

NEWTON MEARNS CHURCH SUPPLEMENT

FEBRUARY, 1963.

REGISTER.

Baptism.

"Suffer the little children to come unto me."

Elspeth Jean Stuart, Lyndene, Newtonlea Avenue.

Deaths.

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

John Alexander, Knighton, Ayr Road.

Mrs Baird, 133 Ayr Road.

Mrs Dick, Lynton, Hazelwood Avenue.

Mrs Allan, 3 Ashview Terrace.

Miss Edith Clunie, 48 Beech Avenue.

New Members by Certificate.

Dr. and Mrs J. Buchanan, 53 Hazelwood Avenue.
From Whitehill Church, Dennistoun.

Mrs Lawson, Glenard, Glebe Road.
From Pollokshields West Church.

Mr and Mrs J. Sloan, 65 Fruin Avenue.
From Old Hall Church, Paisley.

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MINISTER'S LOG.

It is hoped to carry out a visitation of the first section of the Rysland Estate which is now almost completed, on the second week of February. A group of 18 persons has been formed, and it is proposed to send two members of the congregation to each home. A postcard will be despatched to each house stating the day when the call will be made. It is hoped in this way to extend a warm welcome to those who have come to live in our district to worship with us.

We would like to express our thanks to the organist and the choir for the Service of Praise that they gave to us on the 16th December. A great deal of work must have gone into the preparation of the Cantata and appreciation was heard from many of their rendering of this sacred piece of music. When we remember how helpful the choir was at the stewardship socials, we realise how indebted we are to it, not only on these special occasions but each Sabbath at the diets of worship.

The Youth Fellowship Service on the 23rd December was also one that will live in our memory. The marching out down the centre aisle while singing the vesper, Silent Night, was an impressive sight. One felt that one was looking at the church of the future. While those in front were passing into the vestibule others were still filing out of the chancel. The prayers and the readings were most reverently rendered, and the address given by the president, Mr Donald MacDougall, one of the best at these services. He seemed to be perfectly at ease although he may not have felt so!

OBITUARIES.

Mr John Alexander, Knighton, Ayr Road, died in hospital on Tuesday, 4th December, 1962. Born and brought up in Boness, he joined the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society and became manager in turn at Camelon, Kirkcaldy and Dalkeith. Thereafter he moved to Dundee where he started his own business. He retired to this district where he enjoyed a long retirement until his 86th year. He took a keen interest in the church at which he was a most regular attender and until recently was present both at morning and evening worship. There are few to-day who can boast such a record. One meeting he never failed to be present at was the Annual Business Meeting of the congregation and it is to him that we owe the fact that the congregation is owned by its own trustees, and is not in its buildings the property of the Church of Scotland Trustees of the General Assembly. It means that we have more freedom in the alteration of our buildings, and in the event of a secession would carry our buildings with us, not that we ever hope to be in such a position. He was very kindly by disposition and rendered valuable help to young men starting up in business. Possessed of a pawky humour he was also forthright in his speech and so very helpful in his kindly criticism. To all his kith and kin, and to Miss Robertson, who was such a devoted housekeeper to him in his latter years, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mrs Baird, 133 Ayr Road, died on Saturday, 15th December, 1962, in a hospital in Glasgow. Mr and Mrs Baird came to this district on his retirement as a headmaster from the Mansewood area where he had been an elder in Eastwood Parish Church. They associated themselves at once with this congregation, and took an active interest in it, Mr Baird joining the choir and enriching the praise with his fine baritone voice. It is difficult to think of Mrs Baird without associating her with her husband for as a family they did everything together. They both joined the bowling green in Mearns, and Mrs Baird became the match secretary, and took a keen interest in all its affairs. It is not easy for a couple, who came to a new district, to enter into its life at their age but this proved no barrier to them. They became well known to many in the district and became greatly loved. Mrs Baird was a great lover of the countryside, and she and her husband, and latterly she and her daughter, used to go for long walks over the moors. For a woman of her age she was extraordinary lithe and no one would have known she had passed her 80th birthday. Last summer she accompanied her daughter to Switzerland and spent a month there in order to enable the latter to complete some educational studies. Her life was wrapt up in her family and she loved to further their duties and interests. In her grandchildren, also, she found great delight. Our deep sympathy goes out to her family, and perhaps especially to her daughter who looked after her with great care and deep affection, and who helped to make her latter years among the most precious of her life.

Mrs Dick, Lynton, Hazelwood Avenue, died in hospital on Saturday, 15th December, 1962. Illness overtook her quite suddenly. She had appeared to be in her usual good health and bright spirit only a few days previously. She and her husband came to this district about the time of the outbreak of the last war. She was a woman of a very vivacious personality, who always saw the amusing side of the prosaic in life. To be in her company for even the shortest of time was to be refreshed with her laughter. It is not surprising that she was soon well known to her neighbours and if anyone was in need you would always find her in their midst. Stevenson in one of his essays says that a happy man or woman is a better thing to find than a five-pound note. He or she is a radiating focus of goodwill: and their entrance into a room is as though another candle had been lighted. Such was Mrs Dick and we will all miss her radiant personality. To her husband, who had just retired from business, and to her nephew David, as well as to all her kith and kin we extend our deepest sympathy in their great loss.

Mrs Allan, 3 Ashview Terrace, died on Wednesday, 19th December, 1962. She had not been in good health for some years, and had been in and out of hospital. She was a member of a family greatly respected in the district. Her father, Neil McNiven was in the tailoring trade and one of the finest of craftsmen. She herself followed the same profession and found great satisfaction in it. Our sympathy goes out to her husband in this sudden sorrow that has fallen across his life, and we would like to assure him and her sisters of our deep sadness of heart at their great loss.

