



TRUSTEES' REPORT

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 ten 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

Due 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
25 November 2020

The Ecclesiastical Law Society (Charity No. 1181002)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2020

RECEIPTS	Notes	2019/20
		£
Members' subscriptions	3	39,126
Conference and events fees:		
<i>2020 (Day) Conference</i>		2,770
<i>Training Day: Education</i>		2,375
Royalties: Ecclesiastical Law Journal		6,005
Sales: M. Hill <i>Ecclesiastical Law</i>	4	3,280
Interest received		106
Other miscellaneous income		85
<i>Grant – Dean and Chapter of Westminster</i>		2,000
Total Income		55,747
PAYMENTS		
Journal costs	5	9,130
Conference and events costs		
<i>2020 (Day) Conference</i>		1,203
<i>Training Day: Education</i>		905
<i>London & Northern Province Lectures</i>		184
Purchases: M. Hill <i>Ecclesiastical Law</i>	4	3,768
Administration costs:		
<i>Website</i>		2,495
<i>Other administrative costs</i>	6	23,594
<i>Independent examiner's fees</i>		630
<i>Bank and subscription collection charges</i>		511
Total Expenditure		42,420
Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments		13,327
Bank balances transferred from ELS as unincorporated charity	7	45,507
Current assets at end of year		58,834
Cash at Bankers: COIF Deposit		17,955
CAF Bank		20,792
GoCardless		20,087
Total Current Assets		58,834

Notes to accounts for the year ending 30 June 2020:

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 2019 to 30 June 2020.
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 author of this publication is a trustee. The Society placed orders for this special paperback edition for onward sale to member in fulfilment of the Society's charitable object of promoting education in ecclesiastical law. Acquisitions and

sales straddle more than one accounting year and some stock was still held as at 30 June. The author has waived his royalties on this special edition, and has contributed towards the cost of postage and packing. He has derived no profit from the transaction.

5. The Society is responsible for honoraria for the Editor and the Consultant Editor, and their related costs and expenses. In 2019/20 the honoraria totalled £9,000.
6. The administrative costs included the agreed costs paid for the services of the Administrator and Executive Secretary, their expenses and other administrative costs, e.g. travel expenses for Committee and sub-committee meetings, postage, office and stationery costs.
7. The assets are the bank balances transferred in from the previously unincorporated entity of the same name.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Oliver', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Darren Oliver
Treasurer

Suite I
Windrush Court
Abingdon Business Park
Abingdon
OX14 1SY

Telephone: 01235 251 252
Email: Abingdon@ross-brooke.co.uk
Web: www.ross-brooke.co.uk

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 30 June 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Caroline Webster FCA
Ross Brooke Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Suite I
Windrush Court
Abingdon Business Park
Abingdon
OX14 1SY

7 February 2021