

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The first general meeting of the Ecclesiastical Law Society as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) will take place via Zoom on **Wednesday 25 November 2020** commencing at **5.30 pm** to transact the following business:

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To note the minutes of the annual general meeting of the Ecclesiastical Law Society as an unincorporated association on 6 April 2019.
3. To receive the Trustees’ Annual Report and a separate updating Addendum from the Chairman.
4. To receive the Society’s Statement of Accounts for the period from the registration of the CIO on 5 December 2018 to the end of its accounting year on 30 June 2019.
5. To receive a written report on the Society’s finances from the Treasurer.
6. To elect the Right Reverend Christopher Hill as President of the Society for a period of five years.
7. To elect the Right Reverend Stephen Conway as Vice-Chair of the Society for a period of two years.
8. To elect eleven Charity Trustees, each to serve for a period of three years, subject to provision for retirement by rotation. Whilst other candidates may be nominated prior to or at the Annual General Meeting, the Chairman will propose that the following eleven individuals be elected *en bloc* to provide continuity of leadership for the Society as a newly formed CIO during the current Covid-19 pandemic. One third of those who are elected (to be determined by lot) will retire at the next Annual General Meeting in March 2021.

The Worshipful Ruth Arlow

The Venerable Simon Baker

Paul Barber

The Reverend Paul Benfield

The Reverend Russell Dewhurst

Frances Godden

The Right Reverend Christine Hardman

Mrs Anne-Marie Organ

The Revd Christopher Smith

Luke Tatam

Mrs Elizabeth Wilson

Frank Cranmer and the Reverend Stephen Coleman will be put forward for co-option as Additional Charity Trustees.

1. To confirm the appointment of the Most Reverend Stephen Cottrell as a Patron of the Society following his translation to the Archiepiscopal See of York in July 2020.
2. To receive a written report from the Editor of the *Ecclesiastical Law Journal* and to note the appointment of Benjamin Harrison as Assistant Editor.
3. To approve the following resolution amending the Constitution to allow future Annual General Meetings to be held via Zoom or other virtual or hybrid means. For convenience, a version of the Constitution incorporating the proposed amendments by way of tracked changes accompanies this Notice.

THAT the constitution of the CIO be amended as follows:

1. In clause 12(3)(b)(ii), insert the words “(in the case of a meeting to be held partly or fully at a physical location)” before “give the address at which the meeting is to take place;”;
2. Insert a new clause 12(3)(b)(iii): “(in the case of a meeting to be held partly or fully by electronic means) give arrangements for accessing the electronic meeting);”;
3. Renumber clause 12(3)(b) accordingly;
4. In clause 12(6)(b)(ii), insert “and/” before “or”;
5. Insert a new clause 12(8):

“**Participation in meetings by electronic means**

1. A meeting may be held by suitable electronic means agreed by the Charity Trustees in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants.
2. Any member participating at a meeting by suitable electronic means agreed by the Charity Trustees in which a participant or participants may communicate with all the other participants shall qualify as being present at the meeting.
3. Meetings held by electronic means must comply with rules for meetings, including chairing and the taking of minutes.”
4. Insert a new definition at the end of clause 31: “A “**show of hands**” includes the electronic equivalent for virtual and hybrid meetings”.
5. Any other business which the Chairman in his discretion may allow.

**EXPLANATORY NOTES**

This Annual Meeting had originally been scheduled to take place during the Society’s Conference on Saturday 28 March 2020. It was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Under clause 12(1) of the constitution of the CIO, the first AGM must be held within 18 months of registration, which was 5 December 2019. Although that deadline (5 June 2020) has not been met, the extenuating circumstances occasioned by Covid-19 are likely to be treated by the Charity Commission as reasonable in all the circumstances.

