



Ecclesiastical  
Law  
Society

**NEWSLETTER**  
**of**  
**THE ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY**

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**No. 3/2018**

**5 March 2018**

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**LENTEN EDITION**

**THE SOCIETYS DAY CONFERENCE AND AGM**

As mentioned in previous Newsletters, the **Day Conference on *Gospel and Law in Theological Education*** and the **Annual General Meeting** will take place on **Saturday 17 March at St Bride's Institute, Bride Lane (off Fleet Street) London EC4**. You can book to attend [here](#) and papers for the AGM can be downloaded from [this link](#).

The theme of the Day Conference addresses a core function of the Society, while the business of the AGM will include the critical issue for the Society's future governance of its conversion from its present status as a registered charity into a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). Your Committee believes it extremely important that we have a good turnout.

## EDITORIAL

*Twitterati* just couldn't resist the coincidence of Ash Wednesday and St Valentine's Day: possibly the pithiest comment was *Roses are red/ Violets are blue/ Lent has just started/ No chocolates for you*. In the sober world of ecclesiastical law, however, there was much more serious stuff.

Most importantly, the General Synod of the Church of England voted to move forward with plans for mutual recognition of ministries with the Methodist Church. Just as important for residents of the Isle of Man, Tynwald decided – by a fairly narrow margin – that the Bishop of Sodor & Man should retain his seat and vote in the island's Legislative Council and Tynwald Court.

The Church of England and the Government also announced an accord on using church buildings to host telecoms equipment to help improve wi-fi and mobile phone coverage. But, of course, individual cases will still be subject to the faculty jurisdiction. [FC]

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Wednesday 7 March: London lecture** – David Frei, External and Legal Services Director of the United Synagogue and Registrar to the London Beth Din, on *The Role of a Beth Din in Jewish Law*. Book [here](#).

**Tuesday 24 April: Northern Province lecture** – Sir Mark Hedley, Deputy President of the Clergy Discipline Tribunal and Chancellor of the Diocese of Liverpool, on *Practical Aspects of the Clergy Discipline Measure*. This event will be hosted by Wrigleys Solicitors LLP and held at the Radisson Blu Hotel, The Headrow, Leeds LS1 8TL. Book [here](#).

**Tuesday 3 July: London lecture** – Baroness (Elizabeth) Berridge, co-chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on International Freedom of Religion or Belief on *Freedom of Religion or Belief*. Book [here](#).

**Thursday 12 July: Northern Province lecture** – the Chairman (and Chancellor of the Diocese of Leeds), on *The Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018*.

**Wednesday 10 October: London lecture** – Dr Peter Smith, barrister of Lincoln's Inn and formerly Dean of Law at Exeter University, on *Visitations*. Book [here](#).

**Thursday 11 October: Northern Province lecture** – Sir Philip Mawer (lately the Independent Reviewer under the Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests (Resolution of Disputes

Procedure) Regulations 2014): his main focus will be his Report on the See of Sheffield – of which more below.

**Wednesday 7 November: Lyndwood Lecture 2018** – Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch Kt DD FBA on *Richard Hooker (1554-1600): Invention and Reinvention*. Book [here](#).

**5 to 7 April 2019: ELS Residential Conference** – to be held at **Cumberland Lodge, Windsor: Church and State in the Twenty-first Century: Re-imagining Establishment for the post-Elizabethan age**.

*London Lectures are held at Winckworth Sherwood, Minerva House, 5 Montague Close,  
London SE1 9BB.*

### **MISSION AND MINISTRY IN COVENANT**

At its February session, the Church of England General Synod agreed a motion welcoming the joint report, [Mission and Ministry in Covenant](#), co-written by the two Churches' faith and order bodies and published last year, which sets out proposals for intercommunion and interchange of presbyteral ministries. The text of the motion, as agreed, is as follows:

'That this Synod:

- a) welcome the report *Mission and Ministry in Covenant* (GS 2086), produced by the faith and order bodies of the Church of England and the Methodist Church in response to resolutions passed by the General Synod and the Methodist Conference in 2014;
- b) call on the Faith and Order Commission to report back to the Synod at the next group of sessions on work carried out jointly with the Methodist Church to address the areas for further reflection outlined at paragraphs 26-29 of the covering note from the Faith and Order Commission to GS 2086;
- c) invite the Faith and Order Commission, in consultation with the Methodist Church, to explore and elucidate further the relationship between episcopal ordination and eucharistic presidency, as this touches on the full visible unity of our two Churches; and
- d) affirm its [*sic*] confident hope that any outstanding issues between our Churches may be resolved quickly and satisfactorily and look forward to the day when, on the basis of work already completed and accepted, our ministries will be fully reconciled.'

The Church of England and the Methodist Church each issued Press Releases, [here](#) and [here](#). The Methodist press release notes that proposals to move the process forward are most likely to be brought before Conference in 2019 rather than in June this year.

The ELS has recently established a working party to prepare a submission on the ecclesiastical law ramifications of the proposed intercommunion. Observations from members can be sent to its convener, **the Revd Russell Dewhurst**. [FC]

## **INDEPENDENT REVIEWER'S REPORT ON THE SEE OF SHEFFIELD**

On 6 February, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York [announced](#) the formal response from the House of Bishops to Sir Philip Mawer's independent review into the nomination to the See of Sheffield. The House of Bishops 'whole-heartedly' accepted all four of the review's recommendations. It noted that insufficient had been done to inform and educate clergy and laity about the 2014 settlement and the effect of the House of Bishops' Declaration within it and had established an Implementation and Dialogue Group, chaired by the Bishop of Rochester.

In his third recommendation, Sir Philip had invited the Faith and Order Commission to 'examine the theological challenge which has been posed to the 2014 Settlement'. Accordingly, the Commission had published [The Five Guiding Principles: A Resource for Study](#). Work had begun in response to Sir Philip's recommendation that the Secretary General should review the lessons to be learned from the nomination process, 'addressing in particular how the national Church institutions support the nomination process, and the nominee for a see'.

The Archbishops also announced that, as Sir Philip's term of office drew to a close, he would be succeeded as Independent Reviewer from February by Sir William Fittall.

## **HOSTING NEW DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Church of England has signed an [accord](#) with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport setting out how churches and other church properties could host new digital infrastructure. The accord notes that it may be possible to use some Church of England churches and other Church-held buildings or land to host digital infrastructure and recognises that their wider can help improve connectivity in areas where coverage does not currently exist, or where it is of poorer quality. However, it also notes that:

'Individual parishes, and others with responsibility for Church buildings and land, will need to consider all the factors concerned with using Church land or buildings to host digital connectivity infrastructure. This Accord encourages them to do so within the context of

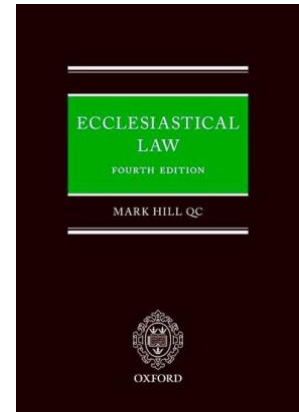
their own priorities for mission, relevant planning controls, *and their legal obligations both as an organisation and relating to the care of Church property, and appropriate guidance provided by the Church Buildings Council and Historic England* ... Similarly, dioceses will, through their Diocesan Advisory Committees, need to balance the identified benefits of telecoms provision in the particular circumstances of the parish with other relevant factors' [emphasis added] [FC].

### **HILL'S ECCLESIASTICAL LAW**

Members will no doubt be interested in the imminent publication of the new edition of our esteemed Chairman's *Ecclesiastical Law*, fully revised and updated to take account of significant changes in the substantive law since the last edition.

The cover price will be £150 but it will be on sale direct from OUP at the promotional price of £120: quote promotional code **ALFLY5F** to claim the 20% discount.

Indispensable, even for a heretic like ...



**Frank Cranmer**