

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

JANUARY, 1951

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

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Session Clerk—Mr. C. J. THOM, J.P., M.A.,
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Treasurer—Mr. WALTER RODGER,
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Registrar—Mr. PAUL R. WOOD,
119 Beech Avenue, Newton Mearns.

Telephone—NEWton Mearns 2694.

Organist and Choirmaster—Mr. WALTER S. CUTHILL,
34 Woodvale Drive, Clarkston.

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."

Fiona Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Watt,
12 Cavendish Drive.

Alan James, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Russell,
Netherfield, Glebe Lane.

Roderick James and Dorothea, son and daughter
of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Anderson, Shawlinn,
Eaglesham Road.

Myra Sutherland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clark,
Humbie.

Marriage.

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

David Dick and Mary Gibson Forbes.

Deaths.

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

Mr. John Keir, Yesnaby, Arthurlie Drive.
Mrs. Mary Johnston, Sandringham Avenue.
Mrs. Robert Niven, Torpheen, Ayr Road.
Mrs. William Caldwell, Caprera Cottage.
Mrs. McAulay, Juniper, Ayr Road.
Mrs. Harvie, Barrhead Road.

New Members.

By Profession of Faith.

Alan B. Carlaw, 20 Larchfield Avenue.
William Chalmers Hogg, 7 Capel Avenue.
Irene H. Foster, Hazelmere, Rysland Avenue.
Jessie Olivia Mackay, The Manse.
H. Stuart Russell, Mearnskirk Hospital.
Mrs. Rae, 18 Glamis Avenue.
Christina Howie Scott, 50 Broomvale Drive.
Robert R. Sinclair, 47 Hazelwood Avenue.
Jean M. Stubbs, 29 Sunningdale Avenue.
Arthur F. Stubbs, 29 Sunningdale Avenue.

By Certificate from other Congregations.

Mrs. J. Johnston, The Malletsheugh.
Mrs. Peter Robertson, 68 Beech Avenue.
Mrs. A. C. Yorston, 21 Glamis Avenue.
Mr. and Mrs. R. Grant, Whitehill, St. Vigeans
Avenue.
Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Calder, 54 Broomvale Drive.

NEW YEAR MESSAGE.

As we look back on the life of the congregation in 1950 as did one of the two faces of Janus we may feel deeply grateful to Almighty God that He has given us strength to pass through a year that has been fraught with considerable difficulty. The country has been striving to build up a life that was completely disturbed and almost shattered by years of conflict. Sometimes we have believed that we were on the road to recovery, and then some new and unexpected problem would emerge and plunge us once again into the depths of despair. The outburst of hostilities in Korea was the most serious of these setbacks. It may be that we have not had our passions inflamed as have our cousins across the sea, and have always hoped that the unruly horse of passion would, to use the simile of Plato, be bridled and the companion Reason gain control of the situation. Whether this will eventuate time alone will reveal to us, but our hopes still cling to such an outcome of the war between the United Nations and the North Koreans.

It is within such a framework that the Church in our Parish has endeavoured to continue its task of preaching the Everlasting Gospel, and seek to deepen the spiritual life of the faithful, and train up the rising generation in the knowledge and admonition of the Lord. That it is not any easier to do so when the minds of men are troubled with

international, political and social in addition to domestic problems is evident to all. It is evidence of the power of the Gospel that while "crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane, but the Church of Jesus constant will remain." To that large band of fellow-labourers with God including the Elders, the Sabbath School Teachers, and those who are working amongst the youth of our Church we would extend the thanks of the congregation. How well supplied with efficient and willing workers our Church is, none knows better than the Minister.

The outstanding piece of Christian work, perhaps, that has been accomplished in the Church during the past year has been the Visitation of the Parish. We look back upon it with a real sense of satisfaction. One feels as Schweitzer did on his return to England on one of his furloughs, not a sense of pride at what had been accomplished, but of privilege that one has been given the opportunity of sharing in such a wonderful Redemption of God in Jesus Christ.

We found the experience of working alongside the members of the Parish Church a very happy one. We entered into a closer Christian fellowship with them than we had enjoyed before. We hope they enjoyed meeting with us as much as we did with them. About 100 went forth from our own congregation and they did the work most enthusiastically and thoroughly. I think it was very beneficial spiritually to us all. We will never be afraid again to speak to people about the Church. From those we visited we received a most cordial welcome—which showed that still within their hearts was the call of the Church and of Christ. Much follow-up work remains to be done, but the first step has been taken, and we feel a sense of satisfaction of having obeyed the Heavenly Vision. To Mr. McCance, ably supported by Mr. Bowman, we would extend our most grateful thanks for a most thorough building up of the organisation of the Campaign.

Somehow and sometimes the best way to look forward is to look back. The Israelites raised their stone in the desert and called it Ebenezer, *i.e.* Hitherto has the Lord helped us. For some to look back this has been a sorrowful year, yet even in the midst of it, and sometimes specially so, there we can feel His Hand upholding us. In that faith we go forward to 1951 and as we do so wish all our members, and all the people in our Parish a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

CHURCHES CAMPAIGN.

