

The Next Ten Years

(Information and photos taken from the church
magazine, the “Castlemilk Crusader”)



Christmas Eve Service, 1969

1965 (continued)

In the summer of 1965, Miss Elizabeth Morton of Glenacre Quadrant, younger sister of Margaret, the Life Boy Leader, went off to Hollywood, California to live.

The Christmas Fair, the Carnival Dance and the Coffee Morning raised the sum of £153 17s 6d towards the Organ Fund. £600 had still to be raised to add to the £875 already in the Fund. The Organ Ways and Means Committee were holding a Musical Evening to this end.

By the end of 1965 another £1000 had been repaid towards the debt for the church buildings, making the total repayment £9406 so far, and £3768 still to repay.

Thanks to the Mission to the lower part of the parish during September of 1965 quite a number of people handed in "lines" and started coming to the church.

Celebrations for the tenth anniversary of Castlemilk East Church were deferred till the 5th November last year, instead of September as in Castlemilk West, to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the ordination of their minister, the Rev. R.D. Ross. A telegram of congratulations was sent on behalf of Castlemilk West.

The sudden death of Mr Jack Millarvie in October, 1965 was a sad blow to his many friends in Castlemilk West. He had been an elder since 1959, and had taken part in the recent visitation of the parish.

In September, 1965, Miss Grigor bought a little blue car which she called "Phoebe", named after the woman in the Bible who was supposed to have been the first deaconess.

1966

In January, the Woman's Guild celebrated its tenth anniversary by inviting as a guest, Mrs Macleod, the wife of the previous minister, who was a past president. There were visitors from various guilds in the area and Mrs Knight recalled highlights from the ten years.

Mr Sydney Powell was now the Church Officer.



Because of pressure of work, Mr William Dewar, who had been Treasurer for three years resigned, and Mr Robert Campbell took over. Mr Campbell had been an active member of Castlemilk West since 1955. He was ordained as an elder in Fairbairn Church in 1949, and was one of the first three elders inducted in Castlemilk West in 1957. He was the first Clerk to the Board and had served continuously on the Board and Kirk Session. He was a past president of the Men's Association.

An extensive revision of the Congregational Roll took place and anyone who had not attended church for three years received a letter and was visited by elders "with a view to encouraging them back into the life of the church". If no interest was shown their names were deleted from the roll of members.

Devorgilla House in Dumfries was opened as the 32nd Church of Scotland Eventide Home, a hotel in Pitlochry was purchased for conversion to an Eventide Home, and in Glasgow a block of flatlets for 12 elderly women was in preparation. The women would be able to live independently while enjoying certain communal facilities, including one main meal served in a common dining room.

The Woman's World Day of Prayer was held in Castlemilk West.

A Prayer Meeting was held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.

Henry Grant of Croftfoot Road, William Hamilton of Simshill Road and Alexander Kincaid of Ardmaleish Road were ordained and admitted to the eldership. William Hurst of Orcades Drive, already ordained, was admitted as a ruling elder. He was also Halls Convener.

Samuel Hunter of the Glasgow Herald announced in an article that Elizabeth Thomson, the librarian at Castlemilk Library was delighted to say that not a single window had been broken and hardly a page had been torn in the last financial year. She said, "Look at the condition (of the library) after five years. I've a very great admiration for the people of

Castlemilk. It's the few who give it a bad name."



View of Part of New Shopping Centre

The Christian Action Group, made up of members from each of the local churches, met with Cathcart M.P. Mr Edward Taylor and the three local councillors to discuss a number of problems in the area. These were the poor condition of footpaths and roadways, the long delays by the Factor's department in carrying out repairs, the need for bins to be emptied more often, the congestion in St Enoch's Square at the 5 and 14 bus stops, the installation of some type of warning system for old folks and invalids in the high flats, the treatment of unco-operative tenants and the need for more policemen to combat vandalism. Arrangements had already been made to start a Lunch Club for pensioners. A Playgrounds Committee was set up to get suggestions regarding proposed play spaces. The aim of the Christian Action Group was to give Castlemilk a new label, "The scheme without problems".

It was calculated that if the church obtained an average giving of 2s 6d per week from each member (less than the price of ten cigarettes) it could have an annual income of approximately £8500 and all the debt would be wiped out within a year.

