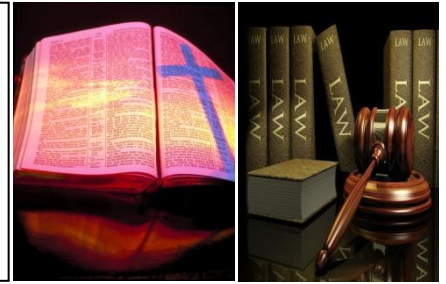


# Gospel & Law

## Candlemas Edition

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For several years Manchester Diocese has held a service at Candlemas, co-ordinated by Women's Chapter and members of Forward in Faith and Reform, the aim being to pray together despite the deeply held views that divide them and remembering the many things arising from common baptismal vows that unite. This year's service is likely to be particularly poignant coming shortly before General Synod votes again on Women Bishops, a debate which includes Manchester's proposal for co-ordinate jurisdiction. Further details of the debate on Women Bishops and other matters on the Synod Agenda form the bulk of this newsletter. However, no newsletter would be complete without some mention of the society's events and a bit of caselaw, so check those out too...

As usual, feedback is welcome.

Catherine Shelley

## Synodical Matters – 6-9<sup>th</sup> February 2012

### **Women Bishops** (all 3 days) - What Synod will be asked to consider:

The Manchester proposal (GS1854A) is for consideration of Co-ordinate jurisdiction as proposed by the Archbishops' late and narrowly rejected amendment in July 2010. The mechanism for its consideration would be referral to the House of Bishops; if accepted by the House the 6 officers of Synod have to decide whether the amendment alters 'the substance of the proposals in the draft legislation' such as to require further Article 8 referral for consideration by Dioceses. By contrast Southwark Diocese proposes (GS1854B) that Synod votes on the Motion already discussed and passed by 42 of 44 Dioceses, namely for Women Bishops with provision for those opposed on theological grounds by means of a Code of Practice. Importantly a draft Code of Practice has now been produced at GSMisc1007. GS1854C spells out that Synod will consider the Southwark proposal by way of amendment to the Manchester motion. The draft legislation is *Legislative Matters* GS1708A, 1709B & 1708-9Z

### **Further Church business:**

- ✚ **Appointment of Archdeacons** – A 'tidying up measure' amending Canon 22 to allow Deacons to be appointed as Archdeacons (GS1846A & B)
- ✚ Amending 2011 Mission & Pastoral Measure to deploy deacons across team ministries (GS1858)
- ✚ **Clergy Discipline Measure** amendments taking account of legislation for vulnerable adults & summary offences overseas (GS1814A)
- ✚ **Higher Education funding changes** GS1008 – proposals for a national accredited qualification for ordinands, to assist funding applications.
- ✚ Powers to make financial provision for the **Diocese in Europe** - GS1853

**Liturgical Matters:** Eucharistic Prayers for children – GS1822A & Y

**Committee Proposals:** Healthcare and the Church's mission – GS 1857

### **Private Members' Motions:**

**Assisted Dying** (GS1851A) Re recent reports on assisted dying & calls for resistance to changing the law

**Reform of the House of Lords** GS1856A&B call for a collective response

### **Other papers include:**

**Civil Partnerships in religious premises** – not in this Church till Synod's debated it... GSMisc1005

**The August Riots, austerity, the state of society & MPA work programmes** – actually begins with reflections on capitalism and the Occupy protest – GSMisc1014

**Resourcing Christian Community Action** GSMisc1017 – Results of work following the Big Society debate of GS Nov. 2010; the report & website will be launched at a Synod fringe meeting on 09.02.12

Through our Synod process may we come to understand & appreciate more fully who we are in Christ Jesus as God's Church & how we might best serve God as his Church in our world in our day.      Bishop Hoepfner, Crookston Diocese

