

**The First John Keble
Event of 2002 will be the
Symposium on the
Legalisation of Drugs:
HIGH TIME?**
**This will be held at
St Alban's Centre,
Baldwins Gardens,
Holborn, London EC1
on Thursday, 18th April
2002 from 11:00am to
5:00pm**
**Details and a
PRIORITY BOOKING
FORM
are included below.**

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is my annual opportunity on behalf of the Committee of Cost of Conscience to wish you all a very happy Christmas and to thank you for all the support which you have given us over the past year. We are, as you know, entirely dependent upon the financial support of people like yourselves, and whatever we can do is determined by your generosity.

The Charity Commissioners

That leads me straight into the first item of news. We applied for "charitable status" to be granted us earlier this year. Going by the experience of similar organisations in previous years we anticipated that this would be a mere formality and that such status, which would enable us to benefit from the Chancellor's recent Gift Aid measures, would be granted in due course.

Not so! Reading between the lines it would appear that a policy decision has been taken in High Places to scrutinize the status of applicants a good deal more carefully than has hitherto been the case, and the criterion by which charitable status will be granted or refused will include not only the usefulness or otherwise of a particular organisation to the "community", but may, so far as is possible, exclude anything in the nature of "campaigning" from that organisation's activities.

If this policy is followed to its logical conclusion it would, presumably, prevent the lobbying of MPs, advertising

campaigns to resist particular Parliamentary Measures, and the organisation of any event which might be construed as having a "political" dimension.

Those of you who are interested in learning more about the proposals can find information on the Internet at

<http://www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/innovation/2001/charity/Optionsstatcomment.shtml>

After much thought, our Committee decided that any financial benefit accruing to us as a result of charitable status would be more than nullified by the way in which this might tie our hands in the future with so many radical novelities threatening to be foisted on us in the near future. We therefore agreed that the matter of charitable status should be pursued no further for the time being, and that we should wait and see how other, similar bodies, were treated by the Commissioners in the future.

The Marriage Document and the Sacred Synod

The Sacred Synod has now been called by the PEVs for Wednesday/Thursday 16/17 October, the days immediately preceding the FiF Assembly.

At this Synod, the Marriage Document which Cost of Conscience presented for the consideration of the PEVs will be thoroughly discussed and, if approved in its original or an amended form will be put into practice immediately by the PEVs. The delay in bringing this about has been due, as you know, to the rough ride given to the Scott-Joynt proposals by many diocesan synods up and down the country, not least, it is said, because of the extensive criticisms levelled at it as a result of our Keble Workshops in New Directions. Bishop Scott-Joynt was accordingly given the job of urgently reconsidering his recommendations, and the hope is that by the time he does so our proposals for some sort of local tribunals to make recommendations to their PEV about the appropriateness of applying the concept of nullity to particular previous "broken" marriages will already be up and working. It must be stressed that such recommendations will be exactly what they purport to be, and any decision by a PEV to the Parish Priest who has sought their advice over a particular case will be of the same status. But the knowledge that such advice will be available will be an enormous help to those who are genuinely uncertain as to what they should do in a particular case

RECAPITULATION

To be sung to the tune Michael (NEH 333 and elsewhere)



1. 'Midst the fragrant fields of Eden
Gladly Eve and Adam shared
Joys of heav'n on earth abounding
By a gracious God prepared:
Free from strife
Man and wife
Tasted of eternal life.
2. Tempted by the serpent's cunning
Eve the First from grace did fall
Adam next with willing footsteps
Followed her entrancing call
"Taste and eat
All is sweet
Then our joy will be complete".
3. From the plains of blissful Eden
Man and wife were turned away
Sentenced to a life of labour
She in childbirth, he with clay.
In its thrall
Death held all
Captive since that grievous fall.
4. In time's fulness came the angel
Gabriel at God's decree
To the Virgin Mary's home in
Nazareth of Galilee.
To his word
She deferred
"See the handmaid of the Lord."
5. Second Eve, by glad obedience,
Satan's spell begins to break,
Recapitulates the First Eve
Who the cursed fruit did take.
From his throne
Christ alone
Makes our human flesh his own.
6. Emptying himself of glory,
Sharing in our common clay,
Adam's wilful sin de-forming,
Christ was born on Christmas Day.
By God's Son,
With us one,
Man's *At-one-ment* was begun!
7. With the Angels, Shepherds, Wise Men
Second Adam let us praise,
Gloria in excelsis chanting,
Heav'nward we our anthem raise:
"In this Child
Undeified
God and Man are reconciled".

of divorcees approaching them with a request to be married in church.

