

# THE ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1181002

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2018-12-05

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Crag Leith  
Green Head Lane  
Settle  
BD24 9HG

**Phone** 07966208465

**Email** [admin@ecclawsoc.org.uk](mailto:admin@ecclawsoc.org.uk)

**Website** <https://ecclawsoc.org.uk/>

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROMOTE EDUCATION IN ECCLESIASTICAL LAW FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY:A) THE CLERGY AND LAITY OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND;B) THOSE WHO HOLD AUTHORITY OR JUDICIAL OFFICE IN, OR PRACTISE IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS OF, THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND; ANDC) STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF ECCLESIASTICAL LAW.

**Activities:** Ecclesiastical law

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£90,707	£87,390	-	-
2024-06-30	£50,972	£51,330	-	-
2023-06-30	£43,670	£40,184	-	-
2022-06-30	£39,079	£36,252	-	-
2021-06-30	£29,632	£28,503	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Lee Coley</b>	Chair	2021-03-20
Frances Mary Godden		2018-12-05
Olamide Olajide		2024-04-27
Paul Barber		2018-12-05
Rebecca Cattermole		2025-08-08
Rev Christopher Matthew Smith		2019-07-31
Samuel Robert Henry Maginnis		2021-03-20
The Right Reverend Dr Martin Clive Warner		2022-04-02
The Right Reverend Moira Anne Elizabeth Astin		2022-04-02

**THE ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181002

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# Accounts

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**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2025**

charity number 1181002

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<i>Notes</i>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
		£	£
Members' subscriptions	3	46,615	35,450
CUP royalty payments	7	0	4,193
Conference Income	10	39,804	6,560
Lectures		1,810	2,160
Other income		230	453
Interest received		2,248	2,156
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>90,707</b>	<b>50,972</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Journal costs	4	9,000	9,117
Conference and events costs			
Conferences	10	48,873	5,474
Lectures		463	1,116
CUP Fee	7	2,450	0
Grants Awards and Presentations		250	400
Education		542	1,311
Administration costs:			
Website and other online costs		2,314	3,032
Administration	5	22,226	28,004
Trustee Expenses	6	0	1,687
Independent examiner's fees		600	600
Bank and subscription collection charges		672	589
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>87,390</b>	<b>51,330</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments		3,317	(359)
Current assets at beginning of year		65,917	66,276
<b>Current assets at end of year</b>		<b>69,234</b>	<b>65,917</b>
Cash at Bankers: COIF Deposit		20,345	19,423
CAF Bank		48,889	46,494
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>69,234</b>	<b>65,917</b>

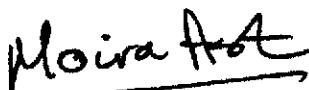
**Notes to accounts for the year ending 30 June 2025:**

1. *All the funds of the Society are unrestricted as defined by the Charities Act 2011.*
2. *These accounts cover the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025*
3. *Members' subscriptions are collected by Direct Debit, BACS and card payments via the Society's website, GoCardless and Stripe and recorded on a cash basis. In July 2024 there was a significant increase in Subscription rates after several years of no increases. This is reflected in higher income in 2024/25. Trustees are keeping the subscription rate under review. There has been no increase in 2025*
4. *The Society makes payments to the Editor and the Consultant Editor of the Journal. In 2024/25 these totalled £9,000.*
5. *Administration Costs include the fees paid to three service providers – the Executive Secretary, the Finance Officer, and the Communications Officer. Their fees totalled £21,932 (2023/24 £18,957); these were increased following a periodic review of rates after a substantial gap.  
Administration expenses totalled £894 (2023/24 £9,047).*
6. *Trustee Expenses were nil (2023/24 £1,687). The Trustees did not meet in person this year with all meetings taking place online. There were therefore no travelling or subsistence costs.*
7. *The new CUP contract is now in operation and the impact is as expected – the new agreement results in higher charges for the production and distribution of the journal which exceed the amount of Royalties payable. This is therefore now an expense and not income and so has been moved to Payments to reflect the new contract.*
8. *Payments of £292 were made to a Trustee, Fr Stephen Coleman, who retired in May 2025, for his services as a trainer in Canon Law. In addition, Fr Coleman is Priest-in-Charge of The Grosvenor Chapel which was paid £177 for the use of its facilities for London lectures*
9. *Sponsorship in 2024/25 has been included within the figures for the events to which they relate. We have restated 2023/24 for consistency*

*For clarity, the amounts received were:*

- a. *London Lectures £1,750 (2023/24 £1,500)*
- b. *Conference £16,440 (2023/24 £3,000)*

10. *In June 2025, the Society hosted a major ecumenical event over three days in Chichester to mark the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea – this generated significantly higher income and expenditure than previous (one day) conferences*



**The Right Reverend Moira Astin**  
Treasurer

**15 October 2025**

**Approved by the Trustees on 15 October 2025**



# Forrest Burlinson

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
& REGISTERED AUDITORS

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for the year ended 30 June 2025.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity trustees, as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, for the statements I have made, or for the opinions I have stated.

Dated 16 October 2025.

### Darren Broadbent

Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales  
for and on behalf of **Forrest Burlinson Chartered Accountants**

**Partners:** Simon Sheard | Ebrahim Suleman  
**Associate:** Darren Broadbent (FCA, CTA, ATT (Fellow))  
Diploma in Charity Accounting  
**Tax Manager:** Adam Carney (ACCA)

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## **TRUSTEES' REPORT 2024/2025**

The Ecclesiastical Law Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (registered charity no 1181002) whose registered office is at 1 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JT.

The Trustees of the Charity for this reporting period were:

Lee Coley (Chair)

The Rt Rev'd Martin Warner (Vice Chair)

The Rev'd Paul Benfield (Treasurer) until 14<sup>th</sup> May

The Ven Moira Astin (Treasurer from 14<sup>th</sup> May)

Paul Barber

Rebecca Cattermole (co-opted 14<sup>th</sup> July)

Frances Godden

The Rev'd Sam Maginnis

Ola Olajide

The Rev'd Canon Neil Patterson (until 14<sup>th</sup> May)

The Rev'd Christopher Smith

The objects of the CIO as stated in our Constitution are: The objects ("Objects") of the CIO are: To promote education in ecclesiastical law for the benefit of the public including in particular but not exclusively: (a) (b) (c) the clergy and laity of the Church of England; those who hold authority or judicial office in, or practise in the ecclesiastical courts of, the Church of England; and students and teachers of ecclesiastical law.

