

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

JANUARY, 1948

Minister—Rev. W. MURRAY MACKAY, M.A., S.T.M.,
The Manse, Newton Mearns.
Telephone—NEWton Mearns 2747.

Session Clerk—Mr. C. J. THOM, J.P., M.A.,
81 Beech Avenue, Newton Mearns.
Telephone—NEWton Mearns 2013.

Treasurer—Mr. WALTER RODGER,
Townhead Cottages, Newton Mearns.
Telephone—NEWton Mearns 2467.

NEW MEMBERS.

By Profession of Faith.

Mrs. Frances Marjorie Biggar, 46 Queen's Drive.
Miss Deirdre Daphne Gage, Delphine, Kilmarnock Road.
Miss Gabrielle Grace Jose Kerr, Villa Gabrielle, Kilmarnock Road.
Miss Sonia Sharp, c/o Windyhaugh, Roddinghead Road.
Mrs. Ivo Archie Ewing, 1 Rysland Avenue.
Miss Elizabeth Bostock Cameron, Rhumore, St. Vigean's Avenue.
Mr. George Davidson, Hillcrest, Glebe Lane.

Church Services

MORNING—11.30 a.m.

EVENING—6.30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—10.15 a.m.

YOUTH DISCUSSION GROUPS—10.30 a.m.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION—7.45 p.m.

A Class for Beginners and for children living at a distance from the Church is held in the Upper Hall during the Morning Service.

REGISTER

Baptisms

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

William Angus Dawson, son of Mr. and Mrs. MacPhail, Warren.

Graham Robert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Davidson, Hillcrest, The Glebe.

Michael Frederick Bertram, son of Mr. and Mrs. Coote, Dunard, Humble.

John, son of Mr. and Mrs. Craig, 5 Manse Lane.

Jeanette, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pollock, Malletsheugh.

Roderick Matheson, Catriona and Robert Andrew, children of Mr. and Mrs. Mackay, 90 Beech Avenue.

David Yorke, son of Mr. and Mrs. Terry, 100 Main Street.

Marriages.

"Whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

John Forrest McArthur and Martha Hunter Currie.

William Ramage and Phyllis Heyworth.

Deaths.

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

Mrs. Kirkland, Cringledyke, Glebe Road.

Mr. J. B. Macgregor, c/o 48 Beech Avenue.

Miss Orr, Townhead Road.

Miss Donald, Crosscyrne, Arthurlie Drive.

Mr. H. Higgins, 115 Beech Avenue.

Miss Jean Muir, Woodburn, Hazelwood Avenue.

Mrs. Meikle, Lauristan.

Mrs. Storry, Highfield, Whitecraigs.

Mr. D. C. Cuthbertson, Ballindarg, Glebe Road.

By Certificate from other Congregations.

Mrs. Barbour, 53 Moorhill Road.
Mr. and Mrs. Ian Fulton, 84 Beech Avenue.
Mr. and Mrs. David McAulay, Juniper, Kilmarnock Road.
Miss E. Henderson, Juniper, Kilmarnock Road.
Mrs. Davidson, Hillcrest, Glebe Lane.
Mrs. Nisbet, Restenneth, Arthurlie Drive.
Mr. and Mrs. James B. Cunningham, 2 Broomvale Drive.
Mrs. Logan, The Cottage.

A NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER.

Let me begin these notes by wishing you all a very bright and prosperous New Year. It is customary, of course, to do this, but this is spoken in no perfunctory fashion. It is my very earnest prayer that 1948 may provide you with somewhat less strenuous days than has been the case in 1947. Certainly the passing year will leave us without any great regrets. It has not brought us in its train a great number of blessings. True we do have a great many things that we ought to be, and indeed are, thankful for. Yet we feel as if each day was a struggle that seems to get harder rather than easier. It may be that we are getting older—as indeed we are—and that apart altogether from the physical side, we are conscious of ever increasing responsibilities. At the same time we ought correspondingly to be getting wiser, and aware that we do not carry the world on our shoulders alone. It may be that it is hope deferred that maketh the heart sick—hope that we ought never to have harboured to such a degree. It may be that what has been wrong with us is that our whole attitude of life has been and still is wrong. Or is it really true that life is harder than it has been for many generations? Probably the answer is a little of all these things we have mentioned, and they add up to make life the difficult experience that it is to-day. But, thank God, we are still equal to it—even if it takes us sometimes all our strength. Is not that something for which to be grateful? What more indeed ought we to ask? "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me."

