

Craigsbank Church of Scotland

CORSTORPHINE

No. 22.

December 1945

Minister: REV. GRAHAM M. LITTLE, M.A.,
"Dunleigh," 6 St John's Road.
Telephone 65198

Session Clerk:

Dr J. NORMAN W. HUNTER, 22 Craigs Crescent.

Treasurer:

Mr JOHN THOMSON, 15 St John's Terrace.

Organist:

Miss C. G. G. SCOTT, 20 Saughree, Rosewell.

Church Officer:

Mr W. J. PHILLIPS, 113 Balgreen Road.

CHURCH CALENDAR 1945-46

11 a.m.—Morning Worship

Primary Sunday School, 11.30 to 12.15 in Lesser Hall. (Children under 8 brought to Church Service at 11 a.m. leave for Primary Classes after third singing).

12.30 p.m.—Junior Sunday School and Junior Bible Class.

6.30 pm.—Evening Worship

Youth Club Fellowship Meeting at close of service (except on first Sunday of each month).

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday Evenings—at 6.30 p.m.—

- Dec. 16. Congregational Conference.
Subject—"Christmastide in the Story of the Church."
,, 23. Carol Service of Praise.
Jan. 20. Congregational Conference.
Subject—"The Corstorphine District Association." Speaker—Mr WILLIAM ALLAN.
Feb. 17. Congregational Conference.
Subject—"The Ladder of Human Endeavour" (ii). Speaker—Miss M. CAMPBELL.

Youth Services on the Last Sunday of each month.

Week Nights—

- Dec. 21. Youth Organisation's Concert at 7.15 p.m.
Jan. 4. Junior Sunday School Party at 7 p.m.
,, 5. Primary Sunday School Party at 3 p.m.

COMMUNION SERVICES

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed at both services, 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m., on Sunday, 3rd February. Visitors' Cards may be had on entering.

A MORNING PRAYER

Day by day, dear Lord, of Thee, three things I pray:
To see Thee more clearly,
Love Thee more dearly,
Follow Thee more nearly.

MAN'S FREEDOM

God has given to man freedom to decide for Him or against Him. This freedom is fundamental, for without it there could be only automatic obedience, not the obedience of freely offered loyalty. God always respects this freedom to the uttermost; therefore, freedom is fundamental to Christian civilisation.

But though man is free to rebel against God, and can indeed do marvels through science and human wisdom in controlling his own destiny, yet he cannot escape the sovereignty of God. To deviate from the course of God's purpose is to incur disaster sooner or later—and sooner rather than later in so far as the deviation is great. The disaster ensues by "natural laws" as scientists use that phrase—that is by the casual processes inherent in the natural order. But these laws are part of God's creation, and the disasters which they bring are His judgments.

WILLIAM TEMPLE.

MINISTER'S LETTER

DEAR FRIENDS,

The words of the late Dr Temple, quoted above, remind us that freedom is God's gift, but that freedom can only be fully enjoyed when man owns above all else the sovereignty of God. That is a lesson for our present day. When freedom is misused, disaster results, as past events have made abundantly clear. But when freedom is accepted as God's gift, and when we make it our first concern to consult God as to what we should do with His gift, then human progress is possible, and we see the purpose of God as the governing reality of history. What the world as a whole may not know, the Christian has discovered in the Gospel to be the truth of life—that without God we can do nothing aright. With Him all things are possible. Decision for God, acceptance of His Sovereign Will, is the answer to "whither now" at the close of the second world war.

Never has the Christian Church faced such a time of opportunity as to-day, and never has Christian witness been more urgently needed to indicate how man's freedom, so long cherished and so valiantly defended, may be everywhere preserved and perfected. If we make not this a religious cause, then our victories over tyranny cannot safeguard us long in a world unconvinced of the judgments and mercies of Almighty God.

