



Paws for Thought

Well another busy month has passed in the Manse. Lots of coming and goings, and a little holiday in Glasgow for me in the middle. Thank you for all the feedback from my last letter to you all. A special mention to a certain special lady who took time to write to me, I hope to meet you one day, I can recommend the 2nd lampost past the Manse – it's a favourite of mine and a great place for gossip. A special welcome to Ballantrae to Rory, a new little Westie Pup. He's got me a little worried as mummy has gone all broody for another – aren't I enough I have to ask?

You may remember that last month I mentioned that when visitors came I was the first one to the door and out of it. Well this month that got me into trouble. New guttering was being fitted to the Manse after some fell down in a storm. Daddy looked out the window and saw me trotting along behind the workmen – I mean I was only supervising them, no need to yell at me to get back into the house! We also had people come to the house for the prayer meeting – I like them, they are quite noisy at first but after a while they quieten down and I get a peaceful nap under the table and maybe a biscuit at the end.

Till next time
Dougie



Going On Line



www.standrewpress.com

Order books/gifts on line and earn money for our church.
Its easy to do, have a look.

Film night



The next film night is on 26th **February**. At 6pm we plan to show **UP** (2009 – certificate: U), which is about an elderly man and a young boy's adventures in a house that floats away to South America with the help of thousands of helium balloons. At 8pm we are showing **Last Chance Harvey** (2009 – certificate: 12), which is a romantic film starring Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson.

From our Prayer Correspondent



For reading and meditation:- Psalm 61, v 1-2 NKJ

Hear my cry, O God; attend to my prayer. From the end of the earth I will cry to You, when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

At times our lives circumstances can frighten or overwhelm us, problems seem insurmountable, we feel we are alone in our troubles. It is then that we need to turn to the Lord and lean on Him.

Lord teach us to lean on you

For You are the rock of our salvation

You are the light in our darkness

Yours are the safe loving arms that reach out and encircle us

When we are overwhelmed, You take away our fears

You protect and comfort us in the dark times

For your Grace and Mercy Lord we thank you

Amen

Blessings in Jesus name Pat.



A Sunday school teacher was discussing the ten commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour thy father and thy mother," she asked "is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy replied "Thou shalt not kill."



This months front cover is Irene and Jimmy Stewart's first foreign Visitor for 2010.

The Bohemian Waxwing from Scandinavia not normally seen around these parts, dropped in on New Year's day for a three day feast on the Cotoneaster bush.

Jim says he was the cheapest first footer he has ever had.





Weather

If you watched "Songs of Praise" on the 24th January you would have seen the organist Thomas Trotter perform (off by heart) Widor's Toccata symphony for organ No5 in Birmingham's City Hall. I remember seeing him perform live in St. David's hall Cardiff in the early 1990's. He seemed to be the master of the organ and being a tall man, his legs could easily stretch from one side of the pedal keyboard to the other. More recently Mrs Murray performed Widor at the end of the service linking Colmonel and Barrhill churches. Recent weather events in January were worth noting. By the 4th the river Stincher began to freeze over and by the 9th the process was complete with a layer of snow on top. Further snow on the 13th was followed by a thaw on the afternoon of the 14th. Snow melt and nearly 2 inches of rain on the night of the 15/16th resulted in the Stincher nearly bursting its banks. The 18th and 22nd reminded us of spring with mainly sunny skies and no wind.

These days we are reminded in weather forecasts of the windchill factor or "feels like". The term windchill factor was coined in 1939 by the polar explorer Paul Siple. On Antarctic expeditions he became concerned that the slightest breeze in the intense cold could make conditions unbearable. "Vapour from a man's breath could make freeze his eyelashes shut in an instant and make him believe that he had gone blind. The intense pain of the cold on fingers and toes could easily distract him, and even destroy his ability to reason clearly", he wrote. He used the idea to alert other polar explorers to the dangers of the cold, to prevent hypothermia and frostbite.

George Watt

Reuben Fannin,
grandson of Isabel and the
late Ernest Brain wishes to
thank everyone who sent such
lovely cards of congratulations to
his granny. She was delighted to
receive them



S.W.R.I



Monday 1st March

"80th Birthday Party"



Ballantrae Church Guild



Mrs Cathy Thorburn was the speaker at our January meeting. The title was "Beating the winter Blues" and Cathy gave us some ideas on how to avoid putting on too much weight over the winter months, how to eat sensibly and keep checking the labels!

The next meeting will be held in the Community centre on **Monday 15th February**, and our speaker will be Mr Keith Brown. Keith is a well known figure locally, The title of his talk will be "Visions of Ballantrae", which will be of great interest to local folk. Everyone most welcome. The Guild has several events taking place in the next few months so here are some dates for your diary

Friday 5th March World Day of Prayer in church at 7.00pm

Sunday 7th March Lenten Lunch in the Community Centre immediately after church

Thursday 11th March Guild Spring Rally in Tarbolton church

Monday 15th March Guild AGM

We hope you will come along and support us at these events.