Miss Edith Clunie, 48 Beech Avenue, died at her residence on Monday, 7th January, 1963. She and her two sisters came to live in Mearns from Craigmore, Rothesay, whither their parents had retired. Their father was a bank manager in Glasgow for many years, and was Session Clerk of the church in Bute. They have proved themselves to be staunch members of our congregation. Miss Edith was the eldest of the family and was responsible for the management of the house and the others will miss the general oversight that she took of their life. She was fond of music and gave her services in the praise of the church. To Miss Hilda and Miss Rita we offer our deepest sympathy in the passing of one they so justly loved.

THE CHURCH CHOIR.

The leading of the praise in our worship is a very important function in our church life, and we are very fortunate in having a very staunch and enthusiastic body of young people forming the main body of our choir. Our greatest weakness, however, is in our tenor section. A special appeal is issued for male tenor voices to balance the other parts.

The choir meets for practice each Friday evening in the Upper Hall at 8 p.m. Any member coming along would receive a warm welcome and would find a most interesting session of practice

under the leadership of our organist, Mr James Littlejohn.

We have a heavy programme ahead of us as the choir will be contributing to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation in March. They are also practising for a concert to be given in March followed by the preparation of Easter Music as well as sustaining the standard of singing for the normal church services.

Appeals have been issued from time to time but the response has not been as would have been desired. All interested in Church Praise are asked to give of their time and talents in a most satisfying service.

There is room in all parts for people with singing ability. So come along, join our choir, and give of your talent in praise of the sanctuary.

A. S. McCANCE.

THE WOMAN'S GUILD.

Due to the severe weather it was decided to cancel the first meeting of the Woman's Guild in the New Year. Miss Wyse, Matron of Crosslees House, Thornliebank, was the speaker on January 28th. She gave a most interesting address on her work at Crosslees House.

There are interesting illustrated talks arranged for the rest of the session, and all ladies of the congregation are cordially invited.

BOYS' BRIGADE.

Congratulations are due to Mr Thomas Dobson who, following a course of training at Brigade Headquarters, has now been duly gazetted as an officer in our Company of the Boys' Brigade.

It is very gratifying to see this young man who was a recruit when I first started in the 79th Glasgow Company, now take his place as an enthusiastic young officer and member of our church. The same has to be stated for one of the other officers, namely, Mr Donald MacDougall who, as President of the Youth Fellowship, led with confidence the impressive and greatly appreciated Christmas evening service in the Church. It was also with some pride that I heard ex-member James Loudon take one of the prayers and John McCormick a Bible reading. One feels from this that the work in the Boys' Brigade has not been in vain and encourages one to further effort.

On 27th December the Company, along with the leaders of the Life Boy Team, were entertained to High Tea and then to the Circus as the guests once again of our good friend Mr Duncan Buchanan. We are deeply indebted to him for his kindness in giving us such a wonderful evening.

Finally I wish to record the thanks of the officers and boys to the Congregational Board and the Church for the magnificent gift of an agility mat to replace the one which was on loan to us when the Mearns School was using our hall as a gymnasium. The mat has been a real asset and is greatly enjoyed by the boys and the bigger boys in officers uniform.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP.

The Youth Fellowship continues to meet in the Church Hall on Sunday evenings at 7.45 p.m. All young people of 16 years and over are invited to join.

We wish to thank those members of the congregation who attended our last Open Meeting which was addressed by Mr Duncan Macrae, the well-known actor. This meeting proved quite controversial as Mr Macrae's statements were taken up on all sides.

After the success of this meeting we hope to hold yet another Open Meeting when we hope to hear your views of the subject in hand.

We would like to congratulate Mr Crawford Gillies, the president of the First District of Renfrewshire Youth Fellowships, on his very capable handling of the Annual Dedication Service for Fellowships in that district. The service was conducted in Williamwood Parish Church, and was attended by a number of our own members.

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VARIA.

A class for First Communicants will open in the Manse, 204 Ayr Road, on Tuesday, 19th March, at 8 p.m., and meet on succeeding Tuesdays until the Communion on May 5th.

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The Evening Service is in our own Church during February at 6.30 p.m.

CHILDREN'S CORNER.

In each of the following lines are four words. Three of these words belong to a group; the fourth is an 'intruder.' Can you spot the 'intruders'?—

1. Jeremiah, John, Luke, Paul.
2. Tares, Thunder, Talents, Ten Virgins.
3. Abba, Berea, Alpha, Omega.
4. Prince, Priest, Prophet, Precious.
5. Enoch, Shem, Ham, Japheth.
6. James, Joses, Simon, Shallum.
7. Chebar, Pison, Abana, Gennesaret.
8. Aaron, Annas, Ahaz, Caiaphas.
9. Locust, Lizard, Serpent, Adder.
10. Weeks, Days, Trumpets, Tabernacles.

Answers to Puzzle—'Intruders.'

(1) Paul is not the name of a book; (2) Thunder is not a parable; (3) Berea is not a name given to God; (4) Precious is not a name given to Jesus; (5) Enoch was not a son of Noah; (6) Shallum was not Christ's brother; (7) Gennesaret was not a river; (8) Ahaz was not an high priest; (9) Locust is not a reptile; (10) Days was not the name of a feast.

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FLOWER LIST.

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| Feb. | 1— | Preparatory Service—Mrs Thom. |
| „ | 10— | Mrs Watson. |
| „ | 17— | Mrs W. Napier. |
| „ | 24— | Mrs R. L. Todd. |
| Mar. | 3— | Mr J. McCallum. |
| „ | 10— | Mrs Smith. |
| „ | 17— | Mrs W. Smith. |
| „ | 24— | Mrs N. M. Niven. |
| „ | 31— | Mr D. Buchanan. |