

# Newton Mearns Church Supplement

JANUARY, 1941

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**Congregational Treasurer**—Mr. C. J. THOM,  
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**Clerk to the Congregational Board**—Mr. JAMES  
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**Sunday School Superintendent**—Mr. ANDREW  
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**Convener of Seat-Letting Committee**—THE  
SESSION CLERK.

**Organist**—Mr. GRAHAM Y. LINDSAY, A.T.C.L.  
(On Service.)

**Acting Organist**—Mr. STEWART TELFER, Floors  
Cottage, Newton Mearns.

**Church Officer**—Mr. GEORGE WARDROP, 13 Main  
Street, Newton Mearns.

## SYSTEMATIC GIVING SCHEME.

**Registrar**—Mr. D. W. JOHNSTON, 9 Redburn  
Avenue, Giffnock.  
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**Treasurer**—Mr. WALTER RODGER, Townhead  
Cottages, Newton Mearns.  
*Telephone*: Newton Mearns 2467.

## CHURCH SERVICES.

**Morning**—11.30 a.m.

**Evening**—6.30 p.m.

**Sunday School**—10.30 a.m.

A Class for Beginners and for older children  
living at a distance from the Church is held during  
the Morning Service.

**Young People's Union**—7.15 p.m.

## OFFICE-BEARERS AT CHURCH DOOR.

Jan. 12—Messrs. G. GLEGG, S. RODGER and T. M.  
DONALD.

„ 19—Messrs. JAS. A. ANDERSON, J. McBEAN  
and J. McCALLUM.

„ 26—Messrs. D. W. JOHNSTON, J. TAYLOR  
ANDERSON and B. C. MAITLAND.

Feb. 2—Messrs. R. ANDERSON, J. G. CURRIE and  
W. T. DAVIDSON.

## COLLECTIONS FOR NOVEMBER.

|                   |     |          |
|-------------------|-----|----------|
| SYSTEMATIC GIVING | ... | £74 19 5 |
| CHURCH DOOR PLATE | ... | 19 18 7  |
| SPECIAL—RETIRING  | ... | 28 14 10 |

## THE MINISTER'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE.

As we stand on the threshold of another year we do so more conscious than ever before at such a time of our ignorance of what the future contains for us. We have, perhaps, always had this feeling, as like Janus we stood looking not only at the year that has passed, but also at that which stretched before us. For many in particular the year that has closed has been one that is full of sad memories. They are memories that can never again shape themselves into an earthly hope. For all, the past year has been the darkest that they can remember in the history of their country and of the world. For a world that prided itself that it had reached the zenith of civilisation, the sudden return to barbarism was almost unbelievable. Yet such it has without question been. The world has tasted suffering, brutality and inhumanity that is more intense that it has ever done before. It is, then, in this frame of mind that we face the future to-day. Once again civilisation has fallen back into the dark ages, and as we face 1941 it is as those who justifiably look with foreboding into its coming days. If this were all we possessed with which to confront the future we were amongst the saddest of men. We would be "without God and having no hope in the world." Happily this is but one part of the picture of life. Like "No Mean City," "The Citadel," "Mother India," etc., it gives only part of the truth of human life. Yet we must not make the same mistake as men did when they read these books and considered that they gave the complete account of the subjects with which they were concerned. There is evil rampant in the world to-day, but we also know of a Redeeming Power and Presence that is just as active, nay more active, in the Universe. Perhaps the very darkness of the hour may do much to make this fact known to the hearts of men. Certainly all of us needed to learn to depend upon Him as we had not done before. It is the revelation of this Loving Power that the Church of God speaks to-day. Through Jesus Christ the Son of God we have learnt of the Fatherhood of God and of the Sonship of man. By faith in Him and obedience to Him we pass into the amazing knowledge of His presence with us, and of His care over us. We cannot, then, see into the year on which we now enter, but we can go forward in the knowledge that "nothing is able to separate us from the love of God, as it is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Is this not sufficient for us?

**Christmas Service.**—On the 22nd December, the Sunday nearest to Christmas, the morning service was one essentially suitable to the approach of Advent. There was a large congregation and Mr. Mackay preached from the text: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light." The following were the main points which he developed in a sermon which was both powerful and eloquent.

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The season of Advent raises the question of the miraculous before the mind since both the birth and the Person of Christ were of this nature.

