

Cadzow Parish Church

Cornerstone



Have a Joyful Christmas!

After a worrying and stressful year threatened by the Covid Virus it looks as though we are winning. Hopefully we can now enjoy the Christmas celebrations although we will need to remain watchful of other threats which are currently being reported.

Despite the Covid threat quarterly copies of Cornerstone continued to be produced with excellent leading articles but distribution of the magazine was limited. So I decided to produce this “Bumper”! edition and allow those who missed the originals to have the pleasure of appreciating them.

Before closing I would like to thank all who sent in contributions throughout the year particularly those who contributed to “Poet’s Corner”. The list is too long to include but let me assure you they are all much appreciated. Finally a big thanks to John, our minister and Harry Webster who each contributed at least one article to every edition.

Editor

Main Articles

- P2 Minister;s Article
- P3 The Big Lie
- P5 BBs meet Prince William
- P6 Harry Lauder’s funeral
- P7 Grandpa’s trip
- P8 Bereavement
- P9 Cadzow War Memorial
- P10 Poet’s Corner





A Message from the Minister

What's so great about a pandemic, anyway? Truth be told, not much. But there are some things we've learned how to do that I'd like to keep. For example, Lisa and I recently attended parents' night at Hamilton Grammar school. This is usually an all-consuming affair that means waiting to speak to the teacher.

You can usually plan for about two hours depending on how many meetings you set up. This year though, we had six visits in the space of about 30 minutes and all from the comfort of my office. We'd signed up for the meetings online and "met" each one of Johnny's teachers for a timed 5-minute conversation. We covered all the necessities without the usual fuss of parking, queuing, getting lost and finding our way. In this instance, I really don't want to go back to normal.

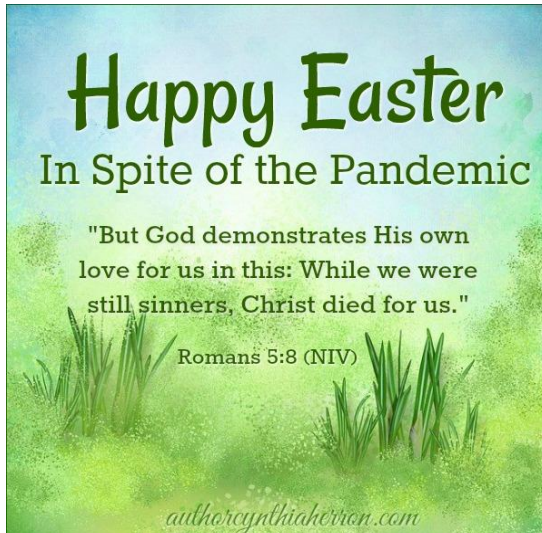
There are times when a crowd can be a bother, but other times when you need the company of other people and it's worth it to make the effort. Our online presence has been a gift of the same sort these past months. We were perhaps a bit behind the times by not having an online service, but we quickly learned how to do it and are continuing to improve our tech skills. Facebook and YouTube have been a blessing for countless thousands of churches and we plan to continue beaming our service to the internet.

But is it worth it to make the effort to come to church? Is worship in person actually better than worship online? Ask yourself, what do I get in coming to church that I don't get in watching at home? Seeing old friends, actually singing hymns, hearing the good news preached in person, seeing the children talk to the minister, having a cuppa and a chat, or being asked, "How are you?" from someone who really means it. You can get the heart of worship from watching online but it's the serendipity of being there that makes all the difference. I'll miss that even at parent's night.

In the bible, the church was originally described as the ecclesia. The word literally means "gathering." Church is the gathering of God's people. Not gathering doesn't make you any less a child of God but being together helps us *remember and feel* that important fact. If you haven't been to church recently why not come along during Advent. It's not just a countdown to Christmas. It's a chance to renew your faith and rediscover hope that the world is still in God's hands.

John





Leading Article - Spring Issue

March 2021

When we reached the end of March the Covid epidemic was retreating and the advancement of the production of an effective vaccine was spectacular. In Scotland things were beginning to look better.

However in the United States it was time for the election of a new president and the actions of some politicians were causing concern. At my request our minister produced the informed and compelling article shown below.

