

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

JUNE, 1941

Minister—Rev. W. MURRAY MACKAY, M.A.,
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OFFICE-BEARERS AT CHURCH DOOR.

June 1—Mrs. Menzies, Messrs. W. Rodger and
James M'Laren.

„ 8—Messrs. A. Russell, G. W. Lambie and
G. P. Coreoran.

„ 15—Miss Osborne, Messrs. J. Hood and
J. Russell.

„ 22—Messrs. J. Meiklejohn, J. W. Jarvie and
W. Menzies.

„ 29—Messrs. S. Rodger, T. M. Donald and C. J.
Thom.

CHURCH SERVICES.

Morning—11.30 a.m.

Evening—7 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.

FINANCE.

Collections for April—

Systematic Giving	...	...	£101	13	9
Church Door Plate	...	...	15	16	6
Special—Clydeside Relief Fund	...	...	36	10	7
			£154	0	10

REGISTER.

Baptism.

“Suffer the little children to come unto Me.”

Gordon Campbell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell,
Beech Avenue, Newton Mearns.

The General Assembly.—The Session was
fortunate in being represented at the General Assem-
bly of the Church of Scotland this year by two
Commissioners, the Minister and Mr. Hood.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1941.

It was not my good fortune to be present either
at the opening or the closing of the General Assembly,
and therefore I did not witness the ceremonial or
the pageantry that is most evident on those

occasions. My visit comprised three days—Wednes-
day, Thursday and Friday. Suffice it to say,
however, about the former that it was much less
prominent than in normal times. Sir Iain Colquhoun
filled the office of Lord High Commissioner with
quietness and effectiveness and appeared to follow
the deliberation with interest and marked attentive-
ness. Miss Mary Churchill was the member of his
party who evoked most attention. One wishes that
the speaking were better when the Royal Party
were present. They were generally in the Throne
gallery at the first part of the morning sederunt
when the business was often dull. It was not until
near the hour for the recess for lunch and in the early
afternoon that the impromptu speaker rose and
spoke in the fearless manner that makes a debate
so interesting and exciting. I have often, again,
felt disappointed that the royal visitors are so
seldom if ever seen in the evening meetings. It is
then that the real spiritual note and challenge are
heard in the Assembly.

Dr. Hutchison Cockburn occupied the Moderator's
chair with marked grace, dignity and efficiency.
He gave the impression of being perfectly “at
home” in it. That was due, no doubt, to his long
familiarity with the business of the Assembly. He
was very fair in his treatment of the ordinary
member and firm in his handling of amendments
and addendums. As many will know, he began his
ministry in the Mearns Parish Church, and one
could therefore claim him as one of “one's ain folk.”
When a speaker had overstepped his time (as was
frequently the case!) he would rise as a silent signal
to the offender. A rather diminutive minister was
on one occasion addressing the Assembly, his head
hardly appearing over the reading desk, when the
Moderator rose to indicate that he should draw to a
close. “I see,” said the offender, “that the
Moderator has now drawn himself to his full height
(he is well over six feet). I hope the Assembly will
take notice that I also have done the same!”

The attendances of ministers and elders seemed
to be as large as ever. If anything they were more
uniformly good than on other occasions. Very often
the “house” while quite full in the morning and
evening sederunt is “thin” in the afternoon. Whether
it was the lack of other distractions such as
Moderator's Reception, or a keener interest in the
business, the afternoon sederunts were as well
attended as the other two. One result of this was
that items of business of apparently lesser interest
were given much fuller consideration. Often they
turned out to be the most interesting and exciting of
all, and generative of the best speaking. Each
forenoon the business was suspended for a period of
intercession for the Nation and the World. It was
also decided to send a letter signed by the Moderator
to each of the Chaplains who are prisoners of war.

