

# Newton Mearns Church Supplement

FEBRUARY, 1956

## THE REGISTER.

### Baptisms.

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

David Shaw Jones, Ayr Road.  
Lyn Taylor, Rosalind, Capel Avenue.

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### Marriages.

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

Jean Easton Bryce to William Blackstock.  
Ruth McConnell Craig to James Lambie.

### Deaths.

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

~~Mrs. Jean Anderson~~, 109 Beech Avenue.  
~~Mr. Thomas Wilson~~, Wilmont, Beech Avenue.  
~~Mrs. Macdowall~~, Barrhead Road.  
~~Mrs. Liddell~~, 80 Main Street.  
~~Miss Lamont~~, 17 Edzell Drive.  
Mrs. Cowie, Hill Avenue.  
Mrs. Robert Thomson, Pladda, Newtonlea Avenue.  
Miss Rosa Laura Garnham, 17 Barrhead Road.

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## OBITUARY.

### Mrs. Jean Anderson.

Mrs. Jean Anderson, of 109 Beech Avenue, died in a nursing home on Monday, 28th November. She was the widow of Mr. James Taylor Anderson of Springbank, who was an elder in the congregation for many years, and the treasurer of the Church when I came to be minister in 1931. Their's was, indeed, the first home in which I had hospitality offered to me. The family was still quite young and I remember the occasion quite vividly. Nor is it without significance that I should do so for Mrs. Anderson was one whose home was always full of guests. Her husband took a great interest in the cattle show that used to be an annual event in the Crookfur field, and on such an occasion many were the people invited over to the house.

She was the daughter also of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gilmour of Townhead. He was for many years the senior elder in the Session, and her mother was one of the most gracious ladies that it has been our privilege to meet. Few could speak the old Scottish dialect more beautifully than she.

Before she was married she taught in the Mearns Public School. She also was a member of the staff of the Sabbath School. One could imagine that she must have been a very attractive teacher for she was bright and vivacious and kindly. Many an evening have I spent in her company and she was always sparkling with humour. It was a great joy to her to see her son, Mr. James T. Anderson, elected as an elder of the congregation. To her two sons and her daughter, her brother and her sisters we extend our deepest sympathy in the passing of one who was a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, and one who cheered us on the road of life.

### Mr. Thomas Wilson.

Mr. Thomas Wilson, of Wilmont, Beech Avenue, died on Wednesday, 30th November, at his residence. He had been ill for some months and throughout these months he showed a wonderful patience. All his life he was associated with the tourist agency of Thomas Cook & Sons. Those selected in their earlier years were sent abroad for a period of months to different countries of the world and their task was to look after the welfare of those on holiday. Mr. Wilson was eminently suited to this work for he was considerate and kindly by nature. He was also a very accomplished pianist and on many occasions would sit down at the piano and entertain the company. Latterly his work was confined to this country. It was then that he and his wife came to live in Newton Mearns. A man

quiet by disposition and unwilling to cause any one any trouble he was greatly beloved by all who knew him. To his widow we extend to-day our deepest sympathy and pray that the comfort of God may be granted to her.

### Mrs. Liddell.

Mrs. Liddell, of 80 Main Street, died suddenly at her home on Tuesday, 20th December. It is not many years since she and her husband came to live in the district and we were just getting to know her when she was taken from us. She was a woman of a very kindly disposition, very active, and her death, coming as it did when she was a comparatively young woman, was a great shock to us all. Our sympathy goes out to her husband, and her daughter, in their sore bereavement. We pray that God will afford His comfort to them and that in the darkness of life they may see the shining of the light of the Eternal Morning.

