



### Ballantrae WRVS

welcome Ballantrae residents to

### Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner & Entertainment

to be held in the Community Centre on

**Wednesday 9th December at 5 pm.**

Any person aged 60 years and over, with spouse/partner is invited to attend. Transport can be provided.

Please add your name to the transport list in the post office.

Supported by Voluntary Action funds

### Day After Christmas



The minister was looking over the crèche the day after Christmas when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing.

He went outside and saw a little boy pulling a new red wagon. In the wagon was Jesus. He walked up to the boy and said, "Hi, there.

Where did you get the baby Jesus?

The boy answered honestly, "In the church."

"Why did you take him?" the minister asked. "Well," said the boy,

"I prayed to the Lord Jesus and asked him for a wagon for Christmas. I told Him that if He gave me one, I'd take Him for a ride in it."

### Christmas grows closer



Lord Jesus, Light of the world, John told the people to prepare for you when you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now.

Amen

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### Gift Aid



Please contact me if you would like weekly offering envelopes.

You can donate to the church in his way whether church members or not. Please consider signing the Gift Aid declaration so the church can gain more from your gift 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)

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Christmas Thought:

**STRESSED** is just **DESSERTS** spelled backwards.



### Weather

By the 26th we still had not reached the highest rainfall total for the past 13 years (9.3ins in 2002), but it was still nearly 9ins, so very wet. Thankfully we did not get the excessive amounts experienced by Cumbria, Nithsdale, Eskdale and Ireland. The most destructive floods I personally can remember were those which affected East Lothian and Berwickshire on 12th/13th August 1948. The River Tyne through Haddington reached the town hall, bridges on the east coast railway line were washed away.

Temperatures were around normal . At 7.45am on the 11th arctic sea smoke (shallow puffy fog) was seen at the mouth of the river Stinchar, where cold air flowing down the valley met the relatively warmer sea.

Just after 6pm on the 21st, the International space station was seen, coming in quickly from the west then heading south eastwards. Venus is now hardly visible above the horizon the southeast at dawn as it heads for superior conjunction, that is at the other side of the sun from earth. It reappears as an evening "star" in February. Jupiter is still a prominent feature in the evening sky while Mars and Saturn are easily seen high in the sky before dawn.

George Watt

### The Christmas Tree



The Christmas tree probably originated from popular early medieval religious plays, "the Paradise Plays," performed in churches and town squares of Europe during the Advent season. The plays told the story of the human race from the creation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Paradise till the Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. On stage during the play was a great tree hung with apples, symbolizing the Garden of Paradise. Soon people began the custom of putting a "paradise tree" laden with gifts and lighted with candles in their homes during the Christmas season to celebrate paradise regained through the coming of Christ.

Representing many things--the original tree of paradise, the life-giving tree of Christ's cross, the tree John the Apostle saw in the Book of Revelations, "a tree of life, which yields twelve crops of fruit, one for each month of the year...for the healing of the nations"--our Christmas tree is rich in Christian symbolism.

A 4-year-old boy who was asked to return thanks before Christmas dinner.



The family members bowed their heads in expectation. He began his prayer, thanking God for all his friends, naming them one by one. Then he thanked God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and all his aunts and uncles. Then he began to thank God for the food. He gave thanks for the turkey, the dressing, the fruit salad, the cranberry sauce, the pies, the cakes, even the Cool Whip. Then he paused, and everyone waited--and waited.

After a long silence, the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the broccoli, won't he know that I'm lying?"

### Fact



According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to middle of December. Females retain theirs till after giving birth in the spring. Therefore according to every historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, every single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen—had to be female.

We should've known!

Only women would be able to drag a man in a red velvet suit around the world in one night and not get lost.

### Congratulations

Reverend Isabel is delighted to announce the arrival of her grandson Ruben born on Tuesday the 3rd November.



### S.W.R.I



Will meet on **Monday 7th Dec.** "Burns Country Smoke House"  
New members welcome to attend our monthly meetings.

### LIFE & WORK

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

### Newsletter



Items for next news letter should be in by 29th December.



## CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD



November has been a really busy month for our Guild. As well as our own meeting hosted by Rev J Guthrie and several members of Session also attending we have had invitations from neighbouring Guild and groups. Several of our members attended Colmonell Circle Scottish Night, South Parish Church Open evening, our own Young Women's Open evening and we are looking forward to a visit to Dailly Parish Church Guild in December. Also in December is our own Guild Christmas Meal. A busy time!

18th of January is our first meeting of the New Year when we welcome Mrs Cathy Thorburn will be advising us on how to "Beat the Winter Blues". Why not come along, shake off the blues and hopefully the Christmas pudding! We are delighted this session to be joined by ladies from St Colmon's Church.

A reminder to all who are coming to our meal that it is in The King's Arms Ballantrae on Monday 21st December. 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Our good wishes to everyone for the Festive Season.

### Film Night

#### Film Night – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December



6pm – Ice Age 3 (U)

8pm – It's a Wonderful Life (U)

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Donations at the door.

Tea, coffee and mince pies will be served after the second film.

