

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

APRIL, 1955

THE REGISTER.

Deaths.

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

Miss Mary Angus, c/o 29 Castle Road.

Mr. George Smith, Fairfield, Beech Avenue.

Marriage.

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

Gabrielle Kerr to John Fletcher.

OBITUARY.

Mr. George Smith.

Mr. George Smith, Fairfield, Beech Avenue, died on Wednesday, 9th March, at a city hospital. He was connected all his life with the firm of John Menzies & Co., Booksellers, Newsagents, and Stationers. His first appointment with them was in Dunfermline, then Inverness, after that Dundee, and finally he came to Glasgow as Manager about 1937. His was a very responsible and onerous position at all times, but especially during the war. There is little doubt that these years left their mark upon him. He was a man conscientious in all he did, and one who could be relied upon to carry out the duty entrusted to him. Perhaps the interruption of social life during the war years prevented us getting to know him as well as we would have wished, but I had already marked him out as one who would be suitable for the office of the eldership. By nature he was a most generous man, and there were many who owed much to his kindness. During the war he came up to the Canteen in the Church Hall and helped to entertain the soldiers. He was also a keen member of the bowling green, and a past president of it. Esteemed and loved by his fellow workers and his friends, we will always remember him as one who sought to walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, and to his widow, his son and his daughter-in-law we extend our deepest sympathy in the passing of one so justly loved.

Miss Mary Angus.

Miss Mary Angus, 29 Castle Road, died on Wednesday, 16th March, at a Renfrewshire Hospital. I think it would be true to say that we all loved Mary Angus, as she was familiarly known to all of us. We would meet her in all sorts of places. She loved the countryside, and would go for long walks along the country lanes and over the moors. She was born in Fenwick, but lived practically all her life in the Mearns, being employed at the works at Netherplace. Her particular work was to put the gloss or "shine" on fabrics. Perhaps that fact is significant with reference to her life, for Mary in her younger days went about helping old folk. When her day's work was done she would go and try to help them in any way she could. Many an old person had cause to thank God for what she did for them. One of her great regrets when she went into hospital was that she could no longer go to Church. What would my mother say, she would often remark to me. She told me never to neglect the Church. Nor did she. She was present every Sunday at both morning and evening worship. I used sometimes to be quite amused for it was often a race whether the minister or Mary would get out of Church first. She was also a very loyal member of the Woman's Guild. It is fitting that in her latter days there were some who took a special care of her. One member of the Church sent the *Bulletin* every day to her. It carried a message of love not only to Mary but to the whole ward. To all her kith and kin we extend our deepest sympathy in the passing from us of one we all loved.

THE ALL SCOTLAND CRUSADE.

It was my privilege to be at one of the meetings in the Kelvin Hall this week, and I want to give you my own personal feelings about it. As you know, I with others in the congregation trained as a counsellor, and I hope to be able to be present on at least one night each week. My luck was in last Thursday evening. I went early hoping to get what is called an assignment—which means a counsellor's seat in the arena. It is our duty, if we are moved to do so, to follow a person to the front at the closing stages of the service, and accompany him into the counsel room. There we are to help them spiritually as far as we are able, and take the person's name, address, church (if any). After a double check by an adviser, the card is filed in the Glasgow office next day, and a note sent by post to the minister of the area in which the person lives.

There have been so many people willing to do the work of counselling that I wondered whether I would be required that evening. However, it was, as I said, my lucky day. I was given an assignment, and an hour before the meeting was due to start went to discover where I was to be seated. After doing so, I was standing in a passage talking to a fellow minister when an American steward came up and spoke to us. I expected to be reproved for standing in the passage, but he said, "You have heard the statement in the Bible, 'Come up higher.' I want you both to come up to the platform to-night. Go and hand in your assignment and be at the platform room in 15 minutes." So at a meeting into which I wondered whether I would gain admission, I found myself on the platform, and only a few yards from the evangelist.

People may have their reservations about Mr. Graham (as he prefers to be called, for all his degrees he says are honorary). I cannot, however, but feel after hearing him that he is one of the greatest preachers I have ever had the privilege to hear. We probably have ministers in Scotland his equal, but I do not think his superior. To hold the attention as he does of an audience of 15,000 for over an hour is a remarkable achievement. Not that he would claim any honour, for he is constantly emphasising that this is the work of the Spirit of God. If you want, he says, to wreck this campaign, then speak about me. He preached a wonderful sermon on the text "I am the Resurrection and the Life." He described the home at Bethany and Lazarus falling sick. But Jesus did not come. Why did He not come? That the glory of God might be revealed. Then he reached the point in the story where Jesus brought forth Lazarus from the grave; he came forth blind and bound. There were so many in Glasgow who were spiritually dead, or blind to the reality of Christ, or bound by the chains of sin.

