

His Honour Michael Goodman
1930-2017

Members of the Society will be saddened to learn of the death of Michael Goodman, who was a principal activist in its establishment and who was responsible for the production of the Ecclesiastical Law Journal from the birth of the Society in 1987 until passing on the baton in 2002. He rarely styled himself editor, preferring to be Chairman of the Editorial Committee. His enthusiasm and bonhomie were infectious and few turned down his invitations to contribute. He encouraged the young to become involved in the world of ecclesiastical law. I recall his generosity in mentoring me in my early involvement in the Society's activities, as he encouraged me to take on the role of Case Notes Editor, in succession to Chancellor Tim Briden. I little thought that one day I would succeed Michael in the editor's chair.

But the flourishing of the Society and the Journal are but one part of his enduring legacy. As a member of Middle Temple since his call to the Bar in 1953, Michael developed the ecclesiastical law collection within the Inn's library such that it now constitutes one of the most prestigious holdings of Anglican canon law in the world. And he was particularly industrious, ably assisted by the meticulous Peter Moore, in collating judgments of the ecclesiastical courts. Indexed and beautifully bound in imperial purple, these Consistory and Commissary Court Cases (or CCCC as they came to be known) provided a repository of the ecclesiastical common law which was otherwise not available. In a bygone age, long before obligatory neutral citation was prescribed by the Dean of Arches, accessing judicial precedent had been more miss than hit. Michael's initiative revolutionised this, and it is a source of sadness that he did not live to see volunteers make good their promise to put all this material on the internet.

In addition to serving fifteen years as a Circuit Judge, Michael held chancellorships in glorious plurality: Guildford (1968 – 2002), Lincoln (1970 – 1998) and Rochester (1971 – 2005). He was Vicar General of the Province of Canterbury from 1977 to 1983 and Chairman of the Ecclesiastical Judges Association from 1987 to 1997. For a quarter of a century he brought wit and wisdom to the Legal Advisory Commission of the General Synod. He was also actively involved in activities in Dulwich, where he lived with his wife Pat and raised their children. He regularly performed with a variety of choral societies, and was a demon on the croquet lawn.

For many years Michael chaired the patronage trust for St Cuthbert's, Philbeach Gardens, but never exercised his right of presentation in consequence of the longevity in office of its nonagenarian incumbent, Fr Vine, who held the freehold from 1969 to 2013.

However, it is as founding Editor of the Ecclesiastical Law Journal that Michael will perhaps be best remembered by members of the Society, a post which he filled for fifteen of its thirty year existence. Paying tribute to Michael in 2002, I wrote this:

A reluctant editor from the outset, Michael exercised a lightness of touch, commissioning articles from a variety of contributors through a combination of flattery and threat. The breadth of subject matter covered and the high quality of the writing is testament to the esteem in which Michael is held.

Editorial, (2002) 6 Ecc LJ 302

That esteem was undiminished. Michael was a loyal servant of the Society, a warm and hospitable friend whose laughter filled many a room, and a devoted husband and father. He will be greatly missed.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Mark Hill QC, Chairman ELS
May 2017