Those of us who were privileged to be present at the beginning of the Campaign Visitation on Tuesday, 21st November, will long remember the thrill of expectancy with which we set out to visit

the homes in our district. Our thoughts turned to that day in the life of our Lord as recorded in St. Luke's Gospel, Chapter 10, where he sent out the seventy, two by two, to visit every place where he himself would come and in our prayers we asked that as we went out in pairs, we too might be blessed in our labours and be instruments by His grace to recall many to whom the Church has not held its appeal.

As the days passed and the visitors reported from time to time any fears as to the wisdom of the step we were taking were soon banished, as we recorded reports of how gladly the visitors had been received and we can now say "Surely the Lord has been with us," and has directed our steps to many homes who had been waiting and hoping that we would come and invite them to join in our fellowship and enjoy the privilege of worshipping in the house of our Father and his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our most grateful thanks is given to all those who volunteered for the work, whether as visitors or in a clerical capacity. Both churches rallied to the call and we can report that some hundred and twenty responded. Forty-seven teams of visitors called at seven hundred and twenty-two homes.

The results surprised us all and an analysis shows the following:—

Homes claiming to have Church connection	250
Homes of the Roman Catholic Faith	62
Homes of the Jewish Faith	31
Homes of Plymouth Brethren	22
Homes with no Church connection	242
Homes where there was no interest	18
Homes where they had left District or indicated they would be leaving	90
Homes of which we could find no trace.	49

Of the Homes visited we received requests for visitation from the Minister or Elders. These show:—

76 requested for Mr. Duff to call.
76 requested for Mr. Mackay to call.
67 requested for visit from Minister.
48 requested for visit by an Elder.

The following information was collected in respect of Children:—

Homes where children attend Sabbath School	63
Homes where children attend Bible Classes	2
Homes where children attend Fellowship	5
Homes where children attend Crusaders	5
Homes where children are members of the Boys' Brigade	11

Homes where children are members of Life Boys	5
Homes where children are members of Girl Guides	7
Homes where children are members of Boy Scouts	4
Homes where children do not attend any organisation	51

It is agreed by all that further steps must be taken to obtain the full benefit of the Campaign, and with this in view further visits are to be arranged for Ministers, Elders and Visitors to follow up and ensure that the great opportunity which has opened up should not be lost, and that as many as possible should be brought into the membership of the Church and every child brought into the influence of the organisations.

This report shows that the "Fields are white to Harvest." Let us not lose the opportunity to gather the Harvest which is ripe before our eyes. We can all play our part by our prayers, our welcome to new members and the strengthening of our Youth organisations to receive the children and give them the opportunity to become Christian men and women in the service of our Lord and Saviour.

PRESBYTERY NOTES.

In these days when indifference towards the Church is the subject of concern, it is interesting to obtain knowledge of what the Church is doing to equip itself to meet the conditions in our modern world.

As the result of deep thought by Church leaders, it has been recognised that certain aspects of Church life and doctrine require to be revised and restated and make the Church's attitude clear towards such subjects as:—

Child Baptism.

Preparation of Candidates for Communion.
and Marriage of Divorced Persons.

At the General Assembly in May these questions were discussed and now overtures have been sent down to Presbyteries for their consideration under the Barrier Act and for their comments and suggestions.

These questions are due for discussion at the Presbytery meeting to be held in Finnieston Church on Tuesday, 9th January, at 5.30 p.m., and any members interested are welcome to the public gallery on that evening.

THE LATE Miss ELIZABETH CAMERON.

The following is an extract from Dr. Boyd Scott's book, "Old Days and Ways in Newton Mearns," page 75: "Peace came with the advent as minister

of David Cameron. His ministry lasted for 25 years. He had the gift of conciliation and his spirit of charity and courtesy so prevailed among his divided people that in a few years all differences died. His preaching was sedately eloquent, and there was a breath of imagination in it that inspired the evangel in Mearns with warmth and colour. Towards the end of his ministry his health failed, and a spell of rest and sunshine on the Riviera brought a temporary betterment. In his time the dairy at the Manse was given up; but his white horse and phaeton were a landmark in the Mearns for many years. It was his custom to robe in the Manse and walk thus attired to the Church. Seven years after his settlement in the Newton, the new (present) manse was built, and thither he moved in 1866."

With the death of Miss Elizabeth Mather Cameron, the daughter of the above Minister, another link with the past is severed. She and her sister used to come each year to Kirkhill and were the guests of the Misses Mather. Mrs. Cameron, their mother, was an aunt of the Misses Mather. This Church, then, to Miss Cameron, and her brother and sisters, must always have been very dear, for they were brought up in the district, and knew no other congregation until they travelled extensively, as they did on the continent. She was the last of the family, for although her brother was married they had no children. We look into the past at this point and give thanks.

THE GIFT OF ELECTRONIC BELLS.

