

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

MARCH, 1942

Minister—Rev. W. MURRAY MACKAY, M.A.
S.T.M., The Manse, Newton Mearns.
Telephone—NEWton Mearns 2747.

Session Clerk—Mr. JAMES POLLOCK, 7 Main Street, Newton Mearns.
Telephone—NEWton Mearns 2741.

Treasurer—Mr. C. J. THOM, M.A., The Schoolhouse, Newton Mearns.
Telephone—NEWton Mearns 2013.

CHURCH SERVICES.

Morning: 11.30. a.m.

Evening: 6.30. p.m.

Sunday School: 10.30. a.m.

Young People's Union: 7.15 p.m.

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

OFFICE-BEARERS AT CHURCH DOOR.

Mar. 8—Messrs. J. RUSSELL, J. BROWNLIE and J. POLLOCK.
" 15—Mrs. JACK, Messrs. R. ARMOUR and S. C. KIRKLAND.
" 22—Miss HUNTER, Messrs. JAS. A. ANDERSON and J. MACBEAN.
" 29—Messrs. A. MORELAND, R. CARSWELL and J. TODD.
April 5—Messrs. R. ANDERSON, J. MACCALLUM and W. T. DAVIDSON.
" 12—Miss CONNALL, Messrs. A. RUSSELL and J. M. PEDEN.
" 19—Miss OSBORNE, Messrs. J. HOOD and W. N. BAXTER.
" 26—Messrs. J. W. JARVIE, J. MEIKLEJOHN and W. MENZIES.
May 3—Messrs. J. B. MATHER, W. CRAIG and C. J. THOM.

FINANCE.

Collections for January and February.

SYSTEMATIC GIVING	....	....	£224	18	4
CHURCH DOOR PLATE	....	....	23	17	7
RETIRING AND COLLECTORS	....	....	22	3	11
			£270	19	10

REGISTER.

Marriages.

"Heirs together of the grace of life."

Charles Harvie to Helen Hunter Drummond.
William Wilson Blue to Elizabeth Reid Anderson.
Robert Louis Fairley to Mary Cunningham Brown.
Walter M'Farlane to Ada Lillian Strang.
James Brown Simpson to Helen Findlay Clyde.
William Steele to Annie Morrison Allan.
Henry Fairlie to Hilda Morag Smeal.

Deaths.

"Christ, the first fruits of them that are asleep."

Mrs. Martin, Culzean, Firwood Road.
Mrs. Hamilton, Towerwood.
Miss Margaret Strang, The Shaw, Kilmarnock Road.

New Members.

By Profession of Faith.

Miss Doris J. A. Kyle, Sylvanholme, Beech Avenue.
Miss Lorna M. S. Smith, Ardmore, Larchfield Ave.
Mrs. Ada M'Farlane, Pollok House.
Mrs. Harriet Buchanan, Pollok House.
Miss Mary Wilson, 76 Larchfield Avenue.
Mrs. Wallace, Greta House.
Mr. James Ford, 3 Broomvale Drive.
Mr. Douglas Smith, Fairfield, Beech Avenue.
Mr. Duncan Ian Mackenzie, 1 Broomvale Drive.
Mr. Robert Simpson, Greenside.

By Certificate.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Watson, 24 Glamis Avenue.
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Allison, Braeareach, Larchfield Avenue.
Mr. and Mrs. David Fiddes, Zuinga, Edzell Drive.
Mr. Wallace, Greta House.
Miss Aitken, Mrs. Gillespie and Mrs. Cowan, Ash-craig, Edzell Drive.

CHURCH EXTENSION IN THE NEWTON MEARN'S AREA.

The new Church at Broom was dedicated on Saturday, 22nd February, by the Very Reverend John White, D.D., D.Litt., C.H. On the same day the new minister, Rev. W. Cameron Wallace, M.A., was inducted by the Presbytery of Glasgow to the charge. It was a wintry afternoon with a cold wind and flakes of snow driving across the landscape. Notwithstanding, however, the inclemency of the weather, a large congregation gathered to take part in the solemn act of dedication. It was as if a company of people had set out to perform a piece of missionary work—to plant in a new district the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. The ceremony of consecration of the building was one with which we in our own congregation were familiar for we had taken part in the same service little more than two years before. There was the customary procession outside the building to the front door at which Dr. White knocked and commanded to be opened in the name of the Lord. Mr. James Bowman (temporary Session Clerk) unlocked the doors whereupon the procession headed by Dr. White proceeded up the aisle to the platform, the Congregation standing and singing the Hundredth Psalm.

