



Cornerstone

Happy Easter In Spite of the Pandemic

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

authorcynthiaaherren.com

A Return to Normal is Nearing

The events of the past three months have provided good news and bad news. The bad news came from the invasion on Capitol Hill in Washington by extreme right wing supporters of ex-President Donald Trump. The event itself was disgraceful and highlighted a dangerous political force which seems to be gaining momentum in the USA . If this momentum continues the results will eventually have significant effect on us. I asked our Minister about this and he has provided a lucid and heartfelt article on P6

The good news is, of course, the introduction of a successful Coronavirus vaccination programme in Scotland . We can approach Easter with the confident belief that next year all will be well.

Editor

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Wonder Walks

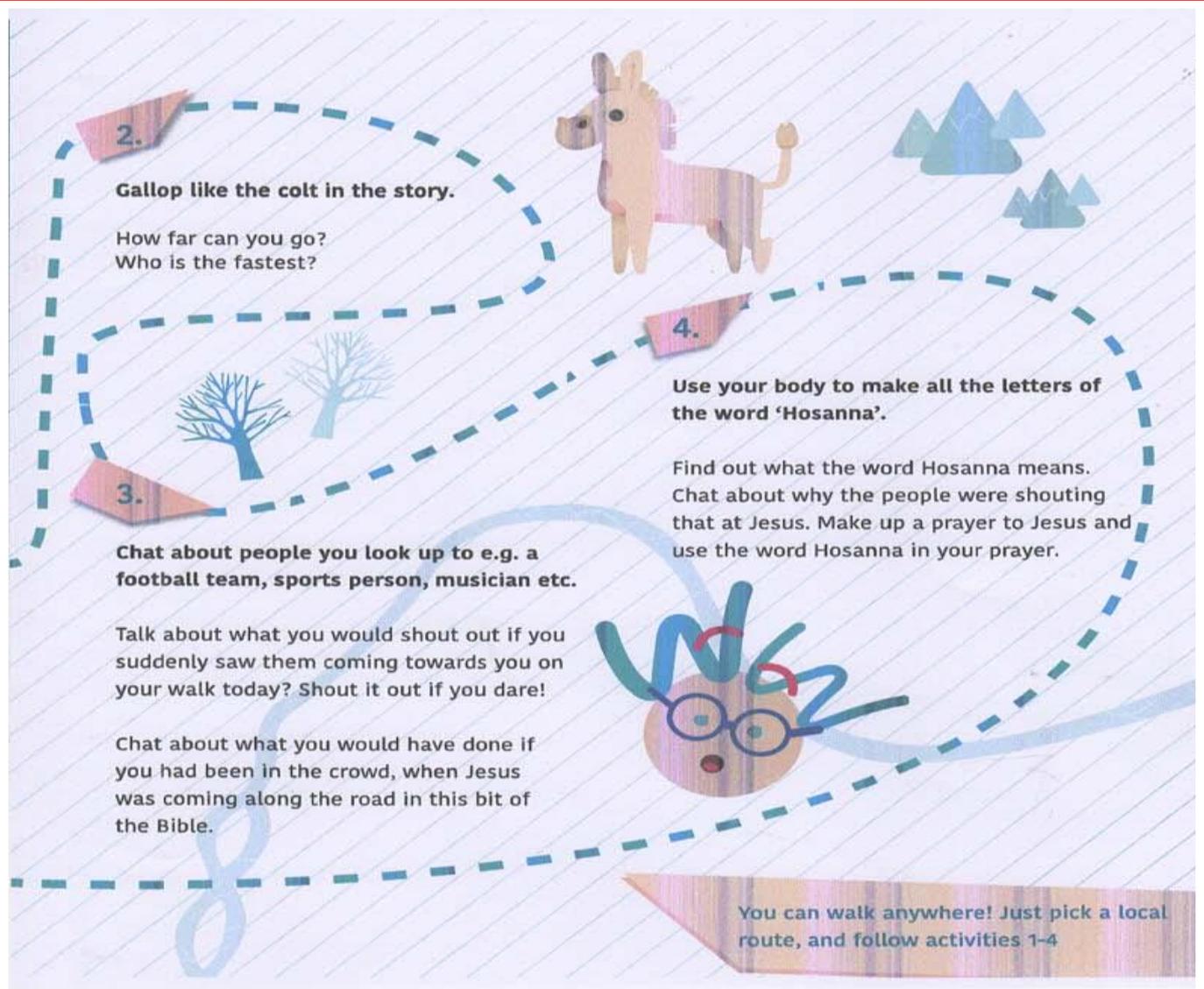
As I write it is Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season of Lent and one marked in Catholic churches with the imposition of ashes on the forehead. The ashes used for this service are the burnt remains of the palms of the previous year's Palm Sunday worship service. We don't usually do Ash Wednesday in the Reformed and Presbyterian churches, though before I left the US, they were gaining in popularity. At the one and only Ash Wednesday service I conducted in my last charge I was handed a small plate of ash that turned out to have been from someone's fireplace! It was filled with clumps of unburnt wood and other detritus and, in consequence, really didn't stick to people's foreheads the way the fine palm ash would do. We did however do our clumsy best as Presbyterians!

