

## NEW YEAR

New Year is all about new beginning, new desires and new thoughts. Different religions believe that New Year marks the beginning of new life. It is said New Year gives a chance to leave behind the memories of the old year and regenerate by promising to lead a better life in the year ahead. 😄

### **New Year resolutions ;- Quit smoking**

A friend asks his friend for a cigarette. His friend says, "I think you made a New Year resolution to quit smoking". The man says, " I am in the process of quitting". Right now, I am in the middle of phase one. 😄

What's phase one? I've quit buying 😄

## Paws for Thought

Dear Friends,



Happy New Year! I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. Thank you very much to all those who sent me presents of tennis balls, treats and Westie gifts. I'd say that I didn't know I was so popular – but I am a Westie, and Westies aren't known for their modesty - so I'll say that I did know I was so popular.

I am writing this from the comfort of the couch as I watch Daddy and the children put away the Christmas decorations. Mummy is sitting beside me offering her psychological help to the family as they come to terms with Christmas being over. Daddy is not coping very well, but with the promise that he'll get to put them up again later in the year he is making good progress. He's insisting that the tree in the porch will stay, but Mummy is confident that he'll eventually agree that it needs to go. I am quite sad that Christmas is over too – there's always extra nibbles to eat, but I guess I'm at risk of being called a wee barrel again so better start being a good boy.

I was at the vet a couple of times over the past month. Once to get my yearly vaccination and check up. The V.E.T said that I had very hairy ears!! I was most insulted. Then I had a bit of an ear infection and went deaf so back to the V.E.T.'s again and this time he told me 3 times that I had hairy ears – just in case I hadn't heard him the first time! What a cheek. Hairy ears must be a sign of maturity.

Wishing you all the walkies and tennis balls you hope for in 2012!

Dougie



## From Our Prayer Correspondent



For reading and meditation - Psalm 29, v 10-11  
V.11, The Lord gives strength to his people and blesses them with peace.

A new year a new beginning. Our world is in turmoil We need PEACE  
Blessed are the Peacemakers (Mathew 5. v. 9)?

Let us be the peacemakers- - - but first we need peace with you our God,  
peace within ourselves and with each other,

What better time than now at the beginning of a new year to find and  
establish that peace.

As a church we need to pray and intercede every day for peace to return to  
God's world.

Our God our Saviour, Holy Spirit,

WE bring before you our broken world, our broken church, our broken  
selves.

We pray for your peace to be in and around us,

Let that peace that passes all understanding begin with us as we start a new  
year,

We give thanks for the love, joy and peace that comes from knowing you as  
our Lord and Master.

Amen

I ask your forgiveness Lord for any sins I have committed in word, deed or  
thought and for hurt caused to anyone. I ask for your peace at the start of  
this new year.

Amen

With every blessing for this New Year.

Pat.



**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.

There is also 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. If you wish to  
donate the flowers but don't feel able to arrange them, this can be  
done for you.



## 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 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)

## Film Nights



### 20th January

6pm - Kung Fu Panda 2

(animation)

8pm - The Young Victoria

(historical)



### 3rd February

6pm - Gnomeo and Juliet (animation)

8pm - Tron: Legacy (sci-fi)

### 9th March

6pm - Hop (animation/live action)

8pm - Johnny English Reborn

(spy/comedy)

### 30th March

8pm - Tintin: Secret of the Unicorn (animation)

## Weather



The day after I had submitted my piece on the Flannan Isles for the December notes, I noticed a report from a buoy just to the west of Lewis of a wave 49 feet high.

Then around the time of the severe gale of December

8th. there was another report off Western Ireland of a 76 foot wave.

Also referring to my December notes, the (only) thing I was any good at in English was Parsing, thanks to my knowledge of Latin. They don't

seem to teach parsing anymore yet it is about the nuts and bolts of the English language.

In the Scottish Farmer of December 17th. there was an interesting letter about Malawi by well known Fife farmer John Cameron who is also the owner of the A4 Pacific Steam engine 60009 Union of South Africa.

The letter was in context of the proposed re-introduction of "set aside". He had recently visited Malawi, his wife's country of birth. He says

Malawi is predominantly an agricultural country, having no mineral wealth, unlike it's neighbours Zambia and Zimbabwe. It's major exports

are tea, coffee, sugar and tobacco which earns its valuable foreign currency. Its major crop is maize and this forms the staple diet of

Malawians. Farmers there utilise every available square foot of plant-able land; roadside embankments, verges, river banks and up

hillsides so steep that a black face ewe couldn't stand, and there is no risk of river pollution because they can't afford to use fertilisers. He

asked why do we even consider "set aside" when the latest world estimate of undernourished children is 954 million.

George Watt

## INNOCENCE IS PRICELESS



One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, 'Good morning Alex.'

'Good morning Pastor,' he replied, still focused on the plaque. 'Pastor, what is this?'

The pastor said, 'Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service.'

