

## The Women's Missionary Association

1891

A branch of the W.M.A has been started during the year, with a membership of 52. The amount collected for 1891 was £14.9.1d. Meetings have been held on the second Wednesday of every month, at which letters from the lady missionaries and other news of interest are read. Tea is served at 5.30 p.a., after which is a working meeting and all articles made are sold at a moderate charge in aid of funds.

1901

The Session rejoices in the progress of the Missionary Spirit amongst us and in the efforts of the W.M. A to obtain addresses from missionaries direct from the foreign field. They would lay it as a burden on the heart of every members of the church that service in this cause is the claim of Him who commended to His disciples - "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every nation." The opportunity of contributing for this purpose every month by the visit of the collector. It is the Master who calls then and by our response we shall in the end be judged.

### The Ladies' Sewing Meeting

1882

Meets every alternate Thursdays at 230 p.m., in the Vestry. All the ladies of the congregation are cordially invited.

### The Ladies' work Party and the W.M.A.

1916

During the year fortnightly sewing meetings have been held, the attendance being very good. The sum of £56.18.0 was realised as a result of the year's work. £50 was given to Bath Street funds and £5 to the W.M.A. Subscriptions amounted to £7.17.2d, making altogether 12, 17. 2 which was sent to the headquarters of the W.M.A.

1923

An old institution in St. Andrew's as in most other churches is the Sewing Meeting. We can imagine it reaching far back to the early days for the ladies were ever in the front with their deft fingers when any special need arose. Though bearing a new and perhaps more dignified title the L.W.P. is just the old-time 'Sewing Meeting', and since the days when it was presided over by Mrs. Marcus, it has become an established institution instead of spasmodic efforts.

Merged with the L.W.P is the W.M.A. which monthly devotes one of its meetings to missionary news, addresses etc. These meetings are under the presidency of Mrs. Chesney, the working part being faithfully carried out by Mrs. Young. Visiting missionaries are invited as opportunities arise.

1955

"We feel the congregation should know of the sum collected by the ladies since 1950 and the contributions made to Church Funds: -

#### The Women's Home Church Association

1933

The formation of a branch of the W.H.C.A by the ladies of St. Andrew's was established at a meeting held on 21st March and a President and Secretary were elected. This association has as its object the coordination of the work of the ladies of our church.

Since that date this association has been responsible for the visiting of the sick, the yearly collection for the work of our Church Sisters and hold a weekly creche every Sunday morning to enable parents to attend church services.

An inter-denominational service is held yearly in our church and ladies are invited from all churches in the city to take part in this service.

#### The Women's Meeting

1923

When the Bath Street Mission was transferred to the Salvation Army Mr. A.J.Straw had been the leader of the Mother's Meeting there. His popularity so endeared him to all that the members there at their own request began to meet under his tuition in the church premises every Monday evening. The meeting was devotional and had an average attendance of twenty-one members.

1949

This meeting has almost concluded a most successful winter's programme. The talks have been of a very high standard and included all sorts of subjects - religious, social historical and educational. The attendance has been very good in spite of weather and illness. Some of the members have not missed a meeting for several years. This is the more remarkable because many of the members are grandmothers, some of whom attended the meeting as girls. Now they come and bring their married daughters.

Although not rich in this world's goods, the members give generously to several charitable causes. They give a proportion of the weekly collection to church funds, and when it was suggested to them that they should set aside a small sum each Week towards "re-construction", they adopted the suggestion. The results of the Women's Meeting are not spectacular, but those who engage in the work feel that their efforts are deeply appreciated and that their labours are not in vain.

M. H. De Nutt

#### Report

1973

The Women's Meeting, although of very old standing, continues successfully. The lively and friendly gatherings of women every Monday evening are well attended by upwards of ninety members. New members continue to arrive.

This meeting is interdenominational and serves a very necessary outward service to the church.

P. Hunter

The Ladies' Fellowship  
(Previously known as the Young Wives' Group)

1960

This Group was foraged in 1960 as a result of the Stewardship campaign and meets regularly to enjoy programmes of cultural educational social and varying topics. It also includes visits to places of interest in the City and beyond.

The members take an active part in the work of the Church often in the form of helping with refresh Rents on special occasions.

The Men's Group

1961

It was quite clear from the response forms returned following the Stewardship campaign held last year that there was a general desire among the men of the congregation that a Men's Group should be formed in St Andrew's.

In September a small number of men assembled at the Church to explore the possibility and the first full meeting was held on 21st October 1960, when the aims of the Group were defined broadly as offering opportunities for men of the congregation to become better acquainted with each other to meet socially and to engage in such activities as were of common interest.

Since October meetings have been held monthly and the Group has been fortunate in having prominent members of the Church as their Chief Guests. Attendance has varied but it is felt that an encouraging start has been made, to what it is hoped will be a permanent part of the life of the Church.

Since that time the programmes have continued to be interesting and great interest is taken in them.

Special Efforts sponsored by Individuals

Inter-Church Aid

1962

"During Christmas our congregation has been given an opportunity to share in the great world-wide "Freedom from Hunger" campaign by contributing to Inter-Church Aid.

So far, the sum of £24.8.6 has been contributed. This includes the proceeds of a Coffee Morning held by Mrs. Rouse which amounted to £8.14.0.

Two members of the congregation have arranged to pay a regular amount each week and it is hoped more people will feel disposed to contribute in this way or at regular intervals throughout the year. In order that the money may be put to good use as soon as possible, Mr. L.T. Maguire intends to pay over to our Church Office in London a first instalment at the beginning of January and would very much like to be able to send at least £50."

In addition, Mrs. Rouse is the organiser for the Tuesday nanning of the city's "Overseas Shop", ably supported by Mesdames McLeod, Birks, Boyd, Langford, Fox, Kelly, Craig, McDougall, Stevens, Henry, Stark, Miss Stark and Dr. Nutt.

It is worth recording that St. Andrew's is the only Church in Sheffield which mans this shop for the whole day. Few realise the devoted work which Mrs. Rouse has done over many years in this important outreach activity, that is silently and efficiently carried out.

It is also good to remember there are members in St. Andrew's who look beyond the confines of their own Church to the great practical problems of overseas penury and who are deeply aware of the needs of the less fortunates in emerging countries.

#### Mission to Lepers

1957

"Some time ago the members of the Ladies' Work Party decided to adopt a leper. This woman, thirty two years of age has been affected by leprosy for the past seven years, but she is receiving medical treatment and appears to be responding."

1961

The amount collected for the Mission for 1961 was £62.4.6, which means fifty four lepers were able to have treatment. The Secretary for England sends his sincere gratitude to the friends in St. Andrew's for this splendid sum. This has helped to make the continuance and expansion of the work possible and helps to reduce the crippling deformities of leprosy as well as resisting the disease. Those who have supported the Mission know they have the joy of knowing they are fulfilling the Master's words, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto Me."

1967

Mrs. N. Edley is now the representative for the Mission to Lepers in succession to the late Mrs. S.Cheatle. She is the enthusiastic and indefatigable collector of all sums donated by the members of this Church.