

# Newton Mearns Church Supplement

JANUARY, 1953

**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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**Interim Session-Clerk**—Mr. W. T. DAVIDSON,  
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**Interim Clerk to the Congregational Board**—  
Mr. T. A. WRIGHT, M.A., LL.B.,  
"Kilmeny," Craigie Drive, Newton Mearns.  
Telephone—NEWton Mearns 2758.

## 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—7.30 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."*

Janette Mackay, 90 Beech Avenue.  
Donald Robertson Mackay, 90 Beech Avenue.  
Edward Andrew Munro, Main Street.  
Richard Allan McLure, 29 Broomvale Drive.

McCLURE

### Marriages.

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

John J. Vickerman and Alexandrena B. Stewart.  
John M. Steel and Annabella W. Rodger.  
Donald Stewart and Elizabeth H. Cheyne.

### Deaths.

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

Mrs. George Hammond, 2 Cheviot Drive.  
Mrs. MacLaughlan, Eastpark, Newton Mearns.  
Mrs. D. Stevenson Brown, Avondale, Ayr Road.  
Mr. John M. Brown, Knowetop, Whitecraigs.  
Miss Jessie Stevenson Brown, 16 Dunbeath Avenue.

## NEW MEMBERS.

2nd November, 1952.

*By Profession of Faith.*

Miss Margaret Eileen Davidson, 19 Forrestfield Crescent.  
James Paterson, 22 Kilpatrick Gardens, Clarkston.  
Miss Dorothy Christie Nisbet, 7 Arthurlie Drive.  
Miss Lorna Christine Beaton Lindsay, 114 Beech Avenue.  
Miss Marion Elizabeth Geddes, 17 Elliot Avenue, Giffnock.  
Forbes Colquhoun Robertson, "Liberton," 233 Ayr Road.

*By Certificate from other Congregations.*

Mrs. Stirling Jarvie, "Westfield," Springhill Road, Clarkston.  
Mr. Fred. G. Ogilvie, "Dunruden," Glebe Lane.  
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence G. Manson, 101 Beech Avenue.  
Miss Elizabeth H. Douglas, c/o Gordon, Glebe Road.  
Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Jones, 231 Ayr Road.

## MINISTER'S LETTER.

THE MANSE,  
NEWTON MEARNES.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Once again I find myself confronted with the task of sending you a New Year Message. I do not mean that I am unwilling to do so. Far from it! But the months have rolled past and we are looking towards another year and wondering what it has in store for us. We hail 1953 and hope that it will be a good year in the life of the world, and one in which we will see the revival of the Church of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As we face a New Year we look back naturally at the one that has gone. Has 1952 been one in which we can take pride? That will depend on the angle from which we view it. As a nation we can thank God that we are still solvent. I am not sufficiently aware of the economic facts of life like the Chancellor of the Exchequer to pass judgement on whether we can face the future with confidence or not. Rising prices of goods and raw materials in all parts of the world, added to increases in wages, have created problems that it will take time to solve. All that I do know is that the future lies to a great extent in the hands of our people themselves. If every man is prepared to do an honest day's work for a fair and living wage then we shall, I believe, surmount our difficulties. We must at the same time seek to remove as far as possible the grim spectre of unemployment. Yet it must be made clear to all that if a man will not work neither does he deserve to eat. Some solution of this dilemma must be found.

There has, again, been an outbreak of violence in the land that must be quashed. How far this is one of the evil consequences of the years of conflict, and which as they recede will pass away, we cannot say. Already there has been a sign that our judges are alive to the issue and thank them for the courage they have shown. We must not allow feelings of vengeance to fill our hearts but rather be concerned that the body politic be safeguarded, though, as Charles Dickens shows in "Oliver Twist," there is a type of character like Bill Sykes who seems to have not a grain of pity in his nature. Dickens would not say that it is so, but he says that it would appear to be so. He has given no evidence at all in life that he has any streak of sympathy in his nature. We must be alive to this grim fact. It may be that the police force may need to be considerably increased until the spirit of lawlessness dies down.

