

**ST JAMES'S CHURCH LEGAL ADVICE CENTRE  
ANNUAL REPORT 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2019**

**Request for authority to continue the service for a further year**

On the basis of our 21st annual report, below, we seek authority to provide a free Legal Advice Service for a further year, on the terms agreed by the PCC in 2006.

**The year's activities**

In 2019 we have continued to provide legal advice to the same number of individuals and families as in previous years (PTO). Mostly they are people seeking drop-in advice on legal problems on Monday or Saturday morning at St James's church. They are received by bookshop volunteers and are seen firstly by one of our legal assistants and then by one of the lawyers on duty that day. We also have a rising number of requests for advice by email, usually on immigration issues.

**Coppetts & Colney**

A similar drop-in service is provided on Tuesday mornings at Wilton Community Church by Clare Manuel and Katie Baird, supported by Tahimy Cuellar, a Spanish lawyer who acts as full-time PA and interpreter. A welcome and hot drinks are provided by Joy or Brian Brazier or one of their team: David Lytton, Judy Griggs or Mike Pritchard. Although the connection with St James is maintained the Wilton enterprise is now in business as the **Coppetts & Colney Legal Advice Centre**, with its own business cards and contact number:020 8883 4071.

**EU Conference at Middlesex University**

The Law Department of Middlesex University continues to recruit teams of law students to support our outreach work in the Salvation Army Centre in Wood Green. They are kept busy on Wednesday afternoons, as are our mid-week lawyers who now include Vanessa Brand and Clare Manuel on a regular basis. We are also very grateful to the Law Department for co-operating with us in putting on a well-attended conference at the University on **EU Citizens and BREXIT**, with presentations by experts, not least Laurent Pech, Professor of European law, and a brilliant Q&A session.

**Volunteers at St James**

All our lawyers, including Geoffrey Miller and Gillian White, give their time and expertise for free. So do our hardworking legal assistants who interview the clients and do the note taking and instant legal research on their smartphones. We continue to rely on long-serving Ajay Gohil, Marina Dunderdale and Elsa MacPherson to support the Monday and Saturday sessions along with students such as Miranda Stone at Fortismere, law graduates and paralegals (Haben Beraki, Gemma Carolissen, Tim Chanudon, Jell Hylton, Thi Ly and Ye-Ye Xu) and not forgetting our Australian legal secretary Tracey Tomassini. Thank you all: it has been a great year!

**Peter Thompson**

**1 January 2020**

**ST JAMES'S CHURCH LEGAL ADVICE CENTRE 2019  
[NUMBERS FOR PRECEDING YEARS IN BRACKETS]**

<i>Topic</i>	2019	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10
Boundary disputes	06	(03)	(02)	(01)	(05)	(03)	(04)	(03)	(05)	(02)
Business Tenancy	02	(02)	(04)	(04)	(02)	(10)	(01)	(05)	(02)	(07)
Claims against the police	02	(01)	(00)	(01)	(01)	(03)	(04)	(02)	(03)	(05)
Clinical negligence	02	(01)	(06)	(04)	(07)	(05)	(02)	(02)	(01)	(03)
Company law	02	(03)	(00)	(03)	(03)	(08)	(08)	(05)	(08)	
Contract	80	(29)	(96)	(71)	(69)	(76)	(78)	(72)	(36)	(49)
Council and other tax	17	(10)	(23)	(14)	(17)	(18)	(17)	(13)	(10)	(10)
Data protection	07	(05)	(16)	(15)	(06)	(07)	(07)	(04)	(06)	(06)
Debt	18	(41)	(32)	(34)	(24)	(24)	(25)	(11)	(12)	(17)
Education	15	(09)	(03)	(01)	(06)	(04)	(02)	(01)	(07)	(08)
Employment	50	(85)	(54)	(52)	(35)	(50)	(31)	(29)	(32)	(36)
Family	66	(157)	(72)	(51)	(53)	(56)	(42)	(16)	(19)	(19)
Family property succession	27	(40)	(27)	(33)	(35)	(42)	(28)	(22)	(22)	(30)
Housing	108	(176)	(89)	(122)	(93)	(164)	(68)	(40)	(40)	(51)
Immigration	119	(194)	(106)	(116)	(90)	(62)	(27)	(94)	(44)	(20)
Leasehold	26	(29)	(19)	(18)	(13)	(19)	(14)	(15)	(18)	(12)
Mental health	10	(21)	(05)	(11)	(05)	(01)	(05)	(04)	(08)	(07)
Neighbours	26	(31)	(22)	(16)	(14)	(11)	(09)	(05)	(12)	(17)
Parking/traffic penalties	18	(25)	(11)	(12)	(14)	(18)	(11)	(05)	(10)	(08)
Planning	04	(16)	(09)	(06)	(06)	(05)	(01)	(02)	(06)	(01)
Personal injury	13	(31)	(13)	(14)	(09)	(13)	(07)	(04)	(05)	(08)
Solicitor complaints	05	(16)	(06)	(03)	(07)	(02)	(05)	(02)	(03)	(02)
Traffic accident	07	(29)	(07)	(14)	(09)	(04)	(01)	(03)	(01)	(06)
Welfare benefits	135	(110)	(123)	(90)	(87)	(69)	(51)	(41)	(26)	(26)
Other	40	(72)	(53)	(37)	(18)	(13)	(20)	(36)	(22)	(29)

TOTAL: 809 this year, roughly the same for the past 3 years except that it was 1242 in 2018 when the Wood Green figures were included. They have been omitted this year: likewise, the work figures for Coppetts and Colney.

As in previous years the main topics have been welfare benefits (Universal Credit etc), housing and homelessness and immigration. There seems to have been a decline in family law work, for no obvious reason.

DONATIONS to St James Church in 2019 (grateful clients): £588, including Gift Aid.

Donations are made separately to the Salvation Army in Wood Green by grateful clients of the services we provide there.