

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

APRIL, 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.

Baptism.

“Suffer the little children to come unto Me.”

Muriel Clyde Russell, Glebe Lane.

Marriage.

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

Arthur Frederick Stubbs and Louise Joan Moyes.

NEW MEMBERS.

By Certificate from other Congregations.

Mr. and Mrs. Alec P. Craig, 29 The Loaning.

Mrs. Isobel Hanna, 63 Reech Avenue.

MINISTER'S LETTER.

An Easter Message.

It was a sad company of women who set off very early in the morning to anoint the body of Jesus. It was an act of love on their part that they wanted to perform. They had watched the burial of Jesus, and the embalming of His body by Joseph of Arimathea, and Nicodemus. They had carefully marked the place in order that they could come and pay their own tribute. Here we have an example of love in action. Jesus is dead. Their loved One is gone. They had hoped it had been He who should have

redeemed Israel, but that faith and hope is shattered beyond recall. Yet their love will not allow them to refrain from preparing spices, and carrying them at this early hour to the sepulchre. Despite the fact that they had seen Joseph and Nicodemus anoint Him with 100 lbs. of costly ointment, love seeks to show its own affection in its own way. It does not reckon what others have done.

As, however, they make their way through the grey light of early morning a problem suddenly confronts them. They had noticed a great stone rolled to the mouth of the tomb. They begin to wonder how they shall manage to roll it away. “And they said among themselves, who shall roll us away the stone from the mouth of the sepulchre and when they looked they saw that the stone was rolled away for it was exceeding great.”

Perhaps some such stone obstructs our path. It may be some business problem, some worry in the home, or some fear for the future. We cry out like the women, who shall roll us away the stone, and all the time we reckon without the Angel at the tomb, for when we look it has been rolled away.

I do not suggest that all our problems will be thus removed from our path. That would make life too easy for us. Nor would it be good for our character. But even if it remains, the angel will be there to help us to remove it, or at least to bear it according to the will of God who knoweth what is best for us.

The greatest obstacle of all is death. Yet, there also the women found that the stone had been removed. “Be not affrighted. Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth which was crucified. He is risen. He is not here. Behold the place where they laid him.” Such is the ineffable joy of Easter.

THE ANNIVERSARY SERVICES.

The Anniversary Services will be held on Sunday, 19th April, and we are to be favoured with a visit from the Rev. Prof. John Mauchline, D.D., lecturer in Old Testament Literature and Language, of Glasgow University, who will conduct both services. We have many pleasant memories of his past visits to our Church. His benign manner, accompanied by profound scholarship, always has an earnest appeal. This occasion will be specially marked by the news of his appointment to the Principalship of Trinity College, as successor to the late Principal Fulton, a worthy recognition of his great gifts as preacher and expositor.

CORONATION AND RELIGION.

Revival Opportunity.

Dr. W. E. Sangster, of the Central Hall, Westminster, and former president of the Methodist Conference, recalled the Queen's “dedication” reference in her Christmas Day broadcast when he spoke at a service organised by the Manchester and Salford Council of Churches at Manchester.

“Some of us believe,” he said, “that this year provides a better opportunity for a recall to religion, for a ‘find your faith’ campaign, than any year we remember. Maybe it is because it is coronation year, and that on June 2 a young woman will sit in awful majesty and separateness on a Throne and dedicate herself to God.

“There is a singular opportunity for us to go to the people and ask whether if the Queen means to dedicate herself we are going to let her do it alone or whether we should also dedicate ourselves to God and begin again a new people.”

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, 1953.

The Annual Congregational meeting provides an excellent opportunity for reviewing the work carried on during the year, and also to bestow thanks to those who have rendered loyal service.

The Financial Statement was in the capable hands of Mr. Walter Rodger, who had a ready explanation of every item which showed a difference from the corresponding figure of the previous year. Indeed his ready wit makes an interest in dry as dust money matters. The correctness of the figures was vouched for by Mr. McVean who, along with Mr. Jarvie, had audited the books and found everything in first class order. This goes for all the financial statements submitted for the different sections.

The Financial Report having been accepted, the Chairman called for reports from the departments. These having been read, the Chairman dealt with the tricky business of votes of thanks and was careful to omit none who had rendered service. He particularly mentioned Mr. Davidson, who had undertaken the duties of the Session-Clerk during Mr. Thom's absence; and Mr. T. A. Wright who had undertaken the duty of Clerk to the Congregational Board in order to relieve Mr. Davidson. Both had rendered good service and the vote of thanks was passed unanimously.

