

## Weather



I heard lately that 2012 “will go down as the wettest year ever” - but not so locally. My total will be about 60 inches which is not far from my 16 year average. Last year was much wetter with 72.6ins (1843.7mm).

Over 12 months the world record rainfall is 26,466mm (1,042ins) in Cherrapunji in the Khasi Hills of India in 1860-61. These hills catch the full brunt of the monsoon rains sweeping up from the Bay of Bengal between May and October. Trying to pin down the consistently wettest place on Earth is difficult. On average the greatest yearly rainfall belongs to Mawsynram in India with 11,872mm (467.4ins). This is very near Cherrapunji. The world’s greatest rainfall in a day was 1825mm (71.9ins) in 1966 on Reunion Island east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. The highest 24 hour total I have recorded was 83.6mm (3.29ins) from 5pm on 7th Jan. to 5pm on 8th Jan 2004.

Looking beyond the clouds, the planet Jupiter is visible high in the sky most of the night. Saturn is to the Southeast before dawn with its rings fairly wide open. On 2nd December I managed to see Mercury very clearly with the naked eye to the south east before dawn.

George Watt



### Ballantrae Film Nights

#### Ballantrae Film Night

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January

6pm – The Lorax

8pm – Salmon Fishing in the Yemen



### Answers

1. Approximately 100yrs
2. 8—Noah. His wife their 3 sons and their wives.
3. While some are of the opinion that only the Titanic really existed, the Titanic was more than 800 feet long overall, about 92 feet wide and had a moulded depth of around 60 feet. The Bible gives the size of Noah's Ark as 300 cubits (507 feet) long, by 50 cubits (85 feet) wide and 30 cubits (about 50 feet) high.

## The New Year Resolution

Have you started your new year resolution yet? Most people start off with good intentions but quickly fall by the way. Mine is the diet starts today! And these are the rules I am going to follow. 😄 😄

1. If you eat something and no one sees you eat, it has no calories
2. If you drink diet coke with mars bars, the calories in the mars bar are cancelled out by the diet coke.
3. When you eat with someone else, calories don't count as long as you don't eat more than they do.
4. Food used for medicinal purposes never counts, such as hot chocolate, toast and Ben & Jerry's ice cream. 😄
5. If you fatten up the people around you, then you look thinner.
6. Cookie pieces contain no calories. The process of breaking cookies causes caloric leakage.
7. Movie related foods do not have additional calories as they are part of the entire entertainment package and are not part of one's personal intake. For example - Popcorn, M&M's and ice cream.
8. Foods the same colour have the same number of calories. For instance, spinach and pistachio ice cream, cauliflower and whipped cream. 😄
9. Things licked off knives and spoons have no calories if you are in the process of preparing something. Examples are peanut butter on a knife while making a sandwich, or ice cream on a spoon while making a sundae.
10. Chocolate is a universal substitute and may be used in place of other food.



## Christmas Cards

Thanks to everyone who helped deliver the Christmas cards around the village and surrounding area, this service is much appreciated and raised the sum total of £85 which will benefit our Lwambaza Malawi Link Project.

## January

The month of January is named after *Janus*, the god of the doorway; the name has its beginnings in Roman Mythology, coming from the Latin word for door (ianua) since January is the door to the New Year. And on the 25th January in Scotland we celebrate the birth of Robbie Burns known as The Bard.

Recipes with a twist to help us celebrate.

### Smokie Pate for starters



Skin 300g. Scottish hot-smoked salmon fillets and break up into large pieces. Add 4tbsp fresh chopped parsley, 200ml crème fraiche, juice of 1/2 lemon, salt & pepper, pinch cayenne pepper and 1tbsp rinsed & chopped capers. Mix together gently to form a soft pate. Spoon into a bowl and chill until needed. Garnish with lemon quarters and serve with toasted rye bread and oatcakes.

For an alternative try using smoked mackerel instead of salmon.

### Date & Apricot Cranachan to finish

90g medium oatmeal  
18 fresh Medjool dates, stoned  
32 ready to eat dried apricots  
12tbsp whisky  
375g mascarpone cheese  
6tbsp clear honey



Grill the oatmeal until toasted, but watch carefully as easily burned. Put dates, and apricots in a pan with 9tbsp whisky and 9tbsp water and simmer over a low heat for 10mins, stirring often. Mash mixture roughly with a fork, leaving a few chunks of apricot. Leave to cool. Beat mascarpone with the rest of the whisky and 3tbsp honey in a bowl. Mix in oatmeal. Spoon some fruit then the mascarpone mixture, into 6 serving glasses, then repeat the layers. Chill then bring back to room temperature 15mins before serving. Drizzle with more honey, Serve and enjoy

## PAWS FOR THOUGHT



Hello, us again.

Happy New Year to you all! We have had a lovely Christmas and New Year, and Hamish also had a birthday. He says thank you to our biggest fan for his present! You know who you are! Anyway, back to Christmas. We had lots of fun with the family. We spent rather a lot of time all cuddled up on the couch with the children watching DVDS which was nice. There's also been lots of party food around – we really like sausage rolls. They make a big mess for us to clean up! Dougie hasn't been well -he's been to the VET 4 times in the past 2 weeks! He was there this morning for a blood test, but he was having none of it. We're not sure exactly what happened, but Dougie got a bit frightened and we heard the words “new appointment” and “sedation”. Anyway, he is fine and probably just getting a bit old - well he is 90 in dog years! Apparently a symptom of the condition he's being tested for is depression – in that case he's been ill for years!!

