

WORKING PARTIES

The Working Parties on Visitations and Marriage Discipline have recently concluded their studies and reported. The report on Visitations appears in this issue of the Journal (page 347) and that on Marriage Discipline at page 359. The others will be included in the publication in January 1993. The group on *Faculty Jurisdiction* has concluded its present studies.

The following groups are continuing to meet and would welcome new members;

Training of Archdeacons (Convener: David Cheetham, 41 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Herts AL1 1HD). A Conference was held recently for new archdeacons and one for more senior office holders is planned for March 1993.

Education in Ecclesiastical and Canon Law (Convener: the Revd John Masding, Hamstead Vicarage, Walsall Road, Birmingham, W Midlands B42 1ES). Help with this work will be much appreciated.

Establishment (Convener: the Revd R. L. Brown, The Vicarage, 1 Merthyr Road, Tongwynlais, Cardiff CF4 7LE). Of particular interest to Welsh members.

Liturgy and the Law (Convener: the Revd Martin Dudley, 107 Owlsmoor Road, Owlsmoor, Camberley, Surrey GU15 4SS). This group is working in conjunction with a group from the Alcuin Club.

Two new groups are being set up.

1. *The Legal Preliminaries to Marriage* (Convener: the Revd. Michael Smith, Silverton Rectory, 21A King Street, Silverton, Devon EX5 4JG). Mr Smith writes:

'The last two or three hundred years have not seen a great deal of legislation touching on the legal preliminaries to marriage according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England. Apart from some minor provisions in the Pastoral Measure 1968 and in the Rules to Order the Service in the Alternative Service Book 1980, conduct of the legal preliminaries is still governed by the Marriage Act 1949 and the rubric in the Book of Common Prayer 1662.

Given the number of changes which have taken place both in society and in the Church in recent years it is time to ask some fundamental questions about the nature and purpose of publishing banns or issuing licences; questions such as: What is the Church seeking to achieve by publishing banns? Are the present preliminaries needed at all? Can social mobility, the changing economic role of women and the growing practice of cohabitation continue to be contained within the present rules governing residence?

Anyone interested in joining a working party to investigate this issue further please contact the convener.'

2. *Peculiars* (Convener: John Holden, 49 Brooklands Road, Towneley, Burnley, Lancs. B11 3PR). At the lunch-time meeting, during the London Conference, towards a dozen people expressed interest in this Working Party and this is encouraging. Amongst those who gathered to discuss this there was an

an unusual degree of unanimity about both the nature and the extent of the present jurisdiction. We agreed that our aim would be to record every Peculiar that we can, and its characteristics. To this end we will be looking for information about Peculiars both ancient and contemporary and we ask that any information that is available be sent to the convener. Our work is likely to cover three areas:-

- (i) Producing papers for inclusion in the Journal.
- (ii) Making a report on progress from time to time.
- (iii) Shaping up proposals for onward transmission regarding Peculiars and the Ecclesiastical Exemption.

If you are interested in joining any of the above, please apply direct to the convener.

M.B.G.