

## WORKING PARTY REPORTS

**Ecclesiastical Statute Law Revision** (Convener Chancellor George Spafford, 57 Hawthorn Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5DQ)

This working party has begun to examine the Statutes and Measures set out in Halsbury's Statutes with a view to their consolidation and amendment. Its first report is set out on page 42. (Note: Earlier recommendations to weed out legislation which has fallen into disuse are now being implemented in a Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure.) New members will be welcome to join in further revision.

**Diocesan Boards of Finance** (Convener John Bailey, 3 St. Martins East, Leicester LE1 5FX)

This working party has been considering much needed revision of the 1925 Measure which is the subject of a Motion awaiting consideration by General Synod. In particular it is recommended that (1) a Board should in future include equal numbers of clergy and laity of whom a minimum proportion should be members of the Diocesan Synod and with a fixed limit to the number of ex-officio and co-opted members; (2) the Board should be registrable under the Companies Act with a Memorandum and Articles of Association; (3) the powers and duties of the Board as custodian trustees of parochial trusts and property should be spelt out, with provision for the dissolution of existing Diocesan Parochial Trust Committees.

**Faculty Jurisdiction** (Convener John Holden, 49 Brooklands Road, Towneley, Burnley, Lancashire BB11 3PR)

With the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure going through General Synod and with the enforcement provisions likely to be added to it or made the subject of a separate Measure in the near future, some members of the working party have been seeking to make recommendations for the benefit of those responsible for the precise formulation of the legislation. The working party will continue to provide a forum for the continuing study and monitoring of the faculty jurisdiction and its operation with reports for publication in the Journal from time to time.

**Education in Ecclesiastical and Canon Law** (Convener Revd. John Masding, Hamstead Vicarage, Walsall Road, Birmingham, West Midlands B42 1ES)

The working party has begun work by making general enquiries amongst dioceses and colleges as to the facilities that might be made available to forward this important field of work. Visiting lecturers to theological colleges could at least whet the appetite and instil some caution about the legal minefields ahead although a major input before a man takes up his first incumbency is the focal point at which to aim. A meeting early in 1990 will consider the responses to the enquiries made so far. Regional courses would be an option and starter-packs for diocesan use could be made available. In due course a looseleaf handbook might be prepared and also an accessible bibliography. So far as training in the secular field is concerned, diploma courses at Cardiff and Portsmouth are now a real possibility. Regional update gatherings may be desirable at which diocesan registrars among others could give valuable assistance. New members will be welcome as the work proceeds.

**Visitations** (Convener Revd. Michael Smith, St David's Vicarage, 95 Howell Road, Exeter EX4 4LH)

This working party is still in the early stages of its study, questionnaires recently having been sent out to all 102 archdeacons and 43 diocesan bishops, in respect of which replies are now coming in. The working party will be looking at ways in which the law might be altered to make visitations more effective and meaningful. It also hopes to prepare a handbook of practical advice to assist all Visitors.

**Marriage Discipline** (Convener Ven. Alan Clarkson, The Vicarage, Church Corner, Burley, Ringwood, Hants, BH24 4AP)

The working party has completed its study and will shortly be submitting its report.

**Training of Archdeacons** (Convener David Cheetham, 41 Holywell Hill, St. Albans, Herts. AL1 1HD)

This working party has made excellent progress. A consultation day was recently held in London attended by 21 archdeacons and archdeacons designate and a further 13, who were unable to attend, expressed the hope that the exercise would be repeated. Those attending were emphatic that a manual for newly appointed archdeacons would be very valuable and they commended the work which the Society had instigated through the working party. But they were also concerned to see training provided for archdeacons on a regular basis and this is now being explored. The next consultation with newly appointed archdeacons is planned for October 1990.

**THERE ARE PRESENTLY VACANCIES ON THE WORKING PARTIES ON ECCLESIASTICAL STATUTE LAW, FACULTY JURISDICTION, EDUCATION IN ECCLESIASTICAL AND CANON LAW AND VISITATIONS. PLEASE APPLY TO THE CONVENER. FURTHER WORKING PARTIES WILL BE FORMED SHORTLY.**