

Ballantrae WRVS  
welcome Ballantrae residents to  
**Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner  
and Entertainment**  
to be held in the  
Community Centre on **Wednesday  
10th December at 5 pm.**  
Any person aged 60 years and over,  
spouse/partner are invited  
to attend. Transport can be provided.  
Please add your  
name to the transport list in the  
post office.



**SWRI**



New members welcome to attend our  
monthly meetings.

Next meeting on the **5th January.**  
Talk on Coast Guards by  
Richard Brocklehurst



### **Blythswood Care**

Is glad to receive donations of food,  
clothes, bedding, bric-a-brac and  
household goods. A truck will collect  
from this area on 2nd Tuesday of  
every month..Contact any WRVS  
member for more information.

Dear Friends,



*Thank you so much for  
all the beautiful card you  
sent to me on my 100th birthday.  
Isobel & I were deeply touched  
that so many of you remembered  
me. We had hoped to be regular  
visitors to Ballantrae when we  
retired, but alas! Frailty has made  
me housebound for some years.  
We think & talk of you all often &  
the church news letter keeps us up  
-to-date with Kirk events.  
Thank you again for your good  
wishes. Our thought & prayers  
are with you all.*

Your Sincerely  
*Ernest Brain.*



### **Christmas cards**

We will again be delivering cards  
in the local area for a donation to  
church funds. Cards can be left in  
the special box at the church en-  
trance on Sunday's 7th & 14th  
Dec. It would be greatly appreci-  
ated if all envelopes could have  
correct address.



### **HARVEST THANKS CHRISTIAN AID**

Many thanks to everyone who  
helped raise the total of £560.65  
during the Harvest Appeal.

### **From our prayer Correspondent**



For reading & meditation:-

**1 John, Ch. 4-v 7-10**

**God is Love v.7--** Dear friends  
let us love one another because  
love comes from God.

You came in love Lord Jesus to  
show us the way,  
Told us to love one another each  
and every day,

Guard our minds, our thoughts,  
our actions,  
Guard our lips, our tongues, our  
words,

Shape our prayers to You - - our  
salvation,  
Not forgetting the needs of the  
world,

We pray for peace in a world that  
is hurting,

Help us to keep faith with you and  
each other,

Strength and grace to live through  
each day,

This season of Peace, Joy, Love  
and Giving,

What can we give o you Lord?,  
Our Hearts.

With love in His Precious name

**Patricia Thackray**



### **SHOE BOX APPEAL 2008**

Thanks to all who filled boxes.  
79 boxes were filled and  
dispatched

**MALAWI**



Dear Friends,

The Partnership continues in strength with news  
and interest shared within schools, guilds and  
organisations inside Presbytery and beyond.  
Many Churches have already set up partnership  
links with churches and organisations in Malawi.  
Within Presbytery churches large and small,  
including our own, have rallied to send their  
boxes to the loading point at Dundonald, where,  
in October, a further two containers containing  
approximately 1.400 boxes, were sent to  
Malawi and it is hoped that at least one will  
arrive in time for Christmas. The huge response  
to the "Wedding Dress" appeal has enabled five  
wedding gown hire shops to be opened in  
Bandawe, the proceeds of which will go towards  
the feeding of local orphans. Additional items  
for the Malawi "Wish List" are - Wellington  
boots and ladies cotton nighties and bras. The  
latest Presbytery Malawi Update Leaflet is avail-  
able in the "Tea Sunday" corner of the church.  
Thank you all so very much for your continuing  
support of the Malawi Project.

Tea Sunday Collection for Malawi  
To date Four Hundred Pounds has been  
dispatched to the Presbytery Malawi Fund,  
covering between February 2007 and July  
2008. Since then contributions from the Tea  
Fund have been

August 2008	12.70
Sept. 2008	22.00
Oct. 2008	25.00
Oct. 2008	20.40 (Brought forward from Nov. Communion and Armistice)

Thank you all once again for your continuing  
support for our Church Family in Malawi .

