

# Newton Mearns Church Supplement

OCTOBER, 1955

## THE REGISTER.

### Baptisms.

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

Evelyn Anne Scott, 208 Ayr Road.  
Douglas Campbell Hunter, 62 Hazelwood Avenue.

### Marriage.

*"Whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."*  
Mary Grace Marchant to David G. MacCance.

### Deaths.

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

Miss Helen Rennie, Tarbeg, Arthurlie Drive.  
Mrs. Mary Grant, 33 Hill Avenue.

### New Members.

#### By Certificate.

Mrs. George Bell, 17 Elliot Drive, Giffnock.  
Mrs. Boyle, 36 Hazelwood Avenue.  
Mrs. Morris Erskine, 62 Kelvin Court, Glasgow.  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew A. Gibb, 23 Edzell Drive.  
Mrs. Isa B. Milne, 72 Main Street.  
Mr. David Robinson, 17 Edzell Drive.  
Mrs. Alison Saynor, 14 Edzell Drive.  
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Scott, c/o 208 Ayr Road.  
Mrs. Trotter, Jr., 62 Ayr Road.  
Mr. and Mrs. David Williams, 59 Beech Avenue.

## OBITUARY.

### Miss Helen Rennie.

Miss Helen Rennie, of Tarbeg, Arthurlie Drive, died on Monday, 19th September. She and her sister came to live in this district about 1934 from the Sandyhill district of Glasgow. There they had been members for many years of Eastbank Church, and their father was, indeed, one of the founders of the congregation. In her earlier years she took an active part in the work of the Church, taking a great interest in the praise of the Sanctuary, teaching in the Sabbath School, and distributing the missionary records in the congregation. That concern for the welfare of the Church was maintained when she came to live in this district. She was a regular attender at the public diets of worship, and we shall always remember her as a gracious personality whose life was hid with Christ in God. We rejoice that her niece is carrying on the same tradition in Giffnock South, where she is leader of the primary department of the Sabbath School, and that both her nephews are elders of the Church. To her sister, who has borne such a heavy burden of responsibility and of anxiety during these past months, and faced her task so bravely, and to all her kith and kin we extend our deepest sympathy.

### Mrs. Mary Grant.

Mrs. Mary Grant died at her home, 33 Hill Avenue, on Tuesday, 27th September, in her 102nd year. She was born on the 6th August, 1854, at Upper Criche in the parish of Old Deer, in the county of Aberdeenshire. In that year, it will be remembered that Florence Nightingale set sail for Constantinople, at the beginning of the Crimean War. That fact enables us to realise the span of time that her life has embraced. She was married on the 31st January, 1882, to William Grant, a master cooper, a trade that has almost disappeared in our time. He came to Glasgow after his marriage, believing that there were greater opportunities there to ply his trade. Of their seven children, two of them died after a few weeks, and four of the remaining five are still with us—two in this country and two in the United States. It was a great occasion in her

life when she attained her 100th birthday. Gifts were showered upon her from far and near. Amongst them was one she greatly prized—a Bible from this congregation. The Minister, the Session-Clerk and Mr. Andrew Russell on that day attended on her, and conveyed the good wishes of the congregation. Her Majesty the Queen sent the customary greetings from the throne. Mrs. Grant was a great lover of the Church, and attended it faithfully until her 92nd year. She was a member of my grandfather's church in Young Street, Glasgow, and three of her children were baptised by him. The Bible was her favourite book and she read a portion of it every day. She told me that she had read the Bible through on 3 occasions from beginning to end. I always felt in her presence a deep sense within her of Christ as her Saviour. To Robertina, her daughter, above all must go the credit of looking after her mother. She has never been separated from her all her days. She has given us all an example of loving affection. May the blessing of God rest upon her and may she find comfort in the thought of a task well and faithfully done.

### Mr. Robert C. Macdonald.

We take note of the death of Mr. Robert C. Macdonald of West Linton, Mid-Lothian, who was chief mechanical engineer of the South Metropolitan Gas Company. His family was linked with our congregation through his marriage with one of the daughters of the late Mr. John Allan, of Park House, Barhead Road, Newton Mearns. His sisters-in-law, the late Miss Minnie Allan, and Miss Agnes Allan had a long association with us. Mr. and Mrs. Roderick Macdonald (one of his sons) now occupy the former home of Mr. and Mrs. Allan, and have taken a large share in the ringing of the church bells on a Sunday morning. It is just over a year since the golden wedding of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Macdonald was celebrated in our church hall, and the whole family came from different parts of Scotland and England to rejoice with them on that great occasion. We extend to all members of the family our deepest sympathy in the loss of one whose life was ever active in the work of the Church and of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

## THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN.

On one occasion after Jesus had silenced the criticism of the Scribes and Pharisees, some of those who were better-minded in life were encouraged to approach Him, and one of them, a young lawyer, asked Him which was the first commandment of all. Jesus replied that all the Commandments were summed up in two—Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and thy neighbour as thy self. The lawyer saw that Christ had indeed spoken the truth, and said that to keep these was more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices. That was indeed an admission for a Jew. Jesus said that he was not far from the Kingdom of God. He meant no less or no more than that. He was not far but he was not in. He knew that he still laboured under the delusion that one could earn salvation by keeping the law, but He felt that the divine hunger awakened in his soul would be satisfied when he came to Him alone who could supply it.

Neander, in his history of Christ's life, wonders why St. Luke, when he came to write the account of the Good Samaritan, did not include this episode alongside of it. Perhaps he did not know it. Perhaps he felt that Matthew and Mark had already inserted it. What he does is to tell one of a similar character, how a Scribe asked him "What shall I do to inherit eternal life." Jesus threw him back on the law, and the Scribe answered that it said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God . . . and thy neighbour as thy self." Jesus said to him, "Go and do this and thou shalt live." Then he further asked, "And who is my

neighbour," whereupon Jesus expounded the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Jesus pointed out first of all in the parable that the Scribe had asked the wrong question. What he said was "Who is my neighbour?" How far need I go in being a neighbour? Do I need to be a neighbour to so and so? Jesus replied that he should go out and be a neighbour to any man whom he found lying wounded by the roadside of life. Kermit Eby, an American professor, tells in his autobiography that when he became a teacher he set out with the deliberate intention of making himself available to his students no matter how busy he was, no matter on what work he was engaged. Jesus on one occasion took His disciples to the other side of the Sea of Galilee for a period of rest. The crowd followed Him round the top end of the lake, and we read that when He saw them He was moved to compassion and ministered to them and healed them. The Queen Mother has the faculty of making any one to whom she speaks feel that he is the only person at the moment in whom she is interested. She makes herself available to others. She is a neighbour to any one she meets by the roadside of life.

Secondly, Jesus in this parable draws a sharp contrast between genuine and counterfeit religions. "By chance there came down a certain priest that way and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side." Both the priest and the Levite are representatives of the official religious leaders of that day. They were on their way from Jerusalem to Jericho, a journey of 21 miles, ascending in that space 3,000 feet. Part of the road led through a mountainous region and was flanked with caves that made an ideal hiding place for robbers. No doubt they had good reason for not stopping. They had important business to transact in Jericho, the city of the priests. They did not want to be mixed up in a private vendetta. The man deserved all that had happened to him. It would be wrong to deny that the priest and the Levite did not perform a useful function in life. Without a place where the ordinances of worship were carried on, even in the most formal and spiritually dead fashion, there would be no place where the Spirit of God could come into the soul of man. Keep the frame and the picture will come back. Their religious life was, however, a sham and a pretence. Jesus lays it bare in this parable. If that be true of any of you then there is only one thing that you can do. Allow the Spirit of God to come down into your life and fill it with the love of God, and the love of your neighbour.

The third thing that Jesus says in this parable is that the love of the Samaritan transcended the racial hatred of his day. As we read in the Bible, the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans. This man, however, not only stopped to help a man in desperate need, as we all might have done, but did not rest until he saw him established as far as he could in life again. Our own pockets are full of labels that we stick on people. We do not like the Jews. We cannot trust the Germans after the atrocities of the last war, etc., etc. Jesus teaches us that true neighbourliness stretches beyond all the prejudices and animosities of our daily life. A Plymouth Brother, after the Kelvin Hall meetings, said that he thanked God that he was able to work with a Church of Scotland minister. I believe that he meant it sincerely. That the prayer to which the Evangelist called him had broken every barrier down.

This has been a Sabbath on which we have celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism. The Church has received into its midst another child. Baron Von Hugel said Christianity has taught us to care. Caring is the greatest thing. Caring matters most. I do not think that this generation will fail to take care of the physical, the material, or even the educational life of the child. But what about its spiritual welfare. Don't you think you could do something there? Why not start family worship in the home, and give a practical demonstration to the child of where you draw your spiritual strength? You father did it. Your grandfather did it. Why should you not do it?

