



Cadzow Parish Church Magazine

“What Cadzow Church Means to Us”

Contributors

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Main Articles

p2 A message from our MINISTER.

p3 The way we were from our EDITOR.

P4 Responses to questionnaire “What does Cadzow Church mean to you.”

P4 Assessment of Questionnaire Responses

P5 Remembering our Queen

P6 Church Diary



A Message From Our Minister

What do you think about the church when it's threatened with closure? We've all seen it happen and most of us know people who've had their church closed, but now there's a real possibility it will happen here, at Cadzow, the place so many of us call our church home.

I've been thinking a lot about the Presbytery Mission Plan and the very real prospect of our church closing and being put into a union with several other churches. In doing so, I couldn't help but think about the church in China because churches in China are being closed as well, albeit under very different circumstances. Chinese churches are being closed *by the government* because they have become *too big*. As a Communist state, China has forever had an uneasy relationship with the church. During liberal times it has been allowed to grow largely unmolested, but I learned recently that President Xi is anything but liberal. One of his first acts as President was to order all churches to remove the crosses from their buildings. All over the nation, crosses were forcibly taken down and pastors that refused to remove them were promptly jailed for their convictions. Men like Pastor Wang Yi, founder of the Early Rain Covenant Church and Chinese-American Pastor John Cao were imprisoned for their faith in 2018 and remain behind bars to this day, their churches closed, because Christianity is considered a threat to State security.

And yet, the amazing thing is that evangelism and persecution of the church take place beside each other. There are stories coming from China that are straight out of the book of Acts in which imprisoned Christians, singing hymns of praise and thanksgiving in their cells, end up bringing their jailers to faith (Acts 16:16-40). So effective is their witness that the government has ordered that Christians are not allowed to be jailed together but are kept separate from one another. It would seem that Christ was speaking truth when he said, "Wherever two or three are gathered together, there I am in their midst" (Matthew 18:20). Churches are being closed in China because they have become too big and are influencing the minds and hearts of too many people who are desperate for a Word of truth and light.

The man who shared these stories was speaking recently at a Release International event I attended. He began by sharing that he was so grateful to Britain for sending so many missionaries to China in past generations. He described himself as a beneficiary of the Hudson Taylor Inland Mission to China (circa. 1853). Since the 1950's, when Communism took hold under Mao, the church has grown from 1 million to 130 million believers. It is growing, bursting, exploding in China today because *British Christians* went there with the Good News in the 19th century.

As we all reflect on our long and happy association with Cadzow, I confess I do so with mixed feelings, wondering how we've come to this. The churches in China are closing because they are drawing *too much* interest, but here in Britain it seems they are closing for *a lack* of interest. It is a sad testimony that the church that once *sent* missionaries now needs missionaries *sent to us!* And that is my prayer, that faithful Chinese and Koreans and Africans and Indians will one day hear the call, as Taylor and Livingston and so many others once did, to come to *our shores* and tell the old, old story to a nation that seems determined to forget it altogether. I hope you will join me in that prayer.

*Yours in faith,
John*

The Way We Were - *Editor*



This is a photograph of the **Cadzow Church Kirk Session Drive** to Arrochar in June 1934. I like this photograph. The fact that the ladies keep their hats on is worthy of particular note! This highly respectable looking group would have been happy that the First World War was now over but, perhaps, also a little apprehensive that a Second World War might start in the near future.

It also occurred to me that none of them would have heard about television or wi-fi, mobile phones and stereo headsets etc. which would soon take over the lives of their descendants whose advice seems to be you have a problem or crave entertainment why not use the enormous resources of the internet to sort things out? As far as illness is concerned they are also convinced that, for most of their problems, they can rely on the unbelievable advances taking place in medical science. Why bother going to church It is out of date.? The advances in medicine, science and technology will see to our needs.”

Our group would have motored to Arrochar from a Cadzow Church which was not markedly different from the Cadzow Church we now know and love with its magnificent church organ and superb stained glass windows positioned on all of the walls. Before I was forced to move my seat on the back balcony I found great comfort in directing my prayers to the rose window behind the organ gallery. I have found that I am not alone in this and others in Cadzow find this makes their worship particularly meaningful.

The church preserves a history that is ours although thoughtless people would say that It is only a building. I feel that the very walls have absorbed all of the prayers, the singing and the inspirational interpretation of the word of God which Cadzow has been experiencing for around 150 years. At Cadzow we have a unique organ played by the wonderfully talented John Pitcathley. The Group from Arrochar would have loved it!

