

EDITORIAL

If the Ecclesiastical Law Society is to maintain its growing reputation for learning and to continue to give its members the opportunity to make an advancement in the study of ecclesiastical and canon law, much must depend on the standard of its conferences, both one day and residential.

The recent weekend conference at Magdalen College Oxford at the beginning of April on King Henry VIII's break with Rome and its significance for Anglican identity then and now, produced papers from four distinguished speakers of great interest and learning. They were also thought-provoking and an encouragement to those present to pursue their studies further. The paper read by one of our members, Professor Richard Helmholz, Dean of Chicago Law School, appears in this issue of the Journal (p. 360). It is hoped to publish the others in due course. Apart from the lack of sound reinforcement in the ante-chapel, the 130 members and visitors present expressed much enthusiasm for the conference subject, the speakers and the venue. If there were rather long queues at mealtimes, they gave us additional opportunities to get to know each other! It is anticipated that any minor inconveniences will be a thing of the past when we meet at Manchester or Sheffield in 1997. Much credit for the success of the 1995 Conference must go to the Vice-Chairman for arranging the programme and the Executive Officer (assisted by Mary Whytock) for the arrangements at Oxford.

At the Annual General Meeting, held during the Conference, it was reported that there were now well over 500 members, a good many of whom were participating in the nine Working Parties currently meeting. Members are particularly encouraged to join those on *Establishment* (Rev. Roger Brown, 1 Merthyr Road, Tongwynlais, Cardiff CF4 7LE), *Churchyards: Inscriptions and Memorials* (Jim Sunnocks, 5 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3RJ) and *Interaction of Secular and Ecclesiastical Law* (Barry Payton, 3 Alderman's Drive, Peterborough PE3 6AR). Please contact one of the convenors. A Working Party on *Clergy Discipline* which was set up at the Conference has already produced its report which will be submitted to General Synod. Likewise one on *Cathedrals: Heritage and Renewal*, a response to the recommendations of the Howe Commission. This prompted the Chairman to comment at a recent meeting of the General Committee that reports of this quality were the fruits that justified the hopes of the founders of the Society eight years ago.

An important development in the life of the Society has been its leading role in the promotion of the teaching of ecclesiastical and canon law in theological colleges and in post-ordination training. As a result a meeting is being held between those responsible for these courses and members of the Society to take the project further.

For some time concern has been expressed that the Society's Journal should become a 'refereed' journal, as is the case with most academic publications of this kind. Articles submitted for publication are already often read by a member of the Editorial Committee or the Advisory Board for style and format but it has been decided to adopt a formal system with material being submitted to referees for comment on suitability for publication as well. The final decision

on whether to publish will of course remain with the Editor. The fact that the Journal is formally refereed will I believe add weight to its reputation, particularly in academic circles.

Finally members will be sorry to learn that the Chairman has announced that he will not be seeking re-election in 1996.

MICHAEL GOODMAN

Editorial Committee: Michael Goodman, Timothy Briden, Rupert Bursell, Norman Doe, David Harte, Raymond Hemingray, Hughie Jones, Peter Moore, Thomas Watkin.

Editorial Advisory Board: Bishop Eric Kemp, Professor John Baker, Chancellor David McClean and Fr. Robert Ombres, O.P.

FOR YOUR DIARY

ELS LONDON MEETINGS

*Meetings are held in "Briefs",
7 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, 5.30pm*

Wednesday 13th September 1995

'Decisive Doctrinal Cases' – The Revd. Canon Christopher Hill
Precentor of St. Paul's Cathedral

Wednesday 8th November 1995

**'The Archdeacon's Annual
Visitation'** – The Venerable George Cassidy
Archdeacon of London

Wednesday 10th January 1996

'The Ornaments Rubric' – Roger Turner, Esq., M.A., B.D., M.Th.
Barrister-at-Law

Members and non members are all welcome
For further details, contact Paul Barber (0181-299 4380)

ADVANCE NOTICE

1996 AGM & Lecture – Saturday 23 March
London