

# Newton Mearns Church Supplement

JUNE, 1949

**Minister**—Rev. W. MURRAY MACKAY, M.A., S.T.M.,

The Manse, Newton Mearns.

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**Treasurer**—Mr. WALTER RODGER,

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**Registrar**—Mr. JOHN KEIR,

Yesnaby, Arthurlie Drive, Newton Mearns.

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## Church Services.

MORNING—11.30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—10.15 a.m.

YOUTH DISCUSSION GROUPS—10.30 a.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"*

Linda Margaret, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Fyfe,  
5 Carrick Crescent, Giffnock.

Janice Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnstone,  
47 Moorhill Road.

John MacCallum Marshall, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Shaw,  
98 Turnberry Road, Glasgow, W.

### Marriage.

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

James Aitken Menzies and Shiela Christian Spence  
Hutcheson.

### Deaths.

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

Duncan W. Johnston, 9 Redburn Avenue, Giffnock.

Mrs. Paterson, Waterlynn, Rysland Avenue.

Mrs. Morrison, Huntingtower, Raeside Avenue.

### New Members.

*By Profession of Faith.*

Robert Johnstone, 47 Moorhill Road.

Mrs. Robert Johnstone, 47 Moorhill Road.

*By Certificate from other Congregations.*

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Hammond, 2 Cheviot Drive.

Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Brown, 71 Hazelwood Avenue.

Dr. and Mrs. Runciman, 107 Beech Avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Gemmell, Crindledyke, Glebe Road.

## FINANCE

*Receipts for first five months.*

	1949	1948
Systematic Giving	£621 12 1	£635 11 3
Open Plate	122 15 3	115 9 11
Retiring Collections	41 7 7	31 1 0
Seat Rents	71 15 0	70 15 0
Mission Envelopes	35 3 6	33 19 6
Sundries	20 3 0	34 14 1
	£912 16 5	£921 10 9

## IN MEMORIAM

### Mr. Duncan W. Johnston

Mr. D. W. Johnston 9 Redburn Avenue, Giffnock, died at his residence on Monday, April 4th, in his 80th year. In his passing from our midst we, as a congregation, have lost one of the ablest, staunchest and noblest Christian men that it has ever been our privilege to have amongst us.

He was one of the first of those to settle in the new district of Whitecraigs, taking up house in Elphinstone Road, and identifying himself with the United Free Church at Newton Mearns. He was always a great friend to the children and the young people of the district, and erected a tennis court for them in a vacant space of ground opposite his house. Later, when the climbing of the hill became impossible for him, he and his wife removed to the house in Redburn Avenue.

Mr. Johnston was by nature of a retiring disposition. He performed a great number of deeds of kindness in his life, but they were done whenever possible without anyone knowing anything about them. The words of the Bible might well have been spoken of him: "His right hand did not know what his left hand was doing." He did a great amount of work for the Church, far more than anyone perhaps ever realised, for he never spoke about it. He was Registrar of the Congregation, sending out quarterly the Systematic Giving Scheme Envelopes. He was editor of the Church Supplement, and of the Year Book. In addition he was an elder of the Congregation, and most regular at all meetings of the Church, as well as most diligent in his visitation of his district. He always arrived at the Church amongst the first of the elders on a Communion Sunday and took charge of the cutting of the Bread. Yet all these duties were performed so quietly and unostentatiously that few knew how much of his talents and his time he devoted to the Church. He never spared himself when another afflicted as he was physically might well have drawn back.

Another of the qualities that revealed itself from time to time and could not be hid was his deep love for his Country. It manifested itself in various ways until one came to realise the deep devotion in which he regarded the Royal Family, and everything that upheld the laws of the Country. Towards those who had fought in the two world wars he exhibited a deep love, and he never forgot the debt of gratitude all owed to those who had been permanently disabled. He it was who was instrumental in inaugurating the Retiring Collection for the Earl Haig Fund in our Congregation, many years ago.

Above all the lessons, however, which his life has taught us one would place the wonderful union within it of Strength and Gentleness. He was a man of great strength of



character, unflexibly upright in all his ways. He was never afraid to tell anyone the truth however unpleasant it might be, and whatever position in life he might fill. Yet whenever he felt that it was right to do so, he did it so graciously and so gently, that you felt the full force of Christian love in all its intransigence and yet all its love and forgiveness glowing upon you. The words that David addressed in prayer to God might well apply to him "Thy gentleness hath made me great."

We shall miss him much but his memory will linger with us. To his widow who shared his Christian graces with him and has been such a perfect helpmeet in his life, and to all his kith and kin we extend our deepest sympathy. "In My Father's House are many mansions, I go to prepare a place for you."