Bob and Martha McDill, along with their two children, Helen Marie (almost four) and Janna Ruth (almost two) sent greetings from America to their friends in Castlemilk West.

A link was set up between the Woman's Guilds in the Presbytery of Lochaber and the deaconess, Miss Grigor. She would keep them informed about the life of Castlemilk West and they would pray for the work of the church and send gifts of food, clothing, toys and books to be distributed to needy families.

Ministers on the move -

Rev. John Sutherland who was an assistant minister in Castlemilk West was the sole nominee for the charge of Killean and Kilkenzie, near Campbeltown.

Rev. Wm. Mackay was inducted to Priesthill Parish Church.

Rev. Peter Douglas, who was in Castlemilk West for two months in 1962 and was later Assistant at Cathcart Old and Glasgow Cathedral, became minister of the linked charge of Boarhills and Dunino, near St Andrews.

Rev. Alistair Kelly, who left in 1961 to go to Drumry St Mary's, Drumchapel, became minister of South Morningside Church, Edinburgh.

At the Garden Fête, held on 28th May in the church grounds, the queen, Doreen Woods of Birgidale Road, was crowned by Edward Taylor M.P. for Cathcart. The attendants were Elaine Smart of Glenacre Drive and May Murray of Castlemilk Drive.

The dresses were designed and made by Miss Rose Grant of Raithburn Road. The admission to the fête was 6d for adults and 3d for children. The amount raised was a record total of almost £400. Mr Barker, "whose tremendous work and enthusiasm in the planning of the fête, was an inspiration to the Committee".



Miss Mary Dunlop

Miss Mamie Dunlop was Congregational Board Clerk. She had been heavily involved in

the work of the church since the workmen's hut, as Sunday School teacher and secretary of the Sunday School, and was one of the original nine members of the Board. She was also now responsible for all duplicating and typing services of the church.

Keith Lodge, a respite care home for the mothers of mentally handicapped children, was opened in Stonehaven by the Church of Scotland Social and Moral Welfare Board.

"Growing Points", an illustrated report on the work of the church overseas was being prepared by the Overseas Council of the Church. It was to have a full coloured cover and 48 pages of news and information and 50 pictures. It would cost 1/- and would be available from Assembly Week at the church bookstall.

The 17 year old golfer, John McTier of Downcraig Drive, who learned his golf at Linn Park won the Scottish Boys' Golf Championship. He was a pupil at Glenwood.



By courtesy of the "Evening Citizen."
Back, left to right: Mike Campling, David Davidson, Robert Amess, Dieter Hamer.
Front: Sheila Wright, Marjorie Furniss, Virginia Cunningham, Yvonne Dorey, May Moffat.



Bob McClure from Glasgow

Bible Training Institute students had been working in Castlemilk West for eighteen months. They all came to the Youth Club on Thursday evenings and the Fellowship on Sunday evenings. Bob McClure assisted Miss Grigor with the Junior Bible Class.

187 new churches and halls had been built by the Church of Scotland since the end of the Second World War to meet the needs of new housing areas. 16 buildings were completed in 1965 and 17 others were in the process of being built. Urgent new projects were possibly going to be delayed because of lack of finance. The General Assembly authorised the committee to borrow £750,000, but the Rev. D.F. Macdonald, the convener of the committee said they were almost at the limit.

With a General Election pending the Kirk Session of Castlemilk West invited Edward Taylor for the Conservatives and Fred Forrester for Labour to a confrontation meeting in the Church Hall. With elder Bill Strain in the chair they were each allowed 20 minutes to say their piece, and then it was question time. The hall was crowded with church people and non-church people and the meeting was a resounding success.

In overseas medical and educational work supported by the Church of Scotland there was a shortage of personnel, especially doctors and teachers. There were vacancies for ten doctors (including three women)

in India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Malawi, South Africa and South Arabia. Vacancies also existed for teachers in India, Israel and Africa.

In May, Miss Grigor took a party of ladies to Craigengower, Tighnabruaich for a week's holiday. Several ladies from the church helped with the chores.

The "Organ Box" in the vestibule was in competition with the "Crusader Box " for contributions, with the result that donations for the magazine were down by £6 10s for the first four months of the year. £5 was received from the Men's Association "to soften the financial blow".

