

# Castlemilk West Parish Church



## An Early History

### Part 3

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

1963

Rev. James Millar, minister for fourteen years of Glencairn Church, Kilmaurs, conducted both morning services on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February, having been proposed as Sole Nominee with a view to his election as minister of Castlemilk West Church. In the Presbytery of Irvine and Kilmarnock he served as Church Extension Convener and Youth Convener. Before entering the ministry Mr Millar served in the R.A.F.

The call to the new minister was signed by 744 members and 89 adherents.



*Rev. James Millar, with his wife and family, Joyce and Ian.*

Photo by Mr. H. Ritchie, Carmunnock Road.

The Women's World Day of Prayer was held in Castlemilk West Church on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

On Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April Rev. James Millar was inducted as the new minister of Castlemilk West Church. There was a large congregation at the ceremony, including ministers from the Presbytery of Glasgow and from neighbouring churches, Presbytery elders, and a party from Mr Millar's former church at Kilmaurs. Those officiating at the service were the Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery, Rev. H.C. Mackenzie, and the Clerk to the Presbytery, the Rev. Andrew Herron.

The sermon was preached by Rev. Stanley Andrews, and the Rev. J.E. Gillon addressed the new minister and the congregation. There was a social on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. " Bus-loads" of parishioners from Kilmaurs came. A cheque was presented to Mr Millar in lieu of robes, and Mrs Millar was presented with an electric food mixer, while Joyce and I an received gift vouchers. Rev. George Gilchrist, the interim moderator, was presented with "a wristlet" watch and the Rev. Wm. Mackay with "a wallet of notes".

Rev. Wm. Mackay left to go to Springburnhill Church, Glasgow.

Mr Thomas McEwan resigned as Treasurer, after five years, and Mr William Dewar of Birgidale Road took on the job. Mr McEwan continued as an elder and leader of the Senior Sunday School.



ONE OF THE CLASSES IN OUR SENIOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Church of Scotland magazine "Life and Work" was given a new look. The cost of the magazine was 6d per month or 6s yearly.

In Castlemilk (9,000 houses with 45,000 people), Community Week was set up to "put Castlemilk in its proper perspective to the rest of the city as a decent, respectable and neighbourly community". A series of social events was organised up until the week itself, 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June. The Lord Provost, Dame Jean Roberts donated a trophy, the Lord Provost's Cup. £1000 was set aside to be invested in a development fund towards community centre facilities. Two sites were selected for centres, although no building date was fixed at that time.

The first collection of Building Fund boxes for the year brought in the sum of £239 10s, which was a big increase on the same period the previous year.

The amount collected in the "Crusader" (the church magazine) box for the first four months of the year was £22 8s 2½d, which was an increase of 14 shillings over the same months the previous year.

In preparation for the coming of the new minister the Works Committee, assisted by several members of the congregation, carried out an extensive programme of repairs and renovations at the Manse. Among other things they flush-panelled about twenty doors, installed a new hot-water boiler and renovated electric wiring and points. Several ladies also helped by scrubbing floors after the painters had finished.

The sum of £136 was collected for the presentations made at the Welcome Social.

A party of twenty ladies from the parish enjoyed a week's holiday at Craigenrow, the Church of Scotland Rest Home at Tighnabruaich during the first week in May. Miss McNaughton was in charge of the party and was assisted by several church members who forfeited a week of their holidays.

In an attempt to co-ordinate all the youth activities, a Youth Council was formed under the chairmanship of Peter Morrison. A new youth group for those in their twenties, known as the Templars, was started by the Rev. Bob McDill. The youth also formed their own prayer and study group, meeting once a week. Mr Macleod, the Elder Youth Adviser, made the youth work in the church "an integral part of his life".

The total offerings for the months January to April amounted to £982 5s 6d.

The annual display of the Boys' Brigade Company took place on 1<sup>st</sup> June in the Coplaw Street Drill Hall. The Summer Camp went to St. Helens, Isle of Wight and about 60 members went.

The Life Boys Annual Display was held in Castleton School and the admission programme cost 1s 6d.

The church football team won the Glasgow Churches five-a-side cup, out of an entry of thirty-three teams.

