

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

APRIL, 1956

THE REGISTER.

Baptisms.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

Susan Lesley Henderson, 17 Beech Avenue.

Harry Robert Anderson, 26 Larchfield Avenue.

Robert Spence Simpson Trotter, 62 Ayr Road.

Marriage.

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

Irene Foster to Raymond Mark.

Death.

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

Mrs. George Wardrop, 9 Netherplace Road.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. George Wardrop.

Mrs. George Wardrop, of 9 Netherplace Road, died suddenly on Wednesday, 14th March. Her death came as a great shock to the congregation. She had seemed to be in her usual good health, yet those who knew her better had realised that for some time she had not been well. She often found it difficult to walk home from the Church to her house. Such, however, was the brightness of her personality, and her unwillingness to burden others with her problems, that she rarely spoke of it. One cannot remember meeting her but there was a smile on her face, and she seemed to be without a care in the world.

Although she was not born in the parish she came as a small child to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ashcroft. Mr. Ashcroft was coachman to Mr. Gordon of Netherplace, the Manager of Wallace & Weir. Mr. Gordon presented the Communion Table to the Church that was demolished in 1938. Mrs. Wardrop was brought up as their adopted child by her uncle and aunt. For 23 years Mr. Wardrop has been Church Officer in the congregation, and we have been most fortunate indeed in that regard. It is not an easy office to fill, and yet he has done so not only most efficiently but has won his way into the hearts of all. In this work he was most loyally assisted by his wife, and although she was not one who ever liked to be in the public eye, she did her work behind the scenes most conscientiously and faithfully.

One of the great joys of her life must have been to see her family grow up as they did and be so happily settled. Sometimes when children leave the home at marriage they tend to forsake their parents but such could never be said of her family: that is a tribute to the love that she evoked from them.

Almost the last thing that she did was to arrange the hall for the Congregational Meeting that night, and it was set out with all the meticulous care with which she did everything. We shall miss her much, and to her husband and family we extend the deepest sympathy of the congregation in the passing of one so justly loved.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Congregation was held on Wednesday, 14th March, and a fair representation of the Fellowship was present when the Rev. W. Murray Mackay took the chair supported by the leading office-bearers.

As usual, the Clerk to the Congregational Board repeated the notice calling the meeting and intimated that it had been read in Church on the previous two Sundays, which was in accordance with the Constitution. Then followed a brief statement of the Congregational Board meetings held during the year.

The preliminaries out of the way, the coast was clear for the Treasurer to present the Financial Statement for the year 1955 (fully set out in the Annual Report) which was very satisfactory and no one questioned any item.

Again this year Mr. Jarvie was able to report on the satisfactoriness of the way the books were kept and the

way the accounts were presented. This also applied to the department's financial statements, which were all promptly made up and presented.

The Auditors—Mr. J. W. Jarvie, C.A. and Mr. D. J. Macphail—were unanimously re-elected.

The organisations' reports then merited attention and details of them are given. Question has been raised on the publication of so much detail of the work being done but it is in the nature of a tribute to those who give so much time and thought, stretching as it does, throughout the year and the Supplement is the only permanent record.

The vacancies on the Congregational Board were made up and this completed the business of the meeting.

Tea was then served and conversation ensued and everything was very informal. Mr. Mackay covered up any votes of thanks that had been up to then overlooked. He mentioned the developments contemplated in the Main Street and how they hoped the Church may secure an entrance to the church property from that side and the necessity there was for additional hall accommodation and in the long future a pipe organ to improve the music of the Church.

After tea, the musical programme was sustained by members of the Church Choir. Misses F. and M. Hunter, M. Ferguson, Mr. Walter S. Cuthill and Mr. A. M. McCance. The items rendered were a solo, "My Mother bids me Bind my Hair," by Haydn, a duet from Mozart's opera *the Magic Flute*, and two quartets, "Vineta," by Brahms, and "O Happy Eyes," by Elgar, providing, as they did, a varied and tuneful epilogue to what had been, for an annual general meeting, a really cheery evening.

The Woman's Guild.

I am glad to report on the session's work of the Woman's Guild.

We have had a varied and interesting programme, as well as having welcomed several new members.

Among our speakers, Miss Hamilton, a Church Sister, gave us a most vivid account of her work. Mrs. McFarlane spoke on Temperance, and an interesting description of the work at the Ludhiana Mission Hospital was given by Miss Meikle. A beautifully coloured film of Indian hospital life accompanied the latter talk.

