

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

NOVEMBER, 1948

Minister.

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Session Clerk.

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Treasurer.

Mr. WALTER RODGER,
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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."

Ian Colquhoun, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clark.
Eileen Stewart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. White.
Jean Campbell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nicol.
John Hew Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Watt.
Jean Waterhouse, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Forbes.
Rosemary Anderson Isobel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allison.
Brenda Doris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fairman.

MARRIAGES.

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

William Wardrop and Isobel Hodge.
James Anderson and Joan Eliot Burton.
Scott Murray and Elizabeth Bostock Cameron.
Robert Blue and Catherine Campbell.

DEATH.

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

NEW MEMBERS.

BY PROFESSION OF FAITH.

Mr. and Mrs. James Forbes, Ashtree Grove.
Miss Margaret Isobel Robertson Grant, 54 Beech Avenue.

Miss Catherine Cameron Henderson, 37 Beech Ave.
Mr. Allan Forbes Laing, 154 Ayr Road.
Mr. Colin Lux, 3 Kinfauns Drive.
Miss Margaret Taylor Low, 2 Ashview Terrace.
Miss Moira Russell Mackie, 76 Larchfield Avenue.
Miss Sheen Bruce Niven, 94 Ayr Road.
Mr. William Ramage, Blackhouse, Newton Mearns.

BY CERTIFICATES FROM OTHER CONGREGATIONS.

Miss E. M. Clunie, 48 Beech Avenue.
Miss R. Y. Clunie, 48 Beech Avenue.
Miss H. M. Clunie, 48 Beech Avenue.
Miss Osborne, Rysland, Ayr Road.
Mrs. Dobson, Raeside Avenue.
Mrs. James Fyfe, 5 Carrick Crescent, Giffnock.

FINANCE.

COLLECTIONS for the 10 months ending Oct., 1948.

	1948.	1947.
Systematic Giving,	£1333 12 1	£1394 4 3
Open Plate,	203 0 3	191 11 6
Retiring Collections,	31 19 5	33 0 8
do. Special,	18 2 7	4 9 2
Seat Rents,	131 10 0	117 0 0
Mission Envelopes,	60 3 6	56 8 6
Maintenance of Ministry (Envelopes),	9 15 6	—
Sundry Items,	80 16 4	86 13 9
	£1868 19 8	£1883 7 10

NEWTON MEARNES DISTRICT WAR MEMORIAL.

At a meeting held in the Newton Mearns District recently it was decided that the names of those who made the supreme sacrifice in the last World War be added to the existing War Memorial which is situated on the Ayr Road in front of the School.

It was also agreed that the cost of adding the names be borne by both churches—the total cost to the churches was not expected to exceed £30.

The above decisions were duly considered by the Kirk Session and the Board of this Congregation and it was resolved that those members who would care to contribute towards defraying the cost, the amount of which would not exceed £15, should put their contributions in an envelope, suitably marked, and deposit it in the Church Door Plate as soon as convenient. It was also agreed that if the contributions received exceeded the amount required, the balance would be added to the War Memorial Fund of our own Congregation.

ORDINATION OF ELDERS.

On the first Sunday of September the following were ordained and admitted to the office of the Eldership in the Congregation:—Messrs. James

Taylor Anderson, W. Beattie Hutcheson, James E. MacLaren, Allan B. McClure, Arthur R. Macnaughton, Gilbert S. McVean, James M. Mitchell, Neil Munro Niven, John Rodger and Paul R. Wood. Districts have been allocated to the new Elders and we would bespeak a warm welcome to them on their visits to the families of the Congregation.

As will be seen from another column, a Social Gathering was held last month when the new Elders and their wives were welcomed by their colleagues in the Session.

THE WOMAN'S GUILD.

An urgent appeal has come from headquarters for layettes and baby clothes for the devastated countries of Europe. In view of this great need it has been decided to form a Work Party which will meet on alternate Mondays from the ordinary meetings, beginning on 8th November. At the first meeting we hope to have material and wool, but we shall be glad to receive gifts of these and of odd coupons.

An invitation is extended to all members and friends, both men and women, to the meeting in the Church Hall on 15th November at 7.30 p.m. A Film of the Western Highlands will be shown by representative of Messrs. MacBrayne. The lecture will be illustrated with Musical items by a Ladies' Choir conducted by one of our members.

The Collection will be on behalf of the Eventide Home and other Guild Schemes.

