

28th March 2020

Mistakes

*Lava quod est sordidum,
riga quod est aridum,
sana quod est saucium.
Flecte quod est rigidum,
fove quod est frigidum,
rege quod est devium.*

Wash what is dirty,
water what is dry,
heal what is wounded.
Bend what is stiff,
warm what is cold,
guide what goes off the road.

From *Veni Sanctus Spiritus*, The Mass for Pentecost

[*The Golden Sequence*, by Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, b 1228]

Easily accessible in my study is "The Presbytery of Lothian Handbook 2019-2020", meticulously prepared by the Presbytery Clerk, John McCulloch. It's produced annually, so that everyone has to hand what they need – names, addresses, phone-numbers, emails, committees, times, places, procedures, and the like. It's invaluable and essential.

When I opened my copy several months back, a little piece of paper fluttered to the floor. It was headed in bold capitals "Erratum", and indicated that *The inside front cover contains an error, in that the Clerk's name appears with the Deputy Clerk's addresses and telephone numbers alongside ...* followed by the corrected entry. Even the most detailed handbook can have the odd *erratum* which needs to be identified and changed. Clearly, even Presbytery Clerks can make mistakes!

There is no perfect handbook for life. Even the most detailed guide we have can contain mistakes. Our task is not only to find our guidebook for righteous living, but to identify any *erratum* which crops up from time to time, make the necessary changes, and ensure it's better – and more accurate – next time around. We all make mistakes. The question is, are we prepared to acknowledge them, correct them and move on?

A prayer for today

Dear God, sorry about the "erratum" today. I just got it wrong. Here's the way it should have been. Thank you for pointing this out. It looks better now. Amen

An original reflection by © Tom Gordon,

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