

## 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.

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

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<i>Notes</i>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
		£	£
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**



## 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 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

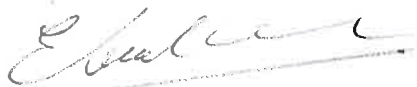
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- 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)  
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