The new President of the Men's Association was Mr Charles Rough of Dougrie Road who took over from Mr Bert Grant.

The Organ Fund stood at £960 5s 2d, having received £18 15s from a Musical Evening, £14 14s from a visit from the Salvation Army Songsters, and £24 7s 11d for three months from the "little Organ Box on the stairway". £500 still remained to be paid. An Xmas Fayre was planned for the 26th November to try to raise the remaining £500.

Miss Anne McLay of Drakemire Drive took over from Miss Betty Aitken as captain of 44B Company of the Girls' Brigade.

Some members of the the Young Mothers' group went to a conference which mothers from all parts of the city attended, and found it a very rewarding experience.



MRS. M. JAMIESON.

Mrs Jamieson had been a Sunday School teacher for many years, but it was "her work as convener of the Building Fund boxes for which she was better known". This involved arranging for the uplifting of boxes in fifty districts, some five or six hundred boxes in all. Mr Jamieson was the secretary of the Horticultural Society in Castlemilk.

Elder Jimmy Aitken was said to be "a bit of a Jock Stein", as the church football team won both the Glasgow League Championship and the Glasgow League Cup.

Mr Barker, the organist and choirmaster was looking for new members for the choir.

Mr James S. Milne of Dunagoil Road, who was one of eight surviving members of the 5th Gordon Highlanders, returned to Chièvres, a small town near Brussels in Belgium, 48 years after the town was liberated by the Gordons on Armistice Day in 1918. The purpose of the visit was to present a new set of Colours of the Gordons to the town, the previous ones having been stolen or destroyed during the Second World War when the town was again occupied by the Germans, and to initiate the first part of a twinning of Ellon in Aberdeenshire with Chièvres.

Mr Alex. Stephen and Mr Ronald Watson graduated from Glasgow University with a B.Sc. (Hons.). Alex had been an enthusiastic member of the 18th B.B. and of the Pipe Band for many years and was an officer in the Company before moving to Balornock.

Ronald lived in Castlemilk Drive and his mother was a member of the Woman's Guild.

Kathleen Grant of Croftfoot Road, secretary of the Sunday School, Mairi Dick of Arnprior Road, a leader in 74A Company of the Girls' Brigade and Alan Campbell of Glenacre Quad., son of the Church Treasurer, all gained teaching diplomas from Jordanhill College. Veronica Miller of Dougrie

Terrace, a Sunday School teacher and a leader in the Junior Boys' Brigade, having started work for the award at Glenwood School, gained the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award from the Duke himself at Holyrood Palace. Her father, Mr Alex. Miller had been leader of the Life Boys for many years and was a founder member and former President of the Men's Association.

The amount collected in door-to-door collections for Christian Aid in Castlemilk and Carmunnock was £431 7s 4d, being made up of £146 17s from Castlemilk West, £44 17s 2½d from Lloyd Morris Congregational Church, £110 11s 3d from Castlemilk East, and from Carmunnock Parish £56 16s 5d from the Castlemilk area and £72 5s 5½d from the Carmunnock area. The amount collected in Glasgow as a whole was

£10,536 14s 11d and in the whole of Scotland was £74,500.

Children were warned off using the church grounds as "a practice pitch for rock-climbing, pot-holing, ski-ing, or simply an apprenticeship in the arts of the demolition trade".

Mrs Isa Rose appealed for lady volunteers to join the Church Sick Visitors.

Denis Duncan, editor of the British Weekly, assembled a panel of writers, including Professor William Barclay, Principal Charles Duthie, the Rev. D.P. Thomson and Professor George Knight, to write for the paper on the doctrines and teachings of the Church. The price of the paper was 6d and could be bought at the Church of Scotland bookshop, all leading booksellers or ordered at the local newsagent.

Mr David Prentice, an O.A.P. of Carmunnock Road took note of the appeal for help with the church gardens and spent nearly a week removing the outsize weeds which dwarfed the shrubbery in the lower part of the grounds.

The Castlemilk Horticultural Society held a Spring Garden competition. Details could be obtained from Mr Jamieson of Dougrie Road.

