

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

NEWTON MEARN'S PARISH CHURCH SUPPLEMENT

NOVEMBER 1973

Minister:

Rev. W. MURRAY MACKAY, M.A., S.T.M.
The Manse, Ayr Road. 639 2747

Session Clerk:

Mr. WALTER T. DAVIDSON
1 Raeside Avenue. 639 2534

Clerk to the Congregational Board:

Mr. T. A. WRIGHT, M.A., LL.B.
Lyncrest, Shawhill Crescent 629 2758

Treasurer:

Mr. A. M. McCANCE
30 Larchfield Avenue. 639 3320

Deputy Treasurer:

Mr. IAN W. WILSON
30 Fruin Avenue. 639 1491

Bonds of Annuity:

Mr. A. B. McCCLURE
29 Broomvale Avenue. 639 2695

Organist:

Mr. JAMES A. LITTLEJOHN
9 Gleneagles, St. Leonards, East Kilbride. 32 36503

Registrar:

Mr. D. J. MacPHAIL
Hightrees, Gilmourton Crescent. 639 2898

Roll Keeper:

Mr. W. W. BLUE
19 Townhead Road. 639 3214

Property Convener:

Mr. J. A. McKELVIE
11 Lauderdale Avenue. 639 4171

Church Officer:

Mr. WILLIAM G. R. DINSMOR
2 William Mann Drive. 639 2777

REGISTER

Baptisms:

Neil Southward, 10 Hodgson Street, Darwin.
Alison Faith Posner, 18 Abercorn Road.
Margaret Stirling Wright, 12 William Mann Drive.
Alan James Scrimger, 8 Walton Avenue.
Douglas Robert Neilson, 6 Balgray Road.
Morven Catherine Logan, 5 Rankin Drive.

Marriage:

Alison Mary Pollock and Dennis Munday.

Deaths:

Miss Annie McLean, 1 Moorhill Road.
Mrs. May Smith, Crookfur Cottages.
Mr. William Dawson, 37 Larchfield Avenue.
Miss Vera Watson, Crookfur Cottages.
Mrs. Trotter, c/o Houlison, Glebe Road.

COMMUNION

21st October 1973

Profession of Faith

Kathleen Anne Warnock, Myrtle Lodge, Old Mearns Road.
Catherine Amelia Black, 25A Evan Drive, Giffnock.
Brian James Marriott Crichton, 21 Woodvale Avenue, Giffnock.

Certificate

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Ramsay, 19 Arisdale Crescent.
Mr. and Mrs. Archibald M. Kirkland, 200 Harvie Avenue.
Miss Flora Forsyth, 31 Crookfur Cottages.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Stewart, 24 Abercorn Road.
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Morrison, 18 Walton Avenue.
Mrs. L. Dow, 46 Kinloch Road.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wright, 12 William Mann Drive.
Dr. and Mrs. J. C. McGregor, 34 Logan Avenue.
Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Boulton, 12 Logan Avenue.
Mr. and Mrs. L. K. Logan, 5 Rankin Drive.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Scrimger, 8 Walton Avenue.
Mrs. Jean Crinean, 44 Crookfur Cottages.
Mr. and Mrs. Robin L. Donaldson, 7 Broom Road.
Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Gray, 58 Kinloch Road.

MINISTER'S LOG

About a year ago the Presbytery's Youth Committee offered to come out and speak to our Sunday School on new approaches to children in teaching. In consultation with the Superintendent and Teachers it has been agreed to hold a Conference on Sunday afternoon and early evening, with an interval for tea between the two

Sabbath Services—9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

Sabbath School—Primary: 11.30 a.m.

Junior and Senior: 10 a.m.

B.B. Bible Class, 10.15 a.m.

Youth Fellowship, 7.45 p.m.

Sessions. It would start about 3.0 p.m. and close at 6.30 p.m. The Rev. Andrew Scobie, M.A., B.D., of Cardross Parish Church, has agreed to come out and give a general talk in the first session, and bring a lady who is in charge of the same work in the Dumbarton Presbytery to deal especially with the Infant and Primary work. It may be that at the latter a practical demonstration will be given. The date is Sunday 25th November, and an invitation is extended to all who are interested, Young Wives, Mothers and members of the Congregation to be present.