Tea was then served and conversation became general and time passed quickly. However, the Rev. W. Paul Monteith of Spiersbridge Church had come in order to speak on the Aims and Purpose of the Scottish Christian Industrial Order and the work of Industrial Chaplains.

He felt that the Church in Scotland had to a great extent failed to foretell the effects of the Industrial Revolution in the first half of the nineteenth century when from being a country population people began to flock to towns, and were only beginning now to help the working population to recover from the deadly soul destroying effects of those years. The Industrial Order was a layman's endeavour, and the idea of members wearing a badge in the lapel was to indicate in a works their point of view, then jointly to invite a minister to visit and put before as many as could be gathered together the Christian way of life. Mr. Monteith deprecated the division between Sacred and Secular and that it was quite wrong for a man to lose his Soul in order to get a living.

In moving vote of thanks to the speaker, Mr. A. S. McCance said he had been summoned to attend a meeting of the Scottish Christian Industrial Order and had been surprised that no minister had been invited. He was glad the subject had been brought so clearly before us.

The vote was cordially accepted.

Musical items were rendered by Mrs. A. M. McCance, Mrs. Ferns, Mrs. Cormack and Mr. Andrew M. McCance. Mr. Cuthill accompanied the singing.

The Woman's Guild—Mrs. Menzies said:—

The work of the Woman's Guild was fully reported in each Supplement this year. The session has been a very helpful and, I think, a successful one.

Numbers are small for a membership such as Newton Mearns Church has, but what is lacking in numbers is made up in enthusiasm. The meetings have been attended faithfully and great interest has been shown in the speakers and the subjects. The fellowship and friendliness to be found at the meetings is something greatly appreciated by us all.

Our opening address was given on 6th October by Mrs. Davies who spoke on the Jewish question. From then, until Christmas we met fortnightly—one week as a Work Party and the other with a speaker. The Work Party sewed for the Toddlers' Play Centre in Sandyford, and also made and collected enough toys and gifts to fill a Christmas Box to send to Dr. Lenner's Orphanage in Hamburg.

During this session the two highlights were:—a very fine Musical Evening given by Mr. Cuthill and his party.

The subject was "Schubert and his Songs," and the rendering of these was a joy to hear.

Another delightful evening was spent at Mearnskirik Hospital on the kind invitation of Dr. and Mrs. Dale. Dr. Dale gave us an interesting talk illustrated by slides, on "Nursing in a Sanatorium."

December 15th was the last meeting before Christmas and we made it a rather more social evening. Mrs. Buchanan gave us an account of the work being done among the Refugees in Europe.

The first meeting of 1953 was held on 12th January, and since then we have met fortnightly with no Work Party. The programme has been varied and interesting, and as a result of an evening on "Bible Study" we have set a-going a Bible Study Circle of our own.

The Women's World Day of Prayer was 20th February this year and a joint meeting with Mearns Parish Church was held in our Church on that afternoon. Mrs. Craik gave a very fine address. The attendance at that meeting could have been much better but we hope for better things next year.

I think, perhaps, the Church does not know that Newton Mearns Guild has various interests in connection with the South-West Council, to which we belong. We have two members on the Business Committee of the Council, and two members on the Council Jewish Committee. Then another member is on the Committee of Eastwoodhill Eventide Home and another is on the Committee for Lansdowne House—the Home for Mothers and Babies run by the Church of Scotland.

So our interests and activities are not wholly confined to our own Guild and with the help of our four delegates we try to keep in touch with the work done further afield.

Young People's Union Report was read by the President, Mr. David McCance as follows:—

When reporting on the activities of a group such as the Y.P.U. it is difficult to point to particular improvements and say that this has resulted from the year's work. As a result of our discussions, our members derive knowledge and a better understanding of the meaning of Christianity, and the effects of this increased knowledge can only be evident if the subsequent actions of our members in their day to day lives bear witness to their desire to serve Christ.

The membership of the group has again shown an increase over the previous year and the average attendance is now about 15, although we have recorded 23 at one meeting and as few as twelve on two occasions. We have been fortunate in that we have retained nearly all last year's members and this factor is important when one remembers that the object of the Y.P.U. is not simply to provide an opportunity for discussion but is to create amongst its members that sense of fellowship which Christian people find when they join together and sincerely seek, through praise, prayer and study, the meaning of Christ's message to man as it is revealed in the pages of the Bible. This sense of fellowship has been gradually created by our regular meetings, and it is perhaps a pity that the advent of the summer season will shortly cause us to suspend our activities.

