

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

OCTOBER, 1945

Minister—Rev. W. MURRAY MACKAY, M.A., S.T.M.,
The Manse, Newton Mearns.

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Treasurer—Mr. WALTER RODGER, Townhead
Cottages, Newton Mearns.

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Church Services

FORENOON—11.30 a.m.

EVENING—6.30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—10.15 a.m.

BIBLE CLASS—5.30 p.m.

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

REGISTER

Baptisms

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

Crawford, son of Mr. and Mrs. Amos, Plenploth,
Kilmarnock Road.

Alastair Logie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Keir, Yesnaby,
Arthurlie Drive.

Hamish Robertson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fulton,
Carwhin, Beech Avenue.

Elizabeth Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Revell,
Gowmore, Kilmarnock Road.

Marriages

"Heirs together of the grace of life."

John C. Bennet and Margaret C. McLean.

William G. Russell and Mary M. Johnstone.

James W. McIntyre and Elizabeth Hughes.

John G. Page and Agnes C. W. Scott.

Deaths

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

Miss Isa Gentles, Rysland Crescent.

Master John McMeekin, Moorhill Crescent.

New Members

By Certificate

Miss Jeanie Watt and Miss Euphemia Watt, The
Cottage, Edzell Drive.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Mitchell, Beechmore,
Kilmarnock Road.

Mrs. Buchanan, Kinneil, Kilmarnock Road.

FINANCE

Collections, etc., for the months of June, July and
August.

Systematic Giving	.....	£401	10	6
Church Door Plate	.....	48	12	6
Seat Rents and Magazines	.....	51	0	7
Interest	.....	10	17	3
		£512	0	10

The following expressions of appreciation of our late Session Clerk, Mr. James Pollock, have been received from former Ministers of the Congregation:—

1. From the Rev. Dr. Boyd Scott.

Nothing further need be attempted in appreciation of James Pollock than the tribute already paid to him by Mr. Murray Mackay. I followed his words with a mind that saluted the scope and accuracy of that estimate and a heart that shared to the full the love and gratitude that breathed in every line of it.

I recognise the spiritual maturity which James Pollock's soul and service are described as attaining in the course of his life, and I rejoice that others besides myself detected the abiding youthfulness that saved that maturity from the hardening of judgement and the narrowing outlook that are apt to stiffen the later stages of the good.

James Pollock and myself were much of an age when I was ordained in "the Nitton" in 1901, and instantaneously I found in him that fountain of brotherly love and goodwill and that abandonment of self which knew no drought but rather a richer and fuller flow in all the years thereafter. It is no exaggeration to say that in him was fulfilled in remarkable measure his Lord's word that we should have life through Him, and have it "more abundantly." It was that abundance and overflow of life that mounted and gushed forth in him. Our word "abundant" issues from the image of the "waves of the sea" coming on one after the other in swelling sequence. This describes very truly the action of James Pollock's personality, with wave after wave of his hallowed and happy soul bending towards us and engulfing us in goodwill and helpfulness.

He lived to see the transformation of Mearns, in housing, churches, transport, shop-keeping, social values, and in many other ways. In some degree he was wont at times to long for auld lang syne, when our castle folk came riding through the village, and farm towns and moors near at hand evinced immediately the aristocratic impress of Covenanting honours, and wee kirks sufficed, and wee shops had a look of eternity about them. But our friend never surrendered to such nostalgic moods. His was an undaunted, forward view, and we may well believe that the best days of Mearns in civil and ecclesiastical life are ahead of us. They tell us that it is to our youth we must look for such accomplishments. Ah well, these might very well look to the spirit James Pollock was of; he had the secret of eternal youth.

2. From the Rev. J. Marshall Robertson of the Reid Memorial Church, Edinburgh.

My friend James Pollock (but was he not everybody's friend?) was a man of such rich and varied gifts that it is difficult even to detail them in short compass.

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I think first, perhaps, of his alertness and abounding vitality. How very much "alive" he always was! . . . with an instant and eager interest in all manner of things and concerns. And next perhaps, of his sound judgment; his gift of weighing up the various factors in any situation and giving them their due place and proportion; and of his unflinching tactfulness in handling a difficult situation. And yet again of his keen and lively sense of humour. How he could always see the humorous side of a situation. And how he did enjoy a good story—laughing till the very tears ran down his cheeks.