The Session decided to introduce the New Hymnary in 1974. It did not say precisely what date, but it will probably be early in the New Year. At the moment the orders for copies, both with music and without, have been placed since last June. At a convenient date, which will be announced from the pulpit, these will be put into operation. It might be a good thing if you were to procure your copy now and the Xmas Season is a suitable time to give one as a presentation.

It has been decided to have an addition to the number of Elders. We have lost by death and removal quite a number from our Congregation. According to the Constitution of the Church of Scotland, these will be chosen by the Kirk Session. We would always, however, like to feel that the congregation had a part in it, and if any member would wish some name to be considered would he or she submit the name to the Minister or the Session Clerk. These will be ordained or/and inducted on a date of which two Sundays notice will be intimated from the pulpit.

VARIA

Have you ever thought of making use of the Church Badminton Club. It meets on Tuesday evenings in the Hall from 7.30 p.m. till 10.00 p.m. as a club night. Wednesday is as a rule reserved for matches and team practice. All members of the Church are welcome—both married and unmarried.

Christian Aid held a Jumble Sale in the Scout Hall on Saturday 27th October 1973. Mrs. Thom, the district convener, informs us that it raised £160.

Mr. and Mrs. James Dinsmor (Moir and Jim) have emigrated to Adelaide, Australia. They have in a fortnight got a house of their own; he has got a job and they have joined the Scots Church in the city. All good wishes to them.

The Church was decorated most beautifully for the Harvest Festival on Sunday 7th October. To Mrs. Carlaw and Miss Isa Russell and the willing band of helpers we extend our thanks for making it a memorable occasion.

Our sympathy is given to the Orthodox Jewish Church in the destruction by fire of their Halls in Beech Avenue.

THE CHURCH FINANCES

It has been my unpleasant duty since taking up the position of your Congregational Treasurer to record that we are not paying our way.

In the Budget Letter last winter I asked you to consider giving a Bond of Annuity—particularly those of

you who are members of the Systematic Giving Scheme—so that your present givings could be enhanced by making it possible for me to recover the Income Tax you have already paid on what you give to the Church. A number of new Bonds have been given but not nearly enough. As things are at present it looks as though the deficits of 1971 and 1972 are going to be repeated this year and so, reluctantly, I must make this general appeal for increased generosity from everyone in some form or other.

I know that everyone is finding things difficult, but we must put the needs of our Church in perspective.

Talk about it

The cost of maintaining our Church building, paying our Minister, Organist and Church Officer and contributing to the support of other congregations in thinly populated areas works out at rather less than £10 per member per year (20 new pence or 4/- in old money per week). Many give much more but it is a sad fact that the average member gives much less. This is why we cannot pay our way.

Pray about it

In our Sunday School we teach our children that when they have problems they should, "Take it to the Lord in prayer". Can we as responsible church members do less? Times are difficult. Our first reaction is probably to look for the difficulties. If our church mean anything to us however and as a Congregation and as individuals we "Take it to the Lord in prayer" then I have no doubt at all that 1974 will end on a very different note.

Do something about it

A moment's thought, a moment's prayer and in all probability we will know what to do. Do it. This is not for someone else. This is for us—now.

ANDREW M. McCANCE

THE STORY OF THE 2nd MEARN'S GUIDES

In October 1923 two Companies of Girl Guides and one Brownie Pack were started in Newton Mearns by Mrs. Greig of Capelrig. Miss Isobel Templeton of Crookfur was Captain of 1st Mearns and Miss Margaret Nicholson of Towerwood of the 2nd Mearns. Brown Owl was Miss Elizabeth Greig now Mrs. Sheriff. Neither of the companies nor the pack was attached to a Church. Church Parades were held in Mearns Kirk Parish Church and Newton Parish Church alternately. The companies met on the same night in Mearns Church Hall for a considerable time. Eventually 1st Mearns were temporarily disbanded and 2nd Mearns and the Brownie Pack then met in Newton Mearns Church Hall for many years. When the Hall was required for other purposes during the rebuilding of the Church, the company moved to the Fairweather Hall. After some time when Newton Mearns Church Hall was again available the company returned there and still continues to meet there. In 1941 the Company became attached to Newton Mearns Church. This Company has now been in existence continuously for 50 years. There have been several Captains over the years, the present one being Mrs. Jane Pelosi who has brought the Company to a very high standard. It

should be added to complete the story that a second Company was formed out of the above in 1972, to become the 3rd Mearns Guides and attached to Newton Mearns Parish Church. Miss Muriel Russell was appointed as first Captain. It meets at present in Mearns Primary School. Colours were presented to it by a member of the congregation who wishes to remain anonymous. Some function of celebration of the 50 years will be held during the winter.