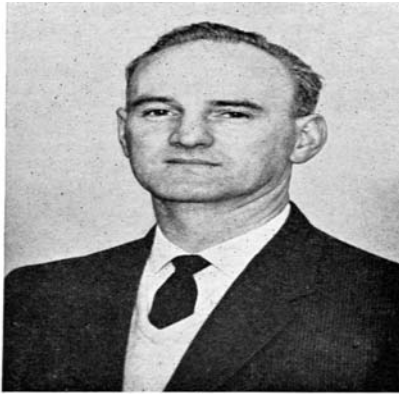
A gift of £5,000 to an appeal by the World Council of Churches was made by Christian Aid for the victims of the Turkish earthquake. Family tents to the value of £1,000 were also sent by Christian Aid as there were 70,000 people without shelter of any kind. The Church of Scotland contributed to Christian Aid through the Co-ordinated Appeal.

Rev. Bob McDill and his wife Martha were welcomed back to the church. They were in Scotland for the wedding of Bob's twin brother in Croftfoot Church. Bob's parents attended the Communion Service in Castlemilk West with them, and Bob preached on the following Sunday, the church's 11th anniversary, at the morning services. On another evening the McDills met with the congregation informally and showed slides.

1967

Throughout the summer months there was only one morning service, at 10.15, and there was no evening service during July.

New regulations came into force regarding Supplementary Pensions. As many were unwilling to entertain the idea of receiving "assistance", the new Ministry of Social Security wanted it understood that "incomes throughout the land should not fall below a certain minimum level". A person living alone required £4 10/- per week, plus rent, and the difference between that and the weekly income was the sum which was to be paid as Supplement to Pension. For married couples the allowance was £7 2/- plus rent. Even if the claimant had something "tucked away for a rainy day", the amount had to be of sizeable proportions before it affected the supplement payable.



Mr. John Lawrence

Mr John Lawrence, the Session Clerk since 1962, along with his wife and daughters, Irene and Eleanor, decided to emigrate to Canada. He had been a Sunday School teacher, an active member of the Men's Association and had participated in most of the work schemes: repairing the church roof, painting the railings, helping in the gardens and delivering the Crusaders, among other things. He had been a great force in the Kirk Session and Congregational Board, and he would be missed.

Rev. Donald Macleod, who had been born in Canada, along with Mrs Macleod and the family were sailing for Canada, hoping to settle there. Mr Macleod was hoping to get a charge on their arrival.

A sermon preached by the Rev. James Millar remarked on the criticism, even from people within the Church, which was being levelled at the Church. Books such as "What's wrong with the Church?", "God's Frozen People" and "The Uncomfortable Pew" did not take into account the influence of the church and the dedication to morality and social work which the church displayed in the world.



Some members of the Property Committee

The Property Committee under the leadership of Mr Bill Strain undertook a massive amount of work in repairing and renovating in the church buildings and the manse. Some items were small but also included were the repainting of the entire lower part of the church building, with a new fitted carpet for the vestry, new curtains and an electric fire fitted into a wall panel. The outside front wall of the building was refaced. To save money the committee with a few co-opted members (some of whom were not even church members) tackled the work themselves.



The average weekly attendance of the Woman's Guild was 120. The members worked tirelessly towards producing work for the fête, including a weekly Work Party. An outing to Carberry Towers, one to Kirkcudbright and an evening one to the Trossachs and Helensburgh were planned.



A happy group of Guildswomen at Glenrothes during their summer bus outing, with Miss McNaughton, our former Deaconess.

Appeals were made for volunteers to paint the church railings, and to deliver the "Castlemilk Crusader".

The marriage was announced of the Rev. John Sutherland, believed to have been an "inveterate bachelor". He was marrying Muriel Bone, the

daughter of the minister at Ruthwell, Dumfriesshire. The minister, his wife and Miss Grigor were invited to the wedding.

Mr Peter Dane of Dougrie Road became the new President of the Men's Association, Mr John Smith of Simshill, the new Secretary and Mr Logan of Glenacre Terrace remained the Treasurer.

Donations to the Crusader Box for the first four months of the year amounted to £27 4/-, an increase of £6 4s 2d over the same period the previous year.



The main aim of the Garden Fête was to raise money to repay the debt on the church buildings and the manse, and about £420 was raised, which was the most raised at a fête to date. £10,406 of the debt had been repaid leaving £2,768 still to be repaid.

