

# Newton Mearns Church Supplement

APRIL, 1949

**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,  
9 Townhead Road, Newton Mearns.

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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"*

Christine Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Williams,  
65 Larchfield Avenue.

Peter Ian Ramage, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ramage, Old  
Mearns Road.

Maureen Nan Macclure, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allan  
Macclure, 125 Kilpatrick Gardens, Giffnock.

### Marriages

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

James Naismith Main and Jean Galloway Allan.

George McDonald and Annie Robertson Johnstone.

James Johnston and Margaret Craig Anderson.

### Deaths

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

Mrs. Norah Russell, Prospect House.

Captain Duncan Henderson, M.C., 37 Beech Avenue.

## FINANCE

### Receipts for Quarter Ending 27th March, 1949

	1949	1948
Systematic Giving Scheme ...	£400 7 4	£373 17 6
Open Plate ...	67 3 1	65 13 3
Retiring Collections ...	25 7 7	14 15 9
Seat Rents ...	67 15 0	65 5 0
Mission Envelopes ...	33 18 6	32 17 6
Sundry Items ...	20 3 0	40 5 9
	<u>£614 14 6</u>	<u>£592 14 9</u>

## CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, 1949.

The Annual Business Meeting of the Congregation was held in the Church Hall on 15th March, 1949, and was attended by over 100 members. The Rev. W. Murray Mackay occupied the chair and opened the meeting with prayer.

Excerpts from Minutes of Board Meetings, 1948-49, were read by Mr. W. T. Davidson, Clerk.

The chairman, in welcoming the members, stated that the number on the Roll at 31st December, 1948, was 834. He mentioned the addition to the Session in September of 10 new Elders. In connection with the War Memorial, he informed the meeting that the Memorial Window in the church should be installed in July and unveiled in September. Mr. Mackay conveyed the thanks of the meeting to the Session, the Congregational Board, Leaders of the Y.P.U., and all the Youth Organisations.

Mr. Walter Rodger, the Congregational Treasurer, presented the accounts for 1948 and compared the figures with those of the previous year. Mr. G. S. McVean, C.A., followed with his report and complimented the Treasurers on their accounts. Thereafter the Congregational Accounts were approved.

Messrs. J. W. Jarvie, C.A., and G. S. McVean, C.A., were elected Auditors for 1949 and thanked for their services during the past year.

Reports were submitted from the following Organisations: Sabbath School, Woman's Guild, Young People's Union, Girls' Association, Social, Badminton and Dramatic Club, Boys' Brigade, Life Boys, Girl Guides, Brownies, and the Golf Club.

On the motion of the Chairman, the thanks of the meeting were conveyed to Mr. Walter Rodger, Congregational Treasurer; Mr. A. S. McCance, Systematic Giving Treasurer; Mr. J. Keir, Registrar; and the Assistant Treasurers, Miss E. A. Young, Messrs. A. M. McCance, J. Russell and I. Wood; also to Mr. C. J. Thom, Session Clerk; Mr. Nimmo, Superintendent of the Sabbath School; Flower Providers, including Messrs. J. Russell and J. McCallum; members of the Choir; the Organist and the Church Officer.

Election of members to the Congregational Board:—The following were re-elected for three years—Miss N. Blue, Miss F. Hunter, Messrs. R. Bone and James Hamilton. Dr. Alexander Dale, W. W. Blue, D. M. Fiddes, and J. B. McCormick were elected for three years; Mr. J. Cromar for two years, and Messrs. S. Brunton and A. M. McCance for one year in place of members appointed to the Session.

After the business part of the meeting was completed, an address was given by the Rev. John L. Kent, M.A.

Tea was served, followed by a musical programme arranged by the Organist.

Mr. Andrew Russell, senior, moved a vote of thanks to the Minister for his chairmanship of the meeting and for all his work during the past year.

## IMPRESSIONS OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The following are a few of the impressions left upon one after the Annual Meeting of the Congregation held on Tuesday, 15th March. In another part of the Supplement you will be able to read a more detailed account of the business transacted.

