

## EDITORIAL

With this twelfth issue of the Journal we start volume three. As you will see on page 66, David Harte is once again arranging for your individual parts (issues 6-11) to be bound; or you can buy a bound volume whilst keeping your individual parts. Peter Moore has also generously offered to produce an index and tables as he did for volume one. An excellent opportunity to hand in your separate parts will be at the residential conference at Ripon from 23-25 April (page 3). You might like to consider making a gift of bound volumes 1 & 2 to your old college or university library. Please let David Harte know if you wish to adopt this course.

This year's conference, for which there are still a few places available, is concerned with the tension between faith and order. This is particularly apt in the wake of such challenging issues to the Church of England as the ordination of women to the priesthood and the growth of the charismatic movement, to name but two. Also, as those who were present at Cambridge, Nottingham and Cardiff can testify, a residential conference provides a delightful opportunity for members to meet and be sociable, as well as to study. Let us hope that by our efforts, the spirit of Doctors' Commons lives on!

An interesting development in the life of the society is the growth of local groups. One has recently been successfully launched in central London and will be meeting every two months in the early evening. Details can be obtained from Paul Barber, 70 Canonbie Road, Honor Oak, London SE23 3AG. If you are starting up such a group, please do let the Chairman know.

Concern has been expressed recently by the Dean of the Arches and others about the almost total absence of any teaching of ecclesiastical law in our theological colleges. This is very unfortunate, bearing in mind that a priest – and indeed a deacon – is under episcopal authority and also responsible for ensuring that the law's requirements are met in the parishes. The society, in consultation with the Ecclesiastical Judges Association and the Ecclesiastical Law Association, is therefore hoping to sponsor periodical study days on ecclesiastical law at various colleges. If you can help please let the Chairman know. All dioceses organise post ordination courses and first incumbents' courses where such input could be very helpful. If you are interested, why not approach your diocesan training officer?

On the subject of ecclesiastical law, members will not have failed to notice that the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure and the Rules made thereunder come into force on 1 March 1993 (page 64). With that in mind George L. Newsom tells me that Sweet and Maxwell hope to bring out the new edition of his father's book (which he is editing) in time to meet that deadline. It will be reviewed in the next issue of the Journal.

Members – at least those duly qualified for the purpose – will be interested to learn that Middle Temple has recently established an Ecclesiastical Law Centre in one of the bays in the gallery of the library. It will include a good selection of text books and bound volumes of most unreported judgements of Consistory Courts. The centre is open to Chancellors, Registrars, Archdeacons and members of the Bar. An excellent index of cases will be available and it will be possible to order faxed copies of judgements by post. Details from The Librarian, Middle Temple, London EC4.

The Society is also hoping to participate in building up the ecclesiastical law section of Lambeth Palace Library and conversations are taking place with the librarian, Dr Richard Palmer. The library has a wonderful collection of books, treatises, including many medieval documents, and the like, and, of course, holds the judgments of the Court of Arches which the archivist, Miss Melanie Barber, delightfully describes on page 10.

Finally may I thank all those who have responded to my plea for letters to the Editor. I have in fact received so many that some must be held over until next time! But do keep on writing. I am also very pleased to receive scripts or offers of scripts from those willing to write articles for the Journal and Rupert Bursell, our Books Editor, would be pleased to hear of any new books you think should be reviewed in the Journal. Perhaps you might offer to write the review?

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*Editorial Committee:* Chancellor Goodman (Chairman), Timothy Briden, Rupert Bursell, Norman Doe, David Harte, Hughie Jones, Raymond Hemingray, Peter Moore, David Scott, Thomas Watkin.

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## RIPON 1993

23rd-25th April 1993

THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF RIPON & YORK ST JOHN  
(RIPON CAMPUS)

**COST: £105**

(Friday evening to Sunday lunch inclusive)

**Cost : £105**

**THEME: LAW, GRACE & LIBERTY**

**Speakers:** Professor Patrick Hannon, Maynooth College, Dublin.  
The Bishop of Bristol (The Rt. Revd. Barry Rogerson)  
The Dean of King's College, London,  
(The Revd. Canon R. Askew)

Preacher at Sunday's Eucharist:  
The Bishop of Blackburn (The Rt. Revd. Alan Chesters).

The hundred places booked at Ripon have now been taken up. Further accommodation in the college has been allocated for our conference. Do not delay in applying. Booking forms were enclosed with issue No. 11.

Full fees required by 1st March.

Apply to: **The Venerable D. Scott,**  
**4 Honing Drive, Southwell, Notts. NG25 0LB.**