

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

DECEMBER, 1943

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

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Clerk to the Congregational Board—Mr. W. T.
DAVIDSON, 1 Raeside Avenue, Newton
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REGISTER.

Baptisms.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

Ian James Yates, son of Mr. and Mrs. Blue, 7 Town-
head Road.

Roderick Ian Stuart, son of Dr. and Mrs. Macdonald,
Dunrobin, Kilmarnock Road.

Marriages.

"Heirs together of the grace of life."

Alexander Keir to Annie Elizabeth Selkirk.

James Allan to Anne Winning Alexander Hamilton.

Deaths.

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

Mrs. Nixon, 80 Beech Avenue.

Miss Matheson, Main Street.

Mr. Philips, Kilmarnock Road.

Mr. Bennie, St. Andrew's Drive, Pollokshields.

Mrs. Reid, 1 Rysland Avenue.

Mrs. Stratheam, Crookfur Road.

Mrs. Reid, Kilmarnock Road.

Mrs. Russell, Newton House.

Mrs. Scott, 82 Beech Avenue.

NEW MEMBERS.

By Profession of Faith.

Annette Alwin, 50 Larchfield Avenue.

Marie Allan, Yoma, Newtonlea Avenue.

Rae M'Meehan Blue, 4 Townhead Road.

Elizabeth Sutherland Blue, 4 Townhead Road.

Joyce Gall, 27 Broompark Drive.

Marion Chalmers Hogg, The Shielding, Capel Avenue.

Agnes Stewart Hogg, The Shieling, Capel Avenue.

Anne Dickson M'Dougall, Marchmont, Beech
Avenue.

By Certificate.

Mr. and Mrs. William Burgess, Manderlea, Crookfur
Road.

Mrs. Clark, Dunard, Humbie.

Mrs. Coote, Dunard, Humbie.

Mrs. MacPhail, 7 Gilmourton Crescent.

FINANCE.

INCOME.

Systematic Giving Scheme	...	...	£256	0	1
Church Plate	...	...	28	7	8
Special—Church Extension	...	...	8	5	0
Special—Earl Haig Fund	...	...	8	6	3
Total	...	...	£300	19	0

QUARTERLY PAYMENTS TO CHURCH FUNDS, EDINBURGH.

Maintenance of Ministry Fund	...	...	£37	10	0
Foreign Missions Fund	...	...	37	10	0
Church Extension Fund	...	...	25	0	0
Assembly Schemes	...	...	27	10	0
			£127	10	0

ATTENDANCE OF OFFICE-BEARERS AT CHURCH DOOR.

Dec. 5—Mrs. Thom ; Messrs. J. W. Jarvie and W.
Menzies.

„ 12—Miss Osborne ; Messrs. A. S. M'Cance and
S. Telfer.

„ 19—Messrs. R. Bone, J. Keir and J. P. Robert-
son.

„ 26—Mrs. W. Rodger ; Messrs. B. N. Baird and
D. W. Johnston.

Mrs. ANDREW RUSSELL.

At the Morning Service on 21st November, Mr. Mackay made fitting reference to the loss sustained by the congregation through the death of Mrs. Andrew Russell, Newton House. Mrs. Russell had been a life-long member of the congregation and had taken a very great interest in all things pertaining to it, having been for a number of years a member of the Congregational Board and Vice-President of the Woman's Guild, who also pay tribute to her sterling qualities elsewhere in this issue. The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Mr. Russell and family in their sad bereavement.

NEW CLERK TO THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD.

The Committee appointed by the Congregational Board to look out for a Clerk to take the place of Mr. James A. Anderson, Balmoe, who has resigned owing to pressure of work due to depletion of staff, recommended the appointment of Mr. Walter T. Davidson, 1 Raeside Avenue. Mr. Davidson was duly appointed at the last meeting of the Board and the members consider that they have been very fortunate in securing Mr. Davidson's services.

PRESENTATIONS.

At a meeting of the teachers of the Sunday School, held on 19th October, a presentation was made to Mr. Samuel Rodger, who had left the district.

Miss Osborne, Honorary Vice-President, in handing

NEWTON MEARN'S CHURCH SUPPLEMENT

over the gift, paid tribute to Mr. Rodger's devoted service to the Sunday School over a period of twenty years. Mr. Mackay and Mr. Nimmo also spoke of the esteem in which Mr. Rodger was held by pupils and teachers.

In his reply Mr. Rodger thanked the teachers for the handsome gift and said that, if ever he came to live again in Mearns, nothing would please him better than to come back as a teacher to the Sunday School.

On Sunday, 24th October, at a special meeting of the Session, Mr. Alexander Moreland was made the recipient of a long-service certificate and some books by H. V. Morton. The occasion was to mark the retirement of Mr. Moreland from the work of the Sunday School, a work in which he had been engaged for the long period of fifty years.

Mr. Nimmo and Mr. Telfer spoke in high praise of Mr. Moreland's devoted service to the young people of the congregation.