A statutory dispensation contained in the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 permits Annual Meetings of CIOs to be held virtually. The duration of this dispensation has been extended until 30 December 2020 by the [Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 (Coronavirus) (Extension of the Relevant Period) Regulations 2020.](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/1031/regulation/2/made)

As previously communicated to members, the Trustees have resolved to convene the Annual Meeting immediately prior to the Society’s London Lecture to be delivered by the Revd Dr Will Adam on 25 November 2020. In accordance with clause 12(5)(b) of the Constitution, for the meeting to be quorate, 5% of the membership must be present at the start of the meeting. Assuming the membership to be 700, this would require a minimum of 35 zoom participants.

For the purposes of clause 12(3)(b)(ii) of the Constitution, the address at which the Meeting is to take place is deemed to be at 37 Craven Street, London, WC2N 5NF, from where the Meeting will be chaired. **Any member wishing to participate in the Meeting is requested to register for Dr Adam’s lecture via the ELS website and a Zoom code will be sent shortly before the AGM.**

It is intended to convene the next Annual General Meeting on Saturday 20 March 2021. The purpose of the Resolution under consideration at the forthcoming Meeting is to revise the constitution to enable that AGM (and any future AGMs) to be conducted virtually, without having to rely on a statutory dispensation which may (or may not) be forthcoming from Parliament. It is not the intention of the Trustees to move to a practice of conducting all future AGMs on-line. To the contrary, the previous practice of convening AGMs to coincide with the Society’s annual conference – whether residential or non-residential – is much preferred as it enables members to meet in person and helps build up the relational nature of the Society and the fellowship which helps it to flourish. The amendment simply creates the constitutional option of a virtual AGM in the case of exceptional circumstances such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Constitution already permits the Trustees to meet virtually and it is hoped that members will acknowledge that good use has been made of that provision. The Society has been even more active in the discharge of its charitable function of education in ecclesiastical law since the start of the health emergency.

Whilst neither the Chairman nor the Trustees wish to stifle debate and discussion at the forthcoming AGM, conducting a debate (and complex voting) on-line has practical challenges and it is hoped that what is considered an uncontroversial resolution will be adopted *nem com*. It would be appreciated if any members who have concerns or views they wish to express on the subject would communicate them to the Chairman or Executive Secretary in advance of the AGM.

Those present at the AGM will be invited to elect *en bloc* the Trustees proposed at item 8 of the foregoing Notice. This will provide support and continuity as the CIO beds itself in. It is anticipated that there will be a contested election of Trustees in March 2021. The Chairman invites members to show restraint in these exceptional times so that this unusual and unprecedented AGM can be swift and businesslike and that the proposed Trustees (all of whom have served the Society tirelessly in difficult circumstances) can all be elected *nem con*.

In order that the AGM can proceed swiftly and efficiently, it will be assumed that members will have read in advance the relevant documentation circulated with this Notice and available on the Society’s website.

Accompanying this Notice are the following documents:

* Minutes of the AGM of the ELS (unincorporated association) held on 6 April 2019 (*page 4)*
* Trustees’ Annual Report with addendum from the Chairman (*page 7)*
* Society’s Statement of Accounts (5 December 2018 - 30 June 2019) (*page 14)*
* Report on finances from the Treasurer *(page 15)*
* Report from the Editor of the *Ecclesiastical Law Journal (page 16)*
* Constitution incorporating the amendments to be effected by the proposed Resolution at item 11 of the foregoing notice *(page 17)*

**ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY ITEM 2**

**Minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting**

**held at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park**

**at noon on Saturday, 6th April 2019**

**------------------------------------------------**

The Chairman, Professor the Worshipful Mark Hill QC, in the Chair:

The Chairman paid tribute to the late Caroline Mockford, Registrar of the Diocese and the Province of York, and partner in the firm of Lupton Fawcett who had died suddenly on 5th March 2019. Caroline was a gifted ecclesiastical lawyer and was much loved by many in the Society. The Vice Chairman had represented the Society at her funeral at York Minster and written an obituary which was published on the Society’s website and in the Church Times. The meeting stood in silence to honour her memory.

1. **Apologies**

The apologies were taken as read and a full list of apologies is preserved in the Minute Book together with a list of those present.

