

# Newton Mearns Church Supplement

MARCH — FEBRUARY, 1953

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## 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.

### Deaths.

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

Miss Jessie Brown, Ardeny, Dumbeth Avenue.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bennett, Hill Avenue.

Mrs. Hunter, formerly of Lethington Road, Whitecraigs.

### NEW MEMBERS.

*By Certificate from other Congregations.*

Mrs. Wm. Y. Kay, Caprera Cottage.

Mrs. D. Liddell, Newton Place.

## THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION.

The above will be held in the Church Hall on Wednesday evening, 11th March, 1953 at 7.30. The accounts of the Treasurer and the various organisations will be submitted for approval, the statement of the Auditors given, and any relevant business transacted. Tea will be served, and, thereafter, an address given by Rev. W. P. Monteath of Thornliebank on the Scottish Christian Industrial Order. This is a new organisation, set up and approved by the General Assembly to carry the message of the Church into industry and help to improve relationships between management and employees. Mr. Monteath has considerable experience of it, and is working actively in it. Mr. Cuthill and the Choir will give music during the evening.

## THE FEBRUARY COMMUNION.

The congregation was favoured with a beautiful winter Sabbath morning for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, and large congregations gathered at both diets of worship. The Minister was assisted by the Rev. J. N. Paterson of Strontian, Argyll, and he preached at both services. It was of special interest to have him in our pulpit, not only for his own sake, but also since his wife was formerly Miss Ethel Hay of IvyCraig. It is seldom that one has the opportunity of listening to two more helpful addresses than he gave to the audiences on that occasion. In the forenoon he took as his text the passage from the 2nd chapter of 1 Peter, vv. 21-25, "Because Christ also suffered for us leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps; Who did no sin, neither was guilt found in His mouth." He said 3 things (1) that Christ had suffered for us. He would not dwell on His physical sufferings because they had not been the greatest that He had endured for us. Rather would he speak of the sufferings of One who had identified Himself with our sin, and on Whom God in some mysterious way had heaped suffering until even the light of God's own Presence had seemed to be almost obliterated. "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me." All this He had borne for our sake and become the Pioneer of our path in human life. (2) These sufferings, He the innocent One, had carried for us. A good deal of suffering that man had to bear in life was due to sin. But this Man had never been conscious of ever having done wrong. (3) He had carried all this weight of sorrow willingly. If they had been laid upon Him by God the Father, yet He had gone down to the grave having freely accepted it all for our salvation.

In the evening, Mr. Paterson spoke mainly on the thought that we can often see Jesus more clearly by realising what He was not. (1) He was not the product of the scholarship of His day. He had never been to any of the great schools of the rabbis. Yet never man spake like this Man. The people were amazed at His wisdom and understanding. (2) He never wrote anything. Many men like to see their thoughts in print. But not this Man. More books have been written about Him than about any other person, yet He only once was known to write, and that on a substance that could easily be obliterated. (3) He was not a singer, yet He must have had a most beautiful voice. His words were full of grace and truth. The greatest music in the world is the music that has been composed in His Name. Yet He only once was known to do so and that was when He was part of the male voice choir that sang in the Upper Room ere He went out on the night of His betrayal to the slopes of Olivet.

It was a feast of fat things, and we look back with hallowed memories on the bread broken at the Table of the Lord.

## MISSIONS.

Mission Sunday indeed it was on 25th January, and elsewhere will be found some notes of Mr. MacKay's sermon which are worth further consideration because of their importance and on account of the interest the congregation take in the Missionary movement generally. India on this occasion claimed special attention. The visit of the Rev. J. M. Paterson (home on furlough from Western India) brought us face to face with the difficulties of the pioneer.

The few phrases from a psalm in the native tongue sung in a fine resonant voice which prefaced his discourse at once fixed attention to what he had to say. The loneliness of the missionary was realised as he went from village to village declaring the Gospel of Jesus Christ with persistent effort and winning here and there a convert

who, in his turn, won over associates.—In the course of a subsequent visit of the missionary he baptised those who accepted Christ as Saviour. There was only one text, declared Mr. Paterson, "By their fruits ye shall know them."