THE LATE Rev. A. BOYD SCOTT, M.C., D.D.

It was with very deep regret that we learned of the death of Dr. Boyd Scott, a former minister of this congregation, and for 46 years a distinguished preacher in the Church of Scotland. After his ministry in Newton Mearns he served in Sherwood, Paisley, 1903-1909, and in Landsdowne, Glasgow, 1909-1930. Thereafter he assisted the Church in various capacities as Warwick Lecturer in 1928, Coadjutor Minister of the Barony 1931-1935, and in Australia 1935-1938. He was also the author of several books.

It was through the writer's friendship with Dr. Boyd Scott's sons at the University and the Divinity Hall that he came into more intimate association with the "Doctor." His increasing deafness was a severe handicap to him and sometimes left the impression that he was by nature reserved. Those who knew him, however, found him to be a most gracious and entertaining companion. His hearty laugh we will not readily forget. He was deeply interested in historical research, and loved to roam the moors of Mearns examining monuments and old stones, etc. Yet he was no recluse, for, accompanied by his close friend, the late Rev. William Jardine of Belhaven, he was a familiar habituee of the Hampden Stand. It was, however, as a preacher and pastor that his name became renowned in the Church of Scotland. Possessed of a powerful voice and a commanding presence he was a faithful preacher of the Everlasting Gospel.

This congregation remembers with gratitude the assistance that he so willingly gave in connection with the Bi-Centenary of the Church. He wrote the history of it in the book "Old Days and Ways in Newton Mearns." It proved so popular that the first edition was sold out within a month, and a second edition had the same fate. It is now in its third edition. The genius of the author was shown in the manner in which he combined the history of the Parish with that of the Church. Some thought he overstressed the one, others the other, which showed how perfectly he had managed the balance. The book was enriched by five etchings drawn specially for and freely gifted by the late Sir D. Y. Cameron, R.S.A., a relative of a former minister of the congregation.

Dr. Boyd Scott not only conducted the last service in the old Church but also one of the first in the new building on 24th December, 1939. Referring to what he said on that occasion, I wrote, "He took as his text the words of the 65th Psalm, verse 4: 'We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Thy House,' and said that he, with all who were present that day, must have been satisfied with the beauty of the building in which they now worshipped. He thought the Seceders who had founded it would also have been fully satisfied, had they been present to behold it. They would have been satisfied with the beauty of it, for to that they also aspired although circumstances made it impossible. There were, however, three things that they would have asked to see in the new Church: 1, a steeple, 2, a kirkyard, and 3, a bell. While, however, these were absent in physical fact, it was the spiritual truth they symbolised that were of pre-eminent importance, and he was confident that as such they were present. The first spoke of the Sovereignty of God. The spire was the finger that pointed upwards to Him who forever reigns. The second was the emblem of Immortality. 'There is a land of pure delight where saints immortal reign.' This fact needed to be emphasised in the Gospel to-day. The third, the Church Bell, was introduced originally because it was believed that the pealing of the bell drove away evil spirits. It spoke of the deeper message of the Church, the power of Christ to expel evil from the life of man. Christ was able to redeem the life of man from all evil."

We shall miss his gracious and genial presence, and we extend to Mrs. Boyd Scott, the two sons and daughter (now residing in Australia) our deepest sympathy in their loss in which we feel we share. The words of the great apostle of the Gentiles float into the mind: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me in that day; and not to me only but unto all these also that love his appearing."

