



A Time to be Positive !

Now that the Covid Epidemic is effectively over, I believe that we should give priority to adopting a positive and hopeful attitude to our future as a church. On the negative side the number of members returning to church so far has been disappointing but to me Cadzow is a very special Christian church and we are not lacking in faithful members who are to be warmly praised for diligently starting various creative initiatives Like our minister (see P2) "I am delighted to have the opportunity to be part of our great Church".

As far as Cornerstone is concerned I could not be more pleased at the way things continue to develop and the interest shown by our members is positively heartening. I am never short of quality submissions from enthusiastic and talented members and while it takes a lot of work, the effort is well worth it and it gives me insight to the lovely Christian members we have here in Cadzow.

For contributions to this issue I would like to thank the Minister, David Barnes, Harry Webster, Jim Reddiex, Patricia and Martin Steel, Elizabeth Batty and Evelyn Henwood. Also the Minister of a church at Drymen. Please let me know what you think of Noah's Ark!

Editor

Main Articles

- P2** Minister's message
- P3** Impressed
- P4** Archives
- P5** Garden Corner
- P6** POW Chapel
- P7** The Deluge
- P9** Poet's Corner
- P12** Church Diary



A Message From Our Minister

A Visit to the General Assembly

While it is impossible to provide a full discussion of the events of the week, I'd like to highlight a few things that were significant to me. One of the most noteworthy and positive reports came from the Ecumenical Relations committee. This group has done much in recent years to build bridges of connection with other churches and faiths and this year's report included what was titled the "A Declaration of Friendship" with the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland. This report represented the culmination of over 100 years of dialogue on the subject of Christian unity and has been embraced by leadership in both churches. Effectively, the declaration acknowledges that there is far, far more that unites us than divides us. The report is frank in confessing that there has been sin and egregious behaviour towards one another in generations past, but that moving forward, it is our intention to work more harmoniously together. The Report passed with great acclaim and was renamed the "St. Margaret's Declaration" in honour of St. Margaret of Scotland (1045-1093).

The report that drew the most attention from the press was the decision to allow Church of Scotland clergy to perform same sex marriages. The Church has been on the trajectory towards this decision for many years and it was no surprise to see it pass by a margin of 274-136. Clergy who favour allowing same sex marriages must "opt in" and register as an officiant, while those who choose not to do so may continue without registering. This is a decision that each minister must make individually and, while she or he is encouraged to consider how their decision might affect the peace and unity of the church, the final decision is theirs alone. As of yet, I am undecided, but I am very interested to hear your thoughts on the matter and would be pleased to talk with you any time.

The most challenging issue was presented by the Faith Nurture Forum which is overseeing the reduction in the number of ministries across the Church. More than once during, the Assembly referred to our present circumstance as being a "perfect storm" of pandemic, Presbytery restructuring and Mission planning. Presently, there are 653 ministers in the Church of Scotland, 331 vacancies and 163 locum ministries. 45% of the ministers currently serving the church will retire within the next five years. The aim is to reduce the number of ministries from its present total of 984 to 600. Newly united and reformed Presbyteries are each allotted a certain number of ministers and must make adjustments in the number of churches in such a way as to maximise the available number of clergy. This will come in the form of church closures, unions, linkages and groupings. As I have said in previous months, no church and no minister is immune from the coming changes, including Cadzow and myself. We anticipate that our new Presbytery will be presenting its plan by mid-July. Watch this space for details as they emerge.

Personally gratifying for me was participating in the report of the Theological Forum, of which I was made a member in 2021. The Forum report included a lengthy treatise on a theology of creation.

As I write, Alistair Macrae and I are enjoying a bit of rest from our exertions this week as commissioners to the 2022 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. It was, as always, a fascinating, inspiring and exhausting event at which reports and debates and decisions were made about the work of our broad church. It never ceases to amaze me that so many faithful and talented people are working so diligently to further the aims of the kingdom of God in Scotland and around the world. and the environment, a paper offering guidance on making retroactive apologies (especially in light of recent moves to seek apology for the witch trials conducted in Scotland during the 17th century) and a report on the role and status of the

Church's subordinate standard of faith, the Westminster Confession. The Forum commended the development of a Book of Confessions that would supplement the Westminster Confession as its subordinate standard of faith. After some debate, the Forum's report was passed with a large margin.

