

NEWTON MEARN'S CHURCH SUPPLEMENT

NOVEMBER, 1958.

REGISTER.

Baptisms.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

Stuart Alexander Henderson, 17 Beech Avenue.
Wendy and Moira Anderson, twin daughters, 26 Larchfield Avenue.

Marriage.

"Whom God hath joined together."

Una Catherine Stewart to William Norton Allan.

Deaths.

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

Mr Gordon Watson.
Mr William Currie, Baldorran, Crookfur Road.
Mrs Weir, 16 Castle Road.
Mrs Loudon, 10 St. Vigean's Avenue.

New Members — October, 1958

By Profession of Faith.

Miss Helen Young Kay, Caprera Cottage, Ayr Road.
By Certificates from other Congregations.
Mr and Mrs John Barr, 67 Beech Avenue.
Mr and Mrs William Brandie, 113 Barrhead Road.
Miss Agnes Brandie, 113 Barrhead Road.
Mr and Mrs Henry Callaghan, 87 Beech Avenue.
Mr and Mrs Ewing, 76 Beech Avenue.
Mr and Mrs James Gilmour, Failford, Craigie Drive.
Mr James Gilmour, Failford, Craigie Drive.
Miss Evie Gilmour, Failford, Craigie Drive.
Mr and Mrs Alex. Hamilton, 23 Limetree Crescent.
Miss Sarah M. Hardie, Pilmour.
Mrs I. Hunter, 76 Larchfield Avenue.
Mrs H. B. Y. Kay, Caprera Cottage, Ayr Road.
Miss Jean Kirkpatrick, 24 Main Street.
Mrs Kate McMeechan, 2 Ashview Terrace.
Mrs Marie H. Neill, 67 Beech Avenue.
Mr and Mrs James Pollock, 6 Poplar Avenue.
Mr and Mrs Alex. Towns, 7 Townhead Road.
Mr and Mrs Gordon Prime, 67 Hazelwood Avenue.
Mr and Mrs H. Muir Wilson, 3 Moorcroft Road.

OBITUARIES.

Mr Gordon Watson, Corstophine, Edinburgh, died on Thursday, 4th September. His father and mother come to live here in Windsor Avenue, some years ago, and Gordon was brought up within the life of our congregation. When the war broke out he joined up in the Royal Air Force, and when peace came in 1945 decided to make the Air Force his career. He was one of their most brilliant pilots and later entered upon secret work in the service. His tragic death at the zenith of his powers is a great loss to the country, and a sore bereavement to his wife and family. Gordon was a young man of most likeable qualities, frank and kindly. He never lost even when he grew up a kind of boyishness that was very attractive. His wife, Jean Stubbs as she was before she was married, was the Brown Owl in the Brownies, and one of the best that we have ever had. To her and her family, to Mr and Mrs Watson, to Mr and Mrs Stubbs, and all their kith and kin we extend our deepest sympathy in this great loss they have sustained.

Mr William Currie, Baldorran, Crookfur Road, died on 26th September, in a Renfrewshire Hospital. He came with his sister and brother about 1934, from the district of Mount Vernon in the east end of the city to live in this neighbourhood. They at once identified themselves with the life of our congregation and became staunch supporters of it. They were most regular in their attendance at the sanctuary, and their fellowship was a rich blessing to us all. It was difficult to think of them separately for they were nearly always together. As a family one would say that in the best sense of the word they were clannish, yet each had their separate gifts and one that Mr William had was a talent in music. He was a beautiful baritone singer, and could also play the piano and the organ. Whenever a Committee was appointed in the Church to choose an organist his was one of the first names suggested. He also on occasion officiated at the organ in our own Church, and in his Mount Vernon days was a full time organist. He was nominated for the eldership like his brother but found it on account of his retiring disposition unable to accept. He was a man of a most kindly and lovable nature, who looked after his sister well, and was always ready to help anyone in need. To his sister who looked after him so faithfully for many years we extend as a congregation our deepest sympathy.

