

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

FEBRUARY, 1945

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

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Treasurer—Mr. C. J. THOM, J.P., M.A., The
Schoolhouse, Newton Mearns.

Telephone : NEWton Mearns 2013.

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

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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."

George, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bain, Rhona,
Hazelwood Avenue.

Robin Lindsay and Sandra Lesley, son and
daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick,
Newtonlea Avenue.

Charles Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ferns, 25
Larchfield Avenue.

Norman James, son of Mr. and Mrs. Murray,
Sherwood, Edzell Drive.

Deaths.

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

David Currie, Greenside.

Mrs. MacCallum, Braeside, Kilmarnock Road.

NEW MEMBERS.

By Profession of Faith.

Alexander Hugh Morton, 51 Larchfield Av.

Ray Smith, 17 Torrington Av., Whitecraigs.

By Certificate.

Mrs. Andrew, Saltire, Larchfield Avenue.

Miss E. Johnston, Saltire, Larchfield Av.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Frederick, Fassfern,
Newtonlea Avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Ferns, 25 Larchfield Av.

Mrs. Alexander Keir, c/o Yesnaby, Arthurlie
Drive.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Todd, 12 Larchfield Av.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Smith, Craigend Lodge.

IN MEMORIAM.

Mr. David Currie, Greenside, died on
19th January at the age of 89. A former
Trustee of the Congregation, in the days of
the United Presbyterian Church, he came to
the district as a young man and was for
most of his life associated with Messrs.
Wallace & Co., Netherplace. A man of
intellect, industry and integrity he possessed
a nature of selflessness. This manifested
itself in many ways, in his conversation, his
interest in others, in the community and in
the nation. He had a deep love for the
Church of Jesus Christ. For the last six
years of his life he was confined to bed, but
those who visited him never heard him mur-
mur or complain. To his wife who attended
him so devotedly, and to his family we ex-
tend our deep sympathy. "David, having
served his own generation by the will of God
has fallen on sleep."

FINANCE.

Collections during December and January.—

Systematic Giving	...	...£214	2	6
Church Door	...	...	25	9 1
Special—Retiring	...	...	31	10 7
		£271	2	2

Forwarded to the General Treasurer,
Church of Scotland, Edinburgh. Quarterly
payments to the Funds of the Church.—

Maintenance of

Ministry Fund ... £37 10 0

Foreign Mission Fund 37 10 0

Women's Foreign

Mission Fund ... 8 15 0

Church Extension Fund 25 0 0

Other Schemes ... 28 15 0

£137 10 0

Glasgow Hospital Sun-

day Fund ... £30 0 0

Royal Cancer Hospital 2 2 0

Royal Samaritan

Hospital ... 2 2 0

£34 4 0

£171 14 0

THE CLOSING OF THE CANTEEN.

Representatives from the Session and the Congregational Board were present at the closing of the Canteen on Monday, 5th Feb. Mr. Mackay reviewed the work since its inception on the 12th August, 1941. The Session, having considered the need for such, asked the Social Club to undertake the task. This it had willingly accepted and fulfilled in an efficient way for three-and-a-half years. During this period three Presidents had held office, Messrs. H. C. R. MacRae, Robert Bone and Paul R. Wood; two Secretaries, Mrs. Clark and Miss Etta Dorward; and two Treasurers, Miss Eileen Osborne and Miss Nancy Blue. Under them had served a band of thirty-two workers, divided into eight groups of four. Within the Canteen many Servicemen had obtained food, light, warmth and fellowship. Several members of the congregation had given their services unsparingly, notably Messrs. Forsyth, Forgan, Maclaren and Smith. The Church Officer had also rendered valuable assistance.

Mr. Nimmo, representing the Session, thanked those who had carried out the work so efficiently. The Session had been deeply interested in the work that they had been doing. When the suggestion of establishing a Canteen had first been made, he had said that the conception that a Church existed only to hold two services on the Sabbath Day was untenable. That they should always remember, moreover, that it was a Church Canteen. They had done a valuable service for the Church for which they owed them a deep debt of gratitude.

Mr. Davidson, representing the Congregational Board, associated himself with what Mr. Mackay and Mr. Nimmo had said. He referred in particular to various gifts which members of the congregation had made. One person had provided each week a cake for over two years. That was emblematic of the generosity of those engaged in the work. He conveyed to the workers the thanks of the Board of Management.