### Mrs. Macdowall.

Mrs. Macdowall, of Barrhead Road, died in a city infirmary on Thursday, 15th December. She had been ill for many months, indeed, since May, and been in Belvidere Hospital, The Royal Infirmary, Shawholm, Bearsden. Her friends, and she had many in the district, began to fear that something was wrong. She would no sooner recover than she would take ill again. Yet the strange thing was that she was quite happy in these various hospitals. She enjoyed the company that she found there. She had come to the point where she was unable to look after herself and she rejoiced in being in a place where she was looked after. One of the great problems of our age is to provide homes for the aged, especially, as in her case, when she had no children. Mrs. Macdowall was a familiar figure in the district. She was a most regular attender at the Church, and always present at the Woman's Guild. Her husband was for many years an employee in Anderson's (Newton Mearns) and it was good to see the firm represented at her funeral.

### Miss Lamont.

Miss Lamont, of 17 Edzell Drive, died on Friday, 30th December, at her residence. For some years she had made her home with her niece, Mrs. Robinson. This proved to be a very happy arrangement for her, as she was very fond of children and to be in a home where two were growing up gave her the opportunity that she desired to take a great interest in them. As one grows older it is not so easy to have patience with the rising generation, yet she showed her great love for them by devoting hours to their welfare. Miss Lamont was a woman of a beautifully unselfish character. She was never one who liked to appear in the public eye but if ever she saw an opportunity of helping some one she was quick to seize the opportunity. Some one who knew her well said that if ever one wanted proof of the reality of Christianity it was to be seen in her life. She lived for Christ and in doing so found it in serving her fellow men. We extend to-day our deepest sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, and their family, David and Hazel, in a loss in which we ourselves also share.

### Mrs. Cowie.

Mrs. Cowie, of Hill Avenue, Newton Mearns, died on Monday, 2nd January, at her residence. I think all who knew her, and she was well known in the district, had a deep affection for her. One tribute that was paid to her after her death was that she was never known to speak ill of any one. I could well believe that that was true. She went about her own business in life and did not interfere in that of any one else. She had a bright nature. Nearly always when you met her she greeted you with a smile, and life was not always very easy for her. I have visited her in and out of hospital for 24 years, and always

I received a warm welcome and she was anxious to know all that was going on in the Mearns and especially in the Church. Her family were all brought up in the congregation—Jessie was then a member of the choir and had a beautiful voice—Robert was always in the midst of the young people, and Chrissie has been most faithful to her parents and tended them both in their latter years. We will miss her much and to all the members of the family we offer our sincere sympathy in the loss of a devoted and gracious mother.

#### Mrs. Robert Thomson.

Mrs. Robert Thomson, of Pladda, Newtonlea Avenue, died on Saturday, 14th January, at her residence. She had been ill for over two years, and one could not but say that hers was a most distressing sickness. There are times in life when one comes on an illness for which little or nothing can be done, and one can only stand by and watch. Yet through it all she faced life with a brightness that was noble in the highest sense. She refused to be daunted by the sufferings through which she passed, and to the very end triumphed over her afflictions. To her husband who tended her through all these months the experience must have been agonising. He did a magnificent piece of work, and one marvelled at the strength he received to do it. During the last war Mrs. Thomson took a great interest in Mearnskirk Hospital, when it was occupied by the sailors, and would go up each week to sew for them. To her husband we offer our deepest sympathy in the passing of one who has been the devoted partner of his life and pray that God's blessing be vouchsafed to him in his great loss.

#### Miss Rosa Laura Garnham.

Miss Rosa Laura Garnham, of 17 Barrhead Road, died on Wednesday, 18th January, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roderick Macdonald. She came to live with them 19 months ago after spending all her days in Ipswich. There she rose to be infant mistress in a school. Mrs. Macdonald's mother was a cousin, and the present Mrs. Roderick Macdonald went and kept house for her. She was active always in the life of the Church, and at one time superintendent of the Sabbath School. When Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald came north to take up residence in Park House she accompanied them a short time later. She was always wanting to do something to help and was busily engaged in knitting garments to help the district nurse. One cannot grudge her her rest for she had done a good day's work and was in her 85th year. To Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald and all her kith and kin we accord our deepest sympathy.