After two years of isolation from one another it was deeply gratifying to worship and meet in person. Still, great flexibility was enabled by the "hybrid" nature of this year's Assembly where 2/3 met in person and remaining 1/3 met on Zoom. There were some technical challenges to ensuring all were able to participate, debate and vote, but to its credit, the Assembly has invested heavily in new technologies and has created a new way to include people who, for a variety of reasons, could not attend in person. We heard from commissioners from all parts of Scotland and welcomed speakers from all around the world via video link. In spite of a few hiccups, the Assembly voted resoundingly to continue its future business in the hybrid mode. It is an overwhelming experience and a huge responsibility to attend the Assembly, but I am grateful for the trust given me and the opportunity to be a part of our great Church.

John

Impressed !

David Barnes, like many of us, is dismayed at the absence of young people and children in the Church. Here he shares his reflections after visiting the Annual Display of our BB Company

You could not help being impressed by boys of the 5th Hamilton Company of BBs at their Annual Display. The young boys from the age of 5 to 18 were looking smart and well-disciplined with older boys helping out and a team of well-trained officers doing a great job. The youngest boys being good for two hours was no mean feat and the eldest boys looked ready to be young officers just out of Sandhurst Military Academy.....ready for life!

Every boy there had certificates to pick up and new badges of their own for tasks achieved. Some even had trophies, some more than one. These are not easily achieved and proof of their hard work.

I asked several people why we do not see such talent at Church services and was told many stories.

So, how can we bring back young people who are already within the church for various other reasons to be with us on Sundays? There is already a team of people longing to welcome them to Sunday School and Youth Group. Do you have any ideas and would you be willing to help if we can rebuild our contact with parents, children and young people. They are the future of Cadzow.

If you have ideas you can speak to the Minister, Rev. Dr. John Carswell at church or by phone 01698 426682.

David Barnes

From the Archives

Harry Webster



Item 1

The ground, on which Cadzow was built, included three houses fronting Haddow Street. The rent paid by the tenants was part of the financial income of Cadzow. The ownership passed to the Trustees of Cadzow Parish Church with the maintenance of property undertaken by the Committee of Management.

In early 1922, a tenant of one of the houses was 6 months in arrears with his rent. The Committee had him evicted with furniture deposited in the street and the doors were boarded up. However, later the same day the tenant removed the boards from the doors and moved his family and the furniture back inside the house. This must have infuriated the Managers who instructed the Law Agents for the Church to have his children and family removed from the custody of his parents and placed in the Poor House.

Wise counsel was given by the Law Agents to the Managers. They told them children could be moved if neglect could be shown or the parents consented to this action. Neither of these alternatives existed. The Chief Constable of the Burgh Police Force, who was a member at Cadzow, and the Superintendent of the R.S.P.C.C. were consulted. They decided their separate organisations would monitor the situation.

The Managers negotiated what they thought was a solution to the problem. They agreed to accept the payment of six pence per week from the tenant to allow him to pay his rent and clear his arrears. This lasted only for a time and again the tenant and his family were again threatened with eviction. But before this could happen, the tenant with his family left the house suddenly still owing money for the rent.

What would today's office bearers do in this situation ?

Item 2

In the April 1922 Magazine, an entry of 5 March under Baptisms, read,

“Thomas Ranken Harkness Graham, son of Thomas Forest Harkness and Jean Bowser Graham, Cadzow Manse.”

Later in this Magazine, Mr. and Mrs Graham record their thanks to the congregation for the “Beautiful silver bowl and spoon presented to our little son”.

Item 3

On the 22 September 1920, James Mackie, Town Chamberlain of the Burgh of Hamilton, died. He had been Session Clerk at Cadzow since its creation. The Kirk Session, Trustees, and Manager decided a stain glass window would be a suitable memorial and on Easter Sunday, 16 April 1922, it was unveiled in the East Transept of the Sanctuary by Mrs Mackie near the pew occupied by the family.

Item 4

In the May 1922 Magazine, Mr Graham comments on the window, “This window, which has been executed by Messrs. Stephen Adam & Co., Glasgow, is a representation of the Ascension of our Lord. The colours are rich; the robe of Christ being deep scarlet. The inscription on the window is: “To the Glory of God and in loving memory of James Mackie, a Trustee and Session Clerk in this Church, in 1879- 1920.”