We should reject the scientific definition of a miracle as a breach of natural law as it fails to account for the feeling of awe and wonder that are present in our awareness of it.

A miracle is a specific form of the revelation of God in which God is present as Redeemer and not pre-eminently as demand, the two constituent elements in every revelation of God.

The more an act of God is seen to apply to our particular life the more we call it by the name miracle.

When in a serious crisis of our life, when human aid has failed, when the forces of nature and of darkness threaten to engulf us and we cry to God in faith and in obedience, and He answers us, then we call this a miracle.

Christ who came to save the world was miraculous in His humility, in His consciousness that He was without sin, and in His power to communicate the new life.

The teaching of the Bible is that miracles will not happen in our life unless the ground is prepared by us in faith and in obedience.

Are we by our unpreparedness preventing the miracle of God happening in our national life?

An anthem, "Tidings of Great Joy," by Caleb Simper, and two Carols, "Glory to God in the highest," by A. Geibel, and "Ring out ye Bells," by F. W. Peace, were tastefully rendered by the Choir.

**A Church Member's Point of View (by one of them).**—What should be the attitude of the Church Member who attends the services on the Lord's Day?

No two individuals in the whole world have exactly the same outlook on life, and if this is so in the world at large it is the same in a Christian community which forms Church membership. Obviously, there is bound to be a diversity of thoughts and impressions as we take our places in the pews, and yet there is one aspect common to all—a feeling of quiet solemnity—because we realise we are there for the purpose of worship.

The following is a true story. A young mother took her little boy to Church for the first time. She desired to impress him with the solemnity of the occasion, and, when the minister entered the pulpit, she whispered, "Remember no one is allowed to speak but that man." The boy at once thought that all the people should know it too, so he cried at the top of his voice, "Remember nobody must speak but that man." The effect was, of course, magical.

Considered broadly, the objects for which different persons attend Divine Service are various. Some go because they prefer to "sit under" their own minister. The service for them is either made or marred according as his address takes effect. Others go for their love of sacred music. If it happens not to come up to their standard, worship is submerged in criticism. A number attend because they feel the whole service to be a necessary

uplift in a week of trying everyday conditions. Again, there are some—one hopes only a very few—who go to Church because it is the respectable thing to do. A new hat or a smart tie gives more selfconscious satisfaction than any part of the service.

In the sphere of electricity, amplifiers are used to increase the current power. Similarly the Lord's Day Service may be likened to a Spiritual amplifier which carries us forward with increased power to meet the vicissitudes of the ensuing week.

It has been said that our present national crisis is a blessing in disguise, in so far as it has awakened in us a deep sense of what prayer and supplication mean.

Going to Church as a mere religious formality has, for many, given place to a conviction that only by, and through, God over-ruling all things for good can salvation come to the world, and this result can only come about by the influence of the individuals who make up His Spiritual Church. Do not let us leave the whole burden on the minister. He needs to have his hands upheld by the encouragement, sincerity and loyalty of every member who sits in the pew.

**Our Presbytery Elder's Report.**—The Presbytery was faced with the usual long agenda at its meeting on 3rd December, but the business was carried out most expeditiously and the meeting closed earlier than usual.

One of the first items was a motion by the Rev. A. E. McIntyre protesting against the recent action of the City Magistrates in permitting lads of seventeen to be employed in licensed premises on the grounds that it was inadvisable to lower the age of young people so employed with regard to their moral welfare and the possibility of their securing employment of a more useful character. The motion was accepted unanimously and copies ordered to be sent to the Magistrates, the Licensing Court and the License Holders' Defence Association.

A discussion took place regarding War Charities, and it was decided to advise such to register under the terms of the recent Act.

A very interesting report on the work of the Colonial and Continental Missions was given by Dr. Rusk.

Later, the First Year Students in training for the Ministry were received and suitably addressed by the Moderator, Dr. White. They numbered eight in all, about one third of the usual number. The others, as the Moderator said, had heard a call of another nature and were serving their King and Country in other fields of action. Should the war last as long as some people predict a new problem will face the Church in finding qualified men to fill the pulpits of the country.

At the close of the meeting certain important matters were considered and decisions reached in private session.