Congratulations are due to the Home Board and to Mr. Wallace on the decoration and arrangement of the new Hall. In the centre of the platform is a simple but dignified Communion Table. On the right is the pulpit, and on either side chairs for the choir. A reredos hangs behind the table. The windows are draped with tasteful green curtains while a carpet stretches across the centre aisle and continues up to the platform. The ante-rooms comprise a Vestry, a Session House and a Kitchen.

The Service was conducted by Dr. White, and the following also took part:—Dr. George M'Leod (representing the Iona Community), Rev. E. Ormrod Rodger (representing Giffnock South and Mearns

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Parish Churches), Rev. G. Kerr Mackay (representing the Presbytery of Glasgow), Rev. Robert Macintosh (representing the Home Board), Rev. W. Murray Mackay (representing Newton Mearns Church) and the new minister.

Rev. G. Kerr Mackay in giving the charges to Mr. Wallace emphasised three things: (1) Speak in such a way that all can hear—he certainly practised what he preached; (2) Preach the simple Gospel of the Love of God in Jesus Christ; (3) Make contact with your people in their homes. The motto of the Church of Scotland was "Every home in Scotland in contact with the Church."

Dr. White said that there was no time that day to give an address. When a speaker says that an audience may always expect one! He gave a most inspiring call to the Church to use the present opportunity of training the youth of our land in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and in this way preparing for the days of peace. The motto of Edinburgh was "Except the Lord keep the city," that of Glasgow "Let Glasgow flourish by the preaching of the Word." King David had realised that the Throne in Jerusalem must be sustained by the Church. Therefore he had made preparations for the building of the Temple. He paid tribute to the vision of the new minister that had inspired him to this work.

There was a good attendance, we hear, on the day following when Rev. W. Cameron Wallace opened his ministry. One of our members, Miss Marjorie Fitzgerald, is playing the organ until an appointment can be made. Our three elders, who are part of the temporary Session (Mr. Anderson, Mr. MacRae and Mr. Thom) have rendered valuable support to the new Church. Lest there be any misunderstanding on the subject it should be stated that this new Church is not, as has been heard, "under the wing" of Newton Mearns Church. It is a new charge of equal status. We wish the new minister every success in his work.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

There was a good turn-out of Members of the Congregation at the Annual Meeting on Wednesday evening, 4th March, in spite of the bad weather.

After the meeting had been opened with the singing of the 100th Psalm and constituted with prayer by the Minister, the Clerk to the Board, Mr. J. A. Anderson read the Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting, the Ferguson Bequest undertaking in connection with the grant of £500 towards the cost of the new Church, and a synopsis of the decisions of the Congregational Board for 1941.

The Financial Report was presented by the Treasurer, who called attention to the thriving condition of the Congregation, and the grant of £250 to the Church Extension Scheme as a thank-offering. After some questions had been answered satisfactorily the adoption of the Report was moved by Mr. W. T. Davidson and seconded by Mr. W. Menzies, and unanimously agreed to, the Treasurer being cordially thanked for his services. The Auditors Report was given by Mr. J. W. Jarvie who complimented the Treasurers on the way in which their Accounts were kept.

Reports were then given on the various organisations of the Church by Miss Helen Osborne for the Women's Guild, who mentioned that the Guild

had made and given to the W.V.S. no fewer than 750 knitted garments during 1941, and 2078 since the beginning of the war; by Miss Mary Hay on the Sunday School, the roll of which is now the highest in its history; by Miss Helen Ritchie on the Badminton Club; by Miss M. B. Clyde on the Girls' Association; by Mr. Robertson on the Boys' Brigade and the Life Boys, which have now a roll of nearly 60; and by the Minister on the Canteen and the Young People's Union.