And all these gifts he dedicated to and employed in an abounding kindness. How he delighted in service! I do not think I ever knew anyone who had such a spontaneous and utterly unfeigned delight in helping others. And what greater praise, what higher encomium could there be?

Of his service to his Church and Congregation Mr. Murray Mackay has already written so truly and adequately that I feel I need add little or nothing, save perhaps this—That, with all his frankness and friendliness there was a vein of shyness in James Pollock; and this showed itself very specially in regard to spiritual things. He had a deep sense of the "holy" which no one who was privileged to serve with him in sacred things could fail to notice or be impressed by. The very expression on his face on a Communion Sunday used to be to myself a kind of minor sacrament.

He leaves the Newton Mearns kirk and many a dweller in the Mearns deeply his debtor for services both great and small, as numerous as they were valuable. In a very rich and full sense of the word he was a "personality," and we shall not look upon his like again.

Yes, to remember James Pollock is to be reminded that life can well be a much better, a much kinder, a much richer thing than we too often regard it—or make it. And so, though now no longer with us, he still serves us with a memory, rich in its happy recollections, and, let us hope, fruitful in its challenge and inspiration.

3. From the Rev. A. G. Stewart of Troon.

A very great soul has passed on, as noble a man, as fine an elder, as wise a Session Clerk, as some of us have ever known or expect to know.

Looking back now, from Midsummer, to that April morning which brought the devastating news of his death, we feel, as we did then, the same sense of sorrow, and chill, and poignant bereavement.

James Pollock was irreproachable and is irreplaceable. That lovely nature, that sterling character, that glowing loyalty to eternal truth, that integrity, that devotion, that fervour, that zeal left its impress everywhere. The sunshine of his smile, the warmth of his greeting, the offering of his best are unforgotten, unforgettable.

His ability was outstanding: it moved along many lines and was exercised, simultaneously, in varied directions. He gripped both the past and the future, he saw all sides of a question, he was as much at home and as effective in a Church court as he was behind his own counter. He spoke well and life never found him unprepared. His judgments were sound, his views well-founded and

his verdicts held. His advice was sought by all and sundry; yet when it came, it was so diffident, so cautious, so humble-minded, so balanced, so well expressed and so mature, that, whatever the issue, the right thing to do appeared to be no longer in doubt. One sometimes wondered whether there was a man, or a woman, or a little child, or a living animal in the whole parish who was not beholden to him. He made a success of all he handled: he was never at a loss: nothing was too much trouble: nothing seemed out of his ken.

His humour was rich: he not only saw the funny side of things and of people, he revelled in it. He thought swiftly and he worked rapidly: his industry was prodigious. Often he laboured far into the night and would be astir again early in the morning. However arduous the preceding day had been or however crowded the succeeding one promised to be he strode through the passing years, this gentlest of giants, covering leagues in his stride.

Stark stupidity depressed him. He knew how injurious conceit and carelessness can be; but he had learned patience. Thus, he himself always had time for the crack or the comment or the flashing of a message, on any matter of moment, which made his friendship vivid, rich, colourful and endlessly worth-while. For him, God's grace always abounded. Rest he could not, rest he knew not: he wore himself out in the glad service of his Lord.

And he will certainly be waiting to welcome his friends, of that we may be sure, the same radiant, resourceful, immortal creature, whom we loved.

4. From the Rev. W. T. Morton of Nairn.

I heard with sincere regret of the death of James Pollock, whom I ordained to the Eldership over 38 years ago, and who throughout these years served the Church with unwearying zeal. He was the loyal friend of his Minister for whom he always had a smile and a word of encouragement. One could not help being fond of him. There was something about him that drew us to him and won our lasting esteem and affection. The touch of God was upon him from his youth up, making him not only a faithful steward but a most gracious personality. So after many years, during most of which I saw little or nothing of him, I have vivid and happy recollections of him, and confess that I feel his passing almost as a personal loss.