### THE SERVICE CONDUCTED BY THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION

To offer congratulations to the Members of the Y.P.U. on the service of Worship which they conducted in the Church on the evening of Sunday, 15th May, would be not only the last thing which they would desire, but also to reveal on our part a lack of appreciation of what they set out to accomplish. Nothing was further from their intention than to show their ability in this respect. The fact that they chose an evening rather than a morning service was evidence of that. Their aim was to show as a group of young people their faith in and loyalty to Jesus Christ. That youth to-day should be ready to do so is in itself a tremendous fact.

The interest of the Congregation was shown in that about 150 people were present in the Church that night, and few will deny that it was one of the most impressive acts of worship in which they have been privileged to share. The Choir was composed of members of the group, and their rendering of the Introit, "The Lord is in His Holy Temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him," was something that we will not readily forget. Their singing, indeed, of all the hymns was beautiful and worshipful. Mr. Telfer fitted in most helpfully to the service. The readings from Scripture were given by Miss Margaret Hunter, and Mr. James Hamilton, and the prayer was offered by Mr. Williams. The leader of the Y.P.U., Mr. Andrew MacCance gave the address on the theme of the Service "Christian Fellowship." Possessed of a powerful and resonant voice, he appeared completely at ease in the pulpit, and conducted the whole service in a dignified and reverent manner. The address was a most inspiring one, carefully argued, and challenging. He spoke of what they, as members of the Y.P.U. had discovered for themselves in their meetings throughout the winter. They had found fellowship with one another, and fellowship with God, through praise, prayer, reading of the Scripture and discussion together. They desired that others in the Congregation, if they had not already done so, should experience what they had enjoyed. It was no doubt easier to have this Communion in a small group like theirs, but he felt that if those who came to Church on a Sunday to worship would enter more fully into the singing, and the reading, and the prayers they would find, as well as deepen for others the Christian fellowship of which they were speaking that night. He appealed to all Christians to carry the challenge of the Christian Gospel beyond the act of worship into all the channels of life. "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ," 1 John 1, 3. It was an inspiring service and we feel that it has issued a call from the youth of our Church that will not have gone forth in vain.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1949

On Monday we passed through some showers of torrential rain, but arrived in sunshine at Edinburgh, and until we

left on the following Monday had little need of an umbrella.

Everywhere clerical collars were strongly in evidence, and it must afford an excellent opportunity to meet friends of College days and renew acquaintance with folks known in previous ministries. Every morning each Commissioner received a print containing several foolscap pages, giving (1) The Orders of the Day; (2) The Minutes of the previous Day; (3) Business so far as arranged for succeeding days.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Lord High Commissioner, and the Duchess, worthily maintained the traditions attaching to their high office. A neat reference by the Moderator to the Duchess' Scottish birth was warmly received, and she stood and bowed her acknowledgment.

The new Moderator, Dr. Duncan, Principal of St. Mary's College, St. Andrews, has a good voice and presence. He did his utmost to encourage brevity and expedite business, always with a courteous and pleasing smile.

Among my outstanding recollections are, the masterly presentation of the Home Board Report by Dr. T. B. Stewart Thomson, Dr. Gunn's thrilling appeal for Foreign Missions, the Rev. Wm. MacNicol's unique way of presenting the case for the Maintenance of the Ministry, and speaking on Church Parades, Lt.-Col. Bernard Ferguson, Black Watch Regiment. Dr. John White excelled, and was always listened to with close attention, and frequently provoked the Fathers and Brethren to very hearty laughter. On Thursday afternoon, a crowded Assembly heard the debate which decided that Dr. George MacLeod is not eligible for appointment as minister of Govan Old. A committee, including Dr. White and Dr. MacLeod has been appointed with a view to the Iona Community being brought within the jurisdiction of the Church.

To be your Commissioner was a great privilege.

G. S. McV.

### THE WOMAN'S GUILD

At the April meeting of the South-West Council a Brains Trust was held, the members of which were Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Blain of the North-East Council, and Mrs. Gillespie, President of the South-East Council.

The following were some of the questions asked:—

1. Can the Brains Trust give any effective ways of attracting new members to Guild Branches?

Each of the ladies laid great stress on visiting new members of the Church and inviting them to the Woman's Guild Meetings.

An afternoon meeting for young mothers was recommended as a means of getting into contact with those who could not get out in the evening.

In one Guild an afternoon Badminton Club for the younger members had been started. This club had become so popular that it now boasted two grannies among its members.

