

# THE RECORD

## THE CHURCH SERVICE SOCIETY

### *EDITORIAL NOTE*

The placing in order of the articles available for this issue of *The Record* seemed to require more careful consideration than the editor remembers having given previously to the task. As will be seen, first place has been given to Stewart Todd's paper on 'The Greening of the Liturgy'. If the fact that he is our senior active Honorary President were not sufficient reason, then its origin as a 'Patriarchal Lecture' (to the Society for Liturgical Study) will surely be allowed some weight even among the most doctrinaire upholders of presbyterian parity – as, one suspects, the epithet afforded some quietly amused satisfaction to the author. Additionally, perhaps most importantly, the continuing importance of 'green' issues provides good reason for the publication, even so long after first delivery, of a revised version of the paper. In liturgy which is related to life and adequately informed by theology such issues may be thought to deserve a more significant structural role than is provided by occasional reference in sermons and intercessions.

The Lee Lectureship was instituted in 1886 to commemorate Dr Robert Lee (1804-68), minister of Old Greyfriars' in Edinburgh. Although he was not among the founders of the Church Service Society, Dr Lee is usually reckoned to be the significant pioneer in liturgical reform in mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Scotland – a claim questioned by the editor who is disposed to claim the credit for Dr Marshall Lang, one of his predecessors in Aberdeen. Be that as it may, we are grateful to Johnston McKay for making available to us the text of the Lee Lecture which he gave earlier this year.

There is too large a body of opinion, both within and beyond the Church of Scotland, which mistakenly supposes that the Reformed tradition and liturgical concerns are somewhat alien to each other. For the past 42 years the Joint Liturgical Group has served as a bridge. The paper of Canon Donald Gray, a bridge-crossing member of our Society, sheds interesting light on the Group's origins, and not least on the motivational role of a suggestion made by Dr John Lamb of the Church of Scotland. Douglas Galbraith contributes a note on the more recent activities of the Group.

The final article in this issue comes from even further afield and re-establishes a link with New Zealand of which the last evidence seems to be in the *Annual* of the Society in 1964. The water which has flowed under bridges both there and here since then seems to have been travelling in much the same direction but one wonders whether the issues dealt with are raised quite so clearly for present students in our colleges. Denzil Brown, who brought this lecture to our attention had, a short time previously, sent his review, previously published in New Zealand, of *Prayer and the Priesthood of Christ*, believing that it might be of interest here. It is welcome, as, we repeat, would be reviews of other recent books in our field of interests which have come to the notice of readers.

J.C.S.

### NOTED ELSEWHERE

The latest issues of *Theology* (S.P.C.K.) – 845 and 846 – carry a two-part article by Stuart G. Hall entitled ‘Liturgical Science and Parish Life: I. The Impasse; and II. Identifying a Base’. If memory serves correctly, Dr Hall once found a base in the Reformed tradition. He has a present base in St Andrews as Honorary Professor of Divinity. If what he writes here has a primarily Anglican readership in view it is certainly not without relevance to our constituency.

The current issue of *Theology in Scotland* (XII,2) has a three-page review by Denis Campbell of Christopher J. Ellis’ *Gathering: A Theology and Spirituality of Worship in Free Church Tradition*. That tradition is by no means to be equated with the Reformed tradition, particularly in its Scottish form but the review may cause some to think that the book would be worth their notice.