(We are indebted to Mrs. Guthrie Reid and her sister Miss Margaret Nicholson, the first Captain, now living in the South of England, for the above carefully gathered information.)

ORGAN RECITAL

I know there are many in the Congregation who feel they do not have sufficient opportunities to hear the magnificent Organ we have in our Church, over and above the introductory and closing Voluntaries each Sunday and I am sure they will welcome steps being taken to remedy this. On Sunday 18th November at 6.30 p.m. we are to have an Organ Recital given by a brilliant young organist, Robin Erskine, B.Mus. (Hons.) A.R.C.O. Mr. Erskine was an Organ Scholar at Glasgow University and has broadcast and recorded with the University Chapel Choir. He has experience of Organs in France, Italy and Germany. With Mr. Erskine there will be soprano soloist Irene Grant, Dip.(Mus. Ed.) R.S.A.M., who is principal second soprano in Paisley Abbey Choir, having been on T.V. and broadcast with them. Both Mr. Erskine and Miss Grant are music teachers in Paisley Grammar School. The Recital starts at 6.30 p.m. and should last about an hour and Mr. Erskine has promised to give a varied programme. It is hoped there will be a large audience on Sunday 18th November at 6.30 p.m.

J.A.L.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Christmas Services in the worship of the Church will be celebrated on the 23rd December, at 9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. At the second Service the children of the Sabbath School will process up the centre aisle with their gifts of toys, books etc. which will be sent to Mearnskirk Hospital and Crosslees Children's Home, Thornliebank.

The Youth Fellowship will provide a Service of Carols and Readings, and the address will be given by the President Mr. Gordon Peters on Sunday evening 23rd December in the Church at 6.30 p.m.

Sunday School Parties

Saturday 22nd December.

Primary 2.30—5.00 p.m.

Junior 6.00—9.30 p.m.

Woman's Guild

Party—10th December, 7.30 p.m.

2nd Mearns Guides

Thursday 20th December.

Visit to Crookfur Cottage Homes.

3rd Mearns Guides

Thursday 20th December.

Visit to a ward in Mearnskirk Hospital.

Boys' Brigade, Senior

Meal in town and visit to place of entertainment under Buchanan Bequest.

Boys' Brigade, Junior

Xmas Party—Friday 21st December, 7.00—9.30 p.m.

2nd Brownie Pack

Xmas Party—Thursday 20th December, 6.00—7.30 p.m.

3rd Brownie Pack

Club Night Party—6.00—7.30 p.m.

7th Brownie Pack

Tuesday 18th December.

Visit to Crookfur Cottages.

Sparks

Wednesday 19th December.

6.30—7.30 p.m.

"OLD MEARNS"

by William McMeechan

Apart from legend, the first actual record of Mearns is in 1177, when Roland of Mearns signed as a witness to a gift of land to Paisley Abbey, made by the wife of Walter the Steward. This Roland (whose family seems to have come originally from Galloway) was the overlord of the whole parish. The eastern part of the parish he kept for himself; the western part from the village westward to Neilston and southward to Ayrshire, was known as the lands of Pollok. This Roland divided between two brothers.

One, Peter, took lower or nether Pollok, and built his castle near Pollokshaws, later to belong to the Maxwells, of whom Sir John Stirling Maxwell was the last. The other brother, Robert, built his castle at upper Pollok, and the last castle on that site was demolished a few years ago.

Roland of Mearns had his own castle where the present Mearns castle stands, though the existing castle was not built till about 1440. Roland's castle seems to have been quite a strong place in its time. His family ended with his great granddaughter who married Maxwell, Lord of Caerlaverock about 1250, so the lordship of Mearns passed into the hands of Maxwells, Earls of Nithsdale. The present castle seems never to have had any part in history except that in Covenanting times it was garrisoned by a troop of Dragons.