**The Woman's Guild.**—The special monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, 18th December. The speaker was Miss McCuaig, the Church's Deputy on Temperance. Miss McCuaig dealt



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chiefly with the cause of Temperance in relation to present conditions, pointing out the temptations to which the men of H.M. Forces are exposed. She stressed the importance of the home influence and urged all mothers to set an example of Total Abstinence. She referred also to the shortage of feeding for cattle and poultry as compared with the amount of grain used in brewing.

At this meeting gifts were received for the Eventide Home at Powfoulis House, six large parcels being sent there.

The Special Meeting in January will be held on Thursday, 16th, when the speaker will be Miss Watson, the Church Sister in Govan Old Parish Church. Members are asked to note the change of day.

**The Girls' Association.**—On the 9th of December a Christmas Social was held in the Upper Hall. There were twenty girls present and a most enjoyable evening was spent in dancing and in playing games.

The next meeting, on the 6th of January, is to take the form of a Gift Night for the boys in Mearns-kirk Hospital. We are hoping to hand over these gifts personally at a later date, and if any members of the congregation would care to contribute it would be much appreciated. Gifts could be given to any of our members or brought to the meeting on the 6th of January.

**A Social Evening.**—The members of the Young People's Union and the Badminton Club believe in "getting together," for on the evening of the 18th December they held a joint Social at which several patients from Mearns-kirk Hospital were also present.

A "wall game," devised by Mr. Jack Connack, gave the members and their guests an excellent opportunity of getting to know each other. Thereafter "Military Whist" was played and the winning country was Italy—a most unpopular victory. After tea, Mr. Mackay gave a hearty welcome to the guests and invited them to attend meetings of the Church organisations. The latter part of the evening was spent in games, dancing, and the ever popular community singing.

At the close, one of the patients from the Hospital thanked the members for a very pleasant evening.

The prizes were very kindly gifted by Mr. William Jamieson.

**The Young People's Union.**—On the evening of the 1st December, the Y.P.U. was honoured by a visit from two members of the Kirk-Session, Mr. George W. Lambie and Mr. James G. Currie, who led a discussion on a subject which is of interest to all, viz.: "Do the older members recognise the point of view of youth in the Church?"

On the following Sunday evening the subject under discussion was "Is lasting peace possible?" Two excellent papers were read by Miss Bone and Mr. H. A. Peden. The points put forward for discussion were (1) The causes of past wars, desire for security, economic pressure, power-lust, conquest of land, fear, religion, and, lastly but principally, human perversity and sinfulness: (2) Efforts made to establish peace—confederacies of

states, treaties, pacts and leagues. These again had failed because of the human factor: (3) The only way to cause wars to cease was to tackle the problem of saving man from his sin. This can be done by Christianity itself by driving out jealousy, greed, hatred and fear, if Christians have faith strong enough to remove mountains.

The evening of the 15th December was devoted to a discussion on "Evolution," Mr. A. C. L. Brown led with an excellent paper on the subject, and there was a lively interchange of views on this very controversial subject.

**The Sunday School.**—The Annual Business Meeting of the Sunday School was held on 13th December last when reports were given on the work of the school for the year. The number of scholars on the roll is 110, an increase of about 20 since this time last year and partly due to the number of evacuees in the district. Any children staying with members of the congregation and not yet in attendance at the Sunday School will be made welcome either at 10.30 a.m. or at the classes which are held during the morning service.

It was decided to postpone the Children's Party till a Saturday afternoon about the beginning of March, when the longer daylight will enable the children to reach home before dark.

**The Boys' Brigade.**—The Boys' Brigade Company and the Life Boys' Team are now in full swing and numbers are steadily, if slowly, increasing. Having served the usual probationary period, application has been made to Headquarters for admission to the Glasgow Battalion, and it is anticipated that this will be granted at an early date. A Company number will then be allocated, and the Company will be recognised as a unit of the Battalion.

As plans have already been made to hold a Company and a Team Display at the end of the session, the Officers are desirous that all eligible boys should come along without delay so that a complete programme may be commenced from the beginning of the new year.

**Tackling a Problem.**—Most of us—even in these "Go to it" days—have some time for leisure and recreation. Those of us who are older find little difficulty in using our leisure hours to advantage. Not so, many young people, who in these days of black-out restrictions, often find themselves at a loose end and cut off from their fellows. It is here our problem lies—how best to help our young folk to spend wisely their leisure hours.