On the motion of Mr. Thom, seconded by Mr. J. S. Anderson, the retiring members, Miss Connall, Messrs. Howie, Jarvie, Keir, Kirkland, MacBean, MacLaren and Peden were re-elected to the Congregational Board for three years.

The Session-Clerk reported that the membership of the Congregation is now over 750.

Mr. Mackay in his closing remarks referred to the loss sustained by the Congregation in the death of Mr. James Currie, than whom there was no more popular and well-loved Elder. Also to the departure of another Elder who had gone to the East of Scotland, Mr. G. W. Lambie.

After various votes of thanks had been given, the meeting was closed with the Benediction.

PRESBYTERY NOTES.

The last two meetings of the Presbytery were but sparsely attended, this being largely due to the weather which was very severe on both occasions. In fact the conditions were so bad at the January meeting that a special Committee was appointed to look for a more suitable and comfortable place of meeting. John Street Church is very central, but being surrounded by high buildings it can be not only very cold but also a very dismal meeting place. On such a day one cannot but recall with pleasure the brightness of our new Church in Mearns. It is to be hoped that the Committee will find a happy solution to the problem.

In a large Presbytery like Glasgow—the largest in the world—it is inevitable that vacancies in pastorates should be rather frequent, but there seems to have been more than usual of these of late. The result is that much time is taken up with routine work relating to vacancies and calls, hearing Commissioners and so on. Church procedure is very strict, but at a time like the present some simplification might and ought to be followed so as to allow more time for more important matters such as Reports of Committees, which are often brought forward and discussed in a depleted house.

One subject which has been much in evidence is the need for more Church Huts to meet the growing needs of the armed forces. The Committee in charge of the work has incurred a debt of £55,000. Of this £20,000 was expended in France, and with the fall of that country the money was irretrievably lost. Now an appeal is being made to clear the debt, and this should meet with a ready response from Congregations.

A pleasing intimation at the February meeting was to the effect that the Minimum Stipend had been raised to £315 and a Manse, and this must have brought a ray of sunshine to many country Manses belonging to the numerous small Congregations. At the same time it was pointed out that the increase was due not to increased generosity of Congregations but to savings effected by the unions of Congregations, etc.

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MISS MARGARET STRANG.

In the passing of Miss Margaret Strang of The Shaw the congregation has lost one who during a long life took a keen interest in everything pertaining to the Church and all the congregational activities. Miss Strang was the last survivor of the family of Mr. and Mrs. James Strang of Shaw Farm. Her father was a leading member of the Congregation who along with a band of zealous farmers in the district gave the use of their horses and wagons to cart the building material for the Church which was recently taken down. It was natural then that all the family should be well versed in the history of each minister during the last hundred years. The writer recalls a conversation, when one of the Misses Strang claimed with a just pride, that they had occupied the same pew for 85 years; surely this is a record. It seemed fitting then that when the present Church was completed Miss Margaret Strang, as one of the "living stones of the Sanctuary," should herself plant a tree in front of the Church to beautify the House of God, that sacred spot, dear to her heart, where she had so frequently found Comfort and Peace. The Congregation extend their sincere sympathy to the bereaved relatives.

J. P.

THE WOMAN'S GUILD

During the winter the Woman's Guild has been addressed by representatives of the various branches of the work carried on by the Church. It is gratifying to be able to report that this work, so far from being curtailed by the war, has in many cases been extended and that all Guild Branches have taken up some form of war work.

Beginning on Wednesday, 4th March, the Work Party will meet every fortnight until further notice.

THE GIRLS' ASSOCIATION.

Since the New Year we have welcomed some new members to our midst. At two of our meetings we have had papers about our Girls' Own Missionaries, in Manchuria and in India, given by Marion Thomson and Rebe Downs. We have also had a visit from Elizabeth Clarkston and Jean Noble, representatives of the South Eastern District.

We are very busy rehearsing Plays and Sketches for our forthcoming visit to Mearnskirk Hospital.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION.

