

## EDITORIAL

This issue of the Journal, No 30, will be last which it has been my privilege and pleasure to edit during the first 15 years of the Society's existence.

It is worth recalling the words of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, in the first issue of the Journal in July 1987: "What matters about the ecclesiastical law of England, is that it is 'part of the general law of England—of the common law—in that wider sense, which embraces all the ancient and approved customs of England'. But ecclesiastical law is not only a subject that attracts outstanding scholarship, which I hope will continue to be advanced in a distinguished way by the Society. It is also a changing and evolving discipline, reflecting change and evolution in the Church itself, and increasingly vital to it. Quite apart from the media attention of recent years, the affairs of the Church are rightly the subject of public scrutiny. There has never been such a need as there is today for the law of the Church to develop, and to develop soundly in the light of consistent and distinguished scholarship. It is this light which I hope the Society will be able to provide".

Thanks to the steady stream of distinguished and stimulating contributions which have been written for the Journal over the years, it is my belief that it has come to occupy a place of some standing among its contemporaries in the realm of ecclesiastical and canon law. It has, however, been the support given to the Journal by members that has in the end made this possible.

I should also like to put on record my profound gratitude to the members of the Editorial Committee and the Editorial Advisory Board for the help they have given me during the years I have been Editor of the Journal. In particular I must mention David Harte who has been Book Review Editor, Mark Hill who produces *Recent Ecclesiastical Cases*, James Behrens who liaises with those who report *Synod News*, Peter Moore who has vetted all our material for errors and, of course, successive Executive Officers, the late David Scott, and Hughie Jones and Stephen Pix, whose patience with and assistance to me has been invaluable. It also gives me much pleasure to announce the appointment of Canon Michael O'Connor, a founder member, as the Society's new Executive Officer.

The one day Conference of the Society to be held in London on Saturday 9 March 2002 will soon be upon us (see notice on page 188). It will afford an excellent opportunity for members to meet each other and consider the extent to which recent Measures relating to organisation have been successful in meeting the aspirations and needs of clergy and laity in an increasingly secular society. The Conference will also consider what now needs to be done to enable the Church to rise to the challenges that face it in the opening years of the 21st century. The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held during the day and important matters will be under discussion including the role of the General Committee. A Consultation of Chancellors and other legal advisers in the Anglican Communion will be taking place in Canterbury between 6–13 March and it is hoped that several of those taking part will be paying a visit to London and spending some time at our Conference when there will be an opportunity to meet them and learn about how the Anglican Church deals with matters of ecclesiastical law in other Provinces.

It is the turn of the Society this year to appoint the Lyndwood Lecturer. This year's Lecture will be held at St Matthew's Westminster on Wednesday, 13 November 2002, and the Lecturer will be the Bishop of Chichester, the Rt Revd John Hind.

With reforms relating to the House of Lords imminent, including possible membership for all religious leaders and questions arising as to the link between the State and the 'Established' Church of England, notice is given of the Residential Conference to be held next year in Durham from 4–6 April 2003. The title of the Conference will be 'Safeguarding the Sacred in Society: the future Role of the National Church' and the distinguished speakers will include the Bishop of Winchester, Professor Gerhardt Robbers from Trier (a member of the Editorial Advisory Board) and Lord Justice Laws. It is worth noting the dates now.

Several members of the Society have successfully taken the LLM course in Canon Law at Cardiff University (see page 301, for this year's graduands and dissertations). The course takes two years to complete and requires attendance at a number of weekend seminars. Professor Norman Doe and his colleagues are now offering an alternative, a Summer School at Cardiff in August each year, aimed particularly at those who wish to obtain or develop a grounding in church law as it applies within the Anglican Communion. The Summer School should be particularly suitable for those who wish to use a period of sabbatical leave for study and reflection in an intellectually stimulating Christian setting. The first Summer School will be held between 5–30 August 2002 and details can be obtained from The Conference Organiser, 'Class 2002', St Michael's College, Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 2YJ.

Members who attended the Residential Conference at Trinity Hall, Cambridge in April 2001 and, even more so, those who could not attend, will be delighted to know that Mark Hill is arranging for the publication of the very interesting and thought-provoking lectures on 'Religious Liberty and Human Rights' by the University of Wales Press. Details will appear in the next issue of the Journal.

Members of the Society are often anxious to get in touch with each other and an updated list of names, addresses and telephone numbers is kept by the Executive Officer, Canon Michael O'Connor. It is intended to send each member an updated list once a year with the Journal, but meanwhile copies can be obtained on application to Canon O'Connor, whose e-mail address is CanonMichaelOC@cs.com. It would be highly desirable if members could supply Canon O'Connor with their e-mail and DX addresses which can be incorporated into the list.

It may not be generally known that the Society now has its own website, [www.ecclawsoc.org.uk](http://www.ecclawsoc.org.uk) from which useful information can be obtained.

Another valuable service with which the Society is involved is the Ecclesiastical Law Centre at Middle Temple Library. Most consistory court and appeal court judgments are kept there in bound volumes which can be inspected by, amongst others, members of the Society. Arrangements are in hand to make this service available to those who cannot conveniently visit the Library, by enabling enquirers to obtain tables and indexes of cases from which particular judgments can be ordered. It is hoped that a booklet about this will be produced in the next few months and circulated to members with the next issue of the Journal.

Two periodicals which are likely to be of interest to readers are the International Journal for the Study of the Christian Church obtainable from Mary Coyne, T&T Clark, c/o Orca Book Services, Stanley House, 3 Fleets Lane, Poole, Dorset BH15 3AJ, and the Newsletter of the European Consortium for Church and State Research obtainable from Cardiff Law School, P0 Box 427, Cardiff CF10 3XJ.

Several members of the Society visited the fascinating exhibition "Illuminating the Law", a collection of medieval legal manuscripts, at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. A review of the catalogue written by Fr Robert Ombres, OP, appears on page 284 of this issue of the Journal. Copies of the catalogue can be obtained from the Museum.

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the death of Chancellor William Hemmerick, founder, editor and driving force behind The Journal of the Church Law Association of Canada. He played an important part in Canadian Church life and he will be remembered here for the part he took in the Nottingham Residential Conference. He will be greatly missed.

Having decided to give up the editorship on the basis that the time has come to move on, it is with the greatest pleasure that I can report that the General Committee has appointed Chancellor Mark Hill to be my successor. He is already well known to members, as well for his learning as his affability. The Journal will be in good hands.

MICHAEL GOODMAN  
Editor of the Journal

## DAY CONFERENCE LONDON 2002

Our biennial day conference will be held on **Saturday, 9 March 2002** from 10 am to 4 pm in **Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street** (behind Westminster Cathedral). Bishop Pete Broadbent, Sheila Cameron QC and Martin Elengorn will deal with various topics, to include the review of the Pastoral Measure, the Team and Group Ministries Measure and the Dioceses Measure.

Coffee will be provided on arrival, and an excellent buffet lunch, with wine, is included in the overall conference fee of £20.

**Book the date now:** registration forms have been circulated or can be obtained from the Executive Officer.