There is another story of Presbyterians attempting to hold an Ash Wednesday service that was coupled with a communion service offered by "intinction." Also known colloquially as the "rip and dip" method, it involves tearing off a small piece of bread from a communal loaf and dipping it into a common cup. In an effort to accommodate the Ash part of the service and, considerately, not forcing the ashes on any who were unwilling, a third plate of ash was then offered to the supplicants. I believe the idea was first to consume the dipped bread, then impose the ashes upon one's own forehead. However, that hadn't been explained well enough and the first person ripped his bread, dipped it into the wine and then, nervously looking around, proceeded to dip the whole lot into the ash before popping it into his mouth! As I said, we really don't get it in the Presbyterian church.

Obviously, there will be no ashes for us this year. Even if we'd had the foresight to save last year's palms, we wouldn't be able to use them as it's impossible to impose ashes from a "safe social distance." Nor can we commune together or sing together or even be in one another's company. The church is closed, and it appears it will remain closed for the foreseeable future. So, what do we do? How can we mark this season of Lent in a way that is meaningful and, more importantly, practical? What I mean is, what can we do that engages our bodies as well as our minds, taking our devotions beyond the time-honoured practices of reading scripture and praying?

This year, I'm going to take a walk, or rather, a series of walks. The Scottish Bible Society has prepared what they are calling "Wonder Walks." It's not a walk specified by place or distance, it's simply an invitation to get outside and have a think about what God is up to in your life and how you might respond to the leading of the Spirit through some simple activities, like spotting a bird, or jumping in a puddle or making a heart in the sand or with sticks and rocks. There are eight walks in total, one for each Sunday of Lent, but they can be used anytime and repeated as often as you like. They are ideal for individuals or for couples or with children. We've printed the two in the magazine and you can find the rest at <https://scottish.bible/wonderwalks/> If you need help getting a copy, just let me know and I'll bring one for you. I promise, you won't have to eat any ash to find this beneficial! Have a blessed Lenten Season and hopefully we'd be able to get together soon.