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked,

***Which service, the 8:00 or the 10:30 ?'***

## Recipes Still Required!

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a recipe, however we would still welcome further recipes. Please write them out, make sure your name is on each recipe, and place them in the box provided in the porch of the Manse or give to the Minister. You can also email them to [ogston@macfish.com](mailto:ogston@macfish.com)



## News Letter

Items for next months news letter should be in no later than

**31st January**

 **Congregational Board  
& Kirk Session**

Will meet in the Vestry on  
**18th January @ 7.30pm**

**Lunch at the Manse**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January** at 12noon  
in the Manse – 1 The  
Vennel, Ballantrae.

Come and enjoy food, fellowship  
and faith.

All are welcome, even if you haven't  
been before.

 **Ballantrae Church Guild**

**Monday 16th. Jan**  
Visit to Guild Project  
Mrs N Wilkinson

**Young Woman's Group**



8pm on **25<sup>th</sup> January** in Vestry  
Discussion Night on Theme  
See Barbara Ogston for more  
information (831252).  
All Welcome.

**Good Advice given to a young  
man for the New Year :-** You only  
need two tools in life — WD-40 and  
duct tape. If it doesn't move, spray it  
with WD-40. If it shouldn't move  
but does, use duct tape.



**S.W.R.I**



Meet on the **9th January** and it's  
"A Surprise" from Lorna and Liz

**Hospital Visiting**

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

Ministers used to be able to see a  
list of who was in hospital, but this  
is no longer the case.

**SHOE BOX APPEAL 2011**



The grand total of 135 boxes  
were sent from the combined  
parish of St Colmans and  
Ballantrae.



**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.

**Quick Winter Casserole**

Who doesn't love a casserole on a cold day?  
Use a can of Heinz Scotch Broth  
Soup to create a dish that will  
warm you up in no time!



**Serves 4**  
Cooking time 25 mins.



Brown 1/2 small butternut squash, peeled and  
cut into bite sized cubes, 2 sliced carrots, and  
2 small sliced leeks, in 1/2 tbsp vegetable oil  
in a saucepan.

Add 3 roughly chopped large tomatoes, 1 tsp  
dried mixed herbs.

Add 175ml vegetable stock, cook for 10  
minutes.

Add 1 x 400g can of Heinz Scotch Broth  
Soup, 1 tbsp wholegrain mustard and 1/4  
small chopped cabbage, cook for a further 5  
minutes. Season well and serve with mash.

**Tip:** Great for using up leftover vegetables,  
just cook for less time.

You could also use home made broth and add  
the left over boiling Beef.

**LISTS AND  
ROTAS**



**Flower Calendar**

**Jan.**  
**1st**  
**8th.**  
**15th To be updated**  
**22nd**  
**29th**



**Tea Duty-February.**

*Lorna Greenhill,  
Florence Brown, Liz  
Gregg, Georgina McKinley  
& Penny Savage.*

**Church Cleaning Team**

**Jan.**  
**1st** John & Janice McIlwraith  
**15th** Liz Gregg & Penny  
Savage  
**29th** 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.**  
**Please note church should be  
cleaned prior to date  
indicated.**

**Sunday Duty Rota**

Jan		Feb
<b>1st</b>	D	<b>5th</b> C
<b>8th</b>	E	<b>12th</b> D
<b>15th</b>	F	<b>19th</b> E
<b>22nd</b>	A	<b>26th</b> F
<b>29th</b>	B	

## Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

Let me begin by wishing you a very happy New Year and I pray that God will bless you and our church in the coming year, as we seek to remain faithful to his calling to be his family in this community.

The beginning of a new year is also a good time to reflect on the past year, and give thanks for all God has done for us. It is a time to remember our failings and strive in the coming year to live closer to God in all that we do. It is a time to remain continually grateful for all the blessings God has given us, especially his love and support.

I am sure most of you will have packed the Christmas decorations away and are now looking forward to all that 2012 has to offer us.

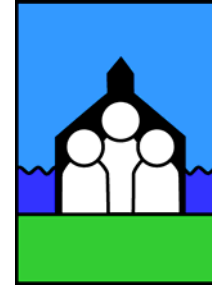
I generally use this time to look ahead to the coming year and think about themes, ideas and projects that I may tackle over the months. One of the main projects is my trip to Malawi in late May/early June. I have begun to gather various items that I will need during my time out there, and have had a couple of meetings about it. I plan to do fundraising for the trip over the coming months, as I need to raise about £1400.

I also hope to raise the profile of our twinning with Lwambaza before and after the trip and already have a date in the diary to go and speak to the pupils in Ballantrae Primary School, who are about to be twinned with a school in the south of Malawi (Lwambaza is in the north). My trip to Malawi will hopefully help to strengthen our link with the people and Church in Lwambaza and reveal ways that we can best support them in the coming years.

Overall, the most comforting thought is that despite the large distance between us and Lwambaza, we are all part of the same church family and God continues to be at work in all our lives in new and exciting ways.

May God bless you through 2012.

Your friend and minister  
Stephen



# CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

## St. COLMON

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

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