Looking back on the life of our own congregation one feels that we have suffered great loss in those who have died during the year. Some of them had been with us so long that we had come to accept their presence as if we would never be without them. Then suddenly they are taken away from us, and we realise how much they meant to us, how much good work they did, how much their fellowship in the Sanctuary contributed to our Christian faith and life. We thank God for all they have done, and we can only pray that others will be inspired to take their places and give the witness and the diligent service that they were enabled to undertake.

The congregation faced this year the task of renovating the Manse. The property had deteriorated considerably during the years when we were engaged in the financing of the building of the Church and also the war period



that followed. My wife and I would thank all those who have enabled us to live in the great comfort that we now enjoy. It means for the Church facing an expenditure of just over £2,000. Happily we had, through the letting of the Church Halls and other ways, gathered a Fabric Fund of about £1,000. I understand that the deficit now is about £233, but that all but £84 we hope by the end of this year to clear off through current account. We intend to ask for no further contributions through the monthly retiring collections. To all those who have contributed we offer our grateful thanks. The Manse should now be a financial asset to the Church.

A happy and prosperous New Year to you all, and let us each do our best to make our witness for Jesus Christ by regular attendance at the Sanctuary both morning and evening where possible, by faithful service in some corner of the vineyard of the Lord, and by carrying into the ordinary walks of life the spirit and the faith of Him Who went about continually doing good and giving His life a ransom for many. Let us keep our eyes open and we shall not fail to find opportunities of service for Him, and let us cultivate the habit of "waiting upon Him" and He will lead us to work that can be done for His sake.

Very sincerely yours,

W. MURRAY MACKAY.

### PRESBYTERY ECHOES.

Recent meetings of the Presbytery have given occasion for the discussion of some questions vital to the Church's wellbeing and which must serve to awaken the attention and conscience of *all* members, as well as of those more serious minded. Once more the apprehension of the Presbytery was roused by the submission of a report that at least 17 out of every 100 children in the Glasgow area were not even nominal members of a Sunday School or Bible Class. This gave rise to the significant comment which accompanied it—"If we fail the young, the Church will fail." Any decline naturally provokes the examining for a cause and the chief one was thought to be inadequate staffing. The report went on to state that it was quite clear that Bible Classes did not have the place they used to have and whether the less formal instruction given in youth fellowships, etc. could take the place of the more positive and systematic method of the Bible Class. Kirk-sessions were urged to give attention to the recruitment of staff and that the matter of children in each parish not receiving religious instruction be kept continually before them.

The Presbytery gave very sympathetic hearing to the plea put forward by the Rev. Roy Sanderson for the encouragement of children taking part in the normal worship of the congregation, but what effect this would have on attendance at Sunday School created a problem.

A notable move by the Presbytery towards the responsibility of the Church in the matter of slum properties and the consequent danger to the health and morals of young children, had its result in the appointment of a committee to examine housing conditions in certain areas of the city. The motion was presented by the Rev. H. C. Whitley, who gave some harrowing details on the insupportable conditions under which people are living in parts of Glasgow—a standing rebuke to the conscience of the citizens. He wanted to create the concern of the Church on such an urgent social problem. No doubt, financial interests are involved here, and perhaps political, but Mr. Whitley has acted with commendable zeal in asking the Presbytery to suggest ways in which the Church can assist and hasten the removal of this festering sore in our midst.

It is worthy of note that Mr. Whitley has on his own account been trying to foster a spirit of self-help amongst the tenants in his own parish; inspiring them to do such repairs as were in their power out of a fund which he had been the means of collecting from sympathetic people.