2. **Minutes of the 31st Annual General Meeting held on 17th March 2018**

The Minutes of the 31st Annual General Meeting held on 17th March 2018 were approved *nem con* and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman introduced his written report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was included in the conference brochure. The written text accompanies these Minutes. He drew special attention to the fact that much of the Committee’s time had been devoted to the change to the new CIO and he expressed his personal thanks to the Governance Group for their work. He also paid tribute to Stephen Slack for his contribution to the Society, now that he was retiring from the Legal Office of the Archbishop’s Council and from serving on the Society’s Committee.

4. **The Society’s Finances**

The Treasurer’s report and the unexamined accounts for the period of 12 months to 30 June 2018 had been circulated and were presented and approved. There were no questions from the floor. The Treasurer was thanked for his work.

5. **Election of Committee**

The President, Dr Sheila Cameron QC took the Chair for this item.

**Officers**

The foregoing were elected *nem con*.

Chairman Professor the Worshipful Mark Hill QC

Vice-Chairman The Revd Canon John Rees

Treasurer Mr Darren Oliver

Secretary Mrs Elizabeth Wilson

Deputy Secretary Mr Benjamin Harrison

**Other Committee members**

To achieve consistency during the process of transition from unincorporated association to CIO, the Committee had resolved at its meeting on 27 February 2019 that those members who retire by rotation at this AGM and would ordinarily have offered themselves for re-election will be co-opted back onto the Committee until such time as the unincorporated association is dissolved. They are Frank Cranmer and the Revd Russell Dewhurst. Accordingly, the AGM was not invited to elect any other Committee members

6. **President**

The Chairman paid warm tribute to Sheila Cameron QC following her decision to stand down as President and thanked her for the support and guidance that she had given to the Society, both as a founder member and as President, in succession to Bishop Eric Kemp. A presentation of a card (signed by all those attending the conference) and various gifts was made to Sheila, who expressed her thanks for them and her pleasure at the success of all of the various activities in which the Society was engaged.

The Chairman was pleased to nominate the Right Reverend Christopher Hill as the Society’s Third President. He was duly elected by acclamation. The Chairman then pointed out that as the Society was in the process of being dissolved, Bishop Hill’s presidency would be likely to be rather short. The Chairman tested the mood of the meeting as to whether it would wish Bishop Hill in due course to be elected President of its successor body, the CIO. This suggestion was very favourably received.

7. **Other resolutions**

There was none.

8. **Forthcoming ELS events**

The AGM noted forthcoming events to be organised by the Society, particularly the London Lectures and the Northern Province Lectures. The Society’s day conference next year would be held at Minerva House, Southwark on Saturday 28 March 2020 and would address the subject of Synodical Government. It was hoped that the Archbishop of York, Patron of the Society, would be the principal speaker [and this has since been confirmed].

9. **Any Other Business**

The Chairman invited the Venerable Simon Baker to talk about the work of the Education Committee which he chairs, and the Revd Russell Dewhurst about the plans to update the Resources section of the website.

Simon Baker reported that the Education Committee had held training events in both the Northern and the Southern Provinces on churchwarden training and proposed to hold practical workshops on good governance in the coming year. This will include reference to the new Church Representation Rules. The workshops will be targeted at parochial clergy and churchwardens, to encourage best practice.

Russell Dewhurst demonstrated some the material now available on the Society website and encouraged anyone with an interest and time to help him and the Committee improve and update content across a wide range of issues arising in ecclesiastical law, aimed at people unfamiliar with it but looking for a brief summary of the law and where to go for advice.

The AGM joined the Chairman in thanking Simon, Russell and their teams for all they have done in furthering the educational purposes of the Society.

The Dean of Arches drew to the meeting’s attention the existence of a list of Counsel available for *pro bono* faculty work, which was maintained by Philip Petchey.

The Chairman observed that this would be the last AGM of the Society as it is intended that it be would up once its assets have been transferred to the CIO in June. He invited the meeting to record its appreciation to those who had established the Society in 1987 and the many individuals who had served as presidents, officers, committee members, and executive officers or administrators. We owe to them all – individual and collectively – a very great debt of thanks.