HIGH TIME? at St Alban's Centre, Thursday 18th April 2002 from 11:00am to 5:00pm

Below you will find an advertisement and application form for the *Symposium on Legalising Drugs* which Cost of Conscience has set up for next Spring.

The idea for this came to me from reading the feature in the *Economist* entitled *High Time*. The article was, I later discovered, written by Frances Cairncross, who works for that journal. In the course of it she argues very cogently that the present situation in which drugs are illegal but readily available to anyone, besides bringing the law into contempt, actually gives rise to a whole flourishing underground/black-market economy in which the beneficiaries are those who are supplying the drugs and the victims, to a significant extent, are those who purchase them from them.

The *Economist* has consistently supported a limited legalisation-with-regulation policy, and in this they have been supported by a wide range of opinion.

However not everyone agrees with them, and I am therefore delighted to be able to say that two of the key-speakers on this occasion will be **Frances Cairncross** herself and **David Partington** of the Institute of the International Substance Abuse and Addiction Coalition (ISAAC) whose views differ significantly from hers not least as a result of having helped

people both to avoid addiction and to overcome it.

Besides these two I have invited representatives from the Police, the legal and medical professions. I am still awaiting their replies but the moment I know who will be coming I shall include it in the advance publicity.

The cost of this Symposium is £10 per head, and admission will be by ticket only, obtainable in advance. **There will be no tickets available on the day.**

Below you will find a cut-out application form giving you the chance of making a priority booking. As we are expecting there to be a large number of people who want to come, let me urge you to fill it in without delay and return it to me at the address given.

Two further Events

Depending upon the success of the Drug Legalisation event, I have planned two other events during the year. *Euthanasia* will be the subject in the summer and *Islam* in the autumn.

Euthanasia promises to be another hot-topic in the legislative procedure in the near future. I have already secured the agreement of Mr Wesley Smith, a prominent American lawyer who has specialised in the legal implications of this matter in America and on the continent of Europe where euthanasia is widely practised and, in some instances, is legal.

The other matter which has been occupying people's minds recently is the whole

subject of **Islam**. I hope to organise another gathering with equally well-informed speakers to enable us to have a clearer idea of how best we, as Christians, can relate to our Islamic neighbours in the multi-cultured society which we live in today.

There is no compelling reason why these two meetings should be held in London except to say that, in the past, attendances at Bristol and York have been progressively more disappointing. However, if someone living locally to these places (or any other, e.g. Bradford for the Islamic conference) would be prepared to take over the whole business of publicising it locally, then I for one would be more than glad that we should spread our net wider.

Cost of Conscience and the PEVs

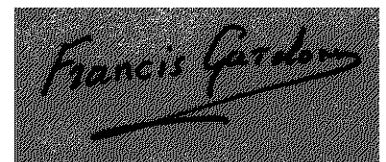
We have continued with our series of meetings to bring the PEVs together at Broomhill in Northamptonshire. The conversations have been very profitable and we intend to continue with them for the foreseeable future.

Your committee has decided to offer the retired PEVs some financial help towards their travel expenses, to a maximum of £300 per year. At the moment there are occasions and circumstances when it is necessary for them to cover their own travelling expenses and it seemed to be a good use of our resources to make certain that they were not personally out of pocket as a result of all the valuable work which they continue to do. The request came from one of their number and already another has written to me expressing his appreciation. So it looks as though we have managed to uncover an area where an organisation such as ours can intervene immediately and with effect.

Other Contacts

I continue to represent our interests both with the **Glastonbury Pilgrimage Association**, **Reform**, the **English Clergy Association**, and the **Private Patrons Consultative Group**. With all of these we share several interests in common, and it is vital, if useful work is not to be duplicated, that we should be aware of what each other is doing. As an Observer or Member of the councils of these respective organisation I have been able both to inform them, and report to other interested parties on their deliberations. This has sometimes proved to be of considerable interest to all concerned.

Yours in Christ



High Time?



A Symposium on the Legalisation and Regulation of Drugs

PRIORITY BOOKING FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT WITH A REMITTANCE OF £10 per person to:-

The Hon. Secretary, Cost of Conscience, 79 Maze Hill, London SE10 8XQ

Cheques should be made payable to **Cost of Conscience**

Enquiries to 020 8858

7052

Please reserve me _____ (no of tickets) for **HIGH TIME? on Thursday 18th April 2002**

MY NAME: _____

MY ADDRESS: _____

Post Code: _____ Tel No. _____

I enclose a remittance for £ _____