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 the 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." It would be hilarious if it was not 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 <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, 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 blamed 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.

John

Clever cat social distancing
at the supermarket



Most popular
Snippet during
the lockdown!



Leading Articles- Summer Issue

June 2021

In June's Cornerstone **Robin McLean** reported on Prince William's visit to our Boy's Brigade at the palace of Holyrood House, The other main article was submitted by **Harry Webster** who produced a nostalgic report on the funeral of Harry Lauder which took place here at Cadzow on the 2 March 1950. Covid restrictions continued although the vaccines were proving to be very successful.

Our Boy's Brigade meet Prince William



Every year the Boys' Brigade are invited to mount a guard of Honour for the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Normally this is done at St Giles and has around 80- 100 participants. We were not expecting to do it this year due to circumstances, however the Purse Bearer to the Lord High Commissioner was very keen to have the BB involved and they agreed to form a restricted Guard in the grounds of the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

As I have been Guard Commander for the past few years, I and my friend and colleague from 1st Bothwell, were asked to be the two officers to run the event with 13 boys. This was an honour and I jumped at the chance to accept. We deliberately picked Senior boys from Edinburgh, West Lothian and 5 from Lanarkshire (Carluke and Bothwell) to represent the BB as a whole and started to plan the event

As you can imagine – given the person involved – security was very tight Every adult accompanying one of the boys had to provide personal and vehicle details to be given access to the car park. On the day before the event we hit a problem when one of the West Lothian boys reported sick. We had to get a replacement whose parents had been vetted. This was where David came in. After a mad rush to find a shirt which fitted him David was asked to join the Guard and was by far the youngest member. I could go into more detail but suffice to say this was an incredible experience. Prince William chatted to 6 of the boys and David was picked out by him as obviously the youngest. He probably spent more time talking to David than anyone else. Prince William now knows what we all know that David's brothers are really annoying!! I was also fortunate to spend a few moments chatting to him.

Harry Lauder's Funeral

Harry Webster



In the 11 May 2021 edition of the Herald, there was a yesterday photograph taken at the grave side of the funeral of Harry Lauder on 2 March 1950 in the Bent Cemetery. The description with the photograph gives an account of the funeral held at Cadzow with some details not included in the archives of Cadzow. The account mentions the service was conducted by the “blind minister” the Rev. T.F. Harkness Graham who was the minister of Cadzow.

Harry Lauder's international fame was emphasised by the wreaths from notable persons and organisations at this time such as Winston Churchill, the Duke of Hamilton, colleagues from the world of entertainment, and public bodies which along with the wreaths from relatives and, as the photograph below shows, some of the six cars required 6 cars to carry them all in the funeral cortege from the church

To attend the service in Cadzow a ticket was required although there were some unreserved pews, which apparently were fully occupied half an hour before the service began.

The Herald account says the principal pall bearer was Lauder's niece Greta. I think this lady was Greta Fraser, a member of Cadzow, who sat near me in the sanctuary for many years and often spoke about her Uncle Harry. She gifted a stained-glass window of the “Nativity” in the Autumn 1984 in memory of the Fraser family and is one of the windows underneath the balcony facing the pulpit. Thus, it will be a tangible connection to Harry Lauder.

I have included a cutting of the Herald's article in the archives, and it will be a useful augmentation to the information on the Lauders.





Leading Articles - Autumn Issue

September 2021

Further easing of the Covid restrictions allowed us to hold our usual weekly Sunday services although Covid distancing rules still had to be observed. A “Welcome Back” message was displayed on the cover of Cornerstone and the main articles are shown below. Members also sent in their reassuring answer on how good it was to be back at formal worship. *Editor*

Below is an account of a Sunday School trip written by Elizabeth Batty's Grampa in a diary of 1915, although it may have been written a bit later than that, given that 1915 was during the first world war. He recorded the ticket sales and expenditure for the trip and, amazingly, five charabancs were used as transport at a cost of £7 10s each. The day trip must have included two lavish meals because the expenditure included 195 pies, 40 loaves, 7lbs ham, 3 lbs tea, 2 gallons milk, 48 dozen cakes and much more. How lovely it would be to have that number of adults, young people and children on a Sunday School trip nowadays!

