

## EDITORIAL

With the arrival of Issue 28 and the beginning of Volume 6 we welcome you to some changes in the appearance of the Ecclesiastical Law Journal. After discussion we have altered the format of the front cover. The only reference there to contents will be to major articles and we have adopted the practice of other legal journals and set out the contents in full on the back cover where there is more space. There is no need for a list of contents inside as Volume 6, when bound, will contain a cumulative list of contents, as has been the practice in the past. We have made a slight alteration in the paper used, increased the size of the footnotes, and now have a stapled issue which can contain up to 108 pages.

Full details of the Society's next residential conference on The Human Rights Act 1998 at Trinity Hall College, Cambridge (30th March–1st April 2001) appear on the enclosed booking application form (and notice on page 3). Chancellor Mark Hill's article in the last issue (5 Ecc LJ 431) identified a number of situations in which the Church of England's procedures may come into conflict with rights contained in the European Convention on Human Rights, and ecclesiastical lawyers and others must be prepared to meet challenges when they come.

Members of the Society will wish to join those who paid tribute to Sir John Owen DCL on his retirement from the High Court Bench on 31st October 2000 and as Dean of the Court of Arches and Auditor of the Chancery Court of York on 21st November. Sir John has been an enthusiastic member of the Society throughout its existence, having taken the chair at the inaugural meeting of the Society in Cambridge in 1987. He has also been a wise and humane judge, and ecclesiastical lawyers in particular will be grateful for the helpful guidelines which have recently been laid down in faculty appeals. We wish him well in his retirement and hope we can look forward to the continued pleasure of his company at conferences and other events.

Following the successful conference on Church and State relations in Europe held in Canterbury in September (reported on page 58), it is a pleasure to announce that one of the leading participants, Professor Dr Gerhard Robbers of Trier University, has agreed to become a member of the Editorial Advisory Board. This will enable the Editor to turn to an expert in public and ecclesiastical law in a European context.

Finally it is with much pleasure and not a little pride that we congratulate Professor Norman Doe on his recent appointment to a personal chair at the Law School, Cardiff University. Members will recall the resolution passed unanimously at the Society's residential conference at Nottingham in 1989, noting with pleasure 'the proposed establishment of courses in the Cardiff Law School leading to the award of a Diploma in Canon Law and other qualifications' and expressing the hope that 'the College and University authorities will implement these proposals.' Encouraged by the faith and enthusiasm of Dr Doe (as he then was) and Thomas Watkin, the University of Wales decided in 1990 to offer a LL.M course in Canon Law and members of the Society have regularly been among those who have attained this distinction (4 Ecc LJ 530, 692; 5 Ecc LJ 74, 309; 6 Ecc LJ 90). We offer Professor Doe our warmest congratulations on the success of this masters course and his much merited appointment. In my Editorial in 1989 I wrote: 'What Wales proposes today, let England follow tomorrow!' Perhaps there are some among the Cardiff *alumni* and other members of the Society who will feel moved to carry the banner of learning in

this field across the Welsh mountains and into the university and cathedral cities of Albion. Let us hope so!

MICHAEL GOODMAN  
Editor of the Journal

## RESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE

### *RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS*

TRINITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE  
30TH MARCH–1ST APRIL 2001

The Human Rights Act 1998 came into force on 2nd October 2000 making the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights directly applicable in English courts. Accordingly, the Ecclesiastical Law Society will be devoting its first residential conference of the new millennium to the subject of *Religious Liberty and Human Rights*. Speakers will include:

**Sir Stephen Sedley**, Lord Justice of Appeal

**Professor Simon Lee**, Rector of Liverpool Hope University college, author of *Judging Judges* and *Believing Bishops*

**Mr Mark Chopko**, General Counsel of the United States Catholic Conference, Washington DC and Fellow in the International Academy of Freedom of Religion and Belief

**Professor Ian Leigh**, University of Durham, author of *Law, Politics and Local Democracy*

**Professor Javier Martinez-Torron**, University of Madrid, author of *Anglo-American Law and Canon Law*

**Professor Nicholas Sagovsky**, William Leech Professorial Research Fellow in Applied Christian Theology, University of Newcastle

The preacher at the conference Eucharist will be the **Right Reverend John Gladwin**, Bishop of Guildford.

A booking form is enclosed with this issue; please complete and return it as soon as possible to ensure a place.