

# THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

## NEWTON MEARN'S PARISH CHURCH SUPPLEMENT

JUNE, 1964.

### Minister:

Rev. W. MURRAY MACKAY, M.A., S.T.M.

### Session Clerk:

Mr C. J. THOM, J.P., M.A., 125 Beech Avenue.

### Organist:

Mr JAMES LITTLEJOHN, 33 Newfield Sq., Nitshill.

### Treasurer:

Mr WALTER RODGER, 220 Ayr Road.

### Church Officer:

Mr WILLIAM DINSMOR, 52 Castle Rd. NEW 2777.

**Sabbath Services: 11.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.**

(The Evening Service, September till May, alternates monthly with Mearns Parish Church)

**Sabbath School—Primary, Junior and Senior:  
10 a.m.**

**Bible Class: 10.15 a.m. Youth Fellowship: 7.45 p.m.**

### REGISTER.

#### Baptisms.

*"Suffer the little children to come unto me."*

Carol Mitchell, 16 Castle Road.

Peter Robert Chadwick, 11 Eaglesham Road.

#### Deaths.

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

James Tweedie, 73 Ayr Road.

Dr. Alexander Dale, Hillcrest, Irvine.

Samuel Rodger, 142 Coplaw Street.

William Morrison, 3 Regent Park Square.

### MINISTER'S LOG.

The General Assembly of 1964 has ended. Two impressions were made upon me by the Moderator, the Right Rev. Duncan Fraser of Invergordon. (1) His youthful appearance. He has now been 37 years in this his only charge at Invergordon between the Cromarty and the Dornoch Firths. He can scarcely be said to be young, and yet his light brown hair and fresh skin seem to belie his years. (2) The second fact that one noticed was his inborn sense of Highland courtesy. He was most gracious towards anyone who asked him a question, and also to the person he was addressing. One feels that this is no superficial attribute but based on a deep affection for his fellow man. He has acquitted himself with distinction in the moderatorial chair, and been very happy in the many short speeches that he was required to make.

The Lord High Commissioner—General Richard O'Connor has also been a very excellent choice. He was one of the most brilliant of generals during the last war, being recognised as one who could initiate the element of surprise. Perhaps to look at him you would not credit him with such a quality, yet one only needs to hear him speak to realise that he has an incisive mind that can separate clearly the essentials from the unessentials. He did a very nice thing when the Report on Chaplains to the Services was being considered. He left the Throne Gallery

and came down into the Assembly and spoke from the rostrum paying tribute to the work that the chaplains do in peace and in war.

Two changes in the administration of the Assembly have been made. A new General Council to supervise all the departments of the Church has been set up, and the Foreign Mission Committee of the Church has been merged with the Colonial and Continental Committee to form a new Overseas Council. It was found that with the development of the indigenous churches abroad this had become necessary, and in addition there had been a certain overlapping of the work. We are sorry to see the name Foreign Mission disappear from the committees of the Church but we hope that this new move will result in even greater efficiency.

One disappointment in the Assembly was the unsatisfactory manner in which the case of Miss Mary Lusk was dealt with. She had made application to the Assembly for full status as a minister. At present, of course, women are not allowed even to be elders of the Church. She had decided to make her application a test case. It was turned down on a technicality. Although the Assembly knew that she was bringing forward an overture to this effect, it had not been put in writing. Twenty-four hours notice are needed and as it was the last day of the Assembly this was impossible. I do not know whether the mind of the Church of Scotland is made up yet on admitting women as elders or as ministers but it was unfortunate that the matter should close this year in such a manner.

One of the most heated debates in the Assembly was on Sunday Observance. One could not but vote for the deliverance that the legalistic approach to the Sabbath was wrong, and yet one felt that all the challenge of the Christian life seemed to be coming from the oppositions. The Church must awaken to the fact that the Christian must not only be prepared but anxious to witness for Christ on Sunday as on every other day. Far too many Church members are thinking wholly of their own interests and pleasures in their use of this priceless treasure that is ours.

### OBITUARIES.

Mr James Tweedie, 73 Ayr Road, Newton Mearns, died in a city hospital after a short illness on 11th April, 1964. He and his family came from the Clarkston district some years ago, and it was not long before they had made a niche for themselves in the life of the district and of the congregation. They were essentially friendly by nature. Mr Tweedie's interest and skill in photography made him known to a wide circle, and he was at one time chairman of such a club in Glasgow. Outside of his business his other interests were his family and his garden. An illness that overtook him about two years ago had caused him to lead a quieter life but we had hoped he was emerging from it. To his wife, and daughters, Pat and Christine, we extend our deepest sympathy in their great loss.

