

2016 ADRC NEWSLETTER

Hello and welcome to the 2016 Bulletin!

Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Jessica and I'm the new Communications Officer for the ADRC. I am part of the Registry team for the Diocese and Province of York, my role comprises mostly Provincial work.

In this bulletin you will find notes from the last ADRC conference, updates from new members and some (hopefully) useful information from around the country. It isn't all serious though; there are a few comedic contributions too. If you have anything you would like to feature in the next issue, be it updates, jokes or even suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jessica.smith@lfdt.com. I look forward to hearing from you, Jess x

Welcome from our Chair

I am delighted to welcome our two new committee members: Liz and Jessica. We had a very productive committee meeting last month at Winckworth Sherwood in Southwark and should be able to let you have the programme for the day at Lambeth Palace on 7 October soon.

After having got faculty jurisdiction rules under our belts from 2013, we are now faced with doing it all again for the 2015 rules. Not a happy prospect for Registries whose processes have been set in stone.... It is a testing time for Registrars and Registries – and of course for clerks.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter – and thanks to Jessica for rising to the challenge so well.

We look forward to seeing you all on 7 October.

Elisabeth Crouch

A word from your President

I much enjoyed meeting some of you at the residential at Lincoln Old Palace last October. I hope even more of you will get to Lambeth Palace on 7 October 2016. It is good to share views and learn from different approaches (and Lambeth Palace is very well worth visiting anyway!).

The Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2015 came into force at the start of 2016 and no one yet has reported teething problems. If you have not yet seen the note I sent out to all chancellors and registrars shortly before Christmas, do please get hold of a copy and read it carefully.

The biggest change for ADRC members is likely to be a reduction in the number of faculty petitions received, because of the extent of matters which can now be undertaken without faculty under the new Lists A and B. You may already have received from archdeacons copies of written notices (specifying particular works which can be undertaken without faculty under List B) which have to be sent to diocesan registries for filing (see rule 3.3(4)(a)).

Do please remember that works which involve alterations to a listed building to such an extent as would be likely to affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest cannot be undertaken under Lists A or B, and still need a petition for faculty.

When a faculty is required, and there is no party opponent, then if the chancellor wishes to grant the faculty this can be done without further proceedings (see rule 10.6(2)). But if there is a party opponent (and sometimes even where there is not), then usually the matter is dealt with by **the written representations procedure** under Part 14 of the 2015 Rules. Do read the 2015 judgment of the Court of Arches in *In re Shipton Bellinger* (available on the ELA website), which examines the procedure that has to be followed – you will not be alone if you had not realised the need for the chancellor to make an order under what is now rule 14.1(1) if the written representations procedure is to be used; and usually there will be a need for directions under rule 14.2(1) setting a timetable for the written representations to be submitted.

You probably know that the law relating to **the erection of buildings on disused burial grounds** has been altered and made more permissive by section 4 of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction (Amendment) Measure 2015. But chancellors are likely to be restrictive in what buildings they allow by faculty, and of course planning permission will also normally be required.

Finally, are you aware of the recently issued Practice Note No 1 of 2015 on **Neutral Citation** (for the relatively few occasions on which the chancellor of your diocese issues a written judgment)?

There has been a huge turn-around of diocesan bishops over the past two or three years. A more stable period may now be approaching, as (coincidentally) the Reform and Renewal programme gets going.

Best wishes to you all,

Charles George QC, Dean of the Arches and Auditor

MY FIRST YEAR IN THE ROLE OF REGISTRY CLERK by Georgina Luckman

Baptism of Fire springs to mind when I describe how I came to be a Registry Clerk. The former Clerk unfortunately had to leave the role suddenly due to ill health and me, being the Registrar's Secretary at the time, was asked to stand in. The role became permanent a couple of months later and, together with the Registrar, began to learn of the complexities and idiosyncrasies of Ecclesiastical Law. It was definite on the job training and learning as you go along, both for myself and the Registrar who, by his own admission, didn't realise how much his Clerk actually did from day to day.

Birmingham Diocese has only one Clerk (me) and we deal with everything ranging from Faculties requesting a Church Re-Ordering to Marriages and Gravespace reservations.

Getting to grips with the way things work and who needs to be contacted when can be a little confusing but getting to know my friendly DAC Secretary has helped immensely as has being a member of the ADRC. Without the support of my fellow Registry Clerks this job would have been very difficult to get to grips with.

Some of the telephone calls from members of the public can be challenging, emotions do run high in some cases but the sense of satisfaction when everyone walks away happy, whether they have got the grave memorial they wanted or a wedding licence has been granted, is lovely and you know you have made a difference to someone's life, even if for a short while.

