

NEWTON MEARNS CHURCH SUPPLEMENT

SEPTEMBER, 1958.

THE REGISTER.

Baptisms.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

Rosemary Blackwood, Wellmeadow Farm.
Susan Mary Douglas, Ashcroft, Newtonlea Avenue.

Marriage.

"Whom God hath joined together."

Marion Geddes to John Simpson.

Deaths:

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

Miss Elizabeth Church, Main Street.
Mrs Graham Dixon, Westwinds, Westbrae Road.
Mr Ernest J. George, Woodsetton, Ayr Road.
Mr Rob George, Woodsetton, Ayr Road.
Mrs Jardine, 21 Edzell Drive.
Mrs MacDuff, 118 Beech Avenue.
Mrs Stewart, Muirend, Ayr Road.

OBITUARY.

Miss Elizabeth Church died during the month of July at a Renfrewshire hospital. She had gone there towards the close of the winter, and no better move could have been made on her behalf. She had reached the stage where she needed to be looked after, and all that could have been done, was done in the ward of this convalescent home. She was very happy in her new surroundings, and enjoyed the company of those around her. It was a great comfort to her relatives and many friends in the district that this should have been so, for she was a delightful personality and all her life had been spent looking after other people. She came to Crookfur House in the days of Mr and Mrs Marshall as a children's nurse, and how excellent she would be in her work we can well imagine. When she retired she went into a house at the foot of the Main Street, and there she lived very happily for about 25 years. She was a regular attender of the Church, and a faithful member of the Woman's Guild. To all those who looked after her in the village and did her many kindnesses, and to her kith and kin we would express our gratitude and our sympathy.

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The death of Mrs Graham Dixon, of Westwinds, Westbrae Road, on June 28th, was one of those very sad bereavements that happen in life. She had been in good health but went into a nursing home for a minor though necessary operation. Things did not go right, and the tragic news was broken to her husband that she had died. She was a beautiful woman in the prime of life with two delightful children, and she was suddenly cut off. One can imagine the darkness of life that has descended on him and his family. We cannot understand certain things in life. There are certain questions that cannot be answered on this side of the grave. All we can do is to trust that all is well with those we love, and believe that we shall understand one day in the light of His Eternal Love. Her husband was an officer in the last war, but no struggle he was ever in was so difficult as this one. May I say as one who stood by that he faced it with a stiff upper lip, and by the grace of God stood firm as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. To him and his daughters, her mother, and all her kith and kin we offer our deepest sympathy.

It seems almost unreal to believe that Mr Ernest J. George and Rob are no longer with us. For so many years it seemed they occupied the house at the corner of Ayr and Shaw roads. Yet I suppose that in reality they were not so many years in the district, but in that time they had edged their way into our affections, and we feel that they have been with us a long time. I had had a connection with the family through the Rev. Gilbert George of Paisley, who was a fellow student with me in Trinity College, Glasgow, so that I knew them in a sense before they came from Walsall outside Birmingham. In that industrial town Mr George had taken a keen interest in the work of the Church. He was the circuit steward in the Methodist Church in that area, and as such had the superintendence of 6 or 7 congregations in the town and district. In addition he and his wife were in charge of the Central Mission in the town, and had the virtual oversight of all the work on the Sunday and during the week. The fact that a representative of the mission travelled up to the funeral bore testimony to the high esteem in which he was held.

In addition to all this, he was of course a business man, being by profession a stocktaking chemist. There are only a few in the country. It said, therefore, all the more for him that he devoted so much of his time to the welfare of the Church. He seemed to be a man of boundless energy, and must have been physically very strong. He was also a voracious reader, and it was nothing for him to consume a massive volume in a day.

There was, however, another care that fell to him in life and that was the responsibility of looking after his semi-invalid son. Rob contracted sleeping sickness at the age of 18 or so, and for the rest of his life had to be looked after and sheltered. Mr George believed that God had preserved his life that he might do so. In a wonderful way Rob triumphed over his infirmities. He had a pawky sense of humour. He fished. He golfed. He was a member of Whitecraigs Golf Course and would go down and play a few holes in the forenoon. I had the privilege of knowing him well, and can testify to the fine qualities of character he possessed. It could not have been easy to be as bright as he was with the infirmity that dragged him down. Yet to his father and mother also must go a lot of credit for sheltering him from the storms of life.