The meeting was declared closed at 12.35.

Signed ………………………..

Dated ……………………….

# TRUSTEES’ REPORT ITEM 3

Long-standing members of the ELS, whether in its former legal personality as an unincorporated association or its new iteration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), will be familiar with this annual report on the Society’s activities. But there is a distinction between this one and those that have gone before. Hitherto, it was headed Chairman’s Report and travelled under the name of the Chairman, but article 12(1) of the CIO constitution expressly states that the AGM must receive the trustees’ annual report so this document is no longer exclusively mine: rather it is the collective report of each and all of the Trustees, directed to each and all of the members. Thus it has been drafted earlier in the year than previously, and tabled at a prior Trustees’ meeting for comment and approval. It is therefore appropriate that the first Report under the new dispensation identifies all the Trustees who stand behind it. They are:

The Worshipful Mark Hill QC, Chairman

The Rt Revd Stephen Conway, Vice Chairman

Darren Oliver Esq, Treasurer

The Worshipful Ruth Arlow

The Venerable Simon Baker

Frank Cranmer Esq

The Revd Russell Dewhurst

Miss Frances Godden

Benjamin Harrison Esq

Mrs Elizabeth Wilson

The Rt Revd Christine Hardman

Paul Barber Esq

The Revd Paul Benfield

Mrs Anne-Marie Organ

The Revd Christopher Smith

Luke Tatam Esq

The Trustees met four times during 2019: in February, May, July and October. In addition the Standing Committee continued its practice of monthly telephone meetings transacting the routine business of the Society. The change in nomenclature from Committee Meetings to Trustees’ Meetings is more than superficial. It serves as a reminder of the concept of trusteeship which carries legal duties as a matter to Charity law, as well as duties to the membership to carry forward the charitable objects of the Society, principally ‘to promote education in ecclesiastical law’. But it should be remembered that the role of Trusteeship is one of oversight: we need to move away from the expectation that all the work of the Society is to be done by Trustees or – worse – a small sub-set within the Trustees.

**The past year**

Traditionally this report has covered events during the calendar year prior to the AGM so I will focus on 2019, in the middle of which the assets and liabilities of the ELS were transferred from the unincorporated association to the CIO. So what I say is of relevance to both iterations of the Society which have existed in parallel throughout the year, albeit the work of the Society (and the membership) migrated from the one to the other on 30 June 2019. It is expected that the unincorporated association will be formally dissolved in the coming months and thereafter removed from the Register of Charities. A closing statement of account will be tabled for information at the AGM, revealing the buoyant state of the Society’s finances when the assets were transferred. The CIO’s statement of accounts (circulated with the Notice of AGM) show a zero balance as it was not operational during the period from its registration with the Charity Commission on 6 December 2018 to 30 June 2019, when its accounting year ended.

**Royal patronage**

Judging from the feedback, the crowning glory of 2019 was the Society’s residential conference in Cumberland Lodge, Windsor. Whilst the accommodation might have been a little cosy, it provided a magnificent and elegant backdrop for a series of first-rate lectures by leading experts offering opinions on the nature of establishment, several of which have subsequently graced the pages of the *Ecclesiastical Law Journal*. Admittedly, time to enjoy the Great Park was limited, but this was the inevitable consequence of cramming most of the lectures into the Saturday to free up time on Sunday to attend morning service at the Royal Chapel of All Saints, after which many of the participants at the conference were presented informally to Her Majesty the Queen. This was the first occasion on which the Supreme Governor has participated at an ELS event. In conversation with her, I delicately avoided the fact that the topic of our conference had been church-state relations in the post-Elizabethan age.

**Education**

Whilst the mechanics of transitioning to a CIO absorbed much of the Trustees’ time and energy, the focus of their work remained the promotion of education in canon law. The education sub-committee, ably led by Simon Baker, is at the hub of the Society’s work particularly the frequent workshops and seminars aimed variously at trainers, churchwardens, and PCC members. But all the other work of the Society has education at its heart, and this continues apace, notably the Journal, the Website and Twitter account, the Newsletter, the London Lectures, the Northern Province Lectures, and occasional *ad hoc* events. We are grateful to all those who work tirelessly to ensure the success of these ventures.