The closing part of the meeting was to me the most moving of all. He made an appeal to all those who wished to be delivered to come and accept the spiritual life that Christ to-night was ready to give them. Then the miracle happened and the people came to the front. One felt so moved by it that one could not look at those who were coming forward. It seemed too sacred a moment on which to feast one's eyes. "I do not want any one to leave the hall at this moment," said Mr. Graham. "This is a holy moment. The lives of these people are about to be changed; I know what that means, for I have been through it myself."

It is quite obvious that God is using this man to bring many to faith in Christ. In addition many of those who do not come forward have been made to think very seriously. Let all of us do all we can to help the All Scotland Crusade, and remember that it has often happened in the past that what Glasgow thinks to-day, the wider world has followed on the morrow. Are we at the turning of the tide?

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This was held on Wednesday, 23rd March, but due to the inclement weather the number present was less than is usual for this important event in the Church calendar.

The Clerk intimated that the notice of the meeting had been read on the previous two Sundays in accordance with the Church Constitution, and then a statement regarding Board Meetings held since the last Annual Business Meeting.

These preliminaries disposed of, Mr. Walter Rodger—the Treasurer—was called to present the Financial Statement, which he did in his usual purposeful manner, and ended up with "It is much more satisfactory being Treasurer when there is a balance in hand."

The Financial Statement passed without question, and Mr. Jarvie commented on the satisfactory manner in which the books were kept and the way the accounts were presented. The Auditors—Mr. J. W. Jarvie, C.A., and Mr. D. J. Macphail were unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year.

The organisations' reports then followed in rapid succession.

The members of the Congregational Board due to retire at this time were re-elected to serve for three years, viz.: Miss Hunter, Messrs. Bone, Fiddes, McCormick, Macphail, McCance, Goudie and Gray. Two vacancies had occurred and H. J. Frost and David Dick were elected to serve for one year.

Thereafter Votes of Thanks were passed to everyone who had rendered service in any way, and an effort was made not to miss any one.

The business part being finished, tea was served and the buzz of conversation had reign until the arrival of the Rev. A. J. W. Fulton, M.A., who was to address the company.

His remarks were almost entirely confined to the "Tell Scotland Campaign," with its hopes and its fears, which were equally felt by all who were present.

"As Christians we are faced with many things which are difficult." He told of a girl who had written to her minister saying, "I want to accept Jesus as Lord. What am I to do? How can I bring Him into my life? How does it work out for me?" The first phase is the teaching in the Bible Class. There are many waiting to see how they can come into this closer relationship with Christ.

Perhaps in Scotland too much has been taken for granted and the young people have not been brought to the point of decision. "We cannot drive on until we have slipped in the clutch!"

Those who go into the enquiry room in the Kelvin Hall are given a card on which is printed a Text from the Gospel of St. John—a bit of God's Word—and advised when feeling strongly tempted to read and re-read this text and let it sink in. This will bring one to the knowledge of the presence of God.

Is there just a gap we have missed filling in?

When proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Fulton for his address, Mr. Thom said, "A challenge had been given to us which necessitated an answer!"

During the evening the following musical items were rendered:—

"Children at Play"—Mozart,
Miss Marlene Ferguson.

"Ladybird"—Schumann,
Mrs. A. McCance.

and the Trio

Spinning Chorus—"Flying Dutchman"—Wagner,
in which Mrs. Ferns joined Mrs. McCance and Miss Ferguson.

Woman's Guild.

There is much pleasure in giving the Report on the year's work of the Woman's Guild. The programme has been a full one and the Session was enjoyed by all the members. Our numbers have increased a little this winter and we have had a very happy Fellowship.

The subjects were varied—to name a few: Huts and Canteens; Mission Work in India and in Blantyre; and Guild work generally.

One of our own members gave some of her nursing experiences.

We had a fine evening with films of a journey to South Africa and back, and many beautiful pictures were shown by Mr. McMeechan.

Music was not forgotten, and a most enjoyable concert was given by the Clyde Valley Male Voice Choir: we spent another evening listening to delightful gramophone music, supplied by Mr. Cuthill.