Joyce Brain

Grandpa's Sunday School Trip

The Sunday School had their annual picnic to Arrochar including the three lochs. The day was a little showery yet it did not damp the spirits of those who had the pleasure of this beautiful tour. We passed through the second city of the Empire with a lot of shouting and cheering by the young members of the party.

Passing Bearsden, we travelled down the splendid new road known as the Boulevard to Balloch and along the beautiful shores of the famous Loch Lomond where the big Ben, like a sentinel of ages, looked on as we passed Luss and on through Tarbet over the hill to the quiet shores of Loch Long where we had a stay of six hours. Our first meal being ready, everyone did full justice to the good things provided. Thanks to the good people of the Arrochar Hotel who made water ready for our tea and had the pies ready and piping hot for us. The field was also provided by these good people where we could sit and view the beautiful scenery while the Old Cobbler looked down upon us with a smile. After the second service, the sports of the day were then indulged in which the junior sectionyes, and the elders too, enjoyed to the full. At six o'clock, charabancs were then got ready for the homeward journey leaving at 10 minutes past 6 to journey along the shores of this silent loch where we had spent a very happy afternoon. The road along was like a scenic route than a public highway. Leaving Loch Long behind we then climbed the Whistlefield Brae down to Gareloch passing Rue and Helensburgh on the way, reaching Mossend about ten after a day seeing the beauty of nature which had been so richly provided for us by our ever loving father.

The two entries below have been sent in by two of our readers who have recently suffered bereavements.,The first was sent in by Heather Johnstone,a friend who worships at Coldingham Parish Church where Joyce and I attend during the Summer months, Heather recently explained to me how she was being helped through bereavement with a group from the church. She describes this in the article below. *Editor*

We paint to draw a suggested theme and I write haiku to accompany mine. Here are two that are appropriate for Christmas with family.



shining silver star
pierces the darkness bringing
light, love and peace.



gentle graceful dove
sending you light, peace and hope,
Christmas and always

There has been much said and written during lockdown of the physical and mental benefits there are to “being in nature” – I prefer to say” being in creation” as spiritual benefits can be gained too – greater awareness of Creation can lead to awareness of the Creator and my prayer is that more may come to acknowledge and accept this and know the wonder and love of God, the saving grace of Jesus and the support of the Holy Spirit in their **lives** *Heather Johnstone*

Bereavement

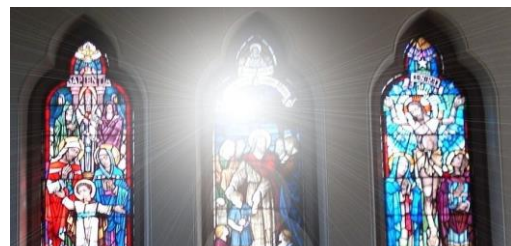
On the Anniversary of the Day You Went Away

Today’s the anniversary
Of the day that I lost you,
And for a time it felt as though
My life had ended too.

For loss has taught me many things
And now I face each day
With hope and happy memories
To help me on my way.

And though I’m full of sadness
That you’re no longer here
Your Influence still guides me
And I still feel you near

What we shared will never die
It lives within my heart
Bringing together comfort
While we are apart



The member, who sent In this tender and moving poem, wished to remain anonymous. She hoped that others in a similar position might gain some comfort from the words

Editor



Cadzow War Memorial

Harry Webster

Following on from the **Cadzow World War 1 Memorial**, mentioned in the September Magazine, there was a memorial erected outside Ferniegair Mission Church on the 27 August 1921 recording those of the local community who gave their lives in the war. The site was on the main road through the village a short distance away from the church.

It comprised a short column with the figure of a soldier of the Highland Light Infantry placed on top. This raised a question with me. Why was the soldier from the HLI which was a City of Glasgow regiment? Would it not have been more appropriate for the figure to be from the Cameronian Regiment, which has a closer relationship with the County of Lanarkshire? I could not find an explanation in any records from this time. Neither could I find the name of the sculptor. There is a reference to a Mr. Kyle of Hamilton who, along with local labour, built the memorial.

