

# Newton Mearns Church Supplement

JUNE, 1945

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**Session-Clerk**—Mr. C. J. THOM, J.P., M.A.,  
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## Church Services.

FORENOON—11.30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—10.15 a.m.

A Class for Beginners and for Children living at a distance from the Church is held during the Forenoon Service.

## In Memoriam

### Mr. JAMES POLLOCK

ONE finds it very difficult to write about James Pollock. It is hard to believe that he is no longer in our midst with his genial smile and his wise counsel. It is not easy to become accustomed to the fact that no longer can one go to him for advice on this problem or on that. Nevertheless, God has called him Home, and we must bow before His Wisdom and His Dispensation. On Saturday, 14th April, he passed into His Presence. It is for us to remember those things that he taught us by his life and example.

It is difficult, again, to write about him because one fears that one cannot do full justice to his greatness. A man such as James Pollock appears only once in a generation, and perhaps not even as often. Greatness as a general rule requires external circumstances, for example, of a national character, as the seed plot of its growth. His, however, emerged out of the humble surroundings of a village and a suburb, and within the fold of a normal Christian congregation. That such an environment did not cause him to be known far beyond the bounds of the parish was due to the limitation of circumstances not of his nobility of character.

It is difficult, once again, to write about him because the influence that he exerted was one that was communicable through his personality rather than through anything that he did. His life was, of course, spent in doing kind and helpful things—full of many, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love. Yet, it was his personality and his presence that were his greatest contribution to his fellow men. One felt that one was in the fellowship of a man who, while he belonged to this world, had come to you from communion with God. He was in the world and yet he was not of the world. He came forth from God to live the life of a normal business man. His influence was one that needed to be “caught” in conversation with him.

In James Pollock the world that knew him had an example of one who achieved greatness through service. Not that in the eyes of the world he would be regarded as such. To those, however, who have learned in Christ wherein true nobility is to be found, he attained to this estate. He spent his life in helping people, whether in procuring at endless trouble some commodity they desired, or in unravelling some problem that baffled them in their personal life. In the latter respect he would take infinite care to acquaint himself with all the relevant facts, turn them over in his mind, look at

them from every possible angle, study the reaction of the opposite party, and then give his answer in the light of the Christian Gospel. This would be but an interlude in a busy life that made severe and exacting demands on his strength of body and mind, yet he never hesitated to pause in what he was engaged in order that he might be of assistance to another.

His love for the Bible was an outstanding trait in his character. Few men can ever have had a better knowledge of it than he had. That was inspired by his love for it. No national situation could arise but he could take you to the appropriate passage in the Scriptures. They were a lamp to his feet and a light to his path because he knew and loved them. The 94th Psalm he often quoted during the dark days of the war. Why did Joseph when he became Prime Minister of Egypt allow so much time to elapse before he sent for his aged father, he often pondered. “Fear not, for I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand.” If men would only act on this, he once said, how different life would become for them. It was in keeping with his love for the Bible that he should bequeath a sum of money to the Church towards training the children in memory work in the Scriptures, the Psalms, and the Hymns.

His work in the Church, which he greatly loved, presents an inspiring and a valuable study. There was no division in his life between that during the week and that of the Sabbath day. He carried into practice the same spirit that was manifested in his worship. Who, moreover, will ever forget the manner in which he stood up to sing a hymn. For the Church, however, he had an especial love. He gave to her the best that he had. Nor was his love bounded by the limits of the congregation of which he was a member. He had an extensive knowledge of her life and work. He never forgot the name of any minister he had heard conducting a service and could often quote the text or some part of it in years to come. To one who had preached forty years previously he gave him his text at the Preparatory Service he had taken. It was “Behold, I stand at the door and knock,” Rev. 3, 20, and the subject was the “Unlatching of the Door.” As Session-Clerk, he had charge of many important duties. His arrangements for the Communion Service stand out as an example of the care he took in every detail. If ever he was moved to irritation, it was, if someone, through carelessness, failed to follow out his instructions on the Sacrament Sabbath. Yet, apart from these things, and from the fact that he was a constant attendee at both services, his work for the Church ranged over a wide area. It seemed to consist of a great number of services to various people in and on the fringe of the Church. He sought to bind people to the Church in any and every way that he could—by welcoming the stranger, by helping him to the seat that he wanted, by informing the minister of his presence, and notifying him of any sickness at once, or of any relative who had died, by sending copies of the Supplement to those who had moved out of the district, etc., etc. One cannot detail all the ways in which he sought to link people with the Church. He set out to do that, and if any opportunity offered he grasped it. It was in a multitude of small ways that his best work for the Church was done. He has here set us all an example and given to us a challenge. Like Andrew he kept bringing people into touch with the Church. There

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is nothing in his life that we cannot do, if only we are helped with his spirit.

Those who had the privilege of access to his library realised that here was a collection of books, not large but each carefully selected. The larger portion were books on the devotional life—"Sunset and Glory," by Alexander Smellie, "Meditations for the Circling Year," by Jowett; the writings of George Morrison, John Macbeath, Murray MacCheyne, John Hutton, etc. Passages that interested him had been marked. Here is one from "Sunset and Glory"; "But one day the process will be finished. One day the machinery just meant to give our soul its bent will have performed its task. One day in our Father's Heaven we shall utter our very being without difficulty and without mistake. And oh! that meantime we may be advancing nearer and nearer to such a consummation."