All welcome.



### 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.



### Used Stamps

As well as used stamps, we also collect old spectacles and used ink cartridges (except Epson).

Please note! All stamps should have a 10mm or more border around the stamp.

## Christmas Services (Ballantrae and St Colmon)

### Sunda13th

3pm—Glenapp church

### Sunday 20th

10:00 – St Colmon Church – All Age Service

11:30 – Ballantrae Church – All Age Service

15:00 – Barrhill Memorial Hall – Christmas Service

19:00 – Lendalfoot Community Hall – Christmas Service

### Tuesday 22nd

9:45 – St Colmon Church - Christmas Service for Barrhill, Colmonell and Pinwherry Primary Schools

14:00 – Ballantrae Church - Christmas Service for Ballantrae Primary School

### Thursday 24th

23:30 – Ballantrae Church – Watchnight Service

23:30 – St Colmon Church – Watchnight Service

### Friday 25<sup>th</sup>

10:30 – Ballantrae Church – Christmas Day All Age Service

### Sunday 27th

10:00 – St Colmon Church – Lessons and Carols

11:30 – Ballantrae Church – Lessons and Carols

## Church Family



### Deaths

Dennis Dempsey

*“I am the resurrection and the life “*

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### Young Women's Group



Next meeting on **Wed. 9th**  
December, Christmas Night Out.  
Souter Johnnie's at 730pm  
Church decorations  
Thursday 10th December

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### The Sense of Advent



‘The Sense of Advent’ experience continues in the Manse at 7:30pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> December with Touch and Smell and finishes on the 13<sup>th</sup> December with Taste. You don’t have to be creative to come, just be open to use the senses that we use every day of our lives. If you missed the first night don’t worry, come along and join in. For more information please speak to the Minister.

## Not made your Christmas cake yet!

A quick and easy recipe, can be made one day and eaten the next.

### Ingredients

14oz (400g) mixed dried fruit  
6oz (150g) glace cherries (quartered)  
4oz (100g) Dates  
4oz (100g) Butter  
6oz (150g) Dark brown soft sugar  
Half tsp. Bicarbonate of soda  
1tsp. Mixed Spice  
Half pint (285mls) milk  
12oz (350) S.R. Flour  
Pinch salt  
2 eggs, well beaten



Place fruits, spice, sugar, milk, butter and Bicarbonate of soda into a large pan, bring to the boil then simmer for 5minutes. Allow to cool to blood-heat. Sift flower and salt stir into mixture with the eggs. Turn into a greased double lined 8ins (20cm) cake tin.

Smooth the surface and hollow out the centre slightly.

Heat oven to 325F, 170C or gas mark 3. Bake cake in centre for 45minutes then at 300F, 150C or gas mark 2 for about a further 50minutes.

To see if the cake is cooked a skewer pushed into the middle should come out clean.

Cool the cake in its tin then transfer to a wire rack and remove greaseproof paper. Decorate as fit.

## LISTS AND ROTAS

### Flower Calendar



Just to remind everybody the flower calendar is at the church entrance, anyone wishing to donate flowers should add their name against appropriate Sunday's.



### Tea Duty

**January 3rd**

Betty Nelson, May  
Cunningham, Rossi McKinley  
& Meg Peacock

### Church Cleaning Team

**Dec.13th** May & Tom Lothian

**Dec.27th** Meg Peacock & Lorna Greenhill

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.
6th E	3rd D
13th A	10th E
20th B	17th A
27th C	24th B
	31st C

## Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

Christmas is a time to dig out the decorations from the cupboard or attic and really go to town brightening up the house. Lights, ornaments and tinsel all signify that Christmas is almost upon us. I am one of the people who like all the glitter and sparkle of the decorations and I like the house to be decorated as soon as possible in December. However I am not of the mind that it should be before December, unlike some people who have it all done as early as October, if not before that. I also hate taking it down and would gladly leave it up for the whole of January!

One of the best aspects of Christmas decorations is the lights. Whether they twinkle or chase each other, are clear or colourful, come with music or not, they are an essential part of any Christmas tree decoration. I also think it is great when the centre of towns and cities decorate themselves with lights in various different forms.

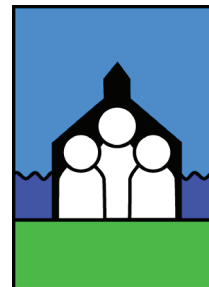
Whatever you feel about lights and decorations, it is important to recognise that light is a central part of Christmas. Christmas, after all, is about the light of the world being born. It was Jesus who said, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness." (John 8:12) Christmas is about remembering the switching on of that light, the birth of Jesus who would bring people out of darkness into his light.

It was not a small candle that was lit that first Christmas, but the brightest light ever lit, in which angels, shepherds and wise men all celebrated. The light changed all people in the world, by bringing them close to God. Remember the words of Isaiah 9:2, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them." Therefore let us celebrate again this good news together and continue to enjoy living in the light, the true light of the world.

I hope and pray you have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year!

God bless,

Stephen



# CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

## St. COLMON

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

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