Mr Gardner, Headmaster of Glenwood Secondary School crowned the queen, Mary Wilkie of Croftfoot Road. Her attendants were Violet Kane of Birgidale Road and Elinor Harley of Glenacre Terrace, and the dresses were made by Mrs Thos. MacKay of Arnprior Quadrant. The Pipe Band of Glenwood School were in attendance.

The deaths of Mr William Coffey of Carmunnock Road and Mr William Duncan were announced. Mr Coffey had been a member of the Board for a couple of years and was Property Convener at the time of his sudden death. He also had a long association with the church football team. Mr

Duncan who had had a lingering illness had been ordained to the eldership in 1962, having served on the Board for some time.

Arnprior Junior Sunday School changed time from 2.30 in the afternoon to 11.30 in the morning and the Senior Sunday School was absorbed into the Junior Bible Class, meeting at 11.30 in the Church. The age for the Junior Bible Class was 12 years of age, and those in the Junior Sunday School would go into the Junior Bible Class when they reached the age of 12.



*Girls' Brigade Colour Party, April, 1967,
(see page 12).*



New colours for the Girls' Brigade were dedicated and handed over by the Rev. James Millar. They had belonged to the Girls' Brigade of Park Church in the west end of the city, and were given on the uniting of Park Church with Giffnock Orchard Park Church. Mrs Steenson of Downcraig Road altered the name on the flags which were beautifully embroidered and in perfect condition.

Simone Anderson (15) of Glenacre Terrace was chosen by the Glasgow Branch of the Red Cross as Cadet of the Year.

Betty Aitken (now Mrs Matheson), who had been Leader of the 74B Company of the Girls' Brigade for a number of years and a teacher in the Sunday School, sailed in March with her husband, Donald for Australia, to settle in Rockhampton in Queensland.

Jean Cochran, of Crosshill, who had been a keen member of the Youth Fellowship and Youth Club for some years and had been running the Thursday evening Sunday School Club in the Church, set off in July for one year to Kampala in Uganda on Voluntary Service Overseas.

A number of the members of the Youth Fellowship spent their summer holidays on the Church of Scotland Seaside Missions. One group went with Miss Grigor to Leven, while others went to North Berwick and to Nairn.



Mr. John McKechnie

Mr John McKechnie, who joined the Board in 1960 became an elder in Castlemilk West in 1961 and the Church Roll keeper in 1963. He had been ordained an elder in the McMillan-Calton Church in London Road in 1955.

Many of the young people who had been trained for leadership in the church were now getting married and moving to other parts of the city. Because of this the Kirk Session appealed for men and women to help in the organisations and the Sunday School.

There was still £3000 left to pay of the outstanding debt on the church buildings, and it was hoped to pay this off by 1968. To this end a "Grand Christmas Fayre" was held. There was a Dance in the evening, with a buffet tea, and the cost of a ticket was 5/-.

The church magazine, the Castlemilk Crusader, was 10 years old. The circulation was 3,250, from 2,000 when it started, and there had been 30 issues. Kilgours of Aikenhead Road who had advertised in the first issue were still advertising.

Rev. Raymond Hunt B.D. who was the first assistant in 1957 had been unanimously elected as minister of Clepington Parish Church in Dundee, having moved on from South Church in Buckie.

The recording of popular hymns by members of the Woman's Guild for broadcasting over the loud-speaker system was a tremendous success, and other organisations were to make recordings in the future.

Another group had a great time in Tighnabruaich, at Craigengower Church of Scotland Home. The weather was glorious and there was a fishing trip and a sail to Arran.

A new Church of Scotland charge, St Ninian's, was opened south of the border in Corby, Northants. The first congregation began in the 1930s when Messrs Stewarts and Lloyds, the steel manufacturers set up an establishment, and now about half the population of 40,000 were Scots.

Many young leaders had moved from the district after marriage, and a debt of gratitude was owed to them. The result was frequent changes in the leadership of organisations. This situation could only be remedied by older more settled people taking charge of the organisations.