The Trustees are pleased to report that during the calendar year 2025 these objects were furthered in all of the activities and meetings of the Society and the Trustees wish to record their thanks to all those, Officers, members and service providers for their work in maintaining the life and witness of the Society. Given the programme for the weekend conference, Nicaea Received, the AGM was held separately and electronically on 14th May. Forty-two members attended and a further 21 presented their apologies. At the meeting The Rev'd Paul Benfield stood down as Treasurer and The Ven Moira Astin was elected to replace him. There were two nominations for Charity Trustees, both returning for another term of service – Paul Barber and Frances Godden.

The meeting received the annual accounts of the Charity which had been independently examined and these, with the Treasurer's report, are appended at the end of this report. The Society relies almost entirely on its members for its income. During this reporting period the Charity received some sponsorship from Wrigleys, Stone King and Birketts, to whom the Trustees express their grateful thanks.

The Society made a small surplus of £3k in the year, in spite of the significant costs of the Nicaea Received event. We are grateful for the generous sponsorship received. Membership Subscriptions were increased for this year, and this resulted in a higher level of income which helped offset the higher costs of the CUP Contract for the Journal and of the conference. The Balance of Reserves at the year-end was £69k. This exceeds the minimum set out in the Reserves Policy (which was revised in January 2025) and is believed to be an appropriate level to hold.

The Trustees met on four occasions in 2025. A major subject on the agenda of the first two meetings was to finalise the detail of the forthcoming weekend Conference Nicaea Received: 1700 years of

Canons, Councils and ecumenism which was held from 20th to 22nd June 2025 in Chichester. The Conference was acclaimed by all who attended as being a most successful and challenging ecumenical event. As reported last year, the keynote addresses were given His All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch, Professor Myriam Wijlens and The Rt Rev'd Christopher Cocksworth the Dean of Windsor.

The Conference dominated our activity in the period covered by this report and the governance structure review group has not met. The group will reconvene in the coming year.

In addition to the Weekend Conference already referred to, a lecture programme was delivered with both in person and virtual events. The London Lectures were at the Grosvenor Chapel

There was a series of online lectures. This can be seen on the Society's YouTube channel.

The training committee events have continued to prove popular with members and non-members. All training events this year took place on Zoom. The Ecclesiastical Law Bite-Sized series of training events have continued and are proving to be very popular. The Trustees record their thanks to all members of the training committee and to others who have assisted in these tasks.

The Trustees are also grateful to all the volunteers who offer to assist them in the work of the charity. We record our ongoing thanks to the section editors of the Journal and to its Editor, Ben Harrison. This is our flagship publication, and we continue to work closely with CUP to guarantee its production and distribution. The Rev'd Russell Dewhurst and the Rev'd Stephen Coleman delivered teaching in canon law at several Theological Education Institutions of the Church of England, presenting the ELS course 'Canon Law for the Newly Ordained.' The course is updated each year and is always enthusiastically received by those about to begin their ordained ministry.

The ELS again collaborated with the Inner Temple in an annual Ecclesiastical Moot Competition by providing a generous cash prize to the winner. A similar competition has begun at Nottingham University, and the Trustees are delighted to be able to work with a member to support this initiative.

The Society's Newsletter, edited by Frances Godden, has been distributed regularly to members via email. Frances wishes to keep this publication fresh and accessible and, in order to do so, will be grateful to receive contributions and comments.

The composition of the Executive team has changed during the year. This was necessitated by the appointment of The Rev'd Russell Dewhurst as Archdeacon of Hastings. The Trustees record their gratitude to him for all he has contributed and wish him well in the new ministry. The Trustees also congratulate Moira Astin on her appointment as Bishop of Crediton. They thank all those whose time and talent have been employed in furthering the aims of the Society in the past year. We look forward to developing the scope of our work in the coming year.

**THE ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181002

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# Accounts

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT 2024

The Ecclesiastical Law Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (registered charity no 1181002) whose registered office is at 1 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JT. The Trustees of the Charity for this reporting period were:

Elizabeth Wilson (Chair) until 27<sup>th</sup> April  
The Rt Rev'd Martin Warner (Vice Chair)  
The Rev'd Paul Benfield (Treasurer)  
The Ven Moira Astin  
Paul Barber  
The Rev'd Stephen Coleman  
Lee Coley – elected Chair 27<sup>th</sup> April  
Edward Dobson until 27<sup>th</sup> April  
Frances Godden  
The Rev'd Sam Maginnis  
Ola Olajide from 27<sup>th</sup> April  
The Rev'd Canon Neil Patterson  
The Rev'd Christopher Smith

The objects of the CIO as stated in our Constitution are:

The objects (“Objects”) of the CIO are:

To promote education in ecclesiastical law for the benefit of the public including in particular but not exclusively:

- (a) the clergy and laity of the Church of England;
- (b) those who hold authority or judicial office in, or practise in the ecclesiastical courts of, the Church of England; and
- (c) students and teachers of ecclesiastical law.

The Trustees are pleased to report that during the calendar year 2024 these objects were furthered in all of the activities and meetings of the Society and the Trustees wish to record their thanks to all those, Officers, members and service providers for their work in maintaining the life and witness of the Society.

The AGM was held on 27<sup>th</sup> April at St Peter's Eaton Square, Belgravia, London SW1W 0QH during the course of the Day Conference. We are grateful to the Vicar and Churchwardens of St Peter's for their hospitality. The liturgical theme attracted a large number of participants the gathering exceeded 80 people who were treated to a rich variety of talks. Our Vice-Chair, Bishop Martin

Warner, set out the ideals of liturgical law, and Neil Patterson illustrated the messier way in which they have worked out in the modern life of the Church of England. Then Moira Astin and David Willinck drew out the sometimes unexpected connections between liturgy and the practical decisions required by the faculty jurisdiction. Finally after lunch and the AGM, Bishop Robert Atwell explored the recent production of texts by the Liturgical Commission including the *Prayers of Love & Faith* and Christopher Landau posed the challenge presented by a Church where many congregations sit extremely light to liturgical forms, urging wider use of the framework of A Service of the Word. These all prompted many questions and good discussion, and members went away with enriched understanding of the complex interplay between liturgy and law.

