

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

APRIL, 1950

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.

Telephone—NEWton Mearns 2467.

Church Services.

MORNING—11.30 a.m.

EVENING—6.30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—10.15 a.m.

ADOLESCENT 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."

Malcolm Downie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cosh, 2 Ashview Ter.
Allan John, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dempster, Hazelwood Av.
Duncan William, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hall, Celendine, Beech Avenue.

Craig William, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hollinger, 2 Barrhead Road.

John, son of Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald, Moorhill Road.

Irene Turner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pollock, Mallet-sheugh Farm.

Marriages.

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

Rev. John McKendrick Paterson and Ethel Dugald Hay.

William Johnstone and Helen O. Neil Jones.

John Charles Burgess and Isobel McCulloch Campbell Corrance.

Deaths.

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

Sally Barbour, Moorhill Crescent.

James Kerr, Villa Gabrielle, Ayr Road.

The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwil Coldwell, Glendonough, Ayr Road.

Mrs. MacGibbon, Invergarry, Ayr Road.

Mrs. MacQueen, Newtonlea Avenue.

Mrs. Taylor, 4 Ashview Terrace.

Ian White, The Home Farm, Capelrig.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, 1950.

The Annual Business Meeting of the Congregation was held in the Church Hall on 22nd March, 1950, and was attended by over 100 members.

The Rev. W. Murray Mackay occupied the Chair and opened the meeting with prayer.

Excerpts from the Minutes of Board Meetings, 1949/50, were read by Mr. W. T. Davidson, Clerk to the Congregational Board.

Mr. Walter Rodger, the Congregational Treasurer, presented the accounts for 1949, and compared the figures with those of the previous year. He mentioned in his report that the amount remitted from this congregation to the National Church Extension Fund now totalled £761. Mr. J. W. Jarvie, C.A., followed with his report and complimented all the Treasurers on their accounts. Thereafter the Congregational Accounts were approved.

Mr. J. W. Jarvie, C.A., and Mr. G. S. McVean, C.A., were elected Auditors for 1950, 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, Messrs. A. F. Laing, Andrew M. McCance, John Russell and Ian Wood: also to Mr. C. J. Thom, Session Clerk, Mr. J. Nimmo, Superintendent of the Sabbath School, Mr. A. M. R. Russell, Convener of the Year Book, Mr. J. Meiklejohn, Convener of Seat-Letting: members of the Session, Congregational Board and the Leaders of all the Organisations. The thanks of the meeting were conveyed to Miss Margaret Osborne and the other Flower Providers, including Messrs. John 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 M. Osborne, Messrs. S. Brunton, D. B. Craig, Andrew M. McCance, H. A. Peden, A. M. R. Russell and T. A. Wright. Mr. William McGhie was elected in place of Mr. H. Forsyth, who did not wish his name considered for re-election, and Mr. Thomas Knox was elected to serve for two years in place of Miss Nancy Blue, who had intimated her resignation from the Board.

Mr. Andrew Russell, Senior, moved a vote of thanks to the Minister for his Chairmanship of the Meeting and for all his work during 1949.

After the business part of the meeting was completed, tea was served followed by a musical programme rendered by members of the Choir and an address by the Rev. W. J. Baxter, D.D., of Dowanhill Church, on the Glasgow Churches Campaign. Votes of thanks to Dr. Baxter and the artistes, proposed by the Session Clerk, the singing of the Doxology, and the Benediction, brought to a close a most enjoyable evening.

REPORTS ON CHURCH ORGANISATIONS GIVEN AT THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

Woman's Guild.

The Woman's Guild has had a very successful session, being, on the whole, well attended. We had some very good speakers, who dealt with various aspects of the work of the Church. The usual Schemes were supported, including the Christmas Treat for the old people at Inglewood, Alloa.

For the second year, the Work Party provided garments for the children of displaced people in Europe. That these gifts were appreciated was shown by a letter of thanks received from a Latvian lady who had been for five years in a displaced persons camp near Hamburg.

We commend the Work Party to any who have not attended it so far, as it is one very good way of members getting to know each other.

We extend a cordial invitation to all women of the congregation, especially to the younger women, to attend the Guild meetings, which are held on Monday evenings throughout the winter.

The Girls' Association.