Among our film nights we had two picturing foreign parts—one of South Africa, sponsored by Mr. McMeechan, and another given by the Brooke Bond Tea Company. Both were most enjoyable.

From the Barrhead Junior Choir we had a most delightful and refreshing evening's entertainment.

Our Bible Study Group has met regularly. The members have shown great interest in this branch of the work, and Miss Watt has been an invaluable leader.

In connection with the Work Party, two large hampers of clothing, etc. were sent to Dr. Leuner's Orphanage in Germany at Christmas time. We are very grateful to those who contributed.

Since then we have been sewing and knitting for the Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Yorkhill.

On the Women's World Day of Prayer, 17th February, a joint service was held in Newton Mearns Church. Members of Newton Mearns, Mearnskirk and the Gospel Hall joined together; about 70 women were present.

Again funds were raised by means of a Coffee Morning, held on 29th October. This proved very successful.

In closing, Mrs. MacCance and I should like to thank the Committee for the very willing help and co-operation.

M. E. OSBORNE.

Mothers' Group.

The Mothers' Group has had a very successful session. The programme was varied and most instructive. De

monstrations included smocking, lamp shade making, Christmas table decoration, candlewick bath mat, and the knitting machine, and talks on "The Spastic Child" and one on "Religious Literature and the Child."

The session was concluded by a visit to the Citizens' Theatre. The evening was most enjoyable.

The number on the roll is 19 and the average attendance was about 14.

In so large a congregation, a greater number should be interested and we suggest that the Elders publicise the activities of the Mothers' Group when making their calls.

The Group meets on alternate Tuesday evenings.

H. KATHLEEN MACPHAIL, *Hon. Secy.*

The Sunday School.

The Sunday School has had a very successful year. We have 165 pupils on the roll and a teaching staff of 22.

We were very sorry when Mr. Nimmo had to hand in his resignation in June owing to his health.

The Session appointed Mr. W. Menzies to be Superintendent. He has been a teacher in Sunday School for many years.

The picnic was to Netherplace Farm on Saturday, 25th June, where we spent a most enjoyable day. We are very much indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Rodger for their kindness.

The Prize Giving Service was held in the Church on 26th June.

We had the Gift Services as usual: the Harvest Thanksgiving in October; and the Christmas Service in December. The gifts were sent to Mearnskirk Hospital where they were very much appreciated.

The prizes for the James Pollock Bequest for the memorising of Scripture Hymns and Psalms were presented at the Prize Giving in June.

The Christmas Party was held on Saturday, 17th December. This was a very successful affair with Santa Claus, played by Mr. Armour and Mr. McVean, visiting us with sweets and balloons for the children.

The Missionary Treasurer's report is in the year book and you will see there how our collections for the year have been allocated.

May I add an appeal for teachers, especially men. We are very short of staff on the boys' side and it would be appreciated very much if a few volunteers would come forward. It is a very worth while job teaching the children who are, after all, the Church of tomorrow.

Youth Fellowship.

This year has been very successful. At the end of October there were about thirty people attending the meetings. This was a large increase on the numbers of the previous session. The membership has grown and now numbers forty.

The subjects we have discussed have included such topics as "Capital Punishment," "The Colour Bar," "Sunday Entertainment," "Modern Education" and Christian Science. We have had several guest speakers and we would like to thank the members of our own congregation who have given talks and helped us on various occasions. Last Sunday we were addressed by the Rev. Mr. Rogan of Paisley Abbey and we were glad that several members of the congregation joined us for this talk.

At the beginning of the session one of our committee, Miss Anne Loudon, suggested that we should get into touch with a displaced person in Europe. This we did, and we now write to a family living in Germany. We sent them a food parcel at Christmas and we hope to send another before Easter.

In February we had an outing to the Alhambra Theatre, for which we hired a special bus, and this evening was very much enjoyed by every one.

We cannot conclude our report without expressing our gratitude to Mr. Mackay for his unfailing help and support throughout the session.—MARY M. ANDERSON.

The Boys' Brigade.

The Company meets in the Church Hall on Fridays at 7.45 p.m. The total strength of the Company this session

is 2 officers and 7 boys. The ages of the boys are from 13 to 14 years, and it is very disappointing to find the older boys connected with the Church do not seem to be interested.

However, attendance is well maintained and the few boys we have appear to be quite attentive and enthusiastic.

This year, 4 members of the Company have passed the Bible Knowledge Examination set by the Glasgow Battalion and all 7 boys will qualify for the Physical Training Certificate at the end of the present session.

Several of our younger boys will be transferred to the Company from the Life Boys in June and should help to increase our numbers next session.