Those who accepted had to show by their daily lives what it meant to be a "Christ" man. It can be imagined with what keenness they will be watched; and what if one should fail to keep the standard!

Much of the work is done on the outskirts of the villages in which Mr. Paterson worked and largely among the "Untouchables." One could not but feel disappointment that it was the despised people who were responding, although glad that a new hope was being given to them.

The higher caste people were not readily won over, but, as Mr. MacKay points out, they did appreciate the value of the Missionary Colleges where an enlightened education could be obtained.

It certainly becomes necessary to have stricter regard for the main purpose of the Colleges and Schools organised by the missionaries which is to declare the Christian truth.

### THE FOREIGN MISSION WORK OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

The Editor has asked me to give you a short account of the situation in the foreign field at the present time.

There are five stations for which the Church is responsible:—India, Africa, Jamaica, South Arabia, and Malaya. China has been closed for the moment by prohibition of the Communists. Of these five by far the largest are India and Africa, in the work of the former of which we spend each year £150,000, and in the latter £125,000. Altogether the Church raises each year about £300,000 of which £200,000 comes from congregational givings and £100,000 through legacies and donations.

In the winter of 1950 a delegation was sent out to examine one of the mission fields, India, and as a result of its report the Foreign Mission Committee of the General Assembly put forward three recommendations, which were later adopted. They felt that changing conditions in national and economic life had necessitated certain alterations in the emphasis in mission work.

Their first recommendation was that there should be a new emphasis on the work of evangelism. The Christian life, they acknowledged, should embrace at all times three things (a) Evangelism or witness for Christ (b) the offering of Christian fellowship to the convert and (c) the desire to show love in some practical way. What should be found in this respect in the missionary, should be found in every Christian life. But, sometimes, the emphasis was put on the one to the detriment of the other two, and it was felt that evangelism had been sometimes crowded out by the other two in the life of the missionary. However valuable and even essential it was to give Christian fellowship, and to show our love in practical ways, we must remember the need to speak for Christ in no uncertain manner.

The second emphasis to be made should be the Centrality of the Church. The native Church was now born and the missionary should cease to establish a separate mission but work rather under the lee of the native pastor and kirk-session. He should hold himself in readiness to act as the spear-head of the local Church in such as evangelistic work. We must stop a great deal of the work we were doing among non-Christians such as medical and social work, a great amount of which was now being done by the Welfare State, and concentrate on building up Christian Churches and Christian Colleges.

The third thing that should be emphasised was to stress the need for unity in the Christian witness. In a land where only 2% of the population was Christian,

although many leading Hindus had been influenced, and the population was increasing at 49,000,000 a year, a Christian Church that was divided in itself had little chance of impressing a new Christian world. Already in South India we had had a splendid lead. If we could not at the moment be one in body, let us be one in spirit, and have a common concern one for the other. "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, Who is above all, and through all and in you all."

### In Memoriam

#### Miss Jessie Brown.

Miss Jessie Brown, Ardeny, 16 Dunbeath Avenue, Newton Mearns died on Saturday, 3rd January, in her 89th year. She was born in Taynult on Christmas Day, 1864, and was the eldest of the family of Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson Brown. The family moved after some years to Giffnock, where a large portion of her life was spent. It was only a few years ago that their home, Netherfield, was sold and they came, she and her sister, to live in this district. Bright and vivacious by disposition, she was a great favourite among the younger people of her generation. She was an accomplished pianist and was in great demand at a children's party. Some years ago she began to lose her eyesight, and her hearing also began to fail. But neither of these handicaps prevented her taking a keen interest in all that went on in the outside world and in the Church. To her brothers and sisters, her nieces and nephews, and all her kith and kin we extend our deepest sympathy in the loss of one so dear to them all.