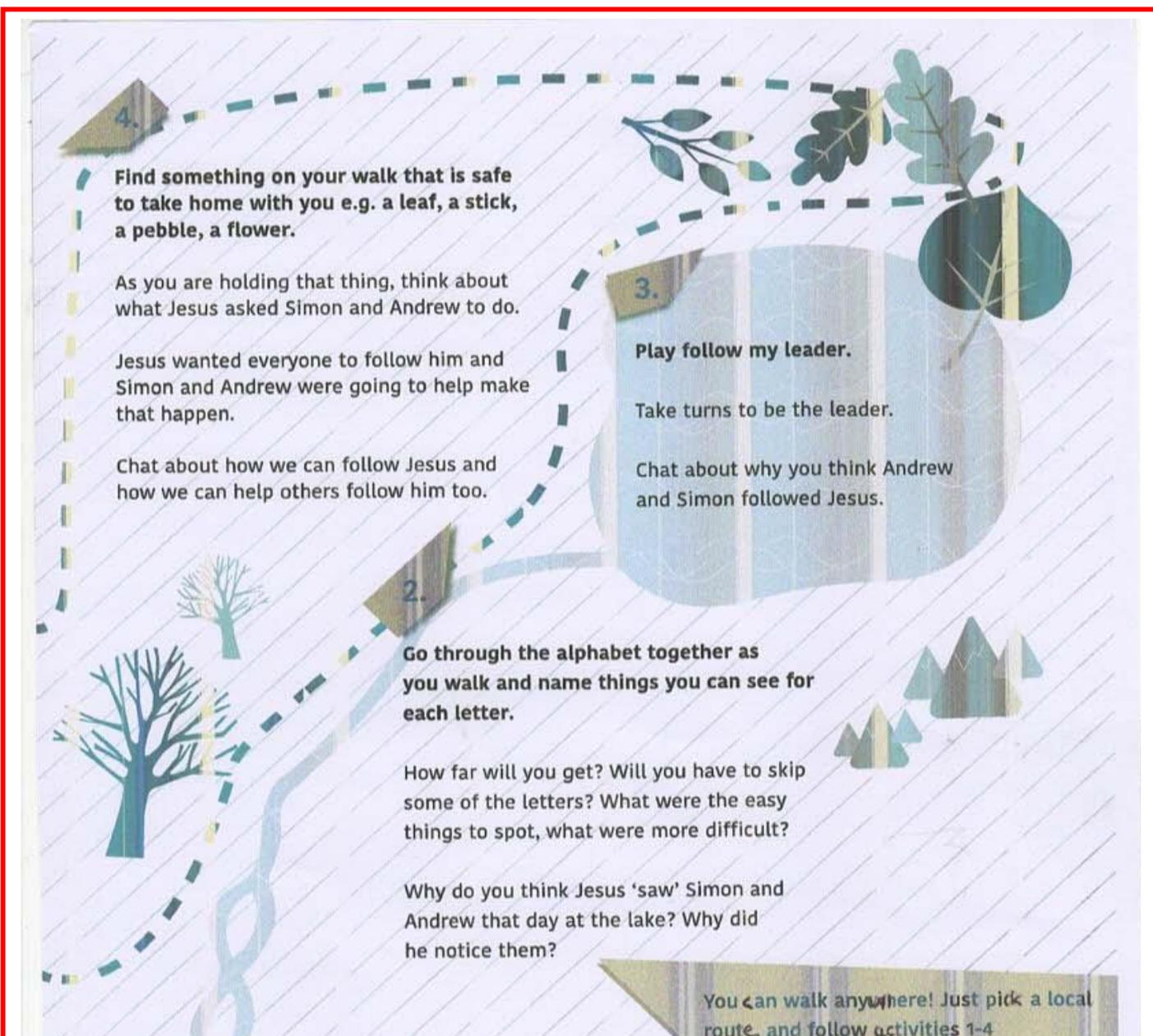
John



Walk - Week 6

Mark 11:4-10

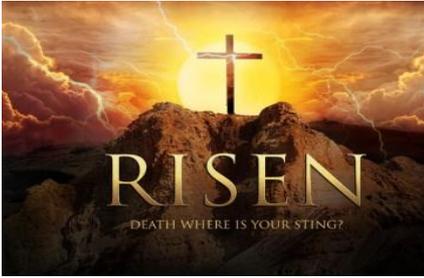
They found a colt out in the street. It was tied to a doorway. They untied it. Some people standing there asked, "What are you doing? Why are you untying that colt?" They answered as Jesus had told them. So, the people let them go. They brought the colt to Jesus. They threw their coats over it. Then he sat on it. Many people spread their coats on the road. Others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those in front and those in back shouted "Hosanna!"



Walk – Week7

Mark 16:1-7

The Sabbath day ended. Mary Magdalen, Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices. They were going to use them for Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, they were on their way to the tomb. It was just after sunrise. They asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance to the tomb?" Then they looked up and saw that the stone had been rolled away. The stone was very large. They entered the tomb. As they did, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe. He was sitting on the right side. They were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed" he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarine, who was crucified. But he has risen! He is not here! See the place where they had put him. Go! Tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him. It will be just as he told you."



