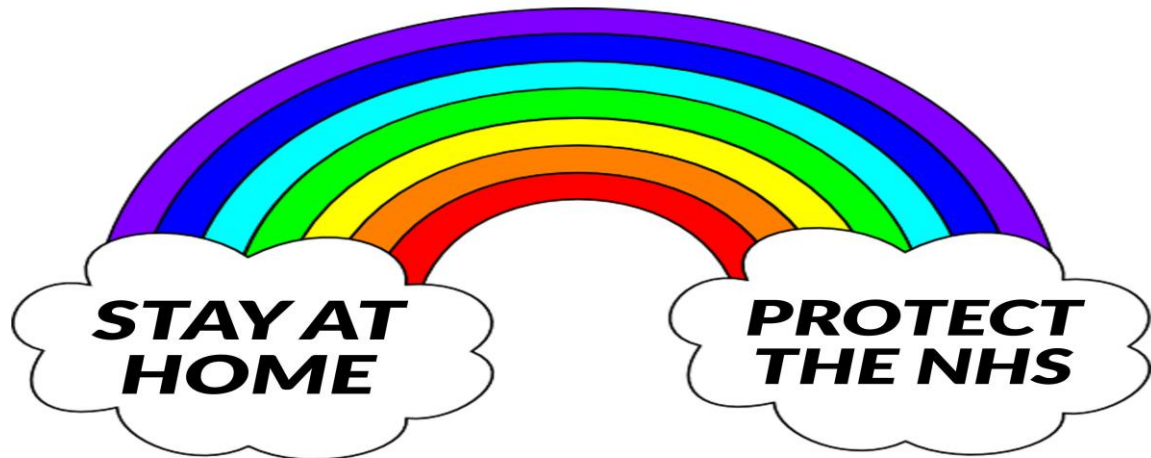
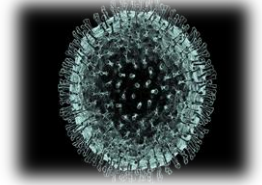




Cornerstone



Trust in God - Obey the Rules

Welcome to the first edition of *Cornerstone* now delivered directly to your PC. Due to the current restrictions, imposed during the Coronavirus Pandemic, production and delivery of our usual paper magazine has proved to be impractical. However, as you will see from John's article on **p3**, this new PC friendly version allows you the advantage of linking directly with John's video contributions which have been causing so much interest on **YouTube**.

On **p4**, I have included an article on my morning prayers and would be interested in hearing your reactions.(you can send an email!). I have included a very moving poem entitled *The Long Bench* by Glasgow's poet laureate Jim Carruth on **p5**, and on **p6**, Harry Webster again produces an absorbing note from the archives. He mentions a young men's club with some 3000 members in Scotland!

The Cadzow Quiz is presented on **p7**, There will be a small prize! An informative article on the *Homeless Officer*, RMP Brown, is presented on **P8**, and, again, we would welcome any comments you have on this article which originated in the *Herald*, We end with *Poets' Corner* where Evelyn Henwood has sent in two lovely poems, one pensive and the other cheerful.

Editor

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A Message from our Minister

God is Wiping the Old Slate Clean

Well, do I need to say it? Strange times we're in, aren't they! Who could have imagined back in February when we first heard about this strange virus taking hold in China that we would spend the latter part of March, all of April and a good portion of May in lockdown? A dystopian nightmare without precedent! After all, there have been other viral outbreaks over the last decade and none of them have had any appreciable affect on us here in Scotland. Sadly, this one has and there are now tens of thousands who have lost their lives and millions who have lost their livelihood. We look out into the future and, even with an easing of lockdown, it's hard to imagine what life will be like, harder still to imagine what church will be like. How long will it be before we feel comfortable giving each other a hug or a handshake or sharing a cup of tea? How long will it be until we feel comfortable taking communion together? It could be a long time indeed.

But as strange as these times are, they are not entirely without precedent. As I speak to in this recording today it is VE, the 75th anniversary of the Allied Victory in Europe, and day that millions had hoped for but feared would never come, but it did. As the survivors of that great war looked out on a devastated Europe, they realised that life would never be the same for them. Still, they began again and built up the world that we know, at least the world we knew about two months ago.

So if we were to start over again, what would it look like? What would you do if someone handed you a clean slate? What would you write on it? What would you keep from your old life and what would you start over with?

