



Ecclesiastical
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Society

NEWSLETTER
of
THE ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

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](#). To be led by members of the ELS Education Team, which includes: 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 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.**

Friday 13 March 2020 Regional training day (Leeds) – *You couldn't make it up! Good Governance in Parochial Ministry* – to be held at the Leeds Diocesan Office, 17-19 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2EX: **10.30 am till 3.30 pm**: cost including lunch, £25.00 for ELS members: £30.00 for non-members. To be led by members of the ELS Education Team: for details of speakers, see above.

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.

OUR NEW VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Ecclesiastical Law Society is delighted to announce the appointment of The Rt Revd Stephen Conway, Bishop of Ely, as its new Vice Chairman. Bishop Stephen takes over the role previously held by The Revd Canon John Rees, who has stood down after serving the Society for many years as both Treasurer and Vice-Chairman. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Canon Rees for all the work he has done in fostering the work of the Society and in his tight control of its finances and was delighted to announce Bishop Stephen's appointment, which takes immediate effect:



‘I am delighted to welcome Bishop Stephen as Vice Chairman. He is a towering presence on the Bench of Bishops and in the House of Lords and will bring lustre and energy to the Society’s core task in fostering education in ecclesiastical law amongst clergy and laity. Stephen is a gifted communicator and well-placed to emphasise the importance of canon law to the self-understanding of the Church of England in terms of mission, witness, worship and ecumenism.’

Bishop Stephen takes on this new role at a time when the programme of the Society is expanding with lecture series in London and Leeds, a widely respected *Journal* and *Newsletter*, annual conferences and the targeted work of its education committee with a roadshow of seminars on good governance for PCCs. The Society’s conference next March in Southwark will pose the bold question of whether Synodical Government is fit for purpose. Places are still available and can be booked on the Society’s website, www.ecclawsoc.org.uk.

Welcoming his new role, Bishop Stephen said:

‘I am very pleased indeed to be taking on this role at such an exciting time in the life of the Ecclesiastical Law Society. The Society has an important role in educating the whole church about the role of canon law in the good ordering of our common life and witness. Questions about how the Church’s structures and processes may best serve our mission are currently the focus of renewed attention, and I am looking forward to being part of the further development of the Society as it seeks to address these in fresh ways.’

CIVIL PARTNERSHIP AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

England & Wales: The draft **Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019**, whose principal purpose is to make provision for opposite-sex civil partnerships in England and Wales, have been approved by both Houses. They will come into force on **2 December**.

Part 3 amends the Civil Partnership Act 2004 so that regulations made under that Act and the Equality Act 2010 do not oblige religious organisations and those acting on their behalf to be involved in the formation of civil partnerships if they do not wish to do so – whether in relation to all civil partnerships or only to same-sex or to opposite-sex partnerships. [FC]

Northern Ireland: On 28 October, the House of Commons debated the **Report pursuant to section 3(5) of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2019**. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland **told the House** that the Government would ensure that the necessary regulations to legalise same-sex marriages and opposite-sex civil partnerships will be in place by **13 January 2020**. Given the usual 28-day notice period, he expected the first marriages to take place in the week beginning 10 February. Further, he said that draft Regulations would shortly be published for consultation ‘to enable religious same-sex marriage ceremonies and

to provide appropriate religious protections’. But that, of course, was before Parliament was dissolved. [FC]

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PAROCHIAL FEES 2020

The [Table of Parochial Fees for 2020](#) was published on 5 November. [David Pocklington]

CHURCH OF ENGLAND (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) MEASURE

The draft [Church of England \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Measure](#) was published by Parliament on 4 November, together with a link to the [Comments and explanations](#) on the by the Legislative Committee of General Synod. [FC]

LISTED PLACES OF WORSHIP GRANT SCHEME EXTENSION

HM Treasury has agreed to extend the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme for a further year until **31 March 2021**. There has been no Government publicity about the extension; however, there is a reference to it buried deep among the [FAQs](#) on the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme website. [FC]

MARRIAGE REGISTRATION

The present uncertainty about the intended changes to marriage registration in England & Wales continues: on 6 September, Dr Sandra Millar, the Church of England’s Head of Life Events, [stated](#) that ‘There has been no decision taken about the timeframe and we are still in discussions to agree both the timeframe and the detail of the changes so that they can be effectively implemented for all Church of England clergy’. Updates will be posted on www.churchofengland.org and www.churchsupporthub.org. [David Pocklington]

TERNE-COATED STAINLESS STEEL

Historic England has just published a new Guidance Note: [Church Roof Replacement Using Terne-coated Stainless Steel](#). It merely sets out the pros and cons without coming to any firm conclusions as to its desirability or otherwise – though it does suggest that ‘Replacement like-for-like with lead roofing is the best technical remediation, although where there is a means of access the risk of further theft remains’. The Note may be of interest to members who have to decide faculty applications for terne-coated stainless steel to replace a lead roof that is failing or damaged – or has simply been nicked. [FC]