\* \* \*

Dr Alexander Dale, Hillcrest, Stane Castle, Irvine, died at his residence on Monday, 20th April, 1964. He had retired from Mearns Kirk Hospital



about 2 years ago where he had been superintendent since 1947.

He was present during the building of it, and much of the medical equipment was installed on his instigation. It was opened for treatment in 1930 but not officially so until 1931 by the present Queen Mother, then Duchess of York. Practically all his life as a doctor was thus associated with it.

His work during the first 17 years was that of a surgeon in tuberculosis. Most of this period was before the discovery of streptomycin and its correlates and the disease was a much more serious one than it is to-day. One of his colleagues has testified to the excellence of his work in plaster casting. Never, he acknowledged, had he seen more finished results.

He was possessed of a very gracious personality and this became more evident when he assumed the position of chief superintendent. It would be true to say that he knew the names not only of all the nursing staff but of every employee in the hospital. He watched over them as a father would his child, and many owe a great debt to him. He delighted in what he called "the spirit of Mearnskirk" and did all in his power to foster it. The Women's Auxiliary blossomed under his encouragement until it is to-day one of the finest in the land. He loved the children (and it was, until the war, essentially a children's hospital) and one saw him at his best at a children's Christmas party in a ward. He always had time to speak to a person, and yet one knew that he would need to work late to clear up the business on his desk.

He was ordained an elder in the congregation in 1951 and attended the Church as often as his duties allowed. Many a time he said he was ready to come when an emergency call or an unexpected visitor would prevent him. He was meticulously careful in the dispensation of the Communion Elements entrusted to him. He always wanted to move in step with the other with whom he was partnered.

He retired to Irvine because his grandparents had lived there, and he had spent many happy days there in his boyhood. A brother had died in youth there and they always spoke of him as the pioneer—he who had gone before them into the Heavenly country. His wife practised in this district and many have testified to her skill and kindness. To her, to his sister and all his kith and kin we extend our deepest sympathy.

\* \* \*

Mr Samuel Rodger, 142 Coplaw Street, died in a city hospital on Friday, 15th May, 1964. Born and brought up in this parish, his father was an Elder of the Church, and in a home of piety and Christian faith he absorbed an attitude to life that remained with him all his days. His mother was alive when I came to be minister here, and one could see the reflection of her life in that of her family. In an age of restlessness in which we live to-day, one can realise how much of it is due to the unsettled environment into which so many are born. The family here, however, was reared in the atmosphere of the Church, and it could be said that Sam Rodger remained under its influence all his days.

After a short time in other work in the district he joined the firm of Beatties' and served it faithfully for the rest of his life. He must have been one of the earliest risers in the district. Until he was married, 17 years ago, he travelled into town by a bus that left about 4 a.m. He was fond of talking to people, and in his daily rounds made many friends.

He was elected an elder in 1937 and was a faithful visitor of those committed to his care. His attendance at the sanctuary was an example to all, even when he had to travel each Sabbath further than most. Never did I hear him say anything derogatory about another person. He would always put forward some extenuating excuse. He and his wife took a great interest in the Tent Hall Mission and many a Sunday evening found them there.

He suffered from the effects of mustard gas received in the First World War. It affected particularly his eyes, and although he could not recognise people latterly in the road, he never complained.

We shall miss his kindly presence in our midst, and to his widow, who has been such a faithful helpmeet to him, and to his brothers we offer our deepest sympathy.

\* \* \*

Mr William Morrison, 3 Regent Park Square, died on Monday, 1st June, 1964, at the residence of his daughter. He had attained the age of 90 and yet few to look at him would have thought so. He and his wife came to live many years ago in Raeside Avenue. His grandchildren, Elizabeth and Billy, used to spend week-ends with him, and they attended the Sabbath School. When his wife died he went down to live with his daughter in Regent Park Square. As her husband was a doctor it was a busy household but Mr Morrison fitted into it in his own quiet way, and she looked after him most faithfully. He did not leave the Church, however, and travelled every Sunday to take his place in the worship of the sanctuary. He was by profession in the realm of education and rose to be headmaster in one of our Glasgow schools. As a man he combined great strength of character with a wonderful gentleness so that like David of old he could say, "Thy gentleness, O God, hath made me great." To his son and daughter, his grandchildren, his son-in-law and daughter-in-law we extend our deepest sympathy.

## 2nd MEARN'S GUIDE COY.

Once again the camping season is with us, and so far we have made good use of it. Ten of the older Guides and officers went up to Eaglesham for the May week-end, and spent a very enjoyable three days, made even better by the fine weather.

Our two prospective Queen's Guides have now only the District Commissioner's Test and Campers' Badge to pass, so we are very hopeful of their achievement of this award.