Mr. Mackay, in handing over the gifts, paid tribute to Mr. Moreland's rich spiritual contribution to Sunday School work during such a long period; in this work and in his regular attendance at all church services he had been a most outstanding example.

In his reply, Mr. Moreland reviewed his own Sunday School experiences both as a scholar and a teacher and, in thanking the Session for honouring him on this occasion, he assured them that the work among the young people would always have a prominent place in his thoughts.

PRESBYTERY NOTES.

Church Extension in the post-war period has proved the main subject of discussion in the Glasgow Presbytery during the past two months. It was raised by Dr. John White, Convener of the Home Committee, in an eloquent address delivered with all the vigour and enthusiasm which is wont to characterise his utterances on a question which he has made peculiarly his own. After stressing the urgency of the subject he went on to outline the immensity of the task which would have to be faced by the Church in the near future, so much so that Church Extension for a time must be accorded the first place in its post-war plans. It was estimated, he said, that half a million houses would be required to be built in Scotland at the close of the war which meant providing for a population of round about two million people, and it would appear that the Church must be prepared to make provision for at least 50 per cent. of the migrated population. This could not be accomplished by adhering to old methods which were no longer practicable. In all probability there would be new housing communities of 20,000, 10,000 and 5,000. One church in the heart of each would be adequate provided they had district halls at their disposal with a team of workers additional to the minister. On these lines it would take from 10 to 12 years to complete the building programme comprising about 100 new churches and the probable cost would be in the neighbourhood of £1,000,000. It was a formidable task and there was no easy solution. Someone had suggested that the cost might be met by a contribution of £1 per communicant. If they thought this could be easily accomplished, they might try it and he would be delighted if it proved a success, but they should

bear in mind that congregational contributions for Church Extension in the Glasgow Presbytery area with a membership of 213,000 had amounted in the past ten years to only £26,291. After much discussion the whole matter in view of its importance was remitted to the Business Committee for consideration and report at the November meeting.

The report of this Committee was not framed on heroic lines as it merely recommended that the question should be remitted to the four district committees of the Presbytery which should be asked to put forward proposals in the hope that these might prove helpful. Once more a long discussion ensued. All the speakers were agreed as to the urgency of the question; the raising of the necessary funds being felt to be the crux of the problem. A proposal to appoint a financial organiser for a term of years who should devote all his time to the work failed to find a seconder, and finally the proposal to consult the district councils was approved, an early report to be called for.

A special meeting of the Presbytery was held on 25th November to consider matters arising out of the report of the Assembly Commission on the Interpretation of God's Will in the Present Crisis (Section II.—the organisation of the Church's Life). There was a rather poor attendance of members which was to be regretted in view of the importance of matters discussed. On the whole most of the views put forward by the Commission were accepted with slight amendment, but a long and spirited debate ensued on the proposal to admit women to the position of the eldership of the Church. The Committee of Presbytery had, by the casting vote of the Moderator, approved of the change, but a large body of opposition soon declared itself. After a long discussion it was decided in view of the smallness of the meeting to adjourn till the next monthly meeting (6th December) when a final decision will be reached.

A pleasing feature of the November meeting was the cordial welcome extended to the Rev. A. Drummond Duff of Mearns on his repatriation after three and a half years as a prisoner of war in Germany. The Moderator recalled his good work for the Church and in particular his gallant and faithful service for King and Country and as a chaplain to the Forces. They sympathised deeply with him for his years of weariness and exile and rejoiced with him in his safe return to his homeland and his own people. Mr. Duff briefly returned thanks for their kind welcome and said it would be wrong for him to look upon the years of exile as wasted years; he regarded them as profitable to himself and he had tried his best as far as he could to make them profitable to other people.

THE WOMAN'S GUILD.

The opening meeting of the Woman's Guild was held on 27th October, when Miss Chris Lawson, of the Home Mission Committee, was the speaker. Her subject was the work of the Church among the women of the Forces, as well as those engaged in Forestry and in Industry.

Her story was one of obstacles overcome and difficulties surmounted, until, in every parish where our girls have gone, the Church has made contact with them.

NEWTON MEARNS CHURCH SUPPLEMENT

Miss Lawson has also visited the girls who have gone to the Midlands and has helped to make them feel at home there.

At the November meeting we were privileged to have a visit from Miss M. K. Craig, of the Foreign Mission Committee. She also had a most interesting story to tell—of Foreign Mission work in China, India and Africa. In these days of war when many of our missionaries have been compelled to leave their stations, the native churches have had to face persecution and even death. But they have risen to the occasion nobly and made a loyal stand for their faith. This is specially true of the Church in China whose loyalty has been unshaken.

On 15th December the speaker will be Miss Mackay whose subject is "Czecho-Slovakia."

The Woman's Guild has sustained a great loss in the death of Mrs. Russell, which took place at Newton House on 20th November. A life-long member of this congregation, Mrs. Russell was one of whom it might be said that she loved the House of God. For many years she taught in the Sunday School and always was keenly interested in that work.