2. In the allocation of Guild Funds is our first duty to our own congregation or to our Guild schemes?

The answer to this was most emphatic. Guild schemes came first, but all branches should contribute something to the congregational funds and should help in any special effort of the congregation.

3. What should be the position of Guild members towards raffies and Football Pools?

The Brains Trust was united in the opinion that these practices should not be indulged in. The aim and duty of Guild Members was to live in accordance with the Will and Teaching of Jesus Christ and these could not be reconciled with gambling in any form. There was also the question of example, especially towards young people.



4. Does the Brains Trust approve of the admission of women to the Eldership and the Ministry?

The opinion given was that the Church was losing much by being denied the services of many women who, both intellectually and spiritually, were eminently suited for these offices. The removal of the barrier did not mean that there would be a great rush of women to the eldership and ministry. In comparison with other nations, this country was *behind* in this matter.

This meeting was very successful and gave much food for thought to those who attended it.

### WOMEN'S HOME MISSION GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, on 26th May.

The Right Reverend the Moderator, when he visited the Home Mission Meeting said he felt that the Church of Scotland was behind in trusting so much to men ministers alone. He did not express an opinion whether women should be Ministers or not, but he thought the Church must have more educated and devoted women giving their lives to Home Mission work. The Moderator referred to the recent decision taken to combine Deaconesses and Church Sisters into a great Order of Deaconesses—the New Order is to be in charge of the Women's Home Mission for the next five years.

Referring to the good work done among the fisher girls and to the opening of a new Institute at Yarmouth in October, the Moderator urged that women should never allow their horizon to be limited too much by specific schemes, and he thought each branch should discover for itself something special that it could do in its own neighbourhood.

Badges were presented to seven Church Sisters recognised during the year, and it was stated that there are now 95 on the roll, including seven probationers and four students in training. These figures fall far short of requirements at a time when there is perhaps greater need than ever before for the services of Church Sisters.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL TRIP

On the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. John Rodger, the Sunday School Trip this year is to Netherplace Farm on Saturday, 25th June.

The Buses will leave the Church Hall at 2 p.m.

### SEAT LETTING

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

### LOST UMBRELLA

At the close of the Annual Business Meeting on 15th March last, a gentleman's umbrella, with silk cover and rough yellow handle, was taken from one of the Hall Cloakrooms by mistake as a similar one was left in its place. The former one bore the initials "T.A.W." and the owner is anxious to have it returned. Any gentleman who has the umbrella in his possession is asked to return it to the Church Officer who has the umbrella which was left in error.

### PRESENTATION TO Mr. G. HOWARD PATERSON

A Children's Party was given by, and held in the house of Dr. and Mrs. Runciman at the end of April when a presentation of a silver cigarette case with his initials inscribed was made to Mr. Paterson on his retirement from the post of organist of the Congregation. Mr. Paterson has a gift for work amongst the young, and we will remember the excellent concerts, as well as the Nativity Play that he organised in collaboration with Miss Welsh. We thank him for all that he has done to introduce the children to the realm of music and can assure him that they parted with him with the greatest regret. For the work he did for the Church we would also like to say thank you. His playing of the Hammond Organ was greatly appreciated. To Dr. and Mrs. Runciman we would also like to pay our appreciation for the Children's Party that they gave.

### ALLOCATION OF CHURCH HALLS FOR NEXT WINTER

Secretaries of the various Organisations are reminded that applications for the use of the Church Halls should be made early in writing to the Hall Convener, Mr. John Russell, Newton House, Newton Mearns.

### THE BOYS' BRIGADE

The 79th (Glasgow) Company, The Boys' Brigade, connected with the Church, continues in a healthy state of efficiency. All the usual activities are catered for and taken up enthusiastically by the boys. A most successful display was given at the end of last session, and this was appreciated by all who attended.

The thanks of the officers are due to all who assisted, especially Mr. Arthur McNaughton, who rendered valuable assistance not only in the production of the play but in the multifarious duties behind the scenes.

As usual the new session brought its problems: boys having to be parted with by reason of reaching the age limit, and others, whose assistance would have been welcomed, going off to the Services. However, once again the Life Boys passed on a group of promising recruits to fill the depleted ranks and numbers were maintained.

Although, through lack of staff, the work has been found difficult, it is hoped to stage a display again at the end of the session, and the usual good support of the congregation is asked for.

### THE LIFE BOY TEAM

The Life Boys commenced their session at the end of September, and meet every Friday in the Church Hall at six o'clock. This year we welcomed to our Team a few new recruits which altogether make 23 boys on the roll, the attendance nightly being approximately 20.