For James Pollock that Day has now come. He has entered into that inheritance, incorruptible, and undefiled and that fadeth not away. "To me to live is Christ and to die is gain." Yet, we miss him—our prayer is that not one but many will, like Elisha, take up the mantle of Elijah, making their vow one of consecration to the Church of Christ he loved. To his relatives and friends we extend our deepest sympathy in their great loss in which we also share.

By his will the late Mr. James Pollock bequeaths the sum of £50 to each of the following congregations: Newton Mearns Church and Mearns Parish Church, "for the purpose of teaching the Bible to young people by memory lessons, grounding them in the Psalms, Paraphrases and Hymns of our Hymn Book." He also bequeaths the sum of £100 to the Congregation of Newton Mearns Church. The Congregational Board at its last meeting decided that the bequest of £50, when received, should be invested and the interest used to provide prizes for the Sunday School. The matter of the other bequest of £100 would be considered when it had been received.

## REGISTER.

### Baptisms.

*"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."*

Sandra Katherine and Graeme Campbell, daughter and son of Mr. and Mrs. Carey, 36 Hazelwood Avenue.

Aileen Thomson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Forbes, Craigievar, Edzell Drive.

Winifred Margaret, daughter of Rev. W. M. and Mrs. Mackay, The Manse, Newton Mearns.

### Marriages.

*"Heirs together of the grace of life."*

John Sharp and Margaret P. Wardrop.

Richard D. Campbell and Elizabeth H. Atkinson.

### Deaths.

*"Christ, the first fruits of them that are asleep."*

Mrs. George Bell, Tordene, Rysland Avenue.

James Pollock, 7 Main Street, Newton Mearns.

## NEW MEMBERS—May, 1945.

### By Profession of Faith.

Cameron, Alistair, Rhumore, St. Vigeans Avenue.

Carey, Mr. and Mrs., 35 Hazelwood Avenue.

Corrance, Isobel, Cromdale, Giffnock.

Corrance, Jack, Cromdale, Giffnock.

Ellis, Arthur, Beechwood, Beech Avenue.

Mackenzie, Dorothy, 49 Larchfield Avenue.

Wilson, Frances, Westbrae Road.

Young, Heather, Manorheath, Kilmarnock Road.

Young, Norman, Manorheath, Kilmarnock Road.

## By Certificate.

Campbell, William, Cruachan, Kilmarnock Road.

Campbell, Mrs., Cruachan, Kilmarnock Road.

Carswell, Mrs., Mid-Borland, Eaglesham.

Hamilton, Mr., 38 Broomvale Drive.

Hamilton, Mrs., 38 Broomvale Drive.

Mitchell, James, Kilmarnock Road.

Mitchell, Mrs., Kilmarnock Road.

Young, Mrs., Manorheath, Kilmarnock Road.

## FINANCE.

Collections during April and May, 1945.

Systematic Giving Scheme	...	...	£277	0	0
Church Door	...	...	39	18	11
Special—Retiring	...	...	32	11	9
			£349	10	8

## WOMAN'S GUILD.

Although the Work Party of the Woman's Guild has discontinued its meetings for the summer, garments are still required for the children of the liberated countries of Europe, and socks for the troops in the Far East.

Wool for these may be had from the Secretary, Miss H. J. Osborne, Broomlea.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL.

By the will of our late Session-Clerk, Mr. James Pollock, a sum of money was left to the Sunday School to provide prizes for the memorising of passages of Scripture, psalms and hymns. For this purpose the scholars have been classified according to their ages and suitable test-pieces have been selected for each age-group. Prizes will be awarded, in all departments, to those pupils, who, in the opinion of the adjudicators, best deserve recognition. The names of the successful pupils will be announced on Sunday, 24th June, when the awards for attendance will also be presented. As this marks the closing date of the session the pupils will meet in the hall and will proceed from there to the front pews of the Church to take part in the annual Children's Service.

On the day previous, Saturday, 23rd, the "trip" will be held, and teachers and pupils are again indebted to Mrs. Templeton, Crookfur House, for her kindness in granting the use of a field in such lovely surroundings as the Crookfur policies offer.

## VARIA.

At the May Communion there were present 420 communicants at the forenoon service and 17 in the evening. The services were conducted by the Rev. J. Marshall Robertson, M.A., of the Reid Memorial Church, Edinburgh, a former minister of this Church.

On the first and second Sundays of July, during Mr. Mackay's absence on holiday, the services will be conducted by the Rev. W. B. MacLaren, M.A., minister of Bothkennar. Mr. MacLaren is a former member of this congregation, is well known in the district, and will receive a hearty welcome from his many friends.

The Kirk-Session at its last meeting appointed Mr. C. J. Thom to be Session-Clerk in place of the late Mr. James Pollock. All applications for Proclamation of Banns should be made to Mr. Thom at 81 Beech Avenue.

## Systematic Giving Scheme.

A *Reminder*.—Since, owing to the paper shortage, envelopes are supplied for fortnightly contributions at the present time, subscribers are reminded that TWO weekly contributions should be enclosed in each envelope.