

contribution to reaching greater visible unity; indeed, the *Statement* could well assist churches in the process of uniting (organic unity). Mark Hill's reflection that the *Statement* is not a threat to ecumenism, but nor is it a panacea, and that the principles listed are a tool for identifying common ground ecumenically can be taken as a fair summary of the Panel's thought.

As well as a detailed and lengthy re-examination of selected parts of the agreed principles, time was allocated to discussing the progress being made towards the hoped-for publication, under the editorship of Norman Doe, of a volume written by members of the Panel on juridical ecumenism, provisionally entitled *Comparative Church Law: a new way forward for ecumenism*. This book will be an opportunity for each denomination involved to have its system of church law presented by an expert and on its own terms, and to respond to the joint *Statement* from its own perspective. Such a unique volume would complete and complement the already published *Statement*.

It was agreed that Phase One of the work of the Panel (spanning the period 2013–2018) could be taken as having now been completed, and that Phase Two should begin as a time for advocacy, testing and reception of the *Statement* at national and international events. Some of these events were already identified as fruitful occasions for involvement by different members of the Panel.

The Panel's fellowship was celebrated in style at the dinner graciously hosted in the Palazzo Pallavicini by the British Ambassador to the Holy See, Sally Axworthy. Among our guests were Tony Curren (Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity) and Philip Whitmore (Rector of the Venerable English College).

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Ecclesiastical Law Society Conference: 'Church and State in the Twenty-First Century'

Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, 5–7 April 2019

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The residential conference of the Ecclesiastical Law Society returned to the perennially fascinating topic of establishment and the relationship of Church and

State, looking back to the experiences of churches in years past and forward to how these relationships might appear in the future. Inspired by the collegial and hospitable surroundings of Cumberland Lodge, in Windsor Great Park, participants were united in their interest in and engagement with the topic in hand. As is customary at such conferences there was a conference dinner, at which the Right Reverend Graham James, recently retired as Bishop of Norwich, gave the after-dinner speech.

The quality of input by speakers was outstanding. Papers by Norman Doe and Colin Podmore set the scene, looking at the history of the Church in Wales (approaching the centenary of its disestablishment) and the Church of England (Dr Podmore's paper is published above at pp 312–328). Malcolm Brown, Director of the Mission and Public Affairs Division of the Church of England, offered theological reflections on establishment rooted in the contemporary British experience (also reproduced above, at pp 329–341). Robert Blackburn, of Kings College London, gave an overview of the establishment as it fits into the broader constitution of the United Kingdom. Sir William Fittall, who has been both a senior civil servant and the Secretary General of the Archbishops' Council, gave a fascinating and stimulating series of reflections on the workings of establishment from the perspective of Parliament, Government and Church. Bishop Graham returned to give a paper focusing on how establishment is experienced at parish level.

Perspectives from outside the Church of England were very valuable. Paul Goodliff, a Baptist minister and newly appointed General Secretary of Churches Together in England, and Imam Monawar Hussain, who accepted the invitation to speak at very short notice, provided perspectives from ecumenical and inter-religious viewpoints. Grace Davie, characteristically insightful and comprehensive, gave a stimulating paper on the benefits of 'weak establishment'.

The weekend concluded with the Passiontide service at the Royal Chapel of All Saints in Windsor Great Park, attended by Her Majesty The Queen: a first for an Ecclesiastical Law Society conference.

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