

# Newton Mearns Church Supplement

DECEMBER, 1954

## THE REGISTER.

### Deaths.

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

Lady McNeil, Gilmourton Crescent.

Miss Margaret Hunter Osborne, Broomlea.

Mr. William Cowie, Hill Avenue.

### New Members.

*By Profession of Faith.*

Miss Ishbel Patricia Kirkcaldy, Shirley, Firwood Rd.

Mrs. Peter Stuart, Braeside, 208 Ayr Road.

Mr. John Gray Cromar, Lindores, Netherplace Rd.

Mr. William Lambie, Shaw Farm.

Mr. Barry Munro Niven, Ashdale, Neidpath Rd., E.

*By Certificate from other Congregations.*

Mrs. Janet Brown, Knowetop, Elphinstone Road.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Campbell, Myrtle Lodge, Old Mearns Road.

Mr. Albert Frederick Halliday, 461 Tantallon Rd.

Miss Susan Hayes, Torrin, Eaglesham Road.

Miss Agnes Hayes, Torrin, Eaglesham Road.

Mrs. Margaret Low, Torrin, Eaglesham Road.

Mrs. Menary, 10 Cavendish Drive.

Dr. Peter Stuart, Braeside, 208 Ayr Road.

## THE FELLOWSHIP.

The November Communion season opened with the Preparatory Service on Friday evening 12th November, and it was pleasing to see a larger attendance than usual.

The Rev. Colin Campbell of Williamwood visited us at this time and read from the 12th chapter of Hebrews, and in his sermon emphasised that there should not be any feeling of loneliness in a congregation of believers, especially at a Communion season, which is really "the general assembly of the church of the first-born," whose names "are written in Heaven." His discourse was an earnest plea for the sense of brotherhood in the Church.

Sunday morning was dry but with a very cold wind which probably affected the attendance, but some 450 were present when Mr. Mackay opened the service. There is an impressive sense of strength when the Session occupy the Chancel and take their share in serving the Bread and the Wine. It is always done with dignity and quiet grace.

There was an increased attendance at the Evening Service which took the usual course. The Choir sung as an anthem, Church Hymnary No. 318, words eminently suitable for a Communion season:—

"Bread of the world, in mercy broken,  
Wine of the soul, in mercy shed,  
By whom the words of life were spoken,  
And in whose death our sins are dead:  
Look on the heart by sorrows broken,  
Look on the tears by sinners shed;  
And by Thy feast to us the token  
That by Thy grace our souls are fed."

## OBITUARY.

### Miss Margaret Hunter Osborne.

If one were to select a text out of the Bible of which the life of Miss Osborne was an illustration, it might well be Matthew 25 and 40, "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily, verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." The secret of her life was to be found in the fact that in fellowship with Christ, it abounded in constant acts of sympathy and love until she came to be one of the most esteemed and loved persons in the congregation and in the parish.

Only on two occasions, as far as my memory serves, did she issue forth from the shell of private life. The first was when she volunteered as a V.A.D. in the first World War, serving for about one year in a hospital in Perth, and for another in the Southern General Hospital, then known as Merryflats. It is strange that in the ward she so often served as a nurse she was tended in her last days by similar loving hands. The other occasion was when she became the Secretary in the district of the local Nursing Association. It was through her enthusiasm that a car was purchased that made the services of the district nurse available in distant farms and cottages in the surrounding moors.

Her grandfather was the local schoolmaster, and also the registrar. Broombank was built by him as a place of retirement. Her father was a grain merchant. The family lived for a short while at Newton House, where she indeed was born, and then moved to Broomlea.

We are familiar with the work she did in the Church. For 50 years she was a teacher in the Sabbath School, and one wonders if this was not the work she loved best. We can imagine her as a most attractive teacher who appealed to youth, for there was a spirit of venturesome in her. She served on the Congregational Board, took a keen interest in the Woman's Guild, organised the distribution of *Other Lands*, and was Convener of the Flowers Committee. She was diligent in her attendance at public worship both forenoon and evening.

