

## Weather



Well, now we Know! Everyone in Ballantrae is less than 12rs old. When the river Stinchar burst its banks and closed the A77 on Monday 19th November, many people said they had never seen it so bad. Yet it was slightly worse on 25th October 2000. I recorded 76mm(2.6ins) in the 18 hours between 6pm on the Sunday to 12noon on the Monday, and no doubt there was more inland especially around the Barrhill area. In spite of this deluge, the total rainfall to the 25th still had not reached the average for November for the last 16 year (174mm(6.9ins).

The origins of the phrase “raining cats and dogs” are something of a mystery but seem to date back to a line used in about 1629 by the English playwright Richard Brome in his comedy “The City Wit” which described stormy weather: “It shall rain - - - Dogs and Polecats”. That leads us to ask why polecats are used to describe the weather, although their long tubular shape might suggest long streaks of falling rain, Just as the French describe rain falling like ropes and the Germans have stair rods. Cats and dogs have also a long history of being seen to behave strangely before storms.

George Watt



**SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY**



**For Ballantrae Residents in the  
COMMUNITY CENTRE  
On WEDNESDAY 12th DECEMBER  
At 5pm  
Persons aged 60yrs or over, plus their Spouse/partner, are  
invited  
ALL WISHING TO ATTEND PLEASE PUT NAMES ON  
LIST IN SCOTMID CO-OPERATIVE**

**Supported by Scotmid Co-Operative**



## Christmas Cards

It is time again for the delivery of Christmas cards in the local area. This year all monies donated will go towards our Lwambaza, Malawi Link Project. The box for Christmas card deliveries will be at the church door on Sunday 9th. and Sunday 16th. December. It would be very much appreciated if the names and addresses could be clearly shown on the envelope.

Many thanks and a Merry Christmas to all  
From the delivery team.



Struggling to make ends meet on his meagre salary a young minister was horrified to find his wife had spent £300 on a new dress. 😄 😄

“How could you do it?” he demanded.

She explained apologetically: “I was outside the store looking at the dress in the window, and the next thing I knew, I was trying it on. It was like Satan was whispering in my ear: “You look fabulous in that dress. Buy it!”

“Well,” replied the minister, “you know how I deal with that kind of temptation. I say: Get thee behind me, Satan!”

“I did,” replied the wife, “but then Satan said: “It looks fabulous from back here, too!” 😄 😄 😄

### Children's Funny Ideas About Angels

It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die. Then you go to heaven then there's still the flight training to go through. And then you got to agree to wear those angel clothes.

My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth.

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten.

And when he lets out his breath, somewhere there's a tornado.

Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why but scientists are working on it.

My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science.

When it gets cold, angels go north for the winter. 😄

I hear funny angels all the time in my dreams. And I'm sticking with that no matter how many people tell me I'm crazy.

## Prayer



Loving Father,

Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Please never let us crowd our life to the brim, so like the keeper of Bethlehem's inn, we find we have no room for Him.

Let our heart's door be ever open, ready to welcome the newborn King;

Let us offer the best we have, to Him who gives us everything.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and

Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

A big "thank you" to everyone who donated a huge variety of clothing to our recent Malawi appeal. The response was tremendous, resulting in our being able to fill 43 boxes of garments for our link village of Lwambaza Malawi.

We are very grateful to Blythswood Care who uplifted 30 of the boxes on the first stage of their journey to Malawi, with the balance of 13 boxes due to be collected in November, it is hope that the total consignment will be shipped via the Raven trust to Malawi early in the new year.

Sincere thanks to Rosie & John McKinley who helped pack the Blythswood lorry and kindly volunteered to store the balance of the boxes until November. Sincere thanks also to Gwen Campbell who helped pack the boxes and to all who contributed donations (£60 so far) towards the shipping costs which will amount to £430.

What a great effort from everyone

*Margaret Peacock*  
Ballantrae Malawi Committee (Scribe)



## Ballantrae Film Nights

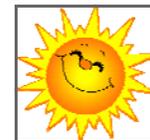
28<sup>th</sup> December

6pm – Ice Age 4: Continental Drift

8pm – The Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street



## The Sunshine Club



This month we have been learning all about the Wise and Foolish Builders. We even made lots of buildings and towers from blocks – you can see our photographs in the vestry! We also started making Christmas decorations and have lots of Christmas crafts planned for the next few weeks. We will be hearing the Christmas story and having lots of fun at our Christmas party too! We all hope you have a lovely Christmas!



## PAWS FOR THOUGHT

As the elder of the Manse Westies, it falls upon me to bring this years Christmas greeting. Hamish wanted to tell you all about the Christmas things he was looking forward to, but bearing in mind his first birthday will be on 19<sup>th</sup> December, he doesn't actually know that much about it yet! He'll learn! I do admit to really being a fan of Christmas – what dog couldn't be delighted by the prospect of an indoor tree and all the turkey he can eat? I'm hoping for some new tennis balls and Hamish says he'd like a go at the all-you-can-eat sock buffet (mummy calls it the washing basket). I'm looking forward to the shortest day, as I reckon if the day is shorter, I'll get my breakfast and dinner closer together. Daddy has a new study group starting this month too – it sounds delicious! Lots of cakes and crumbs. Perfect!

So on behalf of Hamish and myself may I wish you all a happy Christmas and may all your Christmas trees be well watered.

