

# Newton Mearns Church Supplement

APRIL, 1945

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

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**Session Clerk**—Mr. JAMES POLLOCK, 7 Main Street,  
Newton Mearns.

Telephone : NEWton Mearns 2741.

**Treasurer**—Mr. C. J. THOM, J.P., M.A., 81  
Beech Avenue, Newton Mearns.

Telephone : NEWton Mearns 2013.

**Clerk to the Congregational Board**—Mr. W. T.  
DAVIDSON, 1 Raeside Avenue, Newton Mearns  
Telephone : NEWton Mearns 2534.

## Church Services.

FORENOON—11.30 a.m.

EVENING—6.30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—10.15 a.m.

BIBLE CLASS—5.30 p.m.

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

## REGISTER.

### Baptisms.

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

Duncan Clark, son of Mr. and Mrs. McGhie, Arthurlie  
Drive.

Stuart, son of Mr. and Mrs. Park, The Lodge,  
Crookfur.

Alistair Graham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson,  
Analan, Newtonlea Avenue.

### Marriages.

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

James Taylor Anderson and Mary Fraser MacBrayne-  
James Garvan and Margaret Carswell.

### Deaths.

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

Miss Nancy Gemmell, Newark, Westbrae Road.  
Mrs. Macgregor, Mandala, The Loaning.

## IN MEMORIAM.

The congregation learned with deep regret of the  
death of Principal Glaister who spent the last years  
of his life in the home of Miss Allan, Kilmeny, Craigie  
Drive. Dr. Glaister was not as well known in this  
country as he deserved to be as he had spent much  
of his life in Australia where he was principal of a  
College in Brisbane. The earlier part of his life was  
spent in Kirkcudbright whence he was appointed to  
his important post. A man of encyclopaedic know-  
ledge, and kindly disposition, he was known in all  
the Church and University life of that Continent,  
and did much to cement Christian unity.

## THE CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

The Annual Business Meeting of the congregation  
was held in the Church Hall on the 7th of March.  
There was a fair attendance of members. The Rev.  
W. Murray Mackay occupied the chair and in his  
opening remarks referred to the absence of Mr.  
Pollock, the Session Clerk on account of illness.

The good wishes of the meeting would be conveyed  
to Mr. Pollock for his speedy recovery to health and  
strength. Reference was also made to the absence  
of Mr. J. B. Mather. Following on a recent illness he  
had intimated his resignation from the Convenership  
of the Property Committee. The Board considered  
some tangible form of recognition of Mr. Mather's  
long and valuable services to the congregation  
should be made and a small committee had been  
appointed to deal with the matter.

The work of the canteen had now been concluded  
and the Chairman thanked all the workers who had  
helped to brighten the lives of the troops stationed  
in the district.

Mention was made of the Special Meeting of the  
Session with the Leaders of all the Church Youth  
Organisations and the good work being performed by  
these bodies.

Dealing with the Congregational Roll, Mr. Mackay  
stated that there was a slight decrease. At the end  
of December, 1944, the number on the roll was 797  
as against 815 at the close of 1943.

Mr. W. T. Davidson, the Clerk, then read a synopsis  
of decisions of the Board during the year. This was  
approved by the members present.

Mr. Thom, the Congregational Treasurer, then  
presented the Annual Accounts, which, after some  
explanation, were adopted, and the Treasurer cor-  
dially thanked for his services.

The following were elected to the Board of Manage-  
ment for three years: Miss Connell, Mrs. Rodger,  
Mrs. Thom, Miss M. Hay, Messrs. Jarvie, Keir,  
MacLaren, and Edmond.

Reports were given by representatives from the  
various organisations. These are given below. Mr.  
Nimmo then proposed a general vote of thanks to  
Collectors, Flower Providers, Choir, Organist, Church  
Officer and the Chairman. Thereafter the meeting  
was closed with the Benediction.

## REPORTS ON CHURCH ORGANISATIONS GIVEN AT THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

**The Sunday School.** Miss MARY HAY, *Secretary*.

The Sunday School meets every Sunday morning  
except on Communion Sundays at 10.15 a.m. A  
Class for Beginners meets during the Forenoon  
Service.

Mr. Nimmo, the Superintendent, holds two exam-  
inations during the session for pupils who wish to  
enter. Prizes are also given for attendance.

