

NEWTON MEARNS CHURCH SUPPLEMENT

APRIL, 1963.

REGISTER.

Baptism.

"Suffer the little children to come unto me."

Jane Mary Laird, Montgomerie Street, Eaglesham.

Marriages.

"Whom God hath joined together."

Marjory Taylor Weir and George Adams Mitchell.
Rosemary Anne Brown and David Brian Robinson.
Elizabeth Linklater and Alexander Blakey Joiner.
Christina Cowie and William Macdougall.

Deaths.

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

Mrs Walter Rodger, 220 Ayr Road.
Miss Isabella Currie, Craighdu, Skelmorlie.
Mr Alexander Murray, 130 Castle Court.
Mrs Anderson, 49 Broompark Drive.
Mrs Robert Hodgins, 46 Cheviot Drive.
Mrs McLay, 184 Ayr Road.

MINISTER'S LOG.

The visitation of the new Rysland Estate (i.e., the first of the sections that are to be built; it is estimated that 20,000 people will be housed there) was completed during February. The area was divided into 7 parts and each couple was allocated about 10 homes. A post card was despatched indicating the time of the proposed call asking if it would be convenient to do so. The visitors met with a warm welcome in almost every case. Indeed they on occasion found it difficult to take their leave. Not a few had connections with other churches, and, of course, that was the important fact. It does not matter where people go to church as long as they do so. The Jewish residents were called upon and gave a very warm welcome; also one Catholic family. Families were found where there were young children and the Secretary of the Sabbath School, Miss Alison Niven, has undertaken to have these visited again. There were one or two of Youth Fellowship age, and their names will be given to it. The problem of getting in touch with the lapsed member was found here also, and the Session will need to consider it. It was proposed to send a letter to all those who had received our delegates expressing our thanks at their reception, and indicating the date of the next celebration of the Lord's Supper. We have sown some of the seed, and we hope that a harvest will be reaped. The minister will examine the reports and follow up in cases that seem to need attention. Our thanks are due to those who went out to do a difficult task and did it thoroughly.

The Session was divided into groups for study during the winter. These have met in each other's houses and discussed the Tell Scotland brochure entitled "The Lost Provinces." Each section of the latter has a series of questions to be answered such as "Why do I come to Church?" On the surface

they seem simple enough but they have found that they have been led into discussions on the fundamentals of the Christian Faith. A meeting of the Session has been fixed for Wednesday, 29th May, to receive a resumé of these reports by a special committee, discuss them, and decide what further action should be taken. This series of group meetings has helped to deepen in addition the fellowship of the Elders.

A public meeting was held on Monday, 25th March, in the New Public Hall, at Clarkston, under the auspices of the First District Council to decide what part it would take in the Freedom From Hunger Campaign in the World in 1963. Mr David Carmichael occupied the chair. The speaker from the United Nations outlined the dire need in certain areas of the World today, and the plans that had been made to enable people in those districts to help themselves. For example Glasgow and districts' project was to buy a milk production plant for Assam that would enable the quantity to be quadrupled. Edinburgh had a scheme of her own to support. He said that he was heartened greatly by the attendance that night—the hall was very well filled—and that it was the best inaugural meeting throughout Great Britain that he had addressed. The meeting having signified that it was in favour of taking part in the campaign, a committee of 22 was appointed. The Newton Mearns—Whitecraigs sub-committee of this has already met, and the plans to take a house-to-house collection will be announced later. Will those who are willing to help give their names to Miss Linda Shaw, 23 Cragneithan Road, Whitecraigs, who is the representative of our church on it.

OBITUARY.

On Sunday, 10th February, Mr Mackay made the following reference from the pulpit to the death of Mrs Walter Rodger, 220 Ayr Road:—

"It is with very great sorrow that I have to intimate the death of one of our members, Mrs Walter Rodger, 220 Ayr Road. She died suddenly at her residence on Friday morning. She had been present at a meeting in the Church on Thursday evening as one who was willing to take part in a visitation of the new Rysland Estate.

"Every congregation has within it some women who seem to stand out in their devotion to the work of the church, and she was one of those. She loved the church and dedicated her life to it.

"She was a member of the Congregational Board and attended its meetings faithfully. Her presence at the Woman's Guild could be relied upon. As a Flower Convener she was responsible for seeing that those gifted by members of the church were on the Communion Table each Sunday. Those that adorn the Table today had already been procured by her. It was almost her last act of service to the church. She delivered them later to the homes of the sick, and her visits were most warmly appreciated. Somehow she brought more than the flowers. She brought herself. She went into the sick room and cheered the sufferer with her sympathy and friendliness.