Glasgow Corporation was considering disposing of the 1890 Act which stated that no licences to sell drink were allowed in municipal housing schemes.

Mrs Isabel Millar, the minister's wife became President of the Woman's Guild.



The new deaconess, Miss Jean Grigor, with several years' experience in teaching replaced Miss Sheena McNaughton.

Miss McNaughton, who had been in Castlemilk West for seven years and had done a tremendous amount of work from running training classes for Sunday School Teachers to setting up the Young Mothers' Group and visiting the aged and sick, had moved on to Glenrothes. At a large gathering in the church Miss Muriel McEwan presented her with a cheque for £60 on behalf of the church and parish. Presentations were also made on behalf of the Young Mothers' Group, the Youth Club and the White Heather Club. The Sunday School had already made their presentation to her.

The Rev. John Sutherland replaced Rev. Bob McDill, who was one of the most popular Assistants Castlemilk West had had. Mrs McDill also took an active part in the church life, and enjoyed singing in the choir especially. He, his wife and their baby daughter returned to America.

The church roof needed to be repaired to ensure it was watertight and a group of volunteers successfully took on the job.

Dorothy McWee of Dougrie Drive, a Sunday School teacher in the Primary Department at Arnprior Road School was made Girls' Captain of King's Park Secondary School.

Mr and Mrs Hewitt of Glenacre Terrace had five children, one child in each department of the Sunday School in this year.

Messrs. James Aitken of Carmunnock Road, David Currie of Glenacre Quad., James Dool of Dougrie Drive, William Kent of Stravanan Road, William Neil of Birgidale Road, and Charles Rough of Dougrie Road were ordained as elders.

A Reception and Welcome Social for members who had joined the church during 1963 was held in the church hall and "was likely to become an annual event".

The church roll at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1963 was 1,287, and the offering for the year amounted to £2,897 9s 8d. The House Boxes raised £597 5s 6d.

## 1964

The chimes which ground to a halt at the beginning of 1963 were reinstated thanks to the efforts of the minister and Mr H. Alexander, and a donation of a new Brenell tape-recorder and microphone from Rev. T.B. Girdwood and his church, Shawlands Cross. Donations were also received from the Woman's Guild (£20), the Choir (£10), the Sunday School (£10), the Men's Association (£5), the Young Mothers (£3) and the Girls' Guildry (£1 10s).

The Stated Annual General Meeting of the church was held in the church hall on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> February and the tickets cost 1 shilling. There were musical items and tea was served. "All church members were expected to be present".

Another £1000 of the debt on the church was repaid, leaving £6000 still to repay.

Matthew Hewitt (12) was thanked via the church magazine for watering all the plants on the staircase to the church every Sunday for over a year.

The Young Mothers' Group provided curtains for the stage in the church hall.

The church choir gave concerts in churches all over Glasgow, but due to movement from the district now appealed for new members.



Mr Harry  
Carmunnock Road took photos for the church magazine.

Ritchie of

The new multi-storey flats on Dougrie Road were completed, and certain newspaper journalists coined the names "Concrete Castles" and "Leaning Towers of Castlemilk" for them. "With their up-to-date design and living facilities they usher in the space-age look to the scheme. Lucky are the families who land for one of the new flats. Lucky are those with the promise of a seventh heaven on the fourteenth floor. Not surprising if they should feel "up in the clouds" with joy to be handed the key to a dream house."

Copies of the "The Gist ", a newspaper specially printed by an Edinburgh newspaper, giving a full report of the General Assembly were available in the church, one free to every family.

With the arrival of the new skyscraper flats on Dougrie Road the circulation of the church magazine was almost 3,250.



The four Protestant churches serving Castlemilk were able to use the swimming pool in St Margaret Mary's School on Dougrie Road, and the Junior Bible Class and Senior Sunday School went on one Thursday each month.

Mr Alex McLachlan died. He had served on the Congregational Board and then became an elder in 1959 and Clerk to the Board. He had been both Secretary and President of the Men's Association, and was also interested in the football team.

Mr William Robertson resigned as "Skipper" of the B.B. Company after four years. His successor as Captain was Mr David Carrick of Arnprior Road, who had been an officer for some time and a member since the Company's formation eight years previously.

