

## **PAPERS FOR THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- **Minutes of the second annual general meeting of the CIO on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021**
- **Trustees' Annual Report for 2021**
- **Society's Statement of Accounts and report from the Treasurer for 2021**
- **Editor's Report**

### **MINUTES OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation  
held via Zoom at 1.30pm on 20 March 2021**

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

The Chairman welcomed members to this virtual meeting and said that non-members (present for the Conference) were welcome although not able to speak or vote. He expressed thanks to those who had planned the virtual conference today, taking the place of the Residential Conference planned for Newcastle and cancelled due to Covid, especially the Revd Russell Dewhurst, and others who had dealt with IT, and the Executive Secretary who had made the arrangements.

The Chairman reflected that this was the second successive AGM to be undertaken virtually. Although it was the tradition to announce the following year's conference at the AGM, this was not possible due to Covid uncertainties. Our usual pattern would be a Day Conference next year, probably in London and it was hoped this would take place in person, and the membership would be notified in due course. Members were encouraged to complete the feedback form and to make suggestions for future venues and topics.

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Ian Baird, Hanns Englehardt, Stephen Borton, Christopher Dawson, Chris Atkinson, Pete Broadbent, Norman Boakes, Mark Gretason, Philip Waller, Jane Steen, David Knight and Rupert Bursell.

The Chairman reported that Rupert Bursell had recently been discharged from hospital but remained unwell. He asked members to hold Rupert in their prayers.

#### **2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 25 November 2020 were approved subject to the correction of a typographical error in item 11.

### 3. Trustees' Annual Report

Introducing the Report, the Chairman commented that the Report went beyond the mundane minimum for compliance with Charity legislation and constituted a full overview of the activities of the Society for the benefit of the members to whom the Trustees were answerable.

The Report was taken as read, but the Chairman made the following additional remarks.

*YouTube Channel:* This was one example of the manner in which the Society had moved many of its activities on line. The Society was indebted to the Revd Russell Dewhurst for his IT support enabling this to happen.

*Reading Group:* The Chairman noted the success of the Reading Group on the Canons, and reported that a second set of Reading Groups was already under way concerning the *Principles of Canon Law Common to the Churches of the Anglican Communion*. Under the leadership of the Revd Russell Dewhurst, groups were currently meeting not merely in the England, but in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, USA, and Wales. This review follows the recommendation of the Anglican Consultative Council.

*CDM Working Party:* The final report had recently been issued and had received considerable coverage in the Church press and been welcomed by the Bishop at Lambeth and his parallel review group. It is a significant piece of work, and thanks were expressed to the Chair, Peter Collier QC and, through him, the whole Working Party for such a comprehensive and detailed Report. The Chairman commented on the complete change in culture from when *Under Authority* was under discussion and ecclesiastical lawyers were treated with suspicion: there was now a fuller understanding of the facilitative nature of ecclesiastical law in enabling the mission of the Church.

*Newsletter:* The Chairman reported that Frances Godden was to replace Ben Harrison as editor of the Newsletter.

*Education Sub-Committee:* A further item had recently been added to the YouTube Channel in the form of a recorded conversation on 'Covid and Church Committees'. The Ven Simon Baker was thanked for his efficient chairing of this sub-committee.

*Curricula:* Members were reminded that the two curricula on ecclesiastical law were not ends in themselves, but building blocks for future initiatives. The Chairman made particular reference to a recent training day organised by the Diocese of London through Bishop Pete Broadbent, and attended by the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally. There were requests for this to be repeated, and the Revd Stephen Coleman would be working with the Archdeacons' National Training Adviser to deliver it.

The Chairman indicated that the Trustees would bring to next year's AGM a proposal to amend the Constitution to clarify that the three officer posts were each of three years' duration but ran independently. The current version effectively brings all three terms of office to an end at the same time which imperilled continuity of leadership. He reminded the meeting that both the Treasurer and Vice Chair would stand down next year. The Chairman was particularly grateful for the Right Revd Stephen Conway's wise counsel and constant support behind the scenes, as well as his more public work in promoting the Society within the House of Bishops and the House of Lords.

