

# Newton Mearns Church Supplement

APRIL, 1952

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## 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**—Owing to lack of space this is held over until the next issue of the Supplement.

## THE WOMAN'S GUILD.

The Woman's Guild are organising a Bring and Buy Sale to be held in the Church Halls on Saturday, 10th May, at 2 p.m. The proceeds are to be handed over to the Manse Renovation Fund and the Guild Committee take this opportunity of asking all friends to help with generous donations and with their presence at the Sale.

The attractions will be varied—from garden produce and flowers, provisions and books to white elephants! And who knows what bargains may be going at a stall which receives parcels valued at not more than 1/- and sells others at the same price? There will also be a Baby Show in 3 sections with a prize for each section.

Lastly there will be an attractive Tea Room where one can enjoy a rest and a welcome cup of tea.

As all will appreciate, there are great difficulties in the running of such a Sale in these days of shortages and the Committee hope for a good response to this appeal. All donations will be welcomed gladly and friends are asked to put a price on the articles they are giving.

Keep this date in mind—10th May, 1952, 2 p.m.

## THE CHOIR.

The Choir provide an Easter Praise Service on Sunday evening, 20th April, when the Junior Choir will also assist.

Soon thereafter a Sunday evening will be devoted to the hymns and chorales of Germany as contained in our Revised Hymnary and presented by the Choir and organist.

## PRESBYTERY NOTES.

*April, 1952.*

An interesting point contained in the report submitted by the Convener of the Home Mission Committee at a recent meeting of the Presbytery was a reference to Churches of Historical and Architectural value, with the recommendation that a list of such Churches and ecclesiastical buildings be compiled. Noteworthy, as embodying the features of architectural merit, externally or internally, and illustrating the cultural progress of Scotland in these aspects. Also with regard to Historical Associations with persons or events in the history of the Scottish Church. This will prove a fascinating study in archaeology, apart from its value in religious development, and we may rightly hope that our own Parish Church of Mearns be included as eminently worthy, by its long and honoured

tradition and periodic design, as well as its commanding site. In another sense, and incidentally, it surely has claims to command the attention of that eminent archaeologist—Mr. George Scott Moncrieff in his "Well Built Scotland" series.

It is disquieting to know there still exists an adverse balance in the financial returns in the last report submitted by the Rev. John L. Kent on behalf of the Foreign Mission Committee though an honest attempt was being made by many congregations to remedy this. The Church still requires to make a response to the stimulus exerted by returning missionaries and a constant reminding of our obligations to them and the foreign field. He also alluded to the serious dearth of candidates in a number of fields and particularly vacancies for doctors, mentioning Calabar especially.

An encouraging note was struck, however, by the reception of the Lodging House Mission report, which described the nature of a very important work. The personal contact with the people who constitute the population of the lodging houses provides effective opportunity for the restoring of shattered lives. It is gratifying to learn how the Church is assuming responsibility for this most important missionary enterprise.

The Committee on Youth realises the vital nature of the function it discharges, and following on the special campaign it has announced for the Autumn, it has decided that both Kirk-Sessions and Superintendents of Sunday Schools should be circularised, with a view towards rousing the interest of all concerned, in a thorough canvass of the children of each district. This notice will be in the hands of each congregation of the Glasgow Presbytery at an early date.

## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, 1952.

The Annual Business Meeting of the Congregation was held in the Church Hall on 12th March, 1952, and was attended by about 100 members.

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

A Statement regarding Board Meetings held since the last Annual Meeting was read by the Clerk.

Mr. Walter Rodger, the Congregational Treasurer, presented the Accounts for 1951 and gave an interesting comparison with the figures of the previous year.

Mr. G. S. McVean, C.A. followed with his report and congratulated 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 re-elected Auditors for 1952, 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; 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 the Officials and Office-bearers, also to the Flower Providers, the Organist, members of the Choir and the Church Officer.

Election of members to the Congregational Board:—The following were re-elected for three years—Miss F. M. Hunter, Messrs. R. Bone, D. M. Fiddes and J. B. McCormick.

Mr. James Hamilton had resigned on leaving the district and the Chairman expressed the thanks of the meeting for the services rendered to the Board by Mr. Hamilton during his term of office.

The following were elected to the Board in place of members appointed to the Session:—Messrs. J. Scott Black, J. M. Goudie, H. Gray, T. F. Marchant, D. McCance, J. Macphail, J. B. Wood.

