

EDITORIAL

Chancellor Quentin Edwards has been one of the linchpins of the Society since its formation in March 1987. He served as Vice-Chairman to the Society's first Chairman, Chancellor Routledge and, following Chancellor Routledge's untimely death, he assumed the mantle of leadership in such a way that the Society's purpose and style continued without interruption or change of direction. At the same time he brought his own insights to the work of the Society, in particular in his concern that the Society should provide time and space for members to offer their legal and theological gifts to the Church. His leadership was perhaps particularly to be valued in the delightful but learned way in which he presided over our Conferences, including those memorable after-dinner speeches which we all enjoyed. Now he has decided to rest from his labours, and I know I speak for us all when I say how much his services to the Society have been appreciated and how glad we are that he has agreed to remain a member of the General Committee.

As his successor we welcome Dr Frank Robson, O.B.E., D.C.L., Provincial Registrar of Canterbury and Registrar of the Diocese of Oxford. It is entirely fitting that a member of the other branch of the legal profession should now be at the helm, and we wish him a happy and fruitful term of office.

As if a change of Chairman was not enough, I also have to record that the Ven Hughie Jones, who served as Vice-Chairman before becoming our highly esteemed and genial Executive Officer, has felt the time has come to retire to the back benches. His services to the Society have been immense, and we wish him every happiness in the retirement to which he is justly entitled.

Again we are fortunate in having as his successor the Revd Dr Stephen Pix, Vicar of St Michael's, Oxford, who has already assumed responsibilities in relation to the Journal and Conferences. We wish him every success.

I now turn from changes in personnel to a change in administration. The work of the Oxford University Press in printing the last issue of the Journal has met with general acclaim. However I must accept responsibility for the fact that that issue, the first of volume 4, began at page 444 instead of at page 1. In view of this error and the fact that it was a 'bumper' issue, Volume 4 will contain four issues instead of the usual six. Otherwise the pages will run into the thousands!

Readers of the Journal will have much appreciated Professor John Baker's series on Famous English Canonists. Dr Lushington is featured in this issue (p 556), and the Phillimores will be the subject of the final instalment. We very much hope that the series will be published together in due course, to enable a wider public to benefit from Professor Baker's learning.

I am, however, now concerned to gather material for another series, this time on Notable Ecclesiastical Trials, such as the Trial of the Seven Bishops, the Gorham Judgment and the Trial of Bishop King. If you would like to contribute to such a series, please get in touch with me, naming your chosen case.

One of the most Famous English Canonists about whom Professor Baker wrote was William Lyndwood (2 *Ecc L J* 268), the article including a delightful copy of his coat of arms. On the 2 November there is to be a lecture on Lyndwood sponsored jointly by this Society and the Roman Catholic Canon Law Society. The speaker will be Monsignor Brian Ferme, Professor of Canon Law at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and the Chairman will be one of our members Fr Robert Ombres OP. A flyer about the lecture is enclosed with this issue of the Journal, and we hope that members will take the opportunity to hear more about Lyndwood and to meet members of our sister society. A review of Monsignor Ferme's recent book on Lyndwood appears at page 592, which should whet the appetite to hear him in person.

It is good to hear that no fewer than three members of our Society have recently published books on ecclesiastical and canon law and theology. Chancellor Bursell, whose keynote address at our recent Conference on liturgy appears at page 536, has written a timely and topical study entitled *Liturgy, Order and the Law*. Dr Norman Doe has written a comprehensive and definitive work entitled *The Legal Framework of the Church of England*, and James Behrens has produced a handbook on *Confirmation: Sacrament of Grace*. This is reviewed at page 593. The other two will be reviewed in the next issue.

The life of the Society depends to a great extent on the activities of its Working Parties. With this in mind the Chairman has recently written to all conveners about their work, and his report on the responses he has received appears at page 611. Members are encouraged to set up groups on topics of interest to them, notice of which should be given to the Chairman. The only caveat that has to be imposed is that reports are only stated to be published with the authority of the Society when they have been submitted to the General Committee for authorisation.

Members will wish to note that the next Residential Conference will be from 14 to 16 March 1997 at Manchester.

The list containing members' names, addresses, and telephone numbers has recently been up-dated. Please let the Assistant Secretary know about any corrections, additions, or changes.

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Editorial Committee: Michael Goodman (Chairman), James Behrens, Timothy Briden, Rupert Bursell, Norman Doe, David Harte, Mark Hill, Hughie Jones, Peter Moore, and Thomas Watkin.

Editorial Advisory Board: Professor Baker, Bishop Kemp, Professor Lyall, Chancellor McClean, and Fr Ombres OP.