## Ecclesiastical Law Society – Silver Jubilee Year events...

<p><b>Silver Jubilee Day Conference</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012 Emmanuel College, Cambridge</p> <p><b>‘Church and State: International and Comparative Perspectives.’</b></p> <p>This full day conference includes Choral Eucharist and a buffet lunch. Speakers are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Dr Julian Rivers (Bristol <i>The law of organised religion</i>),</li><li>❖ Professor John Witte Jr (Emory University, Centre for the Study of Law &amp; Religion)</li><li>❖ Professor Silvio Ferrari (Professor of Law &amp; Religion, Milan)</li></ul> <p>£45 (£60 for non-members) <i>Places still available....</i></p>	<p><b>Lambeth Palace Reception</b> 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012 - 7-9pm Address by the Archbishop of Canterbury Applications for tickets and guest ballot are now closed; those who have applied will hear shortly.</p> <p><b>London Lectures 2012</b> - Wednesdays @ 5.30pm <b>14<sup>th</sup> March:</b> David Richbell &amp; Dr Zaza El Sheikh Belief in Mediation &amp; Arbitration: Alternative Dispute Resolution for Faith Communities &amp; the Role of BIMA @ <b>Winkworth Sherwood</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> June:</b> Revd Dr Catherine Shelley Beating children is wrong? A biblical approach <b>17<sup>th</sup> October:</b> Peter Foskett: Chancel Repair Liability: A voyage of discovery <b>6<sup>th</sup> June &amp; 17<sup>th</sup> October @ Serle Court</b></p>
<p>Some other events of interest:</p> <p><b>Cambridge Biblical Colloquium on God, Justice and Society: Aspects of Law and Legality in the Bible</b> OUP 2011 Jonathan Burnside <b>19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> March 2012, Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge University &amp; Kirby Laing Institute, Tyndale House, 36 Selwyn Gardens, Cambridge, CB3 9BA; Contact: <a href="mailto:will.kynes@keble.ox.ac.uk">will.kynes@keble.ox.ac.uk</a></b></p> <p><b>Faith Schools and the Law: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012, London</b> covers curriculum, uniform, admissions, property &amp; academy status. For more information contact: Andrew Male</p>	
<p><b>Prosecutions with a religious element...</b></p> <p><b>R v Ali, Ahmed &amp; Javed, 20.01.12</b> – clear decision that religious belief is no defence to inciting hatred against those who are homosexual where the death penalty was advocated against homosexuality; but at what point does religious opposition to ‘gay lifestyles’ falling short of death penalties, become criminal?</p> <p><b>R v Magumba, 26.01.12</b> – Prosecution of a vicar for sham marriages and misappropriation of over £8,000 worth of fees. Following the conviction a UK border agency official stated: ‘we do not expect vicars or registrars to be experts in immigration law or spotting forged documents...’</p> <p>Unlike civil registrars there is no obligation on clergy to report suspicions about sham marriages to the Border Agency; however, should clergy wish to do so the Agency will happily receive such reports. Suspicions can also be reported anonymously to Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111, although it is recognised that clergy will mostly be bound by duties of confidentiality arising from their pastoral relationships.</p> <p>The Faculty Office and most Dioceses strongly recommend that marriages of foreign nationals are conducted by Common Licence rather than Banns. The faculty office also recommends that the relevant visa should be obtained before applying for the licence. The bottom line for those conducting marriages in the church is whether the marriage is genuine. Canon B30 provides helpful guidance, marriage should be: lifelong, permanent, for better or worse, one man with one woman excluding all others, for procreation and nurturing of children, the ‘right direction of natural instincts and affections’ and for ‘mutual society, help and comfort’. To this might be added sufficient knowledge and realism about each other to enable the making of a lifelong commitment.</p> <p>For those concerned about this area of law useful guidance can be found at: <a href="http://www.facultyoffice.org.uk/marriage">www.facultyoffice.org.uk/marriage</a> which has a link to UK Border Agency Guidance for Clergy Dec 2010 <a href="http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/faqs/what-if-one-of-us-is-a-foreign-national?">www.yourchurchwedding.org/faqs/what-if-one-of-us-is-a-foreign-national?</a> <a href="http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visa-immigration/partners-and-families">www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visa-immigration/partners-and-families</a> and the most definitive: <a href="http://www.churchofengland.org/media/1228433/house-of-bishops-guidance.pdf">www.churchofengland.org/media/1228433/house-of-bishops-guidance.pdf</a></p>	

**2012 ELS Silver Jubilee Year**