It was a great joy to their father that his other two sons had taken such an honoured place in the ministry of the Church, the Rev. Gilbert George as minister of St. Mark's, Oldhall, and Rev. Jack George of Knightswood Congregational Church. Certainly as they would acknowledge, they received inspiration and encouragement from their father. We shall miss him in the Church, in the choir, and in his stimulating companionship, and to his sons, his daughters in law, and grandchildren, not forgetting his housekeeper Miss Kilpatrick, who also rendered such faithful service to the family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

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Mrs Jardine of 21 Edzell Drive, died on Saturday, 24th May, at the residence of her son and daughter. She was a grand old lady who survived into her nineties, and seemed to have, almost to the end, great physical strength. She had spent a great deal of her life in Fairlie, and her thoughts

often went back to that delectable town on the Firth of Clyde. After she was married in the U.P. Church in Fairlie, she joined her husband's communion of the Christian Church, the Catholic Apostolic Church. It has been my experience to meet quite a few of this protestant persuasion, and I have always been impressed by the quality of their Christian life. Mrs Jardine was no exception. She brought her children up in the knowledge and the fear of the Lord. The family Bible was the most honoured book in the home. We remember her with gratitude before God, and acknowledge that one of the greatest legacies of life is that of a noble mother. To her sons and daughters we offer our deepest sympathy in their great loss.

Mrs MacDuff of 118 Beech Avenue, died on Tuesday, 17th June, in a Glasgow Nursing Home. It was in the previous Supplement that we had to record the death of her husband. Perhaps the amazing thing is that she survived him as she did. She was very ill some months before he died, but she withstood in a marvellous way the time of his passing. Yet it would have been her desire to do so, for she had been his helpmeet all her life, and she knew how hard to bear her death it would have been for him. She was a woman of tremendous will power. Yet the strange thing was that with it all she was one of the gentlest of spirits. David in one of his psalms says in a prayer to God, "Thy gentleness hath made me great." The same could have been said of Mrs MacDuff. She it was in the home who smoothed out the wrinkles, and poured oil on troubled water, and what home is there that from time to time does not need this. She lived to serve her husband and family. Her husband was, in the first world war, engaged as private secretary to Lord Invernairn in Beardmore's in work of national importance, and she it was who watched over him and in the sweetness of their home life equipped him for his task. She was born on the Island of Islay and her father was I think a captain on one of MacBraynes' boats. She came to Glasgow as many young people did to earn her living and there she met her future husband. Something of the softness and sweetness of the Western Isles was in her voice and in her heart and by it we shall always remember her. To her daughter, Mrs John Anderson her son-in-law, Miss Laird and all her kith and kin we extend our deepest sympathy.

Another death in the congregation in July was that of Mrs Stewart. She and her husband really belonged to Barrhead but she had retired to this district when I came to be minister. I always found her a most kindly woman. She gave one a very warm welcome when one called, and was deeply interested in all that went on in the parish and in the Church. It was her grandfather, I think, that bred the famous Clydesdale horses, and won many prizes at Cattle Shows in Renfrewshire and Ayrshire. She had all her life been a hard working woman. Idleness was quite foreign to her nature. The words of the writer of the book of Proverbs describes her "She looketh well to her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed." Her three sons provided her interest for her in her latter years. She went to stay with each in turn, though she came back to Muirend as to her home. To her sons and daughters-in-law, and her grandchildren we extend our deepest sympathy in the passing of one so justly loved.

VARIA.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be dispensed on the third Sunday in October, at 11.30 a.m., and 6.30 p.m. The Preparatory Service will be held in the Church on the preceding Friday, at 8 p.m.

A class for First Communicants will be opened in the Manse on Thursday, 18th September, at 8 p.m. and meet on succeeding Thursdays.

The Bible Classes resume on Sunday, 5th October, at 10.15 a.m. in the Session House.

The Life Boys have already started but any parents wishing to have their children enrolled should send them along to the Church Hall, any Friday, at 6 p.m., when the leader Mr Arthur Stubbs will be glad to welcome them.

THE WAR MEMORIAL HALL FUND.

Those of us who read the April Supplement would see the report from the Church Treasurer Mr Walter Rodger, in which he stated that only 14% of the appeal forms had been returned which suggests that there are still members who do not realise the position and are inclined to express doubts as to whether we need the new hall accommodation.