Apart, however, from the offices she filled, she was deeply interested in all the life and activities of the congregation. Her sympathy indeed went beyond that to the work of the Church at large. She had a wide knowledge of its ministry and missions at home and overseas. Her wide reading, and there have been few more avid, ever increased this.



The sick and the old folk in the congregation were her especial love. She visited them regularly, and the brightness of her conversation, and the deep sympathy of her heart made her a most welcome visitor.

When one looks back on her long and honoured life one is conscious of a lady who day by day went about performing innumerable acts of kindness and of love. In a sense there was nothing outstanding in her life, and yet by simply grasping the opportunities of doing good and manifesting loving sympathy, she came to be one of the most honoured women we have ever known, and one who revealed unto us the love of Christ. "Be a good man, Lockhart," said Sir Walter Scott when he was dying; "nothing else will matter when you come to be here." We feel that by the grace of God that was true of Margaret Osborne, and nothing finer can be said. She was the Convener of the Flower Committee but she herself was a fair and fragrant flower in the garden of the Lord. To her sisters who have shared her life with her, and to all her kith and kin, we who loved her also extend our deepest sympathy.

#### Lady McNeil.

It is with deep sorrow that we record the death of Lady McNeil, of Gilmourton Crescent, who died very suddenly on Sunday, 28th November. She had not been in good health since the death of her husband Sir Hector. When he occupied the honoured position of Lord Provost of Glasgow, she was called upon to accompany him on his manifold public duties. She entered into them with zest, and particularly enjoyed meeting with personalities from all over the world and visits to hospitals and those that brought her into touch with those in need. She told me that she was not so interested in the many social sides of this period. In Mearns-kirk Hospital she took a great interest, served on the Women's Auxillary Committee, and was very fond of the children. It was a great sorrow to her when young Hector had to go abroad on National Service, and I think she felt his absence. To her son and all her kith and kin we in the congregation of which, when she was well, she was a good attender, we offer our sincere sympathy.

#### Mr. William Cowie.

Mr. William Cowie of Hill Avenue, Newton Mearns died on Monday, 15th November, aged 71. When I came first to this Church in 1931, Jessie Cowie, his daughter, was in the Choir. We missed her when she got married and went to live in Dumfries. Robert, his son, was also at that time one of our most loyal young people, a most friendly

boy and present in all the organisations of the Church. The whole family indeed have been closely linked with the Church, and much of that was due to the example of upright character shown in the home and his work by their father. He was a most devoted husband, and through his wife's illness attended her, and visited her most faithfully. He was not a man who went much away from his home, and the few friends he made were good ones. We sympathise deeply with Mrs. Cowie and all the family, and pray that the comfort of God may be vouchsafed unto them.

#### LEST WE FORGET.

Remembrance Day was observed as decreed, on Sunday, 7th November. The young people had been asked to assemble in the hall at 10.15, the usual Sunday School hour. This was done so that the uniformed organisations should not need to stand outside if it should happen to be raining; happily there was no rain.

The Brownies, Guides, Life Boys and Boys' Brigade formed up in the lane and then marched into Church. The congregation stood as the Colour Party brought in the Company flags. It was pleasing to note that two of the Elders of the Church formed part of the Colour Party.

On the call of the Minister the two minutes silence was observed, after which the service followed the ordinary course when Mr. Mackay impressed the significance of the day. The service concluded with the National Anthem.

#### IN CHINA NOW.

The visit of the Rev. James A. Dunachie on Sunday, 28th November, gave an opportunity to learn something of modern China.

Mr. Dunachie had spent twenty years working with the China Inland Mission and left when the Communist rulers closed the country to religious teachers. Before the change of government the Mission had a thousand missionaries at work in China and although not now allowed to have direct representatives they have definite news that the Chinese who have accepted the Christian beliefs are carrying on the work and standing firm against the Communists' philosophy, but not without displaying great courage.

It was interesting to be told that though forbidden its work in China, some seven hundred representatives of the Mission are established in the countries surrounding China.