Crossreach

The "Circle of Care" Magazine and prayer leaflets are available for anyone who would like a copy. Suttons have again teamed up with Crossreach. For every £1 order from their fundraising seed and plant magazine, 20p is donated to Crossreach. I have a magazine and order forms if anyone is planning their vegetables and would like to support this cause.

Margaret Bean

Ballantrae Flower Show

We desperate need new members to join our committee. There are a few meetings during the year to organise the event, but the main help is needed the evening before and the day of the show to act as stewards. If you feel you can help in any way please contact either Pearl on 831019 or Margaret on 841635. The next meeting is in the buffet room on Friday 26th February at 7.00pm. Your help would be gratefully appreciated





Prayer Meeting

Our monthly prayer meeting is on Wednesday 24th February at 7:30pm in the Manse. This is a time to meet, to reflect on a prayer from 4th century AD and to pray for the people in our church and community, as well as the wider world. All are welcome.

Safeguarding Training

Ballantrae & St Colmon
Kirk Sessions

“Safeguarding Training” has been arranged for **24th March** at 7:30pm for both Kirk Sessions together in St Colmon’s Kirk Hall

Young Women's Group



Wed 3rd Feb :- Meal at L'Aperitif followed by curling at North West Castle Hotel. Please see Val for details.

Sat 20th Feb :- Safari Night. **Please note change of evening.** Contact Claire for details (831246). This is a good fun night out so please come along and join in!

A Crafty View of Easter



On the Sunday 21st February at 7:30pm in the Manse, we begin a series of six study evenings. These will take place every Sunday night throughout Lent and will use various crafts to help us reflect on the events of Easter.

If you are interested in attending some or all of these evenings, please can you let the minister know, or write your name on the sheets in church. The main reason for this is so that there is enough craft material for the people who come.

The title of the first evening is ‘Bread’, and I would suggest that you come in clothes that you don’t mind getting a bit of flour on. Please see the minister for further information.

News Letter



Items for next news letter should be in by **25th February**.



Where's God

Two boys were best friends at church, but they both had a reputation for getting into trouble. One Sunday, one of the boys was home sick, but the other boy, was twice as bad as normal. As he was running through the sanctuary after church, the minister grabbed him and angrily said, "Where's God?!" The little boy was frightened and didn't know what to say.

The minister continued, "I want you to go home and think about it and I don't want you to come back until you can tell me where God is."

The boy went home and called his sick friend on the telephone.

"Guess what," he said. "They've lost God, and they're trying to blame that one on us, too."

Kids Prayers

Dear God,
I think about you sometimes even when I'm not praying.

Dear God,
Of all the people who worked for you I like Noah and David the best.

Dear God,
If you watch me in church on Sunday, I'll show you my new shoes.

Dear God,
Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It works for my brother.

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 the appropriate Sunday's date.



Tea Duty

March

Dorothy Flitter, Margaret McKissock, Margaret Maule & Anthea Russell

Church Cleaning Team

Feb. 7th. Penny Savage & Liz Gregg

Feb. 21st Tom & Jean Davidson

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

Feb.	March
7th C	7th A
14th D	14th B
21st E	21st C
28th F	28th A

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

I have now been your minister for a year, though I can hardly believe that it has been a year already. In one way it seems like just weeks ago that I was starting off, but in another way, because as a family we feel so settled, it is as if we have been here for years.

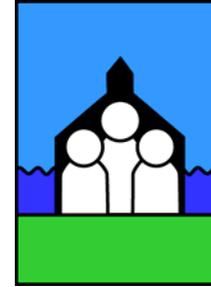
It has been a good year, I am slowly (and it will take years to come) getting to know you all, and you I am sure are still getting to know me. You have coped well with all the changes that I have brought, from monthly All Age Services to the use of technology in the services. You have worked well in your relationship with St Colmon, and you have had to get used to sharing a minister.

In calling me as your minister, you accepted a minister fresh from his training, and have had to cope with me as I learnt the ropes. You have dealt with my mistakes, errors of judgement and words of foolishness, and have graciously not told me about all of them. I have definitely learnt a lot in the past year, and know that I have so much still to learn. And I plan to keep learning right through my ministry, because if I ever think I know it all, then it will definitely be time for me to stop.

I was certain of my call to this charge, and I know and look forward to all the exciting plans that God has in store for us in the coming years. We are constantly reminded in scripture that we serve a God who is living and active and who has great plans for each one of us. Whatever is in store for us, we know God is with us and with him we have a wonderful future.

God bless,

Stephen



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

St. COLMON

www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk

Minister: Revd. Stephen Ogston

Tel. 01465831252 E-mail: ogston@macfish.com

Printed by Century21 Computing



February 2010