What we may be able to do as individual Christians within the sphere of our Congregation and Parish may not seem much as a contribution to the achievement of brotherhood and peace, and the fulfilment of God's will for His people. But if we are truly yearning for the "glorious liberty of the children of God," and if we are not indifferent to the plight of millions who must suffer if the times are not redeemed, then we will wish to play our part and testify by lip and life, in work and in worship, to the deepest convictions we possess. Let us be assured that each Christian life has a wondrously wide sphere of influence. Not a few of our great leaders and commanders in time of war have left the mark of their faith upon those they have led. Their example reminds us that Christian witness is always a power for good and a source of blessing to the wavering and undecided. The world to-day may be full of confused thoughts and feelings, but we are convinced that though it may not be articulate, there is but one cry in every land and city and home—"where do we go from here?" The Church knows the answer. But the Word Incarnate must become incarnate in us, eloquent in fellowship, passionate in service.

"March we forth in the strength of God,
With the banner of Christ unfurled,
That the light of the glorious Gospel of truth
May shine throughout the world:
Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin,
To set the captives free
That the earth may be filled with the glory of God,
As the waters cover the sea."

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At Craigsbank we have now entered our ninth year as a Congregation—and, more happily, our third year under conditions of peace. To celebrate our eighth anniversary we held a Social Meeting on 16th October, which proved a most enjoyable function, and at which we were most pleased to welcome the first of our Service men to be demobilised. We look forward to the

return of many of our members and adherents who have served with the armed forces, and we specially look forward to their co-operation in the varied tasks that lie ahead of us. Their experience of religion in the Forces and their insight into the needs of mankind to-day, may provide a most helpful contribution in enabling us to meet the challenge of our times, and setting forward the work of the Church with a new sincerity and urgency.

Our thoughts go out to those who are still posted abroad, who have still days of hardship and testing to endure, and to whom, with those who are "counting the days," we extend our good wishes, praying for their safe journeyings, sound health and a speedy return.

Wishing you all a happy and thankful Christmastide and a joyous New Year.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

GRAHAM M. LITTLE.

New Member of Kirk Session.—A very warm welcome is assured to Mr William Allan who was inducted as an Elder on Sunday, 28th October. Mr Allan has already shown in many ways his deep interest in all that concerns the welfare of our Congregation, and we express the hope that he will find much happiness in the duties of his office.

Christmas Sunday, 23rd December.—Christmas Praise will be the special feature of the services on this date. The Senior Choir will render suitable items at the morning worship. At 6.30 p.m. there will be a Carol Service of Praise, specially adapted for children, at which Miss Scott's recently-formed Junior Choir will take a leading part. Retiring Offerings at both services are for the Schemes of the Church at Home and Abroad.

Youth Concert.—The various Youth Organisations of the Church are at present preparing their parts for the entertainment to be given on Friday, 21st December. The Dramatic Club Committee have promoted the scheme, and have the arrangements in hand. As well over 100 performers will be taking part, and accommodation is likely to be taxed, each youth unit is being issued with tickets (Adults, 1/6; non-playing Juveniles, 9d), according to the number of members in the unit.

103rd Girl Guides.—The Guide Meetings are held on Wednesday evenings at 6.45 till 8.15 p.m. in the Church Hall. At present there are 18 in the Company.

Three Brownies flew up recently, and some more are coming soon.

In the summer 3 Guides camped at Gifford with the 183rd Company, but unfortunately the weather was so bad they had to break up Camp before the time.

The Guides have been busy with test work, and the following Badges have been gained:—Cyclist, Needlewoman, Reader, Hostess, Interpreter and War Service.

The Company would welcome any girls between the ages of 10-14 who would like to become Guides.

A. W. ROBERTSON.

Scouts (26th Midlothian "Craigsbank" Troop).—The Scout Camp at Invertruim during the summer holidays proved a great success. The weather was good, and Scoutcraft, axemanship, hikes, climbing and other activities were thoroughly enjoyed. Visits to Newtonmore, 3½ miles away, provided exercise in walking and skill in hitch-hiking. Brushwood clearing was the "good turn" connected with which much excitement was experienced and practice gained in fire-fighting. Games ranked high in the daily routine as did bathing while the heat wave lasted. On the two showery days a "General Election" was held. Prizes for the best Scouts in Camp were awarded to Ian Small and John McGregor.

