

WORKING PARTIES UPDATE

Following the Conference at Cambridge six Working Parties were established and have begun their work. Some have specific objects and will no doubt complete their studies fairly quickly. Others, on the other hand, are engaged in long term research and may make several reports as they pursue their studies.

All Working Parties will be given an opportunity to meet during the One Day Conference in London in September and it may be possible for other Members to join some of them at that stage. It is also proposed to set up further Working Parties in the autumn.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE REPORT OF THE FACULTY JURISDICTION COMMISSION

Convenor: *Mr John Holden*, 49 Brooklands Road, Townley, Burnley, Lancashire BB11 3PR

This group is engaged in considering the recommendations contained in the Commission's Report, "The Continuing Care of Churches and Cathedrals" (CIO 1984). The group hopes to stimulate interest and ideas in the Church when the legislation recommended by the Commission comes before the General Synod in the next two years or so.

THE DISCIPLINE OF THE CLERGY

Convenor: *Chancellor George Spafford*, 57 Hawthorn Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5DQ

This subject is being tackled by three sub-groups. One is preparing a draft code as an alternative to the present statutory measures. Another is making a comparative study of discipline in the Methodist Church, the Church in Wales, the Roman Catholic Church and the Quakers. The third group has considered ways in which the operation of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1963, the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction (Discipline) Rules 1964 and the Incumbents (Vacation of Benefices) Measure 1977 might be improved.

MARRIAGE DISCIPLINE

Convenor: *Ven. Alan Clarkson*, The Vicarage, Church Corner, Burley, Ringwood BH24 4AP

General Synod failed to come to a clear conclusion on the question of marriage after divorce with its final rejection of the Bishops' suggested solution in option G. The group hopes to go on from there and investigate the question whether the Church of England can or should have a consistent discipline in this field, if so, what it might be.

THE PLACE OF CUSTOM IN ENGLISH CANON LAW

Convenor: *Revd. Rupert Bursell Q.C.*, 74 Church Road, Whinscombe, Avon BS25 1BP

This group is considering a number of related questions – Did canonical custom survive the Reformation? If it did, has it abrogated itself by its own desuetude? What, if any, relevance does it have today, especially in the light of the A.S.B.?

THE TRAINING OF ARCHDEACONS

Convenor: *Bishop of Ludlow*, Bishop's House, Halford, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 9BT

Reference has already been made to this important subject in the Editorial. Due to the convenor's recent transformation from archdeacon to bishop (on which Members will wish to congratulate him), the group is only now beginning its work and would welcome additional members.

THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN ECCLESIASTICAL AND CANON LAW

Convenor: *Ven. Hughie Jones*, 21 Church Road, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8DP

The Working Party suspects that there is a total lack of ecclesiastical law options in formal legal education schemes, and is currently exploring the content of university degree courses, as well as the syllabus of the Council for Legal Education. It has among its concerns the furtherance of knowledge among non-lawyers required to administer Acts, Measures and Regulations, and would welcome requests for and offers of assistance in particular areas of the law. New members of the Working Party are welcome.