During the annual meeting members expressed their gratitude to Elizabeth Wilson who had indicated that she would not stand for re-election as Chair. The President, The Rt Rev'd Christopher Hill summed up member's thanks when he said that Elizabeth Wilson had been a cheerful, efficient enabler during her term of office. Lizzie was thanked for her open approach which had brought a fresh dynamic to the Trustee body which was now more diverse and collaborative.

The meeting unanimously elected Lee Coley as Chairman.

The Rev'd Samuel Maginnis and The Rev'd Neil Patterson were re-elected as Charity Trustees and Ola Olajide was elected as a Charity Trustee having previously been a co-opted Trustee.

The meeting received the annual accounts of the Charity which had been independently examined and these, with the Treasurer's report, are appended at the end of this report. The Society relies almost entirely on its members for its income. During this reporting period the Charity received some sponsorship from Wrigleys, Stone King and Birketts, to whom the Trustees express their grateful thanks.

After careful consideration the Trustees decided that subscription rates would increase with effect from June 2024. The last increase had been in 2019 and such a change was overdue. The new rates take into account inflation and the increased costs of the journal. Membership renewals this year show a reduction of 30 and result in increased income of £10,000.

The Trustees met on four occasions in 2023/24. A major subject on each agenda has been to monitor the planning of the forthcoming weekend Conference ***Nicaea Received: 1700 years of Canons, Councils and ecumenism*** to be held from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 in Chichester. The Trustees are most grateful to a small group convened by Sam Maginnis who are making the practical arrangements. This group is working closely with the Bishop of Chichester and his staff together with the Dean and Chapter of Chichester Cathedral to deliver a major Conference on the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council. We are delighted to have secured keynote addresses from His All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch and Professor Myriam Wijlens.

The Trustees made a strategic decision to review the governance structure and have set up a group, convened by Frances Godden, to undertake this work. A time scale has not been set but the matter will be progressed as quickly as diaries permit. This decision was made in order that our governance procedures continue to ensure compliance with public benefit as published by the Charity Commission and with a view towards ensuring that future Charity Trustees reflect appropriate diversity in both membership and experience

In addition to the Day Conference already referred to, a lecture programme was delivered with both in person and virtual events. The London Lectures were at the Grosvenor Chapel. and delivered by

Stuart Jones, Robin Ward and Bishop Martin Seeley. The average attendance 35. Regrettably Flora Winfield's lecture scheduled for November had to be cancelled as the proposed date could not be accommodated in the diary for her new ministry.

Professor Jan Hallebeek addressed the Society at an online lecture on "Introduction to the Canon Law of the Old Catholic Churches (Union of Utrecht)" on 30 April 2024. This can be seen on the Society's Youtube channel and it is hoped that a version will appear in a future journal.

The training committee events have continued to prove popular with members and non-members. They have offered sessions on Patronage in the 21st Century, and Help I have a Churchyard! All training events this year took place on Zoom. Training has also been provided by way of a new initiative, Ecclesiastical Law Bite-Sized. The themes addressed this year have been Why Ecclesiastical Law?; Who's Who in Ecclesiastical Law?; What is a PCC?. Each is half an hour long with a 20 minute presentation followed by questions. The presentation is made available subsequently on our YouTube channel. The Trustees record their thanks to all members of the training committee and to others who have assisted in these tasks.

The Trustees are also grateful to all the volunteers who offer to assist them in the work of the charity. We record our ongoing thanks to the section editors of the Journal and to its Editor, Ben Harrison. This is our flagship publication and we continue to work closely with CUP to guarantee its production and distribution.

The Rev'd Russell Dewhurst and the Rev'd Stephen Coleman delivered teaching in canon law at several Theological Education Institutions of the Church of England, presenting the ELS course 'Canon Law for the Newly-Ordained.' The course is updated each year and is always enthusiastically received by those about to begin their ordained ministry.

The Eric Kemp prize for 2024 was not awarded. The ELS again collaborated with the Inner Temple in an annual Ecclesiastical Moot Competition by providing a generous cash prize to the winner. A similar competition has begun at Nottingham University and the Trustees are delighted to be able to work with a member to support this initiative.

The Society's Newsletter, edited by Frances Godden, has been distributed regularly to members via email. Frances wishes to keep this publication fresh and accessible and, in order to do so, will be grateful to receive contributions and comments.

The Trustees record their gratitude to all those whose time and talent have been employed in furthering the aims of the Society in the past year. We look forward to developing the scope of our work in the coming year.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2024

charity number 1181002

RECEIPTS	Notes	2023/24	2022/23
			£
Members' subscriptions	3	35,450	32,490
CUP royalty payments	7	4,193	6,403
Conference Income		3,560	3,514
Sponsorship		4,500	
Lectures		660	
Other income		453	278
Interest received		2,156	985
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>50,972</b>	<b>43,670</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Journal costs	4	9,117	9,493
Conference and events costs			
Conferences		5,474	4,596
Lectures		1,116	166
Grants Awards and Presentations		400	500
Education		1,311	2,044
Administration costs:			
Website and other online costs		3,032	2,668
Administration	5	28,004	19,419
Trustee Expenses	6	1,687	185
Independent examiner's fees		600	600
Bank and subscription collection charges		589	513
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>51,330</b>	<b>40,184</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments		(359)	3,486
Current assets at beginning of year		66,276	62,790
<b>Current assets at end of year</b>		<b>65,917</b>	<b>66,276</b>
Cash at Bankers: COIF Deposit		19,423	18,473
CAF Bank		46,494	47,803
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>65,917</b>	<b>66,276</b>

