

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

DECEMBER, 1944

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Church Services.

FORENOON—11.30 a.m.

Evening—6.30 p.m. (in the Hall).

SUNDAY SCHOOL—10.15 a.m.

BIBLE CLASS—5.30 p.m.

A Class for Beginners and for Children living at
a distance from the Church is held during the Fore-
noon Service.

REGISTER.

Baptisms.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

John Gordon, son of Capt. and Mrs. Dalziel, Rysland
Crescent.

Elizabeth Margaret, daughter of Mr. and Mrs.
Fairley, The Beild, Arthurlie Drive.

Marriages.

"Heirs together of the grace of life."

Maxwell Hammond Bennett Appleby and Margaret
Fleming Gray.

Edwin Cowie Spence Coldwell and Agnes Duncan
Watson.

John Shaw and Margaret Agnes Campbell M'Callum.

Andrew Sinclair Brodie and Constance Margaret
Brownlie McGuffie.

Death.

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

David Rodger, Bonnyton Farm.

NEW MEMBERS.

By Profession of Faith.

Irene Elizabeth Donald, Thorndyke, Beech Avenue.

Lesley M'Donald Stewart, Rysland Avenue.

By Certificate.

Mrs. Andrew W. Buchanan, Kingsleigh, Beech
Avenue.

FINANCE.

Collections during October and November, 1944:—

Systematic Giving	....	....	....	£228	0	9
Church Door	....	....	....	29	0	1
Special—Retiring	....	....	....	23	5	11
				£280	6	9

THE EVENING SERVICE.

The hour of the above has been altered to 6.30 p.m., and it is held in the Large Hall. It has been suggested that we return to the Church for this diet of worship but there are others who would miss the fellowship of the Hall. The number attending varies according to the weather, the occasion and the subject of the address. The average is about 50-60 persons. On a Communion Thanksgiving evening it will rise to 70. On an evening when the weather is unpropitious it will fall to about 45. The Session feel that there is need for this Service but we wonder if this is a worthy proportion of a congregation of 800 people. We take this opportunity of drawing your attention to this Service of the Worship of God. We do not find it impossible in the evening to go out to a place of entertainment. We ought to feel a stronger urge to be present at the Worship of Almighty God. No doubt we come to receive in an act of Worship but we should also come to give. Your presence will help the faith of another. "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

SYLLABUS.

Dec. 3—"Any questions?"

Answers by invited members of the Church
to questions sent in to the Minister.

.. 10—"The Life of Christ in Art." (Illustrated
by lantern slides.)

.. 17—"Books Old and New."

.. 24—"The Pilgrim's Progress."

Early this year the Kirk Session delegated to its members the duty of visiting all the Youth Organisations connected with the congregation. In order that the elders might be more conversant with the work done in these bodies a special meeting of the Kirk Session was held last week to which were invited the Leaders of the various Youth Organisations who gave brief and instructive reports on the aims, objects and proposed programme of work for the coming winter of their respective organisations. A discussion then took place with the Leaders during which many interesting points were raised and several suggestions considered as to how the Session could best assist them in this most important work among the young people of the congregation. At the close of the meeting the Leaders were cordially thanked by the Moderator for their attendance.

THE WOMAN'S GUILD.

The Woman's Guild held a Guest Afternoon on Wednesday, 11th October. Members of neighbouring Guilds were present and we were honoured by having with us Mrs. M'Kerrow, the President of the Woman's Guild. In an illuminating and inspiring address, Mrs. M'Kerrow described the work of the Woman's Guild under three different aspects, namely, the mind, the spirit and the sphere of service. She appealed for the development of the mind and intellect, for more understanding of Church and National affairs and, above all, for a more Christian outlook on the problems of the day.

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The Woman's Guild had also a great part to play in the spiritual life of the Church. In these days of war and suffering much could be done by refusing to give way to the spirit of fear, and by cultivating the spirit of hope and faith. No Christian had any right to despair of the coming of God's Kingdom. Lastly, she spoke of the service Guildswomen could render in the Church and community. She emphasised the fact of the World Church and said that it was one of the best auguries for the future of the European nations. Any resistance offered to the Axis Powers had come from members of the Christian Church.

The address showed a remarkable vision and breadth of outlook and was one which we shall not forget.

Mrs. Stewart Thomson, who was to have addressed the meeting on 15th November was unavoidably prevented from being present. Her place was taken by Miss Agnes Gibson, O.B.E., who is always a welcome visitor to the Woman's Guild. She chose as her subject of address "The Bedouin Woman."

She described the life of the Bedouins in the desert under conditions which have changed little in four thousand years. During that time empires have risen and fallen but the Bedouin tribes have survived. She compared the Bedouin tent to the Portal House, rather to the detriment of the latter. In all this life the Bedouin woman held a very important place and, she thought, had much to teach us in our somewhat overloaded civilisation. Miss Gibson explained some of the old Biblical stories in the light of her knowledge of Bedouin life and customs, thereby making them more real and more easily understood.