Visits to Churches in the Diocese with the Registrar and Chancellor are always a welcome change, this is usually done when the Church in question is requesting a faculty for major re-ordering or, in one case, complete demolition and rebuilding! It's nice to be able to put a face to the Incumbents and Churchwardens and for them to explain their actions and reasons for wanting/needing the changes requested face to face with us helps them I'm sure and makes them realise that we are human and are there to help and not hinder – unless there is a very strange request!

All in all, I can honestly say that I enjoy being a Registry Clerk as every day throws up new challenges – all of which I am happy to roll up my sleeves and tackle.

Georgina Luckman
Birmingham Diocese

Lincoln Residential Conference 2015

2015's residential conference in the beautiful city of Lincoln was a great success, welcoming several new clerks to the Association, myself included. We were accommodated in the Old Palace in the Cathedral Quarter (a beautiful building as seen in the photograph below).



We had some very interesting talks from Tom Küpper, a stained glass expert working at Lincoln Cathedral and Mark Hill QC who, with his particular brand of humour, explained why keeping our records up to date and as detailed as possible is so important – particularly if something goes to a complaint. That goes for internal emails and notes of telephone calls as well.

The then Archdeacon of Lincoln, the Ven Tim Barker, outlined how the process of appointing celebration churches requires careful consideration and deliberation to ensure it is the correct course of action.

Our tour round Lincoln Cathedral was highly informative. It is the third largest cathedral in the UK and has a colourful and varied history, as you would expect which includes being largely destroyed in an earthquake in the 11th Century and having been home to one of the few copies of the Magna Carta for hundreds of years.



But the conference was really topped off by a visit from the fire brigade, unfortunately many of our members (including myself) had already departed but those that remained were forced out into the cold. Fortunately some managed to escape with their lunch.

Church Bells

A minister was walking to church one morning when he passed one of his members working in his garden. "Can't you hear those bells calling you to church?" asked the minister.

"Ehh, what's that?" said the member.

"Can't you hear those bells calling you to church?"

"I'm afraid you'll have to speak a little louder!" said the member.

"CAN'T YOU HEAR THOSE BELLS CALLING YOU TO CHURCH?!" shouted the minister.

"I'm sorry," said the member, "I can't hear you because of those darned BELLS!"

Reason to keep quiet in church

A mother was giving instructions to her three children as she sent them into Sunday school, "And, why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

Her son quickly responded, "Because people are sleeping!"

WHY 'MINSTERS'?

At our latest conference there was some uncertainty as to why some churches and cathedrals were called minsters, I happened to come across two answers in the Deputy Registrar's office and thought it might interest people

"Minster" was the Anglo-Saxon version of "monastery", and was originally applied to churches served by monks. In the ninth century, many monasteries turned into more worldly institutions whose clergy were known as "clerks" or "canons", and these continued to be known as minsters, too, so that by 1066 it was possible for a minster to be either a monastic community (Westminster Abbey) or one of the canons (York Minster).

Most monasteries and minsters came to an end at the Reformation, but the name continued to be used for York, for a few surviving minsters such as Southwell and Wimbourne, and for former minsters such as Beverley or Iwerne Minster. The name is now largely historic, indicating a church that in the remote past was a monastery or community of canons; but in recent years it has been revived as a title for what is considered to be an important church, such as the mother church of a town.

I am not aware that any law lays down what may or many not be a minster, or that a church so named acquires a different legal status.

*(Professor) Nicholas Orme (Lay Canon)
Oxford*

Minsters are churches founded mainly during the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons in the seventh and eighth centuries. They were often founded at a royal or noble residence, since the conversion relied so much on the good will of the local ruler. A group of priests worked from the minster, going out into the surrounding area to convert or to minister to people.

Gradually, more churches were built and the parish system developed, but minsters sometimes kept their old name. Some are still famous, such as York Minster, but some have become very obscure, such as (Old) Woking in Surrey.

It is possible to some extent to reconstruct the pattern of minster churches from the old administrative unit of the hundred, as the hundred was sometimes called after the minster. Other clues may be a large parish and a royal connection.

(Dr) Mary Alexander, Guildford

ADRC SUBSCRIPTION

It was decided by the committee members that this year's annual subscription fee would not be increased, but remain at £30.

ACTS AND OMISSIONS by Catherine Fox Five Minute Review for Bookworms

I came across and read Catherine Fox's first three novels, "Love for the Lost", "Benefits of Passion" and "Angels and Men" when I was much younger. Having read the first one, set in a theological college, I was hooked and sought out her other novels, which I devoured with pleasure. After that my searches were fruitless, as it turns out the two new novels, "Acts and Omissions" and "Unseen Things Above" were a long time in the gestation (about 20 years!).