Mrs Weir, 16 Castle Road, Newton Mearns, died suddenly on Thursday, 9th October. She was the eldest daughter of Mr Taylor of 4 Ashview Terrace. Una was in the first of the young communicant classes that I conducted when I came to the Church. She was a girl at that time of a gentle disposition, who would never do anyone any harm, and she did not chance with the passing of the years. To her husband, her father and her brothers and sisters we offer our deepest sympathy in the loss of one so justly dear to them.

Mrs Loudon, 10 St. Vigean's Avenue, died on Sunday, October 12th. She had been in indifferent health and removed to hospital but had recovered sufficiently to come home. None of us realised how ill she really was. Yet she had never enjoyed very good health. Perhaps the miracle of her life was that she was able to accomplish all that she did. Not many with her limited health could have reared a family and brought them up as excellently as she did, "Who can find a virtuous woman; her price is far above rubies: She looketh well to her household and eateth not the bread of idleness: the heart of her husband doth safely trust in her: She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life." These words were abundantly true of Mrs Loudon. She was a faithful wife and delightful mother, bright by disposition, and full of fun and laughter. We cannot understand why her life has been cut short, but we would try to leave it in His hands who ordereth all things well, and revealed His love in Jesus Christ His Son, our Saviour. To Mr Loudon and His family we extend our deepest sympathy in their great loss.

MINISTER'S LOG.

The Sale of Work on Saturday, October 25th, was a great success and realised £498. There may be a little yet to add to that. I do not think that any of us dared to imagine what sum we might attain, but we were all delighted that it reached such a magnificent total. I would, therefore in my own name and that of the Congregational Board like to thank you all for helping to make the venture so well worth while. There will be printed below the takings of the various stalls and the Tea-room. Our thanks must go to the Conveners and their assistants for the amount of work that had to be done. The hours of the sale were long, and it must have been quite a strain to stand serving all that time. Yet the sale would not have been possible if many of you had not given such splendid donations, and worked throughout the summer making all kinds of goods. We hoped the congregation would come on the Saturday to buy and we were not disappointed. To all of you who gave your loyal support we would like to say our thanks.

The Sale was sponsored by the Woman's Guild. It gave up for the moment collecting for its own schemes, and devoted itself to the task of the Hall Memorial Fund. We will need to see that their commitments are met, for they have obligations to the work of the Church at home and abroad. We would like to thank the Guild for this handsome donation to the New Halls Fund. There were others who helped in putting up the stalls and taking them down, those who served in the tea-room, and those who made the coffee and tea. To one and all may we say thank you?

Stall	Stallholder			
Fancy Goods, Mrs Sinclair,	£221	0	0
Apron & Handkerchiefs, Mrs Mackay,	83	0	0
Provisions, Mrs Cuthill,	39	1	5
Candy, Miss Wallace,	38	11	3
Flower Arrangement, Mrs R. Anderson,	37	8	5
Tea Room, Mrs Thom,	31	15	9
Cake, Miss Gow,	30	14	9
Vegetables, Mrs A. S. McLance,	16	4	8

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP.

The Youth Fellowship has now entered another winter season. Partly as a result of a membership campaign carried out in September, both membership and attendance have risen by fifty per cent on last years figures, and we hope this increase will be retained.

We started off with a most enjoyable dance at the beginning of October which was intended to let young people in the district get to know the members and each other. On the following day, October 5th. Mr Tom Taylor, well known throughout Scotland through his association with War on Want, among other things, gave a talk on the Caribbean and its problems, in which he gave a most excellent and disquieting report on the needs of under-developed countries generally. Next, the editor of this periodical delivered an oration on the need for the Church to re-examine its approach both to its own members and to the Churchless majority in the light of modern commercial techniques if it is to be the force that it claims to be in the life of Scotland—

by better day to day contact between Christians and their neighbours, by brighter services, by better faith instruction for people of all ages—perhaps even by payment by results for Ministers! This was supposed to stimulate outraged argument but most of the fellowship seemed to agree.