A Song Lecture entitled "Count John McCormick" will be given by the Rev. Duncan Macpherson, B.D., on Monday, 13th December, at 7.30. p.m. Tickets, which are two shillings each, are now on sale.

THE CHOIR.

The Kirk Session has decided, with a view to encouraging members of the Congregation to come into the Choir, to assist in leading the Praise of the Church, to invite them to do so at the Sabbath Services despite the fact that they may be prevented from attending the practice. They feel that there may be some who could offer their talents at any of the Services. This Congregation has always been noted in the past for its congregational singing, and the Session urge you to consider if you cannot help in this valuable work of the Church. Any person who is willing to do so is asked to consult with the Organist.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION.

We would like to draw the attention of the Congregation to one of the most interesting and educative meetings of the Church on a Sunday evening in the Upper Hall at 7.45 p.m. The attendance, perhaps is not large, about 20 to 25, but it is the quality of the papers and the discussion that follow that is the outstanding characteristic. Already we have had discussions on such

topics as Catholicism, Why should I Worship, the Christian attitude to Divorce. On the 21st of November we are to have as our theme Communism and the Christian answer. We regret that Mr. James Menzies could not fulfil the duties this year as President, but in Mr. Andrew McCance we have one who seems to be following in his father's footsteps as a public speaker. We invite all those of 18 years and over to join us in a meeting that, I am sure, they will find of great value to them.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TRIP.

It seems a long time since the summer, and perhaps the best summer weather was in the month of May, but we have not forgotten the enjoyable day we spent at Floors Farm on Saturday, 26th June, as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Baird and of Mr. William Craig. The weather was not too kind to us, and we had all lined up for the first race in a field adjacent to the house, when we all had to rush for shelter to the barn which, with forethought, has been cleared in the forenoon. There we at length arrived and there we stayed, and in what was virtually a splendid hall we ran our races and played our games. Nor need we be pitted for we had an uproarious afternoon of fun, and the children greatly enjoyed themselves. The teachers were invited into the farm house for tea and there in the midst of the kindness of their hostess forgot completely the inclement weather. The children also enjoyed going round the farm and looking at the animals. The thanks of all are due to Mr. and Mrs. Baird and to Mr. William Craig for their great kindness on this occasion.

WELCOME TO THE NEW ELDERS.

A Social Gathering was held on Monday, 25th October, to welcome the new Elders and their wives. They were the guests at the gathering in the Church Hall organised by Mr. Nimmo and his Committee. Everything was arranged in the efficient manner of the Convener, and the fact that the evening's entertainment went through with perfect smoothness and no unpleasant gaps was evidence of the carefulness of the organisation. It was a most enjoyable night. Some hands of Whist in which Mr. Nimmo expressed his desire in introducing a Klondkye to give the losers some assistance and succeeded in further depressing them! After a most excellent tea followed by ice-cream, Mr. Mackay voiced the official welcome, and Mr. McVean in his inimitable way made an excellent and humorous reply. There followed some games intermingled by solos from Mr. Moreland and Mr. James Taylor Anderson, most beautifully and artistically rendered. Mr. McCance was a most able accompanist. We shall not easily forget Mr. MacBean's scientific but vain effort to "flap the finnan." We went home feeling the gathering had been well worth while.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

All the activities of the new session are now in full swing with the same keenness and enthusiasm as before. It is pleasing to note that several "Old Boys" have come forward, after a period of military service, with offers of assistance, and they have been heartily welcomed. With additional staff it should be possible to achieve greater proficiency—an aim which is ever before the Officers. As usual it was necessary to part with several excellent boys who had reached the age limit during last session, but their places have been taken by a group of promising recruits transferred from the Life Boys. Nevertheless there are still a few vacancies for boys of twelve and upwards and parents would do well to send their boys along as soon as possible. It might be explained that in The Boys' Brigade a boys' age is reckoned as that which he attains during the session which ends in May of next year.

Towards the end of this month will be held what is known as "B.B. Week." During this week subscriptions to funds are invited from friends of the boys and indeed from all who appreciate the enormous amount of good work done by the Brigade. When asked to help, will you be as generous as possible?

COMMUNION.

At the Communion Service on Sunday, 7th November, 475 members were present in the morning and 30 were present in the evening when Rev. Patrick M. Hamilton of East Kilbride Church preached the sermon, making a total of 505 for the day. This is the second largest total present at any Communion Service in the Church, the record number being 508 in May, 1948.