Due to professional and business commitments, Mr. Orr and myself are finding it increasingly difficult to be present every Friday evening, and I would appeal to members of the congregation who have B.B. experience (and I know there are a few) to come forward and assist the Company, otherwise there appears to be no alternative but to give serious consideration to a suggestion made in other quarters that the two Boys' Brigade Companies at present in operation in Newton Mearns should unite and work as one.

In conclusion, we would like to place on record our thanks to Mr. Mackay for the splendid address he gave when the Companies from Eastwood District visited our Church earlier this session, and to the members of the Kirk-Session who have paid us a visit this year.

ARCHD. SCOTT (*Captain*).

The Lifeboys.

The Lifeboys meet in the Church Hall every Friday at 6 o'clock.

There are 26 Boys on the roll and we always have a very regular attendance apart from illness.

As we had no Lifeboys old enough at the end of last season to go on to the Boys' Brigade, we closed our season in May with a small Display to which parents and friends were invited.

We were most fortunate in having as our Inspecting Officer Major Hillis, who was himself a member of a Lifeboy Team and Boys' Brigade Company prior to the War. He gave a short talk to the boys at the close of their Display and told them of some of the children he met during the War in Burma—and how, in fact, they lived and met as a Company with a Missionary whom the Burmese people hid in the hills in Burma for four years without the Japanese finding him. He also told the boys that his whole family have been connected with Boys' Brigade work since the first company was founded by Sir Wm. Smith, and in fact his father was an officer with Sir Wm. Smith until his death.

Mrs. Hillis presented their prizes to the boys.

The new season started in October when we welcomed 5 new recruits. We started immediately with our Seal system which takes in nearly all factors of Lifeboy work—such as—Missionaries—Books of the Bible, Courtesy, Life Boy Rules, Guide, Health, Safety First, P.T., Marching and Handicrafts. The boys are all fairly advanced with theirs Seals.

As usual we had the Christmas Party with the fathers—finishing with a visit from Santa Claus. The evening was enjoyed by grown-ups and boys alike.

We also paid a visit to the Carnival which the boys thoroughly enjoyed—and they all managed to spend 5/- each without any bother.

Last month the Team saw the Pantomime "Dick Whittington" at the Royal Theatre. This outing is much looked forward to by the Team and much enjoyed by all.

We are now rehearsing for our Concert in May. At this point I would like to explain that for the past two years the boys have given a Display consisting of games and work normally carried out each Friday night and this has been seen by all the boys' parents and friends and so this year we are planning to close the season with a Concert and not a Display which will be completed by the Prize Giving and the Transfer Ceremony when the 7 oldest

boys in the Team will be transferred to the Boys' Brigade.

Once again this year leaders and boys can testify to a happy and enjoyable season.

MARGARET MACGREGOR, *Leader in Charge.*

2nd Mearns Girl Guides.

At the beginning of 1955 the Girl Guide Company had on its Roll 24 Guides and the Company Lieutenant was Miss Marion Cowan.

In January the Company had its annual night out at the Carnival in the Kelvin Hall, and at the end of March we gave a Concert which included two plays, several musical items and Guide ceremonies.

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, and every one seemed to enjoy themselves. It is hoped to continue to run week-end camps for the Company in the future.

Our session finished at the end of June with a Prize Giving Night when the Patrol Leaders' Cup, the Company Medal and other prizes for the year's work were awarded.

In July the Company sent two representatives to the Patrol Leaders' Training Week-end at Netherurd House in Peebleshire, which is the Scottish Guide Officers' Training School. These Training Week-ends for Patrol Leaders are held only twice a year and places are limited to two per company, but it is a wonderful opportunity for Guides to meet Patrol Leaders from other companies in all parts of Scotland. Our Leaders came home with one aim in mind and that was to go back again next year, if possible.

Our new session started at the beginning of September and we welcomed another Lieutenant to the Company, Miss Barrie Pirret, who had also been a Guide in the same Company. During September the East Division of Renfrewshire Girl Guides held their annual parade to Giffnock South Parish Church and our Company took part. Also in September, the Company played their annual hockey match against the 2nd Busby and Clarkston Guides and, although we lost once again we all enjoyed the game. In October the leaders of the Company helped to arrange the tea for the Parents' Social, which was organised and run by the officers of the Boys' Brigade, Lifeboys, Brownies and Guides.

In November a Flying-Up Ceremony was held with the Brownie Pack, when nine Brownies who were of age joined the Guide Company as recruits. This brought the number of Guides on the roll at the end of 1955 to 33. In December the Company sent a gift of fruit and preserves to the Church of Scotland Eventide Home at Giffnock and we closed the year with a Christmas Party for the Guides and their friends.