There is no place I would rather worship than Cadzow. I grew up there. As I have indicated, It is not just a building and to even think about selling it would be wrong for me and for all of the many church members who have contributed to its existence over the years.

What Cadzow Means to me - Editor

Responses from members

a) David Brain

I have spent a lifetime with Cadzow Parish Church. I came to Hamilton in 1945 and went to Cadzow with my mother and brother. Over the years we have had Sunday School, Lifeboys, Christenings, Weddings and a Funeral. So many memories and nearly all happy. No other church can ever replace Cadzow!

b) Jenny Brain

Our son's christening had been arranged. Unfortunately the Reverend Andrew Douglas was still recovering from an illness and hadn't been "signed off". However, a replacement was in place and since friends and family were arriving from North, South, East and West, we decided to go ahead. It then transpired the replacement was not sufficiently qualified to conduct baptism!

Panic!

God Bless Andrew Douglas! He suggested that the christening party come to the church at the end of Morning Service.

("Back door, and don't tell anyone"!)

We had a lovely christening with a personal touch.

When Andrew received Cameron from David, he said "No wonder God loves them!"



No wonder God loved Andrew Douglas!

c) Robin McLean

Cadzow is the people – to me they are my family and I will do everything I can to keep the family together.

d) Robin and Ann Laird Cadzow Church means a great deal to Ann and I. We have experienced so many happy times and great memories there. Our daughter Gemma's Baptism, Gemma attending Sunday School led by the famous Mrs McIntyre and Mrs Mark, many great Nativity plays and Watchnight Services. Much social working along with the Social Team, car rallies, lunches, quizzes and special events, most recently the Diamond Jubilee lunch We have also been involved in recent years erecting the church Christmas tree and have always appreciated the comments from many members of the congregation.



e) Evelyn Henwood

After much thought I can tell you in three words “What Cadzow Parish Church means to me” and the three words are **Home, Family and Love.**

However I thought that’s a bit too condensed so I expanded it just a little bit! Well, you know it’s my “little bit” so that could mean half a page or the whole magazine!

My first thought was **Home.** I stepped into Cadzow Parish Church for the first time with my two and a half year old daughter, Nadine, forty years ago this coming Christmas and felt at home right from the beginning Maybe it was because it was the children’s Christmas nativity service and it was full of chat, bustle and laughter. Everyone was friendly and I was there at the invitation of my cousin, who was a member and her three and a half year old daughter. Nadine ended up in front singing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and the rest is history. I felt I had come home! A place of comfort. A place of peace. A place of rest.

I have always found **Love** at Cadzow Parish. Many times over as I sit in the Sanctuary. I feel the warmth of love. The love of God is forever there. The love of the Cadzow Family is also there and even though perhaps in days to come we may have to change our home, I know the family will always be together. **Home, Family, Love never fail.** So many happy times. So many memories



A Christmas Nativity

f) Elizabeth Batty

When Norman was really ill and not able to walk he wanted to go to the Christmas Fair but did not think it would be possible. Then part way through the morning he made up his mind he would go, so we set off. When we arrived at the church we found that there was a car blocking the path of the wheelchair which I was pushing. However two men at the door of the hall came forward and promptly lifted the wheelchair with Norman on it. He was able to enjoy what turned out to be his last fair.

When we give cheerfully and accept gracefully everyone is blessed



g) Carolyn Nicolson

For me Cadzow Parish Church has been a place of warm welcome from our first entrance 34 years ago; a place of sanctuary and support through trials and tribulations: a place of music, laughter, learning, friendship, giving and receiving and above all a place to know Jesus.

(Carolyn also looks after the BB Junior Section. See right and is co-ordinator of our very successful Woman's Group.)



h) Elaine Thompson

My very first experience of Cadzow church was back in 1976 when I was maid of honour for my sister Valerie's wedding to husband-to-be Malcolm Young. They were married by Rev Andrew Douglas. I was only fifteen years old but felt very honoured to have been given this very important duty along with my baby brother Jack who was a page boy. At the time I was struck by how beautiful the church was and can vividly remember the church bell ringing out when we exited the front door after the ceremony (albeit a tape recording blasting out from the tower as there was no working bell.)

After I married and moved with my own family to Larkhall in January 1999, I decided to come along to Cadzow Parish Church for Sunday worship as I didn't know anyone in any of the Larkhall churches. It was to be the start of twenty-three years of Worship, Fellowship and Stewardship involving my work with the Rainbows, Hyzone, the Drop-in Centre and being asked to be an Elder which I humbly accepted during Arthur Barrie's tenure and continue to do so.