"Her visitation was not, however, confined to those to whom she brought the flowers. She knew the old people in the district as few did, and called upon them at regular intervals. About four years ago she herself became unwell, but when she recovered she did not spare herself, but resumed her former activity.

"One of her greatest characteristics was her friendliness. She could approach people who were complete strangers and speak to them, making them feel the better for her conversation. She was understanding of people's failings and would suggest some reason for their strange behaviour. She always tried to work with you rather than against you.

"Her husband being the Congregational Treasurer brought her into touch with many sides of church work, and she gave him her full support in all he did. They did everything together, and theirs was a happy home. Our thoughts go out in loving sympathy to him today in this great sorrow that has overtaken him. We remember also her brother, sisters and all her kith and kin. May the God of all consolation visit them and grant unto them His peace."

Miss Isabella Currie, formerly of Baldorran, Crookfur Road, Newton Mearns, and latterly of Seamill Hydro, West Kilbride, died at Craigdhru Nursing Home, Skelmorlie, on Monday, 18th February, 1963.

She and her two brothers came to live in this district from the Shettleston district of Glasgow, in the early nineteen-thirties. At that time Newton Mearns was a village with a few bungalows being built on the fringes of the main road. The congregation was comparatively small, and the members knew each other in a way that is almost impossible today. It was in such a setting that the Curries became members and they knew almost everyone, and everyone knew them. Those were the days when we had social gatherings in each other's houses, and life was more leisurely than it is today. If the organist was ill or on holiday Mr William Currie would sometimes officiate. He loved the organ and played it with great acceptance to the congregation.

Mr James Currie his brother was nominated to the eldership and accepted it, and was interested particularly in the youth of the congregation. It was decided to form a Youth Club, and to hold it outwith the buildings of the church—I suppose to attract outsiders to it. We obtained a lease from the District Council to use the Council Chambers in Main Street, now a hairdressing establishment. Mr James Currie gave himself wholeheartedly to the venture.

In to this pattern of life fitted Miss Isabella Currie as the one who looked after the home. She once said to me that she felt that perhaps she and her two brothers stuck too closely to one another. It would have been better if we had married and widened the circle. They were devoted to each other, and did everything together.

Her latter days—she was pre-deceased by both her brothers—were spent at Seamill Hydro. She loved to walk along the sea-front and look over to the hills of Arran. Her heart, however, turned back continually to the Mearns, and her life in the church here. We mourn her passing for her brightness, her friendliness and her faith. To Mr and Mrs

Turner of the Langton Farm, Miss Gray and Mrs Campbell and all her kith and kin we extend our deep sympathy.

Alexander Murray, 130 Castle Court, Newton Mearns, died on Saturday, 9th March, 1963, at his residence. He had not enjoyed good health for some time but tried to face with courage the infirmity that restricted his life. He was born in Stranraer and came to work in Glasgow. His work brought him to this district where he married Jean Brown of Knowetop, Whitecraigs. Kindly by nature and obliging by disposition, we offer to his widow and son our deep sympathy in their great loss.

Mrs Anderson, 49 Broompark Drive, died in hospital on Friday, 12th April, 1963. She lived most of her married life in the Pollokshields and Newlands districts of Glasgow, and only recently joined our congregation. Her two sons and their families have, however, been in our church for many years, and so she did not come to us as a stranger, while her sister Mrs Potts is also a member with us. One did not need to be long in her company before one realised that this was a woman of outstanding qualities. Someone who knew her well said that she was the most unselfish person she had ever met. Children drew to her like iron to a magnet. Her strength of character was evident in her conversation. Although she herself was confined to bed latterly she never lost her interest in others and was constantly asking about them. It is nice to record that her family was always at her bedside, and brightened her latter days. To her sons Mr Roy and Mr Harry Anderson, her sister, her brother, her daughter, her daughters-in-law and her grandchildren we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mrs Robert Hodgins, of 46 Cheviot Drive, died suddenly at her residence on 4th April, 1963. Her death came completely unexpectedly as she had been in reasonably good health. It is a great sorrow to her husband since they had only been married for four years, and she had settled down in the district making many friends with the neighbours. She was brought up in the Cambuslang district and took quite a large part in the work of the church. She was interested in children and youth, particularly in their choral singing. Her father was a Market Gardener and she grew up with a love of the flowers of the field. Her husband was inducted as an elder on this congregation in 1962, is a teacher in the Sabbath School, and a member of a special group appointed by the Session to study the life and work of the Church in our age. We would extend to him the deep sympathy of the congregation, and also remember her mother as well as all their kith and kin in the great loss they have sustained.

