

# Newton Mearns Church Supplement

DECEMBER, 1942

**Minister**—Rev. W. MURRAY MACKAY, M.A.,  
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**Session Clerk**—Mr. JAMES POLLOCK, 7 Main  
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**Treasurer** :—Mr. C. J. THOM, M.A., The School-  
house, Newton Mearns.  
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## CHURCH SERVICES.

**Morning**—11.30 a.m.

**Evening**—8 p.m. In the Canteen.

**Sunday School**—10.15 a.m.

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

## ATTENDANCE OF OFFICE-BEARERS

### 1942. AT THE CHURCH DOOR.

- Dec. 6—Mrs. Buchanan, Messrs. S. Rodger and  
T. M. Donald.  
,, 13—Mrs. Menzies, Messrs. W. Rodger and  
J. MacLaren.  
,, 20—Messrs. R. Anderson, W. T. Davidson  
and J. MacCallum.  
,, 27—Messrs. J. Russell, J. Brownlie and  
J. Pollock.

1943.

- Jan. 3—Mrs. Jack, Messrs. R. Armour and S. C.  
Kirkland.

### ATTENDANCE OF OFFICE-BEARERS AT THE CANTEEN.

- Dec. 6—Mr. A. S. McCance.  
,, 13—Mr. H. C. R. MacRae.  
,, 20—Mr. J. Nimmo.  
,, 27—Mr. J. M. Peden.

1943.

- Jan. 3—Mr. J. Pollock.

## FINANCE.

### Collections for November.

|                   |     |     |      |    |    |
|-------------------|-----|-----|------|----|----|
| Systematic Giving | ... | ... | £208 | 19 | 6  |
| Church Door Plate | ... | ... | 22   | 17 | 3  |
| Special Retiring  | ... | ... | 37   | 9  | 11 |
|                   |     |     | £269 | 6  | 8  |

## REGISTER.

### Baptism.

*"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."*

Elaine Maud Isobel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George  
Corcoran, Floakside, Kilmarnock Road,  
Newton Mearns.

### Marriages.

*"Heirs together of the grace of life."*

Samuel Allan to Jean Rodie Orr McNiven.

Hamish Neil Tait to Graeme Davidson.

James Gray to Mary Grant Watson.

### Death.

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

Mrs. Sanders, Hazelwood Avenue.

## PRESENTATION

### TO MR. ANDREW RUSSELL, J.P.

A deputation from the Session consisting of the  
Minister, The Session Clerk, the Congregational  
Treasurer and Mr. Stewart Telfer as representing  
the Sabbath School waited upon Mr. Russell in his  
home on the 16th October and presented in the  
name of the Congregation a Bureau upon which was  
the following inscription :—' Presented to Mr.  
Andrew Russell from the Congregation, Newton  
Mearns on his retirement from the Sabbath School  
after 51 years as teacher and Superintendent.'  
A Long Service Certificate from the Church of  
Scotland and a handbag to Mrs. Russell were also  
handed over.

Mr. Russell's connection with Newton Mearns  
Church has been so long, his interest so widespread  
and his affection for it so great that in the story of  
his life the church assumes not a large place but the  
central place.

His first service to it was when at the age of nine  
he became a member of the choir as an alto singer  
during the ministry of Mr. Cameron. On the death  
of the latter he can remember being sent over  
during the vacancy to obtain the Praise List from  
the various ministers to Shawhill where they were  
lodging at the week-end. During the time of Mr.  
McConchie he joined the Bible Class, and when  
Mr. Law was minister in the church he became a  
member of it by Profession of Faith. He continually  
remarks, however, that in no service in the church  
was he ever happier than when he was in the choir  
of which he was a member for 25 years.

One of the faults in church membership to-day  
is that too many have only a congregational vision.  
That could not be said of Mr. Russell. He took a  
keen interest in Foreign Mission Work in the church.  
From 1910 till 1940 he was a member of the Foreign  
Missions Committee, being Convener and Treasurer  
from 1918 till 1925. Until 1940 he took charge of  
the Collection Books. That our congregation has  
to-day a real interest in the work of the Master over-  
seas is due in large measure to the zeal he showed  
and with which he inspired others.

In the rebuilding of the church Mr. Russell took  
a notable share. Although to him the stones of the  
old building were dear he realised the need for a  
larger and more modern place of worship. He was  
a member of the Extension Committee and  
appointed as an overseer during the construction  
of the church. His foresight and practical know-  
ledge were invaluable in this connection.

Few men in the district have a greater knowledge  
of the history of the Parish and the Congregation  
than he has and accordingly in the Bi-centenary  
Year when Dr. Boyd Scott agreed to publish a book  
on the subject it was to Mr. Andrew Russell he  
went for much of his information.