Till next time

Dougie & Hamish



How many year's did it take Noah to build the Ark?  
How many people were in Noah's Ark?  
Which is bigger the Titanic or Noah's Ark?  
(answers at bottom of next page)

Rayner, Georgina & family would like to thank everyone for their kindness and good wishes.

Best wishes for 2013

Thank you

## Announcements

### Contemporary Praise Evening

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7:30pm  
in Ballantrae Church  
worship led by Alan, Barbara and  
Gina

### Wednesday Worship

6<sup>th</sup> February at 11am in  
Ballantrae Church  
30 minute Traditional Service

### Congregational Board and Kirk Session

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30pm  
in the Vestry

### Ballantrae Church Guild

Wishing all members A Happy New  
Year. Nineteen members  
enjoyed a Christmas Lunch at The  
Harbour Restaurant Girvan. The  
next meeting of the Guild will be on  
Monday 21st January 2013 in the  
Ballantrae Community Centre at  
7-15p.m. Subject:- 'Marys  
Meals' which is about providing  
meals for school children in  
'Liberia' which is a very poor  
country. All are very welcome.

### 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.



## SWRI



The next meeting will take place on  
Monday Jan.7th.  
Moira McAlpine will tell us about  
her experience as an  
ex Prison Governor  
All welcome.

## Flower Calendar



The Flower Calendar for 2012 is at  
the Church entrance, and those  
wishing to donate the Church  
Flowers should add their name  
against the appropriate Sundays.

We are grateful to those who  
donate the Church flowers, which  
are sent to those who are sick or  
elderly. If you feel you can't afford  
to provide all the flowers for a  
Sunday, there is a Flower Fund to  
which donations of any amount can  
be given at any time. These should  
be left in the offering plate in a  
suitably marked envelope, or given  
to the minister or any office bearer.  
If you wish to donate the flowers  
but don't feel able to arrange them,  
this can also be done for you.

## Prayer



Lord, this year I want to change,  
and I've said that in the past.  
but now my prayer is different  
'cause I understand at last.

I wanted my own way before,  
I ignored your loving plans.  
But now I'm putting everything  
into your nail-scarred hands.

I promise to obey you  
out of gratitude and love.  
I won't be giving orders  
to my Father up above.

I finally realize the truth  
and so I've changed my prayer.  
The safest place for me to be  
is in your gentle care.

Please be my shepherd, Jesus  
that's all I ask of you.  
In good times and in bad this year,  
Take my hand and lead me through.

Amen.

## FACT

The Cutty Sark  
was named after the nightgown of one of  
the witches in Rabbie Burn's Tam  
O'Shanter.



## The Historical Flight

The Sunday School teacher asked  
her class to draw pictures of their  
favourite Bible stories. She was  
puzzled by Kyle's picture, which  
showed four people on an  
aeroplane, so she asked him  
which story it was meant to  
represent. 😄

"The flight to Egypt," said Kyle  
"I see...And that must be Mary,  
Joseph and Baby Jesus," The  
teacher said.  
"But who's the fourth person?"  
"Oh that's Pontius-the Pilot". 😄

## Dear God

It rained for our whole holidays  
and is my father mad! He said  
some things about You that  
people are not supposed to say,  
but I hope You will not hurt him  
anyway. Your friend (but I am  
not going to tell You who I am). 😄

## News Letter



Items for February news letter by  
**Tues.26th January**



Dear Friends,

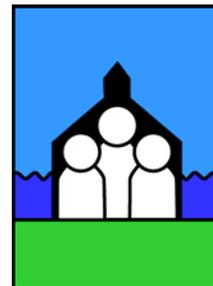
Each year there seems even more technology to get used to. I am sure for some of you it is a bit baffling. I have the advantage that I have grown up with it all, and so just about manage to cope with most of the changes. One clear shift is towards a global community where you can keep in touch with all your family and friends wherever you are in the world (assuming you can get an internet signal). Whether it via Facebook, Twitter, Email, Skype, Flickr, etc, your life can be shared with everyone you know.

It is becoming more and more difficult to exist without some interaction with people around the world. This is not a new concept, but what has really changed is the rapid nature of the exchange of information. Now information can be seen by everyone as it happens, and live streaming of videos, photos and text all help to keep people firmly connected. When I was in Malawi last May, it was great to be able to use Facebook to keep people in Scotland informed by text and photos of the progress of the team. And in subsequent months it has been great to hear from Bostone Mvalo – the minister of Lwambaza church via texts and emails.

The hope is that as technology and communication continues to improve, people will see that we are all that same. We are all brothers and sisters with the same hopes and dreams, regardless of where we live. Although we are centuries away from a truly global community, it has to be our hope that in time we learn to live together in peace, as God's children. Therefore throughout this New Year, may Jesus' words guide all that we do as a local community and as global community, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbour as yourself."

May God bless you throughout 2013,  
Stephen

P.S. Thank you to the person who gave the anonymous gift of Jaffa Cakes – they were much appreciated!



# CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

## St. COLMON

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

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