Mr John McKenzie, who had worked so hard to establish the Pipe Band, moved away and a new trainer was needed. Meanwhile the band were practising with another Company.

Mr Alex. Miller of Dougrie Terrace resigned as Leader of the Life Boys. He had been an officer since the beginning and Leader for four years. Miss Margaret Morton of Glenacre Quadrant took over.

For two years some of the older Life Boys were calling at houses when required and doing odd jobs or running errands. Sometimes they just dropped in for a chat with old people living alone.

The three tea ladies, Mrs C. Millar, Mrs E. Caird and Mrs A. Gray received table lamps from the Committee and Young Mothers' Group.

Anyone who did not have a Co-op number in Glasgow Co-op Society (South) could use the number G.S. 10 and the dividend went to the credit of the Community Centre.

The Junior Bible Class met every Sunday at 11.30a.m. and the Leader was Mr T. McEwan.



JUNIOR BIBLE CLASS—MAY, 1964

In the first week of July there was a Summer School for youngsters. Instead of the expected 40 or 50 children well over 100 arrived on the Monday and this attendance was maintained throughout the week.



*Happy youngsters enjoy a break at Summer School.*

Miss Grigor's Commissioning Service took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> September. Taking part in the service were representative ministers, elders and deaconesses from Glasgow Presbytery, as well as the Moderator and the Clerk of the Presbytery. Tea and cakes were served by the Woman's Guild in the hall after the service. Miss Grigor was presented with a tape recorder and her mother with a bouquet of flowers. Her father received book tokens.

In Castlemilk East Church, on 24<sup>th</sup> September, the Rev. R.D. Ross was inducted to the charge which had been vacant since the previous October. Mr Ross's previous charge had been Rockvilla Church in Possilpark.

Mr John D. Sutherland who had been Assistant in Castlemilk West for a year left, and hoped to find a charge of his own. The Rev. Samuel Mohlomi from Basutoland who had been in Castlemilk West for a month went to London to continue his studies before returning home to his own people.

Donations to the "Crusader" magazine continued to rise and for the first eight months amounted to £52 16s, and in this amount was a cheque for ten dollars from Rev. Robert McDill who was now in his own charge in Missouri Valley, Iowa.

The total sum collected in the Castlemilk area during Christian Aid Week was £255. This amount was down slightly from the total of the previous year.

Following the death of Mr William Thomson of Glenacre Drive, the neighbours gave the sum they had collected, to put standard roses at the entrance to the church. The remainder was used to decorate the church over the Christmas period.

The church magazine, the Castlemilk Crusader, was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 350 entries in the British Weekly Awards for Evangelism in Print. Fernhill and Cathkin church magazine came 3<sup>rd</sup>. The British Weekly had this to say about the Crusader, "Full of church news certainly, but keenly aware of what is happening in the large housing estate all around it. Among the hundreds of magazines around me during the judging it caught my eye and compelled me to lift it. An attractive cover features a news photo from the district. Inside, the make-up is lively - no lengthy columns of type to wade through, interesting headlines and a sprinkling of bright photos."

Messrs John Crichton of Glenacre Terrace, Alex. Erskine of Arnprior Road, Hugh Gilchrist of Arnprior Quad., Ian Prentice of Simshill, John Smith of Simshill and John Taylor of Glenacre Drive were ordained as elders on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

The total number on the roll of the church at 31<sup>st</sup> December was 1,278. 80 were admitted by profession, 31 by certificate and 6 by restoration. 63 were removed by certificate, 14 by death and 49 otherwise.

Another £1000 was repaid off the Building Fund debt, leaving £4,768 still to be repaid.

The offerings for the year came to £3,007 7s 4d.

## 1965

The new Assistant minister, Mr Donald Stuart arrived. He had been a missionary in West Africa, a chaplain in the Merchant Navy and the Director of the European Missionary Crusade.

Eight young people under training in the Bible Training Institute in Bothwell Street came to work in Castlemilk West.

A set of china was presented to the church for use at special functions by five ladies, Mrs Dool, Mrs Carrick, Mrs Liddell, Mrs McKay and Mrs McGregor, all grannies who had a weekly work party.