Although I didn't attend Cadzow as a child, some of my favourite memories to date include some wonderful Christmas Fayres, Sunday School Christmas Nativity Plays, many various choir appearances, musical recitals, Harvest and Christmas displays and drama productions by some of our talented members. Also some fabulous music by our talented organist John Pitcathley and not forgetting our wonderful in-house band.

The historical information of Cadzow Parish Church is well documented and hopefully it will continue to make more lovely memories for many people in the years to come.



A busy evening at the Drop-in Centre

I) Harry Webster

Our main reasons for joining Cadzow



The following are the main reasons we chose to join Cadzow.

- 1) We had strong Brigade connections in previous churches and when we purchased a house in the new housing estate in Silvertonhill in 1967 we looked for the nearest Church of Scotland which had a company and that was Cadzow Parish Church.
- 2) We had not long moved into our new house when we were visited by the parish minister, the Rev. Andrew Douglas of Cadzow.

We were impressed by the fact that he was visiting every new house on the estate as it became occupied. He confirmed that there was an active company in Cadzow with a sizeable number of boys and officers. He further described the various organisations which were active and provided for both adults and children.

J) Alistair Macrae

I have been attending Cadzow for 47 years, and have always been struck by the beauty of the sanctuary. For me it is the ideal place to worship and is a place where I feel at home. It lives up to its name bearing in mind that "Cadzow" or "Cadihou" means "The House Beautiful". It has also witnessed our family baptisms, weddings and funerals, including my own baptism and wedding and so has been the place of many significant milestones in my life.



k). Eddie and Joyce Tweedlie

Cadzow has been an important part of our lives since moving to Hamilton in the 1980s. We decided to try several churches before deciding where to place our lines; we sampled Cadzow first and realised we did not need to experiment any further. Since then it has been the ideal environment for worship, for developing our faith, for nurturing our children, for fostering relationships with like-minded people and for dedicating to the church any abilities we may have.



The support from and the fellowship of a whole range of people have made Cadzow an integral part of our lives; particular mention should be made, in our time at Cadzow, of Arthur Barrie and John Carswell, the Kirk Session, church organisation volunteers, our wonderful organist John Pitcathley, and the outstandingly faithful members of the church choir.

No matter what happens in the next few years, none of the above can be taken away from us.

l) Stewart Tweedlie

Cadzow to me first and foremost is a place of faith and it helps facilitate my relationship with God. But on a more personal level, I met my best friend to this day here at Sunday School as a five year old. It is also a place where I feel I can give my gifts, primarily to young people. BB has a huge place in my life and I fundamentally believe in the good it does in developing young men to achieve their potential and I am so grateful that Jim Reid, Mark Richardson, Dougie Hutton and Gary Wood had the same calling when I was a teenager.



In recent times, I have learned to preach and while I sometimes feel I am just waffling my own banal thoughts, the encouragement I get from the minister, friends and members tells me that it enhances their faith and that makes the investment in time preparing worthwhile. Like all churches Cadzow has its faults and its moments but that's what makes us human and these hard times are what solidifies your faith in the long term

m) John Pitcathley

As is fairly common knowledge amongst the people of Cadzow, I took up the post of Organist for a 6-month period, in order to extricate myself from the financial difficulties in which I found myself at the time; that was thirty-eight years ago! I suppose the answer to the above question is to be found in the length of my stay.

From my very first Sunday in Cadzow (at the age of 26!) I have felt at home here and have been regarded as a member of the 'family' – and that is indeed what Cadzow is – a family, whose members not only talk the talk of their Christian faith but walk the walk, taking their Sunday utterances into the daily action of their lives, impacting significantly on the local community and that of the wider town.

My engagement with the ministers, the choir and the people of Cadzow over the years has given me a sense of musical purpose and routine in my life, for which I am extremely grateful. The Cadzow organ is a very fine instrument and I have greatly enjoyed my weekly opportunity to put it through its paces within the context of worship; the musical tastes of the congregation are wide and varied and have afforded me the opportunity to play a vast repertoire of music of many different styles and periods, all of it greatly appreciated and often commented upon! For this I am also extremely grateful.

It is often said that *God moves in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform*; it is my fervent hope that, as the 'Mission Plan' unfolds (unravels even!), a pathway may be found to allow Cadzow's congregation to continue to offer glory to God within the hallowed walls of this sanctuary.

n) John Brain

The Three Ministers



During my time at Cadzow Parish Church three special ministers have been in charge. Each one has proved to be a friend who has helped to strengthen my Christian faith. Here I describe three occasions which have greatly benefitted me .