#### A NEW BEGINNING.

In the book of Nehemiah, the eleventh chapter and the seventeenth verse, we read that Mattaniah the son of Mica was the first to begin the thanksgiving in prayer. His name is found in a catalogue of names of those who returned to Jerusalem at the time of Ezra and Nehemiah after the Exile. This brief note is attached to it that he was "the principal to begin the thanksgiving in prayer in the Temple." He occupied the position which used to be held in the Scottish Church by the precentor. Probably it would be one of the psalms of David. The music might be more in the form of a chant. It was his duty in the daily services of the Temple to lead the praise of the Sanctuary. He was the first to begin the anthem of adoration and praise. "And Mattaniah, the son of Mica, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, was the principal to begin the thanksgiving in prayer."

In this first issue of the Supplement for another year we would wish all our readers a very happy and prosperous New Year, and we would remind them all of the value in life of a good beginning. J. B. Priestley said recently that he found the most difficult part in the writing of a novel was the beginning. He had to "rev" himself up like the engine of a motor car. Once his mind got heated up then he found that the rest of the book flowed easily

from his pen. Some will say that the test in anything that we do comes not at the beginning but later on when our enthusiasm has waned a little. Jesus emphasised in one of His parables that the finish was vitally important. "This man began to build but was not able to finish." We all remember the fable of the hare and the tortoise. But our Lord would have been the first to acknowledge the importance of getting started in anything. We will never write the novel of our life in some particular realm of it unless we have at some point made a beginning.

Let me confine my remarks in this respect to two ways that we may make a beginning. Our organist has rendered magnificent service in leading the praise of the Sanctuary. In this he has been most loyally supported by the choir. How often have we felt greatly uplifted by their anthems. It is right that we should tell them how they have helped us. Mr. Cuthill has, however, appealed from time to time for others to come into the choir. You have often thought about it but you have never actually come forward. There is no value whatsoever in such thoughts unless you make a beginning. Why not do so now?

The other way in which we can make a beginning is by resolving to sing better in Church than we do. Some will say that the praise of the congregation is good. It may be so, but it would be a good deal better if you were to join in it more than you do. There is nothing so inspiring both for a minister and the rest of the people than a well sung church. You say that you have not a good voice. Is not the truth that you are just lazy? Could your praise be said to be a fitting offering of worship to God? If you make a beginning you will encourage the man next you to do the same. It is said that the Reformation sang its way into the hearts of the people. Let there be a beginning here with you.

#### THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR.

The thanks of the congregation is given to Mrs. Sinclair of Firwood, Eaglesham Road, and her Committee of ladies, ably supported by their husbands, for the splendid result of the Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, 3rd December. The sum realised, after all expenses had been paid, was £308 14/-. None of us dreamed that the total would reach such dimensions. It was not achieved, however, without a tremendous amount of work and this was most willingly given. It was one of the best of its kind ever held in the Church Hall. The articles for sale were all "buyable" and the prices kept within the reach of the purchaser. Many found it impossible to get near the stalls until all the articles had disappeared. Mrs. Sinclair proved herself a most excellent convener, and showed a wonderful gift for organisation. Yet it was all done with such graciousness that it was a pleasure to work with her. A meeting of the ladies has now been held with the Property Committee of the Board, and their suggestions for the improvement of the kitchen submitted to the Congregational Board. The stalls realised the following amounts:—Christmas Gift Stall, £75 5/-; Garden Stall, £51 7s. 6d.; Cake and Candy Stall, £49 1s. 6d.; Lace-cloths, Bedspreads, £40 13s. 6d.; Tea Room, £13 1s.; Entrance £12 11s. 9d.; Santa Claus, £4 17s. 9d.; Donations, £75 2d. 6s.; Side-Shows, etc., £4 17s. 6d.

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It certainly was a happy thought when it was decided to have "The Garden Stall" meet the eye as one entered the hall. It was so bright and gay with greenery and flowers and taste indicated a professional touch. Then, as one looked opposite, the display of fabrics was most attractive and enticing, but no more so than the confectionery and cake stall with its fine display of good things to eat.

The whole aspect was most pleasant and thoroughly bazaar-like.

