

THE CHURCH SERVICE SOCIETY NOTES

Regional Conference

The 1976 Conference was held in October last, at Perth, within St. John's Kirk.

After Holy Communion, celebrated by the President, Dr A. K. Robertson, members were conducted round the Kirk by the Minister, the Rev. Allan Young. His account of the history of the Kirk, including the developments and renovation of recent years, was of absorbing interest; and it was a happy coincidence, too, that the Society's visit should fall in the year which marked the 850th anniversary of the foundation of the Kirk and the 50th anniversary of its restoration as the County and City of Perth War Memorial.

There followed, at Kirk House, a paper by the Rev. James L. Weatherhead, Montrose, on 'The Place of Children in Worship'. It was clear that the speaker had taken 'worship' in the title, to mean Eucharist the central act of worship, for his paper was, in effect, a plea for the admission of children to Holy Communion. His survey, historical, constitutional and liturgical, was wide ranging, and suggested that the exclusion of children from the Lord's Table could be traced to the over-intellectualizing of worship in our tradition following the emphasis on catechizing after the Reformation. There was an irresistible logic about his main theme – that children, by virtue of their Baptism and incorporation into the Body of Christ, have a right to share, not only in the Liturgy of the Word, but also in the Liturgy of the Upper Room. At times Mr. Weatherhead seemed in advance of the position generally adopted in the Church, but his views may perhaps point the way, as was brought out in the later discussion.

At the close, the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Thomas H. Keir. The hospitality of Kirk House for lunch and tea was greatly appreciated by the 24 members and friends present.

Centenary Lecture

The Centenary Lectureship instituted to mark the centenary of the Society in 1965, provides for a biennial lecture, the purpose of which is to promote liturgical study – the constitutional aim of the Society.

For the 1976 Lecture, the Council appointed the Scottish theologian and scholar, Emeritus-Professor the Rev. David Cairns, D.D., Aberdeen, who took as his subject – 'Christian Remembering and Historical Remembering – A Comparison'. The Lecture was

delivered at Glasgow, within the University Chapel, on 31 October, and at St. Andrews, in St. Mary's College, on 1 November.

Dr. Cairns' treatise was a complete study in theology, history and philosophy, of the nature of remembering, involving also the cultic background of the psalter, and exhibiting, as might be expected, much original thinking.

The discussion and question period thereafter at both centres was illuminating, and elicited many points of detail. The President, Dr. A. K. Robertson, presided at both Lectures, and the votes of thanks were proposed (at Glasgow) by the Rev. George Hunter, and (at St. Andrews) by the Acting Principal of St. Mary's, Professor J. A. Whyte.

There followed, at St. Andrews, an invited gathering in the College Hall when many of the audience met the Lecturer socially and the officials of the Society were afforded the opportunity of useful contacts with the students. Later, the Lecturer and the officials were entertained to dinner by Professor and Mrs. Whyte – altogether a memorable first visit by the Society to St. Andrews.

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The 1977 Conference will be held in Glasgow, at Scotstoun West Parish Church on Monday 17th October.

The Rev. Kenneth G. Hughes, B.D., Minister of the linked charge of Prestonkirk, Stenton and Whittingehame, will speak on the observance of the Christian Year in country parishes (exact title to be intimated later).

Notices will be sent to all members in Glasgow. Any others who would like to have further details should inform the Hon. Secretary.