The Sunday School Parties were held on Saturday,  
23rd December, 1944, and were enjoyed by all.

There are 110 children on the Roll, a decrease on  
last year, but this is explained through the Boys'  
Brigade Bible Class meeting at the same hour as the  
Sunday School, while the older girls have passed on  
to the Minister's Bible Class. There are 12 teachers,  
8 ladies and 4 gentlemen.

The Sunday School Picnic was held on Saturday,  
24th June, at Crookfur. A very happy afternoon  
was spent and the staff wish to thank Mrs. Templeton  
very much for all her kindness.

**The Woman's Guild.** Miss H. J. OSBORNE, *Secy.*

Throughout the winter the Woman's Guild has  
met, for the most part, on Wednesday afternoons.  
On two occasions we had evening meetings, which  
were very well attended. We were privileged in



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having Mrs. McKerrow, the President of the Woman's Guild at our opening meeting and her visit was much appreciated. Thanks to the generosity of the ladies of the Church, the various schemes of the Guild have been supported and again we helped to provide a Christmas Treat for the old folks in the Powfowlis Eventide Home. Dozens of bottles have been collected and most gratefully received at Mearnskirk Hospital. By their generous gifts the members have helped greatly in the refurnishing of blitzed homes in Ilford and Walthamstowe.

The Work Party continues its work for the members of the Forces and for the children of the liberated countries. The need of the latter is very great. The number of garments sent in to the depot at Giffnock this session is 294, making a total of 3,257 since the outbreak of the war.

I should like to plead for a larger attendance of ladies at our Guild meetings. The Speakers give of their best and it seems a pity that more do not come to hear them.

The need for knitting is likely to continue for some time and we shall welcome all who can help in this work.

Next winter we hope to return to evening meetings and we hope that many who are not free in the afternoons will be able to join us then.

**The Girls' Association.** Miss ISOBEL MORRIS, *Secy.*

The Girls' Association meets every Monday and Wednesday alternately at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Hall. There are 21 members on the Roll and an average attendance of 18. The meetings are opened by the President with Bible Reading and Prayer.

The Summer Session was opened on the 31st May with a night of tracking and weather permitting our meetings throughout the summer were spent out of doors; cycling, rambling, swimming, etc. On the holiday Monday in July, those of us who were free for the whole day cycled to Prestwick, leaving Mearns at 9.30 a.m. We spent a most enjoyable day there and arrived home at night rather the worse for wear but none the less intact. We closed our Summer Session with a Social to which we invited members of the Forces.

During the first part of the Winter Session we had a course of Keep-Fit, guided by Miss Betty Smith, and a course of Country Dancing by the Misses Hunter. Both courses were very popular and enjoyable.

The girls made toys for the Bridge of Weir Homes which were judged by Mrs. Mackay and later taken to Quarrier's Homes by the President and the Secretary and most gratefully received.

As our Treasurer, Miss Jessie Herbert, was leaving us we decided to hold a party for her and as it was near Hallowe'en we celebrated this in the traditional style. During the evening a presentation was made to Jessie. A few servicemen were invited from the Overseas Club in Glasgow.

Our last year's Concert was repeated in the Lodging House in Moncur Street on 19th October.

Talks were given by different members of the G.A. about Girls' Own Missionaries at some of our meetings.

Since the New Year began we have been working very hard for our Concert which is to be held on 21st, 22nd, and 23rd March and we take this opportunity of inviting all members of the congregation.

The Session has been voted a very enjoyable one by all the members.

**The Social Club.** Miss ETTA DORWARD, *Secretary.*

Once again during the Year 1944, the main

activity of The Social Club has been the running of The Forces' Canteen, although on a much smaller scale than in previous years. The work has been carried through by Eight Groups, with an average of Four Girls on each group, together with the able assistance of our Four Canteen Leaders.

In August, 1944, the last of the troops left this district, and the Canteen then depended upon Men from Mearnskirk Hospital, and still further afield—Rouken Glen Camp. As the season wore on, however, the attendance at the Canteen gradually decreased. This was due to two reasons (1) Hospital rules did not permit the men out after dim-out hours, and (2) with the very severe wintry weather and the men having to work until 8.30 p.m. two or three nights per week, we did not get a great deal of support from Rouken Glen. In January of this year we fully realized that the Canteen had now served its purpose in our area, and we decided to close down temporarily on 3rd February.