The Committee again decided this year to follow the theme for the Christian Youth Assembly, and many of our members were fortunate enough to attend that gathering in Edinburgh. We also decided, in light of the report made to you by the previous Committee, to ask more of the older members of the congregation to lead our discussions, and our thanks as a group are due to all those who did us such service in allowing us to share in their experience of life and their more active understanding of Christianity.

We should like to express our thanks to our Minister, Mr. Mackay, for his unfailing support and faithful attendance, and to the Members of Session who have always shown themselves to be interested in our work and helpful when we encountered difficulties.

Sunday School Report. Read by Miss Mary Hay :—

I am afraid my report must be very much the same as previous years, as Sunday School activities don't vary very much.

The Sunday School meets at 10.15 a.m. in the Church Hall and a Class for Beginners is held during the Morning Service. We have 158 scholars on the roll with Mr. Nimmo as Superintendent and a teaching staff of 16 ladies and 3 gentlemen. As you see, the gentlemen are very much in the minority and we could do with more male teachers, so if any one would care to volunteer we should be very pleased.

Each Sunday Mr. Nimmo prepares questions based on the lessons and the pupils give oral answers to them.

Mr. James Pollock left a legacy to the Sunday School to encourage the children to memorise Psalms and Hymns. Suitable passages are selected, according to age, and prizes are given at the end of the session, when prizes for attendance are also given.

The Sunday School picnic was held at Shieldhill Farm on Saturday, 28th June, 1952. We are greatly indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Craig for all their kindness. We had a most enjoyable day in spite of the rain which made us finish early.

The Prize Giving Service was held in the Church on Sunday, 29th June, 1952.

We held our Harvest Thanksgiving Service in the Church on Sunday, 5th October, 1952, and the gifts were sent to Mearns Kirk Hospital, where they were very much appreciated.

The Christmas Party was held on Saturday, 20th December, and was a great success. The children were thrilled with Santa Claus, who paid us a visit with gifts of sweets for the children.

On Sunday, 21st December, our Christmas Gift Service was held in the Church and a lovely selection of gifts went to Mearns Kirk Hospital in time for Christmas.

You will see from our Missionary Treasurer's report in the Year Book how our collections for the year have been allocated.

Scholars are not forced to leave Sunday School when they attain the age of 12. If they wish to remain they are welcome to do so and it is much to be desired that they should stay.

2nd Newton Mearns Guide Company. Read by Marguerite M. Campbell, Captain.

The Guide Company has had a successful session and every Thursday evening there has been a good attendance of enthusiastic girls. In the autumn, one or two of the older guides deserted us to concentrate on increasing school work, but we have welcomed several recruits and the roll has varied little from last year and still remains in the region of 30.

As usual, work has taken up a large percentage of the Company's time. Eight guides have gained tenderfoot badges, two have gained Second Class badges and one, who is a Company Leader, has been awarded the First Class Badge.

I feel I should just say a word about the First Class Badge—Apart from having gained various proficiency badges, the candidate for this badge has to have the ability to pass several other tests. Each part of the work for the badge is tested separately and by different testers (most of them commissioners) and the badge is finally awarded only if the guide has proved herself proficient in each of these tests.

The following badges have been awarded after testing by the examiners authorised by guide headquarters:—4 Athlete, 1 Woodman, 4 Keepfit, 5 Homemaker, and 2 Needlewoman.

In a lighter vein—the Company had its usual outing to the theatre, entered for the Youth Panel Sports (and were runners-up), attended the Empire Youth Sunday Parade, and joined with the other organisations in spon-

soring the jumble sale. In addition, the guides very much enjoyed several hostelling week-ends at Skelmorlie Youth Hostel during the summer months and it is hoped that these holiday week-ends may be repeated this year.

2nd Newton Mearns Brownie Pack. Report read by Jean E. McCormick, Tawny Owl.

The Brownie session commenced on Thursday, 18th September, 1952, and we were extremely pleased to welcome 11 new recruits. With the Brownies already on our roll, our numbers now stand at 39, this making our membership the highest ever. We felt able to cope with this great number, as we had one Brown Owl, one Tawny Owl, and two Pack Leaders.