**Governance**

The CIO has put in place a series of policies, some adopted wholesale from the unincorporated association, others inherited and revised, and a few created afresh. The suite of policies are listed below and a process for periodic review has been agreed.

Communications Policy

Complaints Policy

Conflicts of Interest Policy

Investment Policy (incorporating the previously separate Reserves Policy)

Risk Management Policy

Data Security Policy

Data Protection Policy

Privacy Policy

Safeguarding Policy

Volunteers Policy

The Trustees completed a risk assessment and this will be revisited at least annually.

**Personnel**

Last year the unincorporated association elected Bishop Christopher Hill as President in succession to The Right Worshipful Dr Sheila Cameron CBE, QC after a decade in office and warm tributes were paid to her. Bishop Christopher was one of the ‘assets’ transferred to the CIO last June. I am confident that this year’s AGM will elect him with acclamation as President of the CIO. We welcome the Archbishop of York to give the keynote address at this year’s conference, as his term of office draws to an end, and I am, delighted to report that Bishop Stephen Cottrell has signified his willingness to succeed him as Patron of the Society upon his translation from Chelmsford to York.

Sadly, in the course of the year, Canon John Rees felt he should step down as Vice Chairman as health concerns compelled him to adjust his workload. John’s service to the Society as Treasurer for many years, then briefly as Chairman and then latterly as Vice Chairman has been considerable. We are greatly in his debt. We are thrilled that the Bishop of Ely, the Rt Revd Stephen Conway has agreed to succeed him. The Society will benefit from Bishop Stephen’s high profile in the national church and in the House of Lords, although his heavy commitments elsewhere inevitably mean he will be less involved in the routine work of the Society.

Andrew Male has served as the Society’s administrator for tern years or more. During this time his workload has increased considerably by assuming the duties previously undertaken by the Secretary and Deputy Secretary whose roles became obsolete several years ago and have not been carried over into the CIO. Andrew indicated his wish to decrease his responsibilities and focus on the ‘back office’ element of the role particularly membership and book keeping. Rather than lose him, the Trustees decided on an interim solution retaining Andrew for these functions while recruiting an executive secretary to service the Trustees and to coordinate the other activities of the Society. In December, John Ford, recently returned from episcopal ministry in Australia, was appointed to that post. This robust short-term arrangement will serve the Society for the next eighteen months or so, allowing the Trustees to review administration to find the best long-term solution for the expanding work of the Society. We are grateful to Luke Tatam for leading this review and producing preliminary recommendations. We thank Andrew Male for all he has done, and Sarah Neden for the assistance she has given him. We also acknowledge the generous support of Lee Bolton Monier-Williams, Winckworth Sherwood (London), and Francis Taylor Building Chambers for providing meeting rooms and refreshments without charge, and express our gratitude to Wrigleys Solicitors LLP, for their continued sponsorship of the Society’s Northern Province Lectures.

**Membership**

Gentle recruitment campaigns have brought the Society’s membership to nearly 700, the highest in its history. Andrew Male reports that the special offer of the paperback version of the fourth edition of Hill’s *Ecclesiastical Law* has been a contributory factor, as people have joined the Society to avail themselves of the offer. It should be recorded that the Chairman waived his royalties, and derives no personal benefit from this arrangement.

**The future**

So at this the first AGM of the new CIO, the Trustees are pleased to report on the health of the Society. But we need new members if we are to continue to deliver on our growing programme, and we need volunteers to assume responsibility for areas of the Society’s work. The Trustees have planned a Strategy Day for Saturday 13 June 2020 to address administration and set clear and achievable goals for the coming years. We need to start breeding the next generation of leaders, identifying potential future Trustees, and welcoming fresh faces in all aspects of the Society’s life. And, as every year, we seek the prayers of the membership for the Trustees, as partners in the gospel, giving of their time and talents in the mission of God’s church.