**Meg Peacock**

*The You're An Angel - Faith Sharing workshops attended by 6 members of the united congregations, have been enjoyed by all. They have been held in the BRICC house on Tuesday evening and finish in November. We have discussed:-*



*Faith to Share  
Faith and Journey  
Faith and Friendship  
Faith and Vulnerability  
Faith and Everyday Life  
I hope to hold other workshops in the New Year.*

*Margaret Maule*



Opportunities to view our stained glass windows at sunset are very rare these days, but I remember when I used to attend the evening service in St Mary's Parish church, Haddingston, the choir and minister (Rev. James S. Thompson) could get a good view of the large window at the west end of the church. My memory may not be accurate but I think it depicted Jesus and the "come and dine" scene. When the sunset was red then the whole thing was spectacular. About 40 years ago the church was restored to its original state—the eastern end & transepts had lain in ruins for about nine Centuries.

*George Watt*

The minister was wired for sound with a lapel mike, and as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform, jerking the mike cord as he went.

Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again. After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered, "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

### **HOUSE GROUP**

The House Group, which has been meeting during the vacancy, will hold its final meeting, on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>. Dec. at 7pm.

Usual venue

The group was formed to pray for our churches in the vacancy and for a new minister. Now that that has been achieved, with the coming of Mr Ogston, in January, it's time to stop. We have been greatly encouraged by the way the group has developed over these passed two years and have been much blessed by the new friendships that have evolved. There was a regular group drawn from the three former parishes and some nights it was a bit of a squeeze to fit everyone into the front room at 'Inverduisk'.

Many thanks to all those who helped out each month with music and the study Fellowship. The meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. will take the form of a Christmas get-together with carols and mince pies etc. do make it a date for your diary.



"C" is for the Christ Child born upon this day  
"H" for herald angels in the night  
"R" means our Redeemer  
"I" means Israel  
"S" is for the star that shone so bright  
"T" is for three wise men, they who travelled far  
"M" is for the manger where He lay  
"A" is for all He stands for  
"S" means shepherds came and that's why there's a Christmas



**The Luncheon Club**  
are  
having a Burns Night on  
**Wednesday 14th January**  
in the  
**Kings Arms Hotel at 7pm**



### **Used Stamps**

As well as used stamps, we also collect old spectacles and used ink cartridges (except Epson).  
Thanks to all who have donated

## **28th December 1908**

Just another day, another bag of mail to deliver, some snow but so what! A little later than usual, due to the late arrival of the mail from Pinwherry, Robert Cunningham set off to deliver the mail on his bicycle, where everything went fine but on reaching Auchencrosh he left his cycle as it was proving a hindrance in the snow. He set off on foot towards Carlock but at Killantringan he met a telephone linesman who told him it was almost clear of snow from Carlock to the end of his delivery at Finnarts house. The linesman loaned Robert his cycle and off he went to complete his delivery. At Finnarts house he was given a warm meal before he set off for home, stopping off at Carlock to leave the borrowed cycle as arranged. Despite being offered lodgings for the night Robert decided to head for home. Why he lost his bearings on Killantringan no one will ever know but sadly he never made it home. The next day a search was made and his curled up body was found 300yds from the road out on Killantringan Moor. The cold had sent Robert to make a delivery in a better place. A case of "Well done thou good and faithful Servant"  
As we approach the 100th anniversary of Robert's death please think of those who go or have gone the extra mile to serve us all.



*Keith the post*

## CHURCH FAMILY



### Baptism

*Kaci Natalia Thomson  
Reece Struan Boyd*

### New Members

By Resolution ;

*George Smith  
Sandra Smith*

### Christmas Services



#### Wednesday 24th Dec

Christmas Eve Family service  
11.30 pm

#### Thursday 25th Dec

Christmas Day family service and  
toy parade 11 am.

### Carol Service

Village Ladies are joining together to put on a Carol Service with a difference. Dec.14th @ 7pm in the church.

Please help to make this a success.



## LIFE AND WORK

Looking for an idea for a Christmas present.

Copies of Life and Work the Church of Scotland's national magazine, are available from Margaret McKissock.



## CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD



One of the suggestions for National Guild week was to invite the Kirk Session to a meeting and have a discussion under the heading of "Think on These Things", so we decided to do this.

This part of the evening was in the capable hands of Rev. J. Guthrie. The discussion was based on the Parable of the Sower. We were divided into groups and given questions to think about, and finally reported our thoughts to the company.