The memorial was unveiled by Thomas Arnott, County Councillor, assisted by the Rev. Graham, Minister of the Parish, and Mr. Langon, Manager of Ferniegair Colliery. The sum of £657 had been raised by local subscriptions and a donation from Mr. Russell, Coalmaster. It has been the practice over the years that on Remembrance Sunday held in November, there would be a service in Cadzow followed by a service at the Ferniegair Memorial.

In 1921, a strike was called by the General Council of the Trades Union Congress to try and prevent wage reductions and worsening conditions for miners. This was followed by a Winter of Discontent when there were widespread strikes by public sector trade unions demanding pay rises following a government decision for pay caps.

Since many members of Cadzow and its Mission Churches worked in the coal mining industry they were affected directly with these strikes. Mr. Graham in his letter in the October 1921 Magazine writes, "Circumstances and events are sending out no uncertain call to the Church that she will have to be very serious and very enthusiastic in her work and in her mission. There are dark days ahead of us this winter, days of economic depression which are bound to fill the hearts of all of us with misgivings. It was inevitable that after a great war such a state of things should emerge. The miracle to me is that its coming should be so long delayed. A new world is being built up before our very eyes. When material resources fail us, or, what is much the same thing, when their demands go beyond our powers of production, we have got to rely upon the resources of character. It seems to me that this state of bankruptcy might, if pursued to its legitimate conclusions along the lines of materialism, result in restitution of a system of slaves."

He goes on to describe a community where a small number strong in "moral physique and courage" force the other part to work for its sustenance and in return giving them only food for work done.

Thank God, that this vision of Mr. Graham did not evolve although we still have strikes for similar reasons.



Poet's Corner

Many thanks to Evelyn Henwood for sending in the two poems displayed below. Both poems are designed to make you think !

Editor

It's up to you

One song can spark a moment
One flower can make the dream
One tree can start a forest
One bird can herald Spring

One smile begins a friendship
One hand clasp lifts a soul
One star can guide a ship at sea
One word can frame the goal

One vote can change a nation
One sunbeam lights a room
One candle wipes out darkness
One laugh will conquer gloom

One step must start each journey
One word must start each prayer
One hope will raise our Spirits
One touch can show you care

One voice can speak with wisdom
One heart can know what's true
One life can make a difference
You see **It's up to you!**

Dust if you must

Dust if you must but wouldn't it be better
To paint a picture or write a letter!
Bake a cake or plant a seed
Ponder the difference between want and need.

Dust if you must but there's not much time

With rivers to swim and mountains to climb

Music to hear and books to read,

Friends to cherish and life to lead

Dust if you must but the world is out there
With sun in your eyes the wind in your hair
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain

This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must But bear in mind

Old age will come and it's not kind

And when you go and go you must

You yourself ,will make MORE dust!!

Smile

Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu.



Many thanks to

Hamish Wilson

For sending in this poem
by Spike Milligan !

Editor

When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner
And someone saw my grin.

When he smiled I realised
I'd passed it onto him.

I thought about that smile
then realised its worth.

A single smile just like mine
Could travel around the Earth.

So if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected.

Let's start an epidemic quick
and get the world infected !



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Upcoming Events

12 December—Giving Day and holy communion

12 December 2:30 pm—Blue Christmas

This is a memorial service for the families of those who have died since the start of the pandemic. So many of the bereaved were denied the privilege of gathering together for a funeral and for the funeral tea. This is a chance to right that wrong. If you have lost anyone or know someone who has then come along for a 2:30pm service of worship followed by refreshments and a gift from the church. Please reply to minister@cadzowchurch.org.uk or phone the manse 01698 426682

16 December- Thursday coffee mornings last one of the year, restarts 13 January

19 December— Worship will feature our church choir with their annual Christmas music.

19 December – Sunday coffees. Restarts Sunday 9th January

19 December 4-5:30pm—The Greedy Fairy. Here's a chance to have some fun for the whole family. Come along for this original short play and a visit from Santa. Details to follow.

24 December 6:30 pm—Christmas Eve service Held in the hall this year the theme is Rockin' Christmas Eve and will feature our praise band and family friendly worship.

<p><u>Funerals:</u></p> <p>Cathy Ginn—4 October</p> <p>Margaret Notman—27 October</p>