He was one of a number of young men in my time who had a living interest in the worship and service of the Church and who were clearly marked out for high office in it. They were a joy and inspiration to me in my early ministry. I first got to know James Pollock through his work in the Sunday School, which he evidently enjoyed and for which he prepared with the same thoroughness that so notably characterised his after life. He took part in the Literary Society, which I like to think fostered in him a love of reading and enabled him to acquire that felicity of speech which also distinguished him. Then you know better than I do how as an Elder he justified the confidence reposed in him and all the promise of his early years. He magnified his office by fulfilling it. He leaves behind him a fine record and a fragrant memory.

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THE WOMAN'S GUILD

With the passing of the war years, the Woman's Guild is reverting to evening meetings. These will be held every Monday at 7.30 p.m., beginning on the 15th October.

An interesting and varied syllabus has been prepared, and we hope to have many new members this winter. While the usual schemes of the Guild have not been lost sight of we have secured speakers on subjects of more general interest. Among these is Miss McColl, one of our own members who will give a Cookery Demonstration on 12th November. We have also enlisted the aid of two members of the Session, Mr. John Nimmo, who will give the address at the Burns' Night on 21st January, and Mr. J. H. Murray who will lecture on Town Planning on 28th January.

On 3rd December a Play will be given by Mrs. Paterson and friends, dealing with the work of the Woman's Guild.

On 4th February we hope to entertain the mothers of young children, and an address will be given by Mrs. Craik who needs no introduction to the Woman's Guild. It is hoped that, on that evening, the fathers will look after the children.

We ask you to make a note of the Opening Meeting on 15th October, when we hope to have with us Mrs. McColl, who is a well-known Guild worker in Glasgow.

The Special Schemes on which the Guild Branches have been asked to concentrate this winter are Church Extension and Reconstruction of Churches in Europe. Both of these are most essential, the latter especially so in view of the fact that Christians in Europe have suffered the loss in many cases, not only of their Churches but also of all their Bibles and Hymn Books. As the Universal Church is one of the greatest hopes for the future, this scheme should commend itself to us all. Each Branch has been asked to contribute £50 over a period of two years. A special effort on behalf of these two schemes will be made later in the session, and the support of the Congregation is asked for it.

From October 22nd to 26th the members of the Woman's Guild of this Church and Mearns Parish Church will take part in a house to house collection for the Churches' Huts and Canteens, the need of which is very great at present, especially with the Armies of Occupation in Germany and Japan.

We shall be grateful for all who are willing to help in this collecting.

On 22nd October the Rev. George Cameron will speak on the work of Huts and Canteens at our Guild Meeting.

There will not be the same need for knitting comforts this winter, but there is still a small quantity of wool available.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Although the new session commenced a fortnight ago there is still room for children who have not yet enrolled. Parents are reminded that the Session and Primary classes meet at 10.15 a.m. in the Large Hall, and the teachers will welcome

those of Sunday School age who may yet come forward.

The Class for Beginners is held during the Forenoon Service, the scholars leaving the Church during the singing of the children's hymn.

As Religious Education of the young is now receiving its rightful prominence, it is hoped that the parents in our Congregation will encourage the children to take advantage of the opportunities provided.

The following extract from a letter received from the Secretary of the Churches' Huts and Canteens Committee in Edinburgh may be of interest to the members of the Congregation:—

"I have been asked to convey to all the Canteen workers the appreciation and thanks of the General Officer Commanding in Chief, Scottish Command, for the splendid work carried out by all of you throughout the long years of the war in ministering to the welfare of the Troops under his command.

"I would also take this opportunity of conveying to you all the grateful thanks of the Huts and Canteen Committee for the great work you have done in connection with the running of the Canteen. I am sure that you will all have many happy memories of the services you have rendered to the men in bringing comfort and cheer to them when visiting your Canteen."

The Social Club and the Badminton Clubs have now amalgamated to form the Social and Badminton Club, and meets on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 7 to 10 p.m. A warm invitation is given to all members and adherents of the Congregation to join, both young and "not so young." Badminton, Table Tennis, Billiards, Draughts, Chess, etc., will be available each evening, except on the first Tuesday of each month, when a Whist Drive will be held, and on the third Tuesday when a Social gathering of a varied nature will be arranged. The inclusive membership fee is 5/—, and Club Badminton racquets will be available. Join this new Club and become acquainted with your fellow members in the Church.

