

# Newton Mearns Church Supplement

MARCH, 1954

## THE REGISTER.

### Baptism.

*"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."*

David Edward Barnes, Firwood Road.

### Marriage.

John Cormack and Anne Kirkland Mavor.

### Death.

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

Harry M. Steel, 5 Edzell Drive.

### New Members.

February Communion

*By Profession of Faith*

Mrs. William Hardy, 10 Moorhill Crescent.

*By Certificate from other Congregations*

Mrs. Robert Armour, "Dunmohr," Hazelwood Avenue.

Mr. William Dunsmore, 2 Hill Avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gilbert, 131 Ayr Road.

Mrs. Elizabeth Williamson, 10 Moorhill Crescent.

Change of Address

Mr. and Mrs. Bishop, 11 Beverley Gardens, Newlands, S.3.

### Obituary.

Mrs. Buchanan

I have to intimate with deep regret the death of Mrs. Buchanan of Kenneil, Ayr Road, Newton Mearns, who died at her residence on Friday the 2nd October, 1953. It was not until comparatively recently that she joined the fellowship of this church, and it may be that she was not well-known by some of you. She was a lady endowed with a strong personality whose life was bound up with her family. She devoted herself unsparingly to their welfare, and was to them as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. A woman of a warm heart, and kindly disposition we shall miss her much, and we extend to her son and daughters our deepest sympathy in their great loss. "O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him, and He shall give you thine heart's desire."

Harry M. Steel

Died at his residence on February 20th. He was for 25 years associated with an English business firm and was widely known in trade circles. Endowed with an alert mind, he was energetic in every way in life. Though often forthright in his utterance his life was full of the milk of human kindness and ever ready to help one in need.

He never attended the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper because he never considered himself worthy enough to do so.

We extend to his wife and son our deepest sympathy in their great loss.

The Annual Business Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Wednesday evening, March 10th, 1954, when the Financial Statement will be submitted and other competent matters can be considered.

There will be an address by the Rev. A. H. Minto of Queen's Park High Parish Church.

Tea will be served during the evening.

## THE CHURCH'S SOCIAL SERVICE WORK

Recently Mr. McCance, Senr., addressed the Young People's Union on the Social Service Work carried out on behalf of the members of the Church of Scotland. So thoroughly was the subject dealt with that it is desirable to win the interest of a larger audience. The study revealed activity which is not generally appreciated by the majority of members of our own Church and certainly by very few people outside the Church.

One of the striking advances in recent years has been in the realm of Social Service. To-day it is the largest and most varied of any single voluntary organization in Scotland and its main purpose is to help Ministers and others to solve problems which cannot be adequately dealt with by the local ministry.

In 1869 the General Assembly constituted a Committee on "Christian Life and Work"; and in 1904 another Committee on "Social Work." The Church has been greatly enriched in its work and witness by the activities of these two Committees which in 1935 were invited to form the "Committee on Social Service."

Since the last War many new developments have taken place:—

The work on behalf of children deprived of the privilege of normal home life was arranged to meet the conditions as set forth in the Government "Children's Act of 1948."

But in 1945 to meet requirements of the post war situation, the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home for Children under Five was opened in Edinburgh.

In 1948 Dunforth Home for Children was opened in Edinburgh to provide a Home where brothers and sisters of school age would be cared for, thus avoiding the necessity of segregating children from the same family into Homes for Boys and Homes for Girls.

An anonymous donor in 1950 gave Tankerha', Kilmarnock, as a Home for Children.

Hawthornbrae, Duddingston, has been acquired by lease and the Robertson Orphan Home for Girls has been moved to that address.

Whiteinch Orphanage, 21 Westland Drive, Glasgow, was transferred to the care of the Social Service Committee by the Court of Session and when reorganised will provide another important addition to the Homes for Children.

The Committee has also been doing important work in placing homeless children in private homes and this branch of Social Service will develop greatly in the future.

The interests of young children is very important but Homes for Working lads have not been neglected, for five have been established in Dumbreck, and Elmbank Street, Glasgow, Paisley, Dundee and Aberdeen.

There are five Hostels for Young Women, Lister House, The Mound (for Students), and 13 Royal Terrace, Edinburgh and in Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen.

While emphasis is strong on the young, the Ageing and Aged are not overlooked. A Hostel for older women was opened in 1949 at Craignairn, Crosshill, Glasgow, and for older men at Malta House, Stockbridge, Edinburgh.

If it had not been for the accommodation offered by Malta House most of those who reside there would have gravitated to the common lodging house.

There are now twenty-one Eventide Homes maintained by the Church in various parts of Scotland and there are more to be established. The best known in Glasgow being Eastwood Hill, Giffnock and Baxter House, Great Western Road, and the importance and worth of the Eventide Home where elderly lonely people of moderate means can have comfortable accommodation and congenial companionship is a service of the highest value.

In addition there are departments for dealing with Delinquents, Mother and Baby, Sheriff and Burgh Court work, Moral Welfare and many other enterprises which cannot be detailed here.

In a report to the General Assembly the Committee said, "Year by year since the close of the Second World War the pattern God is making through the Social Service of the Church has become more apparent. To those outside the Church the amazing developments of these years may have appeared but the fruits of fortuitous circumstances, but to those within they have been the work of God. The challenge of the infants and toddlers compelled the Committee to venture forth in faith to establish a Home where they would be given affection,



security and hope. The Polwarth Home in Edinburgh has commanded the admiration and approval of Government Departments, Local Authorities and many individuals inside and outside the Church.