It was an evening of wind and rain; so wild, indeed, was the weather that it was impossible to hold an umbrella



upright. It was disappointing that we should be holding our annual gathering on such a night, for the programme that had been arranged was an interesting one. One learns, however, in this climate to accept the weather as it comes. It was that kind of a night on which one is tempted to pull a chair close to the fire and nestle down to a book. It was, accordingly, a great surprise, and a tribute to the interest of the members of the congregation in its welfare, that 130 persons braved the elements, and transformed the hall into an animated buzz of conversation as the platform party took their places. One felt that the Church of Jesus Christ was a real and living fellowship as one looked down on the number of interested faces gathered there. Would any other reason than faith in the Lord Jesus Christ have brought them out on such a tempestuous night?

Another impression borne in upon one's mind was the large number of young people who were present in the gathering. No doubt some were there to give the reports of their organisations; but this was a mere handful. One was greatly heartened to realise that there was a younger element in our congregation which was keenly interested in the welfare of the Church, and which, despite the many counter-attractions of life, was interested enough to attend a meeting that was by its nature essentially a business one. These are the persons in whose hands the future of the Church will one day depend, and already they were showing that when the time came for them to assume office, and carry on its work, they would not fail. One day the words would be fulfilled in their life, "Other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours." One had soon forgotten the storm without, and felt glad that one was part of such a fellowship in Christ.

The third impression, to which I would like to refer, was the effect left upon the meeting by the address delivered by the Rev. John L. Kent, M.A., of Cathcart South Church. He blended the lighter and more serious veins of thought in a masterly unity in his words. He began by describing a personal experience he had had in a train journey from Glasgow to Aberdeen with a man in a bowler hat. When I say a man in a bowler hat, he went on, I mean a man in a bowler hat! After the train left Perth, this gentleman turned to a Polish traveller sitting beside him and asked him from what part of Eastern Europe he came. On the foreigner replying, "Warsaw," the man in the bowler hat then indicated that he had himself visited all round that area. The Minister pondered inwardly on what kind of business errand he had been engaged in that country. When the train left Laurencekirk, the Minister and the man in the bowler hat were left alone, and the latter now turned to Mr. Kent and addressed him, but the substance of his enquiry was to make a request for a cigarette! The Minister then asked him if he would tell him on what business interests he was engaged that he had travelled so widely in Poland, and the man replied that he was there as the centre-half of Aberdeen Football Club! Mr. Kent thereupon went on to say that the youth of to-day were concerned deeply about the peace and happiness of mankind, and that they had now arrived at the conclusion that this could not be effected as they had originally thought through the intermediary of sport. One had only to recall the bitter feelings engendered by the game between the Rangers and the Dynamos to realise that. Youth to-day had decided—at least a part of it—that the unity of mankind could only be reached through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who had mediated to us the forgiveness of God on the Cross of Calvary. It was the younger people in the Church to-day who were realising the truth of this, not the older members, and who were deeply concerned to-day about the need for Christian action in life to-day. The Gospel must be carried into every walk of life. Too long the task of the Church had been left in the hands of the Ministers. The message must be carried into every realm of life and shown to be a living faith. He knew of a Church Action Group of young people who had taken a vow to take the spirit of Christ into the sphere of

politics. Each one had joined a political party—it did not matter which one—and was resolved that he would stand up at their meetings and declare the Christian point of view.

We went back into the night of wind and rain with his words ringing in our ears, and a prayer in our hearts.

### THE SOCIAL, BADMINTON AND DRAMATIC CLUB

The Social, Badminton and Dramatic Club are now drawing to the close of a very successful season. The membership to date is 53, an increase of 3 from last year. About 75 per cent. of this number play badminton, nearly all attend some of the social events and a small proportion are in the Dramatic Section.

The Socials throughout the year have been very well attended. The opening social in October had an attendance of 46, the Military Whist in November an attendance of 58, the Christmas Party (which was in fancy dress) had an attendance of between 50 and 60. The Burns Night had an attendance of 80. Unfortunately, the Old Time Night, which was to be held in February, was postponed, and this was held on 21st March. All these social events have been most successful and seem to have been enjoyed by all those who attended them. The success of the Burns Night was due to our Chairman (Mr. Mackay); speakers (Mr. M'Vean, Mr. M'Canee, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Walter Rodger); our soloists (Mrs. Cormack and Mr. Fiddes); and also to Mr. Nimmo, whose readings were most enjoyable.

