

## EDITORIAL

The Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure is now well on its course through General Synod. It is clear from its terms that additional responsibilities will devolve on archdeacons in relation to their general oversight of church buildings, their delegated authority to grant faculties and their duties as regards enforcement of the faculty jurisdiction.

As will be apparent from the report of the recent meeting for archdeacons arranged by the Archdeacon of Northolt in conjunction with the Working Party (page 41), many new archdeacons are concerned at the lack of any training facilities or even a manual or handbook as they come to take up these important tasks, and the enlarged area of responsibility they will have makes this provision even more desirable and urgent. The Society hopes that, by drawing attention to the problem and taking steps to ensure that something is being done about it, those responsible in the Church for training generally and for the care of our buildings will take up the challenge with us to ensure that a recognised system is established as soon as possible.

The relationship between Church and State is once again causing stress and tension at Westminster and in General Synod. How far should the Church of England be free to order its own concerns whilst continuing to play its role as the established church of the land? Has the time come for a radical reappraisal of the traditional relationship in view of developments over the last twenty years? This raises important questions in relation to worship, appointment and terms of office of the clergy, and the care of our church buildings in connection with which the Church enjoys aid from state funds.

An early opportunity to consider these issues will be at the *one day Conference* of the Society on *Saturday, 24 March 1990* in London (details page 6) at which the principal speaker will be Bishop David Say. He has had a vast experience of relations between Church and State and on this occasion will be looking forward as the Church embarks on new and to some extent uncharted waters in these days of change and development in national and international life. Professor David McClean's reflections on the significance of the recent conference of European ecclesiastical academics at Milan for future inter-church relations will also be of great interest. (A brief report from Milan appears at page 23)

Finally on the domestic front, Archdeacon David Scott, who has just retired from a life of ministry in the diocese of Lincoln to live in Southwell, has been appointed to the Executive Committee with responsibility for organising the publication and circulation of this journal and the supervision of conferences. He will also take over some of the general administrative arrangements from the Secretary. We are grateful to him and hope he enjoys his retirement "job"! We must also express our sincere thanks to Raymond Hemingray who has been responsible for the collation and printing of the Journal since its inception, and for all he has done to see that it has appeared in its clear and attractive format.

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