The meeting on 6th December will be held in the evening at 7.30 p.m., and will be addressed by Miss Muir, Secretary of the South West Council of the Woman's Guild.

PRESBYTERY NOTES.

The Presbytery during the past two months has been called upon to deal with some matters closely affecting the life of the Church.

At the October meeting a report from the Committee on Social Problems was submitted by the Convener, the Rev. Dr. Neville Davidson. The Committee having had under review the recent White Paper on Infant Mortality regarded this report as a cause for great disquiet among all who were interested in problems relating to the social, moral and religious welfare of the people. It is especially disturbing to note that the death rate among infants in Scotland was considerably higher than in most European countries and that Glasgow had the unenviable reputation in this respect among the great cities of Britain. The chief causes of this deplorable situation were given as bad housing, the poverty of the poorer classes, and the lack of nurses and Maternity Homes. The Committee suggested that immediate steps should be taken for the sake of the mothers and children as well as for the reputation of Glasgow and its Social Services. After a long discussion it was agreed to ask the Corporation to receive at an early date a deputation from the Presbytery to put these views before them. Arising out of the discussion a new body to be known as the Glasgow Christian Council has been formed representative of all the leading Churches in the city.

This new body will make pronouncements on Social, Moral and Religious issues affecting the life of the community.

The question of the supervision of the Ministry was raised on an Overture from the General Assembly anent the subject. A Special Committee (Convener The Moderator, the Rev. F. J. M'Lauchlan) having examined the proposed plan, recommended that the Presbytery should disapprove of the scheme but be prepared to consider without prejudice any other proposals which might be put forward. This decision of the Committee roused a storm of protest. It was argued that a large Presbytery like that of Glasgow ought to have something to say on such a subject and that the Committee should have stated reasons for the course recommended. It seemed to be generally agreed that something in the way of supervision was necessary, also that the Committee should have brought forward some constructive proposals in that direction. This point of view was largely supported and eventually the Convener agreed to take back the recommendation in order that reasons for their objections to the Overture might be clearly stated along with any suggestions for the future guidance of the Presbytery.

The vexed question of the admission of women to the Eldership again came upon an Overture from the Assembly under the Barrier Act. In the spring of this year the Presbytery by a majority approved the proposal, but once again the question came under review. All the old familiar arguments were brought forward but a new reason for supporting the change was given by two speakers, namely, that in the early Church women had certain rights and privileges not now enjoyed by them, and that what was proposed was merely an act of restoration. In the end the Presbytery reaffirmed its former decision by 71 votes to 66 against.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS.

Our parcel from the congregation to those on Service is this year made up as follows: A knitted article (socks, gloves or scarf), a Postal Order of the value of 10/-, a 5/- book of stamps, a Service Testament and our annual letter. The Parcels Committee (Convener, Mr. Nimmo) regard the work of making up and despatching these parcels as a labour of love and they send their warmest regards and best wishes to each recipient.

GIRLS' ASSOCIATION.

The Winter session of the G.A. has been in progress since September. We have a very full syllabus this year and have already completed a course of Country Dancing, which everyone enjoyed, under the direction of the Misses Hunter. Our course of Keep-Fit, which we have just started is taken by Miss Betty Smith and is very popular in spite of sundry aches and pains following our first evening.

During October our branch assisted in the G.A. Social Service Scheme, by taking part in the services at two of the Lodging Houses one Sunday, and later the same week giving a concert at Moncur Street Lodging House Mission. Mr. M'Kay accompanied us on this occasion and took family worship at the close of the evening. The concert was greatly appreciated and we have a very warm invitation to return.

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This winter our work parties have taken the form of toy making. These are to be given to the Orphan Homes of Scotland at Christmas. We would take this opportunity of asking the congregation to assist us in this work, by giving us any old toys, books or trinkets, to add to our own collection.

Plans for our concert, which we hope to produce early in 1945 are well advanced, and rehearsals for the plays are in progress under the guidance of Mr. J. M'Laren.

We extend a cordial invitation to girls of 15 years of age and over to come along and join our association.

GIRL GUIDES.

This year the Company has twenty-seven Guides and they have now all settled down to the winter's work. The increased numbers make extra help in running the Company almost essential, and I am very grateful for the assistance given by Miss Christie of Mearnskirk Hospital who comes to meetings as often as her nursing duties permit.

On Tuesday, 14th November, we took a holiday from Badgework and had a party. The majority of the Guides came in fancy dress and their costumes lent a pleasant touch of colour and an added gaiety to the evening. The time passed all too quickly with games of skill and chance—and of course, supper.

Just now the Guides are busy working for a Toy Sale which we would like to hold as soon as possible. We would be very grateful for any oddments of cloth, leather or wool which could be used to make toys. These should be handed to Miss Stewart or to any of the Guides as soon as is convenient.

