



MY VIEW

At the beginning of this year, when the committee was looking forward, considering what themes we would pursue in each magazine during the following months, it was proposed and accepted, that the 'early summer' edition would highlight "The Homecoming", which was set in motion by the Scottish Parliament. Fine, let's get on with it, but then what do we get on with, this is the problem I am now trying to answer. From my point of view, there is not much coming home as far as I am aware, except some nasty earlier decisions are now coming home to roost at the feet of some highly esteemed people in high positions in banking and within the UK government. This was not what was expected. Sure, a programme has been set and homecoming events have been established in many areas, more so in the larger cities. We must be thankful however that the local senior football club is due to participate in the Homecoming Scottish Cup Final at Hampden Park, so it is having a local effect, which can't be bad!

However, the media circus seems to have forgotten all about Homecomings, and following the riveting demolition of some of our largest financial institutions and the people in the heart of making the decisions being seen off and rewarded for failure, and laughing all the way to the? - now I'm not sure where they are laughing all the way to, but surely it cannot be the bank. The far-reaching outfall has had a devastating effect on all our lives and the church has not escaped entirely. At this time last year we were coming to the end of a successful Stewardship campaign, to which most in the congregation responded. The Finance Committee was due to report the outcome of this in some detail, but this is proving to be difficult. Initially we had a good increase in giving, but this is now tailing off and it is going to take a bit more time to get a clearer picture.

Now, as I write this, we have had revealing news in the past week, about a number of MPs claiming expenses that beggars belief. I am sure you all have your views on this, but one thing is sure - the future is going to throw up many more surprises.

We also come to another thought-provoking situation, which will, I am sure, mean a lot of heart searching by many people within the Church. The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland will be over by the time you read this and we will have some idea of where we stand over the issue of same sex partnerships. This debate will focus on the Rev. Scott Rennie, minister of Brechin Cathedral, who was, some time ago, called by the congregation of Queen's Cross, Aberdeen, to be its minister. It is openly known that he has a gay relationship with his partner. The congregation has accepted this fact and voted for him. After the Call was 'sustained' by the presbytery, the minority voters contested the decision and lodged an appeal with the Commission of The General Assembly. They met in March and the Commission decided by one vote to remit the matter to the Assembly. This is a matter that is sure to rumble on for some time, especially with all the other Christian denominations throwing in their penny's worth.

So there we are - a mixer-maxter of a situation, but plenty to get our teeth into, and let us hope that the proper Christian way predominates in all of these situations.

Bill Smart

Remember.....

Live every day to the fullest.
Each minute is a blessing from God.

And never forget.....
The people who make a difference in our
lives are not the ones with the most
credentials, the most money,
or the most awards.

They are the ones who care for us