Gardener's Corner,

Based on the notes of Jim Reddiex



June - August

Bedding Plants



Formerly a reputable nurseryman would not sell bedding plants until they had been hardened off in cold frames but nowadays these plants are being sold straight from the greenhouse and earlier every year. Plants should be kept inside after purchase until the soil warms up and the threat of frost is past – not before the end of May and preferably at the beginning of June. In the event of late frost, an overhead spray from a watering can before the sun reaches them will minimise the damage to bedding plants and shrubs like hydrangeas and pieris.

Roses



If there is the least sign of black spot, spray the branches with a proprietary brand of fungicide every fortnight. For a light attack of greenfly, spray every week with a squirt of washing up liquid in water. For a heavier infestation it would be necessary to spray, with something like Sybol.

Warning! When using proprietary brands of pesticides do not increase the recommended strength. There should not be “one for the pot.”

Tomato Plants



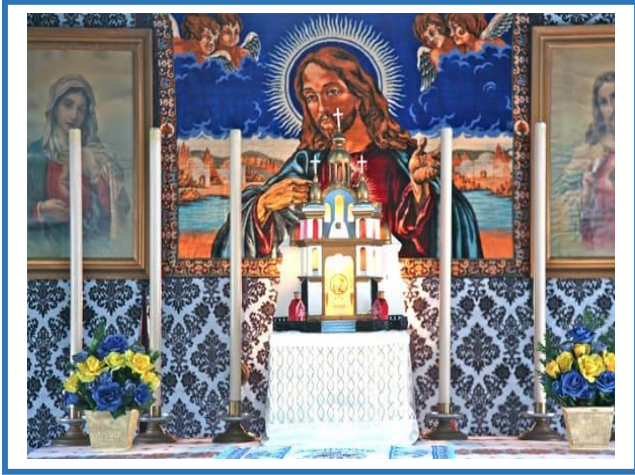
When the plants are young and in their final pots before planting, avoid over-watering. It is important to keep them more on the dry side to encourage the first flowering truss to form. If you over-water, the truss tends to be quite far up the stem and this is not desirable as the first truss is the most important. Do not feed until the second truss has formed, so as to encourage the fruit to develop. If you over-water and feed the young plants, they tend to spring away and not produce flowers.

Hanging Baskets



People tend to forget that, even in a wet year, baskets need to be watered every day or every second day. It is a fallacy to assume that they are being watered when it is raining because most of the baskets are hung under eaves of the house and are protected from the rain. Tend to feed oftener with a weaker mixture.

Hallmuir POW Chapel



Did you know that after the Second World War there were over 400 Ukrainian prisoners living in the countryside near Lockerbie? We certainly didn't until we visited the site several years ago courtesy of the Doors Open organisation. A simple army hut had been transformed into an ornate chapel by the prisoners between 1947 and 1950 and its beauty was impressive. The statues and the furniture were hand-carved and there was a tinsel-covered chandelier which was painted in blue and covered in gold stars hanging from the ceiling. Above the brightly coloured altar is a model of the cathedral in Kyiv created from memory by one of the prisoners. I guess we see the real cathedral when we watch the TV reports sent from a rooftop in Kyiv.

Ukrainian prisoners in Scotland? Since the Soviet Union was on our side in 1945, why were the Ukrainians our prisoners? It turned out that, after Germany invaded the Soviet Union, hundreds of young men were forced to join the German army or else see their families and villages destroyed. An alternative historical perspective suggests that some were volunteers, Ukrainian nationalists who hated the Russians and hoped that Germans would grant their homeland independence. Bear in mind that ten years previously Stalin killed millions of Ukrainians by engineering a famine, so it is hardly surprising that many Ukrainians were quite happy to serve Germany invading Russia.

And why did they come to our country? Well they had made a great effort to surrender to British and US forces, rather than the Red Army, because they were well aware that they would face death by firing squad or slow death in Siberian labour camps. The British Government knew this too, but this gave us a problem, as we didn't know what to do with the prisoners. So we locked them up in Lockerbie as well as other locations. Eventually following an appeal for leniency from Pope Pius XII, the prisoners had their status changed from "Prisoners of War" to "Surrendered Enemy Personnel" and were given the option of being settled in the UK or Canada.