To mark the closing of this chapter in the life of The Social Club, we had a Social Evening on Monday, 5th February. There is no need for me to give details of this evening, as most of you, no doubt, will have read the report in The Church Magazine Supplement.

Regarding Accounts, a Financial Statement is sent to Edinburgh each month, a copy of which is also given to our Church Treasurer, but perhaps the following figures will be of interest:—

Turnover for the Year, January/December, 1944, £606 15s. 1d.

The months of January, May, June, September and December showed a slight deficit, totalling in all £3 14s. 3d., but over the twelve months a net profit of £15 8s. 5d. was realized. At 31st December, 1944, we had on hand £46 6s. 2d., which included Stock value £23 11s.

At this point in my report, I would like on behalf of The Club to thank The Board of Management for the encouragement and support they have given us in the work of the Canteen.

During the winter months, our Social Evenings have not been held at such regular intervals as formerly. All our functions have been confined to Club Members, with an invitation extended to the Forces at Rouken Glen.

Now that the Canteen is closed, The Social Club is continuing to meet every alternate Monday. So far we have no particular syllabus drawn up, but no doubt, we will be able to arrange a varied programme for each evening until the end of the session. At one social quite recently, we entertained thirty wounded men from Hairmyres Hospital, and they thoroughly enjoyed the welcome break from hospital life. We hope to have them back before long. It is also our intention, provided we get the consent of the Session to entertain members of the church. From these functions we hope to be able to hand over a donation to our church for The Church Extension Fund.

On behalf of the committee, I would extend a warm invitation to all young people of the church to become members of The Social Club.

**The Girl Guides.** Miss LESLEY M. STEWART, *Capt.*

During the past year the activities of the Guide Company have been very varied, and competition between the Patrols has been keen.

The Guides have proved themselves excellent collectors in recent Flag Days, and since the inauguration of the Welcome Home Fund they have rendered willing assistance at various functions.



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In the winter months the Guides made toys, the subsequent sale of which realised £21 5s. From this amount £10 has been earmarked for the Welcome Home Fund, and £10 for the Church Parcels' Fund. The Company is now comfortably off financially, and in declining any further sum from the Congregational Funds meantime, I would like to express grateful thanks for the initial sum of £5 which was given to start the Company. While Church Funds have to meet so many demands, I feel that the company would not be justified in accepting further allowances, which, during present circumstances could only accumulate in the bank.

The most important function of the Company—the actual instruction and training of the girls has of late sometimes had to be sacrificed to outside demands, but in spite of this the Company has a good badge record. Since the last report, 10 Tenderfoot, 7 Second Class and 5 Proficiency Badge examinations have been passed.

In the next two months girls from the Company are sitting for their First Class Badge, and also for First Aid, Needlewoman, Childnurse, Book, Cyclist's and Gymnasts' Proficiency Badges.

After these are safely over we intend to utilise the light nights for games and other outdoor activities.

**The Brownies.** Miss E. C. STARKINGS, *Brown Owl*. There are 17 Brownies in the 2nd Newton Mearns Pack and 4 Guiders.

We have collected in the past year about £10 in "ship" halfpennies which we have given to the Red Cross and the Merchant Navy Funds.

We are now busy collecting books for a stall at the Sale of Work in Giffnock School on the 24th March in aid of the Girl Guide International Service Fund. The stall is being looked after by the Guides and Brownies of this district.

**The Boys' Brigade.** Mr. J. P. ROBERTSON, *Captain*.

Despite continued lack of staff the work of the Company carries on efficiently and the keenness and enthusiasm of the boys is reflected by the excellent attendance at Bible Class and drill. At the beginning of the session we lost the services of Mr. Howden and Mr. McKirdy but the staff has been joined by Mr. Niven who is proving a most efficient officer.

Members of the Company have taken part with distinction in the various battalion activities and the results of the training are most gratifying. Since the last report the Pipe Band has made rapid strides and is fast reaching a high standard of proficiency. In the near future the boys will be playing before the public in the massed bands at the International Football game at Hampden Park and the Annual Review which is being revived this year.

