

CHURCH SERVICE SOCIETY NOTES

(1) Regional Conference 1977

The subject of the annual Conference, held at Scotstoun West Parish Church, Glasgow, in October last, was "Seasons of Renewal: the Christian Festivals in three Rural Parishes".

After Holy Communion, celebrated by the President, Dr A. K. Robertson, members turned their attention to the paper given by the Rev. Kenneth G. Hughes, Prestonkirk *with* Stenton *with* Whittingehame.

Anyone reading the title might well question the appropriateness of the subject — a record of happenings in the country for the edification of city ministers! It was, however, a case of *rus in urbe* — indeed the country did come to town, as several of those present had travelled from parishes in the surrounding countryside; and as it turned out, there was a message for all — for what was accomplished in three East Lothian parishes could equally successfully be developed in any urban parish.

Mr Hughes did not abide closely by his script, and was both racy, relaxed and interesting. To say so, is not to underestimate the theological significance of the paper in its adherence to the cardinal points of Christian doctrine unfolded in the Christian Year; and Mr Hughes' expertise on the mechanics of running a Holy Week series was an object lesson in practical theology — in the involvement of people, in proper publicity and planning, and in the strategic timing and locating of services.

At the present time, a generation after the revival of the Christian Year in Scotland, few would question the propriety of its observance — what we all need to learn is how to encourage and gain the wholehearted participation of our people. With that in view, many will be grateful to Mr Hughes for pointing the way. The appreciation of all present was aptly expressed by Dr John Heron.

Hospitality was excellent, and our hosts, the Rev. George and Mrs Hunter, took no small trouble to ensure that everyone was made warmly welcome. It was a pleasure to hear from Mr Hunter, at the lunch interval, the story of Scotstoun West and to be conducted round the handsome, elegant and spacious church.

There was an attendance of 24 members and friends.

(2) Dates to note in 1978*Annual Conference*

The Annual Conference will be held in Dundee, when Rev. Dr J. W. Fraser, Farnell, will deliver a paper on "Liturgy and Evangelism". Full details will be circulated to all members in the area and to any others interested on application to the Secretary.

Centenary Lecture — 13th and 14th November

The Lecture will be delivered at Edinburgh, in New College, on Monday, 13th November, at 4 p.m., and at Aberdeen on Tuesday, 14th November (details later).

The Rev. Dr A. M. Allchin, Canon of Canterbury, who has been appointed as Lecturer, has chosen as his subject, "Worship in the Material World — with reference to the Sacraments and also to some more contemporary issues relating to our use of the environment".