The nomination of the Rev. Prof. Pitt Watson to be Moderator-designate of the General Assembly for 1953, was received with much acclaim and the Moderator conveyed the congratulations of the Presbytery on the high honour which had been conferred on him. Those of us who were privileged to hear his opening of the discussion in Trinity College, on the "falling off" in recruitment for the ministry, could not fail to be impressed by the talented presentation of contributory causes to this grave situation.

### In Memoriam

Mrs. D. Stevenson Brown.

Mrs. D. Stevenson Brown, Avondale, Newton Mearns, died on Wednesday, 3rd December, in her 84th year. Born in Langholm, on her marriage she resided first at Anniesland, Glasgow, and later she and her husband moved to the Shettleston district, and thence came to reside in this neighbourhood. A woman endowed with an alert mind she was also possessed of a very gracious personality which quickly drew to her side a large circle of friends. For children she had a deep affection, and a child was not long in her presence until she had made him or her perfectly at home. Having no children of their own she and her husband seemed to take a special delight in befriending all those with whom they came in contact. A bairn never left the house without the box of sweeties having been produced from the sideboard. She overcame with wonderful cheerfulness and patience the handicap that her increasing deafness laid upon her, and the great sorrow of it to her was that it cut her off from the conversation of others in which she took such delight. In her younger years she was a very active worker in the Church. She had an extensive knowledge of the ministers and the life of the Church, being particularly interested also in the music of the Sanctuary. On a Communion Sunday, there was no psalm that she loved to hear more than the 23rd, especially when it was sung to Crimond. To her husband who has devoted so much of his life to the Church as an Elder, as Session-Clerk, and as Organist she was a wise counsellor and a willing helpmeet. As her infirmity began to shut out from her the life of the world, she became more and more interested in reading, and she loved to peruse the history of the Church especially the lives of the great men of the past, such as Carlyle of Inveresk. Perhaps we shall remember her best as a sweet and gracious personality who always gave one a warm welcome, and seemed to be as interested in your life as in her own. Her life was like an alabaster box of precious ointment broken in the service of others, and the odour of the ointment still pervades the house of our life. To her husband who attended her so devotedly, to her sisters-in-law, to her housekeeper Miss Fitzgerald, and to her kith and kin we extend to-day our deepest sympathy.

Mrs. George Hammond.

Mrs. George Hammond of 2 Cheviot Drive, Newton Mearns died on Sunday, 19th October, in an infirmary in Glasgow as the bell was tolling for evening worship. Mrs. Hammond did not come to our neighbourhood until a few years ago, and did not enjoy good health during part of this time, and, therefore, there were many in the congregation who did not get to know her as they would have wished. She was a woman of a quiet disposition, industrious all her days and faithful in the performance of the duties of life. I have spoken to-day to the children on the subject of duty and Mrs. Hammond was one who was most diligent in this respect as a wife and as a mother. She supported her husband most loyally in his work, and in his love and service of the Church. We have admired his attendance on the Sanctuary in these last anxious months, but he himself wished in such an hour to be in the worship of the Lord. To him and to his family we extend to-day our deepest sympathy, and would lift our eyes to the Eternal Hope in Jesus Christ where His servants do serve Him and where they do see His face.



**Mrs. MacLaughlan.**

Mrs. MacLaughlan, of Eastpark, Firwood Road, Newton Mearns, died on Wednesday, 26th November, in her 88th year. Although Mr. and Mrs. MacLaughlan came to this district about 15 years ago they had spent most of their life in the congregation of Pollok, Pollokshaws. They were both pillars of that Church for many years and were greatly beloved by all. Before she was married, Mrs. MacLaughlan taught in a mission Sabbath School in that neighbourhood, and it was there that she met her husband. Their life began in the work of the Church, and was continued in it all their married life. In every aspect of this life they took a deep interest. Mrs. MacLaughlan was one of the finest women it has been my privilege to meet. She had a strong personality and with it was linked a graciousness of manner that reminded one of the words of the Psalmist: "Thy gentleness hath made me great." She retained her faculties to the end of her life, her intellect as clear as one would wish it to be, her bodily vigour almost unabated. One of the virtues that marked her character was her tolerance of others. She was ever ready to forgive and to find an excuse for any person who was accused of a fault. In the hour of affliction she arose in a new strength to face it, a strength that came to her life that was hid with Christ in God. We shall miss her much and to her beloved daughter and her kith and kin we offer our deepest sympathy. "In My Father's House are many mansions, I go to prepare a place for you."