Mark Hill QC

Chairman, Ecclesiastical Law Society (CIO)

For and on behalf of the Trustees St David’s Day, 2020

CHAIRMAN’S ADDEDDUM TO TRUSTEES’ REPORT

A thriving Society in a time of pandemic

**The Trustees’ Report was signed off in readiness for the AGM planned for 28 March 2020 and has been filed with the Charity Commission. This Addendum is intended to comment on the intervening months during which everything has changed and nothing has changed. The unprecedented cancellation of the Society’s annual conference was a tough decision to take, but the trustees wisely took it in a timely and orderly manner. We are hugely grateful for participants not seeking a refund of their fees: this would have caused a serious shortfall in our finances. And the Trustees have responded to that gesture of faith and confidence by not allowing the Society to fester and decline during lockdown but to double down and increase and improve its educational activities. By making novel use of IT and virtual meeting facilities, the Society has made a virtue out of a necessity. In a message to members back in June, I mentioned some of the Society’s activities and am pleased to repeat and enlarge that here.**

**Reading Group on the Canons**

The response to the suggestion of a fortnightly reading group on the Canons of the Church of England was overwhelming.  Such was the demand that four groups had to be established which now meet fortnightly, two convened by Revd Russell Dewhurst and two by Revd Stephen Coleman.

**CDM Working Party**

The CDM working party convened by HH Peter Collier QC has already produced its interim report, which received considerable publicity, including a double-page spread in the Church Times. There will be a further call for input from members as its work progresses.

**Marriage Law Working Party**

More recently the Marriage Law Working Party, which has been poised ready to act under his convenor Stephen Borton received its call to arms with the publication by the Law Commission of its consultation paper on weddings law. By fortunate coincidence marriage law will be the subject of the Society’s conference in March 2021, not residential in Newcastle as planned, but virtual on the Society’s zoom platform.

**Ecclesiastical Law Journal**

The Covid-19 emergency delayed the printing and mailing out of the May and September issues of the Journal. But publication is back on track. Ben Harrison has been appointed as Assistant Editor of the *Journal* in the expectation that he will succeed to the editor’s chair in the latter part of 2021 when Will Adam steps down as editor. Will took up the mantle of assistant editor in 2009, becoming editor in 2013 and the Journal has flourished with him at the helm. We thank him for his commitment to the *Journal* – the shop window of the Society – and wish him well with his burgeoning ecumenical brief.

**Northern Province and London Lectures**

These moved seamlessly on line with the live streaming of Bishop Helen Ann Hartley’s lecture on Law and Life in the Anglican Communion, and have continued thereafter with increased virtual participation and highly engaging Q&A sessions. The 2021 London Lecture series has now been publicised as has the first half of the Northern Province series.

**Membership renewal**

The annual membership renewal is now complete with membership standing just short of 700. A recruitment sub-committee led by Frances Godden is committed to building the membership yet further. The group is also engaged in succession planning for officers and trustees

**ELS YouTube Channel**

The ELS YouTube Channel, devised, created and maintained by Russell Dewhurst has an impressive back-catalogue of interviews: Norman Doe, Simon Baker, the custodians of the Law and Religion UK Blog – Frank Cranmer and David Pocklington, Revd Andrea Russell, and the Bishop of Ely. And more are planned. The channel also carries many of the Societies lectures.

**ELS Newsletter**

The ELS newsletter continues to spread the news of the Society’s activities and we will shortly be looking for a volunteer to replace Ben Harrison as editor.