## **Notes to accounts for the year ending 30 June 2024:**

- 1. All the funds of the Society are unrestricted as defined by the Charities Act 2011.*
- 2. These accounts cover the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024*
- 3. Members' subscriptions are collected by Direct Debit, BACS and card payments via the Society's website, and recorded on a cash basis.*
- 4. The Society pays honoraria to the Editor and the Consultant Editor of the Journal. In 2023/24 these totalled £9,000. In addition, costs were incurred in hosting a meeting of the editorial board.*
- 5. Administration Costs include the fees paid to three service providers – the Executive Secretary, the Finance Officer and the Communications Officer. Their fees totalled £18,957. Administration expenses totalled £1,715. In 2024 the Society was the subject of a Subject Data Access Request from a member. For this and for other legal advice connected with that process legal fees of £7,332 were incurred*
- 6. Trustee Expenses of £1,687 are shown separately and a further £226 of out-of-pocket reimbursements to trustees are included under appropriate expense headings. In November 2023 the Trustees met for an awayday which incurred costs of £1,450.*
- 7. These are the last of the Royalties under the now expired CUP contract. Future years will show lower royalty income for the Journal due to increased costs of production reflected in the new CUP contract. In the prior year we received two sets of royalties hence the lower figure this year.*
- 8. Payments of £135 were made to a Trustee, Fr Stephen Coleman, for his services as a trainer in Canon Law. In addition, Fr Coleman is Priest-in-Charge of The Grosvenor Chapel which was paid £159 for the use of its facilities for London lectures*

**Paul Benfield**  
**Treasurer**  
**15 January 2025**

**Approved by the Trustees on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**



# Forrest Burlinson

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
& REGISTERED AUDITORS

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY

---

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for the year ended 30 June 2024.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

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### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity trustees, as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, for the statements I have made, or for the opinions I have stated.

Dated 15 January 2025

### Darren Broadbent

Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales  
for and on behalf of **Forrest Burlinson Chartered Accountants**

**Partners:** Simon Sheard | Ebrahim Suleman  
**Associate:** Darren Broadbent FCA, CTA, ATT (Fellow)  
Diploma in Charity Accounting  
**Tax Manager:** Adam Carney ACCA

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2024

charity number 1181002

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Bank and subscription collection charges		589	513
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>51,330</b>	<b>40,184</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments		(359)	3,486
Current assets at beginning of year		66,276	62,790
<b>Current assets at end of year</b>		<b>65,917</b>	<b>66,276</b>
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CAF Bank		46,494	47,803
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- 4. The Society pays honoraria to the Editor and the Consultant Editor of the Journal. In 2023/24 these totalled £9,000. In addition, costs were incurred in hosting a meeting of the editorial board.*
- 5. Administration Costs include the fees paid to three service providers – the Executive Secretary, the Finance Officer and the Communications Officer. Their fees totalled £18,957. Administration expenses totalled £1,715. In 2024 the Society was the subject of a Subject Data Access Request from a member. For this and for other legal advice connected with that process legal fees of £7,332 were incurred*
- 6. Trustee Expenses of £1,687 are shown separately and a further £226 of out-of-pocket reimbursements to trustees are included under appropriate expense headings. In November 2023 the Trustees met for an awayday which incurred costs of £1,450.*
- 7. These are the last of the Royalties under the now expired CUP contract. Future years will show lower royalty income for the Journal due to increased costs of production reflected in the new CUP contract. In the prior year we received two sets of royalties hence the lower figure this year.*
- 8. Payments of £135 were made to a Trustee, Fr Stephen Coleman, for his services as a trainer in Canon Law. In addition, Fr Coleman is Priest-in-Charge of The Grosvenor Chapel which was paid £159 for the use of its facilities for London lectures*

**Paul Benfield**  
**Treasurer**  
**15 January 2025**

**Approved by the Trustees on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**



# Forrest Burlinson

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
& REGISTERED AUDITORS

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY

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I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for the year ended 30 June 2024.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity trustees, as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, for the statements I have made, or for the opinions I have stated.

Dated 15 January 2025

### Darren Broadbent

Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales  
for and on behalf of **Forrest Burlinson Chartered Accountants**

**Partners:** Simon Sheard | Ebrahim Suleman  
**Associate:** Darren Broadbent FCA, CTA, ATT (Fellow)  
Diploma in Charity Accounting  
**Tax Manager:** Adam Carney ACCA

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**THE ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181002

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# Accounts

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT 2023

The Ecclesiastical Law Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (registered charity no 1181002) whose registered office is at 1 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JT. The Trustees of the Charity for this reporting period were:

Elizabeth Wilson (Chair)  
The Rt Rev'd Martin Warner (Vice Chair)  
The Rev'd Paul Benfield (Treasurer)  
Chancellor Ruth Arlow  
The Ven Moira Astin  
Paul Barber  
The Rev'd Stephen Coleman  
Lee Coley  
Edward Dobson  
Frances Godden  
The Rev'd Sam Maginnis  
Anne-Marie Organ  
The Rev'd Neil Patterson  
The Rev'd Christopher Smith

During the year Ola Olajide was co-opted as a Trustee.

The objects of the CIO as stated in our Constitution are:

The objects ("Objects") of the CIO are:

To promote education in ecclesiastical law for the benefit of the public including in particular but not exclusively:

- (a) the clergy and laity of the Church of England;
- (b) those who hold authority or judicial office in, or practise in the ecclesiastical courts of, the Church of England; and
- (c) students and teachers of ecclesiastical law.

The Trustees are pleased to report that during the calendar year 2023 these objects were furthered in all of the activities and meetings of the Society and the Trustees wish to record their thanks to all those, Officers, members and service providers for their work in maintaining the life and witness of the Society in the year to June 2023.

The AGM was held on 10<sup>th</sup> June at St Peter's Eaton Square, Belgravia, London SW1W 0QH on Saturday 10 June 2023 during the course of the Day Conference. We are grateful to the Vicar and Churchwardens of St Peter's for their hospitality. Over 75 members attended and there was significant

discussion around the theme of Contested Heritage. The trustees are grateful to the speakers who made major contributions to the day: The Rt Rev'd John Inge, Araba Taylor and Janet Berry.



*Day Conference 2023: our speakers with our Chair, Elizabeth Wilson*

During the annual meeting The Rev'd Christopher Smith was re-elected a Charity Trustee.

The meeting received the annual accounts of the Charity which had been independently examined and these, with the Treasurer's report, are appended at the end of this report. The Society relies almost entirely on its members for its income. During this reporting period the Charity received some sponsorship from Wrigleys Solicitors LLP.

Our income rose slightly reflecting a 4% rise in subscription income and by a one-off timing adjustment to CUP Royalties, but we have also had an 11% increase in costs. The Society faces financial pressure and will be reviewing its income and expenditure including, but not limited to subscription levels, sponsorship, and the journal's finances.