Apart from these outstanding activities, test-work continues during the session and we have two Guides at present who have got their 1st Class Badge and are now working for their Queen's Guide Badge, which is the highest award Guides can receive.

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. Pirret for their very kind visits to the Company.

I. MORRIS, *Captain.*

2nd Mearns Brownies.

We were indeed sorry when in February our leader, Miss Jean McCormick, tendered her resignation. Her hours of work made it impossible for her to be present at the appointed time. On behalf of the Brownies and myself I wish to place on record our sincere thanks and appreciation for the valuable services which she rendered to the Pack during her term of leadership.

We commenced the year with 42 members on the roll and, although 8 passed their 1st Class Test and graduated to the Guides, the number on the Roll at present is 41. The average weekly attendance is 36.

Our activities include Brownie work, drill and games, and in the month of June thirty visited Calderpark Zoo. This proved to be a very pleasant outing.

On 29th December we held a Christmas Party, at which each Brownie received a small gift, which was in some way connected with Santa Claus.

During the season I was appointed Brown Owl, but I should have hesitated to accept this responsibility were it not for the very able assistance and support which I receive at all times from my Tawny Owls, Miss Williams and Miss Bain, and my Pack Leader, Miss Duncan. To each of them I wish to express my gratitude and thanks. And to Mr. Mackay, Mr. Wood and Mr. McClure, I take this opportunity to say "thank you" for your visits to the Pack during the year.

JOAN M. MACPHAIL, *Brown Owl.*

The Recreational Group.

The name of this organisation may be unfamiliar to you and it should be explained that it is really the former Social, Badminton and Dramatic Club masquerading under what is hoped is a more simple title. The change was effected in September last when a new Constitution was adopted mainly for the purpose of granting the individual clubs more freedom of action while preserving the integration of all the recreational activities of the congregation.

One of the worrying features of the start of the season was the decline in membership of the Badminton Club. There has been, however, an encouraging increase especially of ladies in the course of the last few months. If there had been a corresponding increase in male members over the same period our anxieties would be over but, unfortunately, due to various factors, such as National Service, study, etc. we have not been able to attract the young men of the congregation in any numbers. If the present trend continues our mixed doubles partnerships will have the appearance of father and daughter pairings! Both teams have done quite well, the first team finishing in a respectable position about the middle of the Second Division of the Glasgow and District Churches League, and the composite first and reserve team winning the Seventh Division championship of the Langside League. This team won all seven matches played including that against our old friends and rivals Mearns Parish Church. This is the first time for many years that we have met them in a league match but we "crossed the road" and beat them by nine games to seven. The first team made an early exit from the Swan Trophy, the Glasgow Churches' knock-out competition, but the second team reached the quarter finals of the Langside competition, the Southern Trophy, and were only beaten by four games to three.

Only two functions of a social nature have been held this season. The Christmas Party in December was very well attended and all those participating thoroughly enjoyed an evening of fellowship. As an official (who shall be nameless) of the congregation remarked, the Country Dance, held in February, and organised by the Dramatic Club, was "a howling success." This function was almost too well attended and there was probably a 40 degree variation between the temperature outside and the temperature within the hall. However such was the enthusiasm that only the floral decorations wilted!

In conclusion, may the Executive Committee on behalf of the Club express our thanks for the facilities supplied by the congregation and also for the support given to us during the past season. One of the most pleasant features of this Church is the helpful attitude displayed towards us by senior office-bearers and the very happy relationship which results is we believe, an important factor in attracting the youth of the congregation towards full Church membership. Such an attitude is, of course, inspired from the top, and in Mr. Mackay we realise our good fortune in having a Minister who is not just "interested in youth work" but who takes a most active part in all activities of the Group.—H. A. M. PEDEN, *Secretary*

Golf Club.

The Golf Club had three outings last season—twice at Eastwood and once at Bonnyton Moor. The meetings were favoured with good weather but were sparsely attended.

The Templeton Cup Competition was carried out and the winners were Mr. David McCance and Mrs. Nisbet. The runners-up were Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Orr.

The Annual Meeting will take place at an early date when it is hoped there will be a good attendance. All members of last season are cordially invited as well as intending members for the forthcoming season. Presentation of the Cup will be made together with prizes for the winners and runners-up.

VARIA.

A class for first communicants is meeting in the Manse, 204 Ayr Road, on Thursday evenings at 8 p.m.