Mr. Andrew Russell, who was also a close friend of the late Dr. Boyd Scott, on being asked about him said that he first knew him as a young student when he conducted

evening services at Giffnock in the Golf Club House. These services were started by some members of this church who lived in that district and a few friends in Giffnock, and were the means of bringing Orchardhill Church into being.

Of Dr. Boyd Scott's sermons, after he came to this church, Mr. Russell has vivid memories of two in particular, one on the text, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian," and another on "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee." The preacher dwelt on the words 'Thou fool' with such eloquence that the congregation sat spellbound.

Mr. Russell also mentioned Dr. Boyd Scott's great faculty for making friends in the district far beyond his own congregation. One of these remarked that his handshake was sincere and his smile a benediction.

Mr. Russell sums him up as a Great Servant of his Lord and Master.

KIRK-SESSION NOTES.

At the meeting of the Session on 31st October, Mr. Mackay referred to the passing of the Rev. Dr. Boyd Scott. It was decided that a record be entered in the Minutes and that the Clerk write to Mrs. Boyd Scott expressing the sympathy of the Session and the Congregation.

At the same Meeting, Mr. Mackay thanked Mr. Moreland on behalf of the Session and Congregation for his long and faithful services to the praise of the Church; he also referred to the impending departure of Mr. Murray, expressing regret at the loss of so valuable a Member of the Session, thanking him for the excellent services he had rendered to the Church and wishing him and his family God speed in their new abode.

At the last meeting of the Session on 16th December it was unanimously decided that Raffles and Games of Chance be not permitted in connection with any function of the Congregation.

It was also decided that Mr. Thom should take over Mr. Murray's District and that Mr. Baxter take Mr. Murray's place as visitor to the Life Boys.

CONGREGATIONAL BOARD NOTES.

At the last meeting of the Board it was intimated by the Convener of the Property Committee, Mr. McLaren, that through the good offices of the Local Convener of the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association, Mrs. Thom, a Stretcher had been presented to the Congregation by that body. This stretcher is placed in the front vestibule and is available in any case of sudden illness. The Board instructed the Convener to make inquiries with regard to procuring a couch for the same purpose.

REPORT BY THE PRESBYTERY ELDER

(Mr. McCANCE.)

Ingathering of Funds.—In the month of August the Presbytery gave consideration to the whole subject of Church Finance. Following the deliverance of Assembly on an overture anent that subject, the deliverance instructions were that the Presbytery should negotiate a plan of action for a financial campaign and to arrange for the personal visitation of every home in every congregation. Owing to depreciation of stock values and rising costs of administration, finances of the Church of Scotland, in line with many other organisations, are experiencing great difficulty in meeting their commitments. It was felt a special effort was necessary to increase the givings of Church Members and for this purpose a special letter of appeal was issued to every member for increasing their contributions to assist in squaring the Church Accounts at the end of the financial year. Further, that Church

Members should seriously consider their contributions, and it was hoped that all might see their way to increase their giving by at least one-sixth if the Church is to receive the necessary funds to carry out its mission, not only at home, but with its many commitments abroad. Members will readily realise that the question of the Maintenance of the Ministry is a vital one, as no body of men is having a more difficult time than our ministers throughout the country. Even yet the Church has not been able to rise to a satisfactory minimum stipend, and it is hoped that the campaign now inaugurated will definitely improve this state of affairs. The same position applies in the foreign field where many Missionaries are doing first-class work, but financial considerations are such that unless the givings of the people are increased, work may have to be curtailed. In accordance with this deliverance, the Kirk-Session took the necessary steps and have approached the members of our own Church, and we are pleased to say that we have had a very good response. There are, however, many who have not, as yet, seen their way to join in this campaign, and an appeal is specially made to all who have not increased their contributions to give the matter immediate thought.