Till next time

Dougie



## Announcements

### Wednesday Worship

5<sup>th</sup> November at 11am  
a traditional service lasting  
30 minutes.

### Christmas Services

Sunday 9 December: 3pm  
Candlelit Service in  
Glenapp Church  
Friday 21 December: 7:30pm  
Carol Concert in  
St Colmon, Colmonell  
Sunday 23 December: 11:30am  
Christmas Nativity Service  
Monday 24 December: 11:30pm  
Watchnight Service  
Tuesday 25 December: 10:30am  
Christmas Family Service

### Sugar & Spice

Creative Christmas Reflection  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm in  
the Manse  
See Stephen for more information

### Pastoral & Hospital Visiting

If you know someone who is in  
hospital or is housebound and would  
appreciate a visit from the minister,  
please contact Stephen on 831252.



## Ballantrae Church Guild



Unfortunately the November  
meeting had to be cancelled owing  
to flooding after atrocious weather.

It was to have included a small  
celebration of the 125th  
Anniversary of the formation of the  
Guild, November 18th being the  
start of National Guild Week.

There was an invitation from  
Dailly for 12th December. If any  
member would like to go to the  
Dailly 125th celebrations would  
they please give their names to a  
member of the committee so we  
can try to arrange transport.  
The Guild Christmas lunch will be  
on the 17th December at the  
Harbour Restaurant, Girvan if any  
Guild member has not already been  
contacted and would like to go  
would they please contact Margaret  
Bean on tel. 831635 for more  
information.

Have a joyful Christmas.



## SWRI



The next meeting will take place on  
Monday December 3rd  
All welcome.



## Oreo Truffles

(makes approx. 40 truffles)

"These are so easy to make and so  
easy to eat!

### Ingredients

1 lb Oreo cookies  
8oz cream cheese, room  
temperature  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
( using different extracts allows  
for subtle flavour changes...e.g.  
mint extract, up to 1 tsp)  
1 lb milk chocolate  
1/2 lb white chocolate

### Directions

Crush cookies into a fine powder.  
With a mixer, blend cookie  
powder, cream cheese and vanilla  
extract until thoroughly mixed  
(there should be no white traces of  
cream cheese).

Roll into small balls and place on  
wax-lined cookie sheet. Cool in  
fridge for 45 minute. Line two  
trays with wax paper. In double-  
boiler, melt milk chocolate. Dip  
balls and coat thoroughly. With  
slotted spoon, lift balls out of  
chocolate and let excess chocolate  
drip off. Place on wax-paper-lined  
tray. In separate double boiler,  
melt white chocolate. Using a  
fork, drizzle white chocolate over  
balls. Let cool. Store in airtight  
container, in fridge.



## Gift Aid

Please  
contact me

if you would like

weekly offering envelopes.

You can donate to the church in this  
way whether church members or not.  
Please consider signing the Gift Aid  
declaration so the church can gain 25p  
more from every £1 you give at no  
extra cost to yourself. As long as you  
are a taxpayer your donations can be  
part of the Gift Aid scheme. If you  
already make donations and wish to  
know if they are part of the Gift Aid  
scheme please get in touch with me.

Jillian Nelson

Telephone 871221

email

[robertnelson285@btinternet.com](mailto:robertnelson285@btinternet.com)



## Christian Aid

Harvest Appeal - the grand total of  
collected was £908.00, which was  
better than I expected. Many thanks to  
all who donated so generously.

## News Letter



Items for January news letter by  
**Weds.26th December**

!

Dear Friends,



I hope you are making progress through the list of presents that you need to buy for people this Christmas. I must admit that we have done a fair bit of ours and I think we know roughly what we still need to buy. There are some advantages with being presented with a suggestion as to what the person wants, though it does take away the thrill on Christmas Day of seeing if the person is going to like or dislike your gift. We all think we are good at masking what we really feel about a certain present, but the truth is that the initial reaction can be hard to effectively control.

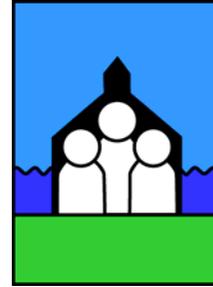
I wonder what God thought the reaction would be when Jesus was born on earth that first Christmas Day. Did he expect people to be excited? Did he expect there to be large scale celebrations? If it wasn't for angels partying in heaven and celebrating with shepherds would anyone have known that Jesus was special? If travellers from the East hadn't given gifts and raised his profile in the court of the local King, would anyone have blinked at a new baby born in a town in Israel?

I really doubt it. The gift that God gave us was special, but it was just the beginning. The real gift that we need to appreciate is the one that Jesus would give us over thirty years later. A baby could do nothing more than make people feel warm and gooey inside, but when Jesus died on the cross the real gift of God's love was revealed to the world. Yes, love was given to the world at Christmas, but it was not until years later that the value was revealed to us all.

And so as you celebrate Christmas this year, take time to remember the wonderful gift that God has given us, and rejoice that we are God's dearly loved children, because of what Jesus did many years after that first Christmas.

I hope you have a great Christmas,

Stephen



# CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

## St. COLMON

[www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk)

**Minister: Revd. Stephen Ogston**

**Tel. 01465831252 E-mail: [ogston@macfish.com](mailto:ogston@macfish.com)**