EASTER/SPRING QUIZ

Questions

- 1) Who is the Roman Goddess of Spring?
- 2) Who carried Jesus' cross on the way to crucifixion?
- 3) Which Russian jeweller is famous for designing jewel-encrusted eggs?
- 4) What is the name of the hill where Jesus was crucified?
(one of two acceptable answers will do!)
- 5) In UK what do we call the vegetable known as scallions in USA?
- 6) Who directed the 2014 film, "The Passion of Christ"?
- 7) What is symbolised by the eleven marzipan balls on an Easter Simnel cake?
- 8) Which musical features the song, "Younger than Springtime"?
- 9) How did Judas die?
- 10) What is the name of the day during Holy Week when the UK monarch distributes purses of coins to selected senior citizens?
- 11) What do we call the island of Rapa Nui?
- 12) What kind of tree did Zacchaeus climb on Palm Sunday to get a better view of Jesus as he entered Jerusalem?

Feel free to use this quiz as you wish but, if you have a competitive spirit, I would be delighted to award a small prize to the first correct answer drawn on 1st April.

You can send by email to:- joycebrain@yahoo.co.uk

By text to :- 07731933997

By mail to :- Joyce Brain, 1 Mennock Court , Hamilton ML3 9DJ

The answers will also be provided in the next edition of Cornerstone

Over the past few years I have been more than uneasy about the actions of US President Donald Trump. I was unhappy about the reliability of the news coming to us from across the Atlantic. So I decided to ask our Minister for his views on the Donald. I am very glad I did and I am now much better informed, Clearly, John loves America and in this perceptive note he shows sound insight to predict the great harm which is likely as a result of Trump's actions

Editor

Unreal – The Big lie is now the Big Truth

I was not surprised to read last night that Trump had been acquitted of the impeachment charges against him, disappointed, yes, appalled (again) by the craven spinelessness of the Republican Party, embarrassed for America and more than a little bit concerned about its future, but not surprised. The Senate has, by virtue of its dereliction of duty, kicked the whole country further down the rabbit hole of unreality. Arguing that the charges were moot and unapplicable to a *former* President, the whole lot was simply tossed aside as an irrelevancy. It was a dodge, an escape clause that allowed them to go through the pretence of a trial without ever acknowledging their accountability to the law. They did not listen to the arguments and in fact did everything but put their fingers in their ears and sing silly songs. Yes, seven of their members did “cross the line” and vote to convict, but 43 other cowards simply looked down to admire the shine on their shoes.

Trump is, quite naturally, crowing about the decision, thanking his attorneys and his defenders in the House and Senate, who he said, ‘stood proudly for the Constitution we all revere and for the sacred legal principles at the heart of our country.’ He is slamming the trial as ‘yet another phase of the greatest witch hunt in the history of our country,’ and he is telling his supporters that, ‘Our historic, patriotic and beautiful movement to Make America Great Again has only just begun,’ and that he will have more to share with them in the months ahead.”

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/after-impeachment-acquittal-trump-says-his-movement-has-only-just-begun>

Huh, is that what you really think? It is typical Trump, outrageous, bombastic, and almost hilarious if it weren't so chilling. The most worrying thing about it was the last four words, “...in the months ahead,” meaning, the Republicans have not only failed to sever ties with this madman, they have enabled him and empowered him to *retain control of the narrative*. The Big Lie about the stolen election was not confronted and exposed. In Trump's eyes it was validated, ensuring that Americans will go on hearing it, again and again and again. The consequences of this travesty of justice will cascade in short order.

His followers who are, even now, facing stiff prison terms for their involvement in the insurrection, will be viewed as patriots who gave their lives for the cause instead of hapless schmucks who were suckered by a fool who led them over the cliff of self-destruction. Antifa will go on bearing the blame for the events of 6 January, the Democrats will never be anything more than vengeful enemies of state, QAnon subscriptions will blossom and the Deep State will go on pulling the levers of government. More fringe believers of conspiracy theories will be elected as governors, tens of millions of Americans will go on believing that Biden is an illegitimate President, Congress will remain deeply and irreconcilably divided, the Republican Party will remain as little more than a cult of personality and everything that Trump says “in the months ahead” will be taken as gospel truth. There is nothing to stop him saying it and there is no longer any credible threat to contradict him.