The Girls' Association commenced their session on Monday, 3rd October last, meeting, as usual, in the Church Hall at 7.30 p.m. The membership of the Association has slightly increased, enabling us to carry on this session. In the syllabus we were able to work in a variety of subjects, including Bible Study, Debates, Keep-Fit, and, during the first half of the session we were all busy, whenever possible, making articles for the Sale of Work in December. The main subject of Study this year was Girls' Own Missionaries and Special Schemes. In this study we were aided by a visit from the South East District Study Group, who also helped us a great deal in making up a programme for our Special Evening. In November we held a Military Whist Drive in aid of funds and, in December, we gave our Special Evening and Sale of Work, the proceeds of which went to Central G.A. Funds. On this occasion we were pleased to welcome as our speaker Miss Sheila Calder, a past-president of Glasgow Presbytery, who gave an excellent talk on Girls' Own Missionaries in Africa and Special Schemes, the theme of our Special Evening and also of our winter study. During the second half of the session we carried out our varied syllabus and the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Monday, 27th March, at 7.30 p.m. This meeting will be the closing one for the session, and it is hoped that we will again open in September.

Young People's Union.

Firstly, we acknowledge the never-tiring support of our Minister, to whose keen interest and help we owe much of our inspiration and, secondly, we would record our warm appreciation of the interest taken in us by the Kirk-Session, and indeed by all the members of our congregation.

What have we tried to do? We aim, "To discover for ourselves the meaning of Christian Fellowship through praise, prayer, study and service together and to make every endeavour to develop and maintain in our congregation a desire for active Christianity."

What have we done? The members of the Young People's Union planned and conducted the service of worship in the Church in May, 1949. We conducted that service because we felt that we had a message to give to the congregation, the message of Christian Fellowship. We believe that we have found it in our Young People's Union. We believe it is our duty to bring it into our congregational life.

The group's members and friends have given papers which have shown great diligence in preparation, and which have been followed by much valuable discussion.

We prepared for and attended the 1950 Christian Youth Assembly, and so contributed in a small way to the general unity of Christ's Church. We felt that this annual assembly could have done much more, but we believe that it must succeed, and to that end we shall continue to support it. Great inspiration was derived from the preparatory work and from the actual assembly of youth. Much more inspiration can and will be ours if we try harder to do what the resolutions say we will do.

Our membership has slowly, but steadily, been increasing during the year, but we are far from being satisfied.

Our balance of actions against aims is by no means complete. We don't "do" enough, and we can only pray that as the coming year unfolds, our witness may be increasingly effective.

The Sunday School.

The Sunday School meets in the Church Hall at 10.15 a.m. for Primary, Juniors and Seniors. A Class for Beginners is held during the Morning Service. We have 132 scholars on the roll and a teaching staff of 15 with Mr. Nimmo as Superintendent.

Mr. Nimmo holds two examinations during the session which are well attended, and prizes are presented at the same time as the prizes for Sunday School attendance, at the end of the session.

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 Sunday School Picnic was held at Netherplace Farm, through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Rodger, on Saturday, 25th June, 1949, and we all had a very happy time under ideal weather conditions.

The new session commenced on Sunday, 18th September, 1949.

The Party was held on Saturday, 17th December, 1949, and we all had a most enjoyable time.

A Gift Service was held on Sunday, 25th December, 1949, and the gifts were sent to Mearns Kirk and Stobhill Hospitals.

Mr. Nimmo is still adding film strips to our collection and the children enjoy them very much. This is made possible through the generosity of a very kind gentleman in the congregation.

The Boys' Brigade (79th Glasgow Coy.).

Although severely handicapped at the end of last session through lack of staff, it is pleasing to report that several of the old boys of the Company have, on their return from military service, come forward to assist. This has enabled the programme to be extended and it is hoped to re-introduce other branches of the work very soon. The effects of the war years are now being felt, and, in common with most youth organisations, numbers have fallen a little, but this is offset by keenness and enthusiasm. At the present moment all are working hard towards the Annual Display which will take place in May. No definite date has yet been fixed but intimation will be made in due course.

As last year, the boys meet each Sunday morning, in conjunction with the adolescent group, and a happy hour is spent prior to the morning service.

With the increase in staff it has been found possible to arrange a summer camp and this will be held at Grandtully, Strathguy, in August. As before, a warm invitation is extended to any of the congregation who care to visit the camp.