The Session House, converted into a tea-room, was tastefully laid out—a *multum in parvo* indeed—and decorated. The coloured paper made a brave show and the blue curtain a fine background for the galaxy of stars.

The young ladies who served the tables entered into the spirit, making themselves uniform with paper aprons and trimmings.

### A HALL OF SONG.

The visit of the Barrhead Junior Choir to the Woman's Guild on 5th December afforded a real treat to those who were present, but there were not nearly enough for the hall should have been filled to capacity.

There must have been about thirty voices in the Choir and a very attractive picture they made dressed in white blouse with collar and tartan tie, and tartan skirts of various patterns set off by no less attractive faces. It was noticeable, too, that they had been instructed what to do with arms and hands. When seats were resumed after singing all fell into a uniform position.

In introducing the choir Mr. Mackay remarked that in earlier days there was a much closer connection with Barrhead than there was at the present time. Then the centre of interest was Barrhead, now it was to Glasgow that Mearns folk went, though they had not forsaken Barrhead altogether and we were glad to welcome the Barrhead Junior Choir.

It was pleasant to listen to the fresh young voices in the many familiar pieces they sang so sweetly and tune-fully that indeed the place became a "Hall of Song" under Miss Forrest and with Miss Robertson at the piano.

Included in the programme were the Religious Songs :— Jesus, the very thought of Thee ; There is a River ; Ride up de Chariot ; and Scottish Songs and Ballads— Sound the Pibroch ; There's nae luck about the Hoose ; Scotland the Brave ; O weel may the Boatie Row ; O Where tell me Where ; Bonnie Wee Thing ; Speed Bonnie Boat.

At the close, Mr. Menzies voiced the appreciation for the happy time spent listening to them and which all had so thoroughly enjoyed.

### ANTICIPATING CHRISTMAS.

Due to Christmas this year happening on a Sunday, the Sunday School Parties were held a week earlier than is usual, but 17th December suited the children quite as well as any other date. The Primary children assembled at 2 p.m. and carried on with playgames and tea until five o'clock when the older pupils began to gather and in a short time the hall presented a very busy scene. Hoopla provided the interest for the early "get together."

Tea was served in the Session House and a long table in the Hall accommodated the overflow. Ample justice was done to the good things provided, indeed it was surprising to notice the capacity of some youngsters. There were no casualties, happily, and all were ready for the games which followed and continued until nine o'clock. Where possible, Mr. Menzies made the games competitive and the Balloon game caused considerable interest. Hoopla, too, when two sides competed roused the children to enthusiasm. "Passing the parcel," with its many wrappers kept the whole ring excited until the last string was untied and the paper stripped off.

There was a number present who were not any longer of Sunday School age but they helped to make the evening enjoyable, and the Hall without them would have had a serious lack.

Mr. McVean made a very beneficent "Santa Claus" and sent all the boys and girls home with gifts of sweets from his well supplied pouch.

The children assembled the following morning when the usual Gift Service was to be held in the Church. It would have taken very little to resume the romp of the evening before, but the procession to the Church and the handing in of the gifts restored order. The service took the usual course. Carols were sung and Mr. Mackay gave a talk to the young folk and thanked the parents for having provided the large number of gifts which would be sent to Mearnskirck Hospital.

### LESSONS AND CAROLS.

On Christmas Day at the Morning Service the festival of nine lessons and carols was observed. This form of service is becoming increasingly popular at Christmastide and rightly so. The Christmas Story is traced through Scripture and is interspersed with appropriate carols and anthems and solos.

Once again our choir responded nobly to the occasion and we were fortunate to have two of the more exacting solos from Handel's "Messiah" sung in very good style by Misses Flora and Margaret Hunter. Mrs. Thom, whose contribution to the work of the choir in recent years has been noteworthy, sang acceptably one of the delightful Christmas Cradle Songs, and Miss Marlene Ferguson courageously rendered one of John Ireland's loveliest songs "The Holy Boy." Once again we are indebted to our choir.