Whether Trump returns to politics is now irrelevant. Trump has officially become Trumpism and the Big Lie is now the Big Truth.

John

From the Archives

Harry Webster



For many years now "From the Archives" has been a feature in Cornerstone and I am very grateful to Harry Webster for his excellent input. However Harry now informs me that he is running out of material and one other contribution could finish things. So between now and the next issue of the magazine I hope I can see some other future contributions from our Cadzow Historian! *Editpr*

In the Archives is an article written by the then parish minister, the Revd. T. Harkness Graham, in the early 1930's (I think). It is entitled "What is the Church" and I have taken some extracts from it.

"The origins of the English word "Church" is doubtful. There are two theories. It may be derived from the Greek word *kuriakos*, which means "belonging to the Lord". The Lord here means, of course, Jesus Christ it is a beautiful reminder of the intimate relation between Christ and His Church.

Some scholars, however, connect the English word "Church" with the Celtic word *cruc*, the Latin *circus*, the circular barrows or grave mounds of the Celts who once inhabited this country and marked on Ordnance maps as *tumuli*.

But more important than the meaning of the English word is the meaning of the Greek word for Church as used in the New Testament. The Greek word *Ecclesia* means "the calling together of the people from their houses to the Assembly."

Our Lord is recorded to have used the word "Church" on only two occasions, Matthew xvi,18; and xviii, 17. In each case there is no further explanation of it; so we must turn to the letters of S. Paul and the other New Testament writers for a fuller picture.

They give us three clear pictures, all easy to remember, for they all begin with the letter B.

(1) The Church is a body. The whole Church is pictured as a human body, not as our spoilt human bodies, but as Christ's perfect body. In other words, what Christ did and thought in His earthly body. We are not bodies of Christ, but all together form one body. And so the body is not complete until all people are members of it.

A body is an organism of many parts, all fitly framed together, an organism which is always changing, growing, developing or alas decaying. Further, a body must be in complete obedience to its head; and the head of the Church as S. Paul says is Christ. Just as the whole body is controlled by the nervous system we control the action of our bodies by our thoughts which are connected with our brains; so must Christ, the head and inspiration of the Church, control all its members as they are dedicated to His service, and are filled with His spirit.

(2) The Church is a building. S. Paul writes to the Ephesian Christians, “Ye are fellow-citizens with the Saints, and of the household of GOD, being upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the chief corner stone

The building is to be a dwelling place of the Spirit of God.....We, as individual stones must offer ourselves for the building.....The building will not be complete until every human soul offers itself as material for this temple.

(3) The Church is the Bride; the Bride of Christ; the Bride for whom Christ gave His life. “Christ loved the Church, and gave Himself up for it; that He might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing with the word, that He might present the Church to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing.....without blemish” Ephesians v, 25-27.

S. John, the writer of the Revelation, has a similar picture like a bride waiting for the coming of the bridegroom (Christ the Lamb) to the marriage feast.

These are the three chief pictures of the Church as we find them in the New Testament, Christ’s Body, Christ’s Building, Christ’s Bride.

Let us turn to-day, in the eternal present, while it is still called to-day, to Him who is the source of all power and love in all ages and in all places, even Jesus, that He will make us and all men worthy to be members of His Church; His bride, longing for His return; His building, not complete until all are built in as living stones; His body, many members, but all one, as they abide in Him and He in them.

The Talented Artist !



A minister was happily walking through his Sunday school one Sunday morning looking carefully at the drawings the children were making. He noticed that little Emily was particularly busy.

“Well what are we drawing here Emily”? he asked

Intent on her work and not letting her eyes leave the page, Emily replied ,“ I am drawing God.”



“Oh”, said the minister “I don’t know what God looks like. In fact I am sure that nobody in this church knows what God looks like . Still intent on her work Emily did not raise her head but responded “**Well they will in a minute**”!