Mr. Forsyth replied on behalf of the Social Club in a fitting and humorous speech. The remainder of the evening was of a social character.

The Social Club are now resuming their normal activities and a warm welcome is extended to all the younger members of the congregation. In Mr. Wood they have an efficient and genial President, and in Miss Dorward a competent and energetic Secretary.

THE WOMAN'S GUILD.

The Woman's Guild met on 24th January, when an Address was given by Miss Stuart on the work of the Church in Jamaica.

Unfortunately, owing to the severity of the weather, the attendance was small, but those who braved the cold were amply repaid.

Miss Stuart, who has spent nineteen years in Jamaica, described that island, dealing more particularly with its people. The majority of these are black, being descended from the negroes who were brought from Africa as slaves to the sugar plantations. When slavery was abolished in the island, the natives were left quite unprovided for, and had the missionaries not stood by them, would have gone under altogether. For this reason they have a great respect and regard for the missionaries. The majority of the Church members are natives. These natives, having inherited many of the beliefs and customs of their ancestors in Africa, constitute a great problem for the missionary. Our form of church service was too dull and austere for their more emotional natures, and, in some congregations, it was lightened by some of their own music and singing, so long as these were kept within limits. Another problem was the low standard of morality in the island, largely resulting from ideas of tribal life in Africa. Then there was the problem of the young Jamaican students who came to Scotland, and who, almost invariably returned home avowed Communists and atheists. The Church at home had a great responsibility towards these young men and a great opportunity for winning them for the Kingdom of the Lord.

The address was one of the most telling we have been privileged to hear, entering, as it did, into the realms of Christianity, politics and economics, and having something constructive to offer in each sphere.

THE GIRLS' ASSOCIATION.

The G.A. course of "Keep Fit," led by Miss Betty Smith, finished early in December, and we arranged a night at the Alhambra, where twenty members and friends were lucky enough to obtain seats for Thursday, 27th, and all enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

Rehearsals for our Concert are now well on, and we hope to produce the show in March, when we trust that the members of the congregation will give us their usual loyal support. The show is a varied one, consisting

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of two One Act Plays, Chorus, Song Scenes, and Sketches.

Mr. MacLaren is once again producing our Plays, and we are indebted to Mrs. Robertson for her faithful attendance at rehearsals where she provides the piano music.

We would be very grateful for any donations towards royalties of the two plays, and any member of the G.A. will be pleased to accept any gifts.

FLOWERS.

The Flower Committee would like to thank those ladies who provided flowers for the Communion Table during last year. In spite of the scarcity during the winter months we have never lacked flowers, thanks to the kindness of Mr. John Russell and Mr. John MacCallum, whose lovely blooms brightened the Chancel through the darkest days.

The Committee would also like to thank the members of the congregation who have contributed to the Flower Fund in 1944, and hope that those who have to purchase flowers will avail themselves of the Fund.

79th GLASGOW COY. THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

The second half of the session is now in full swing and the Company has been well represented at the various Battalion Tests held at this time of the year. Mr. Hall is busy preparing his First-Aid Class for the forthcoming Ambulance Examinations whilst the boys in the Band are putting in some hard work under Drum-Major Hamilton and Pipe-Major MacDougal.

A most successful Parents' Night was held last month, when the Officers had the privilege of entertaining more than eighty parents and friends. In addition to an enjoyable programme, the film taken at last summer's camp was shown and proved most interesting. The high light of the evening was the presentation for the first time of the new Pipe Band. The display given by the boys reflected great credit on the instructors, and appreciation of their work was expressed by one and all. Captain Robertson paid tribute to the valuable and patient work of Mr. Hamilton and Mr. MacDougal, and said that great things were looked for from the Band.

On Sunday, 14th January, a District Church Parade was held to Pollok Church, and the Band had its first experience of playing in the open. Needless to say the boys

acquitted themselves well. Many of the congregation would have an opportunity of hearing the Band at the Inaugural Ceremony of the local Welcome Home Fund, when both Pipers and Trumpeters took part in the programme.

Plans have once more been laid for Summer Camp and it is proposed to visit Barrhill once again this year. All who took part voted last summer's Camp "the best ever," and it is felt that another visit to this most hospitable Ayrshire village is called for.

The officers would take this opportunity of expressing their thanks to Miss Winifred Erskine, of Jordanhill, for the very kind gift of a Morse Signalling Lamp and Buzzer.