The highlight of the session so far has been the Holiday weekend at Wiston Lodge, Biggar from 17th to 19th October, when six of our number joined forty-two Youth Fellowship members from other fellowships in the district. Every visit to Wiston Lodge is a thrill, but there was a specially wonderful thrill in living together, climbing together, climbing Tinto together, praying together, dancing, discussing vital matters of our faith together with other young Christians. The juxtaposition of sacred and secular is important, because the youth of the Church feel that their religion is present on the dance floor as much as in the Church. Our party returned after several frantic changes of transport, in time for Communion and then joined the rest of the Fellowship at Greenbank Church, where a very large audience drawn from all over the district, saw a film.

At short notice we had to postpone the advertised meeting for the 26th October, and Mr Mackay deputised with evening's Bible Study originally scheduled for November 9th. The passage he chose was full of controversial issues and his lucid exposition provoked a very lively discussion indeed—one of the best meetings we have had for a long time.

On 23rd November, Anne Loudon will be talking of her visit to our refugee family in Germany and showing slides of this and our outing in June. There will also be a film entitled "New Lives." On October 30th, at 7.45 p.m., Broom and the new Y.F. from Mearns Parish will visit us for a debate. These are both changes in our published syllabus. This Christmas we shall again be visiting people who are old or unwell to sing Carols, and we should like to hear of people to visit. Please give any names to our secretary, Lesley Williams or Mr Mackay. All young people are invited to join us in this, our Christmas gift to the Congregation.

MISS ISOBEL MORRIS.

It was with genuine regret that we said our farewells to Isobel Morris our most energetic and enthusiastic Guide Captain at the beginning of the Session.

Isobel, a private secretary, has gone with her mother and father to Hamilton, Victoria, Australia where she has a sister but she has assured us that she is but a temporary emigrant and has every intention to return to the land of her birth after a few years "down under."

Starting as Girl Guide with our Company Isobel developed her capabilities and was soon promoted Guide Lieutenant in 1944. In 1953 she became Captain and under her influence the Company gained steadily in strength and standing until membership of our Guide Company became a testimonial in its self to the character and efficiency of a girl.

The test of a leader is her ability to choose and train her staff and in this too Isobel excelled in that she had trained a successor in Miss Barrie Pirret whom the Guide Commissioners were pleased to accept as Acting Guide Captain of the Company pending the award of her Warrant. This selection met with the whole hearted approval of the Minister and Session and it is hoped that Barrie will be afforded the same loyalty and affection enjoyed by Isobel.

To Barrie go the best wishes of us all for a long and successful Captaincy and to Isobel we say—Bon Voyage and Haste ye back.

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BRICKS.

The old saying that "Bricks are not made without straw," could we think be rephrased to read "Bricks are not supplied without money."

The Congregational Board evidently agrees with this re-phrasing as they are going to supply us with bricks and they are, they hope, going to cost us money. These bricks are somewhat strange in that they are collection boxes disguised as bricks and it is intended that one will be delivered to each home willing to accept one, before the end of the year.

This Suggestion box idea is being carried out with the kind co-operation of the distributors of the Supplement and it is hoped that we will fill each box with notes or coins as soon as possible. When filled or in any event before 30th June, 1959, the boxes should be returned to the Church in any of the following ways:—

1. Handing it to your Supplement distributor.
2. Handing it to the Church Treasurer (Mr Rodger).
3. By depositing the box in the collection plate in the Vestibule of the Church.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

More and more young families are moving into the Newton Mearns district and we are glad to say many of the parents are ensuring a good religious grounding for their children by sending them along to the Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 10.15 a.m. We are delighted to see them but they automatically become a problem for the Session and Congregational Board as no one has yet devised a method of putting a gallon into a pint pot and our hall accommodation is very much in the "pint pot" category as far as our children are concerned.