Then a few months ago I was on Sarum College's website for work purposes and saw that there was to be "An Evening with Catherine Fox". How exciting was that? I booked up immediately and thoroughly enjoyed her witty illustrated talk. So thrilled was I that I bought both her new novels and had her sign them. Glancing through the "Church Times" (as you do!) a week or so later, I came across a whole page article about Catherine Fox's new book. It appears I am not her only fan! Here are some prize extracts:

And here is something from Amazon:

Welcome to the fictional Diocese of Lindchester, where you will be taken (dear reader) on a yearlong romp in the company of bishops, priests and lay people. Prepare yourself for a bumpy and hilarious ride from the rarefied heights of the Cathedral Close down to the coalface of ordinary urban and rural parishes. Acts and Omissions reveals the Church of England in all its mess and glory. It is a world shot through with grace, but one where even the best intentioned err and stray. And occasionally do those things which they ought not to have done . . .

The narrative all takes place in the fictional Diocese of Linchester, based around the Cathedral Close. Characters include the Bishop (who is offered the post of Archbishop but has a sexual lapse and withdraws), archdeacons and a wonderful character called Freddie May, who causes mayhem and dismay but is somehow still loveable. The book is very cleverly written and genuinely witty as well as being a fascinating insight into the world of the dear old Church of England. There is a section for each month of a year and it is narrated as if Catherine Fox and her readers are looking down on the diocese and observing the goings-on.

I really loved this book and went into mourning when I finished it because I missed it so much. I saved the other book to take on my holiday.

Submitted by Dee Elston, recently retired from Salisbury Diocesan Registry

OLD EMERITUS IN SHOCK

Was I consulted? Was my opinion sought? Was I even informed that the ordered life of the Registry was about to be disrupted, turned upside down, utterly devastated? Not a bit of it. It was on a Monday morning just as I was finishing my sustaining elevenses of grilled kipper and buttered toast that my world fell in upon me. 'Miss Minimouse will be assisting you,' Mr Sealem-Tighte blithely announced as he ushered in a person of the opposite sex, causing me to start, upset my plate and send fragments of kippered herring and toast skidding across the pile of Archdeacon's Certificates that I have been intending to attend to for some little time.

It was not completely unknown for female persons to visit Mr Sealem-Tighte's office on the other side of the Registry: The Archdeaconess — as I call her - of Little Whitwick St Curmudgeon was for some time last year a not infrequent caller, a little matter of the introduction of solar panels for the illumination of the fifteen foot blue granite angel placed over the grave of Lady Hermione Jenesaypa. The Archdeaconess, being descended from Hugue le Ventre, the private chaplain to William of Normandy, was not a person to be lightly dismissed; she rather considered it her right to impose herself and her requirements on anyone within earshot. I am quietly gratified that she met her match in Mr S-T.

But the matter of Miss Minimouse was altogether different; bringing her into my sanctum was unprecedented. Assisting me? In what did I require assistance? Surely, after sixty three years faithful service I should be trusted to know where things went? And as to the pert little creature who stood there wrinkling her precious nose as though in And these?" she asked, delicately using her forefinger nail to remove a fragment of kippered herring from the topmost Archdeacon's Certificate file. "For archiving," I told her brusquely.

disgust at what she saw about her, words failed me. Not above twenty and five, I thought, and dressed — if that was the right word for the garment that might have done duty as a kilt on a five year-old — as she was...well, words fail me.

"Miss Minimouse will be taking some of the burden from your shoulders," Mr S-T said. I did my best to be welcoming, offered to grill her a kipper to take the edge of her hunger at that time of day. She shuddered in a most unladylike manner and said she had brought her own salad box (what sort of invention was that, I wondered) that she might take into the park at lunch-time. Poor thing, she looked as though a breath of air might blow her over, and no wonder if she subsisted upon rabbit food. Mr S-T departed with what I thought was uncalled for alacrity and wearing a unbecoming smirk on his normally judicially grave features, leaving Miss Minimouse and me "to get to know each other better."

"Call me Dee," she volunteered, "and you are...?"

"The Registry Clerk," I replied. A trifle abruptly perhaps, but one has to keep a sense of decorum, as I reminded myself, in the midst of turmoil.

And turmoil it soon proved to be, in short order. "Is there no system in this place?" Miss Minimouse sniffed as she surveyed the room.

Indeed there was, I told her, and devised by my late father. Completed faculties to be stacked on the floor to the left, pending matters on the right. Consistory Court hearing files to be deposited under the window. Nothing could be simpler.

I fear the worst"

The latest contribution gratefully received from Kevin Hartley who has recently become a printed author. Congratulations! His book 'End of Innocence' by K J Hartley is currently available on Amazon Kindle but soon to be in print. "Romance and espionage in wartime Lisbon"

Best wishes to everyone and I hope to see you all at the next ADRC conference at Lambeth Palace on Friday 7 October 2016.. Jess