In the first place I think we need to have a look at the good things we'd like to keep, and there have been many good things that have come to light in the midst of this pandemic, things we would not have seen or done without it. Some of those include families discovering how much they appreciate and love one another, parents bonding deeply with their children and children with their parents, simply by virtue of the added time they have together. Concern for our neighbours and acts of charity that are truly extraordinary. A new appreciation for our health care workers and for the army of folk who drive the lorries and stock the shelves at the grocery. A gratitude for the bin men and postal workers and the bus drivers whose work has never stopped. We see each other with new eyes and as we go forward, we would lose something precious indeed if we went back to life as usual.

There are some things though, that we realise we need to change. Someone said recently that our social status, our measure of the world's wealth has determined how we spend this time? Do you have a comfortable house, food in the closet, a garden, your own space? How much more difficult would our time be if we were in a two-bedroom high-rise flat with eight other people? How do you practice social isolation when you have no home? Or no money or no friends? How has the immigrant and the stranger and the widow managed in this time? How many people have had to endure this time alone? Money, or the lack of it, has determined our lockdown experience and the inequalities in our society have become painfully obvious. How can we change that as we move forward?

Then naturally, I wonder what church will look like and when we will get the chance to be together again? One of the things I'd like to keep as we move forward is this, video communication and internet broadcasting. We've reached hundreds of people during this time that would never have come to church, but by going online we've made it easy for people to hear the good news in their own time and in the comfort of their own home. To give that up would be a terrible loss for us, like throwing away a brand-new tool for the sake of the old and familiar one. And then, there are those who do not or cannot use the Internet. How can we close the gap between those who have it and those who don't? How can we enable people to gain these skills and resources before we're locked down again?

Friends, there can be no doubt about it, God is doing a new thing here, he is wiping the old slate clean and handing it back to us, fresh and clean and new. We're all going to write something on it, so what would you like to write on it and how can do that together?

John

Now you Have Read John's Article why not look at his videos?



Since the restrictions of the Coronavirus Pandemic have precluded the usual paper version of our church magazine, John has put together an additional video presentation for our first internet version of *Cornerstone*. To view this article on your PC press and hold the Ctrl and click your mouse on the link to open hyperlink:-

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu3UrY4nWf_7Z00c_6lIEjw?

This will take you to Cadzow's church website where numerous interesting articles , contributed by John, are listed. You can choose which videos you wish to look at from a substantial range of titles. If, like me you are missing your visits to church, you will appreciate John's presentations and the glimpses of the inside of the sanctuary which appear in these clips.

Editor

A Time for Prayer

John Brain

Some years ago, during a discussion just after lunch, my mother-in-law turned to me and confessed, “You know John, while I love them, I could live without flowers but I don’t think that I could live without trees”. I agreed emphatically. It was good to have somebody who so clearly shared my views. More recently it was rewarding to note that, in the *Cornerstone* edition of September 2017, Kenny Topping had provided an informative and entertaining article entitled *Tree Hugging*. For me, the highlight of this article was Kenny’s sympathetic description of his favourite tree, the willow. I love trees and, when praying, I have often found that the presence of a tree helps to create a fitting setting for my prayer.



To explain why this ambience exists for me I have firstly to turn to Science. Initially I had strong reservations about using this approach when I took account of the views on science and religion that had been expressed by the brilliant quantum physicist, Erwin Schroedinger. Early last century after conducting an assessment of the limits of science he concluded, “It (Science) knows nothing of beautiful and ugly, good or bad, God and eternity.” I strongly agree with this splendidly perceptive statement and to it I would add that Science is also not good at answering “why” questions which have to do with purpose as distinct from function. It certainly has no satisfactory answer to the question “why are we here?” So it was really not surprising that, in this case, Science alone could not help me provide a satisfactory reason for my experience with trees. However, looking beyond the science, I believe I have found a satisfactory answer.

It certainly was educational to look back at the biology I had been taught as a schoolboy and relearning the vital life processes going on inside a tree proved to be a real pleasure. It is a long time since I studied the involvement of the processes of *photosynthesis* and *respiration* and I had to admit that I was fascinated by the pivotal role that sunlight had to play in the photosynthesis process. Energy from direct sunlight drives the process and is key to the necessary “light reactions” which take place throughout the tree.