The Life Boys.

The Life Boys have had a very happy and successful year. The team meets every Friday night at 6 o'clock, in the Church Hall and there is a regular attendance of twenty boys each night. There are 23 boys on our roll.

Team work is progressing very well, especially among the eight boys who are preparing to pass on to the Boys' Brigade this year.

Our Christmas Party was a huge success, chiefly due to the fathers who, as usual, gave us their full support and finally greeted Father Christmas with as much vigour and enjoyment as the boys.

We also spent a Saturday afternoon at the Carnival, and last month had our Pantomime Night at the Pavilion, both outings being enjoyed by all.

So far the boys have passed the following seals:—Books of the Bible, Missionary and Bible Heroes, but most of them have still to sit their singing, marching, physical training, signalling and general knowledge seals.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the leaders and instructors with me in the team for their splendid support as it is through them that the boys

find the happy atmosphere which is so apparent in the team.

2nd Mearns Guide Coy.

On the whole the session has been a most successful one for 2nd Mearns Guide Coy. Though several of the older Guides did not return in the autumn, we had an influx of enthusiastic Brownies from the Pack, and the roll stands at twenty-five, of which we have a fairly good attendance every Thursday.

Work takes up a large proportion of the Company's time, and since the spring of last year much progress has been made. Nine girls have passed the tenderfoot test; three have passed 2nd class: and several are working their way through it at the present time. A few Guides are striving on to 1st class and proficiency badges. During the year the following badges have been awarded after testing by outside examiners:—four homemaker, three needlewomen, one skater.

On the social side, the Company has enjoyed an outing to Calderpark Zoo and an afternoon at the Alhambra pantomime.

Thanks to the support of Mr. Mackay and the congregation, the Whist Drive held in the Church Hall on 19th January realised £7 5s. 6d. The Guides greatly appreciated the valuable help of Mr. D. Craig in organising the evening.

Out thanks are due to our "Guide Elders" whose interest throughout the session we have found most encouraging.

The Brownies.

The Brownie Session commenced on 15th September and meetings have been held each Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Church Hall.

We welcomed three new recruits to the Pack, bringing our membership up to 24. The "Flying Up" Ceremony was held two weeks later when nine Brownies were promoted to the Guides, this brought our number down to fifteen.

During the session we have visited Calderpark Zoo, the Alhambra Pantomime and held two Parties.

One Brownie achieved her 1st class Badge, this being a very high standard, and eight others are now working for this honour.

Each Brownie was asked to pay 1/6d. in aid of the Finance Scheme of the Movement, and over and above this sum, Ship Halfpennies were collected throughout the past two sessions. The amount collected in connection with the Halfpennies was £2 10/- and this was donated to the Extension Pack of Brownies at Philips-hill Hospital.

We should like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Mitchell and Mr. MacPhail for their unfailing regularity in their visits throughout the session and the help they have given us.

We were delighted to have the services of Miss F. Mitchell as our new Tawny Owl this session.

We have had a very successful session.

The Social, Badminton and Dramatic Club.

The Social, Badminton and Dramatic Club activities are now drawing to the close of a very successful season. The Club has a membership of sixty members, an increase of five from last year. Seventy-five per cent of the membership are members of the Badminton Section. In addition, the Junior Badminton Section has a membership of seven boys and 11 girls.

The Social Session has had a very good season. All the social functions have been very well attended. The Burns Night was the most popular, approximately 100 persons were present, and every one had a most enjoyable evening. The final social of the season takes place next Tuesday, 28th March, and all members of the congregation will be made very welcome.

The Badminton Section also have done very well this season. Both teams are high up in their respective divisions. The first team were undefeated this season and stand top of Section B in the 1st Division, thus making the team eligible to play the winners of Section A for the League Championship. The play-off took place on Tuesday, 21st March, but, unfortunately, the team was beaten by a superior Milngavie team. The Reserve Team, although only twice defeated this season, are near the top of Section A in the Reserve Division. The Ladies afternoon section, although this is its first year, has also been very successful, and seems to have been enjoyed by all those who took part. The Junior Section, also, seems to be blossoming and under the tuition of Mr. W. Williams the Juniors seem to be rapidly becoming the badminton players of the future.