The most important problem in our generation is not to proclaim the Gospel. Perhaps you are trying to do that in your life and conversation. It is to get the Gospel into the hearts of men, so that they become men dedicated to Jesus Christ. That is a task that you cannot be schooled in. You can only do it in fellowship with God through Jesus Christ. The test whether you care enough to do this will be seen in the intensity of your prayers. "As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, no more can you except you abide in Me." Are you ready to do this? "Christianity has taught us to care. Caring is the greatest thing. Caring matters most."

*Just before leaving for holiday this sermon was preached by our Minister. It expressed our Christian duty and is now in more permanent form.*

## EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS.

OCTOBER 16TH—OCTOBER 23RD.

At the close of the meetings of the All Scotland Crusade in the Kelvin Hall of the Spring of this year the Presbytery of Glasgow instructed the Evangelism Committee of the same court to urge congregations in various districts to follow up the work that had been so successfully done by Dr. Billy Graham and his team, by holding area evangelistic meetings in the ensuing months, or in some other way consolidate the work of the Tell Scotland Campaign.

A Committee was formed in the Giffnock, Broom and Newton Mearns districts, comprising the minister and an elder from each congregation. After due deliberation it was decided to hold a week of evangelistic meetings in (a) the Giffnock Area and (b) the Newton Mearns Area, both to unite in a Joint Service on the closing evening 23rd October in Giffnock South Church.

Two evangelists have graciously agreed to give their services—the Rev. Arthur Fawcett, B.D., of Johnstone High Church, and the Rev. K. J. Turnbull, B.D., of Partick Anderson Church. The former will work in the Newton Mearns Area, and the latter in Giffnock.

In our district the opening meeting will be on Sunday evening at 6.30 p.m. in our own Church. On Monday the Service will be in the Broom Church, on Tuesday and Wednesday in Mearns Parish Church Hall, on Thursday in the Broom Church, and on Friday in Newton Mearns Church. These meetings will all be at 8 p.m. with the exception of the opening Service in our Church on the Sunday, and the Final Rally in Giffnock South which will both be at 6.30 p.m.

The Choirs of Newton Mearns Church, Mearns Parish, and the Broom are to be asked to lead the praise in the Services in this district.

To defray the expenses of the campaign, collections will be taken at each Service and the office-bearers of the church in which the meeting is held are to be responsible for the uplifting of it during the course of the Service.

We hope and pray that these meetings will be of great blessing to the members of all the churches, and that those in the areas concerned who have lapsed from the fold, and many who have never been disciples of Jesus Christ may be brought into the knowledge of His love and grace. Let each one of us take a solemn vow that we will do our best by attending as many meetings as we can, and by bringing along, if we can, some one to one of these services.

## AUTUMN COMES AGAIN.

The Autumn Communion season opened with the Preparatory Service and it was conducted by the Rev. R. J. Fenton, M.A., of Kearan's - Dean Park Church, and he preached from the text "I will pay my vows now in the presence of all his people." "Has it ever occurred to you how much the making of vows has entered into the structure of daily life? Vows are made when at baptism we are brought into the Church. Vows again when we are older and join the fellowship of the Church and when we take Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Vows should be like the steelwork in a modern building giving strength and stability.

A modern writer tried to discover how it was that men have come to regard so lightly the breaking of the pledged word.

The world is littered with broken treaties and vows. One reason is because God has been left out of the national life. If men ignore God are they likely to honour Him?

Our vows must be to the Lord and there is a proper time to make them—and that is *now*. How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?

The great NOW comes to different people at different times but the hour of decision is NOW! In the quiet time in Church just before the service starts. We know how it is with New Year resolutions; and how often we are conscious of vows broken and the need for forgiveness."

The first lesson brought to attention the story of Abram and Lot where the husbandmen of each were at logger-heads over the grazing for their flocks and herds. This trouble brought distress to Abram. He decided to make his way back to Bethel where he had previously experienced God's guidance.

On his arrival at Bethel, "at the place of the altar," he called on the name of the Lord. Abram made the difficulty he was in a matter of prayer. It was revealed to him that a separation was necessary and he generously gave the choice of direction to Lot.

There was a clear linking between the lesson and the sermon but it was not so obvious until one thought about it afterwards.

It was a pity the Church was not full for the Service was a helpful one.

The Sunday morning opened fine but there seemed to be more empty places in Church than is usual when Communion is to be observed. It was surprising, too, how many took their seats within two or three minutes of the service commencing. For Communion, in particular, it really is essential that time should be allowed to become composed in mind as well as body in order to be in the Spirit for this remembrance.

Mr. Mackay took for his text verse 55 of the 9th chapter of Luke and introduced it by remarking that Christ being distressed at the scene which had just transpired (viz. when the Samaritan villagers would not receive Him "because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem," James and John displayed anger and said, "Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?"). Jesus turned and rebuked them and said, "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of."