At our display at the end of last session, we transferred 10 boys to the Boys' Brigade, which left quite a gap in our Team, and any boy between the age of 8 and 12 would be made very welcome.

During the past months the Team have been well occupied with our Team work, which is progressing very well, and this year we have started a Life Boy Seal System and the older boys are doing very well in qualifying for the various seals and are slowly filling their cards. Again this year we had a Hallowe'en Party to which we invited the fathers, who appeared to enjoy themselves as much as the boys. We decided this year to give the mothers a Christmas Party, which was a great success, and Santa Claus was given a rousing welcome by mothers and boys alike.

The boys had an added thrill when the Leaders took them to the Carnival one Saturday afternoon, an outing greatly enjoyed by boys and Leaders. Then on Friday, 4th March, the Team accompanied the Boys' Brigade to the Pavilion, and we all had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.



The boys are working hard just now for their Parents' Night at the end of this session. This will take the form of an ordinary night's work in the Team, and we hope parents and friends and members of the congregation who are interested will come along that evening as we are not giving a display this year. It is always a great encouragement to the boys when their friends turn out to see them at work.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Leaders with me in the Team for their splendid support this year and the hard work they have put into the Team, which has gone a very long way in giving the boys a happy and full Life Boy season.

### THE GIRL GUIDES

The Guide meetings began in early September, and, apart from a short break at Christmas, have continued every Thursday evening from 7.30 till 9.30.

We have recently welcomed two recruits from the Brownie Pack, and the roll now stands at twenty—the company being divided into three patrols. Each week a collection of 3d. is taken, 2d. of which goes to the company fund and the remaining 1d. to the Divisional fund.

Apart from the games, drill competitions, etc., enjoyed by Guides, fully half the meeting is taken up with Guide work. The work is divided into four sections.

- (1) *Tenderfoot Work*—which is usually supervised by one of the more experienced Guides.
- (2) *Second Class Work.*
- (3) *Specialised Badge Work.*
- (4) *First Class Work.*

Since September, three girls have passed Tenderfoot tests and become fully fledged Guides; two of these girls are ex-Brownies. Six girls have passed the Second Class test, and now qualify for badge work. The following badges have been awarded to Guides after successful examination by qualified testers:—

2, Cyclist; 3, Health; 2, Emergency Helper; 1, Pathfinder.

**Our Social Activities.**—In October the Company enjoyed a Hallowe'en Party held in conjunction with the Brownies. Later in the season a small party of Guides spent an evening at the Carnival in Kelvin Hall, and everyone had an enjoyable evening. On Thursday, 10th February, we accepted the kind invitation of Whitecraigs Scouts to a film show in Broom Church. Several very interesting and beautiful nature films were shown and

the Guides appreciated the evening's entertainment. On Thursday, 24th February, the Company had a welcome visit from our two Elders, Mr. M'Bean and Mr. Morland.

We are indebted to Tawny Owl, Miss Jean Stubbs, for her help where the two entrants for First Class are concerned.

The Company missed Captain Eadie during the season, but the Guides keep in touch with her, writing regularly and visiting Philipshill when homework permits. We hope that very soon she will be out of hospital and back with us again.

Meanwhile the Company is carrying on, and, on the whole, it has been a very successful season.

MARGUERITE M. CAMPBELL, *Lieutenant.*

### THE BROWNIE PACK

The Brownies commenced their session at the end of September, and meet every Thursday evening at 6 p.m. in the Church Hall.

We welcomed eight new recruits to the Pack, making a roll of 26 Brownies, two of whom have since joined the Guides. We were very sorry to lose our Brown Owl, Miss Marion Roder, who removed to Carlisle, but hope to see her at an occasional visit to the Pack.

This year we had a Fancy Dress Hallowe'en Party jointly with the Guides; it was a great success and was enjoyed by all.

The work done in the Pack is ranged in three sections, namely:—Recruit, Second Class and First Class. Six Brownies have reached their First Class, and three hope to sit the test very shortly.

The weekly subscription is 2d., which goes towards badges, etc. Over and above this 2d., an extra ½d. per week is collected in aid of the Headquarters Divisional Fund. We also have a Ship Halfpenny Fund which this year is in aid of the Extension Pack at Phillipshill Hospital. Up to now we have collected just over £2.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Miss E. Fairlie for the help she has rendered the Pack by coming to the meetings whenever possible. I should also like to thank our Pack Leader, Miss V. Erskine, for the help she has also rendered by coming to the meetings regularly.

On the whole we have had a very successful season.

JEAN M. STUBBS, *Tawny Owl.*