

Paws for Thought



Dear Friends,

I've had a good month. I spent a week at my 2nd favourite holiday destination – Crieff Hydro. In case you were wondering, my favourite holiday destination is my Ganny & Gampas house in Glasgow where I used to live as a puppy.

Crieff has everything – rabbits, squirrels, birds, horses and trees. Lots and lots of trees. Some of the trees have squirrels up them. That could keep me amused for hours, unless I'm barking up the wrong tree! They have even recently installed big stones at the front door for the use of canine visitors al fresco style, but mummy kept dragging me past them saying I hadn't to disgrace myself.

One day mummy and daddy had lunch in the restaurant and mummy sneaked a bit of chicken wrapped up in a napkin for me to have as a treat. The only thing I'm not too keen on is going in the car with my brother and sister. I have to sit between them and they think it is very funny to wake me up when I'm sleeping. I also don't like it when daddy stops the car too quickly and I go flying head first off the seat and dangle in mid air suspended by my seatbelt. As this is my last article before the summer break, I'd like to say that I hope you all have a lovely summer and if you are passing the Manse then feel free to pop in with an ice cream for me. Vanilla is my favourite, and I don't mind if it's a cone or a tub.

Till next time

Dougie 

A father wanted to read a magazine, but was pestered by his daughter. To keep her busy, he tore a sheet out of a magazine that had a picture of the world printed on it. He tore the picture into small pieces and said "Here, now go into the other room and see if you can put this picture of the world back together again." 

A few minutes goes by and the daughter appears in the room and hands him the picture all correctly fitted together. The father was surprised and asked her how she was able to fit all those little pieces of the world back together again so quickly. 

"Oh.." she said, "On the other side of the paper was a picture of Jesus and once I got Jesus in the right place, then the world came out alright." 



Weather

The gales which affected most of Scotland on Monday May 23rd were unusually severe but a strong wind or "normal" gale occurs in most Mays and Junes. This is brought to my attention every year when I have not staked my herbaceous plants! I have specialized in *Campanula lactiflora* which grows to about 6ft. And flowers from mid June to early August—you may also have seen a clump on the right hand side of the A77, just before Glenapp church. It is that clump which got me going—they are quite easy to start from seed. Perhaps it will now be known as "George's Clump"!

Another sign of approaching summer is when the new list of hurricane names appears—the official season runs from June 1st to November 30th. The christening of storms has been an unofficial habit over the years, such as after ex-girlfriends, despised by politicians or detested bosses.

After World War 2 all hurricanes and tropical storms were given girl's names, but in the 1970's many objected to such a sexist practice and a change was made so that girls and boys names alternated. More recently it was decided to have equal numbers of English, French and Hispanic names. The same lists recur every six years with the proviso that any storms, which become notable for its intensity or cost lives and property, is replaced to prevent confusion.

This year's list starts with Arlene, then Bret, Cindy, Don, Emily, Franklin, Gert, Harvey. If 2011 is a prolific year then we shall have Irene, Jose, Katia, Lee, Marcia, Nate, Ophelia, Philippe, Rina, Sean, Tammy, Vince and Whitney. Hopefully X, Y and Z will not be required.

George Watt

Harold and Jane were not a very religious couple but tried their best; they only went to church once a year. As they were leaving the church, the minister said, "Harold, it would be nice to see you and Jane here more than once a year" "I know," replied Harold, "We're very busy people, leading active lives but at least we keep the Ten Commandments" "That's great," the minister said. "I'm glad to hear that you keep the Commandments." 
"Yes, we sure do" Harold said proudly, "Jane keeps six of them and I keep the other four". 


Guess the elder ?



1

2



3



4



7



5

6

From Our Prayer Correspondent



For reading and meditation:- John chapter 6 v. 25-59

I am the bread of life! Jesus said. He who comes to me will never be hungry v. 35.

In a bakery we are surrounded by many types of bread, brown, white, Irish soda, thick and thin sliced, poppy seed, rye and many other kinds, all very tasty. We are spoiled for choice this bread only fills us for a short time then we are hungry again.

Jesus tells us that he is the bread of life sent by God from heaven and if we eat of this bread we will never be hungry again. We must eat our fill by studying and digesting Gods word each day and acknowledge Jesus as our Saviour.

Father we give thanks for the bread of life. Help us to see our need and eat our fill of that life giving bread.

Thank you for the bread that gives life to the world,

Forgive us when we turn our backs on all you offer us and, reject our chance of everlasting life with you.

We have too many choices Lord, help us to choose the best.

Jesus Christ our Saviour, Redeemer and Salvation

Amen

Blessings in Jesus name Pat.

Ballantrae Gala



Saturday 2nd July.

The Guild is in charge of the baking stall and all donations should either be handed in on the day or to Irene Stewart?

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. You can also put a donation in the offering plate in an envelope marked "Flower fund."