Our thanks to the Dramatic Club for a splendid entertainment at the 2nd of the Elders' District Socials. Mr. Murray Hannah and his team certainly made it a memorable occasion.

On Sunday, 29th April, we are to have a visit from Rev. D. S. McLeod, M.A., of Castlemilk West, who is a representative from the Presbytery, on the urgent need to-day of the Church Extension Scheme.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the first Sunday in May, at 11.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. The Preparatory Service is on the preceding Friday at 8 p.m.

What an attractive display the Guides put on on Friday, 16th March. A large audience greatly enjoyed the evening. In Miss Isobel Morris we have a most efficient Captain.

Getting Together.

The second of the Congregational Socials has been held and it was equally successful as the earlier one. The Dramatic Sketch gave a touch of the unexpected, and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all present for the players entered into the spirit equally with every one else.

Items to the programme were contributed by Mr. Fiddes and Miss Margaret Hunter.

Other Socials are to be arranged as circumstances allow until all the congregation is covered, but it looks likely to stretch into the Autumn.

THE COMMUNION PLATE.

At a recent meeting of the Session it was a surprise to see the full set of old pewter Communion Plate set out for inspection. A number of the members of Session had not previously seen these treasures of a bygone day. The service consists of chalices, flagons and patens.

There are six chalices, two of which are without inscription or craftsmen's mark. Four are inscribed "Belonging to the Associate Congregation at Merns 1748." There are two flagons. Each is inscribed, "Belonging to the Associate Congregation at Merns 1748." There are two patens. Each is inscribed, "Associate Congregation Newton Merns 1748."

The pewterer's mark of a ship in full sail is limited to work produced in Edinburgh and Glasgow, chiefly in the latter, and to four craftsmen in all.

The Newton Church patens were obtained later than 1787, which was the year of the United States' Constitution. Our local ecclesiastical inscription with the date 1748 is therefore an antedating of the patens. Doubtless 1748 was inscribed as the date of the re-emergence of the congregation after the occurrence of the Breach.

The flagons are really impressive craftsmanship and full of wine would be difficult in handling.

AN INTERESTING CONTRIBUTION.

DEAR EDITOR,

One day, finding myself with a little time at my disposal I picked up a book and began a bit of desultory reading. The volume happened to be a course of lectures which Q had delivered at Cambridge "On the Art of Reading."

There was a quotation from a poem "Stradivarius" by George Eliot. I didn't even know that she wrote any poetry but I did know about Adam Bede and Silas Marner and how I loved those books.

However, Q says, "I look around me for a vindication of what is noblest in *What-Does* and am content with a passage from George Eliot's poem *Stradivarius*, the gist of which is that God himself might conceivably make better fiddles than Stradivari's, but by no means certainly; since, as a fact, God orders his best fiddles of Stradivari."

Says the great workman:—

"God be praised,
Antonio Stradivari has an eye
That winces at false work and loves the true,
With hand and arm that play upon the tool
As willingly as any singing bird
Sets him to sing his morning roundelay,
Because he likes to sing and likes the song:

Then Naldo: "'Tis a pretty kind of fame
At best, that comes of making violins;
And saves no masses, either, Thou wilt go
To purgatory none the less.'

"But he:
'Twere purgatory here to make them ill;
And for my fame—when my master holds
'Twixt chin and hand a violin of mine,
He will be glad that Stradivari lived,
Made violins, and made them of the best.
The masters only know whose work is good:
They will choose mine, and while God gives them skill,
I give them instruments to play upon.
God choosing me to help Him.'

"What? Were God
At fault for violins, thou absent?'

'Yes:
He were at fault for Stradivari's work.'
'Why, many hold Giuseppe's violins
As good as thine.'

'Maybe: they are different,
His quality declines: he spoils his hand
With over drinking. But were his the best,
He could not work for two. My work is mine,
And heresy or not, if my hand slackened
I should rob God—since He is fullest good—
Leaving a blank instead of violins.
I say, not God Himself can make man's best
Without best men to help him
'Tis God gives skill,
But not without men's hands. He could not make
Antonio Stradivari's violins
Without Antonio. Get thee to thy easel.'

Is this plea for "best" work worth a place in the Supplement?—DESULTORY READER.

* * *

Yes! Indeed it is. And if there is—surely there must be—other "Desultory Readers" who come across such striking and stimulating passages who would take the trouble to copy them and send them to your Editor he might be saved a headache when trying to make the Supplement worth reading.

An envelope addressed "EDITOR, CHURCH SUPPLEMENT," placed in the plate at the door would be appreciated.—ED.