After Tea, the Rev. A. Gordon Stewart of Portland Church, Troon, a former minister of the congregation, addressed the meeting, referring briefly to the old days when he was in Mearns. Thereafter, Mr. Thom, on behalf of the Kirk-Session spoke of the great services which Mr. William Craig, whose jubilee as an Elder in the Congregation it was, had given to the congregation during the long period of 50 years and then called on Mrs. Mather, whose late husband had been ordained to the Eldership at the same time as Mr. Craig, to present him with a Bible suitably inscribed. The inscription was as follows:—“Presented to Mr. William Craig, Floors, Eaglesham, by the Session of Newton Mearns Church on the occasion of his completing fifty years as an Elder in the Congregation (1902-1952). The Office-bearers would take this opportunity of testifying to his strong sense of duty, his faithful attendance in the Sanctuary, and his constant concern for the welfare of the Church.”

W. Murray Mackay, Minister.  
C. J. Thom, Session-Clerk.

Mr. Craig, in his reply, thanked the Session and the Congregation for the gift and said that anything he had done had always been for the good of the Church.

The Chairman intimated that a similar Bible would be presented to Mr. Thomas Howie, who had also completed fifty years as an Elder, but not all in this Congregation. As Mr. Howie was unable to be present on this occasion the Bible would be presented in his home.

The Meeting was then entertained with solos by Miss Muriel Cuthil and Mr. John Lawrie, both of the Paisley Abbey Choir, while Mr. Cuthil, our Organist, accompanied them on the piano.

A very interesting and entertaining evening was brought to a close with votes of thanks to the Chairman and the Soloists proposed by Mr. Nimmo and the singing of the Doxology.

#### PRESENTATION TO Mr. WILLIAM CRAIG, FLOORS, EAGLESHAM.

It is seldom that one has seen Mr. William Craig angered, but such was the case when the Session-Clerk one Sunday morning drew him aside and suggested that it would please them if he would absent himself from the meeting of Elders after the service. When he wanted to know the reason for so doing he at once deprecated the idea that any such recognition of his 50 years as an Elder should be made.

His objections were, however, overruled and at the Annual Congregational Meeting on 12th March the presentation of a Bible was made on behalf of the Session by Mrs. Mather, Windyhaugh, widow of Mr. John B. Mather. It was fitting that she should do so for her husband had been a close friend of Mr. Craig, and ordained in the same year. The inscription read—“Presented to Mr. William Craig, Floors, Eaglesham by the Session of Newton Mearns Church on the occasion of his completing 50 years as an Elder in the Congregation (1902-1952). The Office-bearers would take this opportunity of testifying to his strong sense of duty his faithful attendance in the Sanctuary, and his constant concern for the welfare of the Church.”

It was a very great pleasure to have the Rev. A. G. Stewart of Troon present on such an occasion. Mr. Mackay referred to their deep sorrow at the death of Mrs. Stewart, whose memory lingered in the congregation as that of a gracious and beloved lady. Mr. Stewart, who has taken a leading place in the General Assembly of the Church, spoke with his usual vigour and directness. He said what a pleasure it was to be back amid his old friends, and how he rejoiced to see that the congregation continued to prosper. He spoke of his happy associations with Mr. Craig and his family, and how he rejoiced to be present on such an evening as this.

The Session-Clerk, in the regrettable absence of Mr. Andrew Russell through illness, then paid tribute to Mr. Craig and his family. I have often heard Mr. Thom speak but I never heard him better than on this occasion. He reminded the congregation that the ground on which the

Church Hall was built was a gift from the late Mr. William Mann of Whitecraigs, and that the individual Communion Cups had been presented by Mr. Craig's father and mother, and had been added to, as the congregation grew, by Mr. Craig. These were but instances of a deep love for the Church and the congregation that had been evident throughout the years. It was not often that one had the honour as well as the distinction of having been 50 years in office in the same congregation.

It was a unique experience for many to see Mr. Craig stand up and address a meeting. He would much rather grow acres of wheat than scatter a few words over an audience but he showed himself more than equal to the occasion, and in some well-chosen words thanked the Session and Mrs. Mather for what they had done. Mr. Walter Rodger, in his usual witty vein, added a few words at the close. His father had been on the Session at the same time as Mr. Craig, and one rejoiced that his son should be following—and Mr. Samuel Rodger also—in his steps.