The Bible Class (12 years of age and over) is now in session in the Upper Hall on Sunday evenings at 5.30 p.m. The subject this winter is "The Gospel according to St. Luke." Will parents use their influence to this end. Without your support we are seriously handicapped.

It is gratifying to find that the Reminder which appeared in the June issue of the Supplement regarding fortnightly contributions to the Systematic Giving Scheme being enclosed in each envelope has been noted. One or two members, however, are still in arrears, and perhaps they may see their way to have these cleared off by the end of the year.

SEAT LETTING

Members whose names are not on their Pews might please see a member of the Seat Letting Committee at the close of any Morning Service.

The Boys' Brigade resumed for the new session on Friday last, when there was a good turn-out of last year's boys. There is still plenty of room for

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new recruits, and these will be made welcome any Friday during the month of October.

The Life Boy Team meets for the new session on Friday first, when the Leaders hope to see all last year's boys once again. Here again recruits will be made welcome, and parents are asked to encourage boys to attend these youth organisations.

As before, the times are :—

Life Boys—Age 9 to 11—Fridays, 6 to 7.30 p.m.

Boys' Brigade—Age 12 to 16—Fridays at 7.30 p.m.

A warm welcome awaits keen, enthusiastic boys.

NEW ELDERS

At the Forenoon Service on the first Sunday of September Mr. Mackay ordained and inducted the following gentlemen to the office of the Eldership in the Congregation :—Messrs. J. S. Anderson, J. Hamilton, J. W. Jarvie, D. J. MacPhail, J. H. Murray and C. Pirret. Districts have now been allocated to them, and it is hoped that when the Minister brings them round during this month to introduce them they will receive a warm welcome from the members.

SEPTEMBER COMMUNION

The number of communicants at the Forenoon Service was 384, and at the Evening Service, when Rev. G. W. Michie conducted the Service, there were 14 communicants, making a total of 398 for the day.

NEW CONGREGATIONAL TREASURER

Consequent to the appointment of Mr. C. J. Thom as Session Clerk and his demission of office as Treasurer, the Congregational Board has appointed Mr. Walter Rodger to the position of Congregational Treasurer. As Mr. Rodger has been for the past seven years Treasurer for the Systematic Giving Scheme this created another vacancy, which has been filled by the appointment of Mr. A. McCance.

PRESBYTERY ELDER

The Session has appointed Mr. A. McCance to be its representative elder to the Presbytery of Glasgow and the Synod of Clydesdale in place of Mr. J. Hood, who has held this position during the war years. The sincere thanks of the Session and Congregation are due to Mr. Hood for his diligence and the excellent reports which he gave of the work of the Presbytery.

SUPPLEMENT

Contributions to the next issue of the Supplement, which will appear in December, should be in the hands of the Editor, Mr. C. J. Thom, not later than Sunday, 25th November. The Editor would be glad to receive from the Secretaries of the various Youth Organisations details of the work which each Organisation is proposing to carry through during the winter months.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

On Sunday, 14th October, the visiting Minister will be Dr. James Kelly, of the Orphan Homes, Bridge of Weir, who will conduct the Services at 11.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Dr. Kelly is always a welcome guest in our midst, and we look forward with keen interest to his ministrations.

On Sunday, 21st October, the pulpit will be occupied at both diets of worship by Professor John Mauchline, B.D., of Trinity College, Glasgow. We look back with pleasure on his last visit to us at a Communion season. Mr. Mackay will on this Sunday be at Queen's Park-St. George's Church at their Communion. Rev. J. Chalmers Grant, their Minister, has recently been inducted to Dunblane Cathedral.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be dispensed in our midst on the first Sunday of November. The Preparatory Service on the preceding Friday at 8 p.m. will be conducted by the Rev. John Fulton, M.A., of Busby East Church.

A Class for Young Communicants is now meeting. The Minister will be glad to give you details concerning it.