During the annual meeting the outcome of the Trustees' deliberations concerning STV (as raised at the previous AGM) were reported. The decision to remain with the present voting system was reported to members. The voting matter had been considered along with a number of minor amendments to the Constitution. The members voted unanimously to accept the proposed changes. A copy of the amended Constitution is on the website.

The Trustees met on four occasions in 2022/23.

In our governance procedures, and in all activities referred to in this report, the trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or other duties.

In addition to the Day Conference already referred to, a lecture programme was delivered with both in person and virtual events. Lectures included:

- The Rt Revd Humphrey Southern on *“Called on the Mountain to serve on the Plain: Priorities for Ministry Formation”*;
- Dr Renae Barker on *“Beyond the Religious Discrimination Bill, Understanding the State-religion Dynamic in Australia”*;
- Professor Paul Babie on *“The Canonical Origins and Status of the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches of Ukraine”*;
- The Rev’d Dr Becket Soule OP on *“The Recognition of Orders by the Roman Catholic Church”*;
- Canon Rosalie Manning on *“The Safe and Inclusive Church Commission in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa”*;
- Edward Day on *“The Shape of Ordained Ministry in the Henrician Canons of 1535”*;
- The Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner on *“The Bishop In Parliament”*; and
- David Etherington KC on *“In Defence Of The Chancellor”*

The Trustees are grateful to the training committee who delivered a training event on the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules with particular reference to the Church’s carbon footprint. Sadly, both the Chair (The Ven Simon Baker) and the Secretary (The Revd Norman Boakes) have stepped down after many years of service. The Ven Moira Astin has been welcomed as the new Chair. The Trustees are also grateful to all the volunteers who offer to assist them in the work of the charity. We record our ongoing thanks to the section editors of the Journal and to all those who gave substantial time and attention to the report produced by our Working Party on the Seal of the Confessional. The Trustees commissioned this report by the working party which was convened by our President Bishop Christopher Hill. It complied with a strict and limited timetable and submitted a substantial contribution to the House of Bishops’ working party on the subject.

The 2nd edition of the *Principles of Canon Law Common to the Churches of the Anglican Communion* was launched in August 2022 at the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury. This revision was a joint project of the ELS, the Centre for Law and Religion at Cardiff University, and the Anglican Consultative Council.

The Rev’d Russell Dewhurst and the Rev’d Stephen Coleman delivered teaching in canon law to four groups of ordinands at several Theological Education Institutions of the Church of England, presenting the ELS course ‘Canon Law for the Newly-Ordained.’ This was enthusiastically received by those about to begin ordained ministry, and it is hoped to extend the ELS offering in the future.

The Eric Kemp prize for 2023 was awarded to Erin Carnus. The ELS again collaborated with the Inner Temple in an annual Ecclesiastical Moot Competition by providing a generous cash prize to the winner. In May, the ELS helped to facilitate the visit of a small delegation of Danish university researchers and social field practitioners studying religious courts and councils in London.

The Society’s Newsletter, edited by Frances Godden, has been distributed regularly to members via email. Frances wishes to keep this publication fresh and accessible and, in order to do so, will be grateful to receive contributions and comments.

A strategy day is planned for November 2023 which will direct the work of the Trustees for the coming years.

As mentioned in the report last year, we have paid ongoing attention to the Journal and its publication. The Trustees are indebted to the Editor of this, our flagship publication.

The Trustees record their gratitude to all those whose time and talent have been employed in furthering the aims of the Society in the past year. We look forward to developing the scope of our work in the coming year.

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2023**

**charity number 1181002**

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<i>Notes</i>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
			£
Members' subscriptions	3	32,490	31,120
CUP royalty payments	7	6,403	3,928
Conference Income		3,514	2,552
Sponsorship			1,163
Other income		278	256
Interest received		985	60
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>43,670</b>	<b>39,079</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Journal costs	4	9,493	9,000
Conference and events costs			
Conference		4,596	3,738
Lectures		166	368
Grants Awards and Presentations		500	
Education		2,044	1,798
Administration costs:			
Website and other online costs		2,668	2,943
Administration	5	19,419	16,811
Trustee Expenses	6	185	447
Independent examiner's fees		600	600
Bank and subscription collection charges		513	547
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>40,184</b>	<b>36,252</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments		3,486	2,827
Current assets at beginning of year		62,790	59,963
<b>Current assets at end of year</b>		<b>66,276</b>	<b>62,790</b>
Cash at Bankers: COIF Deposit		18,473	17,995
CAF Bank		47,803	44,795
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>66,276</b>	<b>62,790</b>

## Notes to accounts for the year ending 30 June 2023:

1. All the funds of the Society are unrestricted as defined by the Charities Act 2011.
2. These accounts cover the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
3. Members' subscriptions are collected by Direct Debit, BACS and card payments via the Society's website, and recorded on a cash basis.
4. The Society pays honoraria to the Editor and the Consultant Editor of the Journal. In 2022/23 these totalled £9,000.
5. The administrative costs include the fees paid to three service providers – the Executive Secretary, the Finance Officer and the Communications Officer. Their fees totalled £18,438. Administration expenses totalled £982 representing travel and office costs
6. Trustee Expenses of £185 are shown separately and a further £159 of out-of-pocket reimbursements to trustees are included under appropriate expense headings.
7. These are 2021 and 2022 Royalties both received in 2022/23.
8. Payments of £260 were made to a Trustee, Stephen Coleman, for his services as a trainer in Canon Law.

**Paul Benfield**  
**Treasurer**



Forrest Burlinson

20 Owl Lane

Dewsbury

WF12 7RQ

26 September 2023

Dear Sirs

We hereby confirm to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made appropriate enquiries of other trustees and officials of the charity, the following representations given to you in connection with your independent examination of the financial statements for the period ended 30 June 2023.