The Guides are all busy sitting their Proficiency Badges at the moment and so far have maintained the high standard of passes known in this Company.

Guides finish for this year at the end of June, and we should like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr Mackay and everyone who has helped us and supported us in our various activities throughout the past session.

J.C.C.

## 2nd MEARN'S BROWNIE PACK.

Brownies completed the session on 28th May with ice-cream for all and prizes for a few, with two Brownies having Perfect Attendance.

"Spotlight on Guiding" Week was the most important function this year, and on Thursday of that week we had an "Open Night" and were delighted to see such a wonderful response by the parents—despite a freak snow storm of 6 inches—Our blanket was on display and received admiring comments from the mothers. One enthusiastic Brownie is able to claim 34 of the squares.



Since Easter we have managed three evenings outside and tracking signs, which had been learnt in the hall, were able to be used correctly.

The next Brownie session will commence a few weeks earlier than usual—on Thursday, 3rd Sept., 1964, at 6 p.m.—and I would like to take this opportunity of welcoming any girl between the ages of 7 and 11 yearis. J. Duncan, Brown Owl.

#### NEW MEMBERS AT MAY COMMUNION.

##### By Profession of Faith.

Miss Margaret Dinsmor, 52 Castle Road.  
Miss Helen Forbes, 25 Castle Road.  
Miss Yvonne Hollinger, 6 Netherplace Road.  
Miss Jean Miller Law, c/o Harvie, 487 Baltic Street, E.1.  
Mrs Marjory T. Michell, 16 Castle Road.  
Miss Mary Sloan, 65 Fruin Avenue.  
Mr Henry Beadie, 211 Tobermory Road, Cathkin By-Pass.  
Mr George Cromar, 26 Moorhill Road.

##### By Certificates from other Congregations.

Miss Carmen Benzie, c/o Hill, 8 Hazelwood Av.  
Dr. and Mrs James Ferguson, 26 Limetree Crescent.  
Mr and Mrs D. Graham, 4 Campbell Crescent.  
Mr and Mrs Edward B. Howie, 58 Castlehill Drive.  
Miss Margaret Melville, 29 Castle Road.  
Mr and Mrs W. T. McKinnon, 7 Roddinghead Road.  
Mr and Mrs Edward Spence, 5 Gordon Crescent.

#### VARIA.

During the months of July and August joint Services will be held at 11.30 a.m. with Mearns Parish Church. In July these will be in their Church and in August in ours. Mr Thom is endeavouring to arrange that a bus will leave Mearns Cross about 11.15 a.m. and return after the service during July. The Choirs will be united during these months.

\* \* \*

Messrs C. J. Thom and Stewart Telfer, in addition to the Minister, were commissioners this year to the General Assembly.

#### TRUE OR FALSE?

1. John was called the beloved disciple.
2. The letter to Titus was writted by Paul.
3. Luke was one of the twelve disciples.
4. Ham and Seth were brothers.
5. The image in Nebuchadnezzar's vision was all of gold.
6. Moses was hidden for three months by his parents.
7. Timothy was Paul's son.
8. Naaman's leprosy was passed on to Elisha's servant.
9. Joseph was the second youngest son of Jacob.
10. The Israelites sang—  
"David hath slain his thousands and Saul his ten thousands."

#### A PROFILE OF THE MODERATOR.

All who are privileged to come under the influence of Christian men cannot but learn that the more their virtue increases in the eyes of those who are rebuked and inspired thereby, the less they think of and advertise themselves. This is so true of Duncan Fraser that, in seeking to discover the merits on which his elevation is firmly grounded, the explorer has to be both ingenious and pertinaci-

ous, since no word with the faintest tincture of self-promotion (if any word at all) will ever be forthcoming from the man himself.

#### SKYE MAN

Research, however, discloses that he is a Skye man, born in the U.F. Manse at Bracadale, in 1903. He went to the village school at Dunvegan, and thence to the Academy at Portree, where he was dux and gold medallist. He studied Arts at Edinburgh University, and theology at New College, from which he came down with many honours besides a Cunningham Fellowship.

Exact scholarship has remained an enthusiasm with him. More than 20 years ago he graduated Doctor of Philosophy, and a sustained flow of contributions to learned journals has come from his pen. Never out of the range of his Alma Mater's far-seeing eye, his intellectual quality and diligence were laureated in 1958, when *honoris causa*, he became a Doctor of Divinity, with only two other such to keep him company in the regions beyond Aberdeen and Inverness.

As a divinity student, he was a summer preacher in Glen Urquhart. Licensed by Edinburgh Presbytery in 1927 he was ordained and inducted to the U.F. Church at Invergordon in the same year. There he has remained to this day. Steeped long since in the genius of the place, he enshrined it permanently (in 1946) in his "Story of Invergordon."

