

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

NOVEMBER, 1954

THE REGISTER.

Baptisms.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

Karine Margaret Frost, 37 Beech Avenue.
Stuart Grant Watson, c/o 9 Sunningdale Avenue.
Michael Arthur Stubbs, 14 Dunvegan Avenue.
Derek William Halliday, 461 Tantallon Road, Shawlands.

Marriages.

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

William James Wood and Margaret Munro McKechnie.
Daniel McCallum and Christina Anne McPhie.

Deaths.

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

Robert Y. Duncan, Dunruden, Glebe Lane.
Mrs. Henderson, Glendun, Ayr Road.
Mrs. Frederick Ogilvie, Dunruden, Glebe Lane.

New Members.

By Certificate from other Congregations.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Haddow, Witchwood, Stewarton Rd.
Mrs. Kinnear, 57 Beech Avenue.
Mrs. P. Kirkcaldy, Shirley, Firwood Road.
Mrs. McMillan, 60 Beech Avenue.
Mrs. Menzies, 60 Beech Avenue.
Mrs. Alan Shiels, 40 Hazelwood Avenue.
Mr. and Mrs. G. F. R. Sweet, 1 Hazelwood Avenue.

WORK RESUMES.

The coming of September witnessed the resumption of real activity in Church life after the rather "slack" time of the holiday period, but on the whole the departments have been slow in getting into their stride. One sometimes wonders whether the complete break of two months is a wise thing. The Sunday evening service discontinuance certainly encourages the idea that one attendance at Church is all that is required, overlooking altogether the lack of facilities for communal worship on the part of members who, for domestic reasons, are not able to attend the morning diet.

In these times when there is a falling off in church attendance those who have undertaken to look after the work of the "House of God" should leave no avenue unexplored to encourage the people in the vicinity of the Church to fulfil their responsibility as a Christian community to acknowledge the Divine blessings received, or to be reminded that they have such a duty.

It should not be forgotten that the privileges now enjoyed by all, have come down to us in large measure from the influence of the Christ spirit on the lives of good men working through the Church.

To lose these privileges through indifference, neglect and thoughtlessness is something too serious to contemplate. It is up to us to maintain the standard and set the example.

THE COMMUNION SEASON.

The Sacrament of Communion will be dispensed on Sunday, 14th November, at the Morning and Evening Diets. The Preparatory Service will be held on the Friday evening previous and first Communicants will be received then.

The Preparatory Service is arranged by the Kirk-Session for the benefit of the whole congregation and forms an integral part of the Communion week-end.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Robert Duncan.

Mr. Robert Duncan, Dunruden, Glebe Lane, died on Thursday, 23rd September. Born in the Border country at Galashiels, he became an apprentice in a firm of clothiers. In the same firm there was a young man who spent all his wages on a Friday night and was quite unfit for work each Saturday. Yet each week he received the same pay. Mr. Duncan resolved that there was no promotion for him

there no matter how hard he laboured. He came to Glasgow and set up business for himself in Hope Street, and built up the firm that now bears his name. He and his wife came to our district when the building started in the early thirties, and have long been associated with the Church. He was a man of retiring disposition, lovable in character, a man of few words, but one who was very much at home in his own circle of friends. He took a keen interest in the bowling green, and after his retirement spent much of his time there. A man of deep religious faith, whose simple trust was an example to all, we extend to his daughters, grandchildren and all his kith and kin our deepest sympathy.

Mrs. Ian Henderson.

Mrs. Ian Henderson of Glendun, Ayr Road, died on Thursday, 7th October, in her 45th year. Those who had the opportunity of getting to know Mrs. Stewart, discovered her to be a woman of a most sweet and unselfish nature. Her physical incapacity—she suffered from deafness—was a severe handicap in her communication with her fellow men. She was left a widow ten years ago with the responsibility of bringing up a large and a young family. She faced the task with courage and faith and had begun to see them becoming settled in life when she was called away from our midst. A year ago she married Mr. Ian Henderson, and found in him one who had loyally shared the heavy responsibility with her. We cannot understand the dispensations of God and there are questions that will never be answered until we reach the other side of the River. She leaves behind her the legacy of a life of exceptional sweetness of character, and to her family—to her husband and children, and grandparents, who have also been such a tower of strength in her life, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mrs. Frederick Ogilvie.