Mr. Armour very kindly agreed to talk to the Y.P.U. on the first Sunday of the year, taking most appropriately as the subject of his remarks "Stock-taking." We all felt that this was just the right moment for re-emphasising those Christian principles on which life must be based if it is to be lived fully and freely.

Two very thoughtful papers were read on the following Sunday by Miss M. MacCallum and Miss M. Fitzgerald on the subject "Should music play a greater part in the service of the Church?" This gave those members of the Y.P.U. who are particularly interested in the musical side of Church life an opportunity to express their feelings and opinions about the support given to Church music by Church members.

The Pharisaical attitude adopted by some Church people came in for trenchant criticism roused by a stimulating paper by Mr. A. Morton on the Pharisees.

On the last Sunday of January Miss Bone read

a paper on the life and times of the prophet Jeremiah, comparing the present situation of our own country with that of Judah in the sixth century B.C.

A talk on the life and manners of the Bedouin Arabs of Libya was given by Mr. R. Bone on the first of February. This talk gave us some idea of the kind of country in which so many men of our Forces are at present living and fighting.

On the second and third Sundays of February we were privileged to hear two very impressive and interesting addresses by Mr. C. B. MacIntyre and Mr. Nimmo. Mr. MacIntyre's subject was "What particular notes of the Gospel need to be emphasised to-day?" and Mr. Nimmo's, "Religious Education of Youth." In showing how difficult it is to impart religious education in the true sense, Mr. Nimmo made it quite clear how not to do it by quoting example after example of the way in which "Bible" had been taught in the "good old days."

The last meeting in February was very well attended, and the papers by Mr. A. C. L. Brown and Mr. J. Cormack gave rise to much lively discussion of the subject "Christianity or Communism."

GUIDES AND BROWNIES.

The Kirk Session have had under consideration the formation of a Company of Guides and a Pack of Brownies in connection with this Congregation. Originally there were two Companies of Guides in the district, then they were formed into one village Company. Now the former state will be reverted to and there will again be two. The work of the youth of our Church on the boys' side is being efficiently carried on by the Boys' Brigade and the Life Boys. We feel that the time has now come to provide similar organisations for the girls. The Government of our country is appealing to the Churches to pay special attention to the training of youth. There are, of course, difficulties to be overcome, such as the black-out, the difficulty of finding uniform and the already taxed accommodation in the Hall. We feel, however, that these are not insuperable and that a way will be found out of all of them. Some Companies are meeting on Saturday afternoons, some in the summer months, some in the early evening, but the actual times of meeting in our Church will have to be left to the discretion of the leaders appointed. We are happy to state that Miss Muriel Wishart has agreed to take charge of the Brownies and that she will be assisted by Miss Nancy Watson.

BADMINTON CLUB.

A most successful season is now drawing to a close. A Party was held on the 29th December, when whist and games were featured on the programme and enjoyed by all.

The return match with Williamwood Church Badminton Club was played at home on the 19th January and resulted in a win for our club by six games to two. The play was of a high standard and the evening was enjoyed by both teams.

The final round of the Tournament is due to be played this month.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE AND LIFE BOYS.

To those who are superstitious "Friday, the 13th" would hardly be a date which would appeal when arranging a new venture, yet it was on

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Friday, 13th February, that the Officers of the B.B. and Life Boys decided to hold their first Parents' Night. In most Companies this is an annual feature of the winter activities, and the idea behind it is two-fold. First of all it enables the Officers to contact personally the boys' parents and get to know them better whilst, in addition, it affords an excellent opportunity of developing their interest in the Company. In the case of our Company and Team the latter idea was almost unnecessary as the staff acknowledge with gratitude the keen interest and support of the parents in all branches of the Company's activities. Nevertheless it was felt that an excellent opportunity would be provided to express the Officers' appreciation of what has undoubtedly contributed in no small measure to the success of the Company and Team. And so it was that a company of over eighty honoured the staff by accepting their invitation to be present. The most pleasing and encouraging feature of the evening was the large turn out of fathers as, unfortunately, in the case of many Companies one might be excused for assuming the Parents' Night to be a meeting of the Women's Guild!