Mr. Dunachie's story was tremendously interesting and it flowed along so smoothly and quietly. His address to the girls and boys dealt with a boy in a Chinese Christian home and to whom the name of Aaron was given. He was a keen attender in the Sunday School. When he was about ten years old,



and the country was under Communist rule he was in the day school when the teacher of his class asked those who attended the Sunday School to stand, and about 25 stood up. They were then lectured and forbidden to attend. When asked if any still wished to attend Sunday School, Aaron alone stood up, and was again severely lectured and was made to stand during the remainder of the session. He was very distressed when he went home and told his father and mother, who helped him all they could.

In the evening a sound colour film with the title "Flower of Tibet" was shown. It was a true story of a Mother and Daughter who became Lepers and were turned away from their home and wandered about the country. Ultimately they fell in with a sympathetic man who told them of a Hospital over the mountains where they could be cured. After wearisome journeying they reached the Hospital. The mother died but Flower was treated and was cured, and was the darling of the inmates and as she grew older she served as a nurse.

The picture showed the disfiguring nature of leprosy, but emphasised the importance and value of the medical side of mission work.

### THE WOMAN'S GUILD.

This has been a very busy and satisfactory session. On 1st November our meeting was addressed by Mrs. Taylor, President of the South West Council of the Woman's Guild. Her subject was mainly Guild work in its various branches, its aims and its inspiration. The evening was enjoyed by all and Mrs. Taylor expressed her pleasure in being with us.

The next meeting was for Bible Study under the able leadership of Miss Watt. This year we were greatly cheered by the increase in our numbers. We hope we shall continue to grow and that this Bible Study may be the means of uniting us more strongly into a true fellowship.

On 13th November a Coffee Morning was held to raise funds for the various causes supported by the Guild. The day was one of storms and gales and rain, and we feared that few would venture out, but as usual, Newton Mearns Church rose to the occasion and our effort was very successful. The sum raised was over £60 and the Committee are deeply grateful for such wonderful support.

Another evening Mrs. Cuthill gave a very interesting talk on some of her nursing experiences. This was greatly appreciated by all.

The Christmas Box was packed and sent off to Germany to Dr. Leuner's Orphanage. Again the response to our appeal was generous and we were enabled to send toys, partly-worn clothing, shoes, knitted goods and sweets to help to brighten Christmas for these children.

On 29th November, Mr. McMeechan, a member of the Church, gave us a most interesting talk on a trip to South Africa. This was illustrated by lantern slides and interspersed with many personal reminiscences. This was an open night and a goodly company filled the upper hall. Tea was served and the evening was voted a great success.

### NOTE.

The success of the meeting at which Mr. McMeechan gave the very delightful "Travel Talk" leads to the conclusion that many gentlemen in the Newton Mearns Congregation from their experience have at least one interesting story which should be told, and, seeing there is not a Men's Guild, where more fitting than a Woman's Guild? Three or four meetings each session to which men are invited might prove a stimulus to the Guild and an evening's enjoyment to all. (*This is off the record—Ed.*)

### GOLDEN WEDDING.

Our congratulations are given to Mr. and Mrs. John MacCallum of Deanstone on the celebration of their Golden Wedding on Saturday, 4th December. We have for many years been indebted to them for flowers to adorn the sanctuary. He has endeared himself to all by the friendliness of his nature, and has been a faithful Elder. Mrs. MacCallum also has brought up her family in the fear of the Lord, and been a faithful helpmeet to her husband.

### PRESBYTERY NOTES.

The Presbytery was honoured at the November Meeting by a visit from a very interesting personality from the United States—Rev. Mr. Beavan, who is a Baptist Minister in Texas. He came in the capacity of business manager of the organisation which will in large measure conduct the Evangelical campaign of Dr. Billy Graham, from 21st March till 30th April of next year. He was very warmly welcomed by the Presbytery, the Moderator designating him as a sort of "flying column" on behalf of what can be called the "All Scotland Crusade," and his stimulating address was marked by tokens of unmistakable zeal and fervour. It was a great pioneering effort in the sense of preparing the ground for one who would come after. He also took occasion in this moving speech to deprecate the suggestion coming from some quarters that evangelism was often a financial racket in which money put up by the community was appropriated, and added that in the campaign of 1955 the Church, not the Billy Graham organisation would determine the cost, and funds received would be administered by the Church, and carefully audited. In this connection, the committee on Evangelism reported that arrangements had been made for the issue of a periodical bulletin regarding areas where special efforts are being made and that training groups are being arranged under the care of the Rev. James Munro, Newlands South Church.