Open Door.—On the 9th of November the Open Door commenced operations for the season in Cranston's Tearoom, where a varied programme of films and lectures and a selection of items in the Music Room are being given from week to week. All who are interested in this work will realise the vital necessity for this venture to attract young people from our streets and bring them into contact with religious thought and action. Those who read the press will appreciate the value of this work when they are aware of the numbers of young people who are taking advantage of this service. As two to three thousand appear in Cranston's Tearooms each Sunday evening, this necessitates considerable organisation, and in this respect a special appeal has been made by the Presbytery Convener to all Ministers and Elders to secure volunteers to act as Stewards, a large number being required. Here is a service that may appeal to many Church Members, and we would welcome names of any such member who would volunteer for this very important work.

Finance Committee and Bible Sunday.—On 4th November a letter was read from the General Secretary of the National Bible Society, pointing out that as the General Assembly approved a motion that Bible Sunday be observed throughout the Church, it was suggested that as this year the second Annual Conference of the United Bible Society was scheduled in Scotland to be held at Dunblane from 1st to 5th June, 1948, Bible Sunday within the Presbytery of Glasgow might be fixed for 6th June, 1948. United Bible Societies are arranging that a Special Address be broadcast by Bishop Berggrav, the Primate of the Norwegian Church on the evening of 6th June, and the Presbytery Committee recommended that Sunday, 6th June, be recognised within the bounds of the Presbytery of Glasgow.

As your Presbytery Elder, I would like to assure all members of the Church that considerable activity is developing among the Presbytery Committees to meet the changing conditions of modern times. We often ask the question, "What is the Church doing?" If members were to visit the Presbytery and hear many of the discussions, they would have no doubts in their minds that the Church is definitely rising to the needs of the situation and that steps are being taken to adjust the life of the Church to modern requirements and so bring the Message of the Gospel home to all the people.

THE WOMAN'S GUILD.

The meetings will be resumed on Monday, 12th January, when Miss Dougal will tell the story of Landsdowne House, the Church of Scotland Mother and Baby Home.

A meeting of the South-West Council will be held in Pollok Church Hall, Pollokshaws on Thursday, 15th January, at 2.45 p.m. This meeting will be addressed by Mrs. Walter Sutherland, President of the Woman's Guild. As the Council wish this to be a successful meeting, each delegate is asked to take two Guild members with her.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION.

The first half of the 1947/48 Session has been very encouraging. Papers have been presented on a wide range of subjects and most helpful discussions have followed. A very heartening feature has been the increase in attendance as compared with last session. As, however, the Union has not yet reached its pre-war strength the Committee would like to emphasise that their meetings are open to all members and adherents of the congregation over 18 years of age. While the Meeting is primarily intended for young people, the Committee would welcome the co-operation of guest speakers from the congregation in the latter half of this session.

THE SOCIAL AND BADMINTON CLUB.

The activities of the Club are progressing favourably. The Badminton is well attended although we are still looking for new members to come along and join us. The Club's Badminton Teams, playing in the First Division of the Churches' League are upholding a high standard of play.

The Social events of the Club are not too well attended, and we appeal to all those interested to come and join us on our Social Evenings. The arrangements for the Burns' Night on 27th January are now well in hand and we hope for a good attendance on that occasion.

The Dramatic Section are now having intensive rehearsals of the Play which they are producing in January, and we hope all members and friends in the congregation will support this, their first venture.

THE GIRL GUIDES.

Camp Report.

It was a very excited group of Guides who met on Saturday, 9th August at 8 a.m. in the Central Station—the 2nd Mearns Company was off to camp at Tagloskin Cottage.

Some of the Guides' parents were good enough to help bring the kit into the station where we commandeered a luggage bogey and trundled our own kitbags up to the train. The journey was a pleasant one and passed without mishap, but the two mile walk from the bus to the cottage seemed an interminable one to some of the Guides, who began to wonder if they had come on a wild goose chase.

When we at last arrived, we discovered that Mr. Reid, the gamekeeper, had carted up all our equipment and stores and had a lovely fire blazing and a large pot of boiling water ready for us. We made quick work of unpacking the groceries and getting a meal ready.