Mr. Russell has taken his place in the adminis-  
tration of the district for 23 years being a member  
of the Parish and District Council and for 3 years  
the Chairman. He also served in the School  
Management Committee of the First District of

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the County of Renfrew for 15 years, is a member of the Juvenile and Licencing Courts and was some years ago appointed a Justice of the Peace. In Temperance work and in the Band of Hope he took a keen interest.

Perhaps however he was best known to many in the realm of the Sabbath School, of which he became a teacher in 1889 and in 1897 on the retirement of his brother, Mr. Tom Russell, filled for 23 years the position of Secretary and Treasurer. In 1920 he was appointed Superintendent which office he held until 1942. It would be true to say that Mr. Russell's heart has always been with the children.

His was a labour of love, love to God and love to the child. To the farmers in the congregation he always felt most grateful for the facilities they provided for the scholars to enjoy the Annual Sabbath School Trip.

Under 10 ministers has he served, and if he has served the others as he has served the present, then his record is a notable one. One of his happiest recollections is the summer Sunday evening cottage meetings to which he used to drive the minister in the pony and trap. If, again, a visiting minister were coming to the church he would drive down to Shawlands where the Tram lines at that time ended. May a life of such service to the Master inspire those who read it to hear the command "Go thou and do likewise." "Other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours."

### PARCELS TO MEN AND WOMEN ON SERVICE.

The number of members and adherents of the congregation on service with the Forces is steadily increasing. This year Christmas parcels have been made up for no fewer than 105. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining addresses the parcels have been delivered by the members of the Boys' Brigade to the homes of those concerned along with sufficient stamps to cover the postage. A man's parcel contained a selection from the following:—Socks, Helmets, Scarves, Shaving Soap, Writing Pad and Pencil, Tooth Brush and Paste, Boot Laces, New Testament, Booklet, Postal Order for 5/- and a letter from the Minister and Kirk Session. The parcels for the women were more difficult to make up owing to the great variety of Services on which they are engaged, but a selection from the following was made:—Jumper, Long Woollen Stockings, Scarf, Gloves, Tooth Brush and Paste, Writing Pad and Pencil, New Testament, Booklet, Postal Order for 5/- and a letter from the Minister and Kirk-Session. The value of each parcel is about £1.

A copy of the letter will be published in a later supplement.

### HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONS Collections.

Owing to the difficulties due to war conditions, it has been thought advisable to take the second collection for Home and Foreign Missions by means of envelopes. These are being sent to members of the Congregation who have not adopted the Systematic Giving Scheme. This collection is usually taken by the Lady Collectors, but owing to resignations, war service, and domestic reasons their number has been much reduced.

Among the resignations are those of the Misses C. C. and H. J. Osborne, who have a long record of faithful service, and to whom the congregation, we feel sure, would like to express their grateful thanks.

### PRESBYTERY NOTES.

To an ever increasing extent the shadow cast by the war is thrown over Presbytery proceedings and much time and discussion has to be given to matters arising directly or indirectly out of the struggle. This naturally results in lengthening the meetings, the October one being specially protracted and lasting well into the afternoon.

The Senior Clerk, Rev. Dr. Harrowes, is still laid aside by illness and his ripe wisdom and long experience in Church affairs are much missed in the deliberations; an application for extended leave of absence has been regretfully granted.

The Committee on Social Problems has been called upon to give very serious attention to many grave matters these days, not the least important being the inroads made on Sabbath observance. As our war effort is intensified, more and more encroachments are being made upon the traditional Scottish Sabbath. Our war factories are run seven days a week, road and rail transport must be maintained, and the needs of Civil Defence call for much Sunday work. Now the authorities stress the need for Sunday entertainment for the Forces and picture houses have been opened in various districts, while a Garrison Theatre in St. Andrew's Hall draws a crowded audience each Sunday evening. In the present circumstances it is difficult to oppose such movements, but the Church must watch carefully the experiments being made, insisting that the entertainment should be on a higher level than on week-days. It has also been suggested that the evening meeting should close with a simple epilogue service. Meantime the Committee call upon all Ministers and Kirk-Sessions to take immediate steps, either alone or in co-operation with others to promote the spiritual and social welfare of service men and women in their neighbourhood, and further that church members should be ready to extend a warm welcome to their homes to men and women far from their own kith and kin.

At the November meeting a strong plea was made by the Convener of the Foreign Mission Committee for increased generosity by congregations. There seemed to be an impression abroad, he said, that Foreign Missions work had been widely interrupted by the war, and that consequently the church has been relieved to a larger extent of its financial responsibilities. That was not so. The work continued in most of the fields and expenditure was in no way lessened. It was therefore necessary to continue contributions on a generous scale, especially as the fall in congregational contributions had been progressive and was now considerable compared with two years ago. Receipts to date from all sources were down by £6,639. The report of the Maintenance of the Ministry Fund was more encouraging showing that at the end of October there was an increase of £261.

