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## EDITOR'S REPORT 2024

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This is my third report as editor of the *Journal*. In May 2023 the Society successfully renewed its contract with CUP and secured the provision of a print issue of the *Journal* for a further five years, and the digitisation of our archive. That new contract is now operational.

The most significant change to the *Journal* (which was foreshadowed in my report last year) has been the introduction of a new typeface. The new typeface is embedded with software designed to be consistently picked up by online search engines and indexes – like Westlaw and Lexis Nexis. It will ensure that the original peer reviewed research contained in our articles, comment pieces, book reviews, and reports have the best chance of being seen and digested by a wider audience of clergy, students, practitioners, and academics.

Our relationship with CUP continues to be very positive. I meet with their production team on at least a quarterly basis to: (i) discuss marketing proposals, (ii) ensure that production processes are streamlined, (iii) discuss financial matters, and (iv) ensure compliance with various ethical guidelines. Our meetings have been dominated lately by the imminent change to the online submission process. Submissions, for the September 2024 issue onwards – once they have passed peer review – will need to be uploaded on to an online portal. A lot of work has gone in to making sure this process will be as easy as possible. More details will be circulated nearer the time as to how the mechanics of the process will work.

In respect of the editorial board, it was with great pleasure that we learned that Professor Norman Doe has been appointed a King's Counsel (*Honoris Causa*). His nomination was explicitly credited for '*reviving the study of Ecclesiastical Law in England and Wales*'.<sup>1</sup> I'm sure the whole Society will join in wishing Norman our sincere congratulations. I continue to consider myself very fortunate to have the benefit of such a diverse and esteemed group of academics and practitioners. The editorial board will meet later this year (falling into what I hope will be a return to the pattern of meetings every 18 months or so). We will review our editorial policy and discuss future projects with a view to ensuring that the *Journal* continues to maintain its high academic standards and its broad global reach.

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<sup>1</sup> See <<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-kings-counsel-and-honorary-kings-counsel-welcomed-by-lord-chancellor>>, accessed 10 April 2024.

Professor Mark Hill KC continues in his role as consultant editor. His support remains indispensable in both marketing the *Journal* on his travels abroad, and also by way of fostering a rich and diverse source of materials for publication. I am also grateful for his practical assistance with proof-reading and other laborious activities.

The *Journal's* success – and notably the healthy account we received from CUP this year – is testament to all the work that goes on behind the scenes by the section editors (Russell Dewhurst, Frank Cranmer and David Willink), peer reviewers, the production team, and all the various contributors dedicated enough to embark on the process of submitting their research for publication in the first place. It bears repeating that much of the work of the *Journal* goes unremunerated. On behalf of the Society, I thank all those individuals for their work.

Without wishing to diminish the success of the last year, I do think it is important to repeat that, for the time being, a print edition is only possible because the membership of the Society is just enough to make it feasible. Members should be in no doubt that if the luxury of a print edition is to continue beyond the next contract renewal, it is essential that the Society as a whole continues to work on growing its membership both at home and abroad. I am convinced that all members have a part to play in that endeavour.

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. Members are encouraged to contact me with any suggestions or feedback they may have with regards to the *Journal* generally.

10 April 2024

BENJAMIN HARRISON

Editor