**Education Sub-Committee**

**We continue to be grateful to Simon Baker and the education sub-committee for its work on promoting education in ecclesiastical law. The recent e-questionnaire of members has given a clearer idea of what is currently being done and where, and provided points of contact within the majority of dioceses which will promote concerted action in the future. A stand-out performance from the Education Committee was its recent webinar on Ecclesiastical Law in Clerical Formation. This can still be viewed on the ELS YouTube channel, and there is a promise of more to come next year.**

***Curricula***

**Thanks to Ruth Arlow and her team, the Trustees have recently approved two basic curricula: one for clergy and one for laity giving an overview of subject areas and specific resources of which they ought to be aware concerning ecclesiastical law. This should be launched by the time of the AGM. It does not purport to be comprehensive. It does not cover everything. And it will need periodic updating and revisiting. But it should, at the very least, help to point to those who need to know something of the ecclesiastical law of the Church of England in the right direction. It is one of the most significant outputs of the Society since its creation back in 1987.**

**Winding up of Unincorporated Association**

November marks the first annual meeting of the Society as a Charitable Incorporated Association (CIO).  It took over the assets and liabilities of the Society as an unincorporated association, and the membership has migrated to the CIO. The unincorporated association has now been wound up and removed from the Register of Charities. Particular thanks are owed to the governance group under the able leadership of Elizabeth Wilson.

**Change of Patron**

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu stood down as Patron of the Society upon ceasing to be Archbishop of York. I am pleased to record our gratitude to Archbishop Sentamu for all the support he has given the Society during his time as Patron. The Confirmation of Election of the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell as Archbishop of York took place on 9 July and Archbishop Stephen has generously accepted an invitation to be a Patron of the Society.

**Administration**

**Members will already be familiar with Bishop John Ford who has been Executive Secretary of the Society since last January, servicing the Chairman and Trustees and generally running the administration of the Society. We are grateful for his energy and good humour. And in January, Stephen Hogg will join us as Finance Officer, bringing with him a wealth of experience in accountancy, IT and charity administration. The handover has already begun.**

**This means that we must say our farewells to Andrew Male who has acted as administrator of the Society for many years, during which time it has undergone many changes, all of which have necessitated additional work for him. Members will wish to express their thanks to Andrew for all he has given to the Society in his unassuming way, and for his quiet reassuring presence at conferences and events, notwithstanding the vast amount of preparation involved.**

All the Trustees have worked together on the administration, but I am particularly grateful to the Standing Committee – Darren Oliver, Elizabeth Wilson, Ben Harrison and Russell Dewhurst – for stepping up to the plate and to John Ford for keeping members fully informed through these troubled times.

**Lyndwood Lecture, Rowan Williams and Thomas Becket**

Doe to the pandemic, the Lyndwood Lecture, being the biennial collaboration of the Society with the Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland, has been postponed to a date next Autumn, when the speaker will be the Reverend James Conn SJ, the Superior of Casa Santa Maria in Rome, and formerly Professor of Canon Law at the Gregorian Pontifical University, well known for his leadership in the Colloquium of Anglican and Roman Catholic Canon Lawyers.

We are delighted to announce that in place of the Lyndwood Lecture, and in partnership with Villanova University, Notre Dame University and the British Embassy to the Holy See, Lord Williams of Oystermouth has kindly agreed to deliver a lecture via zoom to mark the 850th anniversary of the murder of Saint Thomas of Canterbury. The lecture, entitled *Saving our Order: Thomas Becket, Henry II and the Law of Church and State*, will be delivered on 10 December 2020 at 5.30 pm and will mark the conclusion of the Society’s activities for the current year.

**Conclusion**

This November AGM, the first of the Society as a CIO, is not a time for fireworks and flamboyance but an opportunity to reflect and be grateful for the manner in which the Society has responded to the challenge of Covid-19. I hope members will indicate their approval of the current leadership by electing the current trustees to a further term of office. The intent is to steady the ship over the next few months, in anticipation of a fuller and more substantive AGM next March when we will look for new blood to refresh and reinvigorate the leadership as it moves with confidence into a new era.