A good start was made with the training part of our programme and it was not long before all the new recruits had passed their first test. Progress was made with the Second Class Brownies and 7 were awarded this badge. At the moment we have 10 Brownies working for their First Class Badge, and we hope to have a few successful entrants to this test very shortly.

We had our usual two parties again this session, one at Hallowe'en and one at Christmas. These were both very well attended, as can well be imagined. We also visited the Alhambra Pantomime.

It was decided this year to hold a jumble sale combining the efforts of the Brownies, Girl Guides, Boys' Brigade and Life Boys. This sale proved a great success, due mainly to the wonderful support received from the congregation. The sum realised was divided equally between the four organisations concerned.

Towards the end of the session our Brown Owl, Miss Stubbs, was unable to attend meetings regularly due to having taken a position away from home, and as it was felt that the leader in charge of a youth organisation should set an example with regard to attendance and time-keeping, Miss Stubbs has decided to withdraw from her duties as Brown Owl with effect from this meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Pack Leaders, Miss Thia Niven and Miss Anne Russell, for the help they have given by coming to the meetings regularly.

The Boys' Brigade. Report by A. F. Stubbs, Captain.

This year has seen a decrease in numbers with 15 boys on the roll. No Life Boys were transferred to the Company at the close of last session, but 11 boys are due to come on this year.

This session has been more uneventful than usual due to the lack of staff. With only two officers able to attend regularly our normal work has been affected. This shortage of officers is no new problem and until a staff of keen B.B. minded men is built up the Company will be working under difficulties. An appeal is made to gentlemen in the Church to offer their services as Boys' Brigade officers.

The highlight of last session was our Summer Camp at Colmonell. We were again joined by the 267th Glasgow Company and 26 boys spent two weeks in camp. The proposed site for next Summer's Camp is Eyemouth, but this year the camp is being organised by the 267th Company.

The Jumble Sale and Bazaar run by the uniformed organisations was very well attended and was a great success. Our thanks are due to those members of the congregation who gave us their generous support.

At the Company Parents' Night and Prize Giving, Sgt. Forbes Robertson was awarded a plaque for six years' perfect attendance and also the "Liberton Trophy" for the most efficient boy. Sgt. Robertson is now the Company Staff Sergeant.

Mr. A. F. Halliday joined the Company last year as Lieutenant and we welcome him to the staff.

We thank Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Walker for their visit to the Company and particularly for their desire to be of

assistance. The question of damage to Church property was discussed very fully and they were assured that the Boys' Brigade has this problem very much in mind.

The Lifeboys. Report by Margaret McGregor, Leader-in-Charge.

The Lifeboys meet in the Church Hall every Friday at 6.30 p.m. There are 26 boys in the Team and we have an average attendance of 24 per night.

At the beginning of the year we had our Pantomime Night and a night at the Kelvin Hall, both of which were thoroughly enjoyed.

As there were no boys of age to be transferred last May we decided not to have a Display and instead we invited a number of boys from the 277th Team of Colston Milton Parish Church to spend an evening with us. They enjoyed themselves so much that they ask if they may visit us again this year.

We also had our Christmas Party with the fathers, and a good time was had by all.

Our normal Friday consists of Lifeboy work, such as Religious Instruction, Games, P.T. Ringbells, Handicrafts, Singing, General Knowledge, etc., and at present we are working hard for our Display which we hope to give at the end of April. We will also have our Transfer Service that evening as about 10 to 12 boys are ready to be transferred to the Boys' Brigade.

Boys and Leaders agree that this past season has been a most happy and enjoyable one.

Newton Mearns Church Social, Badminton and Dramatic Club. Report by Mr. H. A. M. Peden.

Three Social Functions were held during the season. The first took the form of a Country Dance which was very much enjoyed by a large Company of enthusiasts. Also well attended was the Christmas Party when the spirit of joy was suitably expressed. Burns' Night was commemorated in the usual way and this year's affair was memorable for the high quality of the speeches and the excellence of the solo artistes.

The first team of the Badminton Section concluded a remarkable season on Saturday last by recording three successive league wins after five defeats in a row. At one time it seemed that relegation to the Second Division was inevitable but as a result of recent successes I am glad to report that the team have managed to retain their position in the First Division. After a period disturbed by illness, the Reserve team settled down and had a successful if unspectacular season. Both teams made an early exit from their respective Trophy competitions. Generally speaking the standard of play has been higher this season than last.