The desire has been expressed for the formation of some sort of social activity where our lads could get together. The matter was brought before the Congregational Board at its last meeting by Mr. J. G. Currie, and a Committee was formed to go into the possibilities. This Committee has already set to work and will shortly meet a representative group of the young people of the congregation. We trust the outcome will be the formation of some kind of organisation which will not only serve the purpose required, but will help to cement together this Christian family.

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**Two Notable Anniversaries.**—Two events of major importance occurred within the life of the congregation during the week beginning the 22nd December.

On the 24th December, Mr. and Mrs. David Currie of Greenside celebrated their Diamond Wedding. They were married in the year 1880 in a Church in Glasgow. Although Mr. Currie, who was associated with Messrs. Wallace & Co., Netherplace, for many years, is now mainly confined to bed, he enjoys comparatively good health, and takes a keen interest in all that is going on around him, especially in the progress of the war. In respect of the latter, his comments are always worthy of close attention. Mrs. Currie is very active in her household duties, and seems to be equal to all the demands that are made upon her. The loss of their beloved daughter during the past year was one that they found difficult to bear, but they look into the future with that quietness and confidence which is the strength of those whose life is bound up with Christ in God. To them, their children and their grandchildren we extend our warm congratulations at this time.

Another milestone has been reached by the Centenarian of our congregation, Miss Mary Bryson, of 3 Ashview Terrace. On the 26th December, she attained her 102nd birthday. She spent the day sitting at the fireside in the home of the Misses Bowman, in which she has passed her years of retirement. It was an exciting day for her as there was a constant stream of friends, neighbours, press photographers and reporters. She has been a member of our congregation for many years, and although she cannot be present at the services her offering is always the first every Sunday in the Church plate at the door by her special request. She greets her visitors with a quiet smile of welcome, and leaves the impression upon them of one whose heart is at peace because her life has been placed in the hands of God. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me according to Thy Word."

We send her the congratulations of the congregation on this wonderful anniversary in her life.

### REGISTER.

#### *Baptism.*

Dec. 19—JOHN A. COULTER TEMPLETON, Main Street.

#### *Marriage.*

Nov. —GRAHAM Y. LINDSAY, A.T.C.L. to MURIEL THOMSON.

#### *Deaths.*

Dec. 3—SAMUEL CALDWELL, Newton Place.

" 10—Miss E. DONALD, Crosscyrne, Arthurlie Drive.

Your attention is called to the following:—

**Congregational Year Book.**—The Treasurers of the various organisations are requested to prepare a statement of their intronmissions, with relative vouchers for the year ending 31st December, 1940, and deliver the same to Mr. JAMES POLLOCK, 7 MAIN STREET, not later than 15th January, 1941. After the Auditors have examined the Accounts, they may arrange to meet the Treasurers, should they find it necessary to obtain further information from them on any point.

The Secretaries are reminded to send particulars of their respective Committees to Mr. Pollock by 15th January, 1941, at latest.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be dispensed on Sunday, 2nd February, 1941. Mr. Mackay hopes to be assisted by Rev. W. T. Morton, B.D., of Rosebank Church, Nairn, a former minister of this Congregation.

The Service in Preparation for the Communion will be held in the Upper Hall on Friday evening, 31st January, at 8 p.m.

The Retiring Collection after the Communion Service is on behalf of the Women's Foreign Mission.

**Flowers.**—The Convener of the Committee for Flowers writes: Under present conditions, it has been decided to dispense with the flowers on the Communion Table for the months of January, February and March. We are indebted to Miss Pratt and Mr. John Russell for their kind offer to provide a plant instead, and to them we extend our thanks as well as to those ladies who put flowers in the Church each Sunday throughout the year.

Anyone who wishes to provide flowers for a particular Sunday in these early months is quite at liberty to do so.

**Supplement.**—Contributions for February, 1941, issue should be sent to the Editor, Mr. C. J. THOM, SCHOOLHOUSE, NEWTON MEARN'S, not later than Sunday, 19th January, 1941.

Dear

I would be obliged if you would let me have not later than Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 1961 a statement of <sup>the</sup> your organisation's intronmissions with all relative Vouchers, Bank Book etc for submission to the Auditors.