The badminton has also been successful this season. An average of about 15 or 16 members have been present each night, and the standard of play is good. The teams, both First and Reserve, have now finished playing league matches. The First team, I am sorry to say, have finished fifth in the First Division, Section "A," which consists of nine teams. Unfortunately four teams are due for relegation, two down to Second Division and two to First Division, Section "B." It is to Section "B" the First Team go down, but I hope by next year the position will be reversed and the teams go up to Section "A" once more. The Reserve Team managed to finish second top in their section, only losing two games out of the eight which they played.

A Junior Badminton Section was started this season, and quite a number of girls and boys, ages ranging from 10-16 years are being coached by Mr. Williams and are making great progress.

The Dramatic Section has now finished, and I do not require to outline the work done by this section, as no doubt you all saw for yourself the play "Marigold." It was a most successful production, and this is mainly due to the producer, Mr. M'Naughton, who put so much work into producing the play.

If any of you wish to become a member of any of these sections at the beginning of the next season I am sure you will be made most welcome.

### THE PRODUCTION OF "MARIGOLD"

The Social, Badminton and Dramatic Club produced "Marigold" on 9th, 10th and 11th February, in the Church Hall, to large and appreciative audiences. The demand for tickets on the Thursday and the Friday far exceeded the available supply, and was proof of the popularity of the presentation. Everywhere, people spoke enthusiastically of the play and of how much they had enjoyed it. The Victorian dresses and customs, the sweetness and simplicity of the heroine, the colourful uniforms of the soldiers, and the beauty of the scenery in and around the Castle all contributed to producing an effect that was charming and entertaining. The choice of play was in marked contrast to that of the preceding year when the humour was of a more boisterous character, dependent to a large degree on the situations in which the *dramatis*



*personae* found themselves. In "Marigold," on the other hand, there was much less humour in the setting, and the interest had to be maintained through the acting of the characters themselves. That they did so successfully is the highest tribute that can be paid to the members of the cast. Mr. A. R. Macnaughton, the producer, set them (a comparatively new company) a difficult task, and they did not belie his confidence in them. It would be invidious to mention names, for every person contributed to the success of the performance. The play leaves with us very pleasant memories both on and off the stage.

To the producer we would like to say thank you for all he has done in this respect in the life and fellowship of the Church. We are fortunate to have such an one amongst us. There were many who helped—Mr. Niven, Mr. Asher, Mr. Maurice Anderson, Mrs. Thom, Mrs. Macnaughton, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Walker, and many behind the scenes and at the door. To all we would accord our warmest thanks.

### SEAT LETTING

Members whose names are not on their pews or any others 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.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

The Sunday School meets in the Church Hall at 10.15 a.m. for Seniors, Juniors and Primary. A Class for Beginners is held during the Morning Service. We have 148 scholars on the roll: 72 girls and 76 boys. The teaching staff consists of 10 ladies and 5 gentlemen, with Mr. Nimmo as Superintendent.

Mr. Nimmo holds two examinations in the year, which are well attended, and prizes are presented at the end of the session. Prizes for Sunday School attendance are also presented at the end of the session.

As you all know, Mr. Pollock left a legacy to the Sunday School to encourage the children to memorise the psalms and hymns. Suitable passages are selected according to age, and prizes are presented at the end of the session.

The Picnic was held at Floors Farm, through the kindness of Mr. Craig and Mr. and Mrs. Baird, on Saturday, 26th June, 1948, and everyone had a very happy time. For many of the children this was a real novelty, and all enjoyed visiting the farm animals.

The new session commenced on Sunday, 19th September, 1948.

The Party was held on Saturday, 18th December, 1948, the younger children from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and the older children from 5.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all.

A Gift Service was held in the church on Sunday, 19th December, 1948, and the gifts were again sent to Stobhill Hospital in time for Christmas, and were very much appreciated.

A gentleman in the congregation, who wishes to remain anonymous, has very kindly gifted a Visual Aid to the Sunday School, which we will have in use soon.

### WOMAN'S GUILD

The Woman's Guild has finished another session, at which we have had an interesting syllabus and meetings which, on the whole, were fairly well attended.

