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Editorial

Churchman

1977 has been very much of a transitional year for *Churchman*. Arrangements were made in the latter half of 1976 to produce the journal entirely at Wine Office Court, the home of our publishers Vine Books and its parent, Church Society. For a number of reasons, which could not have been foreseen at the time at which the decision was taken, the plans were thwarted in various respects and we have now had to give up any idea of producing it at Wine Office Court. While on the whole the new style and layout have been seen to be steps in the right direction, an exceptional number of errors and some delays, particularly in the publication of the October number, have pointed up the problems. It is to be hoped that our new arrangements will prove to be more satisfactory and that subscribers will feel that they are getting good value for money in respect of production as well as content.

Vine Books has been reconstituted under the chairmanship of Mr Randle Manwaring as the publishing arm of Church Society and, due to a substantial legacy, has been put into a much stronger financial position than previously. It has plans for further development in a number of fields. The editorial arrangements of *Churchman* have also been changed. Since January 1972 I have acted as sole editor with the help of the editorial board. This has been an interesting and enjoyable experience, though not without its trials and tribulations! I informed the board that I could not continue in that capacity when my second three-year spell came to an end in December 1977. It is also important that Vine Books should have a managing editor, though this is only possible on a part-time basis. We have been fortunate in finding for this position Mr Lance Bidewell, who has a good deal of experience in editing and publishing. He has therefore become Managing Editor of *Churchman* and is dealing with all the day-to-day matters and administration on the editorial side. He is assisted in some of the other administration by Mr John Smailes who is the Business Manager of Vine Books. A new Review Editor has been appointed in the person of the Rev. Ian Cundy, who has just moved from the staff of Oak Hill Theological College to become Team Rector of Mortlake, well known for its University Boat Race connections! My position will be that of Consultant Editor and will mainly be concern-

ed with content of articles and general editorial policy. All communications should from now on be sent to the Managing Editor of *Churchman* at Wine Office Court and, where appropriate, items will be forwarded from there. An obvious exception to that will of course be where I have started corresponding from Nottingham with someone about an article and I shall expect direct communication with St John's College.

It remains true that *Churchman* seems to be appreciated and in its way influential, but still does not sell well. While we hope that our new administrative arrangements will lead to improvement, we also covet the support of regular readers in recommending our wares to others. Perhaps there is scope for PCCs to subscribe on behalf of their incumbents, or for people to use a subscription as a gift. Never was it more necessary that people in positions of responsibility at all levels in the church should be well informed, and it is our intention to provide in *Churchman* the sort of material which will contribute towards this end.

Series 3 Communion

Roger Beckwith's article in our October 1976 issue has opened up a considerable debate among evangelical Anglicans about their use of the Series 3 Holy Communion service. It is quite plain that while some feel that its doctrinal weaknesses at certain points rules out its use by them, others are happy to accept it as it is because the context in which they use it removes the possibility of taking some ambiguous things in the wrong sense. In between, there are a number of other shades of opinion held by those who use the service because of its enormous gains in up-to-date language and scope for congregational participation while being unhappy at certain doctrinal ambiguities. Some of those evangelicals who are most strongly opposed to the service might do well to read *Consecrating, Remembering, Offering*, Catholics and Series 3, 2 and 1 and 1662, by Michael Moreton (Church Literature Association, 1976, 35pp, 45p). He asserts that

The deliberate rejection of the eucharistic sacrifice in both HC2 and HC3, and the suppression of the concept of consecration in HC3, place catholic Anglicans, both priests and laymen, in a painful dilemma. Both rites embody features and developments of which they might wish to take advantage, yet their fundamental doctrinal defects inhibit their being used.

The way of escape he states lies in Series 1 and 1662. It is quite evident that 1662 has been used as an evangelical and as a catholic service for generations and that in fact it was neither wholly one nor wholly the other. The 1552 Prayer Book represents the high water mark of Protestantism in the Church of England and yet (in its lightly revised form of 1559) it could be described in the first *Admonition to Parliamentary* of 1572 as 'an unperfected booke, culled and picked out

of that popishe dunghill, the Masse booke, full of all abominations.' The changes made in 1662 were to some extent, though a relatively minor one, a step back from the 1552 position. Yet despite the compromises which it contained and the differences in its interpretation, the 1662 book remained for three centuries a unifying force in Anglicanism. It certainly cannot and should not be expected to sustain such a role for another three centuries; and it should be confessed that it has, since the widespread acceptance of the revised services, largely ceased to perform that role today. It would be quite wrong to expect Series 3 to last anything like as long as that, and it is probable that we shall all be rather tired of its language in ten or fifteen years' time; but it could be a unifying force if proper attention is paid by the Liturgical Commission to the points which are concerning people. The battle for eucharistic truth should best be conducted through a proper and discerning use of the new service, rather than through complete abstention from it.

New Testament Interpretation

The symposium published under this title by Paternoster Press is reviewed in this issue by Bishop John Robinson. Most of the leading members of the Tyndale Fellowship New Testament Study Group contributed to it, and it therefore represents something of where recent evangelical biblical scholarship is up to, particularly with reference to matters of biblical criticism. It seemed appropriate to seek a reviewer outside this camp and we are most grateful to Dr Robinson for undertaking this role. His review is an important reminder of the way in which 'labels' can be misleading and agreement can come in unexpected places, but he has also highlighted a number of divisive issues. It is to be hoped that evangelical scholars will respond to the challenge which he makes to them, particularly in the fields of atonement and ethics.

Dr Max Warren

History will probably recognize Max Warren as one of the greatest Christians of the last generation. We are glad that one of his last written contributions was his article on revivals in the January 1977 issue of *Churchman*. We honour the memory of a great missionary statesman and encourager of others. The April number will include an article by Leonard Hickin assessing his work, with particular reference to the Evangelical Fellowship for Theological Literature.

ROBIN NIXON