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**NEWSLETTER**

**of**

**The Ecclesiastical LAW SOCIETY**

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|  **No. 5/2021** | **December 2021** |
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| **SAVE THE DATE****ELS DAY CONFERENCE Saturday 2 April 2022**It is now possible to provide further details of next year’s Ecclesiastical Law Society Day Conference. This will be held on **2nd April 2022** at **St Alban’s Holborn**, on the subject of **Accidents of Ecclesiastical Governance: Past, Present and Future?**  Speakers at the conference will include Professor Norman Doe, Bishop Pete Broadbent, the Revd Canon Professor Alison Milbank and Bishop Christopher Hill. It is intended that the conference will take place in the Church and adjoining conference centre from 10am, concluding with Evening Prayer at around 4pm. More information about the venue (not to be confused with St Andrew Holborn) is available [here](https://www.stalbansholborn.co.uk/). Details of the programme and speakers can be found on our website [here](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/_lCzC2kw7hKL8WVfnsTlt?domain=ecclawsoc.org.uk/). Online bookings for this in-person event\* will be open from 10 January, and an email giving the necessary link will be sent that day.*\*The Trustees are keen to provide an in person gathering but are very conscious of the unpredictability of current circumstances. The way in which our conference will happen is being constantly reviewed and members will be kept informed of developments. We hope that the conference can take place in person but need to be informed by both the science and the government.* |

**DATES FOR THE DIARY 2022**

*Lectures are free of charge and are open to members and non-members save where otherwise stated.*

*Please note all of the lectures below are intended to take place in person at Winckworth Sherwood in London.*

**Wednesday 16 February 2022**

Ian Blaney, Partner at Lee Bolton Monier-Williams LLP and Registrar of the dioceses of Lincoln and Derby

*Pious Causes: the boundaries between charity law and ecclesiastical law*

Details [here](https://ecclawsoc.org.uk/events/pious-causes/).

**Wednesday 18 May 2022**

Dr Charlotte Smith, Associate Professor in Law, University of Reading

*(Mis)adventures in Empire: The Colonial Bishoprics Fund and the Birth of the Worldwide Anglican Communion*

Details [here](https://ecclawsoc.org.uk/events/misadventures/).

**Wednesday 14 September 2022**

Worshipful David Etherington QC, Chancellor of the dioceses of London and Norwich

*In Defence of the Chancellor*

Details [here](https://ecclawsoc.org.uk/events/chancellor/).

**Wednesday 16 November 2022**

The Right Revd Stephen Conway, Bishop of Ely

*Canonical perspectives on the teaching of sacramental theology for the Church of England today*

Details [here](https://ecclawsoc.org.uk/events/canonical-perspectives/).

*Where held in person, spaces are limited and prior booking (through the website) is essential. Booking closes 48 hours before the event (or when the event is full), but please contact the Executive Secretary execsec@ecclawsoc.org.uk for late availability requests. If you find you can no longer attend, please cancel your booking to make the space available for someone else.*

**FROM THE EDITOR**

To all readers, thank you for your continued support and involvement in the work and life of the Society. In particular, I extend my thanks to Frank Cranmer, the Revd Russell Dewhurst and the Rt Revd John Ford for their continued assistance in helping me put together each edition of the Newsletter.

This comes with the best wishes and greetings for the forthcoming season, hoping each of you enjoys a safe and Merry Christmas, and a happy and prosperous 2022.

FG

**NEWS**

**Ministry of Justice consultation on outdoor weddings and civil partnership ceremonies**

The Ministry of Justice launched a [consultation](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/XkCeCZ69zcP1vy6Uz5W2w?domain=consult.justice.gov.uk/) on 20 December 2021 on outdoor wedding and civil partnership ceremonies. Since July 2021, couples have been able to have their civil marriage or civil partnership proceedings outside, in the grounds of premises approved for civil ceremonies. That was made possible because the Government laid a statutory instrument to permit outdoor ceremonies during the COVID-19 pandemic – but that SI only has effect until 5 April 2022. The Government proposes to lay a further SI to enable outdoor civil marriage and civil partnership registrations to continue indefinitely by bringing this further SI into force as soon as possible.

