

I say it just
Begins to live
That day.

To make the living Word memorable, to give life and colour to languishing preaching, to raise the standards of thought and expression when they address transcendent and ordinary things – that is the aim of preaching, and in many cases and many places, allowing for my cautions expressed above, such preaching is enhanced and given rhetorical impetus by literary quotation and allusion. Canon Anderson might demur from having the words of Gerard Manley Hopkins too closely applied to his own practice; I suspect though they are deeply autobiographical, and are worth repeating for that reason:

I have found the dominant of my range and state –
Love, o my God, to call Thee Love and Love.

*Rev Dr Jim Gordon
Principal, Scottish Baptist College*

SECRETARIAL NOTES

Annual Meeting 2011

At the 2010 Church of Scotland General Assembly, that Church entered into a 'partnership in the Gospel' with the Church of England. (The Scottish Episcopal Church are party to this agreement also.) To mark this, the Society asked the Canon Precentor of York Minster to deliver the address at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, 26th May, in Greyfriars'. Canon Peter Moger, who was until recently National Worship Development Officer for the Church of England and Secretary of its Liturgical Commission, addressed the demand for alternative styles of worship, particularly in the 'emerging church' movement, with a paper on **Liturgical Pluralism in a Mixed-Economy Church: challenges facing the Church of England** (the text appears earlier in this issue). Canon Moger is a graduate in music from Oxford and in theology from Durham; he serves on the Advisory Panel of the Royal School of Church Music, a task he shares with the Secretary of our Society, and from 2011 will chair the Academic Board of the Guild of Church Musicians. He has published 'Crafting Common Worship' (Church House Publishing, 2009), edited – with Paul Bradshaw – 'Worship

Changes Lives' (Church House Publishing, 2007), and was a member of the editorial team for the Hymn Book 'Sing Praise' (Hymns A & M / RSCM, 2010). He composes liturgical music when he has the time – most of it published by the RSCM.

Study Day 2011

The date was Thursday, September 15th, the venue the exceptionally beautiful Kippen Parish Church, built 1828, restored 1926, when, under the direction of Sir D.Y. Cameron, was incorporated the best of the art and crafts of the day. Its fine windows, bronzes and other art treasures provided a splendid background for a day on **stained glass**, under the direction of Dr Iain Galbraith, Vice President of the Society. Iain has in recent years completed a doctorate on the subject of stained glass, and himself spoke on the subject, including its liturgical purpose. He was joined by Dr Elizabeth Cumming, an honorary fellow of the University of Edinburgh, who took participants round the many treasures of the church. Dr Cumming has written extensively on the arts and crafts movement in Scotland, on the murals of Phoebe Traquair, the Scottish Colourists, as well as on stained glass. Also speaking was Alison Robertson, who has developed the Scottish Stained Glass Symposium, and Roland Mitton, a well known Scottish stained glass artist. We lunched together locally.

150th anniversary

The Society was founded in 1865 and thus approaches its 150th anniversary, which will take place in 2015. Now is the time to start planning, and members of the Society are invited to make suggestions as to how this should be celebrated. Be as inventive as you can! Both in relation to this and for the benefit of the Society's work, it would be good to hear of interests our current members (there are over 100) are pursuing, either in study or in the renewal of worship in practice in their own contexts. The Secretary's email address is at the foot of this article.

Formation of worship leaders

How do ministers and other leaders of worship acquire their skill? – for the ability to free members of a congregation to give thanks and celebrate, listen, intercede, and make offering as a body is much more than reading words with good voice. Materials have to be apt, the space used creatively, room made for human experience, and for God's Holy Spirit. The Society has decided

to make one of its projects research into how ministers and other leaders of worship may become equipped for this sensitive role. It may seek evidence from its members as well as from the wider sphere of theological education and ministerial formation.

Study Day 2012

Plans are already in hand for our study day in 2012. We do not know yet if this will be an overnight conference, like last year's on Cumbrae, or whether the Cumbrae experience might be repeated in addition. The proposed subject, worship and mission, is much to the fore at the moment. It underlay the Cumbrae meeting ('A walk through the worship mall', focusing, with the help of our past president Bryan Spinks of Yale, in print and in person, on consumerism and worship), and was the subject of the 2010 conference of the Society for Liturgical Study (their journal *Anaphora* was described in the last edition of the *Record*). This last meeting noted how academic study and reflection in these two expressions of church tended not to be brought into touch with each other and this did not help the often aggravated relationship they had in church practice when the megachurch or 'emerging church' style of worship, designed to attract the uncommitted, clashed with that of the established churches whose practice had tended to be influenced by the Liturgical Movement.

The website

The Society's unique and important contribution to the study of worship in Scotland and more widely, and to the promotion of good practice in its different expressions, namely the journals that have been published since 1928, are being committed to its new website, enabled by a legacy from Professor J.K.S. Reid. Summaries of articles are being added weekly, enabling browsers to find topics in which they are interested and the way they are handled. Members are welcome to offer to take one or two of the remaining journals and make summaries. In addition, however, it has been decided to pursue the mounting of the total oeuvre of the Society on the website so that, having identified an article, it will be possible for readers to study it in its entirety, an advantage when one is not near one of the libraries which stock the journals. The website address is: www.churchservicesociety.org.

Douglas Galbraith dgalbraith@hotmail.com