LESLEY STEWART.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

The session is now well advanced and all the usual activities in full swing. This year the enthusiasm of the boys is greater than ever and is reflected by the excellent attendance at Bible Class and Drill. To date only five boys have broken their attendance through illness and the Squad rivalry is very keen indeed. Last month a number of boys presented themselves for the Battalion Campers' Badge Test and results are eagerly awaited. For this Badge boys, who must have attended at least three camps, are expected to have an all-round knowledge of Camp Organisation, Catering, Site, etc. Classes are presently being run for the forthcoming Ambulance and Signalling examinations, and it is hoped to put forward a number of boys for the tests.

The congregation will be interested in the progress of the Pipe Band. Eight boys have been issued with pipes and Mr. MacDougall is very pleased with the progress made. The drummers, who have had their instruments for some time are now proficient and it is anticipated that the Band will be able to give a good account of itself early in the New Year.

To terminate the hard work of the half session a Christmas Social has been planned and should be enjoyed by all.

Boys' Brigade Week will be held during the week commencing 3rd December, and during this period boys are asked to invite subscriptions from their

friends towards the work of the Brigade. It is hoped that members of the congregation will give generously to this fund which does good work amongst the needy Companies throughout the Kingdom.

THE LIFE BOYS.

Owing to pressure of work Mr. Howden has had to resign from the Team and this has been reorganised under Captain Robertson. Will parents please note the Team meets at 6 p.m. each Friday and the boys are sent home at 7.30 p.m. While there are now twenty-four boys on the roll it is felt that there are many more boys between the ages of nine and twelve who might join and parents are asked to send them along any Friday before the end of the year. A Display is being planned for the end of the session and boys joining now will be able to take part.

NOTES.

The Congregational Treasurer intimates that he has received from the Trustees of the late Mrs. Margaret Reid, Kilmarnock Road, the sum of £50, being a Legacy in memory of her late husband, James Reid, and her brother-in-law, Robert Reid. The Legacy is free of duty and is at the disposal of the Congregational Board.

A Retiring Collection will be taken on the second Sunday of December for the parcels sent to those members of the congregation who are serving with His Majesty's Forces.

Alteration in Systematic Giving Scheme.—Will contributors please note that owing to restriction in the use of paper we have been obliged to reduce the number of small envelopes for contributions from 52 to 26 per annum. Thirteen envelopes will be issued half yearly (January and July) instead of quarterly as formerly.

Each envelope will be dated for two weeks, the first envelope will be dated 7th-14th January, the next 21st to 28th January and so on throughout the year.

You are requested to enclose two weeks' contributions in each envelope bearing the appropriate dates instead of one as formerly.

We feel sure your co-operation can be relied on in this matter, so that there may be no adverse effect on the finances of the Church.

General Audit of Accounts.—The Treasurers of the various Church organisations are requested to prepare a statement of their intromissions with relative vouchers for the year ending 31st December, 1944, and hand these to Mr. James Pollock, 7 Main Street, not later than 15th January, 1945, for submission to the Auditors.

"Old Days and Ways in Newton Mearns." At this time when suitable Christmas presents are hard to obtain, it might be a good idea to send your friend a copy of this excellent book by the Rev. Dr. A. Boyd Scott. Copies can still be had from the Session Clerk, price 2/6d. each.

Contributions to the next issue of the Supplement which will appear in February, 1945, should be sent to the Editor, Mr. C. J. Thom, The Schoolhouse, Newton Mearns, not later than Sunday, 28th January, 1945.

NEWTON MEARNS CHURCH SUPPLEMENT

LETTER TO THOSE ON SERVICE.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,
NEWTON MEARNS,
Christmas, 1944.

DEAR FELLOW MEMBER,

At this, another season of remembrance and goodwill, we would claim the privilege of being among those who have not forgotten you. Throughout the years of war, with their growing stress and strain, the spirit of Christmas has become stronger and there is no fear for our civilisation, as long as we continue to honour the Great Founder of this Feast.

What a change has come over the war situation since last we addressed our Christmas letter to you! Only a few weeks ago it seemed as if total victory were to come in a matter of days and, though the thought was rather optimistic, we have every reason to feel thankful to God for the great improvement in our outlook and we still believe that the Judge of all the earth will do right. In the great work of righteousness you have played your part and we sincerely hope that before the dawn of another festive season you will be back among your ain folk.

At present much attention is being given to the material well-being of those returning from the services. The Church welcomes this attitude but its higher function is to keep before the people the great truth that to be "rich towards God" is the most important thing in life. We rely on you when you return, enriched by your new experiences, to help us in this great work. In your absence we have carried on under difficulty and each of the five years, which has taken away more and more of our helpers, has added to the tasks of those who remain. Still the work has been pleasant, for most people at home realise with increasing conviction that, if the Church were to relax its vigilance, the world would gradually lapse into paganism.

We look forward to the day when you will return to help us to keep the Christian ideal before the eyes of all men, and we have much pleasure in sending all good wishes from the congregation.

Yours very sincerely,

W. MURRAY MACKAY, *Minister.*

JAMES POLLOCK, *Session Clerk.*