Jesus went to another village and we read in this passage that He set His face steadily to go to Jerusalem. He had made up His mind to accomplish something for our salvation though it meant the Cross. God loves us and He still suffers for us, and for the sinfulness of the human race. Our salvation in the eyes of God must be worthwhile!

Mr. Mackay urged his hearers to prepare themselves to meet Jesus Christ in this commemoration of His death on the Cross for that realisation would be a blessing. The boorishness of the Samaritans led to a plea for neighbourliness. We cannot be good neighbours and be offensive, inflamed with passion, angry and full of hatred. You cannot belong to Christ if you don't catch His Spirit. It is a solemn occasion to come to Communion, but it is one way to become more like Christ.

The attendance at the evening diet was much as usual and the number present during the day was much the same as it was a year ago.

#### HARVEST FESTIVAL.

The Church was beautiful with vases of flowers in the windows and the Communion Table resplendent with fruit and flowers and a sheaf of corn by which the congregation acknowledged the ingathering of the crops at the end of another season on the land and the fulfilment once again of the promise that seedtime and harvest should not fail.

There was a thanksgiving, too, on the part of the parents in the presents they gave by the hands of their children and which were received at the chancel steps by members of the Sunday School teaching staff. This generosity each year is appreciated and the gifts are accepted with gratitude by the patients in the Mearnskirck Hospital to which they were sent.

Harvest hymns were sung at both services and in the morning the address by Mr. Mackay was listened to with rapt attention by the children as he spoke about the gardens of Guernsey where the lovely blushing tomatoes come from, but more particularly about the flowers which are gathered every morning about four o'clock and then sorted, packed into boxes, and put on to an aeroplane and flown to the London market and distributed to the shops before breakfast. The interest was greatest when he told about the Guernsey children sending a daily supply of flowers to the London hospitals.

#### EXCHANGE OF PULPITS.

On the Autumn Holiday Sunday morning Mr. Mackay took the service in Langside Old Church and Rev. R. S. Cairns, M.A. officiated at Mearns.

His address to the young people on Mathematics was listened to very attentively by the older folk for he did it interestingly. The Bible told us that Methuselah lived 969 years and then died and that was all it said about him. It was like a line without depth, breadth or height. He talked about the Celtic cross which has a circle running through it which has neither beginning nor ending and was, therefore, a sign of Eternity, which was God; and bicycle wheels with the spokes running from rim to hub and getting closer together as they got nearer the centre, which should be like ourselves as we got nearer to God.

Mr. Cairns selected for his lesson a few verses from the 1st chapter of Jonah, where Jonah shirked a difficult job he had been called upon to do and had taken shipping in order to escape from it. A storm arose and the mariners were afraid and said "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. Then the 12th verse of 1st Cor. 10th chapter, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall," and Matt. 4, verse 1, "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil." The subject of the sermon was "Temptation and the overcoming of temptation." Watch and pray lest we enter into temptation. There is something rather strange in this, as if one could help entering into temptation. The world is full of temptation. It would seem there is a mysterious presence of temptation. There is even that of spiritual death. Mankind is born into a world where temptation is. The prophets were tempted; so was Paul and Peter, also James and John, and Jesus Christ was tempted. Temptation is common to all. When you sum it all up it is just disobedience that separates us from God.

God has given us free-will, but temptation is not inevitable. The trouble is when we step out of the chalked circle; we are then on the devil's ground. Eve looked at the tree for food. The second look she stepped on to the devil's ground. The man looked at the gold coin and became acquisitive and became a miser for he had stepped on to the devil's ground. One can't resist temptation if on the devil's ground.

The Church means fellowship and, therefore, we need not face temptation alone. Face your temptation on God's ground, in fellowship with those of like mind.

#### THE WOMAN'S GUILD.

A cordial invitation is extended to all women in the congregation to become members of the Guild.

The session opens on Monday, 17th October, with a talk by the Rev. Stanley C. Munro, which will be illustrated.

Mr. Munro has an eye for a picture and is expert in getting it on to a photographic film and later on to a strip for the pleasure and interest of others who haven't that ability.

This year's opening night is one not to be missed.

There is a meeting of the Guild Council in St. Columba's Church, Copland Road, on October 27th at 7.30 p.m.

On October 31 the Rev. Matthew Wright, British Sailors' Society is to speak.

#### MOTHERS' GROUP.

The Mothers' Group resumes activities for the winter on Tuesday, 11th October, at 7.30 p.m., when a demonstration on Lampshade Making will be given.

