

However, his principal message remains that of the need for a renewed focus on the presider and a renewal of the processes of formation, one that is far more than head knowledge, for behind the physical, spatial presence that he calls for must lie 'an extraordinary conviction about the centrality of worship in the life of faith'. It is a role, he says, that is built, among other things, upon the peace that comes from facing doubts and reaching resolution.

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SECRETARIAL NOTES

The two mainstays of the Society's year are the Annual Meeting, Dinner, and Address held during the Assembly and the Study Day in the autumn. In 2013 we are to welcome **Jonny Baker**, author of *Curating Worship*. This striking book focuses on 'alternative worship' but unusually approaches it through the metaphor of 'curating' (as in exhibitions and installations). The back cover explains: 'Rather than focusing on the role of presiding over liturgy or fronting a band, curation involves working off stage, negotiating between institutions and artists to create something brilliant. The hope is that moments of epiphany will be experienced as God is invited to "be" and "breathe" in the space, and as participants make connections with their own lives and stories'. The book largely consists of interviews Baker has conducted with a number of practitioners and has as much to say about 'traditional' public worship as experimental forms of worship.

We are working on a proposal at the moment for **Study Day 2013** to be at Rhu, to consider the controversies surrounding the name of 19th century theologian John McLeod Campbell and his work on the doctrine of Atonement. We will take the opportunity to focus on the liturgical acts of confession and absolution and consider their adequacy in current worship practice. The date is to be confirmed.

The **Annual Meeting** in 2012 benefited from its retiring President's wide experience in education, including in the committees of the Church, when she

gave a challenging address on 'Children of the Way or Children in the Way? – The Worshipping Child in the Worshipping Church', printed elsewhere in this issue. A fine dinner as always was provided by the hospitality department of Greyfriars Tolbooth and Highland Kirk. The **Study Day 2012** was held at the new Gorbals Parish Church and took the theme of the missionary dimension within worship. Participants appreciated hearing about and examining the new building and enjoyed an excellent buffet lunch provided by the in-house catering team. The group was addressed by Rev Dr John Harvey, a member of the church and former Leader of the Iona Community, who spoke about the local church's outreach to the community and about the Gorbals Group of the Sixties and Seventies which pioneered a new model of mission, that of Christian Presence, and of which he was a member. The greater part of the day was in the hands of Rev Dr Adrian Burdon, Superintendent Minister of Leeds Methodist Mission, and Convener of the Methodist Worship and Liturgy Resources Group, who had just completed a sabbatical period studying the relationship between worship and mission.

Some ideas have already been canvassed for marking the **150th anniversary** of the founding of the Society. These include a new programme of study, suggestions for which would be welcomed, and a possible 'local' version of the 'Experience of Worship' project which is being currently conducted in England and Wales on the Sarum rites (which prevailed also in most Scottish dioceses). The *Record* happens to reach its 50th issue that year and a proposal, made many years ago, that a new title be found for our journal which gives a better idea of what it contains, has been put forward; again, suggestions would be gratefully received by the Council. There might be the opportunity for presbytery events, and certainly a special service should be held.

The Editorial has already made reference to the study currently being undertaken by the Society on the matter of preparation for leading worship. The **website**, made possible by the legacy from Professor J.K.S. Reid, continues to expand, the most recent addition to which will be material from the extensive 2010 **Wode Psalter** project based in the University of Edinburgh when the scattered part-books were reunited and versions of these Reformation psalm settings made. Following the academic study referred to, it was felt that the findings should be made available to local congregations to enhance their own worship and the Society's website would provide a channel. Although in parts, frequently one part is the tune the congregation

would sing. Local churches and choirs would be able to download the music free of charge.

The Church Service Society and the **Scottish Church Society** have a common history, one founded in 1865, the other in 1892, and recently the two societies have been increasingly in touch about co-operation. Conversations are going on as to possible mutual activity.

The three lectures commissioned by the Chalmers Trust to be given in 2010, the 450th anniversary of the Reformation in Scotland, are to be published as an Occasional Paper by the Society, enabled by a generous grant from the Drummond Trust. All three lecturers have connection with the Society, two as members. Entitled *A Usable Past: Uncovering the Fullness of Tradition in Worship, Creed, and Song*, it will be published in time for the General Assembly 2013.

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