

## THE CHURCH SERVICE SOCIETY NOTES

### Regional Conference

On a sunny October day we made our way westwards along the beautiful Carse of Stirling; then, leaving the main road, we began the steep acclivity to the village of Kippen, with the Church towering above us. We were as pilgrims on the ascent to Zion, and our expectations of beauty and peace at the top of that hill were not disappointed.

After Holy Communion celebrated by the President, the Rev. John Heron, B.D., S.T.M., at which service we sampled the rich resources of Communion hymnology in the new CH.3, the company numbering 39 members and friends, then adjourned to the Kirk House.

The first paper, by Dr. J. W. Fraser of Farnell, on the Structure of the Eucharist was, in effect, a review of a recent publication by the Joint Liturgical Group. Dr. Fraser ably summarized the contents of the pamphlet, which attempts to define a common eucharistic structure for all the churches for use in their own liturgical revisions, adding his own points of criticism – as, for example, the place of the intercessions – and linking the principles enunciated, with the recent Church of Scotland revision.

At the afternoon session the Rev. D. G. Sutherland of Leslie, in his appraisal of *The Divine Service* (1973) – the revision of the services of Holy Communion in the Book of Common Order – was sympathetic in his approach, and informed and helpful in his comments, in a way that promoted general agreement.

The discussion following each paper, particularly in the afternoon, was frank and, at times, critical of the publications. Nevertheless one had the impression that the new service escaped fairly lightly. Only after *The Divine Service* has been in use for some time will it be possible to form a balanced judgement.

Hospitality was splendidly arranged, for which our thanks are due to the Rev. R. W. A. and Mrs. Begg. At the lunch interval members had the opportunity of viewing the lovely parish church of Kippen in its rich adornments and colourings, the expression of the aesthetic mind and skilful hands of Sir D. Y. Cameron, with whose name it will for ever be associated. Mr. Begg's conducted tour was full of interest and evidenced his own joy and pride in his beautiful sanctuary.

**Dates to Note in 1974**

28th and 29th October.

The Council have appointed as Centenary Lecturer the Rev. James M. Todd, M.A., Minister of the United Reformed Church at Leatherhead, Surrey. Mr. Todd is a member of the Joint Liturgical Group, to which he was appointed by the former Congregational Church of England and Wales, within which church he has had considerable influence and experience as a liturgical scholar. The Lecture will be delivered at New College, Edinburgh, on the 28th, and at Renfield Church Centre, Glasgow on the 29th, at 4 p.m. each day.

30th September

The autumn Conference will be held at the parish church of St. Vigean, Arbroath, when, once again, *The Divine Service* will be reviewed, but this time, after one year of use. Linked with this there will be special reference to the music of the Communion service, introduced by the Rev. A. Stewart Todd, B.D., St. Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen, Convener of the Committee on Public Worship and Aids to Devotion. Members resident within twenty miles of Arbroath will, in due course, receive notice of the detailed arrangements. Others outwith the area will be most welcome. They should, however, indicate their interest by applying to the Secretary for a circular programme.

W. J. R