Illness among members of the cast also cost the Producer of the Dramatic Section some uneasy moments. All turned out well, however, in time for the Show and the production "The Age of Youth" was much appreciated. Every member of the cast excelled, but special mention should be made of Miss Margaret Hunter who, although far from well and suffering considerable discomfort, played one of the principal parts to perfection.

In conclusion, I would like to express the thanks of the Committee to the Congregational Board for the facilities again given to the Club. Ours is a happy fellowship and the interest and support shown and given by the Courts of the Church is a constant source of encouragement to our members.

"THE AGE OF YOUTH."

Toying with the programme before the show began and twisting round the title, "The Age of Youth" into "The Youth of Age," and cogitating what the play would reveal, say that there really was youth in age and that it would come out in the play. Then turning to the "Characters" one was struck with "Dennis," "Basil," "Daphne," really modernist, compared with "Mary,"

"James," "Robert," and then in inverted commas "Grannie," played by Miss Margaret Hunter. Ah! There's a catch here anyway—but the curtain is drawn and the play begins and Mary Douglas (Isobel Grant) comes in from tennis dissatisfied and evidently in tantrums and calling for a drink which Dennis (David McCance) hastens to supply and gets but little thanks. Thus is set the comedy; the overbearing of the feminine. Basil (Murray Hanna), Daphne (Helen Ritchie), and James (J. Scott Black) take the stage and Basil has the role of pouring oil on troubled waters. Robert Merrick (Arthur C. McKirdy), the master of the house when Mrs. Merrick (Nette Amos) is not about. The arrival of the post brings them all together and introduces us to Barton, the Butler (Arthur G. Anderson) to the manner born.

All have a communication of some kind and Basil an Income Tax demand form, but the one Mrs. Merrick receives is of tremendous interest to every one, for it intimates the visit of "Grannie" from Australia. A hurried look at the shipping column in the newspaper shows the vessel has arrived and the visitor is expected at any moment. A rapid calculation by Mrs. Merrick sets Grannie's age at 65 or thereby, but no one seems to want her. Barton is told and is given instructions to be prepared for gruel and beef tea and have hot water bottles ready. All seem to know what is best for Grannie. A noise off stage causes a rush to the window and Grannie has arrived looking charmingly young. She is introduced to the "family" and it is not long till she has the men ready to fall at her feet and what a hurry to satisfy the slightest whim! In due course music is suggested and Grannie is escorted to the piano and plays a few bars of an old time ballad which doesn't suit the mood of the moment so she switches on to "Waltzing Matilda," which the fellows sang as if they really did enjoy it—indeed that they did enjoy singing was patent to all.

The "feminine" did not like the advent of Grannie at all and the second Act showed them in conclave discussing the whole business and the indifference of the men folk towards themselves. Ever and anon there were outbursts of hilarious laughter off stage and Daphne evinced great curiosity as to what they were talking about. It was evident Grannie's visit would be short so far as they were concerned. As the Act proceeded Grannie got the stage and the men in turn tried to arrange a quiet talk with her but this was frustrated by the entry of another character, but she did arrange with each one in turn to see her at twelve mid-night. Basil arrived first and hid himself outside the French window. As the clock struck the witching hour, Grannie took her place on the settee ready for the promised interview—a disappointment for the men to find all had been summoned for the same hour but, as Grannie remarked, they all wished the same advice so she would take them together. The noise at this late hour caused the rest to seek an explanation and they took the stage in their dressing gowns—including Barton, and Grannie was counselled what she ought to do at her age and that she should go to bed—a case of "Teaching Grannie how to suck eggs," and the stage cleared leaving her alone when Basil emerged from his hide-out. The by-play which followed was particularly well done and proved very entertaining.

The last Act showed the men putting Grannie's advice into effect and becoming "rough" with their ladies, in which Mary and Daphne acted well, the company having assembled, Barton came in with the startling news that a visitor had arrived who said she was Mrs. Spencer from Australia (Margaret Anderson) should he admit her?

Then it was explained "Grannie" had been travelling companion on the boat and was the author of the book "How to suck eggs."

It was all good fun and thoroughly enjoyed by players and audience. Mr. Asher—the producer—has lost his headache for another year, but could feel well pleased with the result of his effort. The unseen helpers did their part very well. The "Dressing" was in good taste.