A Bible was also presented in his home to Mr. Thomas Howie, Carriden, Beech Avenue, who had been 50 years an Elder in the Church of Scotland. A deputation from the Session comprising the Minister, the Session-Clerk, and the Treasurer attended on him. Our grateful thanks are given to Mr. Tom Walker, Whitebarn, Glebe Road, for inscribing the Bible presented to Mr. Craig.—W.M.M.

#### THE DRAMATIC PRODUCTION.

We would like to thank the Dramatic Section of the Social, Badminton and Dramatic Club for their presentation of the play “The Torch Bearers” on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of the last week in March. It was a brave venture on Mr. Asher's part to revive the Club. Mr. Macnaughton had been very reluctantly forced through illness to relinquish, meantime at least, a work of which he is very fond and in which he is expert, and it looked as if no one would come forward to take his place. Our thanks then are due to the new producer that for two reasons he offered his services (1) to keep the players together; (2) to make some contribution to the Manse Renovation Fund. We cannot state how successful in the latter he has been but it is estimated that between £40 and £50 will be able to be handed over. That is a splendid result in itself and we would like to thank all who helped to raise it.

Now, as to the play. I think all would acknowledge that it was a very successful production. It provided us with excellent entertainment and made us laugh, and can one ask for any more of such a show than that. Life can be pretty taxing these days—a suitable word to use—and to be lifted out of it all for a night is a great fillip to us all. The play, universally acclaimed to be a difficult one, is yet a very attractive one and the actors succeeded in getting the satire across very effectively to us. The maturer actors all did well, and those who had never been on the stage before, we shall want to see again.

Mr. Asher had very good support from many people, and if we mention Mr. Niven and Mr. Harry Russell of Mearnskirck it is not to forget the others who each did their part—and once again we had the furniture from Hay's. No, we shall not forget “The Torch Bearers” for the torches were really alight!

#### VARIA.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the first Sabbath in May. The Preparatory Service will be held on the preceding Friday in the Church at 8 p.m.

A Class for Young Communicants will be opened in the Vestry on the first Sunday in April at the close of the forenoon service.

The repairs at the Manse are proceeding with satisfactory speed. The ground floor has been gutted, the joists removed, creosoted and put back, after the whole base had been treated with asphalt. The damp-proof course has

been increased and the floors relaid. Certain other alterations have been completed and we feel the work has been carried out with great expeditiousness, and that a very thorough job is being done. The plumbers and electricians are now at work, and thereafter the painters will be starting. We estimated that the Manse would need to be vacated for six months, and we would appear to be running to schedule.

Our thanks are due to the Misses Hunter who ran a Country Dancing Evening in the Hall and raised about £12 for the Manse Renovation Fund.

## ORGANISATION REPORTS GIVEN AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

### The Woman's Guild.

This Session of the Woman's Guild has been an interesting and happy one and the members have turned out well in spite of weather conditions, illness, etc. We have a very small membership in the Guild but those who do attend are keen and faithful, and we are a very friendly family. We are always delighted to welcome new members.

One evening in January we had to postpone our meeting because of bad weather, but, fortunately, we were able to have our speaker for that evening at a later date.

We were very fortunate in our speakers and we are very grateful indeed for a varied and interesting programme.

Rev. Heinz Leuner opened the Guild this session, and gave us a telling address on his work among the displaced persons in Europe.

Another high-light was an exhibition of films by Mr. Maurice Anderson. We also had talks on Social Work, the work of the Deaconesses of the Church of Scotland, and on the Women's Voluntary Services, this last, referring specially to the need for women volunteers for Civil Defence.

February 29th was fixed as the Women's World Day of Prayer and we held a joint meeting with Mearns Parish Church Guild in this Church. There was a better attendance than last year though it still leaves much to be desired. Mrs. O'Hara Thomson gave a very helpful address and the meeting was enjoyed by all.

The Work Party decided this year to make and collect toys to send to the children in Mr. Leuner's Orphanage in Hamburg. Through the efforts and kindness of members and friends we were able to fill a tea-chest with gifts, which arrived at the Orphanage in time for Christmas. It gave us all very great pleasure to do this for these poor children who have suffered so much.

Now, although the meetings are over, the Guild has a busy time ahead. On 10th May we plan to have a Bring and Buy Sale, the proceeds to go to the Manse Renovation Fund. For this work we appeal to *all* the women in the Church for their help and co-operation.

Newton Mearns Church Woman's Guild has been chosen this year to hold the Echo Meeting of the South-West Council on 2nd June. Many will remember the last time this meeting was held here, when over 400 women invaded Mearns and caused a sensation! We hope the "weather clerk" will be kind on that evening.