Our Bible Study Group has met each month under the able leadership of Miss Watt, and I know I voice the feelings of all when I say how much we appreciate this very important part of our work. The numbers of the Study Group have increased considerably but we'd like to see every one taking part in this.

The Work Party again filled a Christmas Box for Dr. Leuner's Orphanage, and since Christmas, have been sewing and knitting for the Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Yorkhill.

In connection with the Women's World Day of Prayer on 25th February, a joint service was held in Newton Mearns Church with members of Mearns Parish Church and members of the Gospel Hall taking part. Some 70 people attended.

No organisation can be run without funds and this year the Guild decided to depart from the usual method of door-to-door collection. A Coffee Morning was arranged for 13th November, 1954. The weather was most unkind and that day was, I think, the very worst day of rain and storm. But once more our friends rallied round and the result was most gratifying.

Finally, I'd like to mention the splendid work of the Committee and the fine spirit of co-operation which has existed throughout the session.

Mrs. S. E. W. MENZIES, *Secretary*.

Young Mothers' Group.

Although small in numbers (a membership of only 16) our Group has had a most successful season.

The group meets on alternate Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m.

In this, our second year, we decided to change to evening meetings and this seems to better suit our members.

The subjects discussed have been interesting and varied.

The talks were closely related to our domestic lives. Examples at random might be given as "Dental Care," "Children and the Christian Home," "An Australian Visit," "First-Aid in the Home," and "Canadian Quilting." An evening at the Citizen's Theatre was included in the winter's activities.

The Business Meeting was held on 15th February, when the following office-bearers were elected:—*Pres.*, Mrs. McKay; *Sec.*, Mrs. K. Macphail; *Treas.*, Mrs. A. Russell.

We are a happy fellowship and extend to any mothers in the congregation a hearty invitation to join in our fortnightly meetings.—Mrs. KATHLEEN MACPHAIL, *Secy.*

The Sunday School.

We have had another very successful year in the Sunday School. There are 150 pupils on the roll and a teaching staff of 22. Every Sunday, Mr. Nimmo prepares questions and the pupils give oral answers and most of them are very keen to participate. Also a passage of Scripture is chosen, and this is read by boys and girls as they are called by Mr. Nimmo and the reading is usually very well done.

The Sunday School Trip was to Bonnyton Moor Farm on 26th June, 1954. We had a most enjoyable day and are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. James Lambie for their kindness so willingly given.

The Sunday School Party on 18th December was most successful. Santa Claus (played by Mr. McVean so realistically) delighted the children, especially when he produced sweets and balloons from his sack.

We had our usual Special Children's Services during the year. The Prize Giving was held in June. The Harvest Thanksgiving in October, which was a Gift Service, and the Christmas Gift Service in December. The gifts were many and varied and greatly appreciated by Mearnskirch Hospital.

You will see from our Missionary Treasurer's report in the Year Book how our collections have been allocated. A sum of £59 6s. was gathered during the year.

—MARY G. HAY, *Secy.*

Young People's Union.

The group were, at the beginning of the session, very unfortunate in that nearly all our members were for one reason or another unable to remain with us. We would refer specially to our President, Ian Wood, who left for South Africa, and Alan Carlaw, a member of committee, who is now in the R.A.F.

However, we managed to attract some twelve or fifteen young people to our regular Sunday meetings and we would extend a very warm welcome to any one in our congregation who would care to join the fellowship next session.

We have enjoyed many varied discussions on different subjects introduced by our members, and we would like to thank Mr. Telfer and Mr. Nimmo for their kind support on those occasions when we had films shown.

Our thanks are also due to all members of session for the continued interest and to Mr. Mackay for his never-failing help and advice.—D. McCANCE, *President.*

The Boys' Brigade.

In the unavoidable absence of the Captain, Mr. Alex. Scott, in London, and of the other two Officers, Mr. John Orr and Mr. James Mitchell, the minister submitted the Report. He said that every effort had been made during the session to increase the numbers. The officers were due the greatest credit for their untiring labours on behalf of the Company. They had, however, to confess their inability to persuade more of the youth of the congregation to join. The Session would have the matter under review. He thanked Mr. Scott and the other two officers for what they had done, and said that they had the satisfaction of knowing that everything had been done that could have been achieved.

The Lifeboys.

We have 24 boys on our roll and apart from illness we generally have perfect attendance.