### THE COMMUNIONS.

It was reported to the Session at a recent meeting that the organisation of the Sunday School at the beginning of September was made difficult owing to the number of Sundays when there could be no meeting. After discussion it was decided with reluctance to reduce the Communion Services to three, viz. :—

FEBRUARY—First Sabbath.

MAY—First Sabbath.

OCTOBER—Third Sabbath.

in the hope that this would ease matters.

### THE WOMAN'S GUILD.

A varied and successful programme has been carried out this winter. The Rev. Matthew Wright, Chaplain to the British Sailors' Society, described very graphically the great work being done for seamen of all nationalities. Mrs. Armour, Convener of the Mission to the Jews, made the situation between the Jews and the Arabs very clear, explaining the differences that have arisen.

A film of the Brooke Bond Tea estates provided an evening of interest as well as knowledge of the processes to be gone through to make available "the cup that cheers and does not inebriate."

The Union Castle Line film showed a trip to South Africa and Mr. McMechan, who had done the trip, gave a running commentary which was much appreciated.

The visit of the Barrhead Junior Choir is dealt with elsewhere.

Our Bible Study has been carried on under the able leadership of Miss Watt.

At present the ladies of the Work Party are knitting and sewing for the Sick Children's Hospital, and at Christmas we sent two cases of garments to the Displaced Persons' Camp near Hamburg.

We welcome all ladies of the congregation to the Guild.

### THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION.

This year the Youth Fellowship has increased in strength from thirty members in October to forty members in January. The average attendance over this period has been approximately twenty-seven. The majority of the subjects in the syllabus have so far been introduced by members of the Fellowship and these have been followed by informative and entertaining discussions.

Early in the session, a member of the committee, Miss Anne Loudon, suggested that we, as a group, should "adopt" a displaced person. We agreed wholeheartedly and a family of three, father, mother and son, living in Germany, was duly "adopted." A food parcel was sent to them for Christmas and we have received a heart-warming letter of thanks.

Since resuming in the New Year, we have had two excellent guests, namely Mr. T. Johnson Walker, whose subject, "Art and Religion," was one to make us think, and Miss Hammond who selected some films and introduced them. We have two guest speakers, to whom we look forward with expectation. They are Mr. John S. Anderson, speaking on "Modern Education," and the

Rev. W. H. Rogan, M.A., of Paisley Abbey, and his subject "Faith Healing." We have also arranged an outing to a Glasgow Theatre for February, in which the group, as a whole, is participating.

In the space provided we must thank Miss Mary Anderson, who has shown herself to be a most competent and industrious secretary, and also Mr. Mackay for his unending interest and help.

### THE RECREATIONAL GROUP.

Our Christmas Party this year was better supported than usual and a large number of members and friends enjoyed a varied programme of dancing and games. Pupils of Shawlands School presented a hand puppet show which was ingeniously staged and executed and their efforts were rewarded with applause by an appreciative audience.

The Badminton Club has been stimulated by the influx of many new members and the Committee are grateful for the response to their appeal in a previous edition of the Supplement.

Competitively, the season has been quite successful and it now appears that the place of the Club in the Second Division (Section A) of the Glasgow and District Churches League is assured for next season, the team having obtained 5 points from 5 games. It was decided at the end of last season to withdraw from the Reserve Section of the Glasgow League and to enter a team in the Langside and District Churches League. The Club has thus been enabled to enter a composite team in the latter League consisting of first team and reserve team players. The standard of play is lower than in the Glasgow League and the team has won all 4 games played so far and has reached the quarter finals of the Southern Trophy.

It was with regret that the Dramatic Club decided in October to cancel their plans for the production "Here we come gathering," due to be presented in the Church Hall in the first week of December. This decision was reached for a variety of reasons affecting members of the cast, but the Club has continued to meet regularly for rehearsal of items which will be presented at various social functions to be held by the Church Organisations.

