

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

FEBRUARY, 1941

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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
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Telephone: Giffnock 62.

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.

Feb. 9—Messrs. J. B. MATHER, W. CRAIG and
C. J. THOM.

„ 16—Mrs. JACK, Messrs. R. ARMOUR and
S. C. KIRKLAND.

„ 23—Messrs. H. C. R. MACRAE, J. NIMMO and
S. TELFER.

March 2—Messrs. R. CARSWELL, A. MORELAND
and J. KEIR.

COLLECTIONS FOR DECEMBER.

SYSTEMATIC GIVING	...	£128	9	0
CHURCH DOOR PLATE	...	18	3	10
SPECIAL—COLLECTORS	...	7	7	9

REGISTER.

Deaths.

Jan. 5—GEORGE GLEGG, Ashview House.

„ 26—FRANK CORRIGAN, Kilmarnock Road.

EDITORIAL.

It was a very great pleasure to welcome back to the congregation on Sunday last the Rev. W. T. Morton, at present minister of Rosebank Church, Nairn, and minister of this Church from 1904 to 1910. To some of the congregation, Mr. Morton would be a stranger, but there were many who were "picking up the threads" again of former days. Some were Elders during his ministry, some had been baptised by him, many could live again the pleasures of other days. Sometimes he saw the children occupying the places formerly held by their parents. Mr. Morton has a wonderful faculty for remembering people, not only their names but all their activities, which indicated a deep interest in all with whom he came in contact. When we remember that he has ministered to two large congregations since he left Newton Mearns—first in Lauriston, Edinburgh, and then in Pollokshields East, in Glasgow, his faculty of recollection is an amazing one. He was seized by an attack of angina pectoris in Pollokshields, on account of which he retired to his present charge in Nairn, where he is ministering with great acceptance to a congregation composed entirely of fisher-folk. The change to Nairn has been very beneficial to his health, and Mrs. Morton who accompanied him seemed to be equally well.

The Communion Service on Sunday forenoon was attended by a good congregation, 409 being present, while twelve also communicated at the evening dispensation. Mr. Morton chose as his text, St. John 12, 32, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all men unto Me." He pointed out the confidence of the Master in making such a stupendous claim. No man before or since had dared to suggest that he could accomplish that. In particular, the words referred to His death on the Cross. It was in that act of His life that He would realise it. Sorrow was part of the magnetism of the Cross. Physical suffering for others also was an element that exercised an appeal. Yet we would be mistaken to suppose that it was on the physical side of the Crucifixion that its latent power was to be found. It was in the spiritual side of the suffering of Christ, His love of man, that its central magnetism was to be discovered. We, who are gathered here, do not consider that we are better than other folk, but we have here found the power of God unto salvation.

Many would agree that it was one of the most beautiful Communion meditations to which they had ever listened. At the Thanksgiving Service in the evening, in the Hall, there was also a good attendance, and Mr. Morton preached on the verse. "Ye are the salt of the earth." (1) its distinctive

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quality; (2) its preservative quality; (3) its peculiar and individual flavour. We look back with gratitude to his visit to us at this time.

Mr. George Glegg.—In the passing of Mr. Glegg on 5th January the Congregational Board lost one who was most regular in attendance at all the meetings and whose advice was often sought in the Property Committee, of which he was a valued member.

In a marked degree, he had the gift of friendship and a wide circle deeply feel their loss to-day. The congregation would extend their sincere sympathy to Mrs. Glegg who, in her sorrow, has happy memories, enriched by the consoling Presence of God.

A Church Member's Point of View (by one of them).—I have enjoyed the privilege of worshipping in the old Church, which to many of you was so full of cherished memories and even to a newcomer, like myself, it conveyed the feeling of taking part in the long established traditions of religion in this district.

During the period of re-building, when the services were held so successfully in the Hall, I enjoyed the fellowship of these services; the impression being that we came more intimately in contact with other members and thereby had a greater sense of human fellowship.

After the period of transition, our congregational life was resumed in the beautiful new Church, fit successor in this generation of the old building of the Secession days.

The thought uppermost in one's mind as an ordinary member is the great privilege that we enjoy in being able to attend public worship without interference or hindrance of any kind. When we consider the restrictions and hardships endured by Christians in many countries of Europe to-day, we are indeed fortunate. Do we not sometimes take this freedom of ours too much for granted? Let us, therefore, value this freedom, this heritage, which all of us may share. The Psalmist said, "As for me, I will go into Thy house"; the very thought of it was a delight to him.