## **Representations**

### **GENERAL**

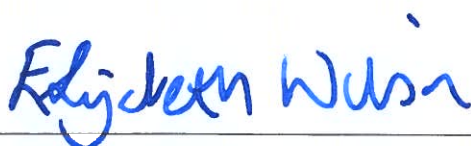
- 1) We acknowledge as trustees our responsibility for making accurate representations to you and for the accounts which you have prepared on our behalf for the charity.
- 2) We have fulfilled our responsibilities as trustees under the Charities Act 2011 for preparing financial statements, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework (Receipts and Payments Accounts under guidance CC16), and for making accurate representations to you as our independent examiner.
- 3) We confirm that all accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your examination and that all the transactions undertaken by the charity have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records. All other records and related information have been made available to you if requested. We have given you unrestricted access to persons within the charity in order to obtain any evidence and have provided any additional information that you have requested for the purposes of your independent examination.
- 4) We confirm that we are aware that a related party of the charity is a person or organisation, which either (directly or indirectly) controls, has joint control of, or significantly influences the charity or vice versa and as a result will include: trustees, other key management, close family and other business interests of the previous.

- 5) We confirm that all related party relationships and transactions have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the guidance in CC16 where in our opinion this helps readers obtain a better understanding of the accounts.
- 6) We confirm that the charity has had, at no time during the year, any arrangement, transaction or agreement to provide credit facilities (including advances and credits granted by the charity) for trustees, nor to provide guarantees of any kind on behalf of the trustees.
- 7) We confirm that we are not aware of any possible or actual instance of non-compliance with those laws and regulations which provide a legal framework within which the charity conducts its activities and which are central to the charity's ability to conduct its activities
- 8) We acknowledge our responsibility for the design and implementation of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud.
- 9) We confirm that there have been no actual or suspected instances of fraud involving trustees, management or employees who have a significant role in internal control or that could have a material effect on the financial statements. We also confirm that we are not aware of any allegations of fraud by former trustees, employees, regulators or others.
- 10) We confirm that all grants, donations and other income, if any, including those subject to special terms or conditions or received for restricted purposes, have been notified to you. There have been no breaches of terms or conditions during the period regarding the application of such income received either in this period or the past.
- 11) We confirm that we are not aware of any matters of material significance that should be reported to the Charity Commission.

We confirm that the above representations are made on the basis of enquiries of all trustees, management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience sufficient to satisfy us that we can properly make each of the above representations to you.

Yours faithfully

Signed on behalf of the trustees



Trustee

Chair

**THE ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181002

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# Accounts

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Ecclesiastical  
Law  
Society

## TRUSTEES' REPORT 2022

The Ecclesiastical Law Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (registered charity no 1181002) whose registered office is at 1 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JT. The Trustees of the Charity for this reporting period were:

Elizabeth Wilson (Chair)  
The Rt Rev'd Martin Warner (Vice Chair)  
The Rev'd Paul Benfield (Treasurer)  
Chancellor Ruth Arlow  
The Ven Moira Astin  
Paul Barber  
The Rev'd Stephen Coleman  
Lee Coley  
Edward Dobson  
Frances Godden  
The Rev'd Sam Maginnis  
Anne-Marie Organ  
The Rev'd Neil Patterson  
The Rev'd Christopher Smith

The objects of the CIO as stated in our Constitution are:

The objects ("Objects") of the CIO are:

To promote education in ecclesiastical law for the benefit of the public including in particular but not exclusively:

- (a) the clergy and laity of the Church of England;
- (b) those who hold authority or judicial office in, or practise in the ecclesiastical courts of, the Church of England; and
- (c) students and teachers of ecclesiastical law.

The Trustees are pleased to report that during the calendar year 2022 these objects were furthered in all of the activities and meetings of the Society and the Trustees wish to record their thanks to all those, Officers, members and service providers for their work in maintaining the life and witness of the Society in 2022.

Like most organisations, the Society emerged from the pandemic period having learnt a variety of new ways of providing meetings of, and sustenance for,

members during the rigours of lockdowns. Our experience in the provision of online lectures and seminars was enhanced when assembly in person was limited and this learning is being carried forward to further enhance our work of education and training. However, we were delighted to hold this year's annual meeting in person rather than as in the previous two years, virtually. This AGM was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April during the course of the Day Conference. We are grateful to the Vicar and Churchwardens of St Alban's Holborn for their hospitality. Over 60 members attended at some point during the day and there was significant discussion around the theme of Synodical governance: past, present and future. The trustees are grateful to the speakers who made major contributions to the day: The Rt Rev'd Pete Broadbent, The Rev'd Canon Professor Alison Milbank and Professor Norman Doe.

During the annual meeting The Rt Rev'd Martin Warner was elected Vice Chair; The Rev'd Paul Benfield was elected Treasurer and Chancellor Ruth Arlow, The Ven Moira Astin, Paul Barber, The Rev'd Stephen Coleman and Frances Godden were elected as Charity Trustees.

The meeting received the annual accounts of the Charity which had been independently examined and these, with the Treasurer's report are appended at the end of this report. The Society relies almost entirely on its members for its income. In the 2021/22 year we had sponsorship for The Principles of Canon Law publication but this only offset the costs incurred in 2022/23.

In the past the Journal has resulted in a royalty payment but this amount has diminished year on year as the commercial model of Cambridge University Press (CUP) combined with a changed market and increasing unit costs has made this a less significant stream of income. Going forward this will only reduce and the Trustees will need to review the costs of the Journal and the potential impact on membership rates.

Membership income was up in 2021/22 (£31k (£28k prior year)) in part due to a membership drive with new General Synod Members and with a more assertive renewals process.

In 2021/22 we engaged a third person to support the running of the charity. Trustees will keep under review the costs of support and the benefits gained from having an Executive Team. The full year cost of the Executive Team is £17k. For comparison in 2019/20 this cost was £24k.

Admin costs are kept to a minimum with the only notable increase being in the provision of the Canon Law lectures at Theological Educational Institutes. This has proved popular and Trustees may look at expanding this area of activity.

During the course of the annual meeting The Rt Rev'd Colin Buchanan, a member of the Society, asked that the Trustees consider the use of a system of single transferable voting for all our elections rather than the first past the post system currently employed. Bishop Colin gave his reasons why he made the request and was happy to accept the commitment of the Chair to take the matter to Trustees in connection with a proposed review of the Constitution. The Trustees will report the outcome of their deliberations to the meeting next year.