It is interesting to note that the village of Newton Mearns—The "New Town" of Mearns is really quite an ancient place. It has borne that name for seven centuries, for in 1273, it is mentioned in a document relating to a gift of land, again, to the greedy clergy of Paisley Abbey. By the way, Mearns folk among themselves always call the village "The Newton" as it has been called for hundreds of years.

The "Auld Toon" of Mearns stood just across the road from the Old Castle. A farmhouse later occupied

part of the site and retained the original name Alton. The stones of the farm buildings can still be seen near the roadside.

About $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of the Castle, on the road to Waterfoot there is a small hillock on which stands a cottage and some outbuildings. This hillock is known as King Henry's Knowe and the king referred to is Henry, Lord of Darnley, the poor chap who was unlucky enough to marry Mary, Queen of Scots, and got himself murdered in the end because he was in her way. What Mary and Darnley did there or how they were there I have never been able to find out.

Still in this area, about two miles south of the Old Castle lies Hazleden, on the banks of the Earn. Here in my youth was a picturesque village and a flourishing silk printwork. All the printing was done by hand by means of engraved blocks. Some very fine work was done by this firm till cheap Japanese goods and a flood of cheap machine-printed cotton from Lancashire ruined the silk trade.

Hazleden in 1296 had its moment of history too; William Wallace was crossing the moor from Ayrshire to Glasgow when he was attacked here by a party of five Englishmen on the staff of Earl Percy, who was then the English Governor of Scotland. They beat up Wallace and stole his horse but Wallace got two friends to help him and caught up with the thieves at Cathcart, where he slew all five of them. For this exploit Wallace was outlawed and I believe it was really the beginning of his lifelong struggle against the English oppression.

(To be continued)

3rd MEARNS GIRL GUIDE COMPANY

The Company is again meeting in Mearns Primary School Hall every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. This Session the guides are taking part in a 5 minute skit which is being run as a district competition. The winner of the competition will go forward to a grand division final. At Christmas the guides are hoping to go to the Carnival in Glasgow. Also we are going to make up presents for the old folk in Mearns Kirk Hospital and have Carol singing with them. The Company will welcome any girl between the ages of 10½ and 16 to come along and join us any Thursday night.

MURIEL RUSSELL

OBITUARIES

Miss Annie McLean, 1 Moorhill Road died on Friday 14th September 1973. She was born in the district and lived all her life in it. Her father was blind and her mother, if my memory serves me right, became blind also. Yet theirs was one of the happiest homes in the Mearns and she, with the other members of the family, contributed to it by their willing acceptance of the situation, and their readiness to share the extra duties laid upon them. She herself was one of the happiest natured girls one could wish to meet. She took an active part in the life of the Church. One remembers her in the Girls' Association and in the plays they put on in the Church Hall. She was a regular member of the Woman's

Guild and in every way she sought to play her part. During her protracted illness these past few years one must pay tribute to the way in which Bob, her brother, took over the duties of the house and the assiduous way in which he visited her in hospital. He can have no regrets at what he was enabled to do. To him and her sister Peggy—married and living in the Borders—we extend the deep sympathy of the Congregation.

Miss Vera Watson, Crookfur Cottages died on 16th October, 1973. It is just over 7 years since the Cottage Homes were opened and she was amongst the earliest to come. Her father was in the Royal Navy and when he was stationed at Rosyth the family home was set up in Edinburgh. From earliest days she showed a gift for artistic design and was the buyer of hats in Wilkie's in Edinburgh. Some think that had she gone to London she would have been one of the finest in the country. She settled down quickly in the Crookfur Homes in which one of her tasks became to take charge of the flowers in the Fraser Institute. She joined the Horticultural Society in the district and was a member of the committee. She taught in the Sunday School and was a member of the Congregational Board. She attended the Woman's Guild. Perhaps it was her gracious personality that above all commended her to us. In seven short years she had won her way into our affections. To her brother and his family in England we extend our deepest sympathy in the passing of one dear to our hearts.

Mrs. May Smith, Crookfur Cottages died on Saturday 29th September 1973. She came to Crookfur with her husband, and his death about a year ago was a sorrow from which she did not recover. Not long after he died she asked me if I could get her into a Holiday Home for a fortnight. The only proviso was that it must not be a place to which she had to travel by sea. She wanted it around Glasgow within about an hour's journey. This was something I kept thinking about but had never been able to solve. At last after a lapse of time had taken place I went to her and apologised that I had not come to see her about it. Never mind, she said, you have come, that is all that matters. I learnt the lesson from her that it's never too late to mend. She was glad I had come back. To her daughter and family in Clarkston we offer our deep sympathy.