As we worship in our new Church and delight in the quiet soothing of our spirits from the turmoil, distress and suffering of the world to-day, may we be truly thankful to God for His great goodness to us. At the beginning of a new year in our Church membership we go forward strengthened by the knowledge that no matter what the future may hold for us, we can avail ourselves of our great inheritance, "the privilege of worship."

Our Presbytery Elder's Report.—A year ago a proposal by the Glasgow Magistrates for a bye-law to allow Tennis to be played on Sundays on the Municipal Courts was defeated on a point of procedure. One again it is being brought forward, and will, in due course, come before the Sheriff early in March. At the last Presbytery meeting, the matter came up for consideration, and the

Convener of the Social Problems Committee stated that his Committee had decided to protest against and to oppose as far as they could the enactment of such a bye-law. Some people, he said, might question the wisdom of taking such a step seeing that the city golf courses were now open for play on Sundays, but there was a sharp distinction between the two cases. Golf courses for the most part were situated on the borders of the city, whereas the tennis courts were often contiguous to Church buildings, and people, old and young, would have their attention distracted while proceeding to and from Public Worship. On that ground, Kirk-Sessions were urged to offer strong opposition to the proposal.

It must be confessed that such an argument does not sound either impressive or convincing, and it is doubtful whether it will carry much weight with the authorities. At any rate it is hoped that at least play will not be permitted during the hours of Public Worship.

Diamond Wedding.—On the 20th of January, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gilmour of Helenslea celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of the wedding. We would offer to them the warmest congratulations of the congregation. Most of their lives have been spent in the Parish of Eaglesham, where they lived on the farm of Stonebyars, and they were associated with Carswell Church, in which Mr. Gilmour was for many years an Elder. Of a quiet disposition and a most kind and gentle nature, they are both beloved by all their friends and acquaintances. Theirs, we can only conclude, must have been a happy home in which their children grew up to take an honoured place in the community. To visit their present place of residence is to be the recipient of their gracious hospitality. There, also, one can see the cups which they won for the high quality of their butter. We rejoice with them at this time, and trust that for many years they may enjoy together their retirement. Our thanks are given to the Rev. D. J. Alexander of Eaglesham, who was present at the recent celebration in the indisposition of our Minister.

The Woman's Guild.—The Special Monthly Meeting of the Woman's Guild was held on Thursday, 16th January, when the speaker was Miss Watson, Church Sister in Govan Parish Church. Her address showed the varied nature of a Church Sister's work and was lightened by many humorous touches. She paid a high tribute to the mothers in the poorer districts of our cities, and spoke of the great kindness shown by the poor to each other.

The Young Worshippers' League.—"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

The attendance of children at the Morning Service shows that the parents are taking this old proverb to heart by the way they are bringing out the children to Church. That this attendance is not spasmodic is shown by the fact that on the first Sunday of the year prizes for Perfect Attend-

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ance throughout the year 1940 were presented to the following:—Anna and James Rodger, Catherine Currie, Doris Taylor, Gabrielle Kerr, Bethia and Sheena Niven, Alistair Cormack, Lockie Reid and David Gardiner, and to Olivia Mackay, Ann Whyte, Jean Wishart and Ian Davidson, who had been only once absent.

The thanks of the congregation are due to Mr. D. B. Craig and his assistants for their work in recording the attendance of the young people Sunday by Sunday.

The number on the roll of the League is now 65, but there is plenty room for more.

The Young People's Union.—On the four Sunday evenings in January the members of the Union had a variety of subjects under discussion. Mr. Jack Cormack led the first with a paper on "Is it right for a man to be a millionaire?" The second Sunday evening was devoted to a discussion on "The Christian's outlook on War," led by Miss Watson. Then, under the leadership of Miss Fitzgerald, the members considered which country does most for its youth, while on the last Sunday of the month, the day after the Burns Anniversary, Mr. Nimmo gave a very able address entitled "In the days of Burns." The speaker maintained that it is a mistake to try to understand the poet without a knowledge of the social and religious conditions during the 18th century, one of the worst in our history. Robert Burns was no worse than other people of his time, and better than most. Bad housing conditions, want of healthy entertainment, convivial habits and the rigid rule of Kirk-Sessions did not help towards the moral uplift of the common people. The poet reveals his whole life in his poems and letters, manly, independent, foolish, penitent.