EXTRACT FROM THE CHRISTIAN NEWS-LETTER.

Can it be said that the Churches, for which the bishops assembled at Lambeth speak, take with equal seriousness their own doctrine of man? We pick up by chance, as we write this News-Letter, a copy of a diocesan gazette. What does it contain? Three articles consisting largely of funny stories of the second-rate variety with which attempts are made to enliven the dullness of clerical and secular social gatherings, an article entitled "The Living Church," including such trivialities as how to draft a church poster announcing a forthcoming dance with the minimum number of words, two excerpts from American magazines assumed to have a certain raciness—that is practically all, apart from a letter from the bishop describing the externals of the Lambeth Conference and giving one or two items of church news. Not a single article instructing the readers about the great themes of human life and destiny. How does that comport with the assertion of the Lambeth Report already quoted that the fading out of the dimension of eternal life has impoverished life to a degree that

cannot be exaggerated? It would indeed seem that the dimension had faded out, as the Report suggests, from the consciousness, not only of men generally, but also of Christians.

The illustration is no more than a minor symptom of a grave weakness and shortcoming in the Christian life of to-day. From the Christian point of view the most serious fact in the religious situation is the emergence and rapid spread of new forms of atheism. The question we are now raising is, of course, quite separate from that of science. Many scientists in the past and present have been devout Christians. But underlying the prodigious, world-wide activity in the pursuit of science and technology, which is to-day the main preoccupation of mankind, is the fundamental question whether in carrying out these tasks man in his solitariness is shaping his own destiny or is devoting powers that have been entrusted to him to the service and worship of God.

The point about modern atheisms is that they are not speculative doubts about the existence of God leading to a mainly negative conclusion. They are the expression of a positive attitude to life. At the root of them lies the conviction that dependence on deity is incompatible with the dignity, freedom and responsibility of man. As Pere Lubac has pointed out in his brilliant book, *Le drame de l'humanisme athee*, the Christian message of man's filial relation to God, which came to the ancient world as the awakening of an immense hope and a mighty deliverance from the tyranny of pitiless fate, is now felt to be a yoke. Man, it is held, has falsely attributed to an imaginary deity qualities that are part of his own essence. If he is to be fully man he must take squarely on his own shoulders his responsibility for the world. In the words of Sir Charles Sherrington (to whom Sir Henry Tizard paid a warm tribute as the sole survivor of the band of great scientists who at the turn of the century gave so powerful an impetus to scientific discovery), the new situation in which the human mind has no appeal and no resort for help beyond itself, may seem to enhance the tragedy and pathos of human life but it is at the same time one "which transforms the human spirit's task, almost beyond recognition to one of loftier responsibility." Or, as one of our younger poets, Dr. Alex. Comfort, puts it in a recent article, we must hold that "beauty, justice and so forth exist as long as we assert them, not in the mind of God or any society, and that we are responsible for our actions."

What we are confronted with to-day in many quarters is a conscious attempt to order and organise the world on the explicit assumption that there is no God. It is a positive belief by which many to-day deliberately attempt to live, and some with deadly earnestness. In face of this, the task to which Christians have to address themselves is to discover and to demonstrate what difference belief in God makes to practical living.

NEWTON MEARNS CHURCH SUPPLEMENT.

And this has to be done in a way that takes full account of man's freedom and responsibility—that does not, in easy fashion, shuffle off on God a responsibility which man is meant to bear, and which the brave take ungrudgingly on their shoulders for the sake of their fellow-men. The question at issue to-day between theism and atheism is not one to which the answer can be given in thought alone. It has to be proved in life.

VARIA.

On 21st November the Services will be conducted by the Rev. R. D. M. Johnston, M.A., of Sandgate Church, Ayr. Mr. Johnston is a brother-in-law

of the Minister and we give him a warm welcome to our Congregation.

The Rev. Heinz Leuner, Secretary of the Hebrew Christian Alliance in London, will be with us on 12th December and conduct both services, speaking also to the Y.P.U. at 7.45 p.m. At this latter meeting Giffnock South Youth Fellowship will be with us as our visitors.

It has been decided by the Superintendent and the Sunday School teachers that the Annual Parties will take place on Saturday, 18th December, and that the Christmas Service will be held on the day, Sunday 19th December. This will take the form of a Gift Service and the intention is that the gifts are to be sent to the children in Stobhill Hospital.