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AFFAIRS.**

All departments of the Sunday School had their Christmas parties on Saturday, 20th December—the Primary and Beginners in the afternoon and the Seniors in the evening. Mr. John Russell had again provided a beautiful Christmas tree and with its tinsel, snow and fairy-lights it provided a suitable setting to the scene. The catering was in the hands of Miss Hay, and Miss Hay knows what is wanted by youthful appetites. Mr. Telfer, as he has done for many years, provided Walt Disney and Charlie Chaplin films and, judging by the laughter, these were thoroughly enjoyed by the scholars, teachers and friends.

Near the close of each party, Santa Claus paid a visit and, from his capacious poke, handed gifts to all. Mr. McCance, who seemed to enjoy his job, made the ideal Father Christmas.

Before the singing of the doxology, Mr. Nimmo referred to the loss the Sunday School was about to sustain in that Mr. Dugald Craig was about to emigrate to Australia. Mr. Craig had worked quietly, cheerfully and effectively for many years in the interests of the boys and girls of the Church and, while they regretted losing him, they wished all happiness to him and Mrs. Craig as they ventured forth to join their families. Mr. Craig suitably replied.

On Sunday, 21st December, there was a special "gift" service and the scholars were accommodated in reserved pews at the front of the Church. Mr. Mackay preached a delightful seasonal address and the hymns were all from the beautiful Christmas selection of the hymnary. The gifts, as in previous years, were to be handed over to Mearnskirk Hospital.

At the close of the service Mr. Mackay, in the name of the congregation, presented Mr. Craig with a Bible and Hymnary, together with the Church of Scotland "Long Service Certificate" for over fifty years faithful service in the Sunday School.

On Sunday, 28th, at the close of the Sunday School, Mr. Menzies, in the absence of Mr. Nimmo, presented Mr. Craig with a wallet as a token of esteem from teachers and scholars.

**THE WOMAN'S GUILD.**

The activities and interests of the Woman's Guild have been varied this session. The meetings began on 6th October, 1952, when Mrs. Davies gave us a talk on the

Jewish Problems of to-day. Mrs. Davies is very conversant with her subject and is a delightful speaker and we greatly enjoyed her visit.

The next meeting was a Temperance Evening when our speaker was Mr. R. G. Macdonald.

In November Mr. Cuthill and Party gave us a very fine Song Recital on Songs of Schubert. This was an open meeting and the beautiful renderings of Schubert's music were much appreciated and enjoyed by all of us.

Later in the month, Dr. Dale of Mearnskirk Hospital invited members of the Guild to go up to Mearnskirk Hospital where he gave us a most interesting talk, illustrated with slides, on Tuberculosis. Dr. and Mrs. Dale also entertained the party to tea and a very delightful and friendly evening was spent.

In December we had to cancel one meeting owing to weather conditions, so we combined a Social Evening and a talk from Mrs. Buchanan on her work with the Arab Refugees. Mrs. Buchanan gave us a very clear picture of conditions abroad and of the awful plight of the Refugees, who have lost everything including, in most cases, all their families, owing to the misfortunes of war. One felt it was right that we should all know of these things which exist in Refugee camps and centres and Mrs. Buchanan gave us a very vivid picture of the contrast between our life of comfort and luxury and the life of these poor sufferers. That evening we had a Special Christmas Tea and Mrs. Cormack and Mrs. Ferns entertained us with some music.