The evening was enjoyably spent in games and competitions whilst, in addition, a much appreciated musical programme was provided. After tea the Officers of both the Brigade and Life Boys briefly addressed the gathering and outlined the plans they had formulated for the second half of the session. Votes of thanks by Mr. Mackay and "Auld Lang Syne" brought to a close a first and very successful Parents' Night.

Under the heading of "coming events" might be placed the entertainment being arranged to terminate the winter's work. This year the Company has ambitiously decided to produce the pantomime "Cinderella." No dates have yet been fixed but it is anticipated that it will take place towards the end of May. The script and musical numbers are being written specially for the show, and as all parts will be taken by the boys themselves a highly amusing and entertaining production is assured. The Company has endeavoured to set a high standard in its past work, and it is felt that this will surpass previous ventures. In due course the "Publicity Manager" will acquaint all with the interesting details.

Twelve months ago, when preliminary arrangements were being made for a certain event, countless pessimists shook their heads and said "you'll never manage it." Undaunted by all remarks passed and opinions offered the first Company Camp was arranged and proved to be a most successful event. Before unlimited enthusiasm, mountains in the shape of rationing and transport became mere mole hills, and the programme as visualised was carried through without a hitch (if not without some sleepless nights). Again the Officers this time prompted by the boys, are as foolish as ever and are already planning another Camp. Some very well meaning friends say we are unwise, but our answer is that at no time was it more desirable to get the boys away from the war atmosphere which is having such a detrimental effect on the youth of the country to-day. As yet it is somewhat premature to give details of place and date, but very soon it

is hoped to publish all the arrangements. Last year an appeal was made to the Congregation for that spare pot of jam tucked away in the corner of the cupboard, and the response exceeded all expectations. One might safely assume that a similar appeal is likely to be made this year, and on this assumption the following suggestion is made to all well-wishers of the boys. Immediately on reading this, extract the pot from its hiding place, mark it "B.B.—not to be broken," and mark up your good deed for the day.

VARIA.

Miss Dorothy Greening.

Miss Greening has gone to Springwell House, Gorgie Road, Edinburgh, to take up a post in that Home for Girls. She carries with her the good wishes of her friends in this Church and the hope that she will be able to lead many into a new path in life. This Home is not under the auspices of the Church of Scotland, but there is a hope that in the near future it will be taken over by the Home Board. A Service of Dedication was held on Sunday evening, 22nd February, and at the Y.P.U. a Bible was presented to Miss Greening from some of her friends. We feel that she is admirably fitted to minister in this sphere of service for Christ.

The attendance at the February Communion was 323. The attendances at the corresponding Communion for the four preceding years were 421, 284, 322 and 362.

The first "Parents' Night" of the Boys' Brigade was greatly enjoyed by all, and it is hoped that this will be an annual event.

It was with regret that we learnt that owing to illness we could not have the Rev. George Knight with us on the first Sunday of March. He was to have conducted the two services that day and also spoken to the Y.P.U. at night. We look forward to a visit from him in the future.

Mr. Mackay has in view of the above arranged with Mr. Leuner who is in charge of the work among the Jews in Glasgow to visit us on the second Sunday in May. He will spend the day in our midst. He is a Jew who has been converted to Christianity and a brilliant speaker on his subject. In the forenoon he will speak on Work among the Jews, in the evening on his personal experiences and to the Y.P.U. on the problem of the Jew from a national and economic aspect.

The Anniversary Services of the Church will be conducted on Sunday, 25th April, by the Rev. Professor W. D. Niven, D.D., Professor of Church History in Trinity College, Glasgow. These Anniversary Services recall the day when the Congregation of this district was first formed in 1739.

The Leader of the Beginner's Class, which meets during the hour of Morning Worship (Mrs. Simpson), has resigned. We thank her for her faithful service. She made her class very attractive to the young. Her place is being taken by Miss Nancy Scott, and we extend to her our good wishes in her new sphere of work. Miss Jean Allan has very kindly filled the place in the Sabbath School formerly occupied by Miss Scott.

SUPPLEMENT.

Contributions for the next issue to be published early in May should be sent to the Editor, Mr. C. J. THOM, not later than Sunday, 26th April, 1942.