News Letter



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

31st August

Songs of Praise Service

organised by South Carrick Churches Together

5th June at 7:30pm

in St Colmon Parish Church

All are welcome and refreshments will be served afterwards.

Glenapp Service

Our next Glenapp Service is on Sunday **12th June at 3pm**. We will celebrate communion at this service, and all are welcome to join us for this service.

The Sunday School Trip to

Heads of Ayr will take place on **Saturday 25th June**. If you wish to contribute to the cost, there will be a box for donations, after the service on 12th and 19th June.

Sunday School Prize giving

will be held on **Sunday 26th June**.

The Presbytery of Ayr are meeting in Ballantrae Church on 28th June at 7pm. If you are able to help with refreshments after the meeting, please speak to Meg.

Hospital Visiting

If you know of anyone in hospital who would like a visit from the minister, please could you phone Stephen on 831252.

Young Woman's Group



The YWG has enjoyed another successful year while looking at the theme "Mercy". We visited Ayr Fire Station, enjoyed a "safari night" and have had many interesting speakers. Our AGM took place in March and the results of the election of Office Bearers was as follows:

President: Barbara Ogston

Vice Presidents: Claire Strain & Fiona McLean

Treasurer: Sheila Shankland

Secretary: Susan Nutt

We would all like to convey our thanks to outgoing president Fiona McLean for all her hard work this year. We begin our new session in September and if you would like to join us please contact Barbara Ogston (831252)

CHURCH SUMMER FAIR

Saturday 30th July 2011

Please come and give your usual support of our annual fund raiser.

All the usual stalls:

Baking Books Craft Teas Hampers and lots of games.

All donations will be gratefully received.

Hall will be open on morning of sale 09.30-11.30 to receive goods

The perfect summer Cheesecake

Ingredients

For the biscuit base:

175g shortbread biscuits

50g butter, melted, but not warm

1 piece of crystallized ginger, finely chopped
1 lemon, zested

250g good quality white chocolate, melted
350g full fat cream cheese

150g fromage frais or double cream

1 vanilla pod, split and remove the seeds

225g strawberries, hulled and diced

Method

Crush shortbread biscuits until they resemble breadcrumbs. Add the melted butter, chopped ginger and lemon zest and mix together.

Place the mixture into a 20cm tin and press firmly into the base. Allow to set for around 30 minutes.

Melt the white chocolate and allow the chocolate to cool slightly.

Beat together the cream cheese, fromage frais/ double cream and vanilla seeds until smooth and thick. Add the strawberries to the cheese mixture along with the melted white chocolate and mix gently.

Spoon the filling onto the set biscuit case, level the top and chill for a minimum of 4 hours until set.

To serve, cut a generous wedge and garnish with strawberries, a drizzle of coulis and fine strips of fresh mint leaves.

Guess the Elder

1 Jim Stewart **2** Rayner McKinley **3** Hywel Griffiths **4** May Lothian **5** John McIlwraith
6 Billy McClung **7** Robert Buchanan

LISTS AND ROTAS

Flower Calendar



June

5th. P Thackray

12th. M Heap

19th. C Strain

26th. F Brown



July Tea Duty

Dorothy Flitter,
Margaret Maule, Anthea
Russell & Janice Ross

Church Cleaning Team

June

5th. Penny Savage & Liz
Gregg

19th. 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

June

5th D

12th E

19th F

26th A

July

3rd B

10th C

17th D

24th E

31st F

Message from the Manse



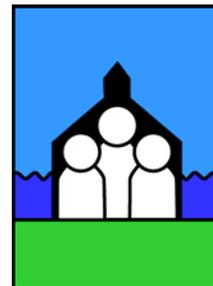
Dear Friends,

It is good to be able to get back into the garden after the long winter months. I know that there were plenty of tasks I should have done over the winter, but for some reason the list was never even attempted. Anyway, with the sunshine filled weeks we got in April heralding the beginning of Summer (as we thought then) and the lighter nights, I have managed to begin the endless task of cutting the grass, clearing the weeds, and planting the fruit and vegetables for the season.

I think there is so much we can learn from gardening that applies to our lives, as I have probably said before. The very fact that many things do not always go according to plan, reminds us that even if we feel we are in control of our lives, and work hard to keep all aspects of it in check, there will always be some events that surprise us. Life is not about planning and then fulfilling our plan regardless of everything that happens around us. Instead life is about adjusting what we do, as we journey through it.

Life with God is also the same. We may try to do certain things in life, and get upset when things don't go our way, but we need to remember that God is not there to do our bidding, to obey our rules. Instead we are called to follow God, and allow him to challenge us, shape us, and encourage us as he deems fit. We may wonder sometimes if we really have the strength to walk the path God sets before us, but often we are nervous only because we forget how God operates. God does not ask us to do something and then walk away and leave us, rather he gives us something to do and then stays with us and helps us do all he asks us to. Therefore let us continue to trust God, despite the surprises that sometimes come our way.

God bless,
Stephen



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

St. COLMON

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