Again and again the Committee has had to hesitate to undertake fresh commitments, being rightly concerned about the financial drain on its funds but at each stage it has been constrained to go on by evident tokens of Divine approval. The outstanding example of this was in 1947 when, as the result of an address in a Church on the bleakest of winter days, an elder was so moved by the desire to share in this vital work that he influenced the Trustees of The Peter Wordie Fund to hand over the most munificent sum ever received by the Committee, to enable it to carry out its programme of development. This fund was left in 1913 and was not bequeathed to the Church. Indeed, if it had not been for what happened at that Morning Service, it is doubtful if the Church would have benefited at all from that source."

Since the Committee registered as an Adoption Society under the Adoption Act, 1950, a growing number of applications have been received from those desirous of undertaking the care of a child in the full legal sense.

A field of Social Service which is too often forgotten because it is preventive rather than redemptive is that to which belong the Church's ten Hostels and Homes for Young Women and for Working Lads. General Booth used to say that it was better to put a fence at the top of a precipice than to provide the most expensive and up-to-date ambulance at the bottom. Dr. Wightman reminds us: "Each generation must needs be evangelised anew. Where youth is concerned, that evangelisation must of necessity be an educational process, for the child cannot begin where the father leaves off . . . Youth does not automatically inherit the faith and experience of the parents." That statement gives point to the work of the Hostels and Homes for Young Men and Women who have come from distant places to prepare for their life's work and to do so, must mingle freely with complete strangers at work and at play.

The work carried out under the name of Social Service covers every aspect of human life from the young toddlers until Old Age, and allied with it is that which is carried on by the Home Mission Committee. This comprises :—

1. Parochial Evangelism.
2. Church Extension.
3. Evangelism at Seaside Missions, Youth Hostels, Visitations in the Mining Areas, District Campaigns.
4. Industrial Chaplaincies. This feature of Chaplains being associated with Business firms enables the representatives of the Church to take the message of Christ direct to the man at the bench. It provides, too, a means whereby persons with problems can get advice from the Chaplain when a visit to a Church would never have been considered. Firms are realizing the benefits gained in having a Chaplain associated with them.

A new development is the appointment of Chaplains to Theatres to contact the personnel and Artists. This Christmas an opportunity was readily granted by Picture House managements to enable Ministers to put across a Christmas message to their patrons. And finally there is visitation to Lodging Houses, Hospitals, work among Fisherfolk and Berry-pickers and Temperance. While the Social problems Committee have the infinity of human problems constantly before them.

**NOTE :—**The foregoing should make clear to all the great work being done by devoted servants of the Church to help our Brothers and Sisters and yet our interest is so small that little is known about it by the generality of the members. It is done so quietly and without ostentation. The work should have a place in our prayers.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

It is probably known to most of the older members that the late James Pollock had great interest in the work of the Sunday School and especially in the children. He had strong belief in the wisdom of having passages of Scripture memorised and "the learning by heart" to be done as early as possible in the lives of the children. At his death he left a small bequest the interest on which would provide a sum which could be used to reward those who did memorise the passages set for the purpose. The great value to those who do learn the choice portions of Scripture is that when they become older in years and the stress of life presses upon them to recall a "gracious promise" can be a consolation as well as an inspiration to "press toward the mark of the high calling."

Mr. Nimmo is in agreement with the ideas which actuated Mr. Pollock and has set before the children the following scheme of memory work :—

For those of 11 years of age

Isaiah chapter 55. Lo every one that thirsteth etc., and Hymn 12.

For those of age 10 to 11 years

St. Matthew chapter 5, verses 1 to 16. The Beatitudes and Hymn 268.

For those under 10 years

St. Luke chapter 7, verses 36 to 50. Jesus in the Pharisee's house and Hymn 363.

The Superintendent and the Teachers would appreciate the interest of parents in making this part of the work worthwhile.

## REASONING TOGETHER.

On Sunday evening, February 14th, the members of the Fellowship paid a visit to Giffnock South Church as a result of a kind invitation from the young people of that congregation.

The speaker was the Rev. Hugh Anderson, chaplain of Barlinnie Prison, Glasgow, and he proved to be interesting, instructive, and humorous in his remarks.

The theme of Mr. Anderson's talk was a plea that Christians should not regard those detained in that institution as being outwith the bounds of the responsibility of the Church. He outlined how the Church was at the moment endeavouring to do its utmost to restore a sound faith in Christ's teaching in the heart of those who had broken the laws of Society and of God. But he drew attention to the difficulties put in the way especially during a prisoner's period of rehabilitation by the condemning attitude taken by the members of the Church. In short he asked that Christians should help and forgive as Christ himself forgave.

## CHRISTIAN YOUTH ASSEMBLY.

Our representatives report that during Saturday and Sunday, the 20th, 21st of February, there was held in the Assembly Hall, Edinburgh, the Annual Assembly. The subject this year was "Christian Witness."

Youth Fellowships throughout Scotland, as in previous years, sent delegates to express the views, decisions and difficulties of their groups derived from and brought out by their group study of the subject during the year. At each session there were present some 400 delegates and 600 observers.

Unfortunately the lesson of previous years had still not been learnt and the scope of the subject was so vast that the time allotted to the discussion of the various aspects was all too short. As a result the wisdom or practicability of some of the resolutions passed during the heat of discussion might be called in doubt when considered calmly. However, the value of the Assembly lies not in these resolutions but in the singleness of purpose expressed by youth throughout the country to make their Christianity live.

The Ecumenical nature of the Assembly is also of inestimable value and it is a joy to see so many young Christians brought together in common study because they are trying to live up to their description—"Followers of Christ."