It is only a few weeks ago that I had to intimate the death of Mr. Robert Duncan, and now to-day I have the great sorrow of announcing the passing of Mrs. Frederick Ogilvie, his daughter. She died very suddenly on Saturday, 30th October, at a nursing home at the age of 40. It is not for us to question the dispensations of God, but like Mary the Mother of Jesus to say, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me according to Thy Word." Our hearts go out to-day in deepest sympathy to her husband, and all her kith and kin in the loss of one so justly dear. She had a bright personality that cast a radiance wherever she went. She was a girl of a most unselfish nature, and she had the simple steadfast faith of her father. We extend to her husband, her sister, her children and all to whom she was dear our love and sympathy in the loss of one whom we also shall dearly miss.

THE SEPTEMBER COMMUNION.

The attendance at the Preparatory service was rather smaller than usual, which was a pity, for the preacher was the Rev. D. D. Macphail—who is in charge of the new parish of Carnwadric—and his discourse was a stimulating one of similes of the attitude taken by people to the Christian life. One simile described the likeness which obtained when news was spread of the discovery of gold. There was a rush to "stake a claim" and not infrequently the claimant left it undeveloped or perhaps scampered off to another pitch.

This sometimes happened with those who joined the Church. They didn't make full use of the opportunities afforded with the consequent loss to themselves and others whom they might have helped had they been more active in their Christian life.

The Sunday morning opened fine and a congregation of over 400 had assembled when Mr. MacKay announced the opening psalm and, standing at the back of the Church,

Clance.

it was an impressive sight when they rose to sing. What a difference it would make if at every service the Church was full of ardent worshippers.

PRESENTATIONS.

Mr. Ian Wood.

It was a surprise to many of us, when we came back from our summer holidays, to learn that Mr. Ian Wood had accepted an appointment in Cape Town, South Africa, and would soon be leaving the country. He has since arrived there and taken up his new post. As far as we were concerned we were very disappointed for Ian had been in the midst of the life of the Church and especially of the youth work for many years. He came through the life of the Boys' Brigade and had attained the rank of staff-sergeant. He was a keen and valuable member of the Badminton Club, and was president-elect of the Young People's Union. He was one of the assistant treasurers of the Church. His influence among youth was of the highest quality. He was never afraid to speak out what he thought and his ideas were of the highest. We congratulate him most warmly on his appointment and hope that he will enjoy his new life in the beautiful town of the Cape, and continue to exercise a powerful influence for the Church of Christ.

Miss Osborne.

The Minister waited on Miss Margaret Osborne at her home on Thursday, 28th October, and handed over to her the presentation on behalf of the congregation. It has been felt for some time that the outstanding services she has rendered in the congregation in connection with the Sabbath School, the Woman's Guild, the Congregational Board, and the Flower Committee should be marked in some way. We know that from her point of view all she has been enabled to do has been a labour of love, yet it is fitting that we should show her in what great esteem she is held by all. Her services have not been confined to the congregation. During the first World War she served as a nurse, and she was also the Secretary of the Nursing Association in the district. It was largely due to her organising ability that a car was procured which made the attendance of the district nurse possible in much larger measure and in outlying parts. Her gracious personality has charmed many a sick-room, and in manifold ways she has endeared herself to all in the congregation. We would say that she is one whom our Church has indeed delighted to honour. The presentation took the form of some books, one of which was suitably inscribed, and a cheque.

A DAY OF SURPRISES.

October 17th was a very wet day, but that wasn't really a surprise because it had been continually raining since the previous Friday evening. No! It was when the Church Officer followed by a dark skinned, bearded Ecclesiastic hooded and robed in a long pink coloured gown wearing on his breast a beautiful cross suspended from a chain around his neck; and a slenderly-built lady, dressed soberly in black, and Mr. MacKay in the rear, entered the Church for the Morning Service.

The reverend gentleman was Bishop John of the Syrian Church of South India. He had attended the World Council of Churches in Evanston and had taken the occasion to make a visit to Britain, and Glasgow had more than a passing interest in that when taking a divinity course in America he and Mr. MacKay were fellow-students at the Union Seminary, New York. Bishop John is the senior of five Bishops of the Syrian Church and is, therefore, the head of that Church.

When introduced, we learned that the lady was representing the Hebrew Christian Alliance with whom the Newton Mearns Church has had friendly relations for a

number of years and whose interests in the work of the Alliance, especially in Germany, has been so much appreciated by our Jewish Christian friends.

Miss Veitch was born in Britain. Her parents were Russian Jews who escaped from Russia during the time when pogroms (state-tolerated and organised killings and massacres) were taking place in the 1890s and continued into the early 1900s. Miss Veitch had been greatly influenced by a Christian lady with whom she became associated and in course accepted the Christian faith and ultimately joined the Alliance to do work among the Jewish people.

