

E D I T O R I A L

Thank you for providing such a varied and interesting issue of "The Record".

Not the opening sentence of a letter to "The Editor", but his thanks to some members of The Church Service Society for responding to his plea. Herein is an incarnational issue, ranging from Worship with political action, through "Standing for the Gospel" and the Visitor Centre, Cathedral Square, Glasgow, with a welcome insert from St Andrews, culminating in a dignified and seemly act of worship for the de-consecration of a church building which was the result of a very casual comment made by the Editor to the writer whilst travelling into Perth for Supper one Saturday evening.

This very morning I listened with morbid curiosity to a Scottish divine begin his "Thought for the Day" on BBC Radio Scotland with an account of his gathering mushrooms and his culinary expertise which seemed to involve both garlic and cream. I, too, began to muse (not over mushrooms) but into the bathroom mirror as I reflected on some sermons I wish I'd rather not heard over a particular communion season this summer during which it was difficult, if not impossible, to determine whether the Gospel (literally and theologically) had a place.

Looking over the completed contents of this issue of "The Record" I detect some matters that may be garlic to some, cream to others but all of which are quite firmly rooted in the Gospel. Many years ago, under a previous incarnation, this magazine ran a series of articles on some of our Scottish churches, large and small. It is good to learn of the developments surrounding that magnificent tribute to many centuries of celebration of the sacraments and the preaching of the word which may enable Glasgow to flourish still, through the preaching of the word. After a long, searching and intellectually demanding debate in a presbytery concerning the disposal of a disused church building, it was good to be reminded there and here in these pages that sermons may indeed be in stones, but that we, the members of His Church, Catholic and Reformed, are living stones whose witness reaches out more powerfully into the world than steeples and buttresses and which witness is more permanent than even much-loved stones, windows and pews.

The message of Michaelmas, echoed in the words: "....with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven....." does much to reassure and arm me for the days ahead. Pray God it does for the members of The Church Service Society.

T.G.L. Michaelmas:1988

For all the Spirit wants to bring me, For where the Spirit wants to send me, For all the Church has been despite us, For His heavenly hosts around us, For what the Church may yet be through us. THANKS BE TO GOD.