Since the weather clerk smiled kindly on us all week, we simply made up sandwiches each day after the morning chores were finished and hid ourselves away to the beach where we spent the whole day till about 6.30 p.m., when it was cooler for the walk back up the hill to attack our evening meal.

The Guides made a grand team and worked hard and well together.

Our last night, when we slept in Largie Castle was rather an exciting one, as we were allowed to explore the place, with all its turrets and the dungeons. However, the Guides were just a little bit scared of the "Brownie" who walks there at nights, so they slept three in a bed—just in case!

The memory remains with me of serious faces when the request was made "Could we come back again next year, Captain?"

THE WAR MEMORIAL.

The Kirk-Session has decided that the names of those who gave their lives in the World War 1939-45 be inscribed on a Plaque to be placed temporarily in the Vestibule of the Church; further, that as soon as circumstances permit, a tower and bell, and a new hall or halls be erected, and that a War Memorial Fund be opened immediately.

The Session feels that no more fitting memorial could be set up than a tower and bell whereby the people would be summoned to the worship of Him who is the Prince of Peace. At the same time an urgent need of the congregation is greater hall accommodation. We require another large hall and several additional side rooms. The whole scheme is to be embarked upon as a Memorial to the Fallen, and when it is completed the plaque will be associated with it. We cannot say when we will be permitted to build, but we imagine that it might be in about eight years' time. Will those who wish to contribute to the Fund kindly send their donations to Mr. Walter Rodger, 7 Townhead Road, Newton Mearns.

MINISTER'S NOTES.

The Service on Christmas Sunday, 21st December, is one that many of us will remember. The Church was filled to capacity, and that in itself made it an inspiring scene. It was an uplifting experience to be in the midst of that vast audience of those who had gathered to offer their homage before the Cradle of Bethlehem. What, however, was still more moving was to look upon the large assembly of children of the Sabbath School, flanked by the Superintendent and their teachers, and in addition the Chancel filled with the Junior Choir, about 40 in number. One felt one was looking down on a scene of promise—on the Church of the future, and it filled our hearts with renewed gladness. The singing of the Introit and Carols by the Junior Choir was beautifully and reverently done. The Solos by Miss Sheena Niven, Miss Eileen Davidson and Miss Olivia Mackay were most beautifully rendered. The whole demeanour of the Choir was excellent, indicating training of a high order. The Sabbath School children in the area of the Church also sang most lustily, and perhaps we could all take a leaf out of their book. One came away from such a service

feeling that the Church was not dead but very much alive: and that Jesus Christ was not dead. He was indeed alive in our hearts.

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Let me draw your attention to the production of the Dramatic Club on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday—the 14th, 15th and 16th January. It promises to be a very entertaining performance. It is Mr. MacNaughton's first bow in connection with the Dramatic Club. He has had 20 year's experience of this work, and is a great favourite with the caste.

GIFT TO MEN AND WOMEN ON SERVICE.

Once again this year as Christmas comes round our thoughts turn to those of our number who are serving with the Forces. To show they have not been forgotten a Gift of a Postal Order for £1 and a letter of greeting has been sent to each of the absent ones.

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP.

It has been suggested by a lady member of the congregation that such a Fellowship might be formed to meet in a house once a month. Any others interested are requested to get in touch with the Minister.

SEAT LETTING.

Members whose names are not on their pews or any other requiring Sittings might please see Mr. Meiklejohn, at the close of any Morning Service.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Any members changing their addresses are earnestly requested to notify the Session-Clerk so that their names may be given to the Elder of the District to which they have removed, thus preventing disappointment at not receiving Communion Cards.

GENERAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.

The Treasurers of the various Church Organisations are requested to prepare a statement of their intramissions with relative vouchers for the year ending 31st December, 1947, and to hand them to the Session-Clerk, Mr. Thom, not later than 18th January, 1948, for submission to the Auditors.