

# Newton Mearns Church Supplement

JANUARY, 1952

**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.

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**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.

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."*

Katherine Elizabeth Anne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, South Walton.

Robin Robertson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair, 59 Hazelwood Avenue.

Moirá Watson Spence, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Coldwell, 117 Fenwick Road.

Linda Jean Douglas, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Macdougall, 22 Eddington Drive.

Alan Douglas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joss, 2 Main Street.

Vivian Watson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cattán, 2 Main Street.

### Marriages.

*"Whom God hath joined together . . ."*

James G. G. Ford and Helen C. M. Taylor.

William B. Storry and Barbara W. Currie.

### Deaths.

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

Mr. A. G. Paterson, Ravenshaw, Glebe Road.

Mrs. Ann Inglis, Beechwood, Beech Avenue.

### New Members.

*By Profession of Faith.*

Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton Cheyne, c/o Rhumore, St. Vigean's Avenue.

Helen Joanna Hunter, c/o Ivyraig, Kirk Lane.

Marjie Bradshaw Edgar, Melfort, Beech Avenue.

Jessie Smith Connell Rodger, Netherplace Farm.

James Rodger, Netherplace Farm.

Eileen Josephine Holman Little, The Bield, Arthurlie Drive.

Mrs. William Trotter, 29 Moorhill Crescent.

Catherine Betsy Lottimer, The Croft, Roddinghead Road.

David Dick, Ashtree Grove.

*By Certificates from other Congregations.*

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Edgar, Melfort, Beech Ave.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Forrest, 1 Craignethan Rd.

Mrs. Robert Rodger, Garscadden Mains, Bearsden.

Joan Wilson Todd, 104 Norham Street, Shawlands.

### NEW YEAR MESSAGE.

We have been passing through the season of Advent when we commemorate the coming of Jesus Christ to the earth. History has witnessed in the life of man many thrilling episodes but none that can compare with the act of the Incarnation fraught as it was with such tremendous consequences for the destiny of man.

O little town of Bethlehem,  
 How still we see thee lie !  
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,  
 The silent stars go by.  
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth,  
 The everlasting light,  
 The hopes and fears of all the years,  
 Are met in thee to-night.

The first fact about the Incarnation that arrests our attention is, that it should have happened at all. That God Almighty and Everlasting, the Creator of the heavens and the earth should take our nature upon Him, and come to share our life on the earth is something so incomprehensible that we find it difficult to understand how it could have taken place, and almost impossible to describe in human words. We feel that all we can do is to bow down before it and worship. "Great is the mystery of godliness, God manifest in the Flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, received up into Glory." It is so great a thing, said Augustine, to be a little one that, unless Christ, Who is so great, had in His coming to the earth taught us the lesson, we could never have learned it.

The next fact that makes us ponder over the Birth of Christ is that He should have been born into such lowly circumstances. Had He been brought up in the atmosphere of a palace, we should have thought it in keeping with His regal function in life. But He was born into a peasant home as if to emphasise His desire to share the life of the lowly. "Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And his brethren, are they not with us?"

But even more than this we are startled at the fact that so little preparation was made for His coming. A census was being carried out. Joseph and Mary were on a journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. They were not even in their own home. Life went on as usual. In the middle of it all the Christ was born. It is so in our life to-day. It does not matter what we are doing. It is of little significance whither we are travelling. In the midst of it all we find the Christ. What was true long ago on the night of the Nativity is still true to-day.

That is, in the first place, a comforting thought. It means that whatever we are thinking, whatever we are doing, whenever we are suffering, He is there in the midst of it all. How often He sought to teach the disciples this truth. "Where two or three are gathered together in thy Name, there am I in the midst." "Go ye into all the world over, preach the Gospel to every creature, and lo I am with you alway unto the end of the World." Edward Wilson and Scott found that to be the case on one of their journeys through the snow of the Antarctic. At the end of their hazardous adventure the one turned to the other and each believed that there had been a Third Person in their midst.

But if it is a comforting thought it is also a challenging one, for it means that He hears all we are saying, and knows all we are thinking. There are some people in whose presence we feel restrained. We will not say certain things or do certain things. We would not like them to be disappointed in us. There may be only one or two of these in each of our lives but they are there. So it is in a greater and a deeper sense with the Christ who is in the midst of it all.

Let us, then, so enter the New Year with this comforting and challenging thought in the assurance that whatever difficulties we may encounter we have His presence in the midst of it all.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.

A Meeting of the Congregation was held in the Church Hall on Monday, 10th December for the purpose of considering a Report from the Congregational Board regarding proposed repairs and alterations to the Manse and to determine what action should be taken in the matter.

A detailed Report was submitted dealing with the Electrical system, decay in the joists under the Ground Floor Rooms caused by natural decay but aggravated by lack of proper ventilation: and suggested conversion of a Bathroom to a Cloak-room. The probable cost of repair work restricted to the Ground Floor would be round £1,000, but the restoration and a certain amount of modernisation is estimated by the Architect to cost in the region of £2,600. Temporary accommodation will



have to be provided for the Minister and his family as complete evacuation will be necessary during operations.

After a full discussion regarding repairs to the present Manse and the possibility of purchasing a modern house suitable for a Manse the meeting approved a motion "to authorise the Board to take immediate steps to effect the restoration and repair of the Manse as recommended in the Report of Mr Joseph Wilson, Architect, and for this purpose, to incur expenditure of a sum not exceeding £3,000."