The Chairman noted with pleasure that the single nomination for Chair marked a welcome departure from the male and London/southern bias of previous chairs. He commented on the exceptionally high number of nominations to serve as Trustee, noting that in the past people had had to be 'strong armed' into standing. The number of people willing to volunteer to serve as Trustees was a very clear sign of the health and vitality of the Society.

Questions and comments were invited from the floor but there were none. The Trustees' Annual Report was duly received.

**4. Statement of Accounts &  
5. Treasurer's Report**

These items were taken together.

The Treasurer told the meeting that the word 'draft' should be deleted from line one of the Report and, with that amendment, he commended the Report to the meeting. He thanked Andrew Male for all the work he had contributed in the year and also Stephen Hogg who had become Finance Officer during the course of the year. The Treasurer commented that they had both been a great support to him in his role and said that the Executive Secretary's support has also been very valuable.

The Society's Statement of Accounts for the year ending 20 June 2020 was received.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for all his time and effort on behalf of the Society, and for agreeing to remain in post for another year allowing a phased change of officers

*The President, The Rt Revd Christopher Hill, took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.*

**6. Election of the Chairman of the Society**

Elizabeth Wilson was the only nomination received and she was duly declared elected.

**7. Election of five Charity Trustees**

Ten members had been nominated. The President outlined the way in which the election would take place and the electronic form was activated. Members present at the meeting completed electronic ballots. A count was held, with the Executive Officer acting as returning officer with two scrutineers.

**Post meeting note:**

The following were elected to serve as Charity Trustees - Paul Benfield, Lee Coley, Edward Dobson, Sam Maginnis, Neil Patterson.

**8. Any other business**

The President congratulated both the Chairman and all members present for the brevity and efficiency of the meeting. He wished to record thanks to the Trustees, the Standing Committee and all the Working Parties for the considerable work undertaken in the past year. He spoke about Mark

Hill's significant contribution to the Society during his Chairmanship that had been, in effect, for 7 years at the helm, and many more years before that in the engine room. He paid tribute to Mark's energy, vision, commitment and humour. Bishop Christopher mentioned especially how Mark's chairmanship of the Society had witnessed a significant growth in membership, a widening of the experience and background of Trustees and Officers, a strengthening of the lecture programme, an increased presence in the Northern Province and a renewal of the Society's administration, including the process of incorporation as a CIO. He spoke of the universal respect and affection in which Mark was held.

Mark responded to the President with evident emotion, overcome by the President's warm and generous words.

The meeting concluded at 2.12pm

Subsequently to the meeting, Frances Godden revealed a print of Doctors' Commons that, once framed, would be presented to Mark as a token of the Society's thanks and affection. Mark thanked Frances for the gift. He indicated that it had been a pleasure and privilege to lead the Society and he had not expected to be so moved by the gratitude of members. He would continue to be involved with the Society, particularly through the Journal. He was passionate about the work of Doctors' Commons and the Society as its latter-day equivalent. The fine picture will be an enduring memory of his time as Chairman and the respect and affection of the members.

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT for 2021

The practice of the Society has been to present to the AGM a report of Trustees for the calendar year immediately preceding. As in 2020, the work of the Society in 2021 was affected by the continuing Covid 19 pandemic. Officers and members have maintained the vitality of the Society throughout the year and the Trustees are immensely grateful for their attention and support.

The Society's AGM was held virtually on 20 March 2021. The general business of the AGM was efficiently transacted. Elizabeth Wilson was elected unopposed as Chair of the Society and Paul Benfield, Lee Coley, Edward Dobson, Sam Maginnis, and Neil Patterson were elected as Charity Trustees. The President, the Rt Revd Christopher Hill, thanked Mark Hill QC for his time as Chairman and commented upon how, whilst Mark was in the chair, the Society had established a strong, wide and varied programme and how there had been substantial growth in the membership. Bishop Christopher thanked Mark for his wisdom, commitment and leadership and, following the meeting, a print of Doctors' Commons was presented to Mark as a token of the Society's appreciation.