Two years ago this problem was foreseen and parents were asked to consider a change in the time of meeting for the Primary department to 11.30 a.m. as a possible solution but the vote was strongly in favour of retaining the 10.15 a.m. start so the Session had to think again.

While parents said, NO! and the Session thought, Miss Annie Wilson carried on, as leader of the Primary department, with her weekly nightmare of teaching over 60 children between 3 years to 7 years old the rudiments of Christian thought and practice in a space not much bigger than the average living room.

A solution has been found, we hope, but to be completely successful quite a few Sunday School Teachers will be required for both the Primary and Junior departments. If you feel that you can teach youngsters aged 3 to 7 years or 8 to 14 years please join the Sunday School for their closing praise any Sunday at approximately 11 a.m. and discuss the matter with Mr W. A. Menzies the Sunday School Superintendent.

Both Ladies and Gentlemen are required and we do need your help. You will be sure of a warm welcome and you will be sure of a straight answer to any questions you may care to put. Mr Menzies plans to have a preparation class for all teachers at a convenient time so that newcomers will be able to find their feet as teachers under guidance and without undue strain.

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MOTHERS' GROUP.

In a previous issue we promised to publish some information about the Mothers' Group and we are pleased to give the main details below.

Meetings are held fortnightly in the Manse and a very full and varied programme has been prepared for this Session. The dates and subjects for each meeting until December are given in the Diary on the back page.

The Office-Bearers are as follows:—

Hon. President	—Mrs Mackay.
President	—Mrs Rae.
Vice President	—Mrs Blue.
Secretary	—Mrs Macphail.
Treasurer	— Mrs Tweedie.

All mothers are invited to attend any time and can be sure of a warm welcome.

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MADEIRA SANCTUARY.

The visitor to the sunny isle of Madeira can be excused a gasp of surprise when confronted with a building of decidedly alien architecture right in the centre of the business area of the city of Funchal. Cheek by jowl with a wine shop and a rackety bus garage, this douce wee sanctuary hardly requires the legend—SCOTS KIRK—incorporated in its wrought iron gateway to proclaim its creed; its counterpart can be met in almost any Scottish glen.

The writer, afflicted with the bug of curiosity, began to cast about for information, and succeeded in digging out the interesting history of the kirk and its congregation, which, by order of the Editor, has been drastically condensed in the following paragraphs.

In 1822 the English Church in Funchal was built, and all British residents worshipped there for some 20 years until disagreements arose through the introduction of practices unacceptable by the Scots. Round about 1838-39 Dr. Henderson of St. Enoch's, Glasgow spent a winter in Madeira,

conducting services in a room, and on his return persuading the General Assembly to adopt Madeira as a Preaching Station under the Colonial Committee. There were then 74 members on the roll and at once they set about raising a fund for building a Church and purchasing ground for a cemetery. Previously all Protestants were buried at sea. At the Disruption in 1843 the Madeira congregation came out with the Free Church and forfeited quite a lot of promised financial support by doing so. Eventually, however the Church was built and opened in 1861, costing about £800, although it was not completely paid up until 1873. Incidentally, the cemetery never materialised, but burials were then permitted in the English cemetery which had been secured after a change in the Portuguese Law.

The driving force in the early days was in the person of the famous Dr. Kelly, a famous medical doctor who did great evangelical work in the island and was imprisoned by the Portuguese authorities from 1843 to 1846 for his activities. A Scots minister, Dr. Julius Wood, was actually inducted to the Madeira charge in his prison cell, disguised as a sick woman. He eventually went to Brazil to institute there a Portuguese Protestant Church which now numbers some 3 million members.

By the time the Scots Kirk was built there was little really drastic opposition by the Portuguese Government or the Roman Catholic Church but the law precluded the erection of steeple or the use of a bell, although the records show that "a seemly porch" was permitted. There have been, over the near century of the existence of the Kirk many ups and downs and it was closed from 1883 to 1892. Of the dozens or more Scots ministers of Madeira the last two were the late John Calderwood, 1935 to 1955, and the Rev. J. W. K. McPherson, now of Jedburgh, 1955/56.

