

EDITORIAL

Those who were fortunate enough to be able to attend the Residential Conference at Trinity Hall in Cambridge at the end of March (see Professor Doe's Report on p 93), were treated to a succession of excellent papers on various aspects of the fast developing law on Human Rights as now applied directly in trials in the courts of this country as a result of the 1998 Act. It is hoped that these papers will be published in due course. The weekend was also a reminder of the extent to which the Society has grown and developed during the thirteen years since the inaugural conference just down the road at Corpus Christi.

Bearing in mind the fact that members of the Society live all over the country, the next residential conference in 2003 will be held in the north again, this time at Durham. The theme of the conference is likely to be on the role of a national church in an increasingly secular and plural society. It is hoped to include speakers from Europe to compare and contrast the position there. The precise dates and the names of speakers will be announced in the next issue of the *Journal*.

As Chancellor Hill forecast in his introductory article in July 2000 (5 Ecc LJ 431), the Human Rights Act is going to be relied on successfully, not only in the secular courts but also in the ecclesiastical courts and this has already come to pass—see Philip Petchey's reference to *Re Durrington Cemetery* [2000] Fam 33 and *Re Crawley Green Road Cemetery* [2001] 2 WLR 1175 in his article on Exhumation which appears in this issue (p 122).

One of the objects of the Society is to offer advice to and undertake study for the General Synod of the Church of England, and several of its working parties have made effective contributions in this way. Members may be interested to know that some of the lawyers in the Society are members of the Legal Advisory Commission of the Church of England which exists to give advice to the Synod, its Councils and Commissions, to the Church Commissioners and to diocesan clerical and lay officers including Diocesan Registrars. However, it cannot consider current contentious matters or act as an arbitrator in disputes. Its opinions, covering a very wide range of topics, are published by Church House Publishing in a loose-leaf volume entitled *Legal Opinions concerning the Church of England* which is regularly updated and to which new opinions are added. The Commission makes an annual report to the General Synod.

Looking ahead, next year's one day conference in London will be held on 9 March 2002, and the next Lyndwood Lecture will be given later that year. Details about these important events will appear in due course.

Finally, I am sure all members will wish to congratulate Brian Hanson on his Lambeth DCL, a very welcome recognition of his many services to the Church of England over the years.

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Editor of the Journal