

Gospel & Law

Epiphany Edition

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Editorial: Happy New Year, Happy New Anglican Communion? At the time of starting writing the newsletter the Primates had yet to meet... they have now reported and it is has become apparent that we live in interesting times!

In the meantime at more local level there are some more concrete, immediate and day-to-day New Year developments of which to take note. In particular, reminders about the coming into force of the latest Faculty Jurisdiction Rules and various consultations, the deadlines for which are at the end of January. As a follow up to the November edition there are a few more reflections on Archdeacons, prompted by members' comments and as usual a range of invitations to events and dates for your diaries. With best wishes and prayers for 2016....

The Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2015:

The new rules came into force on 1st January 2016 and can be found here:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/1568/contents/made>

Powers are standardised across Dioceses and the Archdeacon's temporary licence and enforcement powers are continuing as already enacted in earlier Rules. A major new change however, is the lists for works that Archdeacons can authorise as included in Lists A and B. Please note recent caselaw - **Re St Thomas, Sutton in Craven, West Yorkshire and the Dales Consistory Court – Hill QC Ch – 2nd November 2015** - about the Archdeacon's power to grant a licence for temporary re-ordering on an experimental basis. Temporary re-ordering can only be permitted for 15 months; after that the original ordering must be restored OR if it is to be made permanent a Faculty sought. Archdeacons should be aware that they will be expected to exercise their monitoring role as well under the new rule 8.

The next ELS London Lecture on 27th January 2016 will be on the subject of the new rules and given by Chancellor Charles Mynors, author of *Changing Churches: A Practical Guide to the Faculty System*, to be published by Bloomsbury shortly. Do have a look at the rules and come armed with questions!

A reminder about the various consultations...

Church Buildings:

The report of the Church Buildings Review Group is available here:
https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2383717/church_buildings_review_report_2015.pdf

The consultation period closes on the Friday 29th January 2016 at 5pm.
Comments should be sent to: andrea.mulkeen@churchofengland.org.

The Society has set up a working group to prepare a response to this consultation, under the leadership of Charles Mynors. If any members would like to be part of the group, or to make any comments for inclusion in its response, please contact him at charles.mynors@ftb.eu.com/

Legal Reform:

There is further consultation on a proposed Statute Law (Repeals) Measure, further details of which can be found at:

[https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2399881/gs_misc_1128 -
_consultation_on_possible_statute_law_repeals_measure.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2399881/gs_misc_1128_-_consultation_on_possible_statute_law_repeals_measure.pdf)

Responses can be sent to Sion Hughes-Carew, The Legal Office, Church House, London SW1P 3AZ, or sion.hughes-carew@churchofengland.org no later than 29 January 2016.

Those wishing to be involved in the preparation of the ELS response or to make any comments for inclusion, should contact Peter Smith at P.M.Smith@exeter.ac.uk

More on Archdeacons:

It has been observed that Archdeacons do not only have legal responsibilities as outlined in the November 2015 newsletter. All Archdeacons, as members of senior staff will of course hold strategic roles in relation to Mission, particularly as associated with the Mission and Pastoral Committee. In some Dioceses specific missional roles have been developed at Archdeaconry level, which are under the supervision of the Archdeacon. They may also exercise roles such as chairing Diocesan Boards of Education and other strategic committees at Diocesan level. Many also carry roles for mediation and dispute resolution by delegation from the Bishop and all will inevitably be involved in employment and deployment related issues, again linked to both strategic and legal responsibilities for Mission. Archdeacons also have the standing, ex officio, to bring complaints under CDM procedures. It is possibly no wonder that, as the extent of the role increases, some Dioceses are increasing their numbers of Archdeacons.

Lectures and Conferences:

London Lectures 2016 all to be held at Winckworth Sherwood, Montague Close, London SE1 9BB (by Southwark Cathedral), starting at 5.30pm with refreshments available from 5pm

27th January 2016 – The faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2015: all change (again)?
Chancellor Dr Charles Mynors who is author of *Changing Churches: A Practical Guide to the Faculty System*, to be published by Bloomsbury early in 2016.

16th March 2016 – Winding up/leaving a religious community – Francesca Quint, Barrister and Specialist in Charity Law and Alastair Hunt FCA

22nd June 2016 – Relations between Church and State, the Norwegian experience Andreas Hendriksen Arflot, Secretary to the Committee on Church Order of the General Synod of Norway

19th October 2016 – Chancellor Tim Briden, Vicar General - Confirmation of Episcopal elections

The lectures are free of charge and open to members and non-members but spaces are limited so prior booking is essential.

The 2016 Annual Conference will be held on **Saturday 12th March 2016** at the Bridewell Institute, Bride Lane, London, with worship at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street. **Freedom from and of Religion - Keynote speaker will be Baroness Hale of Richmond, Deputy President of the Supreme Court**, with David Burrowes MP and Mark Hill QC. Further details and booking forms have gone out with the September edition of the ELJ; contact Andrew Male if you need more.

LARSN Conference – The 2016 Law and Religion Scholars Network (LARSN) Conference will be held on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th May 2016 at Cardiff University and will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the LLM in Canon Law at Cardiff. The plan is to include a number of themed panels alongside the usual general panels. Proposed panels so far include: Law, Religion and Media Reporting, The Reformation Revisited and Religious Law. Further suggestions are welcome. Further details including a call for papers (for both themed and general panels) and information about the conference fee will be available in the New Year. We regret that we are unable to provide financial support for travel or accommodation. Please direct any queries to SandbergR@cf.ac.uk

The ELS 2017 Residential Conference and AGM will be at Trinity Hall, Cambridge from Friday 31st March to 2nd April 2017 and will consider the theme, 'By whose authority? A Church ordered in its diversity...', covering authority at all levels of the Church. The price will be variable dependent on whether you have an en suite room or not and there will be bursaries available for clergy again. More details in due course but do put the date in your diary.