On previous occasions the visiting representative has been of the male sex and the discourse has given the Jewish view of some Biblical personality or incident, all of which have been both informative and very interesting. This time the sufferings of the Jews both on the Continent and elsewhere were brought to attention and Miss Veitch's pleadings for sympathy and understanding were not without effect.

Certainly it made one wonder why the Jews had been singled out for such severe punishment they had suffered through the ages.

A MESSAGE FROM EVANSTON.

Bishop John addressed the Youth Groups before the morning service and spoke at the evening service when there was a very encouraging attendance. He spoke first of the History of the Christian Church. Until the eleventh century there was one Holy Catholic Church with its seat in Rome. The first great schism came in the eleventh century over the position and status of the Holy Spirit in the Trinity. Both political and theological differences existed, of course, and the Church split into the Western Church under the Pope in Rome and the Eastern Church with its seat in Constantinople with five patriarchs in Jerusalem, Antioch, Syria, Alexandria and Babylon. Bishop John is the patriarch of the Syrian Church of to-day.

The next great split came in the fourteenth century with the Reformation and the formation of the Protestant Church and further splits have occurred since then until to-day the one Christian Church is composed of about 200 major and minor denominations.

In the nineteenth century the pendulum began to swing the other way with the beginning of the new missionary era and the formation of interdenominational groups like the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. and S.C.M. Men were beginning to ask if there was one Christ for the Episcopal Church, another for the Methodist Church and another for the Presbyterian Church, etc. If there was only one Christ then why could we not all pray together.

THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT.

For some years before the '39-'45 war the leaders of the Churches, men like Archbishop Temple, were working for the formation of a new World Church. Plans fell through because of the War and some of those leaders died but the seed had been sown and in 1947, under the leadership of men like Dr. John Baillie, the 1st Conference of the World Council of Churches met in Amsterdam. All 200 denominations were invited and 140 sent delegates. Notable exceptions being the Roman Catholic Church and its adherents. The conference was a great success and proved that there was a real desire for a new unity. Committees were set to work on the theme for a second conference and last month the 2nd Conference of the World Council of Churches met at Evanston.

142 denominations sent 500 delegates, 400 youth delegates and 600 observers—1,500 in all. Still no Roman Catholics.

The main theme was "Christ, the Hope of the World." It was our duty to proclaim that Christ is the Hope of the World. No communism or socialism or imperialism—Christ.

Bishop John mentioned the various subjects discussed, e.g. The Evangelical Task.

Was Christ the Hope of the Christian World or of the Whole World. Surely of the Whole World irrespective of Creed or Colour.

The main theme had its divisions. Many American ministers felt that Christ was the Hope of the World to Come. This world is condemned but the faithful have the hope of Christ in the World to Come. There would be a new heaven and a new earth as seen by John the Divine. Others felt that Christ was the Hope of the World in which we live, that in time God's Kingdom would come on this Earth transforming it into a new earth. Christ was the hope of the world for its own re-birth. This difference in viewpoint was argued out and the conference finally agreed to accept the view that both viewpoints could be accepted. Christ was the Hope of the World as it is. In time the World would become God's Kingdom but Christ was also the hope of the world to come, the hope of Everlasting Life with God and the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps a slight difference but now it is agreed we are that much stronger to proclaim the important message that Christ above all else is our Hope and the Hope of all the World.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING.

It was a fine muster of children that gathered in the hall, and each with either a gift or a posy of flowers, preparatory to processioning into Church on Sunday morning, 25th October. This they did, led by the younger children, while the congregation and Choir sang hymns suitable to the occasion.

Leaders in the Beginners' department had been deputed to receive the gifts and an imposing number were deposited on the chancel steps, which together with the decorations on the Communion Table, made a fine show. Vases of flowers in the windows added to the ordinary beauty of the Church.

When the children had taken their places in the front pews, the Church and gallery had a very full appearance. The service was special for the children and very good attention was paid while Mr. MacKay spoke to them and when he enjoined they should read Deuteronomy 6, 16 when they got home.

The gifts were later taken to Mearns Kirk Hospital for the benefit of the sick children there except for a few that had been reserved for the sick and infirm of the congregation.

The Thanksgiving for Harvest was continued in the evening and Mr. MacKay spoke of the four principal Feasts of the Jews, viz.: Passover, Pentecost, Jewish New Year (the time of repentance at the beginning of October) and the Feast of Tabernacles; and several items of Harvest Praise were given by the Choir, consisting of anthems by Stainer and Barnby and a pleasing duet by Handel, which was sung effectively by Mrs. Andrew McCance and Mrs. Ferns.