Our special piece of work this year was making baby clothes for the children of Germany and other distressed areas in Europe. The result of this was very satisfactory and has been reported already in the Supplement to *Life and Work*.

Our usual Guild Schemes were supported, and we were glad to help the newest Guild Branch, in the Southern General Hospital in their effort to acquire a piano. At

present they sing to the music of a harmonica, played by one of their members who is blind.

The Women's Home Mission Committee in Glasgow are holding a Sale in the M'Lellan Galleries on 2nd April, and we hope to take part in that. Gifts of cakes and flowers (if possible) will be received gratefully, and should be brought to the Church Hall on the evening of Friday, 1st April.

There is still a lack of younger members in the Guild, and once again we extend an invitation to the young women of the congregation to this, the only distinctively woman's meeting in the Church.

### THE GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

The Girls' Association meet every Monday night in the Upper Hall at 7.30 p.m. There are eleven names on the roll with an average attendance of nine. At the beginning of the session we visited Ross Street Lodging House to assist with the Sunday afternoon service, and we also had hoped to give our annual concert in the East Campbell Street Mission Hall, but, owing to all nights being fully booked by other branches, we were unable to do so. In our syllabus this season we had Bible Study, Debates, Handicrafts, and Keep Fit.

The Girls' Association closed at the end of February, and we intend to reopen some time in September, when we hope to welcome new members, as we find it very difficult to carry on our work with so few girls.

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION

In giving you a statement about our activities during the past session, I cannot report any great increase in numbers, but this past session has been an important one for us. During its months we have grown very much stronger as a group; we have learned a great deal.

The papers during the winter, and the discussions which followed them, have been first-rate, not because of their technical excellence but because they promoted, through the genuine sincerity of the speakers, a real sense of fellowship within us. The subjects tackled involved fundamental points from our Faith, and the spirit with which they were discussed showed that we were not upstairs for entertainment, but to endeavour to find a way to put our Christian doctrine into practice.

On 12th December we had a very lively meeting, at which many members of our congregation, and some visitors from Giffnock South Church Study Circle, were present. That meeting, with the Rev. Heinz Leuner as speaker, showed us that we had a great responsibility placed on our shoulders if we were to associate our group with the name of Jesus Christ.

On 5th and 6th February, delegates from our group attended the Christian Youth Assembly in Edinburgh. We were your delegates, because the seed of our thoughts must have been sown by you. We learned there what a tremendous power there was in an assembly of men and women in Christ's Name. We came away, knowing that we had a mission; to make our Christianity live.

When we returned, we were met by the spontaneous donation by the Congregational Board of our expenses for the week-end. That, ladies and gentlemen, was a vote of your confidence in us which we can not forget.

All through this session, I, as chairman, have been very conscious of the fact that we have not been journeying alone. We have been closely watched and helped and guided at every opportunity by our Minister, Mr. Mackay. His interest has stimulated us all, and we will endeavour to be worthy of that interest.

This past session we have been building up a Christian fellowship, through praise, prayer and study together. There is another quality of fellowship—service. You have shown great confidence in us. God with us, we will not fail that confidence.



## THE GOLF CLUB

The Church Golf Club had a successful season during 1948, and now has a membership of 44, *i.e.*, 20 ladies, 24 gentlemen. This is an increase of 9 over the 1947 membership, and the Committee would like to achieve an even greater increase during 1949.

The Club held five monthly outings, from April to August, the golf course again being Bonnyton Moor. The average attendance at these monthly outings was about 24, and the journey to and from the course was by hired S.M.T. bus. We played two-ball mixed foursomes, stroke play, and the winners at each outing were suitably rewarded by prizes donated by various members of the Club. The Committee desire to record their appreciation of the generosity of these members.

There was a greatly increased entry for the Templeton Cup Competition, and the various rounds were all strongly fought out. The finalists were Miss Flo Hunter and Mr. J. Allan Davidson *versus* Mrs. Riddell and Mr. Jas. Hamilton, the winners being Miss Hunter and Mr. Davidson.

The concluding Social Evening on 22nd November was a very enjoyable occasion, and during the evening the Templeton Cup was presented to the winners and individual prizes to the four finalists. The following office-bearers and committee were appointed for the coming season:—President, Rev. W. Murray Mackay; Captain, Mr. John Russell; Secretary-Treasurer, Wm. Blue; Committee, Mrs. Simpson, Messrs. J. Allan Davidson and W. M.L. Williams.