With regard to the Dramatic Section, I don't think I need say how successful they have been this season, as no doubt you have all seen their production "Boyd's Shop" and realised the amount of work which was put into this play, both by the players themselves and the producer, Mr. McNaughton.

The season draws to a close now and many hours of happy fellowship have been spent amongst the members. When the season opens in September we hope to see many of the former members again and also many new members.

The Church Golf Club.

The Church Golf Club meets during the summer months, when monthly outings are held at Bonnington Moor Golf Club. This year we held an outing to Whitecraigs Golf Club and these outings are very enjoyable.

During the season a Mixed Foursome Competition for the Templeton Cup was held. The winners were Mr. Allan Davidson and Mrs. Fiddes. Any new members will be made welcome and should notify the Secretary, Miss Williams, 67 Larchfield Avenue.

THE GLASGOW CHURCHES CAMPAIGN.

On Wednesday, 15th February, the Session appointed six of its number to form the nucleus of a Committee to be known as the Campaign Committee, to which representatives from the Woman's Guild, the Sabbath School, the Young People's Union and the Social Club should be added. Those appointed were (a) from the Session:—The Minister, the Session-Clerk, the Presbytery Elder, and Messrs. J. T. Anderson, John Anderson, and John Russell: (b) from the Woman's Guild—Miss H. J. Osborne and Mrs. Menzies: (c) from the Sabbath School—Mr. Nimmo and Mr. Menzies: (d) from the Young People's Union—Mr. Andrew McCance, Miss Helen Macdougall, and Mr. R. W. J. Jarvie: from the Social Club—Mr. W. N. Williams and Mr. Ian Wood. This Committee was to be answerable to the Session in all its recommendations.

The Campaign Committee has met on three occasions, and after careful consideration submitted to the Session after its second meeting the following:—(1) that a letter be sent to every member of the congregation, prior to the visitation of the elder of the district in April, recalling to them their responsibilities as members of the Church of Jesus Christ: (2) that the Vows of Church Membership taken on joining by Profession of Faith be printed in it: (3) that the members of the congregation be invited to re-affirm these Vows before God at a Special Service during the month of May.

The Session agreed unanimously to these proposals, adding that the Congregational Visitation concur with that of the Elders prior to the May Communion, and that it be left to the discretion of the Elder whether to make it alone, or accompanied by another member of the congregation.

We believe that the members of the congregation will acquiesce readily in this re-dedication of their vows to God at a service of public worship. Before the Church can in the autumn go out in the Name of Christ to reclaim

a lost world, she must be reconciled to God in her own worship and life. This Campaign is not merely a call to more regular Church Attendance, but to a more faithful discipleship of Christ in our walk and conversation. If it does not begin in our own heart, it will never begin at all. "Let there be a spiritual revival in the world, beginning with me."

CAMPAIGN YOUTH CONFERENCE.

A Meeting of Youth of the Giffnock, Williamwood and Mearns Area was held on Monday, 20th March, at 7.30 p.m. in our Church Hall, and was addressed by the Rev. Thomas Allan, M.A., of North Kelvinside Church, Glasgow.

There were present about 120 invited young people, and the gathering was one of the most impressive at which one has ever been privileged to be present. Mr. Allan, apart from an interval of twenty minutes for tea, spoke from 8 o'clock until 9.45 p.m. (answering questions after tea), and for most of the time you could have heard the proverbial pin dropping. The address was interspersed with brilliant flashes of humour, and it was an inspiring sight to see the youth of our time listening with such avidity to what was a religious address of the most penetrating and challenging type. He called on them to come forward and take their share in this evangelistic movement now sweeping across the world, and to which he asked them to dedicate their lives by witnessing for Christ within the Church, and in their daily life and work. The resounding response to the vote of thanks proposed to him indicated how intently the meeting had listened to him and appreciated what he said, and gave one great hope for the Church of the future.

THE WOMAN'S GUILD. JEWISH MISSION REPORTS.

As the following Reports were not at hand for the Annual Business Meeting of the Woman's Guild, they are given here for information.