The Trustees met on four occasions in 2021: on 3 February, 28 April, 28 July and 13 October, the first three being online and the fourth a hybrid meeting. The Standing Committee met monthly either by telephone or on Zoom.



Seven lectures (which were originally planned for London or Leeds) took place online over Zoom, covering a wider range of topics and attracting participants from all over the world. Other well-attended online events included the day conference on the Solemnization of Matrimony and a webinar on Religion and Marriage Law. Recordings of these events can still be viewed on the Society's Youtube channel, and, along with six other new videos published to YouTube, have been viewed thousands of times. The ELS reading groups on the *Canons of the Church of England* concluded early in the year, and ten new reading groups from across the Anglican Communion were formed to study *The Principles of Canon Law Common to the Churches of the Anglican Communion*. The output of these groups has been of great assistance to the revision committee now preparing a revised *Principles* for publication in 2022, in which the involvement of the ELS

will be acknowledged. In person events returned slowly towards the end of the year, with members able to meet face-to-face at two London lectures in the autumn.

The Ecclesiastical Law Journal has been published as usual this year and it is now edited by Ben Harrison, the Revd Dr Will Adam having stood down as planned following the publication of the last edition in this calendar year. Under Will's editorship, the Journal has continued to flourish as the foremost academic journal in the field. The Trustees are grateful for his time and commitment.

The Society's Newsletter is now edited by Frances Godden and it has been distributed regularly to members via email. Frances wishes to keep this publication fresh and accessible and, in order to do so, will be consulting members about its ongoing development.

The Final Report of the ELS Working Party on the Clergy Discipline Measure was published in February. The Society owes a debt of thanks to convenor HH Peter Collier QC and all of his working party for this significant contribution to a key area of the Church of England's developing law.

The Eric Kemp prize for 2021 was awarded to Denisa Ujlakyova from Oxford Brookes University for an essay titled, "Should medical practitioners be able to refuse to carry out medical procedures because they are contrary to their religious beliefs?"

The annual membership renewal proceeded as smoothly as possible and has resulted in plans to refresh our database and adjust how this links with both finance and communications. It is hoped that in future years this technology can facilitate a more efficient financial and administrative structure for the benefit of all members.

The Trustees record their gratitude to all those whose time and talent have been employed in furthering the aims of the Society in the past year. We look forward to developing the scope of our work in the coming year which will include teaching canon law in Theological Education Institutions, the Day Conference at St Alban's Holborn, and a programme of lectures both online and in person.

**SOCIETY'S STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS  
AND REPORT FROM THE TREASURER FOR 2021**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2021**

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<i>Notes</i>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
		£	£
Members' subscriptions	3	28,783	39,126
CUP royalty payments	7	0	6,005
Conference Income		180	2,770
Education Training Day			2,375
Sales: M. Hill <i>Ecclesiastical Law</i>		360	3,280
Advertising Income		300	0
Interest received		9	106
Other			85
Grants Received			2,000
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>29,632</b>	<b>55,747</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Journal costs	4	9,000	9,130
Conference and events costs			1,203
<i>Lectures</i>		712	184
<i>Training Day</i>			905
Purchases: M Hill <i>Ecclesiastical Law</i>			3,768
Grants Awards and Presentations		300	0
Administration costs:			
<i>Website</i>		2,734	2,495
<i>Other administrative costs</i>	5	14,524	23,594
<i>Independent examiner's fees</i>		660	630
<i>Bank and subscription collection charges</i>		573	511
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>28,503</b>	<b>42,420</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments		1,129	13,327
Current assets at beginning of year	6	58,834	45,507
<b>Current assets at end of year</b>		<b>59,963</b>	<b>58,834</b>
Cash at Bankers: COIF Deposit		17,962	17,955
CAF Bank		42,001	20,792
GoCardless			20,087
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>59,963</b>	<b>58,834</b>