"Rest Centre."—The Church Hall has been requisitioned as a Rest Centre for the district in the event of people being rendered homeless as the result of enemy action. It has been decided that the hall should be staffed during an "Alert" at night. For this purpose and also for service during the day when necessary, a number of ladies have volunteered, and it is expected that the scheme will soon be in operation.

The Badminton Club.—The poor attendance on the last Wednesday of January was responsible for the cancellation of the Monthly American Tournament. No doubt the current epidemic of "colds" is in great measure responsible for this.

The first round of the Knock-out Tournament has now been played, and to the results of some of the ties the quotation "How are the mighty fallen" might very aptly be applied.

Competitors are reminded that the second round must be played on or before the 15th February, and the third round before the end of the month.

The Girls' Association.—The Meeting on 6th January was "Gift Night" for the sailors.

On the Thursday evening following we went to Mearnskirk Hospital, accompanied by Mr. Mackay, and spent a most enjoyable evening entertaining, and in being entertained, in Pavilion No. 4. We gave several Dialogues, Duets and two Trios, which were much enjoyed by the sailors. Solos by Miss Nancy Blue and Readings by Miss Marion Thomson were also greatly appreciated. One of the sailors sang and another gave selections on the ukelele. Miss Corrance accompanied the soloists and community singing, and also rendered piano-forte solos. The entertainment finished with an Eightsome Reel in which the sailors joined.

The Matron thanked us very warmly for the entertainment and for the gifts which were handed over to the Sister in charge of the Pavilion, who will spend the money for the benefit of the patients.

We would take this opportunity of thanking all the friends who helped us, and we can assure them that the gifts will be appreciated by the sailors.

The Boys' Brigade (79th Glasgow Coy.).—

With the New Year Holidays over the Boys' Brigade and Life Boys are hard at work on a very interesting and comprehensive programme. More than any other organisation, they have to keep looking ahead, and are already planning Displays to be held in May. It is then hoped to show to the congregation how hard they have been working and how proficient they have become.

Numbers still show an encouraging increase, especially in the Life Boys, but there is still lots of room for more boys. Come along any Friday—Life Boys, 6 p.m., Boys' Brigade, 7.30 p.m., and see what a welcome awaits you.

Forthcoming Events.—The attention of the congregation is drawn to **two special services** which are to be held in the immediate future.

On Sunday, 23rd February, the Evening Service and the Young People's Union will be united and will meet at 6.30 p.m. in the Large Hall. On that occasion the Missionary Film depicting the work of the Mission at Sulenkama will be shown: The work of Dr. Paterson and of Mrs. Paterson (Nessie Knight) is well known to our congregation, and many will look forward to seeing this beautiful and interesting film. Two of our members—Miss Ena Fyfe (now Mrs. Robertson) and Mr. Stuart Fyfe—were in the cast in the performances given in recent years in the Lyric Theatre to raise funds for the Mission station. The collection that evening will be devoted to that fund. As the season will be one of the full moon it is hoped that many will take the opportunity of seeing the film. The meeting will be run under the auspices of the Young People's Union.

Again, on the first Sunday of March, the Forenoon Service will be a Girls' Association Badge Dedication Service. Members of our own Church Association who have not as yet received their badges will do so on this occasion. We are to be favoured by a visit from Miss Walls, the President of the G.A. of the Church of Scotland. She will

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deliver the address that day and perform the ceremony. The front two seats will be reserved for members of the Association.

The Joint Committee of the Board and the Y.P.U., to which was remitted the task of considering the formation of a Recreation Club for the young people of the congregation, as mentioned in last month's "Supplement," report that they have made considerable progress and hope to be able to give details of their activities very shortly.

It is proposed to add two new features to the "Supplement" in the near future; A Children's Corner and an Invalid's Pulpit.

"SUPPLEMENT."

Contributions for March, 1941, issue should be sent to the Editor, Mr. C. J. THOM, THE SCHOOLHOUSE, NEWTON MEARNS, not later than Sunday, 23rd February, 1941.