This is a time marked by a good deal of restless transition in the ministry. It would be no ill-omen for the Church if Fraser's well-nigh total self-donation to a region which, in the vulgar if never in the divine reckoning, might be thought remote and insignificant, were received by many as an exemplary portent. As such it has many instructive and admirable facets. Dr. Fraser embodies in himself not just the highly distinctive, tangy, and colourful contribution to the ministry with which the Highlands and Islands have, dependably and incalculably, enriched it throughout the centuries, but, as well, a rare determination to exercise it indigenously. So, in a corrosive time, he has edified, with his singular gifts of mind and spirit, the threatened culture and traditions of the Gael.

His long continuance in Invergordon and the Presbytery to which it belongs is also a monument, of impressive stature, to the importance of the rural parish, its problems, frustrations, and opportunities, throughout a period when all these are as great and perplexing as the shortage of men animated by a vocation like his.

But is is not only the pungency of the ingredients with which he has composed his unusual ministry which well deserves the Church's recognition. Many would also do well to mark, and strive to emulate, the style of his bearing. "His Highland charm," says a friend, "makes him not only an invariably genial companion, but always a most persuasive ambassador of the Kingdom. He is also a man of God, rich in graciousness and dignity, rarely endowed with the power to draw his people irresistibly round the fire of his own love for Christ: a fire which burns and glows on the hearth of his warm and generous heart."

Of the 34 Moderators of the General Assembly since 1929, 22 have come from Glasgow or Edinburgh, and a further three from the vicinity thereof. Only three, in that period, have been found in the area north of St. Andrews, and one of these most of all by virtue of a ministry in Glasgow.



**Answers to Quiz.**

1. True; 2. True; 3. False; 4. False; 5. False,  
Only the head; 6. True; 7. False, though he regarded  
him as a spiritual son; 8. True; 9. True; 10. False,  
it was the other way round.

**DATES OF PUBLICATION  
OF THE SUPPLEMENT.**

The next Supplement will be available for distributors on September 13th.

If you have any material that you think would be interesting to the congregation, would you endeavour to have it in the hands of the Minister not later than 14 days before the date of publication.

**OFFICIALS OF THE CHURCH ORGANISATIONS.****THE WOMAN'S GUILD.**

**President:** Mrs C. J. THOM, 125 Beech Avenue. Telephone: NEW 2013  
**Secretary:** Miss ALICE HAMMOND, 2 Cheviot Drive. Telephone: NEW 3319  
**Treasurer:** Mrs W. W. BLUE, 19 Townhead Road. Telephone: NEW 3214

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.**

**Superintendent:** Mr A. MURRAY HANNA, 3 Moidart Gardens. Tel.: NEW 2171  
**Secretary:** Miss ALISON NIVEN, Ashdale, Neidpath R.E. Tel.: NEW 1712  
**Treasurer:** Mr ROBERT HODGINS, 46 Cheviot Drive. Tel.: NEW 3795

**THE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP.**

**President:** Mr JAMES LOUDON, 10 St. Vigean's Avenue, Tel.: NEW 3339  
**Secretary:** Miss SHEENA ROBERTSON, 68 Beech Avenue. Tel.: NEW 2796  
**Treasurer:** Mr JOHN McCORMICK, Chaurney, Lachfield Ave. Tel.: NEW 2164

The Youth Fellowship meets on Sunday evenings at 7.45 p.m.

**THE BOYS' BRIGADE—79th GLASGOW COMPANY.**

**Captain:** Mr JOHN A. ORR, 47 Beech Avenue. Telephone: NEW 3171  
The Company meets in the Hall on Friday Evenings at 7.30 p.m.

**THE LIFE BOYS.**

**Leader:** Mr DONALD McDUGALL, 4 Raeside Avenue. Telephone: NEW 2756  
The Company meets in the Hall on Friday Evenings at 6.30 p.m.

**THE GIRL GUIDES.**

**Captain:** Miss B. NIVEN, 54 Tassie Street, Glasgow, S.1. Telephone: BAT 2591  
The Company meets in the Hall on Thursday Evenings at 7.30 p.m.

**THE BROWNIES.**

**Brown Owl:** Miss JOAN DUNCAN, Fairhaven, Arthurlie Drive. Tel.: NEW 2872  
The Brownies meet in the Church Hall on Thursday Evenings at 6 p.m.

**THE BADMINTON CLUB.**

**Secretary** ) Miss SHEILA JAMMET, Dunmohr, Hazelwood Av. Tel.: NEW 2181  
**Treasurer...**)

The Club meets for practice on Tuesday Evenings and Saturday Afternoons.