She was also a member of the Congregational Board for several years.

When a branch of the Woman's Guild was formed in this congregation, Mrs. Russell was one of its most active members and was, for some time, Home Mission Delegate. Later, she held the office of Vice-President, which office she relinquished when laid aside by illness.

To all her work in the Church she brought that wise judgment and wide vision, which were so characteristic of her, while her bright, cheerful manner endeared her to all. Above all, she was possessed of a deep, steadfast Faith, which grew stronger as her life drew to a close.

Those who were privileged to visit her in her long illness realised this, and always felt the better of the short time spent with her. To her husband and family and to her sisters, we extend our sincere sympathy.

We express our sympathy, also, to the Misses Scott on the death of their mother. Mrs. Scott was one whose kind and generous nature made her a favourite with us all, and her interest in the work of the Guild was shown by her readiness to help at all times.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE AND LIFE BOYS.

The Boys' Brigade Company and Life Boys Team are now in the midst of a very busy session and the standard of efficiency is well maintained. It is unfortunate that the Staff has been sorely depleted through the loss of Lieut. Allison, Miss M. C. McCallum and Staff-Sergt. Alwin. Mr. Allison and Miss McCallum were rendering noble service in the Life Boys but had to give up the work owing to pressure of other duties and difficulty will be experienced in filling their places. Staff-Sergt. Alwin, who had proved himself an exceptionally loyal boy in the ranks, was called to H.M. Navy at a time when his services were becoming most valuable in the Brigade, and officers and boys wish him a speedy return to the Company.

The Cine film, taken at camp in the summer has proved most successful and was recently shown to the boys. Parents will have an opportunity of

viewing the film at the annual Parents' Night to be held early in the year.

The Company has been very fortunate in securing the services of Drum-Major Hamilton who is giving the boys of the Band tuition in Drumming. It is felt that the boys will make rapid progress under his guidance.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Both parties for the pupils of the Sunday School are to be held on Saturday, 18th December—that for the Beginners in the afternoon, and the other in the evening. The teachers will see to it that all the older pupils are taken to their homes in safety.

LETTER TO MEN AND WOMEN IN THE FORCES.

NEWTON MEARNS CHURCH,
Christmas, 1943.

DEAR FELLOW MEMBER,

Wherever you may be, at home or overseas, and whichever of the Services you are in, we would wish, at this season of remembrance and goodwill, to show that you are not forgotten by us who still worship here.

Since last Christmas, when we addressed our congregational letter to those in the Forces, circumstances have improved immeasurably for the allied cause and we are now beginning to realise from what great evils we have been delivered and, in the words of the psalmist we can say, "Surely our soul is escaped from the snare of the fowler." We also realise that we owe a great debt of gratitude to you, who, with the help of God, went forth with a smile prepared to endure hardness. The longer the war lasts the more apparent it becomes that this is a struggle between the Christian way of living and a form of paganism which would seek to bring degradation to the souls and minds of millions, and we feel proud of the fact that so many crusaders went forth from our congregation to play their part in this holy war.

As long as you are absent from our fellowship be assured that we retain our interest in you and, as we look forward to the happy day of your return, we pray that your soul may be enriched by your new experience among other people and in other places. It is to you we look for fresh ideas which will make the Christian Church more than ever a powerful force in the reconstructed post-war world.

Meanwhile we send best wishes for your happiness during Christmas and the New Year.

W. MURRAY MACKAY, *Minister.*
JAMES POLLOCK, *Session Clerk.*

CONGREGATIONAL YEAR BOOK.

Owing to war conditions there will be no issue of the Year Book for 1944, 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, 1943, and deliver them to Mr. James Pollock, 7 Main Street, Newton Mearns, not later than 15th January, 1944.

NEWTON MEARNS CHURCH SUPPLEMENT

VARIA.

Communion.—The services at the Communion were conducted with great acceptance by Professor Mauchline. The number present was 438. This compares with 444, 415, 460 and 424 who were present on previous years in November.

A Junior Bible Class is now being conducted by the Minister. All young people over 14 years of age are cordially invited to meet in the Upper Hall on Sunday at 5.30 p.m.

Seat Letting.—Members who have no seats or whose names are not on the pew, might please meet the Seat Letting Committee at the close of the morning service any Sunday.

At the last meeting of the Kirk Session the Clerk was instructed to write to Rev. A. Drummond Duff, Mearns Parish Church, conveying the good wishes

of the Session and Members of the congregation to him on his return from being a prisoner of war in Germany.

Parcels are again being sent to men and women in the Forces. Elders are requested to send names and branch of the service of any in their districts to Mr. Nimmo, Hirstland, Kilmarnock Road, the Convener of the Committee in charge of the arrangements, without delay. A letter from the Session is also being enclosed in the parcel. A copy of the letter appears in this issue.

SUPPLEMENT.

The next issue of the Supplement will appear in February and contributions should be sent to the Editor, Mr. C. J. Thom, The Schoolhouse, not later than Sunday, 30th January, 1944.