I hope the above report has served to show that although the Guild is small in numbers it is not inactive and makes itself felt in its own quiet way. We do try our best to live up to our motto: "Whose I am, and Whom I serve."

### The Sunday School.

The Sunday School meets in the Church Hall at 10.15 a.m. A Class for Beginners is held during the Morning Service. We have 150 scholars on the roll.

Mr. Nimmo holds two Bible Knowledge examinations during the year and prizes are given at the end of the session.

Mr. Pollock left a legacy to the Sunday School to encourage children to memorise Psalms and Hymns. Suitable passages are selected, according to age, and those who win prizes receive them at the end of the session.

The Sunday School Picnic was held at Hazeldean, through the kindness of the Misses Pratt, on Saturday, 16th June, 1951, and every one had a most enjoyable time.

The Prize Giving Service was held in the Church on Sunday, 24th June, 1951.

A Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held in the Church on Sunday, 14th October, 1951, and the gifts which were sent to Mearnskirk Hospital were very much appreciated.

The Party was held on 22nd December, 1951, and every one enjoyed themselves very much. Santa Claus paid us a visit again this year with sweets for the children.

Our usual Christmas Gift Service was held in the Church on Sunday, 23rd December, the gifts being sent to Mearnskirk Hospital.

We had some very interesting films shown to us during the session by Mr. Nimmo. You will see from the report of our Missionary Treasurer in the Abstract of Accounts how our collections have been allocated.

### The Young People's Union.

Before the start of this year's Y.P.U. Meetings, we of the Committee had intended to approach young members of our congregation individually, and by personal contact show them that in the Y.P.U. there was a place where they would be welcome. This idea was in fact carried out to some extent, but there are many who have not been approached.

At last year's A.G.M. we had about 13 members. Of these we have retained 12, while it may be said that we have added 7. Certainly we have had as many as 20 young people on some evenings, whereas other meetings have had no more than half-a-dozen.

With regard to the subjects of our meetings, we have had for the first time a theme which occupied the first Sunday evening of each month. The remainder of our evenings have had varied topics, including the study of "Christian responsibility," which was the theme of this year's Christian Youth Assembly in Edinburgh. Thanks to the financial support given us by the congregation, 14 of our members attended this national gathering.

One lesson which the experience of the past year seems to reveal is that a greater dependance upon older people is desirable, individually—as speakers on subjects of which they have experience, and collectively—for joint meetings to consider subjects of mutual interest or united action.

With regard to the future I hope that next year's syllabus will include a follow-up of this year's Christian Youth Assembly work on Christian responsibility.

Also I hope that an effort will be made to contact—individually—all young people of an appropriate age within our congregation, and I hope that this may result in an increase in our numbers.

Now, it may be thought that if the programme of the Y.P.U. were made sufficiently attractive young people would come along of their own accord. I do not believe that this is practicable. Improvements could doubtless be made, but I do not see any possibility of attracting large numbers, because the heart of Christianity is the Cross and subjection of self. Most people to-day seem content to live for their material necessities and for pleasure. This appears to me quite understandable, since no thinking person could view the future without grave apprehension, unless sustained by a powerful faith. We young people are fortunate in *having the Christian faith revealed to us*, principally through the labours of Mr. Mackay, to whom we are continually indebted, but also in some measure through the Y.P.U.

For this reason, those who attend the Y.P.U. and those who serve on the Y.P.U. Committee are doing something very useful. Also for this reason we feel that we earn the support which is given us by the congregation and the Kirk-Session.

It is our earnest hope and prayer that we may contribute to the enrichment of the life of our congregation in a measure which is proportional to the great opportunities which we have had.

### The Boys' Brigade.

The Company commenced its winter activities on 28th September.

This session has seen an increase in numbers and the roll now stands at 20 boys.

The Company, unfortunately, lost the services of Messrs. Cowan and Peden at the close of last session, but we were pleased to welcome Mr. Douglas Miller and Mr. George Brandie as Lieutenants. Both gentlemen have successfully completed Initial Training and have been gazetted.

The various activities of the Company have been progressing successfully. Summer Camp at Colmonell, Ayrshire, was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Several members of the 267th Glasgow Company spent the fortnight at camp with us and arrangements have been made for the two Companies to spend next camp together. A return visit to Colmonell is proposed.

During the winter months the Club Room has been open on Saturday nights, when the boys can meet and organise table tennis matches, musical evenings, etc. The Club Room is run by the N.C.O.'s of the Company. The film of last camp was shown at the Club.

