

EDITORIAL

After two issues of the Journal had appeared in the format produced for us by our first printer, a good deal of thought was given to the design and typeset of what we hope is going to be regarded as an important means of communication concerning canon and ecclesiastical law. We therefore hope that the changes introduced in this issue, which are intended to set the pattern of the future, will be found helpful and generally acceptable. We hope the colour will be thought to be somewhat episcopal!

We have marked this third issue by including the first of a series of articles which Dr John Baker of St Catharine's College, Cambridge is kindly presenting for us on Famous English Canon Lawyers, the first being by Dr Baker himself on Bishop Bateman. As few lawyers and clergy are canonists these days, and generally speaking only acquainted with ecclesiastical law dating from the nineteenth century, this series, and other articles planned on canon law, should help to provide a valuable background to the work many of us do today.

Quentin Edwards's paper on The Canon Law of the Church of England, will, we hope, provide a useful foil to the address to be given by Fr. Ombres at our first one day Conference in London on Saturday, 17th September, and lead to some discussion on the contrasts between canon law in the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches. Details of the Conference are on page 15.

We have included a number of appraisals of important reports and papers presented recently to General Synod on a wide variety of topics to help stimulate thought and discussion in the Church, and this we hope to continue to do on a regular basis, just as we hope to include notes of recent cases, news of recent legislative developments and book reviews.

As I said in February, we are very conscious that the Journal must reach out to members with a wide variety of interests and we are sure that many will be pleased to see that the Archbishop of York has chosen to speak on the relation of ethics to law at the Residential Conference in Nottingham next April. We hope that this will open up the question of ethics generally and lead to further discussion, articles and group work. Details of the Conference are on page 7.

We do hope you will feel we are getting the balance right in the Journal but all suggestions and comments will be welcomed – even complaints if you have any! We should very much welcome articles or papers which you care to submit or suggestions for suitable topics. We shall also be very happy to receive books for review and, of course, correspondence. Please write to me at Parkside, Dulwich Common, London SE21 7EU.

Finally I am happy to be able to announce that membership is now approaching 300, so perhaps it is not presumptuous to say the Society is now well and truly on the ecclesiastical map.

Michael Goodman

Editorial Committee: Chancellor Goodman (Chairman), Dr John Baker, Timothy Briden, David Harte and Raymond Hemingray.