The first concerns Andrew Douglas. I was still in my teens and very impressed by the leading thinkers of the time, particularly Aldous Huxley. Atheism seemed to provide the answer to the questions I was asking myself and during a visit to the manse I mentioned this to Mr Douglas. To my surprise he retorted "You could very well be right but there is more than one sort of explanation for why things happen as they do. Scientific explanation in terms of physical causes and general laws is one sort of explanation. Personal explanation in terms of desires and intentions is another." After some thought I agreed and moving on from this I now contend that Science cannot disprove the existence of God which requires a personal explanation.

Some six years ago I wrote a book titled, "**Reality, Science and the Supernatural. Can Science Support Belief in a Creator God.**" I am pleased to report that, while certainly not a "Best Seller", it is still selling in numbers better than I had anticipated, particularly in the USA and newly published hardback copies will be released for this Christmas.

During an evening, some two years or so after my book had been published, there was knock at front door of my home. I was out but Joyce was very surprised and delighted when she opened the door and welcomed a smiling Arthur Barrie. It was about two years since we had seen him. He handed her a book saying "Tell John I've been reading an excellent book and thought that John might appreciate it. The author agrees with a lot of the daft things that John wrote in his book. I have marked the pages!" The book is titled "Credible Christianity. The Gospel in Contemporary Culture" and it was written by Hugh Montefiore a high ranking Bishop in the Church of England. It is a superb book and I can not praise it too highly. Even if it says daft things now and then!"

Our current minister, John Carswell, has also proved to be an excellent choice. For Cornerstone, he recently completed a most perceptive and meaningful article on Donald Trump. Considering he recently obtained a PhD from Glasgow University, he certainly knows how to get his point across!! Currently, he has been handed the task of seeing Cadzow through a very difficult period but I feel sure he will be successful. He will certainly have my support and the support of those I have listed in this survey.

0) Eleanor Rae

Since "emigrating" to Hamilton from Edinburgh over 56 years ago, Cadzow has been a large part of my life. I was warmly welcomed on my first visit and have found Cadzow folk to be kind and caring. Friendships have been formed, problems solved, support and kindness shown whenever needed, in sad as well as happy times - very often over a cup of tea I might add!

Many people have benefitted from the Cadzow family feeling and are grateful. We hope and pray that will continue. Life without Cadzow just wouldn't be the same! It wouldn't be the same without the magazine either!

Main Response to the Question - *Editor*

"What Does Cadzow Church mean to you"?

I was delighted and often moved by the replies I received in the responses to the questionnaire. Reading them confirmed to me that we have a fine Christian congregation here in Cadzow and having read all of the replies I readily conclude that what means most to the majority has been highlighted by Evelyn Henwood and it is ,

"The love of the Cadzow family"

Clearly, as John Pitcathley has already stated we fervently hope that a pathway may be found to allow Cadzow's congregation to offer glory to God within the walls of the present sanctuary.



With the recent loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Rev John wondered if any of the congregation had any personal encounters with her. Two people were willing to share their experience of their face to face meeting.

Who's that speaking to Hamish?

Some time ago, Hamish Wilson was invited to meet the Queen. She was well aware of the multiple reasons for his award in recognition for his services to Hairdressing, to Community and to Charity. She asked him how long he had been in the Hairdressing Industry and he replied that it had been 62 years. "Goodness," she said, "You must have been a very young man when you were passing the hairpins to the stylist." Hamish was amazed that she knew about the duties of a junior in a hairdressing salon. He said he felt completely at home in her company.



Ae Fond Kiss

The 2nd June 1953 was a very special day for John Murray. As a member of the Royal Naval Reserve, he had been detailed for duty at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and was posted on the route between Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey.

The instructions given to the forces had been lengthy and explicit. No vehicle should be allowed to stop anywhere on this route.

John, complete with rifle, had been in position for some time. The expected crowds had not appeared and no-one was near him or in sight.

Suddenly everything changed. Hordes of children arrived and crowded into the area behind him. The noise of excited children was deafening and grew worse as the State Coach appeared, slowed down and stopped right in front of John. He could read the lips of the future queen as she said, "Oh look, Philip! It's the children."

John admits to being totally overwhelmed by the beauty of this young woman but remembered his instructions.....no vehicle should be allowed to stop on this route. What was his solution?

He moved his rifle to the left.....and blew her a kiss!

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CHURCH DIARY

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Session Clerk

Alistair Macrae

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Funerals

8 June- George Warren, Newarthill.

20 June- Jean Monks, 52 Beattock Wynd, Hamilton.