Almost all life on earth depends on this miraculous process which, particularly in springtime, leads to the production of breath-taking beauty in the changing foliage of the tree. It is beauty which Science cannot recognise but I can and I believe it is due to the work of God who has certainly designed a wonderful process here. So when I am sitting in

(Continued on p5)

solitude in an environment of trees, where I can find beauty, peace and tranquillity, the knowledge of God's unseen life force operating within the tree excites my senses.

At my home here in Hamilton, a beautiful sycamore tree sits just outside my study. Each morning I rise early and, after a shower, I take my seat at my study window. Things are usually very quiet and I sit for a while in silence expecting the first starlings to arrive. Soon they come and perch on the topmost branches to get the best of the morning sun. When they have absorbed sufficient energy they fly off eagerly in a cluster.

All is very silent now. I seek God's presence. I bow my head. It is time to pray.

Coronavirus and Distancing

Fortunately, Joyce and I have managed to keep in touch with all of our family during this present period of isolation. We communicate with them daily using *WhatsApp*. We also have regular *Zoom* sessions when all of the family huddle round their computers and tablets for lively group discussions. Following one of these discussions my eldest daughter, Carol, sent us a copy of the very moving poem I include below. She has commented that the line ***Where distance kept is love's measure*** is "Profound and Beautiful" We are unanimous in our appreciation of this poem, written by Glasgow Poet Laureate Jim Carruth.

Editor

The Long Bench

For the times ahead
when we will be

as if at either end
of the long bench

where distance kept
is love's measure

and death dances
the space between

when words alone
are not enough

and queued memories
reach out to touch

let longing be a store
of nut and seed

that grows each day
in strange hibernation

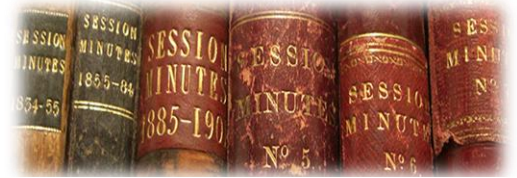
readying for its end-
the sharing of the feast.

Jim Carruth



From the Archives

Harry Webster



*Below Harry Webster presents yet another very engaging extract from our church's archives. A **Young Men's Guild** some 3000 strong in 1882! How things have changed ! Take a look at page 8*

Editor

Amongst the organisations of Cadzow that the Rev. T.F. Harkness Graham referred to regularly in his letters to the congregation in the magazines at the beginning of his ministry, was the Young Men's Guild. This was an organisation of the Church of Scotland founded by the Rev. Professor A.H. Charteris (later to be Moderator of the General Assembly). It was "established to engage the young men throughout the country and encourage them to take an active part in the Church." By 1882 it had a membership of 3,000.

A branch was formed in Cadzow and proved to be popular for many decades. With no halls at that time, the Guild would meet on a Sunday at 10 am in a transept of Cadzow before the Worship service.

By the time when the Rev. Harkness Graham became the parish minister, they were well established and influential in the life and work of Cadzow. In his early letters to members in the Cadzow magazine he frequently makes reference to the Guild. He states he was delighted to find the attention which was being paid to the interests of young men and it was inspiring to find there were so many.

In the February 1920 magazine he refers to the Guild's Whist Drive and Dance in the Town Hall. He comments "It was indeed a most pleasant function with none of the starchiness which chills the atmosphere of so many social gatherings." He goes on "I only wish there were more of these functions for the young, in which the genuine happiness of social life could be truly realised. I make then this strenuous appeal on behalf of the Guild, that all young men should attend, and not only those who are young in years, but also those who are young in spirit."

In the May 1920 magazine, he writes the Guild "is still continuing to provide spiritual and intellectual food on Sunday mornings. What is to prevent more of our young men turning out and taking advantage of this excellent institution?"

In the June 1920 magazine, he advocates the Guild should be a "recognised Court of the Church with something to do. It could be transformed into something more than a debating society. It could be the preparatory school for the Eldership."

Scottish Place Names

A Quiz to help keep you entertained during this period of isolation



Scottish Place Names

Can you work out these Scottish place names from the cryptic clues? Email your answers to joycebrain@yahoo.co.uk or post to Joyce Brain, 1 Mennock Court, Hamilton ML3 9DJ by Monday 29th June, giving a contact number or address. First correct solution drawn will receive a (very modest) prize.