#### Mrs. William Hunter.

Mrs. William Hunter, formerly of Lethington Av., Whitecraigs, died in hospital on Monday, 19th January. Her late husband was better known in the district as Major Hunter. His father was at one time the headmaster of Mearns Public School. When the Volunteers were formed in the district many years ago, Lieutenant Hunter, as he then was, was appointed second in command. To many in the Church at the present time Mrs. Hunter would be unknown, but to those who had the privilege of meeting her, she was a most gracious and attractive personality. She was always bright and entertaining, and one who can add such colour to life is always one who has a valuable contribution to make. She loved the Church and attended her most faithfully as long as she was able, often travelling considerable distances to do so. The Misses Osborne of Broomlea were her nieces, and to them, and to all her kith and kin, we offer our deepest sympathy in their loss.

### PRESBYTERY NOTES.

Many and varied are the matters which occupy the attention of the Presbytery. To such an extent at times it would seem that once every month was not sufficient to deal adequately with or overtake the business the Presbytery is called on to discharge. Every facility is given for free expression of opinion, though this latitude is often not altogether respected, so diffuse can some speakers become. In the main, however, speaking is of a high order, accompanied with few digressions which would cloud counsel. This conciseness was evidenced in the discussion on the report of the Special Committee set up on the question of Baptism and the conditions required by the law of the Church before this sacrament can be administered. The Convener's report gave a review and commentary on the meaning, interpretation, and necessity of Baptism, but began by rightly stressing the responsibilities of parents and sponsors, and that the assuming of obligations goes very much further than actual profession of faith. The principal recommendation of the report to be submitted to the General Assembly was,

that a fresh examination of the doctrine of Baptism be made and that its study may lead to theological agreement on the same, and uniform practice in its administration.

A serious and very important matter came before the February meeting of the Presbytery involving a difficult decision. One which roused a great deal of controversy. The Rev. Mr. Burnside, Springburn, submitted the report of the Readjustment Committee making a recommendation of a basis of union between Eglinton-Elgin Church and Candlish Memorial Church. This proposal was opposed by many ministers in eloquent and sometimes impassioned speeches, asserting that this policy was surely a surrender. "Retreat" was the term given to it by several ministers. In a stirring plea to put as much Christianising effort into the area as they were putting into Church Extension, Rev. Mr. Finlayson of St. James, Pollok, led the opposition. He called attention to the paganism prevailing in that densely populated area and said that a withdrawal such as was proposed meant a sad loss of manpower to combat the evil which was rampant. In this he received much support, but Mr. Burnside while agreeing entirely with this claim, pointedly referred to the very disappointing lack of this same manpower available to the Church, thus necessitating the merging of the two congregations. This recommendation was approved by the Presbytery, but it is sadly humiliating to think that the Church's expediency should be the Salvation Army's opportunity.

The Business Committee, through its Convener, the Rev. G. Kerr McKay, made a number of recommendations concerning non-ministerial duties undertaken by certain ministers. Such activities might not be consistent with the proper discharge of their main duties. The Convener drew attention to the Act which requires ministers to obtain approval of Kirk-Session and Presbytery before engaging in any extra-parochial activities even of non-remunerative nature. The congregation and its interests have exclusive priority, it would seem from this very interesting statement.

#### DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

It is a very great pity that there is still undisciplined behaviour existing, with the consequent abuse of the furnishings of the hall, and that after an appeal has been made for their protection. It should not be necessary to remind those concerned, that these are objects of reverence and respect and apart from that the cost of repair or replacement is one the congregation should not be asked to bear at the present time.

#### THE ELDERS' AND OFFICE-BEARERS' UNION.

A really magnificent attendance assembled to be "received" by the Moderator of the General Assembly, and there was a good representation from Newton Mearns. The large hall of the Christian Institute filled to overflowing and a goodly number occupied the gallery. Dr. G. Johnstone Jeffrey had no new pronouncement to make but in a charming and homely way offered thanks to the Elders and office-bearers for their interest in the Church. A great tribute he paid to the Women for the great work they did at home and for the Missions overseas. Drawing attention to where the Psalmist exclaimed, "O that men would praise the Lord," he indicated that the Psalmist seemed to be quite sure of the women.

