

JOTTINGS

We note with interest a new publication, *Different Voices*, which has our President as its Editor and the Church's Music Panel as its editorial Board. Described as 'a new quarterly about music and worship in the Scottish churches' it is presented in an illustrated and attractive A4 format with, for its launch, a distinguished list of contributors, including the Principal Clerk of Assembly, the then Convener of the Worship and Doctrine Task Group, Dr Ian Bradley, and John Bell. Those who have found the handbooks published in connection with previous editions of the Church Hymnary to be mines of interesting information about the origins of hymns and the lives of the writers of words and tunes will welcome a first instalment of notes which, if retained, may serve a similar purpose for CH4. And there is a section offering musical arrangements additional to those in CH4 by way, in this case, of Sol-fa settings (7), instrumental arrangements (3), simple keyboard arrangements (2) and organ accompaniments for last verses (3).

Mention has been made several times in recent issues to *Ecclesiology Today*, the Journal of the Ecclesiological Society. At its last meeting the Council of CSS agreed to a proposal that the societies might share their periodical publications with a view to drawing the attention of their readers to matters which might be interest to them in the other publication. Although there is little of direct Scottish interest in the most recent volume (No.40) there are reflections of the controversy caused by a recent publication on the Scottish-born Ninian Comper, some critical comments on the 're-ordering' fashion to be found in all the churches, and an article on 'Keeping our Parish Churches' – a problem which, if of a somewhat different nature in Scotland from that south of the border, is no less acute here.

My attention was drawn a little time ago to an article in a parish magazine which intimated some changes in the manner of receiving Communion. A variety of modes of reception (which did not include the traditional), were to be offered at each celebration on the grounds that they would enrich the experience of communion. My informant (who is not a minister) found that suggestion somewhat perplexing and wondered whether the matter did not merit some consideration on these pages. She is, of course, not alone in being concerned about current sacramental practice in the Church, and, as the Secretary notes,

the Society joined forces with the Panel on Worship and Doctrine at the well-attended conference on 'Holy Communion and the Renewal of the Church' which was held at Dunblane. Given the subject, that was properly concerned with where we may be going. But there was not a great deal of evidence of awareness of where we have come from, nor of why things have been as they have been. Perhaps there should be a more extended airing of the matter on these pages. This Society was formed to meet a situation, where, in the experience of many, the tradition had gone dead but the undoubted renewal which it fostered in the Church proceeded on the conviction that renewal would begin not from a clean slate but from a recovered awareness of roots.

J.C.S.