Mark Hill QC

Chairman, Ecclesiastical Law Society

**ITEM 4**

[](https://ecclawsoc.org.uk/)charity number 1181002

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| **RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**  **beginning with registration on 5 December 2018 for the year ending 30 June 2019** | | | |
|  |  |  |  |
| **RECEIPTS** |  | **2018/19** |  |
|  |  | £ |  |
| Total Income |  | 0.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **PAYMENTS** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Total Expenditure |  | 0.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments | | 0.00 |  |
| Current assets at start of year |  | 0.00 |  |
| **Current assets at end of year** |  | **0.00** |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Notes to accounts for the year ending 30 June 2019:**

1. The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission under number 1181002. The charity was established to receive all the assets and liabilities of the unincorporated charity of the same name (number 296553).
2. These accounts cover the period from the date the charity was entered onto the register of charities (5 December 2018) to 30 June 2019.
3. No income was received, no expenditure was made and no assets were held during this period.

**Darren Oliver**

**Treasurer**

**FINANCIAL REPORT ITEM 5**

The requirement for this AGM under the CIO’s Constitution is to receive the annual statement of accounts. The most recent accounts filed with the Charity Commission show zero balances as they were for the period to 30 June 2019. Although the CIO was established on 5 December 2018, it was not until 1 July 2020 that it received the assets (and liabilities) of the unincorporated charity. There are, therefore, no detailed accounts to comment on for the purposes of this CIO AGM. The unincorporated charity’s final accounts resulted in end of year assets of £45,506. That was, therefore, the excellent starting position for the CIO’s last financial year, beginning on 1 July 2019 (and which ended on 30 June 2020). Accounts for that period are currently being prepared and will be submitted to the Charity Commission in due course. Those accounts will be the CIO’s first operational accounts and will come before the AGM in 2021.

This year’s AGM was, of course, due to take place with the Day Conference in March. We are grateful to those who have waived the return of the conference attendance fee and donated this to the on-going work of the Society.

Darren Oliver

Treasurer

**EDITOR’S REPORT ITEM 10**

**Ecclesiastical Law Journal**

The *Journal* continues to be published three times per year by Cambridge University Press on behalf of the Society. As well as articles, comments and reports on events the Journal continues to contain a regular report on relevant parliamentary and government business; a report on the business of a number of synodical bodies; book reviews and case notes. In these a great contribution is made by Frank Cranmer (Parliament and synods), David Willink (case notes) and Charlotte Smith (book reviews). David and Charlotte have recently taken over in these roles from Ruth Arlow and David Harte. David Harte was the original reviews editor and played that role for over thirty years for which successive editors, the Society and readers owe him great thanks.

The content of the *Journal* remains mixed and eclectic. Its core business, however, remains the study of the ecclesiastical law of the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. Added to this are a wide variety of articles on law and religion more generally, including freedom of religion; constitutional, historical and ecumenical topics; and the internal regulation of other religious bodies. There are other journals that treat law and religion, based in the UK and around the world, but the *Ecclesiastical Law Journal* remains the natural home of the study of the law of the Church of England and a key part of the promotion of that study.

Subscription to the *Journal* comes in one of two ways. All members of the society receive the Journal as part of their membership. Libraries, universities and other institutions also subscribe, normally as part of a consortium with a number of other Cambridge journals. The number of institutional subscribers is in excess of 8,500. These institutional subscriptions, along with licensing fees from Westlaw, ProQuest, Ebsco and Lexis and income from back issue sales and charges for one off article access bring in income to Cambridge University Press who, in turn pay a royalty to the Society. In 2019 this royalty was £6,000.

The production of the *Journal* has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Printing of issues 2 and 3 was delayed, but both have now been printed and distributed. If there are further delays then members are reminded that the *Journal* is always published online ahead of it being sent out and that this can be accessed by members online via the Society’s website.

I have taken the decision to resign as the third editor of the *Journal* at the end of volume 23 (2021). The Trustees of the Society have appointed Ben Harrison as editor. Ben becomes assistant editor with effect from issue 1 of 2021 and we will hand over during the course of the volume. I have been immensely privileged to have been entrusted with this task over the last seven years, despite not been a professionally qualified lawyer, and have every confidence in the success and growth of the *Journal* over the coming years.

Will Adam

Editor

**CONSTITUTION ITEM 11**

Please find herewith a copy of the current version of the Constitution of the CIO with the amendments proposed at item 11 of the Agenda shown as tracked changes.

