

STUDY DAYS and RETREATS

Each autumn the Society holds a Study Day in different parts of the country.

2019 St Leonard's in the Fields at Perth, *Exploring Ordination* (31st October)

2018 Dunblane Cathedral *Staging the Sunday Service*, common ground between worship and the theatre

2017 in Lanark *Technodoxology*, the uses and abuses of technology in worship

2016 New College, Edinburgh *Material Eucharist*, approaching Communion through the physical

2015 Papers from a new generation. Young scholars on worship

2013, at Rhu Parish Church, was based round its former minister John McLeod Campbell (1825-30) who wrote controversially on the Atonement.

In **2012** in Gorbals Parish Church we explored the relationship between worship and mission.

In **2011** we viewed the treasures of Kippen Parish Church (representative of the arts and crafts movement) and explored in particular the role of stained glass windows in worship and in the teaching of the faith.

In **2010** the venue was the Isle of Cumbrae on the subject 'The Worship Mall', the plethora of different worship styles and materials available in a consumerist society.

In **2008** at Luss Parish Church, centre of a ministry which reaches through the internet to all parts of the world, the topic was 'virtual worship'.

THE AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

- to foster interest in the history of liturgy
- to raise awareness of liturgical development in the world Church
- to engage with the theology of worship as indispensable for the evaluation and interpretation of liturgies
- to study, discuss and explore contemporary forms employed in the practice of worship and in the creation and enhancing of the place of worship
- to plan meetings, conferences and publications with a view to promoting these purposes

THE CURRENT WORK OF THE SOCIETY update

The Liturgical Formation Project

This examines the role of leaders of worship and how leaders are 'made', with a view to preparing material to assist those who have the responsibility for training as well as those who seek development of their own skills in worship leadership.

Sesquicentennial

The 150th anniversary of the Society's founding was celebrated in 2015. Check the website.

The Wode Psalter

A major research project at the University of Edinburgh assembled the separated part books of this Reformation psalter and made performing editions for local use. These are now made available on the Society's website.

Building contact with members

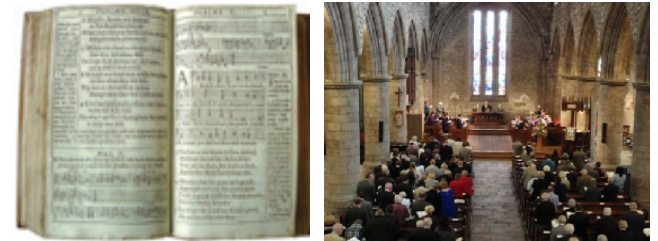
A periodic e-letter called *Versicle* has now been established.

President of the Society is the Rev Dr Alison Jack, Assistant Principal of New College, Edinburgh.

Secretary is the Rev Dr Martin Ritchie, 112 Greenbank Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 5SZ; 07984 466 855; martinsritchie@gmail.com who is happy to provide further information about the Society.

CHURCH SERVICE SOCIETY

active in the renewal of worship since 1865



for all who seek renewal in
Christian worship

HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

The Society was formed by three young ministers in 1865 – a time when worship in the Presbyterian churches in Scotland was often rambling and verbose. Their object was 'the study of the liturgies – ancient and modern – of the Christian church, with a view to the preparation and publication of forms of prayer for Public Worship and services for the administration of the Sacraments, the celebration of marriage, the burial of the dead etc.'

In their day, the concern of these founding members was thought to be eccentric, even suspect. Now the situation is quite different. In all major branches of the western Church there is a new and creative interest in forms of worship, in architecture, music and hymnody. Many congregations have worship committees. When the Society published *Euchologion* in 1867, this was the first service book available to the Kirk since John Knox's *Book of Common Order*. Now there is a huge range of material; it might seem as if the vision of the Society's founders had been amply fulfilled.

Yet the sheer diversity of contemporary worship makes it as important now as in the 1860s to distinguish between the permanent and the transient, between the authentic and the artificial, between what is helpful and what is merely novel. The search is no longer for what is liturgically correct, as if there were some fixed way of worshipping that applied to all places and times. The current quest is for worship that is catholic and continually reforming, that is scriptural and topical – big enough to let our congregations glimpse eternal truths and mysteries, yet earthed in their experience and their resources.

The Church Service Society supports the Church in that search. It is not a part of church structures, nor is it a party or a lobby, but a fellowship of ministers, elders, organists, church members who are all convinced that worship is the Church's fundamental task and privilege and wish more fully to explore its possibilities.

JOURNALS and WEBSITE www.churchservicesociety.org

The Society has published a journal on Christian worship continuously from 1928, entitled variously the *Journal*, the *Liturgical Review*, and the *Record*. A copy of the *Record* is sent to all members.

Contents have combined the scholarly and the practical, ranging from the study of earliest liturgies to new orders of worship, from music to church art and architecture.

This unique archive has now been mounted on the Society's website: www.churchservicesociety.org. There are also summaries given of the contents of each journal so that readers can quickly find the articles on subjects about which they are interested.

Papers, features and articles have included:

The psalmody of covenanting times
Scottish ecclesiastical dress
The children's sermon
Is it still the same Mass?
Voluntaries for the small organ and modest player
The Castlemilk question
Columba – his liturgical approach
Liturgy for people with learning difficulties
The end of sacraments?
Worship – does it unite us or divide us?
The greening of the liturgy
Calvin and the café church
Recognising a civil registered partnership
New technologies, new ways
Sacred Signs: Interpreting worship as part of the Church of Scotland's Catholic heritage
'Mending' Charles Wesley's hymns
'Rabbi' Duncan on Liturgy

On the website: the Society's journals from 1928, the complete recently recovered Wode Psalter for choirs and congregations to download; *One Voice* music pages; worship material; sermons on worship; news and events.

HOW TO JOIN

Members welcome from all branches of the Church

Send this part or email the Treasurer:

Rev Iain May, 37 Claremont Road, Edinburgh EH6 7NN; jmay@churchofscotland.org.uk

Membership contributions:

Full £15; Student or Probationer Minister £5

Please enrol me as a member of the Church Service Society

PAYMENT OPTIONS

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