Well do we or don't we? Are the new halls a necessity or are we just planning to erect a white elephant for the sake of having a War Memorial? For the sake of discussion let us assume that this is a real doubt being expressed and not just a lame excuse for doing nothing.

Doubting Thomas would not believe until he personally had seen the risen Jesus and placed his own hand upon the wound—well here is an invitation which we are authorised to issue. Sunday School starts at 10.15 a.m. and Bible Class at 10.30 a.m. every Sunday—if you are in doubt as to the wisdom of the decision to build new halls—become a temporary teacher in either of these organisations and see for yourself.

Place your own hand well and truly upon the wound and really test your doubts.

Even Mr Mackay who, we are sure everybody will agree, is one of the most long-suffering of men has felt constrained to remark upon the difficulties of teaching his Bible Class group in the Vestry. (Supplement March 1958—Minister's Log.) Mr Mackay has been forced to comment now, yet we are not even beginning to feel the effect of the new Patterton area suburb which will be our responsibility. We may be tempted to dismiss this new suburb as being a thing of the future—some people did that with the Broomvale flats and shops—but it would be a grave misjudgement to do so when we all know the speed with which modern building methods can change a whole district.

What's the point of having a Hall fund when we haven't even got the ground to build on? We have all heard this excuse aired at some time or another, haven't we? Next time we hear someone saying this, let us stop and think before we nod wisely in agreement.

Suppose we were told we could not build our new home on a particular site. Would that mean that we would give up the idea of building our home at all? Of course not! A home is a necessity so we would build it wherever we could. Whether we like it or not a New hall is a necessity and whether it is built alongside the Church or elsewhere is of little moment—it must be built. From time immemorial improvements in the Church fabric have been an act of faith by one generation for the next. We

may not want to build new halls but they are needed and there can be little doubt that the young people, in the absence of proper facilities for their organisations, will soon find their meeting places in the cafes, on the street corners and later the pubs and we will have no one to blame but ourselves. We may decry the younger generation but we surely don't expect them to build the Hall themselves—not that they wouldn't have a jolly good try.

The price of ten cigarettes a week from everybody is all that is needed to make this necessity a reality.

THE CHOIR.

The Choir resumes practice on Friday, 19th September, at 8 p.m. when a full attendance of members is requested.

The congregation are respectfully reminded that in directing any of their young folk to join the choir they are performing a duty to the Church and are providing more than a little encouragement to our organist who will be delighted to learn that there are to be one or two new members as a result of this notice.

COFFEE MORNING.

It was with great regret that we realised that the June issue of the Supplement would be out too late to give notice of a Coffee morning organised by Mrs Sinclair and her friends. The expectations of these ladies were far exceeded and the sum raised so large for such an event that some people nearly called for a recount. Well done ladies and please exceed our wildest expectations any time you like.

GIRL GUIDES—FILM SHOW.

Towards the tail end of the year a young lady in our congregation seems to come out of hibernation and before we know it her name is cropping up on every hand connected with some form of Church activity. We hasten to welcome therefore the first mention in despatches for this new session accorded to Miss Isobel Morris. We are indeed fortunate to have Isobel on the team as she not only leads the Guides in their work but seeks every opportunity to link their activities to the general plans of the Church as a whole.

From time to time Isobel descends upon the Hall Committee and having wakened us from our slumber tells us of a function she has planned in aid of the War Memorial Hall fund. A few weeks back we were awake for a change when Isobel informed us that she has lined up a super colossal film show for the 9th October—got that—9th October, when the Girl Guides will be hostesses to anyone wise enough to buy a ticket. Tickets can be purchased nearer the time from any Girl Guide or member of the Hall Committee.

The film show is provided by Mr N. McGavin who is well known in amateur photographic circles as the possessor of considerable talent in his chosen hobby. People who have seen some of his work state that they are amongst the finest they have been privileged to see. Mr McGavin can be sure that the high standard of his films will be appreciated by a discerning audience weaned on Anderson Productions which set a tremendously high standard. Many thanks for your time and trouble Mr McGavin.

WOMAN'S GUILD--ECHOES FROM EDINBURGH.