1. Astronaut John and Olympian runner Sebastian come together. (7)
2. Sounds like a Hawaiian greeting. (5)
3. Get vehicle up a flight. (9)
4. The Spanish precedes "mother's ruin." (5)
5. Sound a baby makes comes before a holiday sweet from Blackpool. (7)
6. A soldier's fur hat will give you this district of Glasgow. (5)
7. Sounds like this is a handsome Scot's little Richard. (7)
8. Not in the East. Murder newly-wed. (4,8)
9. Heard that it is church all day in Scotland. (8)
- 10 Shout on this Island.(4)





Robert MacGregor Park Brown

A heartwarming discovery

Last month Harry Webster passed me copies of a letter and an obituary which had recently been published in the *Glasgow Herald*. The obituary, which had been written by one of my favourite *Herald* columnists, Kevin McKenna, concerned a true Christian gentleman, Robert Brown, who had devoted himself to the work of the Church of Scotland particularly helping the poor and homeless. Robert ended his working life as the **Homeless Officer** looking after homeless men at the Church of Scotland's Night/Day Centre on Glasgow's Duke Street. What is particularly interesting to us here in Cadzow is his connection with our church. Kevin McKenna writes:-



“ He became a member of Cadzow Parish Church through the 5th Hamilton Lifeboys and Boys' Brigade. Many years later, he would return to Cadzow to conduct a service, telling his congregation that “any good in him” had been fostered by his time in the Lifeboys and BB”

It is good to know that such a fine man was associated with Cadzow church. Before Harry came across the article in the *Herald* neither he nor I had heard about Robert MacGregor Park Brown. So if any of our members, particularly those associated with the Boys's Brigade, can let me have more information I would be delighted.

Editor

Do you recognise this street ?

At least have a guess before you read the answer below. There is a special prize for anyone who can name the baby in the pram!

Answer

Townhead Street – 1880

Nothing's changed!





Poet's Corner

Evelyn Henwood has sent in these two poems. The first is a lovely and meaningful poem of rebirth while the second is a cheerful wee poem of hope. Thanks Evelyn **Editor**

Dreams Long Buried in the Heart

*At the gates of winter the flowers of summer lie
gathered up into earth beneath a grieving sky.
They must die, but with their dying they enrich the earth
from which fresh life will blossom at the season of rebirth.
Thus do the dreams once lovely, drop into oblivion,
but time passing wakes them as the flowers beneath the sun
and like the flowers, they too enrich the soil in which they rest,
before they stir to bloom anew. with such the years are blessed.
Never say a dream is dead because you cannot see
the substance or the evidence of It's reality....
A dream long buried in the heart forgotten may remain
and from the Winter of the past, revive to live again*



The Sunlight Waiting Behind the Clouds



*There is always the hope of tomorrow
To brighten the clouds of today...
There is always a corner for turning
No matter how weary the way...
So Just look ahead to tomorrow
And trust that you'll find waiting there
The sunlight that seemed to be hidden
By yesterday's clouds of despair*

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Church Diary

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jcarswell@churchofscotland.org.uk

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Session Clerk Alistair Macrae

95 the Paddock

Tel: 304946

WFO Mrs Dorothy Craig

5 Chestnut Crescent

Tel:281553

Deputy Session Clerk Stewart Tweedlie

49 John Muir Way , Motherwell

Tel:249032

Organist John Pitcathley

Garrion Linn, Horsley Head, Overton **Tel:376654**

Roll Clerk Mrs Patricia Steel

6 Maple Bank

Tel:427253

Property Convenor Malcom Young

105 Aitken Road

Tel:284036

Treasurer Mrs Heather Stewart

6 Cypress Court

Tel:324535

Hall Letting Convenors Archie and Aileen Love

Tel: 320161

Sunday Worship

To see John's video press and hold down the Ctrl key then click on the link

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu3UrY4nWf_7Z00c_6lIEjw?

Funerals

Isobel Robison—30 March , 47 Weaver's Court

Molly McIntosh—3 April, Highgate Care Home, Uddingston

Agnes Dickson—18 April, Abercorn Care Home

Molly Reddiex—23 April, Douglasview Care Home

Cath Stewart—27 April, Abbeydale Court Care Home

Cadzow Parish Church of Scotland, Hamilton (SC006611)