One of the most interesting speeches was made on
Wednesday evening by the minister of 5th Avenue

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Presbyterian Church, New York, the Rev. John S. Bonnell. He said that when it was known he was about to come to Britain he was simply deluged with letters conveying greetings to this country. He came by American Clipper to Lisbon, where he arrived on Friday. He had to preach in Glasgow on Sunday, but his "priority" was taken away by the sudden arrival of naval technicians. One of these, however, heard of his plight and came and offered his place to him. However important, he said, my work is, it is not so important as your spiritual mission. The speaker said his grandmother and his mother both came from the Highlands, and he had been making enquiries since he arrived about his ancestry. Then he said, "I thought it better to enquire no further." A friend who heard of this said, "Were you afraid that you might find that one of your ancestors had been hung from a tree?" "What do you mean exactly," said Mr. Bonnell, "by the neck or by the tail!" He said that we ought to let America know more about the other nations engaged in this struggle. There is too much being said about Aid for Britain and too little said in America about aid for the other peoples who are fighting by your side. This is not a war for an individual nation. It is a struggle of humanity. He closed with a beautiful metaphor about looking across the Atlantic Ocean and seeing an old oak, gnarled with age, and weather beaten with the winds of time. "I see that tree bent by the winds of hate that are buffeting it at this very hour; I see it broken and bruised; but I also see a day when these same storms have abated: the oak is still there: it is still standing."

The Foreign Mission evening on Thursday was once again the most popular gathering of the series. While not quite full, the great auditorium, incidentally one of the finest buildings for acoustics in the land, with a seating capacity of about 4,000, was practically so. In addition there was, I understand, the usual overflow meeting in the Tolbooth. There were four speakers and this year two of them were missionaries, who had not yet been in active service but were about to go forth. The experiment was a pronounced success. Indeed they were the two best speakers of the evening. We must allow youth to have its voice heard in the Church to-day. Without depreciating in any way the magnificent work done by the Church in the past, this is an age when a new note is needing to be heard in the Church, and that note if it is to come, must come from youth. Moreover this was the note of real discipleship, of sacrifice, and of sincerity. At no time was the Assembly so deeply stirred as when it listened to those two young people telling what they were going out to accomplish for Jesus Christ.

These are but a few thoughts about Assembly 1941. It was a heartening Assembly, a more spiritually interested Assembly; yet there was still something lacking in it that is hard to define. One perhaps should not expect it from a gathering that is concerned to such a great extent with business and routine; and yet one did feel that the Church should be giving more of a lead to the people under its care; if not indeed to the whole nation.

W. M. M.

The Congregational Board.—The Board at its last meeting confirmed the appointments of its members to the Standing Committees as under-noted:—

FINANCE.—Messrs. Jas. A. Anderson, W. N. Baxter, W. T. Davidson, J. Hood, J. W. Jarvie, J. Keir, S. C. Kirkland, W. Menzies, W. Rodger, A. Russell, C. J. Thom. *Convener*—Mr. C. J. THOM.

PROPERTY.—Messrs. R. Anderson, J. G. Currie, T. Howie, J. M'Bean, J. MacCallum, B. C. Maitland, J. B. Mather, Misses Connell and F. Hunter. *Convener*—Mr. J. B. MATHER.

HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONS.—Messrs. R. Armour, J. Brownlee, G. P. Corcoran, H. C. R. MacRae, J. Meiklejohn, J. MacLaren, J. M. Peden, J. P. Robertson, A. Russell, Miss Osborne and Mrs. Menzies. *Convener*—Mr. J. MACLAREN.

CHURCH HALL.—Messrs. R. Carswell, S. Rodger, J. Russell, C. J. Thom, J. Todd and Mrs. Buchanan. *Convener*—Mr. J. RUSSELL.

SEAT LETTING.—Messrs. J. S. Anderson, W. T. Davidson, J. Meiklejohn, J. Nimmo, J. Pollock and S. Telfer. *Convener*—Mr. J. POLLOCK.

WOMEN'S FOREIGN MISSIONS.—The Ladies of the Board. *Convener*—MRS. MENZIES.

FLOWERS.—Mrs. Jack, Mrs. Menzies, Miss Osborne. *Convener*—MISS OSBORNE.

YEAR BOOK.—Rev. W. Murray Mackay, Messrs. D. W. Johnston and J. Pollock. *Convener*—Mr. D. W. JOHNSTON.

The Minister and Session Clerk to be members of all Committees.

Canteen and Recreation Centre.—The Session has recommended that a Canteen and Recreation Centre be established in the Church Hall for the benefit of those of the Services who are at present resident in the district. Mr. H. C. R. MacRae was appointed convener of a deputation to interview the Social Club and ask the members whether they could undertake this work.

