EDITORIAL

This year, the Study Day organized by the Church Service Society was on the theme, 'Pilgrimage' and was held at St. Drostan's, Markinch which is a stopping place on the recently established Fife Pilgrim Way. It's not surprising that this issue of 'The Record' features pilgrimage in four ways.

There is an address from the parish minister at St. Drostan's elucidating the impact of the Fife Pilgrim Way on his congregation and parish and how it has galvanized both kirk and community into a new way of relating to each other and to the thousands of pilgrims who pass that way. This is followed by a reframing of pilgrimage as prophetic witness.

In addition, the first Pilgrim Pastor appointed on any pilgrimage route in the UK provides some liturgical material for use on a pilgrimage. This is complemented by a 'Psalm Book' which was prepared by the team who established 'The Rugged Pathway' in East Lothian. The two resources are quite different and provide inspiration for even greater liturgical diversity.

There is a third liturgy tucked into this issue. It is one which has been developed over the years by the parish minister and members of the worshipping community at St. Magnus Cathedral, Orkney. It too offers an hospitable space for pilgrims and tourists who make the journey to this blessed isle.

John Bell, our recent President, gave an address to the Society on how the things we sing and the prayers we hear shape what we believe. It is his contention that liturgy has a profound bearing on the way we live our lives. It is a cautionary tale for those who are involved in the composition of hymns, liturgies and sermons for it is even more far-reaching than we could imagine save the reality of present decline.

There are two explorations into the arts. The first is an article on how faith is enlivened by the arts. The second is an exploration of worship in Scottish literature. The former encourages us to re-examine the ways art is included into our liturgies. The latter opens us up to a surprising book list which is worth exploring in itself. Both articles raise questions and challenge the status quo.

With the recent publication of the supplement to CH4, 'God Welcomes All', we have an insightful review from the Director of Music at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Stirling. It makes particular comment on the arrangement of the music as well as the content and range of the hymnody.

We have six obituaries this year which is indicative of our aging membership. There is an opportunity to look back to a former day in the Society when our forebears found themselves at a crossroads almost a century ago. We are at a crossroads too asking questions about our identity and even about 'The Record'. It is expensive to continue printing paper copies. Could it be simply available online as our extraordinarily useful archive makes clear?

After editing four annual issues of 'The Record', I am calling it a day as Editor. I turned seventy this year and although some on the Council called me 'a young thing', I am reminded of Moses and Simeon and all those wise men and women who are happy to let go in order to facilitate younger leadership and initiatives. Over the year, Conor Fegan has been shadowing me in the role and at half my age will be a veritable Joshua for this important ministry. I wish him well as he leads you further into the Promised Land!