The attention of Scottish Country Dance enthusiasts is drawn to a Dance to be held by the Club in the Church Hall on Saturday, 11th February, at 7.30 p.m. Previous Country Dances have been very well supported by the congregation and it is hoped that the large number of reel and Strathspey devotees in the district will join us on this occasion.

### PRESBYTERY NOTES.

An important matter in which prompt action had been taken by the Temperance Committee, was brought before the Presbytery recently. This was the application for the granting of a licence to the Odeon Cinema in Renfield Street. The Convener, Rev. Mr. Wallace, related the steps taken by the Committee objecting to this, and which had met with complete success. Unless this licence had been refused, the danger was that all cinemas in town and country might make similar application, because of this precedent being formed. He stressed the need for vigilance in combating these, as in all probability the Odeon Cinema, with backing, perhaps, from others, would make application again. This interest calls for warm commendation and support.

The last meeting of Synod had a momentous decision to make. Strong representations from the members of the Rankin Church at Strathaven were made for the filling of their charge which had been vacant some considerable time. Hamilton Presbytery had imposed a ban, on the grounds that there were too many ministers for a town of the size of Strathaven, and the appeal to reverse this

and allow a minister to be called, was submitted to the Synod. The Synod upheld the Presbytery's ruling, and it was strongly reinforced by one speaker, who very eloquently set this church's case against the situation now confronting the Church at large, viz. :—the difficulties facing the few ministers in large housing areas. The disparity was at once apparent, and Union and readjustment was recommended by the Synod. Having regard to the paucity of ministers available for all the charges requiring pastoral care, a question may be asked why laymen could not be asked to fill the offices of organising secretaries, etc. of the various branches of the Church's work, and so release valuable ordained men for the more necessary duties in the field.

An impassioned address to the Synod was given by the Rev. Thomas Crombie of Glasgow on Evangelism and a description of some open-air methods of reaching the masses, under "Tell Scotland" auspices. His insistence on the "hearing" of Scotland as well as the "telling" made a marked impression on the whole assembly. The "Word" must become "Act" to give the lie to the charge that the Church is indifferent.

An interesting experience was gained by those of us who were present at the dedication of the new Murray Sanctuary and Hall at East Kilbride on 12th December. We were favourably impressed by the building itself and the spacious ante-rooms adjoining. The Rev. William Steven of Queen's Park West Church was Moderator of the Ceremony and the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Rev. Prof. G. D. Henderson, D.D. preached the sermon and declared the Sanctuary consecrated. He chose for his text the reply of Moses to the promise made by God to him ("My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.")—"If Thy presence go not with us, carry us not up hence," indicating the necessity of the Spirit pervading fabric, structure, or organisation of the Church. His reference to the Roman Emperor, Constantine the Great, who realised that however well founded or well ordered a state was, religion was the indispensable force pervading its whole fabric. Though it may be said in the bygone, the Emperor's Christianity was more politic than conscientious. In voicing the thanks of the Presbytery to the Moderator of the General Assembly for coming amongst us, we listened to a speech of model conciseness, in terms of well chosen words, and felicitous expression, by the minister of Greenbank Church, the Rev. Mr. Fulton.

### THE MEARNS SCHOOL.

The Mearns Junior Secondary School, prior to the Christmas break, held the annual service in the Newton Mearns Church when some 350 pupils together with Mr. Wells, the headmaster, and his assistants, were present.

The service was conducted by the Rev. W. Murray Mackay and Mr. Stewart Telfer presided at the organ.

The hymns chosen were appropriate to the season, Away in a Manger; Still the Night; Once in Royal David's City; and, while Humble Shepherds. These were rendered with evident appreciation for there was enthusiasm in the singing without sacrificing sweetness.

The lesson was read by Helen Walton—the senior girl prefect.

Mr. Mackay seemed to thoroughly enjoy talking to the children and was happy in his address. Incidents in the stories he related were followed with real keenness by the younger children. There was a quick response by them to any interrogative.

The service was very quiet and orderly, though a bout of coughing just before the start indicated that there were a few with colds. This was not surprising when one considered the recent severe weather.