



Ecclesiastical  
Law  
Society

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

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**DAY CONFERENCE 28 MARCH 2020**

Early bird booking for the 2020 Day Conference (details below) ends on **10 November**. It only saves you a fiver, but, even so...

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**Wednesday 6 November 2019: Northern Province lecture** – Rt Worshipful Charles George QC, Auditor of the Chancery Court of York, on *Do we still need the Faculty System?* [Book here](#). Drinks at 5 pm, lecture at 5.30.

**Friday 15 November 2019: Regional training day (London)** – *You couldn't make it up! Good Governance in Parochial Ministry* – to be held at the Minerva House offices of Winckworth Sherwood, **10.30 am till 3.30 pm**: cost including lunch, £25.00 for ELS members: £30.00 for non-members. [Book here](#). To be led by members of the ELS Education Team, including: Simon Baker, Chair of ELS Education, Norman Boakes, former Archdeacons' National Executive

Officer, Andrea Russell, Queen's Foundation, Birmingham, Louise Connacher, Acting Provincial Registrar, Stuart Beake, former Archdeacon of Surrey, Stephen Borton, Ecclesiastical Manager Lee Bolton Monier-Williams and Teresa Sutton, Sussex University.

**Wednesday 20 November 2019: St Mary-le-Bow** – Professor Norman Doe on *The Court of Arches: Its Jurisdiction and Jurisprudence – Entirely Settled?* with a response by the Dean of Arches. Admission by ticket only, £6. [Book here](#). **Lecture at 6.05 pm, followed by a drinks reception.**

**Friday 22 November 2019: Regional training day (Birmingham)** – *You couldn't make it up! Good Governance in Parochial Ministry* – to be held at The Queen's Foundation, Somerset Road, Edgbaston B15 2QH, **10.30 am till 3.30 pm**: cost including lunch, £25.00 for ELS members: £30.00 for non-members. [Book here](#). **For details see above.**

**Wednesday 19 February 2019: London lecture** – Rt Worshipful Charles George QC, Dean of Arches and Auditor, on *Do we still need the Faculty System?* – reprise of the Northern Province lecture on 6 November. [Book here](#). **5.30 till 7 pm.**

**Saturday 28 March 2020: THE SOCIETY'S DAY CONFERENCE** – *Synodical Government: Fit for Purpose?* – to be held at the Minerva House offices of Winckworth Sherwood, **10 am till 4 pm**: cost including lunch, for members, £30 per person up to 10 November 2019 and £35 per person thereafter. Bookings for non-members on 10 November 2019 at £45 per person. Speakers will include the Most Revd John Sentamu, Archbishop of York and Patron of the Society, the Rt Revd Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle, the Rt Revd Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Rt Revd Pete Broadbent, Bishop of Willesden, the Ven Jane Steen, Archdeacon of Southwark, and the Ven Alan Perry, Archdeacon of Edmonton, Canada. [Book here](#).

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

*Northern Province Lectures are held at the offices of the Diocese of Leeds, 17-19 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2EX.*

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## FREEDOM OF RELIGION & BELIEF

The Prime Minister has appointed Rehman Chishti MP as his Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief, in succession to Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon. He was previously the Vice Chairman of the Conservative party covering faith and communities.

The intention is that he will bring together efforts across Government, with faith groups and civil society, to promote the UK's position on religious tolerance abroad, to lead on implementing the recommendations of the recent review into FCO support for persecuted Christians led by the Bishop of Truro and to act as an advocate for the rights those in the UK and abroad who are discriminated against or persecuted on grounds of religion or belief. Unlike Lord Ahmad, who was a minister in the FCO, Chishti will not hold a ministerial post.

The Communities Secretary has appointed Colin Bloom as Faith Engagement Adviser at MHCLG. He will lead a review into how best the Government should engage with faith groups in England. He has previously been Executive Director of the Conservative Christian Fellowship and Director of Christians in Politics. [FC]

## WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Welsh Government is **consulting** on Religious Education (RE) and Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE). RE and sex education are statutory requirements within the current curriculum. The Government is proposing to make RE and RSE statutory within the new curriculum when it is introduced from 2022. It is also proposing to change the name of RE to 'Religions and Worldviews' and is 'minded to ensure all children and young people in maintained schools are required to study RE and RSE in the new curriculum, rather than continue the anomaly that parents can take the decision to prevent children from attending these specific and core lessons'. The consultation closes on **28 November**.

The Catholic Education Service has already issued a **statement** critical of the proposal to end the parental right of withdrawal from Religious Education. A2P1 ECHR, anyone? [FC]

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