PRESBYTERY NOTES.

At its December meeting the Presbytery finally disposed of the vexed question of supervision of the Ministry, raised by an Assembly Overture on that subject. A Presbytery Committee recommended the rejection of the proposed scheme on two grounds (1) that the scheme which proposed to elect permanent Moderators of Synods for supervision work was too involved and (2) that it was contrary to the Constitution of the Church. An amendment to the report asking the Presbytery to accept the principle of the scheme with slight modification was rejected on a vote after a spirited debate. The report of the Committee was then adopted with the addendum that the Presbytery is prepared to consider without prejudice any other scheme which might be put forward in the future.

The Committee on Social Problems and its Convener, Dr. Nevile Davidson, have been very active of late with the consideration of certain problems closely affecting the life of our nation, which have been seriously perturbing the minds of all social reformers. The first of these was the question of Child Mortality, the Committee basing its action on a recent report which showed that Glasgow had rather an unenviable record on the matter. Since the question was raised, the Presbytery representatives have had a very friendly conference with the Health Committee of the Town Council, and it is hoped that in the future these two bodies will be able to co-operate successfully in bringing about a much needed improvement. In the meantime, the matter has been referred to the Glasgow Christian Council, composed of representatives of all Churches in the City, for further consideration.

NEWTON MEARN'S CHURCH SUPPLEMENT

At the January meeting, the question raised by the same Committee was that of Juvenile Delinquency, an evil which had shown a very alarming increase during the war years, not only in cities and towns, but all over the country, as is evidenced by the all too frequent reports appearing in the columns of the daily Press. The reasons for this were not far to seek; fathers had been called up for the Forces, mothers for war work, thus undermining parental control, and, combined with this, we had casual employment, over-crowding, poverty, bad housing, and lack of proper recreational facilities for young people. The extent of the evil was shown by the fact that in one coast town the juvenile delinquency was five times that of an inland town with twice the population, and in one street in an Ayrshire town 15 per cent. of the juvenile population passed through the courts in one year. In Scotland as a whole juvenile crime had increased by 25 per cent. since the outbreak of the war.

The Committee put forward a number of recommendations:—

- (1) That Ministers and Kirk-Sessions should urge upon parents the necessity for making the home a centre of Christian nurture.
- (2) All concerned with the welfare of the rising generation were urged to continue to press for better housing conditions for the people and more recreational facilities for the youth.
- (3) The earliest opportunity should be taken for the return to their home responsibilities of mothers engaged on war work.

These recommendations were duly approved.

The last Report of the Convener of the Maintenance of the Ministry Fund proved extremely gratifying, showing a further increase in contributions during 1944. Since then an intimation has been made that the Minimum Stipend has been raised by another £20, making it now £370 and a Manse. This intimation will be welcomed in the homes of

many ministers throughout the country, especially in the rural areas where small congregations are the rule.

The amount aimed at at the time of the Union was £400 and a Manse, and it is to be hoped that target will eventually be reached.

VARIA.

The Minister has been appointed Interim-Moderator in Spiersbridge Church, Thornliebank in the absence of Rev. J. J. Malloch, on Service with the Churches' Huts. He will visit that congregation on 18th February. The Services in this Church will be conducted by the Rev. T. S. Cairncross, M.A., the Locum in Thornliebank.

On 18th March the visiting minister will be the Rev. John Stewart, D.D., formerly of Manchuria. Dr. Stewart has rendered valuable service in that province occupied now by the Japanese, and will have an interesting account to give of life in that place.

On 22nd April, the Anniversary Services will be conducted by the Rev. G. Johnston Jeffrey, B.D., of Sherbrooke Church, Glasgow.

Mr. John Brownlie, Mearnskirk Hospital, has been appointed Superintendent of the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Dumfries. We offer our warmest congratulations to him, and our best wishes in the work to which he goes. We shall miss him in the Session and in the life of the congregation.

Mr. John S. Anderson, M.A., B.Sc., has been appointed Second Master in Mearns School, while Mr. C. J. Thom has been appointed Headmaster of the South Junior Secondary School, Paisley. Congratulations and good wishes are offered to both.

SEAT-LETTING.

Members who have not yet got sittings might please make inquiries at the close of any forenoon service.

SUPPLEMENT.

Contributions to the next issue of the Supplement should be sent to the Editor, Mr. C. J. Thom, not later than Sunday, 25th March, 1945.