At the end of last session a most successful summer camp was held at Barrhill, Ayrshire, and all returned greatly benefited by the happy and beneficial holiday. It was regretted that Mr. Mackay was unable to spend some time with us but we hope circumstances will permit of him visiting our camp this year.

In January last the parents of the boys were entertained by the officers and all spent a very happy evening. The interest and support of the parents is greatly appreciated and is of great encouragement to the officers.

It might be mentioned that the Glasgow Battalion has arranged to hold a gigantic open air Thanksgiving Service at Hampden Park on the Sunday following the cessation of hostilities and a warm invitation is extended to all members of the congregation.

The sincere thanks of the officers is expressed to all who have in any way assisted in the work of the

Company, viz., "The advancement of Christ's Kingdom amongst boys."

**The Badminton Club.** Miss HELEN RITCHIE, *Sec.*

The membership of the club, including members of the Parish Church Club who have again joined with us is 19. Members of H.M. Forces have also been invited.

At a party held on Wednesday, 17th January, thirty wounded soldiers from Hairmyres Hospital were entertained when a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Owing to the difficulty of transport no matches have been played this season.

### PRESBYTERY NOTES.

The subject of Sabbath Observance was raised in an acute form at the February meeting by the action of the Glasgow Town Council in initiating Sunday evening concerts for young people in Dixon Halls, Govanhill. The Social Problems Committee took up the matter and at the next meeting their report was submitted by the Convener, the Rev. Dr. Davidson, in a very frank speech, which somewhat startled the strict Sabbatarians. "The Puritan Sabbath," he said, "was dead and could not be revived. This being so, the Presbytery had to choose between two alternatives, either to fight a last ditch battle for a lost cause, or to offer to co-operate with the Town Council provided certain conditions were agreed upon. These were (1) that the concerts be held at such times as would not conflict with the Sabbath evening services, (2) that the level of the programmes should be maintained at as high a standard as possible, and (3) that a minister should be allowed to speak for five minutes during the evening and conduct a period of community hymn singing." After discussion the report was approved, although some speakers had serious misgivings as to the acceptability of the conditions laid down. That they had good reason for their fears was proved at the next meeting when a letter was read from the Town Clerk to the effect that the Corporation Committee were only too willing to agree to the second condition, but found the other two unacceptable. In the circumstances the Presbytery could only record its disappointment that the Corporation had declined to co-operate with the Presbytery in the matter, and there the subject rests for the present. It is understood, however, that an Assembly Committee has the whole subject under review and an early report is to be expected.

On the recommendation of its Youth Committee the Presbytery decided to support the proposal to restore the ad hoc Authorities for the administration of education throughout Scotland, a view which is very widely held, but in the revised version of the Bill now before Parliament the Government have tried to effect a compromise. Three-fifths of the Committees are to come from County and Burgh Councils, while the remaining two-fifths are to be made up of directly elected "education" members and representatives of the various Churches. This proposed arrangement does not seem to be very popular, but a good working plan may be evolved once the Bill goes into Committee. What is required is an administrative body composed of earnest, capable men and women, deeply interested in education for its own sake and prepared to give generously of their time and talents to further the cause they have at heart. The success of the new development outlined in the present Bill will depend very largely on the type of administrator entrusted with the work.



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It is satisfactory to know that Scotland is to have an opportunity of assisting the Reformed Churches of Europe, the story of whose persecutions and sufferings during the war has touched deeply the sympathies of our people. These Churches will be compelled to rebuild almost from the foundation, and with few helpers and scanty resources. Scotland has been asked to combine with other countries in raising funds for this purpose and more will be heard of the matter in the near future.

A new full-time Assistant Clerk of Presbytery has been appointed. He is the Rev. John Sinclair, Mains Church, Dundee, at present Clerk to Dundee Presbytery; he will enter on his new office in October of this year. The arrangement is that he will succeed the present Clerk, the Rev. Dr. Anderson, when he comes to retiral.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Menzies of Camphill was duly nominated as Moderator of the Presbytery for next year.

A Service of Thanksgiving for victory has been arranged for and will be held in Glasgow Cathedral at 11 a.m. on the day following the declaration of the cessation of hostilities in Europe.