Dr. Jeffrey had been much impressed during his travelling about visiting the schools with the reception given him by headmasters and teachers. The work being done in the cause of Religion was most valuable. He told of one headmaster who was asked by a visitor whether he was able to find time to teach religion said, "Oh yes. We teach religion with every subject. In arithmetic we teach accuracy, in geography, the wideness of God's mercy, and so on through the curriculum."

#### BURNS' NIGHT.

The "social" side of the Social, Badminton and Dramatic Club had a very successful evening on Tuesday, 27th January, when some 60 or 70 met to do honour to our National Poet, at which the Rev. W. Murray MacKay presided.

After the "Haggis" had been laid on the table Mr. Alex. Moreland gave the poem, "Address to the Haggis." After "Grace" tea was served, followed by Burns' songs by the company.

"The Immortal Memory" was proposed by the Rev. Edward T. Hewitt, M.A., in a really impressive speech listened to with rapt attention. The fact that Burns had been a visitor to Loudoun Manse—now occupied by Mr. Hewitt, seemed to make the Memory a personal affair.

Burns' songs followed delightfully rendered by Mr. Allan Gilmour of Eaglesham. The dialogue between "The Twa Dogs" was given by Mr. Moreland in characteristic fashion and to the delight of all.

One could hardly help marvelling at the feat of memory, there was no doubt "he knew his Burns."

Provost Jamieson of Newmilns followed with the toast "The Lasses," which produced much merriment, for it fairly bubbled with wit and humour. Mrs. W. McL. Williams made a suitable reply to this toast.

Further songs by Mr. Gilmour brought the programme to the votes of thanks to the speakers by Mr. J. H. Asher, and to the artists and backroom boys and girls by Mr. Walter Rodger. All the speaking was of a high order and every one went away happy.

**This extract from Mr. Thom's letter from Australia was crushed out of last issue but its interest prompts publishing now.**

The weather, and this is the beginning of summer, has not been too bad. Temperature round about 85 degrees—cold I am told by the natives, but warm enough for us. Up the country yesterday the temperature reached 113 degrees in the shade. I am glad we are near the sea.

We have found the people most kind, and I think we have met most of the Scots round about and all anxious to know how things are at home, as they call the old country. I had a long chat with a Paisley woman who has been out here for thirty years and she nearly fell on my neck when she learned that I had come from her old school.

This country is a gardener's paradise—you just put in a seed or a cutting and up it comes. We have at the back door a peach tree laden with fruit, a nectarine tree, also laden with fruit, and some young orange and grape fruit trees, and last of all an extraordinary lemon tree with flowers and lemons from green to yellow ready for picking. Then the flowers are everywhere, gardenias, cannas, hibiscus, zinnias the size of your hand and many others, known and unknown, besides glorious roses.

The Church is a mass of flowers on Sundays and at every function we attend my wife is given a bunch of flowers most beautifully arranged."

#### THE WOMAN'S GUILD.

The first meeting of the Woman's Guild for 1953 was held on 12th January. Mrs. Hutton gave us a demonstration of China Painting. Besides showing how it was done she brought several pieces of her own work to show to the members and a very pleasant and interesting evening was spent. Several of the members expressed a desire to take up this hobby.

Those who were present at the meeting on 26th January will long remember it. The speaker was Mrs. Peglar, and her subject was Hymns and their Story. Mrs. Peglar

is Welsh and has lived always in an atmosphere of music and she sang beautifully several hymns as solos, while all the Guild members joined in others. She told us of the hymns which had impressed her from small childhood.

On 9th February, Mrs. MacFarlane came to tell us about Bible Study. She showed how helpful and interesting it could be and the outcome of this meeting is that a Group for Bible Study is to be started in this Guild.

On Monday, 23rd February, our meeting was taken by Miss McNair, who told us of her work in India and Pakistan, and on 9th March Miss Tainsh is giving an address, "Towards World Peace."

The session closes with the Business Meeting on 23rd March.

The meetings have been well attended this session and great interest has been shown in the subjects chosen.

