europe welcomed the annual conference of the Chaplains of the Bishops of the Church of England to Ypres and then Brussels. On the 12<sup>th</sup> March the Church of England Representative hosted a conference in the EU Parliament for the Chaplains. This was followed by a visit the new buildings of the Secretariat of COMECE, and a Eucharist & reception at the Pro-Cathedral of Holy Trinity Brussels. On 18<sup>th</sup> March COMECE and the Church of Cyprus inaugurated their impressive new representations in Brussels. The Church of England was represented at both events.

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## **6. EFECW LONDON FORUM DAY**

The Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women is holding its London Forum Day on Wednesday July 1st from 10:30 am to 4pm at the Church of our Lady, St John's Wood. Martina Heinrichs, Co President, and a Feminist Theologian is coming from Netherlands for the meeting which will have the keynote theme "Yes we can! What future for Christian women across Europe?" More details to follow.

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## **7. CEC: LOOKING AHEAD TO LYON**

Some thematic articles have now been posted on the CEC Assembly Website linked to the overall theme of "Called To One Hope In Christ: "Make Room In Your Heart for Us" Dr Alexandros K Papaderos, Orthodox Academy of Greece

"Reflections on Hope" Claire Sixt Gateuille, French Reformed Church

"Transforming hope: a European perspective" The Revd Darrell Jackson, Director Nova Centre

"His promise is alive" Jaanus Teose, Gender Issues Coordinator WSCF Europe

"Hope for European Societies in a Globalised World"

Richard Fischer, Executive Secretary, CEC Church and Society Commission

“Migrant Christians in Europe: Hope stands against fear”

Annemarie Dupré, Former Moderator, CCME

“Some Orthodox reflections” Prof Viorel Ionita, CEC Church Churches in Dialogue Commission

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## **8. ...AND FINALLY**

### **THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS JUNE 4-7 2009**

CEC (Church and Society Commission and Churches’ Commission for Migrants in Europe) Eurodiaconia and the APRODEV group of aid organisations have produced European Elections briefing for the Churches which can be found at:

[http://www.ecumenicalvoices2009.eu/fileadmin/billeder/EN\\_Election\\_Leaflet.pdf](http://www.ecumenicalvoices2009.eu/fileadmin/billeder/EN_Election_Leaflet.pdf)

There is also a briefing on the Quaker Council for European Affairs’ website at:

[www.quaker.org/qcea/epelections](http://www.quaker.org/qcea/epelections)

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Visit the CCU website at: [www.cofe.anglican.org/info/ccu](http://www.cofe.anglican.org/info/ccu)

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