The Choir acquitted themselves well.

WOMAN'S GUILD.

In preparation for the big drive for funds being carried through by the Church of Scotland Huts and Canteens Committee, the Woman's Guild was opened this season with a very interesting talk, given by Mrs. Thom, on the work in the various fields of action. Mrs. Thom illustrated her talk by films and one cannot say now that we do not know what a wonderful work is being done all over the world. Parents and friends of boys in the Services can feel that there is a real contact with Church and home wherever these Huts and Canteens are established.

But it takes a lot of money to run these same places and we hope this drive for funds has a magnificent response.

The thought and planning and work behind it all surely meant a generous giving on the part of the public.

On 18th October Mrs. J. M. Hamilton gave us a most interesting description of the journey she and her husband made during the past year to the Mission Stations in India and Arabia. Mrs. Hamilton is a delightful speaker and held her audience spell-bound while she took us on this wonderful trip.

She interspersed her talk with little personal episodes and impressions, and gave us some of her experiences on this, her first visit to India.

We were taken by her to all the various Mission Stations and told of the work being done, often under great difficulty. We visited villages and cities, we travelled in trains, planes and every other mode of conveyance used in India. We visited Taj Mahal and holy temples of the Hindus and at the end of the talk we felt we really *had* been on that journey.

The meeting of the Guild on 25th October took the form of a Work Party. We are working to send our usual Christmas Box to the children in Dr. Lenner's Orphanage, Germany in connection with the Jewish Alliance.

The Woman's Guild are running a Tea and Coffee Morning on 13th November from 10.30 - 12.30, with a Bring and Buy Sale in conjunction. Donations in kind or money will be gratefully received by members of committee and the Hall will be open on the afternoon of Friday, 12th November for this purpose. It is hoped that Church members and their friends will give their support to this effort to raise Guild Funds and make it a real success.

MISSIONARY MATTERS.

The Presbytery Foreign Mission Committee have pointed out that the contributions from the whole Church for the year 1953 were—

General Fund	£130,737
W.F. Mission	87,898
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	£218,635

and of this sum the Churches in the Glasgow Presbytery contributed—

General Fund	£23,962	1	5
W.F. Mission	14,757	13	1
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	£38,719	14	6

The Income has, for several years, failed to keep pace with the increase in Expenditure. In 1953 the total deficit amounted to £16,419.

The Glasgow Presbytery is still below the "Target" of Annual Income to the extent of £4,565.

Bringing the matter right home during the years 1945-47, owing to the receipt of income outwith the usual Church collections the average annual contribution to the Foreign Missions was £260. For the period 1948-52 the average worked out at £183 per annum. The year 1953 it was £177 and attention has been drawn that we are falling behind.

SOCIAL, BADMINTON AND DRAMATIC CLUB.

Members and adherents of the congregation are cordially invited to join the Club, the various Sections of which have now resumed their Winter activities.

The Badminton Section meets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 7.30 p.m. In addition there is a Ladies' Afternoon Section which meets on Tuesdays at 3 p.m. The Senior team competes in the Second Division of the Glasgow and District Churches' League and the Reserve team competes in the Reserve Division of the League. National Service Calls and business appointments elsewhere have deprived the teams of the services of several team members. Any member of the congregation with an aptitude for the game will be made very welcome.

The Dramatic Section rehearses each Tuesday in the Upper Hall at 7.45 p.m. Final preparations are now being made for the winter production which is due to be presented in the Church Hall on 1st, 2nd and 3rd December. It is understood that a further production will be presented by the Section in the Spring of next year.

The Club Christmas Party will be held in the Church Hall as usual on Wednesday, 22nd December, at 7.30 p.m., when it is hoped that a large gathering of members and friends will be present.

PRESBYTERY NOTES.

One of the most important reports submitted to the Presbytery recently was that made by the Rev. Stanley C. Munro on the subject of films and their use in the work of the Church. In this, he, along with the Rev. Merricks Arnott, is to be cordially congratulated for the pioneering efforts which have produced such valuable results. This matter of visual aids is one which should be engaging the attention of all progressive minded people in the Church, because of the immense possibilities of the projector as a means of enlarging the interest and sympathy of both adults and children in the Church's work at home and abroad. Mr. Munro made an eloquent appeal for practical support, financially and sympathetically, for the Assembly's Committee on Films. This should find a ready response, as it is generally agreed that any means, in addition to the more conventional at present in use, for touching mind and imagination by the projection of religious and missionary films, cannot be neglected.