In May last year we had a Parent's Night and Transfer Ceremony, when five boys received transfer certificates and were transferred to the Boys' Brigade.

We commenced our season in October this year and welcomed to the Team twelve new recruits who have since become most enthusiastic Lifeboys. Each Friday our programme consists of Lifeboy work such as Marching, P.T., Signalling, Ring Bells, Singing and games, and we also carry out the Lifeboy Seal System where boys pass tests for different subjects, namely, Bible Heroes, Missionaries, Books of the Bible, Courtesy, Lifeboy Rules, Health and Guide. Prizes are awarded at the end of the season for the boys with the most seals.

We had our Christmas Party again this year with the boys inviting their fathers to join us that evening, and if anybody enjoyed themselves more than the Lifeboys, it was the fathers. Santa Claus called on the Team at the end of the evening with a present for all.

At the beginning of January, the Lifeboys spent a Saturday afternoon at the Kelvin Hall and again in February at the Pavilion Pantomime. Both these outings were greatly enjoyed by the Team and the Leaders.

We hope to have a small Display sometime in May for parents and friends of the boys, and the Team have settled down now to some hard work for this event.

This past season has been another very happy and successful one for the Team.

MARGARET MACGREGOR, *Leader.*

2nd Mearns Girl Guides.

The Guide Company at the beginning of 1954 had on its roll 25 Guides and the Company Lieutenant was Miss Thia Niven.

In January we had our annual night out at the Carnival in the Kelvin Hall, and in March the Guides joined with the Boys' Brigade, Lifeboys and the Brownies in organising and running a Sale of Work in the Church Hall.

During April the Company played a hockey match against a team of Guides from the 2nd Busby and Clarkston Company. Unfortunately, it turned out a very wet evening and into the bargain we lost the match. Nevertheless we enjoyed ourselves and hoped to play a return match sometime this summer.

In May the Company attended a Rally of all the Guides in the Eastern Division of Renfrewshire held at Huntly Playing Fields. Among the honoured guests present was Lady Shaw Stuart, who is President of the County of Renfrewshire Girl Guides.

At the end of May we were very sorry to say good-bye to our Lieutenant, Miss Thia Niven, as she had decided to go abroad.

In June, the Company, together with the 2nd Busby and Clarkston Guide Company, spent a week-end under canvas at Blythswood Estate, near Renfrew, which is an official Guide camping site. This week-end was a great success and we were also lucky not to have a drop of rain the whole time we were there. It is hoped that the Company will manage to do more camping under canvas in the future, as this is one of the aims of Guiding.

Our Session finished at the end of June with a prize-giving night. A miniature cup, given by an anonymous donor, was added to the list of prizes and was awarded to the best Patrol Leader for the year, who was Miss Lesley Williams.

Our new session started at the beginning of September and we welcomed as our new Lieutenant Miss Marion Cowan, who had been a Guide in the same Company. The number of Guides on the roll then was 25, which included 6 recruits from the Brownies.

In December we closed the year with a Christmas Party.

Apart from the outstanding activities I have just mentioned, test-work continues all during the session, and the proficiency badges gained by the Guides have covered

a wide range of subjects including: Gymnast, Athlete, Hostess, Homemaker, Cook, Needlewoman and Child Nurse.

On behalf of the Guides, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the congregation for their support during the session, and to thank Mr. Mackay, Mr. Knox and Mr. Pirrett for their very kind visits to the Company.

ISOBEL C. MORRIS, *Captain*.

2nd Mearns Brownies.

Once again we have had a very successful season, although our membership in January, 1954, was 33 compared with 39 in January, 1953. This was due to several Brownies going over to the 1st Mearns Pack which had started again.

In February we visited the Alhambra Pantomime which was most enjoyable. In May we gave our first Parent's Night which was enjoyed by both the parents and the Brownies.

We closed for the summer in June with prize-giving. Prizes were awarded for attendance and to the best Brownie and the Best Six.

We opened again in September, having lost several Brownies to the Guides and other packs, but their places were filled with the 24 new Brownies we welcomed during the first few weeks, bringing our numbers up to 42.

Although our pack was so large test work was not neglected and soon all the new Brownies had passed their tenderfoot. Several Brownies gained their Second Class Badge and 12 Brownies are working for their First Class Badge which they hope to win in the near future.

At Hallowe'en we held our usual party which the Brownies attended in Fancy Dress. All the dresses were so good that it was very difficult to choose the best.