During the session the Guild Work Party was also busy. In the first few meetings we made up a box of face-cloths and handkerchiefs for one of the Toddlers' Play Centres in Glasgow. We also collected worn and used clothing to send to the Refugees in Arabia. We got a splendid response to our appeal and were able to send off two sacks of good warm clothing, shoes, etc.

As Christmas drew near our thoughts turned to the children of Dr. Leumer's Orphanage in Germany, and we decided to do as we did the previous Christmas and pack a box of toys to send to the children. Once more we got a good response to our appeal and we were able to send a box of gifts of all kinds for Christmas. We heard that it arrived safely and we hope these poor children may have had a little added happiness at this time.

Now we are looking forward to our Spring Session and the Committee would be very pleased to welcome new members. Even doing a little for other people or taking on responsibility for some of the work does help one to a new viewpoint. When we remember that any service done in this way is service to Him who gave so much to us, surely we should be willing to help in any way we can.

**GIFTS FOR MEARNSKIRK HOSPITAL.**

A splendid response was made by the children to the appeal for toys and gifts for the boys and girls in Mearnskirk Hospital. They were brought to Church and deposited in the Chancel at the Christmas Service. It is gratifying to know the children are encouraged to think of others; especially those who are sick and away from their own homes. Dr. Dale and the staff at the Hospital greatly appreciate the consideration given to them in their work in Mearnskirk.

**Dr. DALE SENDS HIS THANKS.**

"I would like to thank the members of the Church who subscribed towards the magnificent collection of toys and books which were delivered at the Hospital by Mr. and Mrs. MacPhail and the other members of the congregation. These gifts, as you know, will go a long way in helping with the loading of the trees and the filling of the Christmas stockings, and will bring a great deal of pleasure to many of our little ones. I should be glad if you would convey my sincere thanks, on their behalf, to all the members of the congregation and the Sunday Schools who have, in any way, contributed.

Hope to see some of you at the parties, when the gifts will be distributed.



With the Compliments of the Season, and Best Wishes to you from all at Mearnskirrk.

Yours sincerely,  
ALEX. DALE, *Surgeon Superintendent.*"

### PRAISE.

The "Service of Praise" carried through by the Choir on the evening of Christmas Sunday merited a larger congregation, for the preparation necessitated a good deal of thought on the part of Mr. Cuthill and the singers.

The selection of music and the words were eminently suitable but enunciation should be practised for it was not possible to get the words of unfamiliar pieces.

The singing of a hymn on Sunday evenings is an endeavour on the part of Mr. Cuthill to familiarise a not well known hymn and tune with which he feels the congregation should be acquainted.

### PRESENTATIONS. *MAGHIE*

The transfer of the Maghie family to Edinburgh deprives us of valuable service rendered during some ten years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Maghie were interested in music and served in the Choir, and Mr. Maghie took his share in playing the Church Bells on Sundays.

In 1961 Mr. Maghie was elected an Elder and the Session presented to him a Hymnary and Psalter in recognition of his interest and work.

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION.

During the first half of the session we have held many varied and instructive evenings and we are indebted to our Minister, Mr. Mackay, for his continued support and encouragement.

Our thanks are also due to those members of our congregation who have given talks and so allowed us to benefit from their experience of Christian life. Undoubtedly the principal result of our discussions has been to emphasise the need for any attempt at an understanding of the meaning of Christianity to be approached with a sense of sincerity. The appreciation of this need for sincerity is in some way reflected by the faithful attendance of our members.

A warm invitation is extended to all young people of the congregation to come to the meetings, which are held every Sunday evening in the Upper Hall at 7.45.

The programme for this month is:—

Jan. 11—"Can you be a Christian without going to Church?" Speaker Alan Carlaw.

" 18—"Radio theme night."

" 25—"Did Jesus have to take the Way of the Cross?" Speaker Andrew M. McCance.

We feel that the answers to these questions should interest those who are members of the Church as well as those who are about to become members.