A group of Sunday School teachers went on a week-end conference to Gean House, Alloa, in February.

On the last Sundays in February, March and April the evening services were conducted by the Woman's Guild, the Youth Fellowship and the Men's Association respectively. Mr Jack Barnard preached the sermon for the Y.F., Mrs Mitchell for the Woman's Guild and Mr Alex. Erskine for the Men's Association.

The Garden Fête on the 29<sup>th</sup> May was opened by the well-known newspaper columnist and television personality, Mr Jack House, who also crowned the queen, Kathleen Hill of Arnprior Road. Her attendants were Ann McKechnie of Downcraig Road, and Sadie Strachan of Birgidale Road.

On Sunday evenings during the summer months as many as twenty of the Youth Fellowship met in the manse, where Mrs Millar, the minister's wife looked after them.

Mr Bert Grant of Raithburn Road, became the President of the Men's Association, and Mr Harry Grant became the new Secretary.

“At this time the Social Service of the Church was the largest and most varied of its kind in Scotland, and it was available to all, irrespective of class, creed or colour.” There were 31 Eventide Homes, situated in nearly every part of Scotland, three of them in Glasgow. The homes catered for over 1,000 old folk, whose average age was in the mid-eighties, and several of them over the 100 mark, the first home being opened in Glasgow in 1918. There were eight homes for children, two of them in Glasgow. The Church of Scotland was a recognised Adoption Agency, 177 babies being placed for adoption in 1963. Among other Homes run by the Church there were five hostels for Working Lads, three hostels for Young Women, two Approved Schools for Girls, one Approved School for Boys, a Mother and Baby Home in Glasgow, a hostel for Epileptic Lads in Glasgow, two holiday homes in Kinghorn, Fife, a Rehabilitation Hostel for Women in Glasgow and a Rehabilitation Centre for Men in Glasgow. The Church also ran a Home-Help Service, with centres in Edinburgh and Glasgow. In January a day centre for Old People was opened in Edinburgh, where about 25 old men and women who were left alone all day would be able to spend the day in warm and comfortable surroundings and get a

midday meal. The Church employed over 400 people on a full-time basis and many more part-time in its social work.

Miss McClue, the Guardian of 44a Company of the Girls' Guildry left to get married. She had been with the Guildry in Castlemilk since 1956 and Guardian for about seven years. She was a member of Croftfoot United Free Church.

Miss Isabel Donaldson, Guardian of 44b Company of the Girls' Guildry had to give up due to pressure of business. She had been guardian for about 2½ years. The new Guardian of 44b Company was Miss Betty Aitken, who had been an Assistant for several years and was already Guardian of the Guildry Company in Hutchesontown Parish Church.

The Boys' Brigade Company had their first camp abroad, in Belgium, on the Ostend coast during the Fair Fortnight.

Miss Lesley McNair, who used to teach in Castleton Sunday School came home on furlough from her missionary station at Chitambo, Northern Rhodesia.

In April, a new Hammond organ, Model R.T.3, was bought and installed in the church, as the Selmer which the Woman's Guild had "so zealously worked for", was now "more or less a write-off", and was destroying "the dignity and reverence of congregational worship". The organist, Mr Barker, himself an organ-builder, had delayed "the day of reckoning only by his skill and perseverance". Selmer no longer made organs. Each member of the congregation was asked to donate £1 to the Organ Fund and £500 had been raised. The new organ cost £1,500.

There were over 44,000 churches throughout the world using the Hammond Organ, including many in Scotland, and quite recently Hammonds had been installed in Canterbury Cathedral and Windsor Chapel. It was said they never required tuning, and were not affected by temperature and humidity changes. They had a wide dynamic range and there was no lag of tone after the keys were pressed. There were churches in Scotland who had had the Hammond for up to 27 years without a service visit.

There was an announcement by the city's new Park Director of a £3,500 plan for Castlemilk to take on "an attractive rural look". "A series of woodland settings would enhance the area. More toddlers' playgrounds would be added, and garden layouts would lighten the drabness of the main shopping centres." Parks Department officials were to visit local schools in "an effort to prevent vandalism and to curb the aggressive actions of youthful axe-men." Schools would possibly be given care of sections of woodland.