Many of those who came to Hallmuir were employed locally in farming and forestry. Over the years many of these young men married local girls and finally became embedded in the community. It was only when the Ukraine received independence from the USSR in 1991, some 47 years later, that any men dared to set foot in their home country. Hallmuir is now a Grade B listed building and is a living memorial to the Ukrainian prisoners, just as the famous Italian chapel in Orkney reminds us of their prisoners of war. Although the chapel has fallen into disuse over the last few years it became a focal point for gathering humanitarian aid for Ukraine this spring.

Patricia and Martin Steel

P.S. We were pleased to read only the other day that there is good news for Hallmuir. of a visitors' centre. South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) has provided a grant of £50,000 for vital repairs for the development of a visitors' centre. Perhaps one day you will enjoy a visit there too!

The Deluge



1 The Lord took a staw at mankind,
A righteous an' natural scunner;
They were neither to haud nor to blind,
They were frichtit nae mair wi' His thun'er.

2 They had broken ilk edic' an' law,
They had pitten his saints to the sword,
They had worshipped fause idols o' stane:
"I will. thole it nae mair," saith ther lord.

3 "I am weary wi' flytin' at folk;
I will dicht them clean oot frae my sicht;
But Noah, douce man I will spare,
For he ettles, puir chiel, to dae richt."

4 So he cried unto Noah ae day,
When naebody else wis aboot,
Sayin': "Harken my servant to Me
An' these, my commands, cairry oot :

5 "A great muckle boat ye maun build,
An ark that can float heich an' dry,
Wi room for a' yer ain folk
An' hantle o' cattle forby.

6 "Then tak' ye the fowls o' the air,
Even unto big bubbly-jocks;
An' tak' ye the beasts o' the field:
Whittrocks, an' fourmarts, an' brocks,

7 “Wale ye twa guid anes o’each.
 See that na cratur rebels;
 Dinna ye fash aboor fish;
 They can look efter theirsels.

8 “Herd them a’ safely aboard,
 An’ance the Blue Peter’s unfurled,
 I’ll send down a forty-day flood
 And de’il tak’ the rest of the world.”

9 Sae Noah wrocht hard at the job,
 An’ searched to the earth’s farthest borders,
 An’gethered the beasts an’ the birds
 An tell’t them to staun’ by for orders.

10 Then Noah wi’ a’ his ain folk,
 An’ the beasts an’ the birds got aboard;
 An’ they steekit the door o’ the ark,
 An’ they lippened theirsels to the Lord.

11 Then doon cam’a lashin’o’ rain,
 Like the wattest wat day in Lochaber;
 The hailstones like plunkers cam’ stot,
 An’ the fields turned to glaur, an’ syne glabber.

12 An’ burns a’ cam doon in spate,
 An’ rivers ran clean ower the haughs,
 An’ the brigs were a’ soopit awa’,
 An’ what had been dubs becam’ lochs.

13 Then the folks were sair pitten about,
 An’ they cried, as their weather got waur:
 “Oh! Lord we ken fine we hae sinn’d
 But a joke can be carried owerfaur !

14 Then they chapped at the ark’s muckle door,
 To speer gin douce Noah had room;
 But Noah ne’er heedit their cries,
 He said :This ‘ll learn ye to soom. “

15 But Noah an’ a’ his ain folk,
 Kep safe frae the fate o’ill men,
 Till the arc, when the flood had gi’en ower,
 Cam’ dunt on the tap o’ a ben.

16 An’ the waters rowed back to the seas,
 An’ The seas settled down and were calm,
 An’ Noah replenished the earth-
 But they’re sayin’ he took a guid dram !

Like an earlier work reported in, **Issue 31 volume 3**, of Cornerstone, this poem was put together by a Minister who lived in Drymen early last century . Our oider members will know of this picturesque little village located in the Campsie fells. The verse is written in the local dialect which I love and gives a unique version of the story of Noah’s Ark. I find the language nostalgic as it reminds me of the Scots tongue that I heard in my youth and now miss so very much..

Editor



Poet's Corner

In the notes below **John Murray** takes a view that we should certainly heed. Thanks John! **Ed.**

People have asked me lately: what has caused the low church attendances I've listened and wondered,

Could it Be?