The Trustees met on four occasions in 2022: in person on 9 February (followed by a much delayed farewell and thank you dinner for the past Chairman, Mark Hill KC), and virtually on 27 April, 27 July and 12 October. The Trustees decided during the year that, with an effective Executive Team in place who meet monthly with the Chair via Zoom, the Standing Committee was no longer necessary. Dates of the team meetings are made available to Trustees who are able to join any meeting if they wish.

In our governance procedures, and in all activities referred to hereafter, the trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or other duties.

In addition to the day conference already referred to, a lecture programme was delivered, mostly virtually. These lectures, in the past limited to delivery in London and Leeds, were available to all members (and others) via Zoom. This greater accessibility has resulted in an informal group of members being set up in Australia and New Zealand. As well as this very welcome development, the International Lectures have been repeated this year and the Society has benefited from the wisdom and experience of practitioners around the globe.

The Trustees are grateful to the training sub-committee who delivered a very well attended seminar on parish governance. This was so well received that we have received requests that it should be repeated. Once again, many of our online lectures and seminars were recorded and have subsequently appeared on the Society's Youtube channel.

The revised edition of *The Principles of Canon Law Common to the Churches of the Anglican Communion* were duly published. The Trustees contributed to the publication and were represented at the launch held at the Lambeth Conference.

The Trustees wish to thank those who have contributed towards the development of our previously published curricula for the study of ecclesiastical law. The work reported in prospect in last year's annual report has been delivered most successfully and it is likely to grow in coming years. Members will be delighted to know that the Trustees paid for the initial development of a module for use in training institutions. It is particularly satisfying to report that some of our funds (from memberships fees) have been directed to this task which has been well received by those engaged in the theological formation of future ministers.

The Society's Newsletter, edited by Frances Godden, has been distributed regularly to members via email. Frances wishes to keep this publication fresh and accessible and, in order to do so, will be grateful to receive contributions and comments.

The Eric Kemp prize for 2022 was awarded to Erin Carus who is study at Oxford Brookes. The work she submitted addressed the question, "Should any beliefs be excluded from protection as religious beliefs because of their content?". We offer our congratulations to Erin.

The Trustees record their gratitude to all those whose time and talent have been employed in furthering the aims of the Society in the past year. We look forward to developing the scope of our work in the coming year.



## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2022

charity number 1181002

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<i>Notes</i>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
			£
Members' subscriptions	3	31,120	28,783
CUP royalty payments	7	3,928	0
Conference Income		2,552	180
Sales: M. Hill <i>Ecclesiastical Law</i>			360
Sponsorship		1,163	
Other income		256	300
Interest received		60	9
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>39,079</b>	<b>29,632</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Journal costs	4	9,000	9,000
Conference and events costs			
Conference		3,738	
Lectures		368	712
Grants Awards and Presentations			300
Education		1,798	
Administration costs:			
Website and other online costs		2,943	2,734
Administration	5	16,811	14,524
Trustee Expenses	6	447	
Independent examiner's fees		600	660
Bank and subscription collection charges		547	573
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>36,252</b>	<b>28,503</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments		2,827	1,129
Current assets at beginning of year		59,963	58,834
<b>Current assets at end of year</b>		<b>62,790</b>	<b>59,963</b>
Cash at Bankers: COIF Deposit		17,995	17,962
CAF Bank		44,795	42,001
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>62,790</b>	<b>59,963</b>

## **Notes to accounts for the year ending 30 June 2022:**

1. All the funds of the Society are unrestricted as defined by the Charities Act 2011.
2. These accounts cover the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
3. Members' subscriptions are collected by Direct Debit, BACS and card payments via the Society's website, and recorded on a cash basis.
4. The Society pays honoraria to the Editor and the Consultant Editor of the Journal. In 2021/22 these totalled £9,000.
5. The administrative costs include the fees paid to three service providers - the Executive Secretary, the Finance Officer and the Communications Officer (the last of whom arrived during the year). Their fees totalled £15,613. Administration expenses totalled £1,798 representing travel and office costs.
6. Trustee Expenses are now shown separately for clarity.
7. These are 2020 Royalties received late in 2021/22; 2021 Journal Royalties were received after 30 June 2022 (£2,867)
8. Payments of £450 were made to a Trustee, Stephen Coleman, for his services as a trainer in Canon Law.

**Paul Benfield**  
**Treasurer**



# Forrest Burlinson

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
& REGISTERED AUDITORS

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for the year ended 30 June 2022.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the CIO you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity trustees, as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, for the statements I have made, or for the opinions I have stated.

Dated 19 January 2023

### **Darren Broadbent**

Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales  
for and on behalf of **Forrest Burlinson Chartered Accountants**

**Partners:** Simon Sheard | Ebrahim Suleman

**Associate:** Darren Broadbent FCA, CTA, ATT (Fellow)  
Diploma in Charity Accounting

**Tax Manager:** Adam Carney ACCA

20 Owl Lane | Dewsbury | West Yorkshire | WF12 7RQ

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01924 457001

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[www.forrestburlinson.co.uk](http://www.forrestburlinson.co.uk)

**THE ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1181002

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# Accounts

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## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT for 2021**

The practice of the Society has been to present to the AGM a report of Trustees for the calendar year immediately preceding. As in 2020, the work of the Society in 2021 was affected by the continuing Covid 19 pandemic. Officers and members have maintained the vitality of the Society throughout the year and the Trustees are immensely grateful for their attention and support.

The Society's AGM was held virtually on 20 March 2021. The general business of the AGM was efficiently transacted. Elizabeth Wilson was elected unopposed as Chair of the Society and Paul Benfield, Lee Coley, Edward Dobson, Sam Maginnis, and Neil Patterson were elected as Charity Trustees. The President, the Rt Revd Christopher Hill, thanked Mark Hill QC for his time as Chairman and commented upon how, whilst Mark was in the chair, the Society had established a strong, wide and varied programme and how there had been substantial growth in the membership. Bishop Christopher thanked Mark for his wisdom, commitment and leadership and, following the meeting, a print of Doctors' Commons was presented to Mark as a token of the Society's appreciation.



The Trustees met on four occasions in 2021: on 3 February, 28 April, 28 July and 13 October, the first three being online and the fourth a hybrid meeting. The Standing Committee met monthly either by telephone or on Zoom.



