

RESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE 4–6 APRIL 2003 AT ST JOHN'S COLLEGE, DURHAM

'SAFEGUARDING THE SACRED IN SOCIETY: THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL CHURCH'

The aim of this Conference will be to examine the changing nature of the relationship of Church and State in England and its practical legal implications.

The conference will give members of the Society an opportunity to hear views on this increasingly topical subject from a range of significant speakers and to consider practical ideas for the future development of English Ecclesiastical Law, including the role of the Ecclesiastical Law Society in contributing to such development.

- **Canon John Inge, Sub-Dean of Ely**, will provide a theological introduction, examining trends in theological attitudes to the relationship between church and nation as they have developed in England over the last generation. In considering possible ways forward he will give particular attention to the role of ritual and to places of worship.
- **Chancellor J.D. McClean QC CBE Professor of Law at the University of Sheffield and Mr Julian Rivers of the University of Bristol** will discuss 'The changing framework of the law of Church and State in England'.
- **Professor Gerhard Robbers, of the University of Trier and Bishop Andreas Aarflot, former Primate of Norway** will contribute two 'European Comparisons'. As Professor Robbers comments, 'the different systems of state-church relations in Europe are gradually converging towards church autonomy and cooperation. Seen from abroad, the United Kingdom provides inspiring models for religious freedom, diversity, and integration. The European Union has taken important steps in developing a European law on religion within the range of its competencies'. Meanwhile the Porvoo agreement has created a new ecclesiastical order for the Church of England and the Church of Norway and the other episcopal Lutheran churches of Northern Europe.
- English 'Episcopal concerns' at this time of change will be identified by **the Bishop of Winchester, the Rt Revd Michael Scott-Joynt** and the conference papers will conclude with a Judicial Perspective by the **Rt Hon Lord Justice Laws**, a member of the Court of Appeal who is a much respected extra-judicial commentator on English Public Law.
- **The Very Revd Nicholas Coulton, Sub Dean of Christ Church, Oxford**, will preach at the Sunday Eucharist.

THERE ARE STILL PLACES AVAILABLE AND
A BOOKING FORM IS ENCLOSED.