Mrs McLay, 184 Ayr Road, died at her residence on Thursday, 11th April, 1963, aged 94. She will be known through her son and daughter who had a fishmonger's and florist's shop respectively at the Cross. Newton Mearns. She was greatly beloved by them and their life to the end revolved around her. To them all we extend our sympathy in their great loss.

SHOES FOR THE CHILDREN.

One of our members is teaching in a school in Glasgow where the scholars are ill shod. Would anyone who has children's shoes sizes 5-12 which are in good condition hand them in to the church and put them in the cloak room at the front door?

WOMAN'S GUILD.

Among the closing meetings of the 1962-63 session, the Guild enjoyed a musical Tour of the Borders under the guidance of Mrs Riddick and Mrs Munro. The beautiful pictures of well known and lesser known places were appreciated by the audience present. We heard an interesting talk on Church Music, with recorded illustrations, by one who is an enthusiast on the subject, Mr Cuthill. A pleasant evening at the theatre was held on 18th March when members visited the Alhambra.

The Annual Business Meeting at the end of March, appointed Mrs Thom as President, and Miss Hammond as Secretary for the ensuing year.

In expressing the thanks of the Guild members and the members of the Mothers' Group to Mrs McKay for all that she had done in her years of office as President, the vice-President Miss Wallace handed over a gold watch in token of appreciation, and Mrs Watson, President of the Mothers' Group gave Mrs McKay a bouquet of beautiful flowers.

Still to come is the bus run. This has been arranged for Wednesday, 8th May. The bus will leave at 1 p.m. for North Berwick. A.C.H.

PRESENTATION TO OUR SENIOR ELDER.

On Thursday, 14th March, 1963, a deputation from the Session consisting of the Minister, the Session Clerk, the Treasurer, and the Roll Keeper visited Mr William Craig at the home of his daughter and son-in-law Mr and Mrs Basil Baird of Floors Farm, and handed over a certificate from the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland signed by the Moderator the Very Rev. Dr. Neville Davidson, marking the fact that he had been an elder for 60 years. He was ordained in 1902 during the ministry of the late Dr. A. Boyd Scott. Mr Craig who is now in his 92nd year was born at Floors Farm as was his father before him. In making the presentation the minister referred to the long and honoured connection he had had with the church, and mentioned that the Communion Plate had been the gift of his mother at the time of the introduction of the individual cups. Mr Craig, who was in good health and is still able to do some work on the farm, replied in suitable words. He recalled how Mr Boyd Scott took him round his district for the first time although he was not sure who was introducing whom! They had tea in every house and finished up with high tea with two boiled eggs! Mr Craig offered to drive the minister to the Manse in his horse and gig but Mr Scott asked to be put down at the Cross as he said he needed a walk! The church owes a great debt to its eldership and to men like Mr William Craig. It is a great joy that his son-in-law, Mr Basil Baird, is a valued member of the Session, and his grandson, Mr Basil Baird, Jr., of the Congregational Board.

VARIA.

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

The Concert given by the Choir on 27th March, was a great success. The choral, and solo items were appreciated by a large audience that filled the hall to capacity. To the elocutionist, to Mrs Binning and to Mr Littlejohn, our choirmaster, we extend our thanks for a most enjoyable and inspirational evening. Mr John Russell decorated the platform with some beautiful spring flowers. The gathering was in aid of the Memorial Hall Fund.

Mrs Mackay would like to thank the Woman's Guild very sincerely for the beautiful gift of a gold wristlet watch which it presented to her at the business meeting. Most acceptable as the present is, what pleased her even more was the thought behind it. To all who contributed she would like to offer her sincere thanks. The new president is Mrs C. J. Thom and the Secretary Miss Alice Hammond. Mrs Cuthill retires at this time as Secretary and we would like her to know how valued have been her services.

Miss Joan McPhail has resigned as Brown Owl. We would take this opportunity of thanking her most sincerely for her valued and faithful service. The successor to her post is Miss Joan Duncan.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

New Colours are being presented to the Glasgow Battalion on Friday, 10th May, at Ibrox Park by H.R.H. Princess Margaret. Members of the Congregation who wish seats in the stand or tickets for the terracing should contact Mr John A. Orr, the Captain.

CHILDREN'S CORNER.

All Sorts of Animals.

Can you fill each of the blanks in the following with the name of the appropriate animal? (N.B. Some of the names are in the plural).

1. 'The have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.'
2. 'Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an tied, and a with her.'
3. 'Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled and hatred therewith.'
4. 'It is easier for a to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.'
5. 'And he shall set the on his right hand, but the on the left.'
6. 'And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and of fire, and parted them both asunder.'
7. 'And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the did eat: and no man gave unto him.'
8. 'As the panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.'