The meeting agreed that consideration of the purchase of a new Manse should be deferred.

### PRESBYTERY NOTES.

Some very interesting and vital issues occupied the attention of the Presbytery at its last meeting on 4th December. Considerable time was devoted to the question of Remarriage of Divorced Persons, a problem engaging the enquiries of the Church for some years. It was given to Professor J. Pitt Watson to sponsor the Church's report, which he did with scholarly and masterly skill. His third argument that the ban should be removed and each case dealt with on its merits, was recommended and approved, though not without a strong body of dissent and plea for longer time for thought and discussion. His phrase used on the strict absolute ban to the effect that it savoured of the legalism of the Pharisees was telling. The Church lives in the realm of grace and no restriction should be put on that.

The Rev. Stewart Mechie submitted a report of the Presbytery's Committee on the Menace of Communism and that the Presbytery viewed the spread of Communism with grave concern. He spoke eloquently on the failure of Christians to apply their faith sufficiently to the problems of social life, and the Church's witness to a full gospel. Possibly, Communism had gained a certain measure of its appeal from this and he earnestly advocated the formation of Bible study groups with a view to Christian action. He paid warm tribute to the service of industrial chaplains, etc., but that did not absolve the ordinary member of the duty of Christian witness to effectively present the Church in the sphere of industry and economics. He

strongly recommended a setting-up of a special department of the Church to institute schemes and means for more vigorous action.

The Youth Committee of the Presbytery is a most active one. Sunday School work and Bible Classes lie very much on the minds and hearts of all its members, and a very practical proposal emerged from the deliberations of last meeting, viz. :—that a special campaign be instituted in the Autumn of 1952, to make a thorough canvass of each area and district to ascertain whether all children of requisite age were members of one Christian organisation or another. This received unanimous approval and a suggested date was given—14th to 21st September, as visitation week, with offers of speakers for a campaign. Its methods and form would be along the lines of the one carried through in the Spring for adults.

### THE WOMAN'S GUILD.

The Woman's Guild has had a varied and busy session. The meetings were well attended and the speakers contributed greatly to the interest and enjoyment of the evenings.

We were privileged in having with us, on the opening night, Rev. H. Lenner, who gave a very impressive address on his work in Europe. Other evenings included an address on Home Mission Work, and an account of the work of a Deaconess of the Church. Then, we had a Social Evening, which every one present enjoyed, and a Film Show, given by Mr. Maurice Anderson. This was a great success, as Mr. Anderson's shows always are, and this year the pictures seemed more beautiful than ever.

The Work Party got busy also, and with the help of many kind and interested friends, it was possible to send a tea-chest, filled with toys and gifts, for the children in Mr. Lenner's Orphanage in Hamburg. What better work could be undertaken than that of trying to bring a little more happiness at Christmas time to those poor victims of war?

This winter, Guilds all over the country have been asked to form listening groups of one form or another, on Thursday evenings, to hear the broadcast, "Prepare for Action." These talks are a pre-



liminary to the Radio Mission Campaign of 1952 and the idea is to get together, listen-in and then discuss ways and means of helping this great work in our own area. This Guild decided to meet monthly in each other's houses, listen to the broadcasts every week and each to bring her suggestions and findings to the joint meetings.

We'd like more Guildswomen to join in this Fellowship and we hope our Group may grow and develop into a real active and enthusiastic team. Any further information on this matter may be had from members of the Guild.

### MANSE RENOVATION FUND.

In view of the expenditure to be incurred in connection with repairs to the Manse a large sum of money will require to be raised. Two members of the congregation have very kindly made a donation of £100 to a Manse Renovation Fund.

Mrs. Thomas Knox, 21 Larchfield Avenue, is making and selling Toffee and will be very grateful for gifts of Margarine and/or Sugar. No doubt other members of the congregation will think of ways and means of raising money.

Mr. Graham Y. Lindsay, a former Organist, has kindly offered to bring out a Choir to give a Concert in aid of the Fund.

### COMMUNION.

At the November Communion, 461 members were present at the morning service, and 53 in the evening, a total of 514. It is interesting to note that the number communicating at the evening service has increased very much of late. Possibly this is due to the fact that where there are young children both parents are unable to attend the morning service.

### SEAT LETTING.

Members whose names are not on their pews or 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.

### THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

**The Object of the Boys' Brigade :—***"The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys, and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness."*

The 79th Glasgow Company parades on Friday evenings in the Church Hall at 7.30 p.m. Bible Class is held each Sunday at 10.15 a.m. in the Church.

This session the Company has twenty boys on the roll, four more than last session. The Officers and the Session are aware that there are boys attending Bible Class or Sunday School and Church who are not attached to any youth organisation and, therefore, ask parents to encourage boys to join the Life Boys or the Boys' Brigade.

In the Boys' Brigade there is an outlet for surplus energy, which in boys of B.B. age should be directed into the proper channels. There is also scope for boys of all ages between 12 and 17. Boys in the Brigade attend Bible Class and are encouraged to attend Church.

Arrangements are now in hand for Summer Camp at Colmonell, Ayrshire.

### THE LIFE BOYS.

**The Object of the Life Boys :—***"The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among young Boys, and the training of a body of suitable recruits for the Boys' Brigade."*