Twa Sabbaths

1

Aye even on, the blashin' sleet
Garred burns rin big in spate;
An taigled kirk- folk, tired an'weet,
Were cauld as weel as late.
The bell had chapped its hinmaist stroke,
The noon was black as mirk,
An' twa-three draigley, drookit folk
Sat chitterin' in the kirk.
The meenister, gey auld an' grey,
Said "Brethren, I perceive
But few hae daured, this stormy day
Their ain fireside to leave.
But step ye to the manse ower-bye,
For fear ye come to harm,
An roon the fire ye'se a' get dry,
An worship while ye warm,"
The manse fornenst the kirk stood nigh
An'there ,the guid auld mannie
His faithfu ' flock syne brocht in-bye –
Three elders and a granny,
A wee bit sermon he did preach,
He ettled sine a psalm,
Then roon the fire he gave to each
A maist revivin' dram.



2

A week gaed by o'weather wild.
Neist Sabbath waur than ever,
The snaw drifts in the loans were piled,
An' ilk burn ran like river
The frichtsme hail cam' skelpin doon,
The win' richt gurlly blew;
But-wat ye hoo the news gaed roon? -
The kirk was fu', bung fu'!

This splendid poem was witten in the local dialect by a Minister who lived in Drymen, a lovely little village located beside the Campsie Fells. It was passed to me by a neighbour who had heard my wife make good use of the word "taigled" in a conversation with him. I love the poem and it shows that wives come in handy sometimes!

Editor

Editor's Snippets

Some postings from friends have greatly cheered me during the pandemic

Editor

Fun During the Lockdown!



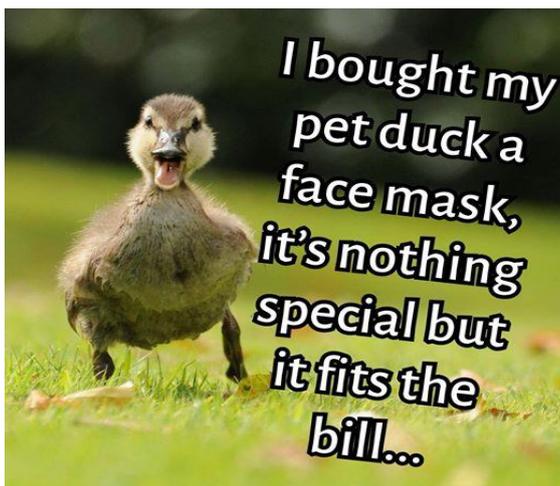
I don't know what is funnier. The cat standing some 2 metres from the door or the lady standing 2 metres from the cat?

I am proud of both of them!



My wife insisted that I couldn't build a car out of spaghetti.

You should have seen her face as I drove pasta!



Lockdown

- 1) Going to bed early.
- 2) Not leaving my house.
- 3) Not going to a party

My childhood punishments have become my adult goals!

Editor

Maxims and Proverbs

We are again grateful to Elizabeth Batty for sending in these lists. Elizabeth took them from a Methodist book dated 1915. Reading and re-appreciating their wisdom brought back memories from my days at Sunday School. The book belonged to Elizabeth's grandpa who, like her dad, was a lay preacher. Elizabeth tells me that ,in the Methodist church, these ministers are called Local Preachers.

Editor

Maxims for the Multitude



- 1) All reasonable reliance is reliance upon God.
- 2) Beautiful lives are Christianity's best argument.
- 3) Cultivation is to the mind what food is to the body.
- 4) Devotion should be both a morning and an evening star.
- 5) He who lives for himself lives for a little thing.
- 6) It is much easier to be critical than correct.
- 7) Justice must be tempered with mercy.
- 8) Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.
- 9) Our actions are our own; consequences belong to God.
- 10) Poverty does not destroy virtue, wealth never bestows it

Proverbs for the People



- 1) A bird may be snared that cannot be shot.
- 2) Better be alone than in bad company.
- 3) Count your chickens when hatched , not before
- 4) Deep rivers run silently, shallow brooks noisily.
- 5) Empty vessels make the most noise.
- 6) Fools tie knots, wise men loose them.
- 7) Give a rogue room enough and he'll hang himself.
- 8) He needs a long spoon who sups with the devil.
- 9) In a calm sea every man thinks himself a pilot.
- 10) Kindness like grain increases by sowing.

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Church Diary

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Funerals

Christine Ewart – 18 December

Walter Bulloch – 22 December

Mary Alexander -14 January

Mark Riley -20 February

Mrs Anne Kirkwood -26 February