Has the Glasgow Presbytery become so large and unwieldy that it no longer functions efficiently? This was the question raised by the Rev. D. F. McKenzie of Scotstoun at the October meeting when he moved a motion proposing the setting up

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of District Committees, meeting monthly to consider matters relating to the District before they came before the Presbytery. Briefly his argument was that the Presbytery was overloaded with work and that one meeting per month was clearly inadequate for full consideration of all the important business. The result was that the control of business tended to pass into the hands of a small circle of members, while the great mass were reduced to the position of silent spectators, "Never," he said, "was so much left by so many to so few." After some discussion the whole matter was remitted to a special Committee for consideration and report, and more will yet be heard of it. Certainly it will be found somewhat difficult to oppose proposals which will increase the general interest and at the same time give an opportunity to a larger proportion of the members of taking a more active share in the work of the Presbytery.

A special meeting of the Presbytery is to be held on 8th December to consider the report of the Committee on the Interpretation of God's Will in the Present Crisis, and to formulate replies to the questions arising therefrom and sent down to Presbyteries.

### THE WOMEN'S GUILD.

At the meeting of the Guild on 21st October a most interesting address was given by Mrs. Leuner, who with her husband works among the Jews, and especially the refugee Jews in the city of Glasgow. In her address Mrs. Leuner touched lightly on her terrifying experiences as one of the early refugees who escaped from Berlin to Prague, and who came to this country at the invitation of the Church of Scotland.

She dwelt more particularly on her own girlhood and search after more intimate knowledge of religion. Reared in a home where her parents were Jews, and brought up as a Jewess, but finding as she said herself "no open path to God," she became dissatisfied with the Jewish teaching, and the services in the Synagogue where the women gossiped if they became bored, seemed to her to lack reverence and depth.

She learned that on the continent one was either a Jew or a Christian and this discovery ultimately led her to find that there were two kinds of Christians, true Christians and professing Christians. Here she stressed the importance of Christians being really active ones. This, she pointed out was one of the tragedies of Germany, that the German people had turned aside from religion after the last war. Everybody had come back to build up a new life and while the ministers were often highly intellectual theologians, true religion had been neglected so that it was easy for Hitler to break a church which was but an empty shell.

As the years passed she found herself more and more confused by the inconsistencies and contradictions of life. No help was forthcoming from her own people with whom she dared not discuss her ideas of the Christians, nor from the Christians who looked on her askance. She was not very sure whether it weren't better to be a firm Jew rather than something half and between.

At last sorrow and tribulation brought her the solution to her problems and her prayers were for her at last something real, something which would

be heard by God and answered, and she felt that the God who had promised to help and guide Abraham would not desert her.

This brought her to the conclusion of her talk where she emphasised that the modern Jew is no longer religious and has no knowledge even of the prophets and laws of his own old religion and can gather his ideas of us only from the behaviour and actions of professing Christians. Hence she concluded it was very essential that we should take serious thought of that behaviour and those actions nor should we be afraid to testify to the eternal truth of the religion whose missionaries we are.

In November the Women's Guild welcomed Miss Maxton, the President of the South West Council. Miss Maxton has for many years been identified with Home Mission work in the church, having rendered much good service in that sphere.

Her address dealt in a very practical way with the aims and ideals of the Women's Guild, especially under present circumstances. She urged Delegates to realise their responsibility to their branches in reporting meetings of their several Committees and made an appeal for the deepening of the spiritual life of the Guildswomen through reading of the Scriptures and Prayer.

On December 9th, we hope to have with us Miss Lees, a Church Sister from Greenock.

### THE GIRLS' ASSOCIATION.

The members of the G.A. have now become well absorbed in the winter's work. The membership this year, in spite of the loss of several members through calling up etc., is extremely good and all are very enthusiastic. The girls are knitting as usual for the Troops. Home Nursing by Miss Marion Wilson, Country Dancing by Miss Margaret Hunter and First Aid by Miss Eileen Phillips have proved very popular subjects. Mrs. J. Simpson has also given a very interesting demonstration on Hand-crafts.

The G.A. hopes to give their Annual Concert early in February and has already started rehearsals.

We would take this opportunity of reminding all girls that they will be made very welcome at the meetings on Monday evenings at 7.30 p.m.

### THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

This month the Company has a great deal of interest to report.

In the first place, the half-century is now within sight as there are 48 keen and enthusiastic boys on the roll. In the short space of two years, and from a nucleus of seven boys, the Company has grown to such a size that the Drill Officer is now hard put to it to manœuvre the Company in the Large Hall! While the rapid growth is considered very satisfactory it should not be understood that no room remains for additional boys as the Officers are always ready to welcome recruits between the ages of 12 and 15 years of age.