The first outing will be in April, and full notification regarding date, etc., will be made from the pulpit and by postcard. A very cordial invitation is extended to all members of the congregation who are interested and who have not yet joined, to accompany us on our first outing.

## VARIA

The 210th Anniversary of the founding of the congregation as a Praying Society of the Secession Church, in 1739, will be celebrated on Sunday, 10th April, when the services will be conducted by the Rev. Professor J. Pitt Watson, D.D., of Glasgow. Professor Pitt Watson was formerly Minister in Alloa and is well known throughout the Church as one of its outstanding preachers. We give him a warm welcome to our Christian fellowship. The best evidence of that will be to be part of it at both diets of worship that day.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed on the first Sunday of May, at 11.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m., when the visiting minister will be the Rev. John M. Hamilton, M.A., S.T.M., of Greenock West Parish Church. The Preparatory Service will be held on the preceding Friday evening, and will be conducted by the Rev. Douglas C. Alexander, of the Carswell Church, Eaglesham.

On Sunday evening, 27th March, we had a Missionary Film Service, conducted by the Minister and Miss Marion M. Russell, R.S.C.N., of Loudon, Nyasaland. Miss Russell, who is a niece of Mr. Andrew Russell and of Mr. David Russell, gave us two films taken by herself, illustrative of the work being done by the Church in and around Loudon. The missionary nurse has a faculty for descriptive detail which left a very vivid picture in the mind of the beauty of the district, and the difficulties that had to be encountered. The Church seemed to be a powerful institution in the town, and the work of the Gospel being carried on in a most successful manner.

It has been decided to continue the Evening Service until the end of May. Could we have your support in this part of the worship of the Church? It adds considerably to the fellowship that you should be there. Here is a sphere of the work of the Church in which you can help. Come and assist in building up a really vital Christian fellowship on the evening of the Lord's Day.

Our thanks are given most sincerely to the anonymous donor of £100 towards the purchase and maintenance of an Aldis Film Strip Projector. It is a most generous gift, and we would like to assure the giver that we appreciate deeply what he has put into our hands. Mr. Nimmo has been appointed the custodian of it.

The War Memorial Window will be ready for installation in the end of July, and will be unveiled in the early autumn. Contributions to the Fund will be very gratefully received.

The children are asked at the Forenoon Service to remain in their seats until the close of their hymn. The organist will then play a voluntary, during which they should leave.

The Young People's Union are continuing their evening meetings in the Upper Hall at 7.45 p.m. until 15th May.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation sent their good wishes to Miss Eadie, the Guide Captain, at present in Philipshill Hospital. Miss Margaret Nicholson, Southfield, has been appointed Guide Commissioner of the County of Renfrewshire.

The congregation will be represented at the General Assembly, 1949, by the Minister and Mr. Gilbert S. M'Vean as Commissioners.

At a recent meeting of the Kirk Session, Mr. Nimmo intimated that he had received from a member of the congregation and his wife (both of whom desired to remain anonymous) a handsome donation for the purchase of the best instrument as a Visual Aid to Sunday School teaching.

A new Aldis Universal Projector, with a large screen and a small one, have now been bought, together with several film-strips dealing with biblical subjects.

As the remainder of the sum donated is still on hand, this will be spent in building up a library of film-strips and slides as these become available.

The Moderator expressed the thanks of the Session to the magnanimous donors, and the Clerk was asked to record a minute to that effect.

*The following letter has been received by Miss Osborne from the Convener of the Layette Scheme:*

DEAR MISS OSBORNE,

This is indeed a splendid consignment, which with 2s. 6d. for transport, I have received from Newton Mearns—especially as in December, 1948, we had already had four layettes. Once again, your parcels were very complete, and your extras in No. 3 were so welcome.

Our dispatch is moving up, and already we have sent out 1,168 layettes and 47 sacks of toddlers' clothing. May I, once more, send my warm thanks to your members for their continued and most generous support?

Yours sincerely,

M. B. BUCHANAN.

Owing to pressure of space the Reports of several Youth Organisations are unavoidably held over until next Supplement.