

Another regular feature of early issues was a series of reports on church restorations and re-orderings – with a strong emphasis on medieval buildings. Changing attitudes to (or fashions in) worship has led to much re-ordering in recent times. The whole Church must surely benefit from John Hume’s readiness to devote his talents, encyclopaedic knowledge and wide experience of historic buildings to the convenership of the Assembly’s Committee on Artistic Matters, where they can be greatly influential in the area of one of the concerns of this Society. We are grateful to him for so readily agreeing to review Richard Fawcett’s important book, *Scotland’s Medieval Churches*.

We also offer the fruits of some of Ian Gough’s studies (for his D.Min) on funeral rites (which he also dealt with at the October Study Day); and the paper given by Bishop Maurice Taylor after the A.G.M. on the question, "What is Good Liturgical Language?" – a question surely deserving careful consideration by everyone responsible for leading worship in a branch of the church such as ours, where so little is prescribed, so much is left to the individual practitioner, and the ‘floating liturgy’ of a former generation has sunk, almost without trace.

It is a mixed bag and, in that, it reflects the state of thought, on worship and on its setting, in the Church at large. For the present, we shall make no pronouncements on whether a greater measure of cohesion in each issue of our publication, or of ‘common order’ in the Church’s liturgical practice, would constitute an improvement.

J.C.S.

SECRETARY

After six years in office Rachel Dobie indicated to the Council, to its great regret, that she intended to leave the Secretarial desk at last year’s AGM. Rachel, free of the overweight of society tradition which cumpers some of us, shares a deep conviction of the importance of worship in the life of the Church and has the subtle blend of persistent

drive and courtesy which ensures that the work of the society goes forward and that others do what is asked of them, more or less on time. Her colleagues are glad that she is willing to continue on the Council.

Council was also glad and grateful that Neil Gardner responded positively to its indication of its confidence that he has the right gifts to serve in this capacity.

J.C.S.