#### THE WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER.

The Women's World Day of Prayer was held on 20th February. On this day, from dawn to dusk, all the world over, women were meeting for prayer and worship, using the same order of service. A joint meeting with Mearns Parish Church was held in our Church. Mrs. Craik of Busby gave the address and the leader of the meeting was Mrs. Thomson of Mearns Parish.

This meeting is held annually for all women in the district and is not connected with any particular organisation. There was a fair number present.

#### YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION.

March 1—"Can a Mixed Marriage be Successful?"  
Mr. W. Williams.

" 8—"Gambling To-day—Where should the Christian take his stand?"

Mr. John B. Wood.

" 15—Radio Theme Night.

" 22—"Family Life."

Mr. G. S. McVean.

" 29—"What is Christian Fellowship?"

Mr. David G. McCance.

April 12—The Annual General Meeting.

#### FLOWERS.

With the advent of the spring flowers the list for 1953 will shortly be put up in the vestibule, and as there are a few vacant dates the Convener will be glad to get the names of any who are willing to provide flowers for one of these dates.

Our warmest thanks are due to those who have provided the flowers during the past year and especially to Mr. John Russell and Mr. John McCallum, who have given so willingly of their lovely flowers or plants to brighten and beautify the chancel in the dark days of winter.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL.

It is a real pleasure to see Mr. Nimmo back after his indisposition and to hear him teaching by catechising from the desk. It was interesting also to see the children so ready with the answers.

During the absence of Mr. Nimmo it was fortunate that Mr. Menzies was able to fill the breach, which he did with acceptance. Men teachers are in short supply and there seems little likelihood of recruiting from the adolescent groups during the continuance of the Military Service Acts.

#### VISITORS.

At the close of any of the Services Mr. Mackay will gladly see any visitors who may wish to speak to him. He will deem it a kindness if you will let him know whenever troubles, sorrow or joy come to members of the Church or congregation. We are members one with another.

#### THE WIDER VIEW.

Recently the congregation have had their thoughts drawn to the work in distant fields and on the last Sunday in the month Mr. MacKay dealt with the thorny subject of Kenya, for he had been impressed on reading "Last Chance in Africa," by Negley Farson.

The whole subject of Africa will be receiving the prayerful consideration of the congregation for there is no doubt a very critical state of affairs exists there, whether the Christian way of life is to win over the present wave of paganism which has sprung up is the crucial question, and the future of the Continent of Africa is dependent upon the settlement resulting from the present discontent.

It is distressing to be told that the chief trouble now is that the Africans no longer believe that the "Whites" have the welfare of the native peoples at heart.

#### WARNING ON MATERIALISM.

At the opening ceremony of a new hall at Shettleston Old Parish Church, Lieutenant-Colonel Norman MacLeod, referring to the great movement of materialism which was over the country to-day, said that if the people were going to make luxury and pleasure their gods this country would be doomed in the same way that Rome, Athens, Spain, and Italy had been.

#### "MIASMA CREEPING OVER EUROPE."

##### Moderator's Warning.

A warning against a trend in Europe towards the blotting out of the individual and of personality was given by the Rt. Rev. Dr. G. Johnstone Jeffrey, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, when he preached the sermon of dedication of the new hall church of Auchinleck Peden.

"There is a miasma creeping over Europe," he said, "with a philosophy which devaluates human personality as perhaps it never has been before in the history of man." Men, according to this philosophy, were insignificant. The individual had no more meaning in the world than the servant of State or the servant of the world itself. What Christians were being told was that all preoccupation they had with things of the heart, prayers, forgiveness of sin, and the sacrament were signs of a morbid preoccupation with themselves.

"If these things are not real," he declared, "then for us there is nothing real in heaven or earth."

#### WELFARE STATE'S OPPORTUNITY.

##### Betterment of Subject.

The Very Rev. Dr. W. White Anderson, speaking at Stirling, said that charity and education had become functions of the State.

The State, he said, had very slowly learned that charity meant something and that the level of life for our people meant a great deal in what the nation stood for. With all its faults, they could welcome the welfare State. It had a great many opportunities before it, and the greatest opportunity was that of improving the subject.