Seven lectures (which were originally planned for London or Leeds) took place online over Zoom, covering a wider range of topics and attracting participants from all over the world. Other well-attended online events included the day conference on the Solemnization of Matrimony and a webinar on Religion and Marriage Law. Recordings of these events can still be viewed on the Society's Youtube channel, and, along with six other new videos published to YouTube, have been viewed thousands of times. The ELS reading groups on the *Canons of the Church of England* concluded early in the year, and ten new reading groups from across the Anglican Communion were formed to study *The Principles of Canon Law*

*Common to the Churches of the Anglican Communion.* The output of these groups has been of great assistance to the revision committee now preparing a revised *Principles* for publication in 2022, in which the involvement of the ELS will be acknowledged. In person events returned slowly towards the end of the year, with members able to meet face-to-face at two London lectures in the autumn.

The Ecclesiastical Law Journal has been published as usual this year and it is now edited by Ben Harrison, the Revd Dr Will Adam having stood down as planned following the publication of the last edition in this calendar year. Under Will's editorship, the Journal has continued to flourish as the foremost academic journal in the field. The Trustees are grateful for his time and commitment.

The Society's Newsletter is now edited by Frances Godden and it has been distributed regularly to members via email. Frances wishes to keep this publication fresh and accessible and, in order to do so, will be consulting members about its ongoing development.

The Final Report of the ELS Working Party on the Clergy Discipline Measure was published in February. The Society owes a debt of thanks to convenor HH Peter Collier QC and all of his working party for this significant contribution to a key area of the Church of England's developing law.

The Eric Kemp prize for 2021 was awarded to Denisa Ujlakyova from Oxford Brookes University for an essay titled, "Should medical practitioners be able to refuse to carry out medical procedures because they are contrary to their religious beliefs?"

The annual membership renewal proceeded as smoothly as possible and has resulted in plans to refresh our database and adjust how this links with both finance and communications. It is hoped that in future years this technology can facilitate a more efficient financial and administrative structure for the benefit of all members.

The Trustees record their gratitude to all those whose time and talent have been employed in furthering the aims of the Society in the past year. We look forward to developing the scope of our work in the coming year which will include teaching canon law in Theological Education Institutions, the Day Conference at St Alban's Holborn, and a programme of lectures both online and in person.

## SOCIETY'S STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND REPORT FROM THE TREASURER FOR 2021

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2021

		2020/21	2019/20
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	Note s		
		£	£
Members' subscriptions	3	28,783	39,126
CUP royalty payments	7	0	6,005
Conference Income		180	2,770
Education Training Day			2,375
Sales: M. Hill <i>Ecclesiastical Law</i>		360	3,280
Advertising Income		300	0
Interest received		9	106
Other			85
Grants Received			2,000
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>29,632</b>	<b>55,747</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Journal costs	4	9,000	9,130
Conference and events costs			1,203
<i>Lectures</i>		712	184
<i>Training Day</i>			905
Purchases: M Hill <i>Ecclesiastical Law</i>			3,768
Grants Awards and Presentations		300	0
Administration costs:			
<i>Website</i>		2,734	2,495
<i>Other administrative costs</i>	5	14,524	23,594
<i>Independent examiner's fees</i>		660	630
<i>Bank and subscription collection charges</i>		573	511
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>28,503</b>	<b>42,420</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments		1,129	13,327
Current assets at beginning of year	6	58,834	45,507
<b>Current assets at end of year</b>		<b>59,963</b>	<b>58,834</b>
Cash at Bankers: COIF Deposit		17,962	17,955
CAF Bank		42,001	20,792
GoCardless			20,087
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>59,963</b>	<b>58,834</b>

## Notes to accounts for the year ending 30 June 2021:

1. All the funds of the Society are unrestricted as defined by the Charities Act 2011.
2. These accounts cover the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.
3. Members' subscriptions are collected by cheque, direct debit, electronic transfer or credit card via the Society's website, and recorded on a cash basis.
4. The Society remains responsible for honoraria for the Editor and the Assistant Editor, and their related costs and expenses as indicated. In 2020/2021 these totalled £9,000.(2020 £9,130)
5. The administrative costs included the agreed costs paid for the Services of the Administrator, Finance Officer and Executive Secretary, their expenses and other administrative costs, e.g. travel expenses for Committee and sub-committee meetings, postage, office and stationery costs.
6. The assets are the bank balances transferred in from the previously unincorporated entity of the same name.
7. Journal Royalties were received after the year end (£3,928)

### Treasurer's report on the 2020/21 accounts

The accounts for 2020/21 (year ending 30 June 2021) are set out above. They have been prepared on a cash basis.

They have been independently examined and were approved by the Trustees on 9 February 2022.

These are the accounts for the CIO's second full year, but a year dominated by national restrictions on gatherings and where the Society's events were online. With significant reductions in both receipts and payments as a result, the year ended with a small surplus of £1,129.

The prior year carried the administrative burden of the Society becoming a CIO and income levels were disrupted by some assets from the unincorporated charity being received at a later date. Income from Membership subscriptions in 2020/21 returned to a *normal* level.

The production of the Journal is supported by an editorial team whose costs are met from the Society's income. As well as serving the Society's charitable purposes for members and others, the Journal also generates royalties from Cambridge University Press. In 2021 CUP paid the Royalties later than usual and they will be accounted for in the 2021/22 accounts.

While the Society significantly increased its online activity during 2020/21, the Trustees decided that these events would be provided free of charge. Nonetheless, this incurred increased IT related costs.

Other Administration costs reduced as a result of changes in the Society's support team, replacing one provider with another at a lower cost. In addition, there was a much lower level of travel and subsistence for Trustees and service providers.

The Society held cash reserves at 30 June 2021 of £59,963.

**Darren Oliver**  
**Treasurer**





# Forrest Burlinson

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
& REGISTERED AUDITORS

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY

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I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for the year ended 30 June 2021.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity trustees, as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, for the statements I have made, or for the opinions I have stated.

dated 24 January 2022

**Ebrahim Suleman**, Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales  
for and on behalf of **Forrest Burlinson Chartered Accountants**

**Partners:** Simon Sheard | Ebrahim Suleman

**Associate:** Darren Broadbent FCA, CTA, ATT (Fellow)  
Diploma in Charity Accounting

**Tax Manager:** Adam Carney ACCA

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