

## WORKING PARTIES

A Note by the Chairman

Like my predecessor, I attach great importance to the Society's Working Parties. They make a considerable contribution to the Church's thinking on a wide variety of subjects, and it is my hope and intention that this shall continue.

The following is a short summary of the position reached by the working parties of which I am aware:

- Cathedrals:** A submission was made to the General Synod's Follow-up Group to the Cathedral's Commission Report, and the Working Party now awaits the publication of either draft legislation, or a report from the Follow-up Group before deciding what further work is needed.
- Faculty Jurisdiction:** This has been in a state of suspension since the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure became law, but it remains in existence, and the question of a 'progress' report on how the new system is working is being considered.
- Churchyards:** This was established after the April 1995 Conference, and is being consulted about the legal section of the new edition of 'The Churchyards Handbook'.
- Peculiars:** This Working Party has reported, but its convenors (John Holden and Paul Barber) continue to collect any material in connection with Peculiars that comes their way.
- Clergy Discipline:** This Working Party reported to the General Synod's Working Party reviewing the law relating to clergy discipline in the terms published in the last issue of the Journal. It is not proposed that it shall meet again unless it is specifically requested to submit further evidence by the General Synod.
- Education:** The main task that this Working Party is engaged in at present is the preparation of a course to ensure that members of the parochial clergy have some knowledge of ecclesiastical law, either through the medium of theological colleges, or first incumbency courses. A draft syllabus has been produced, and the preparation of course work is now in hand.
- Interaction of Ecclesiastical and Secular Law:** The formation of this Working Party was announced at the 1996 conference. It is in the early stages of its work.
- Liturgy:** At the 1996 Conference Chancellor Bursell indicated his intention to form a Working Party to discuss the issues he had raised in his address and related matters.

If I have missed any Working Party I apologise, and plead my newness in this post.

If you wish to join one of the continuing Working Parties please write to me and I shall forward your letter to the convenor concerned. I shall also be glad to hear from anyone who wishes either to establish a Working Party, or who wishes to suggest a subject or subjects for future consideration.