### GIRLS' ASSOCIATION.

The Girls' Association has once again almost reached the end of another winter session. We have had a very successful session the climax of which was the concert produced on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd March. This effort was extremely well attended and on the last night it was only with great difficulty that everyone was packed in. The show itself was very colourful and the younger girls, many of whom had never appeared on the stage before, showed great promise. The programme was started with an opening chorus which was followed by two one-act plays, a duologue, duets and two song scenes; the concert ended with a victory finale with the whole Company on the stage.

It would be impossible to name all those who assisted us very willingly as scene-shifters, ticket collectors, dressers, etc., but we would take this opportunity of thanking them one and all for their very great assistance. Mr. McLaren very ably produced the two plays and the sketch and Mrs. Robertson, whose help has been invaluable, provided the piano music.

Our plans for the spring are not yet arranged, but we will welcome any new members who care to come along to our meetings. We know they will find a very happy fellowship in the G.A. and will have no regrets about joining our association.

### THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

With the end of the session in sight most of the Battalion examinations are over and as usual the Company was well represented and all the boys acquitted themselves well in the various spheres of B.B. work. Next month the Battalion is giving a demonstration at the International Football Match at Hampden Park and six boys of the Band have been asked to parade with the Massed Pipe Bands. Others will take part in the various activities to be displayed and the Company is furnishing three boys for the Colour Escort which will be under the command of Captain Robertson. By the courtesy of the S.F.A. the boys taking part will be accommodated in the enclosure and will be able to witness the game.

On Sunday, 25th March, the Band had the honour of playing at the Annual Church Parade of the Girls' Guildry to Glasgow Cathedral. The girls marched past Lord Provost Welsh at George Square prior to attending church.

It was hoped to once again visit Barrhill this summer but unfortunately the accommodation granted last year is not available. A new camping site is being located and this will be published later. The period of camp has been tentatively fixed for 13th to 27th July and all are already looking forward to a very happy time.

### LIFE BOYS.

The Life Boy Team once again in charge of Mrs. Robertson is progressing rapidly and numbers are steadily increasing.

Miss Ann Johnston, Miss Margaret McGregor and Miss Nette Downs have been added to the staff as Leaders. The boys are kept busy with the various activities and all spend a happy time from 6—7.30 p.m. each Friday.

Preparations are in hand for a Jumble Sale to be held in the near future and already a number of the congregation may have had a call from members of the team with a circular explaining what was wanted. Briefly, we are anxious to have all those articles you have come across when "spring cleaning" and members of the team have been asked to call sometime during the Easter holidays. The boys are all very enthusiastic and you are asked to give them what support you can. If your contribution is large we will gladly arrange for a pantechicon to call.

### Mr. John B. Mather.

As noted in the report of the Annual Business Meeting the Board has decided to recognise the long service to the Church of Mr. J. B. Mather by making him a presentation in name of the congregation.

For over 50 years he has been a member of the Congregational Board (formerly the Board of Management), during which he has been Preses and Convener of the Property Committee. An Elder in the congregation, and one who has rendered valuable service to the community as a member of the County Council, we take this opportunity of showing in tangible form our appreciation. Will those who wish to take part please place their contribution in an envelope marked "Presentation" in the Church Door Plate on the 15th or 22nd April, or send it direct to the Congregational Treasurer, Mr. C. J. Thom, 81 Beech Avenue, Newton Mearns.

### Varia.

We welcome to the congregation at the May Communion the Rev. J. Marshall Robertson, M.A., Minister of the Reid Memorial Church, Edinburgh, and a former minister of our church.

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

A class for Young Communicants is meeting in the Vestry at the close of the Forenoon Worship.

At a Special Meeting of the Session Mr. James Meiklejohn was appointed a Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland which meets in Edinburgh in May. Mr. C. J. Thom was appointed Interim Session Clerk in the absence through illness of Mr. Pollock, and has arranged with Mr. W. T. Davidson, Union Bank, Newton Mearns, to transact all business connected with the Proclamation of Banns.

On Sunday, 27th May, the services will be conducted by the Rev. J. L. Riach, B.D., Largs.

### Supplement.

Contributions to the next issue of the Supplement which will appear in June should be sent to the Editor, Mr. C. J. Thom, 81 Beech Avenue, Newton Mearns, not later than Sunday, 27th May, 1945.