

RECENT LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

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At the February 1990 Group of Sessions of the General Synod *Amending Canon No. 14* was promulgated. This Canon is part of the package of amending rules which have modified the Election Rules of the three Houses of the General Synod in preparation for the elections to take place in July to October this year.

As reported in the January 1990 Journal, the *Ordination of Women (Financial Provisions) Measure* was considered on the revision stage by the Synod at the February Sessions. As the title implies the Measure makes financial provision for those in stipendiary ministry who make a declaration that they are unable to stay in the ministry of the Church of England following the promulgation of the Canon providing for the ordination of women to the priesthood. The Synod accepted an amendment moved on behalf of the Steering Committee giving power to the Pensions Board, who are charged with administering the scheme, to make discretionary payments for training for suitable employment. Chancellor Bullimore was also successful in moving an amendment relating to the appeal tribunal. The Synod agreed that this Measure should be sent to the dioceses as background material at the same time as the Article 8 reference consisting of the main Measure and the two Canons. Dioceses must respond to the reference by 30th November 1991.

The *Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure* also completed its revision stage in full Synod in February and is now referred to the Steering Committee in respect of Final Drafting. It is anticipated that the Final Approval debate will take place at the July Sessions.

Revision also started on the *Church of England (Service Chaplaincies and Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure* (referred to in detail in the January 1990 Journal). Clause 1 of the Measure dealing with service chaplaincies was defeated on a vote by Houses and therefore the Steering Committee did not proceed with the rest of Part I of the Measure concerned with such chaplaincies. There was no time to complete the revision stage and this will be resumed at the July Sessions.

ENQUIRIES – A request from the Deputy Secretary

It is becoming quite common that people who hear about the Society write in to the Secretary requesting guidance as to resources, courses of study and the like, in ecclesiastical law. The Society would wish to assist such people, but neither the Secretary nor the Executive Officer have the resources to do this. If any members of the Society feel themselves to be suitably qualified and willing to have such enquirers referred to them, with a view to pointing them at least in the right direction, this would be greatly appreciated. Please write to the Secretary, indicating the background which puts you in a position to advise such enquirers.