On October 4th a very impressive service was held in the Church. This took the form of the Dedication of Colours kindly presented to the Company by a lady of the congregation. The complimentary parade of all youth organisations of the village was a notable one and, despite most unfavourable weather, 220 young people attended. The large congregation present could not but be

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impressed by the unique service and the inspiring address by Mr MacKay. The Officers would like to take this opportunity of expressing their sincere thanks to the donor of the magnificent Colours which will be greatly prized and serve as an inspiration to present and future members of the Company.

Grateful thanks are also due to another lady and gentleman of the congregation for the handsome gift of Parallel Bars. For some time it had been felt that something would require to be done by way of purchasing equipment to provide physical training for the older boys and the problem was happily solved by this generous gift which is acknowledged with profound thanks. The great kindness recently shown by members of the congregation has been of encouragement to the Officers who will endeavour to show their appreciation by increased effort in the work of the Company.

Another new feature of Brigade work has been introduced to the Company—this time a distinct innovation. Some time ago the Officers decided that whenever the strength of the Company justified the inauguration of a Band such would be purchased and money was set aside for this purpose. With the number of boys now on the roll it was decided that the time was ripe to launch the scheme and the congregation will be interested to learn that the Company now possesses a Band consisting of Cavalry Trumpets. Perhaps it might be more accurate to state that the Company possesses the instruments as the task of training the boys in Trumpet playing and Drumming still lies ahead. That the boys themselves are enthusiastic may be gathered from the fact that, whilst twelve instruments are available, some 25 boys expressed a desire to play them! Should any member of the congregation, in the near future, hear weird and unmusical sounds issuing from houses in the district this can be attributed to keen Band boys endeavouring to master the art of playing a trumpet.

The second annual Parent's Night was held on Saturday, November 21st, and a full report will be given in the next issue of the Supplement.

### THE LIFE BOYS.

There are now over 40 boys on the Roll of the Team and all are enthusiastically tackling a programme embracing a wide variety of Life Boy activities. A supply of instruments for a Percussion Band has now been obtained and our Band hopes to give its first "Concert" in the early Spring. The Parents who have attended regularly for escort duty are warmly thanked by the Leaders as they have made it possible for all boys to be seen safely to their homes during the Black-out.

### GIRL GUIDES.

In November, the Girl Guide Company of this church was formed. It was given a warm welcome by all and for that we would like to express our thanks. The Company had a grand start with twenty girls on the opening night, and after all have gone through the initial stages, we hope to undertake more specialised training so that we may "Be Prepared" for service in the future. Already the girls have chosen their programme of Spring Badges. These include Child-nurse, Cook, Horse-woman and Signaller.

Any girls of eleven or over are heartily invited to come along to the church hall on Tuesdays at seven.

### THE CHURCH CANTEN.

For the benefit of the many Service men stationed in the district it is proposed to hold a Christmas Party in the Canteen premises on Christmas Day or Boxing Day.

Members are invited to donate gifts, the distribution of which will be confined to Service men, and in order that the presents should be of a uniform value, it is suggested that the individual cost should not exceed half a crown.

Gifts will be gratefully received at the Canteen on Sunday, 20th December.

### THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

It is to be regretted that there are still children of our Congregation who are not attached to the Sunday School. For the benefit of parents who have recently joined our fellowship, it should be pointed out that the Senior and Junior Sections meet at 10.15 a.m. while the Primary pupils assemble during the forenoon Service. The Sunday School Staff is composed of capable and devoted teachers, who give their services to the children ungrudgingly, and they will give a warm welcome to all those who come forward for enrolment.

### COMMUNION.

The number present at the Communion on the first Sunday of November was 444, 405 at the morning Service and 39 at the afternoon. This number compares with those of previous years, viz :—415, 460, 424 and 400.

### CONGREGATIONAL YEAR BOOK.

Owing to War conditions there will be no issue of the Year Book for 1943, but a Statement of Accounts of the various organisations will be presented to the members of the Congregation in due course.

For Audit purposes the Treasurers of the various organisations are requested to prepare a statement of their intromissions with relative vouchers for the year ending 31st December, 1942, and deliver the same to Mr. James Pollock, 7 Main Street, Newton Mearns not later than 15th January 1943.

### AID TO THE DEAF.

The Congregational Board has decided to introduce the "Acousticon" aid to the deaf into the church.

A total of 20 points complete with phones will be distributed throughout the area of the church. All interested are requested to communicate with the Session Clerk, Mr. James Pollock, 7 Main Street, Newton Mearns.

### SUPPLEMENT.

Contributions to the next issue of the Supplement should be sent to the Editor, Mr. C. J. Thom, The Schoolhouse, Newton Mearns, by a date which will be intimated later from the pulpit.