

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2025

charity number 1181002

RECEIPTS	<i>Notes</i>	2024/25	2023/24
		£	£
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
Total Receipts		90,707	50,972
PAYMENTS			
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
Total Payments		87,390	51,330
Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments		3,317	(359)
Current assets at beginning of year		65,917	66,276
Current assets at end of year		69,234	65,917
Cash at Bankers: COIF Deposit		20,345	19,423
CAF Bank		48,889	46,494
Total Current Assets		69,234	65,917

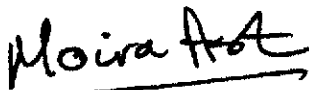
Notes to accounts for the year ending 30 June 2025:

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

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)
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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 14th May

The Ven Moira Astin (Treasurer from 14th May)

Paul Barber

Rebecca Cattermole (co-opted 14th July)

Frances Godden

The Rev'd Sam Maginnis

Ola Olajide

The Rev'd Canon Neil Patterson (until 14th 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.