

# THE RECORD

## THE CHURCH SERVICE SOCIETY

### *PRESIDENTIAL EDITORIAL NOTE*

Last autumn, the Council of the Society received from Graeme Longmuir an indication of his intention to vacate the Editor's chair which he had occupied since 1987. The Council has recorded its gratitude to him for all his work in that considerable period of 12 years. These years have seen not only a welcome improvement in the general appearance of *The Record* but also the issue of several numbers with content of more than ordinary significance.

In a moment of folly, and thinking that I was to have a longer period free of parish duties than proved to be the case, I volunteered to see the next (i.e. this) issue into print. That has had a two-fold result. First, I am more aware than previously of the significant nature of our debt to Graeme, and therefore more grateful to him for his work; and, second, this issue is much later than intended. The latter result is certainly regrettable - not least in the light of current discussion of the future of the Society. The Council is aware that through *The Record* the concerns of the Society are brought before more people than by any other means. It is, therefore, anxious that it should appear with reliable regularity. For that, the Council not only requires to find an editor: contributors and reviewers are also needed. No editor can promise that everything sent to him will be published - much less one who is acting as such temporarily - but contributions for consideration are invited. As to book reviews: publishers will only send us books if we, in fact, publish reviews. They can only be published (this issue has none) if the Reviews Editor has the co-operation of those to whom he sends books for review.

Although it has been suggested that the communications revolution has already rendered a printed *Record* obsolete, the Council is sure that that time has not yet arrived. We are persuaded, that, like the Society itself, *The Record* still has a significant role to perform into the new millenium in helping, or prompting, the Scottish Church to measure up somewhat more adequately to the challenge contained in the dictum of that most politically and socially conscious of 20th century English archbishops, William Temple, to the effect that 'the world can be saved from political chaos and collapse by one thing only, and that is worship.'

J.C.S.