The year closed with our Christmas Party on the 27th when Brownies, Leaders and helpers all received a small gift which had been left by Santa Claus before he went back to Fairyland. Every one had a most enjoyable evening.

I should like to thank the pack-leaders, Miss MacPhail, Miss Williams and Miss Bain, for the invaluable help they have given throughout the year.

—JEAN E. McCORMICK, *Brown Owl*.

The Social, Badminton and Dramatic Club.

The season now ending has not been a very successful one. However we started off on the right foot in more senses than one with a visit to the Edinburgh Tattoo in September last. Fortunately we were blessed with fine weather, our visit co-inciding with the Television presentation. A large number of members and friends enjoyed the colourful display beautifully staged against the impressive back cloth of the castle. The only other social events were the Christmas Party and a Country Dance which was run under the auspices of the Dramatic Section. To those members of the Badminton Section who were present but not participating, the energy generated by the dancers with an apparent minimum of effort, was most impressive.

The Badminton Section has had a very mixed season. Last year I had to report relegation to the Second Division and there were times this season when it seemed likely that we would be playing in the Third Division next season. Happily, however, we have managed to retain our place although the margin of safety was smaller than the Executive Committee really cared for! The Reserve Team did very much better in spite of having at times to play with only three couples. The plain fact of the matter is that we are becoming an "old" Club in the sense that the team members are getting "gey lang in the Tooth." The Committee would like to encourage younger members to play in the first team, but up till now there has been a noticeable lack of younger members with either the ability or enthusiasm required for this purpose. It is often forgotten when representations are made for youth to be

given its chance that the real backbone of this club is made up of older members whose loyalty, devotion and enthusiasm has kept the club going.

The Dramatic Section, which is in the hands of a most capable Producer in Mr. Murray Hanna, delighted us all with their December production, which was admirably produced and acted. Members of the Section tell me that Murray makes them work very hard indeed and the production was, of course, evidence of that, but he is a pleasant tyrant and we all know that he works twice as hard as any member of the cast. Of course that is what producers are for but we are most fortunate to have such a painstaking and competent person in charge.

Finally, may I say how sorry we all were to see the departure of Helen Ritchie, Ian Wood and Martin Hodge. All of them are sadly missed but Helen particularly as she was a valued first team member and an outstanding member of the Dramatic Section. She is now living near London and Ian is much further away in South Africa. Martin appears to be on a troopship which alternates between Liverpool and Kure in Japan, so he has certainly travelled far. Our best wishes go to all of them.

H. A. M. PEDEN, *Secretary*.

VARIA.

The Y.P.U. closed its session on 26th March. It has been a very successful year. We started with an almost complete change-over of personnel, and the fellowship has settled down very happily together. The new President is Mr. David Fiddes, and the Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Mary Anderson, with Miss Anne Loudon, Mr. Barry Niven, and Mr. John Wilson forming the Committee. To Mr. David MacCance and Miss Irene Sinclair we owe a debt of gratitude for their work during the year. The retiring President has been a tower of strength and the main credit for the fellowship he leaves behind is due to him.

Miss Jean MacCormick has had to tender her resignation from the Brownies. Her hours of work do not make it possible to be present at the appointed time. We let her go with deep regret for she has left the pack at 42 in numbers, the highest in our history.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be dispensed on the first Sabbath in May at 11.30 and 6.30. The Preparatory Service is on the preceding Friday at 8 p.m. in the Church.

A Class for First Communicants is meeting in the Manse on Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m.

AN EASTER "THANKS."

For that supremest token of Thy Love,—
Thyself made manifest in human flesh;
For that pure life beneath the Syrian sky—
The humble toil, the sweat, the bench, the saw,
The nails well-driven, and the work well-done;
For all its vast expansions; for the stress.
Of those three mighty years;
For all He bore of our humanity;
His hunger, thirst, His homelessness and want,
His weariness that longed for well-earned rest;
For labour's high ennoblement through Him,
Who laboured with His hands for daily bread;
For Lazarus, Mary, Martha, Magdalene;
For Nazareth and Bethany;—not least
For that dark hour in lone Gethsemane;
For that high cross upraised on Calvary;
The broken seals,—the rolled-back stone—The Way,
For ever opened through His life in death;
For that brief glimpse vouchsafed within the veil;
For all His gracious life; and for His Death,
With low-bowed heads and hearts impassionate,
We thank Thee, Lord!

From Oxenham's "Bees in Amber."