What a thrill it gave to have the privilege of attending, for the first time, the great meetings of the Woman's Guild in Edinburgh, during Assembly

Week! It began in the queue outside with unexpected meetings of old friends—a queue, unlike many, where no one pressed unduly forward, and where many a helping hand was given to those who found the steps difficult.

The Usher Hall beautifully decorated with flowers by Edinburgh Corporation, was packed with delegates from many parts and of all ages, "young, getting on, and—wonderful considering." Mothers' groups mostly occupied the top gallery. The Girls' Association, whose future seems to be in the balance, was well represented. Mrs Dingwall, President, gave us an African greeting "Best wishes for the big palaver."

The challenge of this year's theme—"Every Christian a Witness," was brought out by three fine speeches, dealing respectively with witness in the Home, in the Church and in the Community.

The Rev. Tom Allan ("not a minister, only an evangelist") drove home our responsibility telling the story of 15 year-old Betty who was rescued from a life on the streets by a member of the Woman's Guild.

The Moderator, the High Commissioner and his lady all added words of appreciation and encouragement.

The same thought, that we are all witnesses whether we like it or not, was emphasised by Mrs Montieth at the Foreign Mission meeting. She told the story of the little boy who was asked if he was a Christian. "Naw, a'm no," he replied; "my mither's a christian. She goes tae the kirk on a Sunday and then she's on tae me all the rest of the week." It was a great inspiration to see ten newly dedicated young missionaries about to depart for their several stations. One felt a sense of deep humility, yet of pride in belonging even in the smallest way to such a grand fellowship. One personal contact was with an ex-missionary who, in her retirement from service in India, has adopted four children.

At the Home Mission meeting three young women were dedicated as deaconesses, who help in new housing areas, down-town charges, among fisherfolk and berry-pickers, and with women in the forces. Much has been done, but so much remains. We need the optimism of the young cricketer who said to his uncle, "If only I had got 98 more runs I would have made a century."

A suggested slogan was "Come on, all ye faithful."

At the Woman's Jewish meeting the Rev. H. D. Leuner, an old friend now of Newton Mearns congregation, spoke of the problems of Jewish Christians in Europe. The highest praise was given to Holland, where anti-semitism is practically unknown.

Dr. Doris Wilson of Nazareth called on us to pray "faithfully, unceasingly, sacrificially so that Israel will come to know Christ crucified as her Messiah and Saviour."

J. B. Watt.

BAZAAR.

Have you got a diary? You have! Good—open it at the end of October and place a large cross against the 25th and whatever you do—KEEP IT CLEAR.

For months now the ladies of the Woman's Guild, Mothers' Group and many willing helpers have been putting in endless hours of work preparing for this day and the wealth of care and patient planning which has gone into the initial stages suggests that it will be a day long remembered by the congregation. The sizes of the stalls have been measured out

with an inch tape and not satisfied with that the ladies allowed the Hall Committee members to create a mock up lay-out in the Church Hall during a recent progress meeting to ensure that there had been no mistakes.

A Cake and Candy stall of mouth watering proportions was airily dismissed as being too small but as space is at a premium the ladies-in-charge graciously agreed to "make do." For flower lovers we are promised a tremendous display backed by a generous space devoted to garden produce. Stalls for Aprons and handkerchiefs and Fancy Goods have been allocated space and the tea room which started out as a two room and kitchen establishment ended up as a one room and kitchen which Mrs Thom was forced to defend with all her might from maurauding stall conveners.

All in all the ladies gave us a most impressive pre-view and anyone who misses the 25th October is sure to regret it. Without doubt they will be forced to listen to detailed accounts of the bargains snapped up for months after the event and it will serve them right for not turning up in support.

If you have anything you wish to donate let Mrs Mackay know and she will put you in touch with the appropriate stall convener for disposal instructions. On with your thinking caps and ring Mrs MacKay for advice when you have made up your mind what your gift is going to be.

REMEMBER THE 25th OCTOBER--BAZAAR DAY

OPERATION KID-NAP.

Following the article in the June Supplement two people greatly daring, have enrolled as Kid-nappers and we hope that we shall shortly welcome other recruits to the register.

What's holding you back? Are the children too tough for you? If you are a bit doubtful on this score seek the advice of the Sunday School teachers. Confidentially, a light tap with a rubber headed mallet and even the parents will not know their child has experienced his or her first dose of enforced sleep. Get your name on the register and try it and you will soon find that this method beats all the deep sleep inducing potions of T.V. Names please to any of the following: Mr or Mrs Mackay, Mr T. Marchant, Mr Walter Rodger or Mr A. M. Hanna.