Guild members were delighted to welcome a good turn out of elders, male and female, who came along. Our next meeting is a Christmas Meal, in the King's Arms, on Monday 15th Dec. at 7pm for 7.30pm.

### YOUNG WOMENS GROUP



#### Wed 10/12/08

Christmas Night Out  
7.30 p.m.

at Marine House Hotel Stranraer  
Present for Lucky Dip (£5-£6)  
**Week beginning 15th December**  
Meet at the Church for  
Christmas Decor.



## GREETINGS FROM IRENE BELL

*My dear friends,*

*I would like to wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas and happiness in the New Year.*

*I am sure you will understand that I feel I cannot cope on my own with the vast number of Christmas cards that Bob and I have been in the habit of sending.*

*Instead I have decided to make a donation to the Ayrshire Hospice who gave us so much support and encouragement during the time of Bob's illness.*

*Although I have chosen not to send cards I still intend keeping in touch with folk and I also want you to know how much I have appreciated all the support I continue to be given.*

*Wishing you all God's richest blessings  
With Love  
Irene*



### Newsletter



Items for January should be in by 24th December The *Newsletter* costs approx. £400 per annum to produce. Donations towards the cost may be left in a suitably marked envelope in the offering plate at any time, or given to the minister or any office bearer

## LISTS AND ROTAS

### Flower Calendar



**Dec. 7th** C Voak  
14th G McKinley  
21st. Guild  
28th P Savage



### Tea Duty

#### January 4th

Betty Nelson, May Cunningham, Rossi McKinley & Meg Peacock

### Church Cleaning Teams

#### 14th Dec.

Adam & Michelle Ollerman

#### 28th Dec.

Robert & Caroline Dalrymple

If unable to fulfil your given date, please swap with another team. If you can help with the Church cleaning rota, contact **Liz Gregg, tel. 841686.**

### Sunday Duty Rota

Dec.	Jan.
7th E	4th D
14th A	11th E
21st B	18th A
28th C	25th B

## Moderator's Christmas message

It's panto' season all wrapped up in tinsel, song, parties, bright colours and lights. Like so many children who receive their gilts at this time of year there is a temptation to be totally amazed by the wrappings and the fun that can be had imagining what can be achieved by transforming them into fantastic props for games and enjoyment. So too at Christmas as we fail to realise what is packaged, being transfixed by the packaging.



The Christmas story, regarded simply as a story, has many intrinsic attractions and has in Luke's gospel an admirable narrator. The romantic tale of an infant born in humble and sordid circumstances, who is in fact of royal lineage and destined to greatness, in various forms, has fascinated us from the time when story telling began.

Here, the pastoral setting and the supernatural hints of the real nature of the baby and his future glory enhance the story's appeal.

Just as a story it is better than any pantomime. Still keeping to the level of the art of the story teller, we may note, however, that in one respect it differs from most stories of the pantomime kind - it is incomplete; it needs a sequel, it points beyond itself to the Good Friday story and the Easter story; it arouses our curiosity to ask what happened to the baby whose birth is described so remarkably and what was his life. But of course, if we remain on the level of romantic fiction we miss the whole point. The story is presented to us not only as true, but as deeply significant.

Without looking further than indisputable facts it is evident that the Birth Story of Christ is totally different from all other stories; it has really no significant resemblance to tales like pantomime. It is a story which shook the world, and, because it was widely told and believed, the course of history was changed. To understand it at any deeper level we must look for its meaning and carefully remove all seasonal wrapping and trapping.

This Christmas season raises the context not only of Bethlehem where the Christ-child was born, but the more immediate context of our own individual lives and experience. This is so obvious and so intimate that we may best pursue this inquiry in the silence of our innermost self-examination, each asking what relevance the birth of Christ has in that private context known only to oneself and God.

What does it profit to know that Christ was born in Bethlehem if He is not born in me?

Why not join the worshipping community closest to you this Christmas to hear again the Christmas story and perhaps, for the first time, discover its full meaning for you and your life?

May God's richest blessings be with you and your loved ones at this very special time of year.

In Christ  
John Paterson (Moderator of Ayr Presbytery)



# CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

**ST.COLMON**

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

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