

Order, (which is still needed regrettably in some churches on certain occasions, as at Christmas Midnight services). One hopes however that this is not anywhere near as bad as at some times past, when it is alleged that visitation instructions of 1565 for the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield required Churchwardens to choose four to eight in each parish who would take an oath to maintain order during services – in effect acting as bouncers.

The final two chapters are on Churches not Parochial and Chapels of Ease, and on the Ecclesiastical Courts and their Jurisdiction.

How is all this of help to a parish priest, especially one either fairly new to his incumbency or to one with a scattered benefice where much has to be shared with laity? Would it help with questions I had been asked over the years? I, not a lawyer myself, found this very helpful. Only recently I had been asked in conversation whether a parish priest could or should marry in his church those who wished to marry there but who were unbaptized (though otherwise eligible), and whether a parish priest had to allow someone else to officiate in his church to marry someone divorced. And a churchwarden dealing with pastoral matters (including marriage) during an inter-regnum could find much to help.

Usefully the book prints as appendices some of the Measures, Acts, and Orders that bear on this, including the Church of England Assembly (Powers) Act of 1919, the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure of 1956, the Churchwardens (Appointment and Resignation) Measure of 1964. It is a sign of the times that already since publication, the Church Representation Rules and Parochial Fees Order (1988) as printed have been further amended or altered. Moreover the incumbent who hopes to get a grant from the local authority towards improvement or repair (as suggested on p.28) may well find that his local authority has little or no money to spare, or has very stringent conditions for its disbursement.

There are those who say they regret that law has any place in the Christian life. Some law is inevitable in an established Church; rules are necessary moreover in a Church such as the Church of England. Congregations must not forget that they hold their Church buildings, for example, on trust for other generations. The way in which rules can be used and explained pastorally are well set out in this book to enable the church to function, and to prevent the idea getting about that a particular action is merely the Vicar's own idea.

At a time when some other books on parish work seem to be ceasing to be available, it is good to have this.

### NOTICE

“Memorials by Artists” which was reviewed in the last issue of the Journal (1990) 2 Ecc. L.J. 120, is obtainable from Harriet Frazer, Snape Priory, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 1SA. Price £1.75 including postage.