

## EDITORIAL

Following the successful launching of the Society at Cambridge last March, it is pleasing to note that membership now stands at over 240. The Society is also fortunate in that both the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have agreed to become Patrons.

This issue of the Journal contains a substantial paper by David Harte on recent cases in the Court of Ecclesiastical Causes Reserved and there are reports of recent consistory court judgments by Timothy Briden. This concern with the faculty jurisdiction is timely, particularly in view of the work now being undertaken by a General Synod Working Party (under the chairmanship of our President), to implement the recommendations of the Faculty Jurisdiction Commission.

One result of the legislation now being drafted will be an increase in the work of chancellors, registrars and archdeacons, partly because of the rights being afforded to the statutory amenity societies and others, and partly because of the increasing involvement of archdeacons in supervision and enforcement. There is clearly a case for making ecclesiastical law better known to barristers and solicitors from whom future chancellors and registrars must be recruited. Please mention the Society to barristers and solicitors whom you think might be interested in joining. There is also a real need for the training of new archdeacons – and other clergy – in the field of canon and ecclesiastical law. It is to be hoped that some of our Working Parties will point to the ways in which these needs can be met, not least by stimulating interest in these columns.

Apart from what we hope will be a series of illuminating and enjoyable conferences, much of the Society's "output" will be in the activities of the Working Parties. It may still be possible to join some of the Working Parties if they have an ongoing programme. (A list of convenors and their addresses appears on page 20). The Committee would also welcome suggestions of topics in which Members would be interested for future Working Parties. Please get in touch with Judge Edwards at 13 South Grove, Highgate, London N6 6BJ if you have suggestions or comments to make.

Finally, may I say that "Letters to the Editor" will, I hope, become a regular feature in the Journal. So do write in on any subject on which you have views to express. Please write to me at Parkside, Dulwich Common, London SE21 7EU.

MICHAEL GOODMAN

Editorial Committee: Chancellor M. B. Goodman (Chairman), Dr John Baker, Timothy Briden, David Harte and Raymond Hemingray.