As the congregation is aware, the Electronic Bells to be erected in the North Tower of the Church have been gifted to us by Mr. and Mrs. James Young, of Endrick, 11 Larchfield Avenue. A further intimation has now come to us from the donors that they wish to bear the cost of installation which is to amount to about £400. This is an extraordinary act of generosity and we would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Young most sincerely for this fresh expression of their interest in and love for our Church.

We had hoped that the Bells would be ready for the Christmas commemoration, but the supply of materials and particularly of steel held up the installation. By the time this is in print the congregation may have had the pleasure of hearing them, but at the moment the makers tell us that they are doing all within their power to have them finished for the New Year.

Mr. J. E. McLaren and Mr. J. Cromar, in collaboration with Mr. Cuthill, have been put in charge, and are preparing suitable music and receiving names of those who are willing to pay them.

Once again we would express our gratitude for this splendid gift, and hope it may be the means of drawing many to the Public Worship of God.

THE WOMAN'S GUILD.

The opening meeting of the Woman's Guild was held on 7th November, 1950, and took the form of a Dedication Service. Mr. Mackay presided and Mrs. Wallace gave us a very helpful and inspiring address. After tea, a very pleasant part of the programme followed. Mr. Mackay and two members of the Session, Mr. Thom, our Session-Clerk, and Mr. Andrew Russell, had come to join with us in doing honour to Miss Helen Osborne, who retired this year from the Secretaryship of the Guild after the long and faithful service of 27 years. Mr. Mackay spoke of the splendid work done by Miss Osborne for the Church and especially for the Woman's Guild. Mr. Russell paid tribute to her work in the Sunday School. Mr. Thom endorsed these tributes and spoke also of the high esteem in which the Misses Osborne are held in the Church. In the name of the Session and of the Guild he presented to Miss Osborne a hand-bag containing a cheque, as a token of our regard for her and an appreciation of all her work. Miss Osborne received the gift and in a short speech expressed her thanks to us all.

The second meeting of the Guild was held on 20th November and was an open night. Rev. C. Campbell, B.D., and Miss Campbell, M.A., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M. gave us a great musical treat. Mr. Campbell took as his subject: Chopin, His Life and Music, and at various points in the lecture Miss Campbell played selections from the composer's works most beautifully. The evening was greatly enjoyed and the general verdict was that we could have listened to a great deal more.

On 4th December, Miss Thomson, from East Kilbride was the speaker. She came in one of the worst nights for weather that we have had—in snow and fog and frost, all combining to make her journey to and from Mearns very cold and unpleasant. We were sorry that owing to the weather and the consequent prevalence of colds, etc. the attendance was very poor, but those who did turn out were well rewarded. Miss Thomson told of her work as a Domestic Science Teacher in Nigeria—Domestic Science, not as it is known in this country, but with the most primitive equipment, what there was of it, and difficulties undreamt of at home, all along the line. She kept us fascinated as she told us of some of her experiences.

The next meeting, held on 18th December, was addressed by one of our own members, Miss Gow, who gave us a talk on her experiences in Nursing.

CHOIR NOTES.

The Choir have been working hard for their production of Handel's "Messiah" on January 21st at 6.30 p.m.

As we are to have the help of the somewhat larger choir of Rutherford Church, Dennistoun, and

as our organist is desirous of as strong a representation from our Church to the combined choir as possible, all Church members who have a knowledge of the choruses of this great work are earnestly requested not to hesitate with their help however great or small but to come in now and participate in the remaining practices on Thursdays at 8 p.m.

The work of the Junior Choir is commended to parents. Suitable Easter music is about to be studied. Choiristers attend for practice on Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., and boys and girls of 10 years of age and upwards are welcomed.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

December is always a busy time in Boys' Brigade circles as quite a number of examinations and tests are held during that month. As usual the Company has been well represented at these tests and satisfactory results are looked for in due course.

This session a First-Aid Class has been resumed under the instruction of Mr. Barrie and it is hoped to put forward boys for examination early in the New Year.

Already the thoughts of both officers and boys have turned towards next summer's camp and it is hoped to pay a return visit to Grandtully, Perthshire. Parents will be notified as soon as a definite decision is arrived at so that there may be no clashing of holiday arrangements.

The Annual Parents' Night was held on Friday, 15th December, when a very enjoyable evening was spent by all attending. The turn-out was a little disappointing but may, to some extent, be accounted for by severe weather conditions. The officers were encouraged by the support of those who found it convenient to attend and welcomed the opportunity of getting to know the parents better.

Finally, this opportunity is taken to thank all who contributed to Boys' Brigade Week. Only by this annual appeal can the work of the Brigade throughout the country be carried on successfully and contributions given to the boys are gratefully acknowledged.

GENERAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.

The Treasurers of the various Church Organisations are requested to prepare a statement of their intromissions with relative vouchers for the year ending 31st December, 1950, and to hand them to the Session-Clerk not later than 21st January, 1951, for submission to the Auditors.

VARIA.

Our congratulations are offered to Mr. W. B. Williams on the international "cap" for Badminton that he has won. He plays against England at Lancaster on the 4th January.