- 1 Church day but I didn't go
I was feeling just so-so
2. The face mask is another thing
We were told we shouldn't sing
3. I'd go but there's another reason.
I don't like that wreath-laying season.
4. I hurt my foot.....it's my big toe.
(I didn't really want to go.)
- 5 . Another week, we had a warning.
We couldn't have a coffee morning.
- 6 The church is different. There is no noise.
Please bring back the girls and boys.
7. This week I can't go to church.
I'd leave the Bowls Team in the lurch.
8. I like the church but truth be told
I just don't like it "Rock and Rolled"!



TO SUM UP:

Forget these and any other reasons. Come back! You'll be made most welcome.

John Murray

God's Care is Everywhere

(Thanks to Evelyn Henwood for sending this in Ed.)

Sometimes the things that seem the worst

Turn out to be the best..

So think of this as just a time

To get a little rest...

And while we cannot understand

Why things happen as they do

The one who hangs the rainbow out

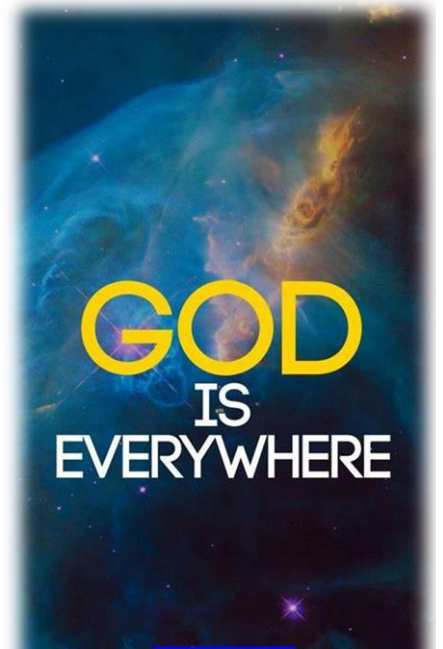
Has his own plans for you...

And may it comfort you to know

That you are in his care

And we are all part of God

And God is every where.



Comment

When choosing the figure above I spotted that being shown in the background, was a nebula I had recently been viewing. Nebulae are enormous interstellar dust clouds which consist essentially of cosmic dust, hydrogen and helium and ionised gases. They are essential in the amazing process for making stars

The nearest nebula is located some 700 light years away . A light year is equivalent to around 518 million miles. I don't know about you but I cannot conceive of this distance and am grateful for the point this artist is making in amplifying God's awesome presence.

Editor



Life is Too Short

Grudges are a waste of time

Laugh when you can

Apologise when you should

And let go if you can't change

Love deeply and forgive quickly

Life is too short to be unhappy

Thanks to Eliazbeth Batty for sending in the poem above and Evelyn Henwood the poem below. *Editor*

When God Made the World

When God made the earth and sky.
The flowers and the trees
He then made all the animals
The fish, the birds and bees
And when at last he'd finished
Not one was quite the same
He said "I'll walk this world of mine
And give each one a name."
And so he travelled far and wide
And everywhere he went
A little creature followed him
Until its strength was spent
When all were named upon the earth
And in the sky and sea
The little creature said "Dear Lord
There is not one left for me"
Kindly the father said to him
I've left you to the end
I've turned my own name back to front
And called you "Dog," my friend.



Editor

Dr John Brain
1 Menock Court
Hamilton M3 9DJ
Johnbrain2001@yahoo.co.uk

01698820764

CHURCH DIARY

*Cadzow Parish Church
3 Woodside Walk
Hamilton ML3 9DJ*



Minister

Rev Dr John Carswell

jcarswell@churchofscotland.org.uk

The Manse of Cadzow, 3 Carlisle Road

Tel: 426682

Session Clerk Alistair Macrae

95 the Paddock

Tel: 304946

FW0 Mrs Dorothy Craig

5 Chestnut Crescent

Tel:281553

Deputy Session Clerk Stewart Tweedlie

49 John Muir Way , Motherwell

Tel:249032

Organist John Pithcathley

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 Convsnors Archie and Aileen Love

Tel: 320161

Funerals

31 March – Agnes Seawright, Newarthill

22 April – Elizabeth Smith, Newarthill

25 April – Ian Harthill, 35 Chaterherault, Crescent, Hamilton.

16 May - Alan Frame, 20 Rokeby Crescent,Hamilton