This term the Troop has been re-formed into four patrols. An Ambulance Class has been started under the tuition of Mr Simmons. Besides the usual Inter-Patrol Competitions there will be this session a Competition for the best Scout in the Troop. The Trophy to be awarded will be known as the Macdonald Trophy, in memory of Scout Ian Macdonald, whose sudden passing was so great a loss to the Troop.

Youth Club.—Meeting on Thursday and Sunday evenings, the Youth Club continues to attract a good number of members. Recreation on the weeknight is coupled with occasional bursts of industry. Hobbies have been confined to "plastics." Material however is in short supply, and it is not going to be possible to complete before Christmas all the orders given at the Garden Fete. A Party and Dance has been arranged for 27th December, this being the first social of the Club for this season. New

plans are anticipated for 1946, and a second-term syllabus for the Sunday Evening Meetings will be issued in due course.

Flowers for the Church.—Donors of gifts of flowers during this year are warmly thanked for their kindness. Offers of further gifts for dates in 1946 are invited, and should be intimated to Mrs E. Shannon, 6 Craigmount Grove (Phone 65373), as soon as possible, so that a rota may be compiled. Money donations will also be most acceptable, as a fund is required to supply flowers on dates that have not been nominated. A flower fund offering box will be set in the vestibule in due course, but meantime donations should be sent to the Convener, so that floral decoration may be provided for the winter months.

Magazine Distributors.—Our thanks are again tendered to those who distribute the Church's magazine, *Life and Work*, whose interesting pages serve to keep us up to date in our knowledge of Church matters. Intending new subscribers (2/- per year) should communicate with the Convener, Miss Madge Cameron, 30 Featherhall Crescent North.

FROM THE KIRK SESSION TO THE CONGREGATION

The following Overture was submitted to the General Assembly on 24th May 1945:—"That the General Assembly, with consent of a majority of Presbyteries, enact and ordain that women members of the Church shall henceforth be eligible for the office of the Eldership on the same terms as men." The Deliverance of the General Assembly thereanent was as follows:—"The General Assembly do not adopt the Overture, but resolve to send down anew the Overture under the Barrier Act with the instruction that Presbyteries take steps to ascertain the opinions of Kirk Sessions and Congregations, and report to the next General Assembly." In accordance with these instructions the Overture was sent down to us, and an opportunity was given to those interested to vote on this question. The Congregation will be interested to know the result. The Kirk Session neither approved nor disapproved of the Overture, the vote being 4 for and 4 against. The Congregation disapproved of the Overture, the vote being 18 for and 42 against.

In view of the fact that the Treasurer estimates that the Congregation will have contributed £275 towards the Minister's Stipend by the end of the present financial year, the Session has resolved to take all the necessary steps to obtain full status as a *Quoad Sacra* Congregation of the Church of Scotland. The first step, the obtaining of permission from the Home Board to proceed with a Petition for erection into a full charge, has already been taken. The Session hopes to report the successful issue of its efforts in due time. In the meantime, the Session desires to record its thankfulness at the prospect of attaining this great step in the history of the Congregation. It feels confident that the attainment of autonomy and full powers will be an incentive to each and every member to do his or her utmost to make Craigsbank a real, live centre of Christian fellowship and service.

First Communicants.—A Class for First Communicants will be held at 5.45 p.m. each Sunday in January. Intending members should advise the Minister as soon as possible.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

BAPTISMS

- Oct. 21. Annie Margaret Macdonald, 19 Craigmount Gardens.
Nov. 3. Frances Anne Durward, 21 Hill-view Drive.
,, 18. John McInnes Drysdale, 8 North Gyle Terrace.

Roll of New Members

Craigmount Gardens

19 Mr and Mrs Donald Macdonald.

Maybury Garage

Mrs W. J. I. Carmichael.