The Scots community has now dwindled to about a dozen members who can no longer support the charge, and the building has been loaned to the Portuguese Presbyterian Evangelical Church which has a membership of some 500 in the island, a very tiny minority of the 270,00 population.

The writer and his wife attended a Portuguese service in the Church and were most warmly welcomed. When the pastor's wife realised that we were Scots she dashed away to dig up a Church Hymnary and Psalmody for us and I have a suspicion that she ordered her husband to stall in the Vestry until it found. While our few words of the language were quite inadequate to make anything of the long and eloquent address by the pastor, the order of service was almost identical with our own Church of Scotland practice, even to the Psalms in metre. We were intrigued to find that the leader of the dance orchestra in our hotel was organist. A Londoner by the way, though not a Scotsman. The singing by a young male voice choir, was most robust and odd features of the service were the presence, by law, of a Portuguese soldier fully armed, and the fact that the Church door had to be kept open to the street during the service to prevent any subversive activities. Curious passers by sauntered in and stood listening in the doorway and aisles, so there was a continuous coming and going which disturbed us somewhat, but had no effect on the eloquence of the preacher or the close attention of his flock.

This Portuguese body is doing a great work in this and its other 4 small Churches in the island and is gaining quite a few converts. Youth work and Sunday Schools are extensive and most impressive. Sunday School lasts for 2 hours with expression work and religious games in addition to the usual lessons and service. The congregation receives a small subsidy from our Church and is responsible for the maintenance of the building.

1961 brings the centenary of the Scots Kirk in Madeira. Wouldn't it be a nice gesture if our Assembly, in the goodness of its heart, would send out a minister, even to visit the Portuguese congregation and cheer up the remaining Scots, to mark the occasion?

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FLOWER LIST.

The Committee desire to thank all those who so kindly added their names to the Flower List for year ending 26th April, 1959.

Dec. 7—Mrs T. Craig.
 „ 14—Mrs Bain.
 „ 21—Mrs A. Russell.
 „ 28—Mrs Macdonald.
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 Jan. 4—Mrs Thom.
 „ 11—Mrs Duncan.
 „ 18—Mrs W. Rodger.
 „ 25—Mrs Cuthill.

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CHURCH OFFICER.

Mr Wardrop has completed 25 years as Church Officer and the Session and Congregational Board have decided to mark the occasion by showing in a tangible form an appreciation of his services. Will those members who may care to contribute, kindly send their contributions to the Church Treasurer, Mr Walter Rodger, or put it in the Church door plate in an envelope marked "Church Officer" not later than Sunday, 14th December, 1958.

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DIARY.

Nov 23—Y.F. Anne Loudon. Our Refugee Family. 5 p.m., Upper Hall. A.Y.W.
 „ 24—W.G. Miss Watt. Bible Study. 3 p.m. Church Hall.
 „ 30—Y.F. Debate. 7.45 p.m. Church Hall. A.Y.W.
 Dec. 2—M.G. Mrs Findlay. Beauty Culture. 7.30 p.m. Manse.
 „ 7—Y.F. Mr A. R. Macnaughton. Madeira Talk with slides. 5 p.m. Upper Hall. A.Y.W.
 „ 8—W.G. Mrs Penman. Old Mearns. 7.30 p.m. Church Hall.
 „ 13—Sunday School Parties. Beginners/Primary 2.30 p.m. Juniors Church Hall.
 „ 14—Y.F. Carol Singing. 7.45 p.m. Church Hall. A.Y.W.
 „ 14—W.G. Packing Christmas box for Dr. Leunar. 3 p.m. Church Hall.
 „ 21—Y.F. Carol Service conducted by Y.F. 6.30 p.m. Church.

W.G.—Woman's Guild; Y.F.—Youth Fellowship;
 A.Y.W.—All Youth Welcome.