Mr Bill Strain of Croftfoot was the successor to Mr John Lawrence as Session Clerk. He had previously lived in Birgidale Road. Bill had come to the church in 1959 from Elderpark Parish in Govan, where he had been Sunday School Superintendent and Scout Leader. He had been ordained as an elder in 1958. In Castlemilk West he had been Leader of the Junior Sunday School, Building Fund Convener, Property Convener and Presbytery Elder "to mention only a few jobs he had undertaken". Mr and Mrs Strain had three of a family, Billy (7), Joyce (3) and Alan (16months) in 1967.



MR. JACK GIRDWOOD

Mr Jack Girdwood took over the Captaincy of the 18th Company of the Boys' Brigade from Mr David Carrick who had served in the company since its inception. Mr Girdwood was a member of Cathcart Baptist Church and a Leader in the Christian Endeavour Society. He had been in the B.B. since 1939, having been Captain of 178 Glasgow Company and, during a short stay in Fife had formed the 2nd Glenrothes Company and been Mid-Fife Battalion Training Officer. Messrs James Campbell, Robert Dunbar, Derek Gordon, Donald Neilson and George Wright would assist him in the 18th Company.

74A Company of the Girls' Brigade lost two "very fine" leaders in Miss Anne Grindlay and Miss Florence McIlhinney, both of whom had married and moved to another part of the city. Mrs John Smith of Simshill, a former leader of 74B Company, assisted by Miss Mairi Dick and the Misses Jacqueline and Marilyn Deas, stepped into the breach.



Leaders of
our two
Girls' Brigade
Companies:
Left:
Mrs. J. Smith.
Right:
Miss Anne McLay.

74B Company remained unchanged under the leadership of Miss Anne McLay, assisted by the Misses Ena and Isobel Thomson and Miss Irene Sinclair. Miss Joan Young had left at the end of the previous session.

In 1966 Miss Margaret Morton (now Mrs Bailey) had had to resign the leadership of the Junior Boys' Brigade because of transport difficulties after her marriage, and Misses Margaret and Dorothy Robertson had resigned at the same time - all three after long, invaluable service. Mr William Shields junior, a former officer of the 18th Company of the Boys' Brigade and first member of the company to win the Queen's Badge, took over the leadership, assisted by Messrs Graham Wilson and James Symon, Misses Joan Sherriff and Isobel Barr, and Mrs I. McDonald. Misses V. McKinlay and V. Miller had left before the start of the new session.

Miss Helen McLachlan of Birgidale Avenue, daughter of Mrs McLachlan and of the late Mr Alex. McLachlan, an elder and enthusiastic worker in the church for many years, passed her final exams as Welfare Officer to the Blind, and was appointed to a district in Glasgow. Helen was a Sunday School teacher in Castleton Primary Sunday School.

Miss Edna Steele of Dougrie Road took up an appointment as house-mother in the Langlands Park Approved School for Girls at Port Glasgow, a school run under the auspices of the Church of Scotland Social and Moral Welfare Department. Already employed there as supervisor was Miss Sandra Dane, also of Dougrie Road. Both girls had been Sunday School teachers and active in the Youth Club and Fellowship.

Miss Veronica Miller of Dougrie Terrace, until recently a Sunday School teacher and leader in the Junior B.B., was employed at NATO Headquarters as a secretary and had been going along to the Scots Kirk in Paris, which the Rev. Donald Caskie had made famous in his book, "The Tartan Pimpernel". Veronica had previously won the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

The Youth Club were charging an annual subscription of 5/- and a weekly admission fee of 6d, as they were now having speakers for part of each evening, in order to encourage greater numbers of young people in the church to attend.

The Hewitt family set off for Whyalla, in Southern Australia, at a great loss to Castlemilk West. Matt, the father had been an elder and Halls Convener for several years and had taught in the Sunday School. Mrs Hewitt was a Guild member and teacher in the Beginners' while Sandra taught in the Primary Sunday School. Matthew junior could be relied upon to deliver 300 to 400 copies of the Castlemilk Crusader each edition. There were also the younger Hewitts, Elizabeth, Susan and Heather.

40 boys had enrolled in the Boys' Brigade and knocking at a few doors the numbers had grown to nearly 70. To help with the church's Christmas Fayre and B.B Week, car cleaning at 5/- per car and a sponsored hike at 6d a mile were undertaken and £76 was collected for B.B Week, the highest amount (£3 15/-) being collected by Cpl Ian Barnes.