1. The Autumn Meeting of the Woman's Guild Jewish Committee and Delegates was held in Lauriston-Renwick Church on 19th October, 1949. The opening devotions were led by the Rev. John H. Ross, minister of the Church and the Speaker for the evening was the Rev. D. H. MacMahon, the Agent for Jewish-Christian Relations. He spoke on Jewish Christian relationship and the main point of his message was our approach to the Jews and the importance of extending the hand of friendship in order to give them some incentive towards Christianity other than self-interest. He emphasised the need of making the Jew feel himself an integral part of the community in which he found himself and of Christians and Jews getting to know and understand more of each other's faith and customs. He felt that in this way Jews would become less orthodox and be more readily assimilated into our society as was the case in Germany before Hitler rose to power. There, most of the racial characteristics had disappeared and the German Hebrews had become Gentilised because of their assimilation into the German people. In this way the conversion of the Jews followed more naturally because they no longer felt that they had to become Christian in order to gain something for themselves. He felt also that with the setting up of an Israeli State the Jew would tend to become less exclusive and less orthodox since the existence of the state gave promise of the survival of the race, and that being so they would be more readily absorbed by the country in which they lived. It was, therefore, most essential that Church members should offer friendship to those Jews in their midst.

An enjoyable tea was provided by the ladies of Lauriston-Renwick, and, after votes of thanks, the meeting was closed with prayer.

2. The Spring Meeting was held in Pollok Church Hall on 6th March, 1950. The opening devotions were conducted by the Rev. R. S. Wallace, Minister of the Church, and in the absence of Miss Gibson, who was to have been our

speaker and whose illness was regretted by all, Dr. McDougall, at what was practically a moment's notice became speaker for the evening.

In a delightfully racy talk he gave a resume of the history of the Jewish Mission, pointing out that Jewish Mission work was a branch of the Foreign Missions, but one that required special technique because of the difficulty of approaching the Jews. Two things they were specially interested in gave us an opening—Education and Medicine. These we had supplied in our schools and hospitals in Palestine, Egypt and on the Continent. Budapest, our oldest Continental Station is easily the most satisfactory, and he told of many of the great conversions made there not only by our own Mission but also by the Hungarian Reformed Church.

The Edinburgh Report was then read and the urgency of increased funds was stressed. After tea, supplied by the Pollok Woman's Guild, the votes of thanks were proposed and the meeting closed with prayer.

THE DRAMATIC CLUB.

This year the Club performed "Boyd's Shop," by St. John Ervine, and the General impression was that the standard of previous years has been fully maintained. Illness overtook members of the caste, including the producer, Mr. MacNaughton, and at one time it was feared that the production would need to be postponed. Happily the necessity did not arise.

Mr. MacNaughton set the players a novel and difficult task in the choice of the play. An Ulster comedy, it demanded of them the Irish brogue, while in addition there was little movement. All the action took place in the one building. Furthermore the humour, with which the drama was not lacking, was not to be found in the actual dialogue but was required to be revealed through the acting of the players. Great credit is due to all for the manner in which they surmounted all these difficulties, and gave us a rollicking Irish Comedy.

It would be invidious to single out any member of the caste for special mention. All contributed to the success of the evening. We have become accustomed to expect a high standard from the Dramatic Section of the Social Club, and we were not disappointed. The play lasted nearly three hours and yet the interest did not flag throughout the entire evening. The atmosphere of church life in Ireland was one that appealed to a Church audience.

To all who assisted in the work behind the scenes—to Mr. Niven, who erected the stage and supervised the scene changing; Mr. Asher; Mr. Johnson Walker, who painted the scenery; Maurice Anderson, Mrs. MacNaughton, and a band of willing workers, and, above all, to the producer, Mr. MacNaughton we extend our congratulations and thanks.

SEAT-LETTING.

Members whose names are not on their pews might please see Mr. Meiklejohn or any member of the Seat-Letting Committee at the close of any Morning Service.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Any members changing their address are earnestly requested to inform the Session-Clerk so that their names may be given to the Elder for their new district and thus avoid disappointment at not receiving their Communion Cards.

VARIA.

We would refer to the death of Mr. George Pratt of Largs with deep regret, remembering the loyal support he gave to the congregation in former years. The beautifully carved pulpit in our Church was one of his benefactions to us.

The Anniversary Service will be held on 30th April and will be conducted by the Rev. Stanley C. Mair, M.A. of Netherlee Church.

A Class for First Communicants is now in session and meets in the Vestry at the close of Morning Worship.