### THE SOCIAL, BADMINTON AND DRAMATIC CLUB.

We are happy to report that members of the Club and the congregation have supported the two social functions held on 25th October and 23rd December, in a most encouraging manner. The first took the form of a Country Dance and the attendance taxed the capacity of the Church Hall. We are fortunate to have the services of an experienced Band and Master of ceremonies and the programme was expertly compiled by the Misses Flo and Margaret Hunter. Our Christmas Party was also well attended and the Company were surprised to observe Mr. Mackay's dexterity in the "ringing" of bottles which, in fairness we should add, were empty.

On 27th January, 1963, we are holding a Burns Night when we will be privileged to hear such outstanding speakers as the Rev. Edward T. Hewitt, Loudoun Old Church and Provost Jamieson of Newmilns. Our own Mr. Moreland will give a reading in his enjoyable and inimitable

style. It is hoped that this annual tribute to our National Bard will be supported in a manner worthy of the occasion.

The Badminton Section has had a disappointing start to the competitive season but some of the younger members have shown such improvement that the Club should benefit in the near future. The Reserve Team have reached the Third Round of their Swan Trophy Competition and we wish them success in their future endeavours.

Our Producer, Mr. Asher, will present the Dramatic Section in a Three-Act Play, "The Age of Youth," towards the end of February. From what we hear, rehearsals have been going well and tickets for this production will be available early in the New Year.

### HEBREW CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE.

We had a most interesting visit from the Rev. Mr. Gabe of this notable movement last month. The enlightenment of the mind of the Jew, in its conversion from Judaism and the legalism of the Mosaic dispensation to that of the Christian in its grace and truth, must always prove of living interest to the Christian Church. He embodied that theme in an eloquent address.

The influence of Moses and Elijah in the life of the Jew was most tellingly revealed. The provision of a chair and a place at the table in anticipation of the return of Elijah was feelingly explained.

At the evening service a series of film pictures illustrating the methods of the reclamation work carried on by the Hebrew Christian Alliance on the Continent was really graphic.

Appreciation for the gift of Christmas presents gathered by the Woman's Guild was expressed by Mr. Gabe.

### INTERIM APPOINTMENTS.

During the temporary absence in Australia of Mr. Thom the Session appointed Mr. W. T. Davidson of 1 Raeside Avenue (Tel.: NEWton Mearns 2534) to be Interim Session-Clerk and enquiries regarding proclamation of Banns should be made to him.

In order to afford relief to Mr. Davidson, the Congregational Board appointed Mr. T. A. Wright, Kilmeny, Craigie Drive (Tel.: NEWton Mearns 2758) to be Interim Clerk to the Congregational Board.

### Extract from a letter of 8th December, 1952, from Mr. C. J. Thom, at St. David's Manse, Sydney, Australia.

"I have been kept busy since our arrival. On the second Sunday I had to give the address at a Sunday School Anniversary in the Church and for the first time in my life I spoke from the pulpit. This, I may say, had all been arranged before we arrived. Then, last Sunday being Communion, I was asked to join the Kirk-Session of 36 members and was given the job of serving the Elders on the platform. We have been present at the closing day of Scots College and to-day we were at a similar function in Newtown School, where my young niece was "conducting" the school choir. I was also asked, quite without warning, to speak to the parents and children. Tomorrow we go to the closing day at Croydon Presbyterian Ladies College where one of my former Paisley teachers is on the staff. We have been at a St. Andrew's Dinner in the Church Hall, while my brother and I attended a similar function in the City where Sir James Bisset, late captain of the Queen Elizabeth, was the principal speaker. We were also at a school demonstration where my brother does the Religious Instruction. I think that about exhausts the list of our public functions—not bad, I think for three weeks."

Just on going to press it is learned that our Minister has suffered loss in the death of his mother—the widow of the Rev. W. Mackintosh Mackay, D.D.—which occurred on Monday, 5th January. The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Mr. Mackay and his family.