At a meeting of the Young People's Social Club on Tuesday last they unanimously accepted the proposal. Further details will be discussed at the usual meeting of the Club next Tuesday. An application has been sent to the appropriate authorities for a permit to do so, and word is expected to be received in about a month's time. The application has been made through the organisation of the Y.M.C.A.

The Committee of the Social Club has been delegated to make preliminary preparations, and those in the congregation who could provide games, magazines, etc., should communicate with the Secretary, Miss Rebe Downs, Main Street, Newton Mearns, or with the Minister. Further details will be announced from the pulpit. It is the intention to make the Hall available in this respect from Monday till Friday.

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Bible Study.—In place of the evening service the Session has sanctioned the formation of a period of Bible Study in the Large Hall on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. The congregation will each evening be informally divided into groups of six persons. A passage of scripture selected by the minister will thereupon be studied by each group. One of the group will read over the passage in each circle, after which informal discussion will be engaged in. No attempt will be made to sum up the discussion of the groups. Each circle will act as a unity. At the end of the period allocated the minister will lead the Company in intercession. He will then give a very brief exposition of the passage. The passage to be discussed will be announced each Sunday morning from the pulpit. This is a method of studying the Bible which has already been tried recently in different parts of the world, and has met with universal approval. No book repays study like that of the Bible. Yet is there a book about which we know so little? Both the mature in years and the young have found in this method of approach very great assistance in their life. We are offering to you an opportunity to understand it better. The passage to be studied to-night is Acts x. 1-35.

79th Glasgow Company The Boys' Brigade.

It had been hoped to publish definite arrangements in connection with the First Annual Inspection and Display of the Company, but it is feared that, as yet, these are subject to confirmation by the Inspecting Officer, Major Lloyd, D.S.O., M.P. It is hoped to hold the Display in Eastwood School Hall on Friday, 13th June, but full and definite intimation will be made as soon as possible. The Officers and boys are all working hard to make the Display a success, and feel sure that the event will have the full support of the Congregation.

This event will mark the close of the session, but a very important part of the Company's activities still lies ahead. On 17th July the Company is due to go to Camp at Tighnabruaich, and it is pleasing to note that some 20 boys hope to take advantage of one of the best holidays a boy can have. The Company will be accommodated in the local school, and all look forward to a very happy time.

The Woman's Guild.

During the months of June, July and August the Work Party will meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m.

Guildswomen will be interested in the Mass Meeting for Women which is to be held in Wellington

Church, Glasgow, on Friday, 13th June, at 7 p.m. The Speakers will be the Moderator, the Rev. J. Hutchison Cockburn, D.D., a former minister of this parish, and Dr. Ellen Clow, a missionary from China.

It is hoped there will be a good representation from this congregation, as the meeting promises to be an excellent one.

The Girls' Association.

There was a very good turn out at the first Ramble held last month. The girls walked round by the Castle, Humble and Titwood Farm, returning by Hazeldean. The evening was fine, and all enjoyed the outing very much. It is proposed to have these outings every alternate Monday evening, the next being on Monday, 9th June. The meeting place is the Cross and the time 7.15 p.m.

The Social Club.—On Tuesday, 20th May, the members had a Social Evening in the Church Hall. A number of men were present from the Hospital and Pollok Castle. The evening was spent very pleasantly in games, country dancing and military whist. Captain Fergusson, who is in charge of the troops at Pollok Castle, was present and presented the prizes to the winners in the military whist.

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER.

The answer to the Acrostic for last month was no doubt found by all of you. "The whole is that on which we all live" is the World.

This month for a change are some simple questions on Bible Knowledge. Fill in the blanks and so complete the text.

1. Lot's wife looked back and became a pillar of
2. Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his.....
3. His meat was locusts and wild.....
4.that maketh glad the heart of man.
5. The fathers have eaten sour, and the children's teeth are set on edge.
6. Our fathers did eat in the wilderness

Supplement.—The next number of the Supplement will appear in October, and contributions should be sent to the Editor, Mr. C. J. Thom, The Schoolhouse, Newton Mearns, not later than Sunday, 28th September, 1941.