



TRUSTEES' REPORT 2023

The Ecclesiastical Law Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (registered charity no 1181002) whose registered office is at 1 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JT. The Trustees of the Charity for this reporting period were:

Elizabeth Wilson (Chair)
The Rt Rev'd Martin Warner (Vice Chair)
The Rev'd Paul Benfield (Treasurer)
Chancellor Ruth Arlow
The Ven Moira Astin
Paul Barber
The Rev'd Stephen Coleman
Lee Coley
Edward Dobson
Frances Godden
The Rev'd Sam Maginnis
Anne-Marie Organ
The Rev'd Neil Patterson
The Rev'd Christopher Smith

During the year Ola Olajide was co-opted as a Trustee.

The objects of the CIO as stated in our Constitution are:

The objects ("Objects") of the CIO are:

To promote education in ecclesiastical law for the benefit of the public including in particular but not exclusively:

- (a) the clergy and laity of the Church of England;
- (b) those who hold authority or judicial office in, or practise in the ecclesiastical courts of, the Church of England; and
- (c) students and teachers of ecclesiastical law.

The Trustees are pleased to report that during the calendar year 2023 these objects were furthered in all of the activities and meetings of the Society and the Trustees wish to record their thanks to all those, Officers, members and service providers for their work in maintaining the life and witness of the Society in the year to June 2023.

The AGM was held on 10th June at St Peter's Eaton Square, Belgravia, London SW1W 0QH on Saturday 10 June 2023 during the course of the Day Conference. We are grateful to the Vicar and Churchwardens of St Peter's for their hospitality. Over 75 members attended and there was significant

discussion around the theme of Contested Heritage. The trustees are grateful to the speakers who made major contributions to the day: The Rt Rev'd John Inge, Araba Taylor and Janet Berry.



Day Conference 2023: our speakers with our Chair, Elizabeth Wilson

During the annual meeting The Rev'd Christopher Smith was re-elected a Charity Trustee.

The meeting received the annual accounts of the Charity which had been independently examined and these, with the Treasurer's report, are appended at the end of this report. The Society relies almost entirely on its members for its income. During this reporting period the Charity received some sponsorship from Wrigleys Solicitors LLP.

Our income rose slightly reflecting a 4% rise in subscription income and by a one-off timing adjustment to CUP Royalties, but we have also had an 11% increase in costs. The Society faces financial pressure and will be reviewing its income and expenditure including, but not limited to subscription levels, sponsorship, and the journal's finances.

During the annual meeting the outcome of the Trustees' deliberations concerning STV (as raised at the previous AGM) were reported. The decision to remain with the present voting system was reported to members. The voting matter had been considered along with a number of minor amendments to the Constitution. The members voted unanimously to accept the proposed changes. A copy of the amended Constitution is on the website.

The Trustees met on four occasions in 2022/23.

In our governance procedures, and in all activities referred to in this report, the trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or other duties.

In addition to the Day Conference already referred to, a lecture programme was delivered with both in person and virtual events. Lectures included:

- The Rt Revd Humphrey Southern on *“Called on the Mountain to serve on the Plain: Priorities for Ministry Formation”*;
- Dr Renae Barker on *“Beyond the Religious Discrimination Bill, Understanding the State-religion Dynamic in Australia”*;
- Professor Paul Babie on *“The Canonical Origins and Status of the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches of Ukraine”*;
- The Rev’d Dr Becket Soule OP on *“The Recognition of Orders by the Roman Catholic Church”*;
- Canon Rosalie Manning on *“The Safe and Inclusive Church Commission in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa”*;
- Edward Day on *“The Shape of Ordained Ministry in the Henrician Canons of 1535”*;
- The Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner on *“The Bishop In Parliament”*; and
- David Etherington KC on *“In Defence Of The Chancellor”*

The Trustees are grateful to the training committee who delivered a training event on the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules with particular reference to the Church’s carbon footprint. Sadly, both the Chair (The Ven Simon Baker) and the Secretary (The Revd Norman Boakes) have stepped down after many years of service. The Ven Moira Astin has been welcomed as the new Chair. The Trustees are also grateful to all the volunteers who offer to assist them in the work of the charity. We record our ongoing thanks to the section editors of the Journal and to all those who gave substantial time and attention to the report produced by our Working Party on the Seal of the Confessional. The Trustees commissioned this report by the working party which was convened by our President Bishop Christopher Hill. It complied with a strict and limited timetable and submitted a substantial contribution to the House of Bishops’ working party on the subject.

The 2nd edition of the *Principles of Canon Law Common to the Churches of the Anglican Communion* was launched in August 2022 at the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury. This revision was a joint project of the ELS, the Centre for Law and Religion at Cardiff University, and the Anglican Consultative Council.

The Rev’d Russell Dewhurst and the Rev’d Stephen Coleman delivered teaching in canon law to four groups of ordinands at several Theological Education Institutions of the Church of England, presenting the ELS course ‘Canon Law for the Newly-Ordained.’ This was enthusiastically received by those about to begin ordained ministry, and it is hoped to extend the ELS offering in the future.

The Eric Kemp prize for 2023 was awarded to Erin Carnus. The ELS again collaborated with the Inner Temple in an annual Ecclesiastical Moot Competition by providing a generous cash prize to the winner. In May, the ELS helped to facilitate the visit of a small delegation of Danish university researchers and social field practitioners studying religious courts and councils in London.

The Society’s Newsletter, edited by Frances Godden, 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 grateful to receive contributions and comments.

A strategy day is planned for November 2023 which will direct the work of the Trustees for the coming years.

As mentioned in the report last year, we have paid ongoing attention to the Journal and its publication. The Trustees are indebted to the Editor of this, our flagship publication.

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.