

ECCLESIASTICAL LAW SOCIETY REPORT OF THE SEVENTH AGM

26 MARCH 1994

The seventh Annual General Meeting was held at the beginning of the day conference at Church House and so almost all of the 100 or so members attending the conference were present.

Chancellor Edwards presented his Chairman's report. He expressed his pleasure that the Executive Officer had recovered so well from his recent illness. He announced that the 1995 residential conference would be held at Magdalen College, Oxford at the end of March, and the topic would be the Henrician Break: its consequences for the identity of the Church of England. Professor Helmholz and the Bishop of Birmingham would be amongst the speakers. The Chairman drew attention to the London discussion group organised by Mr Paul Barber and encouraged the formation of other local groups. Finally, the Chairman reported that the membership of the Society now stood at 453.

The Treasurer then presented his accounts which showed a surplus of income over expenditure of £1,310.50. However, it is contrary to any Treasurer's oath of office to admit to a degree of financial prosperity, and the surplus was, he explained, due to one-off seasonal factors. The meeting passed the accounts, relieved that the Treasurer had not recommended an increase in the annual subscription.

The Chairman expressed his earnest wish that the Society should not appear to be run by a self-perpetuating oligarchy. The Officers and the retiring Members of the General Committee were all then re-elected unopposed.

Chancellor Goodman reported on the health of the Journal and repeated his call for more letters to the Editor. The Chairman drew attention to a number of reprints of an article on the Society in the journal of *Evangelical Church Law*, which had been made available by its author, Dr Engelhardt. Written in German, this was of particular interest to the polyglots present.

Amongst the items of any other business, Chancellor Bursell and Mr Masding reported that at last some progress had been made with proposals to include education in ecclesiastical and canon law as a small part of the courses run by theological colleges and in continuing ministerial education, and Mr Holden promised a controversial report on peculiars. The meeting then concluded and members awaited the arrival of the Lord Chancellor.

N.J.R.