Next year it is hoped to start a Pipe Band, provided tuition is obtainable. The Company still has in its possession the instruments used by the last Band.

Pollok District held a Church Parade to Mearnskirke early in the session. The 79th and 138th Companies were on parade.

The Youth Committee, formed by the Session was welcomed by the Officers, who thank this body of Elders for the help and guidance they have given the Company during the session.

### The Life Boys.

The Life Boys meet every Friday at 6 o'clock in the Church Hall.

There are 22 boys on the roll and we have an average attendance of 21 nightly.

Again this year we have adopted the Seal System, and for all subjects each boy must pass an examination before a Seal can be put against his name. A boy can try for 18 Seals each year, which cover the four sides of Life Boy work, namely: Education, Social, Physical and Sunday School.

At the end of last session we had a Parents' Night which included Prize Giving and Transfer Ceremony, when 5 boys received their Certificates and were transferred to the B.B. Coy.

We had our usual Christmas Party with the Fathers and Santa Claus again paid us a visit. The Team also had an evening at the Kelvin Hall and a visit to the Pavilion Theatre. As usual, these three evenings were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Normal Life Boy work is carried out every Friday, namely, Games, P.T., Marching, Singing, Handicrafts, General Knowledge, and, of course, all Seal work which includes, Bible Heroes, Missionaries, Hobbies, Safety First, Guide and Health.

The leaders and boys send their thanks to all Parents and Friends who have supported the Team so faithfully at all our functions. It is a great encouragement to the boys and the leaders also to have so many friends who always show such interest in Life Boy work and in the progress of the boys.

This past session has been another most interesting and happy one.

### The Girl Guides.

2nd Mearns Guide Company has successfully weathered another session. The roll has varied very little from last year, and still remains in the region of 32 with an attendance which only dwindles when examinations and 'flu are abroad.

As usual, work has taken up a large percentage of the Company's time. Seven Guides have passed the Tenderfoot test and ten have gained 2nd Class badges; two girls are in the last lap of First Class. Several Guides have satisfied authorised examiners of their proficiency, and the following badges have been awarded by headquarters:—

7 Childnurse.	2 Homemaker.
3 Gymnast.	1 Knitter.
5 Cook.	2 Needlewoman.

On the social side, 2nd Mearns enjoyed several outings to Pollokshaws Baths before the cold weather came. We had a successful party at Christmas time and an enjoyable evening at the theatre. A few of the Guides attended a first-class afternoon at Bridge of Weir and several went to another first-class meeting in Giffnock Guide hut.

In May the entire Company attended the District Rally in Lord Weir's estate; on this occasion our numbers were increased by several Whitecraigs Guides.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Mackay, the Guide Elders, and Mr. Wood for their continued interest. We would also like to thank Mr. McGregor, who was kind enough to spend an evening with us.

The Guides have worked very well throughout the session, and their interest and enthusiasm have been most encouraging.

### The Brownies.

The Brownie session commenced on 6th September and meetings have been held each Thursday at 6.15 p.m. in the Church Hall. At the beginning of the session we had a great influx of new recruits, bringing our numbers up to the very high figure of 36, and as it would have been impractical to accept any more recruits, a waiting list was started. However, owing to the fact that quite a number of Brownies have since joined the Guides, we are pleased to report that a waiting list is now no longer necessary.

The standard of work is very satisfactory indeed and two Brownies who last year attained their First Class Badges are now the holders of the House Orderly and First Aid Proficiency Badges. Five Brownies are at present working for their First Class Badge and, apart from two Brownies who are new recruits, the others are all working for their Second Class Badge.

The weekly subscription is 2d. and this goes towards equipment and badges. Our main expense this year was the purchase of a new Owl with which all the Brownies were delighted. We also have a Ship Halfpenny Fund, the proceeds of which is sent to the Phillips-hill Extension Pack.

With regard to the social side of our Pack, we have held two parties this session, one at Hallowe'en and the other at Christmas. We also had an afternoon at the Pantomime. As there was still a waiting list at the time we had these outings we invited the girls who were on the list to join us.

We were extremely grateful to receive the assistance of our new Tawny Owl, Miss Jean McCormick, and also of our two Pack Leaders.

Before concluding, we should like to thank the Church Elders for their willingness to assist on all possible occasions.

Owing to lack of space Reports of Social, Badminton and Dramatic Club, and the Church Golf Club are held over until next issue.