

THE REVD DR STUART LOUDEN, TD, DD, DLitt.

With the death of Stuart Louden on March 26 this year, our Society lost one of its most loyal supporters and most able leaders; indeed the existence of "The Record" as the Society's main platform for liturgical news and exchange of ideas is largely due to his advocacy. In 1981, when the Council had to face up to the impossible costs involved in perpetuating "Liturgical Review", Stuart voiced forcefully his conviction that The Society was more needed in the Kirk than ever and urged that ministers should be given all possible help and encouragement in putting its principles into practice.

A native of Dundee, Stuart followed his degrees in Arts and Divinity at Edinburgh with further study at Marburg and Oxford before returning to Edinburgh for an assistantship at St Cuthbert's. After ordination he exercised his ministry within three very different parishes - St Mary's, Old Aberdeen, Dailly in Ayrshire, and Greyfriars in Edinburgh where he served for thirty years - but many who miss him will treasure gratefully the memory of his witness and worship during the years he was a prisoner of war. Stuart had a disciplined and cultivated mind; he combined a broad ecumenical perspective with a deep love of all he perceived to be finest in the traditions of the Church of Scotland. As Convener of the Colonial and Continental Committee (1957-62), Convener of the Committee on Public Worship (1965-70) and Vice-President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (1964-70) he was equipped, by the wide reading that he managed to combine with parish work, to speak with well-informed authority. Those seeking now to understand how the Church of Scotland is related by tradition and theology and worship to the other branches of the vine can still gain much from his Warwick Lectures, published under the title "The True Face of the Kirk".

One of the tasks from which he derived most satisfaction was his work as Vice-Convener of the Committee which produced the Church's present Hymnary. The University of Edinburgh recognised his outstanding ministry with a Doctorate of Divinity in 1960, Heriot-Watt University by making him Doctor of Letters in 1974.

Stuart was appointed to the Council of our Society in 1950 and remained for the next forty years a committed and articulate member of

it. It was fitting, and a source of deep satisfaction to him, that his Presidency coincided with The Society's centenary in 1965. As well as carrying through the events of the centenary year itself, he was instrumental in establishing the Lectureship from which we still all benefit.

A keen admirer of Dr Robert Lee, his predecessor in Old Greyfriars a century before, Stuart sought throughout his ministry in Edinburgh to sustain a tradition of worship both Reformed and catholic. As his successor in Greyfriars, now broadened still further liturgically by its Gaelic worship since the union with Highland Tolbooth St John's, I found him an unfailing source of wisdom, kindness and encouragement. The attendance at his funeral, the day before our Resurrection celebration, was a measure of the high esteem in which he was held throughout the Church and of the extent to which his lengthy ministry was valued.

David Beckett

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C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

As we went to press it was announced that Her Majesty the Queen had graciously been pleased to appoint two of our Honorary Presidents,

The Revd A Stewart Todd, MA, BD, DD (Minister of St Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen), and

The Revd Charles Robertson, MA JP (Minister of the Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh) as Chaplains in Ordinary to Her Majesty's Household in Scotland - Ecclesiastical.

We were remiss in not congratulating two other members of The Society: The Very Revd W J Morris, DD, PhD, LLD, JP (Minister of Glasgow Cathedral) on his recent appointment as Dean of the Chapel Royal and: The Very Revd G I Macmillan, MA, BD (Minister of the High Kirk [St Giles' Cathedral], Edinburgh, on his appointment - some time ago ! - as Dean of the Order of the Thistle.

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