Mrs. Trotter, c/o Houlison, Glebe Road, died on 22nd October at the residence of one of her daughters. For many years she lived in a farm cottage belonging to John Rodger of Netherplace Farm. When her husband retired they moved into the Village to Netherplace Road. Their Golden Wedding, celebrated in the Fairweather Hall, was an occasion that those who were present will always remember. She was a woman who brought her children up in the fear of the Lord and had the joy of seeing them take their place honourably in Society. She had her sorrows to bear in the loss of a son and a daughter but her faith showed itself triumphant. She loved the Church and found her way to it as long as she was able. To her sons and daughters and all her kith and kin we extend the deep sympathy of the congregation.

OFFICIALS OF THE CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

The Woman's Guild

President: Mrs. R. L. Todd, 142 Ayr Road.
639 3149

Vice-President: Mrs. W. Dinsmor. 639 2777

Secretary: Mrs. J. Roach, 14 Eddington
Drive. 639 2829

Treasurer: Miss M. Meiklejohn, 74 Larchfield
Avenue. 639 2778

The Guild meets on Monday evenings at 7.30.

Young Wives' Group

President: Mrs. Avril Hulley, 2 Eaglesham
Road. 639 2631

Secretary: Mrs. G. Durham, 218 Harvie
Avenue. 639 5615

Treasurer: Mrs. Smith, 60 Kinloch Road.
639 5674

The Group meets in the Upper Hall on alternate
Monday evenings, from 7.45 p.m.

The Sunday School

Superintendent: Mr. J. McKerral, 46 Newtonlea
Avenue. 639 3655

Treasurer: Mr. Robert Hodgins, 46 Cheviot
Drive. 639 3795

Secretary: Mr. Alan Paterson, 46 Rodger
Avenue. 639 4972

The Youth Fellowship

President: Mr. Gordon Peters, 49 Castleton
Drive. 639 2228

Secretary: Miss Denise Thomson, 53 Fereneze
Avenue, Clarkston. 639 3109

The Boys' Brigade—79th Glasgow Company

Captain: Mr. Alex J. Watt, 25 Orchard Dr.
Giffnock, Glasgow. 638 6704

The Company meets in the Hall on Friday evenings
at 7.30.

The Junior Section, The Boys' Brigade—79th Glasgow Company

Leader: Mr. Martin Ogilvie, 1 Glebe Lane.
639 2493

The Company meets in the Hall on Friday evenings
at 6.30.

The Girl Guides—2nd Mearns Company

Captain: Mrs. A. Pelosi, Glencairn, Rysland
Crescent. 639 2830

The Company meets in the Church Hall on Thurs-
day evenings at 7.30.

3rd Mearns Company

Acting Captain: Miss Muriel Russell, Netherfield,
Glebe Lane. 639 1658

The Company meets on Thursday evenings at 7.30,
in Mearns School.

2nd Brownie Pack

Brown Owl: Mrs. R. Booth, 53 The Oval,
Clarkston. 637 9154

This Pack meets in the Church Hall on Thursday
evenings at 6.00.

7th Brownie Pack

Brown Owl: Miss Simmie, 30 Windsor Avenue.
639 3177

This Pack meets on Tuesday evenings at 6.15, in
Eastwood High School.

3rd Brownie Pack

Brown Owl: Miss Joyce Neil. 639 5293

This Pack meets on Tuesday evenings at 6.15, in
Eastwood High School.

The Badminton Club

President: Mr. Colin Atkinson, 106 Beech
Avenue. 639 2970

Secretary: Mrs. I Gray, 58 Kinloch Drive.
639 5710

Treasurer:

Club meets on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings
at 7.30.

Sparks—Boys 5-7 Years

Leader: Miss Catherine Prime, 53 Newton-
lea Avenue. 639 2572

The Sparks meet on Wednesday evenings between
6.30-7.30.

The Next Supplement will be available for distribution
on Sunday, 10th February 1974. 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
1974 date of issue.