Dr. Baxter has done a valuable piece of service as Convener of the Social Problems Committee in maintaining moral and spiritual values in connection with the opening of cinemas on Sunday for commercial profit, and the opening of municipal bowling greens on Sunday. He has drawn attention to this potential desecration of the Sabbath as a matter of the gravest consequence. It is surely to be regretted that recent decisions of Glasgow Town Council should have gone against the representations of the Committee's deputation, by a very considerable majority. The fact that the prevailing tendency of the moment to regard Sunday as more opportunity for amusement should bring home to the Church's members the need for a deeper realisation of the sanctity of Sunday, stressing its values, and thereby increasing the influence of the Church on those who are indifferent to its purpose and mission. Its authority, too, could be readily extended to challenge the idea prevailing among certain operatives that Sunday makes their labour doubly valuable. It will be interesting to see what judgement will be given enabling the Corporation to amend the by-law to permit Sunday bowling, or otherwise.

The translation of the Rev. Harry C. Whitley, Ph.D. from Partick Old Parish Church to the Church of St. Giles, Edinburgh, is an occasion of great moment. He has exerted such a power and influence in the Presbytery by his forceful utterances on the question of housing and slum property in Glasgow as to make him an outstanding personality in its councils. His qualities of dynamic action and vigorous endeavour should prove of inestimable worth towards infusing new life into this great sphere of influence.

VARIA.

On Sunday, 28th November, we are to have a visit from the Scottish Secretary of the China Inland Mission. This is one of the oldest in the world and at the evening diet of worship a film of the work will be shown.

Retiring Collections in aid of the Glasgow and District Hospital Sunday Fund will be taken on Sunday, 21st November.

A Young Mothers' Group has been formed and meets on alternate Tuesday evenings in the Session House at 7.30 p.m. Come and discuss your problems together. The next speaker is Miss Sheila Calder and the date 16th November.

We welcome Mr. Archibald Scott as the Captain of the Boys' Brigade and thank also two of our Elders, Mr. Ian Orr, and Mr. James Mitchell, who have agreed to become Officers in the Company. Under such excellent leadership may we ask parents to encourage their boys to come.

A letter has been received from Dr. Dale, Superintendent of the Mearnskirk Hospital, thanking the children and members of the congregation for the gifts sent from the Harvest Festival.

The Youth Fellowship is now meeting at 5.15 p.m. in the Upper Hall. A very interesting syllabus has been arranged. If you are 16 years and not yet 30, will you come along?

Mr. Cuthill would be pleased to hear from any who would care to lend their support to the special musical services at Christmas and Easter. Attendance at a few of the previous practices would be required.

Some members of the congregation may be interested in the introit which is being sung just now—the first verse of hymn 246 to the old tune "Elgin"; a tune which must have risen from millions of Scottish hearts in the troublous times of our country's history.

STRIKING THOUGHTS.

Dr. L. V. Jacks has contributed the opening article in the current issue of "The Hibbert Journal" on "The price of our War-Making Civilisation."

The Glasgow Herald quotes Dr. Jack's conclusion on the hydrogen bomb, "that awful menace to our civilisation" is that it might be best to leave the nations which possess it free to use it or not to use it, with the knowledge before them that to use it would probably destroy civilisation—in other words, to leave it to the common sense of the parties. In taking that course we could at least console ourselves with the reflection that a civilisation foolish enough to destroy itself so ignominiously would not be worth preserving anyhow."

An immense task has been concluded by Arnold Toynbee who has been for 30 years studying the history of mankind. David Thomson (Fellow of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge) writing in the *News Chronicle* says, "Toynbee argues that 'the breakdown of a civilisation is not a catastrophe if it is the overture to a Church's birth.'"

Applying this idea to our own times, if the prospect before us is the eventual rise of a universal world state even if it should come through war and should absorb or overthrow Western civilisation as we know it, may this not in turn be the overture to a universal Church?

This is the most striking reflection that Toynbee has to offer as the climax of his great work. In reaching it he has, he admits, shifted his point of view.

He no longer regards civilisation as the basic realities, and holds that they vary in meaning and importance according to how much they contribute to the progress of religion.

He believes that the four "higher religions" of our time—Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam—could find their own "unity in diversity," and so become components of a future universal religion.

He admits that this might come to pass only after great material disasters and through immense human suffering. But he argues, too, that it could come by a gentler process: by a diversion of spiritual energy away from economics and politics, which have used up so much of the energies of Western man for the past 500 years, and towards religious faith and action.

The ideal that he holds before us at the end of this very long journey into the past is the other wordly humility and endurance of a Saint Francis of Assisi.