Dr. Baxter in one of his reports on behalf of the Social Problems Committee said that there had been interviews with Editors of the most prominent journals, with the Chief Constable, and with influential persons, on the matter of maintaining a higher moral tone in publications, entertainments, etc. The Presbytery also approved the resolution, that, while the Committee welcomes the assurance of the Secretary of State for Scotland, that, in consultation with the Home Secretary, he was giving very careful attention to the matter of "comics" from abroad, they would point out this is only part of the problem and urge the widening of the scope of enquiry to include investigations of similar material of a morally objectionable nature in other publications. Also that the law at present seems to be inadequate and requires amending. This being so, the Presbytery enjoin parents, teachers and all who are concerned with the care and training of the young to secure the provision of healthy literature for children, as a wholesome substitute for the many "horrors" abounding at the present time.

### THE AMATEUR THEATRE.

The Dramatic Production of "The Two Mrs. Carrolls" was an excellent performance. Mr. Murray Hanna is to be warmly congratulated on one of the best shows put on in the Church Hall for years. It was quite evident that much thought had gone into the staging, the sound effects, the lighting, the props. Every detail had been watched even to the newspaper in French. Murray has a real love of drama, and has shown it in the finished character of the production.

The talent of the artistes was also quite clear. In Margaret Anderson, who had the leading part, we have one of the most accomplished actresses in the Church. Her memory never failed her and the hysteria she manifested was felt by the audience. Ian Hanna played opposite to her, and he also had a leading part. He has all the repose of one who is at home on the stage, and gave a very fine performance. Barbara Storry, Dorothy Nisbet, Margaret Hunter, Anne Gray, Scott Black, and Robert Sinclair all did their parts excellently, and the result was a production that was most realistic, and at times made the audience audibly show their horror.

Very good support was given to the Club by Mr. Andrew Russell, Mr. Maurice Anderson, Mr. Harry Russell, Mr. David McCance, those who "made up," the prompter, Mrs. Sinclair, and others. A few more shows like this and we will need a bigger hall, and that with the competition to-day of television.

### STRIKING THOUGHTS.

Among the reviews of some religious books T.W.M. in the "Manchester Guardian Weekly" says, "Concerning the Church I would mention a very candid, searching, provocative—and occasionally provoking—book by B. C. Plowright, *Are We Blind Also?* With a clear enough reference to the criticisms passed by our Lord on the failure of the religious leaders of his own day to discern the signs of the times. The burning question for Mr. Plowright is just whether the Church to-day is able to read the signs of the times aright, to see clearly what are the real problems of living in the modern world, and to show not merely by talking but by living that it has the answers. It is certainly true that the problems are there, and equally true that the Church, if it is to be of any service to the men and women of this generation must address itself to them in the situation—or fix—in which they are. And the Church will have to be completely candid and frank in the matter. The Church will also have to be completely the servant of the Gospel, and not the handmaid of any political party. In fact the Church will have to take the risk of becoming less popular with both the Right and the Left, with both the agnostic intelligentsia and indifferent proletariat, than it now is.

Mr. Plowright's book will give ministers and Church workers quite a lot to think about, whether they fully agree with him or not."

The children of the Sunday School are looking forward to the Christmas Party which has been arranged for Saturday, 18th December. The younger ones meet at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and the older ones at 5 o'clock. They are expecting to see Santa Claus and there is to be a picture show. The Superintendent has been warned that a number of adults expect to be present to share the fun with the children.

Christmas Sunday will be 19th December. The children are asked to bring a gift and these will be taken to Mearns Kirk Hospital so that the sick boys and girls can share the joy of the season.

The customary Christmas Eve Service will be held on Friday, 24th December, at 11.30 p.m. in the Mearns Parish Church. Mr. Thomson will preach the sermon and Mr. MacKay will conduct the devotions.