The Government is now seeking views on making the change permanent. *It will also examine extending it to religious weddings so that these can take place outdoors at places of worship for the first time for most faiths, such as in the grounds of a church or chapel*. To introduce that change, it would make a separate Legislative Reform Order. The full consultation document is available [here](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/JTkMC1wvGHnrgK4fGJuOn?domain=consult.justice.gov.uk).

Around 55,000 weddings a year would be affected by the change – in 2017, 96% of these were Christian ceremonies. No religious group would be obliged to provide outdoor ceremonies, and existing protections to safeguard religious freedoms would remain in place.

The consultation closes on **24 January 2022**. Responses can be made online, to Natasha Colvine, Ministry of Justice, 102 Petty France, London SW1H 9AJ, or by e-mail to outdoorweddings@justice.gov.uk.

A response to this consultation exercise is due to be published by **24 April 2022**.

**Lyndwwood Lecture**

The Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland has taken the decision to postpone the Lyndwood lecture to next Spring. Details including the new date and venue will follow as soon as they are available.

**A discourse on the legal history of Christmas**

Professor Russell Sandberg, in a seasonal guest post for the inestimable [Law and Religion UK blog](http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/) has created an entertaining and informative read examining ‘Christmas: a subversive legal history’. The full article can be read [here](https://lawandreligionuk.com/2021/12/18/christmas-a-subversive-legal-history/).

**Legislation update**

**Safeguarding**

The [Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure 2021](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/xwWVCXD9ruBVyoohVUzTP?domain=legislation.gov.uk) entered into force on 20 October 2021. It requires the House of Bishops to issue a code of practice for relevant persons on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

*Thanks as ever go to Frank Cranmer for these useful contributions.*

**And, in case you missed it…**

**The *Ecclesiastical Law Society* on YouTube**

The *Ecclesiastical Law Society* has its own dedicated YouTube channel – you can sign up to subscribe and view past recordings of lectures and interviews [here](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYnjET3cjnXwP2r-eMihiEg).

Recent additions include:

**Clean and green – law and the Carbon neutral Church**

**The Right Worshipful Morag Ellis QC, Dean of the Arches and Auditor**, gave this lecture on 4 November 2022, during the UK’s hosting of COP26 in Glasgow.

After the lecture, responses were made by:

* The Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham Usher, who is the Church of England’s lead bishop for the environment – speaking live from COP26 in Glasgow
* The Worshipful Philip Petchey, Chancellor of Southwark
* The Ven Stephen Taylor, former Archdeacon of Maidstone and acting Diocesan Secretary of Canterbury

You can watch the recording on the ELS Youtube channel [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kC0weIwUNvY).

**An ‘inside guide’ to General Synod**

The **Rt Revd Pete Broadbent** is a former Bishop of Willesden, and a long-time member of the General Synod of the Church of England. Here, he talks to trustee the Revd Stephen Coleman of the Ecclesiastical Law Society about the General Synod, including tips and advice for new elected members of the Synod. The video can be watched [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNxCSen8xok).

Members of the General Synod of the Church of England newly joining the Society by 28 February 2022 will have their membership extended until 30 June 2023 for no extra charge. Information about joining the Ecclesiastical Law Society can be found [here](https://ecclawsoc.org.uk/membership/).

**50 years of Safeguarding – 950 years of Clergy discipline:**

**Where do we go from here?**

**Peter Collier QC** is the **Vicar General of the Province of York**. Here, he talks to trustee the Revd Stephen Coleman about the lecture he delivered recently to members of the Society in person. You can watch the video [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIeOFd0UtBw).

An extended version of the text of the lecture can now be downloaded [here](https://ecclawsoc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/ELS-Lecture-50950-v4.pdf). This include hyperlinks to many of the sources referred in the lecture. The Society is very grateful to Peter Collier for repeating and recording his lecture in this form so that more people are able to hear it, and for providing this resource.

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