Meetings are held fortnightly and an attractive programme has been arranged. A cup of tea is served at the meetings and new and former members will be very welcome.

#### THE RECREATIONAL GROUP.

The Social, Badminton and Dramatic Club has adopted a new constitution and in future will be known as The Recreational Group. Provision has been made in the constitution for the admission of additional clubs formed in the congregation for recreational purposes. Meanwhile the constituent clubs are the Social Club, the Badminton Club and the Dramatic Club.

Membership of these Clubs and of any others which may be formed is confined to members and adherents of the congregation of sixteen years of age and over. A very cordial invitation is extended to all who may wish to participate either in the activities of the Group or to all who desire to introduce additional activities for which there is felt to be a need.

The Executive Committee are of the opinion that there are many young people either in or connected with the congregation who for a variety of reasons decline to take part in the various Youth Organisations. If the principal reason for this reluctance is shyness, they can be assured that new members are not permitted to remain in that unhappy state for very long! The Badminton Club is now passing through a very difficult period and unless there is an influx of new members it is difficult to see how the League and Trophy commitments will be met. It would be regrettable if the Badminton Club was to fade into oblivion after a long and honourable association with the Glasgow and District Churches League.

Happily, however, the Dramatic Club is thriving under the able guidance of the Producer, Mr. Murray Hannah. A great deal of hard work has already been done on the Play—"Here we come gathering . . ." which the Club is presenting in the first week of December. This production is a Comedy and if eavesdropping at rehearsals is any guide the audience are going to have an enjoyable and hilarious evening.

#### PRESBYTERY MISSIONARY RALLY.

In the St. Andrew's Hall on Tuesday, 25th October, is to be held the Annual Missionary Meeting under the Chairmanship of the Right Rev. Professor G. D. Henderson, the Moderator of the General Assembly. The speakers will be Miss Elizabeth G. K. Hewat, B.D., Ph.D., from Bombay; Rev. Andrew B. Doig, B.D., S.T.M., from Blantyre, Nyasaland; Rev. John L. Kent, M.A., and Rev. Robert Morris, M.A.

There are a few tickets available price one shilling.

This should be a meeting well worth while attending in order to get first hand information about the work in India and Africa.

#### DEDICATION SERVICE.

The Glasgow South Suburban—West Branch—of the Scottish Sunday School Union opened their 1955-56 session on September 20th with a Dedication Service in the Langside Avenue Church. The address on "Privilege and Responsibility" was given by the Rev. James Ewing, B.D., who certainly showed that he was fully alive to the experiences which fall to the lot of most teachers who tackle a Sunday School class. Nevertheless, the work was described "of tremendous importance" and all who have worked with and for the children agree in this and the younger people taking up interest can be assured their time will not be ill-spent.

The attendance was not nearly as numerous as it ought to have been for such an occasion, but all present stood and made the Act of Dedication, which was in the following terms:—

"We dedicate ourselves anew to the high and holy task to which we have been called—the leading of young lives into the ways of Jesus Christ—and we commend ourselves to God, praying for His guidance, wisdom and strength to meet all our needs, and for the inspiration of His Holy Spirit."

Afterwards a Social hour was spent in tea and conversation.

#### VARIA.

A Class for First Communicants is now in session in the Manse each Thursday evening at 8 p.m. Even if you have not made up your mind to join the Church we will be very glad to see you.

The Youth Fellowship will re-open on Sunday, 9th October, at 5.15 p.m. in the Upper Hall. A warm welcome is given to those between the ages of 16 and 30 to come to this meeting at which addresses are given by outside speakers, debates are held, and papers given by some of the members.

Have you ever tried the game of Badminton? It is one of the best of the winter indoor games. It is very good for physical fitness and you meet other young people through it. Will you encourage your young people to take it up? It keeps them in the Fellowship of the Church. Play is on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 7 to 10 p.m. Membership only costs you about £1 per year.

Miss Joan Macphail was unanimously appointed by the Session to be the leader of the Brownies. We are grateful to her for her readiness to take up this important work. We are glad that Miss Jean McCormick has recovered from her recent illness.

Our good wishes to Ann Gray, one of our Sabbath School teachers, in her illness. She is at present in Hairmyres Hospital, Ward 9.

A letter has been received from Mearnskirk Hospital thanking the children for their harvest gifts which were greatly appreciated.

Two of our young people, Grace M. Marchant and David G. MacCance, were married on the 7th September. They have been very faithful and useful members of the Church, and we extend to them our good wishes.

A prayer meeting in connection with the coming campaign will be held on Thursday, 13th October, at 7.30 p.m. in Giffnock South Hall. The two evangelists will be present.