TREASURE HUNT.

There can be little doubt that the first Automobile Treasure Hunt, organised in aid of the War Memorial Hall Fund, was a tremendous success both as an event and financially so the Editorial staff of the Supplement has been keeping in close touch with the organisers to be sure that we could give our readers early notice of the promised follow up.

The date has now been fixed as Saturday, 13th September, and, learning, from what they feel were mistakes in the first effort, Alan Carlaw, Arthur Stubbs and Jimmy Ferns have reframed the whole thing on a planned course providing opportunity for fun, plenty of interest and a minimum of technicalities.

The course is in one section starting from the Western S.M.T. Bus park in Barrhead Road and follows an erratic thirty mile route through some of the more picturesque and attractive parts of Ayrshire and Renfrewshire. At the completion of the course the competitors should arrive, in daylight, at Mr J. C. Sword's, Balgray Farm where they will have the opportunity to examine his collection of Veteran Cars. After this there will be a break for tea for which your own arrangements should be made.

In the evening, competitors are invited to a "Motorists Social" in the Church Hall at which the results will be announced and prizes awarded.

Vital Statistics. Date, 13th September. Time, 2 p.m. Cost, 4/- per head for Treasure Hunt. Additional 1/- per head for "Motoring Social." Tickets from Messrs A. F. Stubbs, J. I. Ferns, T. Marchant, A. Macnaughton, A. Carlaw and W. Rodger. Tickets will be available at the start.

BOOK NOW AND BE SURE OF A PLACE.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP.

Nearing the end of last session the Youth Fellowship had a Youth Dance, the object of which was to permit potential recruits the opportunity to examine the existing members at close quarters without attending an official meeting thus committing themselves, and also to raise money for the War Memorial Hall Fund. This dance was well supported not only by our own members and potential recruits but by neighbouring Y.F.'s as well, and can be safely pronounced a great success.

Encouraged by this the Y.F. are planning to start the new session with another dance and the committee hopes that a second opportunity to "window shop" will convince others that they are really quite a normal group of young people and not a lot of budding "Holy Joes" without an ounce of fun in their bodies. Full details of the dance are not yet available as the committee is scattered to the four corners by holidays and meetings have been difficult to arrange. However, they should all be returning soon, so keep your eyes and ears open for an early announcement of the date.

See the "Diary" in this issue for details of the first few meetings but in any event keep your Sunday evenings open as the programme planned for this session includes items which the Editor intends to catch himself and not leave to his normal reporter—the Youth Fellowship Press Officer. Oh! Yes! Didn't you know? They have a Press Officer now, because they were the first organisation to realise the value of publicity reaching every home and they are determined to obtain their share of space in the Supplement. So far, they are away ahead of everybody else and we are more than delighted to assist them on their progressive way. Keep the news coming and our best wishes for an even more successful New Session.

DIARY.

- Sept. 13—Treasure Hunt. Bus Park, 2 p.m.
Motorists Social and Auction, Church Hall, 7.30 p.m.
- Oct. 5—Y.F. Mr T. Taylor—Caribbean Journey, 7.45 p.m., Upper Hall. A.W.O.N
- " 9—G. Guides Film Show—Mr N. McGavin, Church Hall, 7.30 p.m. Tickets 2/6 & 1/6
- " 12—Y.F. Mr A. M. Hanna—A check up for Church, 5.0 p.m., Upper Hall. A.Y.W.
- " 17-19—Y.F. Holiday Weekend Wiston Lodge. Details Later.
- " 19—Y.F. Film Show, Greenbank Church, Clarkston.
- " 25—W.G. Church Bazaar. Church Hall 10.30 a.m.? All more than welcome.
- " 26—Y.F. Rev. Father Waters, Newton Mearns—Why I am a Catholic, Upper Hall.
- W.G.—Woman's Guild. Y.F. Youth Fellowship
A.Y.W.—All Youth Welcome. A.W.O.N.—All Welcome Open Night.

NEXT SUPPLEMENT.

Next issue October, 12th. Items for inclusion should be in Editors hands by 24th September, at latest.