**Notes to accounts for the year ending 30 June 2021:**

1. All the funds of the Society are unrestricted as defined by the Charities Act 2011.
2. These accounts cover the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

3. Members' subscriptions are collected by cheque, direct debit, electronic transfer or credit card via the Society's website, and recorded on a cash basis.
4. The Society remains responsible for honoraria for the Editor and the Assistant Editor, and their related costs and expenses as indicated. In 2020/2021 these totalled £9,000.(2020 £9,130)
5. The administrative costs included the agreed costs paid for the Services of the Administrator, Finance Officer and Executive Secretary, their expenses and other administrative costs, e.g. travel expenses for Committee and sub-committee meetings, postage, office and stationery costs.
6. The assets are the bank balances transferred in from the previously unincorporated entity of the same name.
7. Journal Royalties were received after the year end (£3,928)

### **Treasurer's report on the 2020/21 accounts**

The accounts for 2020/21 (year ending 30 June 2021) are set out above. They have been prepared on a cash basis.

They have been independently examined and were approved by the Trustees on 9 February 2022.

These are the accounts for the CIO's second full year, but a year dominated by national restrictions on gatherings and where the Society's events were online. With significant reductions in both receipts and payments as a result, the year ended with a small surplus of £1,129.

The prior year carried the administrative burden of the Society becoming a CIO and income levels were disrupted by some assets from the unincorporated charity being received at a later date. Income from Membership subscriptions in 2020/21 returned to a *normal* level.

The production of the Journal is supported by an editorial team whose costs are met from the Society's income. As well as serving the Society's charitable purposes for members and others, the Journal also generates royalties from Cambridge University Press. In 2021 CUP paid the Royalties later than usual and they will be accounted for in the 2021/22 accounts.

While the Society significantly increased its online activity during 2020/21, the Trustees decided that these events would be provided free of charge. Nonetheless, this incurred increased IT related costs.

Other Administration costs reduced as a result of changes in the Society's support team, replacing one provider with another at a lower cost. In addition, there was a much lower level of travel and subsistence for Trustees and service providers.

The Society held cash reserves at 30 June 2021 of £59,963.

**Darren Oliver**  
**Treasurer**



## EDITOR'S REPORT

I took over from Dr Will Adam as editor of the *Journal* in time to oversee the production and publication of the January 2022 issue. The debt that the Society owes Will for his time at the helm has been well recorded elsewhere, and I would refer readers to my first editorial in that regard.

I have established quarterly meetings with CUP to discuss ways to improve the *Journal's* reach at home and abroad, and learn about proposals to modernise production and work-flow processes. I will consult with the editorial board about these proposals when we meet at Pembroke College, Cambridge, in October 2022. Our partnership with CUP continues to be fruitful and positive, and we will soon enter into negotiations to formally renew our contract for a further term.

As for my editorial team, Frank Cranmer and David Willink continue in their roles as section editors for the parliament and case note reports, respectively. Dr Charlotte Smith has stood down as book reviews editor as she moves on to other exciting academic challenges. I thank her for her work on the *Journal* over the years and will miss her support. I am pleased to announce that the Rev'd Russell Dewhurst has been appointed as her successor, and he will now oversee the book reviews for the September 2022 issue onwards. All section editors provide their considerable time *pro bono*. Their steadfast labours from issue to issue contribute substantially to the reputation of the *Journal*, and I sincerely thank them for all that they do. The other members of the editorial board—a growing number of distinguished academics at home and abroad—provide support and assistance in seeking out contributions and reviewing articles and comment pieces submitted for publication. I am grateful for their advice and counsel. Professor Mark Hill QC continues in his role as consultant editor. His support in the early months of my editorship has been indispensable.

My intention is that the *Journal* will continue to maintain its high academic standards and its broad global reach. The editorial policy remains focussed on the study of the law of the Church of England and the Anglican Communion, but also encompasses broader ecumenical, international, social, historical and comparative perspectives. I welcome the submission of articles and comment pieces, particularly from young scholars.

**11 March 2022**

**Ben Harrison**  
**Editor**