Mr George Pirie, a former elder and B.B. Captain of St Margaret's Church, Polmadie Road, was appointed Assistant Minister at Castlemilk East Church.

Rev James Millar completed his visitation of every home in the church membership, over 1,300 members. This took him just over two years.

More than 200 children came to the Summer School in the church hall each day during that week. There were 27 helpers.

For an experimental period of one year Castleton Junior Sunday School met at 11.30. Arnprior Juniors met at the usual time 2.30 in the afternoon.

In August the redecoration of the church was completed, as, thanks to the efforts of the Works Committee, the difficulties over the reliability of the roof had been removed.

The scrubbing and cleaning was done by some ladies of the congregation after the painters left.

During the last week in August, the ministers and the deaconess ran a very successful Youth Week, when 50 to 60 young people met each evening from Monday to Friday in the Church Hall. "There were film shows, Beat Groups, a Camp Fire evening and games in the church grounds".

Mr Ian Turpie, Glenwood School's Principal Teacher of Music, with encouragement from the Head Teacher, Mr Gardner, formed a forty-piece orchestra. Pupils rehearsed three days a week after school hours, and had already featured in a concert in the school.

Fred and Rose Grant of Raithburn Road took a trip to the Holy Land.

Kenneth Branney of Glenace Drive and Arnprior Primary Sunday School won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in a competition for Primary pupils throughout Scotland. His winning workbook illustrated missionary stories of Calabar, told in Sunday School.

The Girls' Guildry, the oldest girls' organisation, having been in existence for 65 years, amalgamated with the Girls' Life Brigade and the Girls' Brigade of Ireland to form the Girls' Brigade.

Five members of the Youth Fellowship, Jacqueline Petrie, Sandra Dane, Lesley Crichton, Edna Steele and Ronnie Syme assisted at a Church of Scotland Seaside Mission in Campbeltown during the Fair Fortnight. The rest of the team were from the Y.F. of Blairbeth Church, Rutherglen, whose minister, Rev. A. Moyes was the leader.

To commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church, Holy Communion was celebrated at 10.15, 12 noon and 6.30 in the evening on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> September. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of that week there was a mission to the lower part of the parish. On Friday evening there was a Social and Concert in the Church Hall and on Saturday evening a Grand Anniversary Dance. On Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, the congregation welcomed back Rev. Donald Macleod, the former minister, who conducted both morning services, and Miss Sheena McNaughton, the former deaconess, who addressed a Youth Rally in the afternoon.

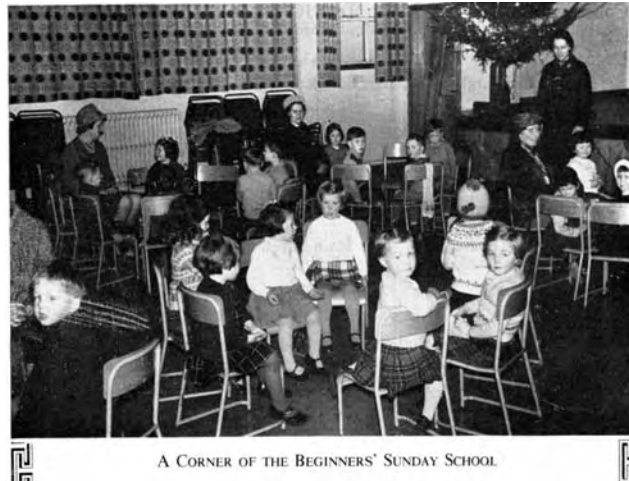


10th ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY  
Rev. James Millar, Rev. Donald A. Macleod, Miss S. McNaughton  
and Miss J. Grigor.



H.W. Hewett of H.W. Hewett and Sons (Let Hewett do it!) celebrated his Diamond Jubilee in 1965, and in recognition of this and Castlemilk West's tenth anniversary he offered a "Special Concession" to the readers of the Castlemilk Crusader of a 5% discount, on any furniture they bought up to Christmas, whether cash or credit.

The first names on the Baptismal Roll, on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1955, were Isabelle Jones of Glenacre Quad., and James Martin of Glenacre Drive.



The number of  
the Baptismal Roll at June 1965, was 854.

baptisms on