



Paws for Thought

Hi again folks.

So glad you are all enjoying my monthly articles. I get so forgotten about in the busy Manse (especially since the children arrived) so it's nice when people come to visit me. I think sometimes they think they are here to see Daddy, but I know that's not why they really come. I like getting mail too. By the way, that reminds me, I didn't get any Valentines Cards!

This month I've had a few visitors, most notably the Sunday School Teachers (Banana Bread), Prayer Meeting (Pancakes) and the Crafty View of Easter group. The last group made Unleavened Bread – Mummy did tell them not to leave it on the floor, but not all listened - I thought John McIlwraith's was particularly tasty.

Now I really need your help with something. I have been known to enjoy the occasional scrap of food, and there is an event coming up that I am really looking forward to. It's the Easter Sunday breakfast, I know it's at 8am (after the 7am service) but the early dog catches the falling sausage. Let me tell you, it is the highlight of my year – bacon, sausages, rolls, toast, pancakes, fruit, croissants and so much more that you just wouldn't believe me if I told you. Let me remind you that I live with 2 toddlers, all I get is the occasional cold spoonful of mashed potato dropped from the highchair. Please come along, and don't worry about dropping anything, I'm very good at helping Mummy tidy.

Till next time

Dougie



A Crafty View of Easter



On each of the Sunday nights throughout March, we are continuing our creative reflection group. This takes place at 7:30pm in the Manse and we are using different crafts to help us reflect on the events of Easter. Even if you didn't get to the first couple, you are still very welcome to come along. Please see the minister for further information.

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. 'If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.' Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, ' Ryan, you be Jesus !'



Weather

Taking the three winter months, of December, January and February (until 24th) there have been 71 nights with ground frost (measured at grass heights) and 46 nights with air frost (measured at 4 feet above the ground in a Stevenson Screen). You would have thought the moles would be having a hard time of it but they have been as busy as ever. It always amazes me how a creature can produce such a large heap above a hole about an inch in diameter and through frozen ground. Sometimes the hole is even smaller—I remember one above the space between two flagstones just 2 or 3mm apart.

In the news recently there have been reports of injuries and fatalities due to climbers and walkers being caught out by avalanches. During the first world war and in the Alpine regions, whole platoons were buried without trace. One of the worst incidents was in December 1916 when 10,000 soldiers were killed, complete with guns and animals. Some believe the avalanches were sent of deliberately using artillery fire but the risks to the attacking sides would all be high. During the war about 60,000 soldiers died in avalanches, and even today bodies are revealed in thawing glaciers and snowfields.

George Watt

Film Nights



There are two film nights in March, and then we are stopping for the Summer, but would hope to restart them in September. So if you haven't yet managed to get to one, why not come to one of these.

On 12th March we are showing at 8pm, Grease (1978 – PG) – the musical starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. And then on 26th March we are showing at 6pm – Fantastic Mr Fox (2009 – PG) – based on the book by Roald Dahl, and at 8pm we are showing UP (Pixar – 2009 – U) again, for those of you who missed the showing in February or who want to see it again.

From our Prayer Correspondent



For reading and meditation -- Proverbs 31, v. 26-31 V. 27,
She is always strong and looks after her family's needs.

Mother's are amazing creatures! Their list of accomplishments are endless.

As we approach Mothers Day let us celebrate and give thanks not only for mothers but all women everywhere.

A mother is a precious gift from God

Dear Lord we thank you for our mothers who care for us through life physically and spiritually

Thank you for the love they show in the things they do

We are truly blessed to have a loving Mum

Help us to appreciate and love in return

Thank you Lord for all the women in our lives Grandmas, Aunties and friend, they all help to shape who we are

We offer our prayers for all who do not have a Mum to love and care for them

Bring someone into those lives to fill the gap, let them know that you are there and you love them.

A heart filled with love is a beautiful thing.

Amen

With love in Jesus name Pat.

South Carrick Churches Together

United Meeting on **Sunday 14 March** at 7pm in Girvan South Parish Church Hall. 'With Christ in the Wilderness' – led by Rev Ian Meredith.



S.W.R.I



Next meeting Monday
April 12th
Margaret Nisbet:- Talk - Court Reporter
New members welcome.

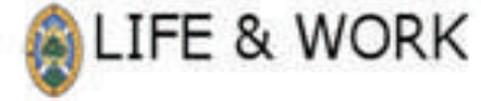


**Week
9th—15th May**

"The Guild Leprosy collection has raised £215.00. Thank you to everyone who has given a donation"

News Letter

Items for next news letter should be in by **31st March**.



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

For you to Ponder!

Don't let your worries get the best of you.

Remember, "Moses started out as a basket case"

Exercise daily -- Walk with the **LORD**

A Letter for Paws

This is from "Corrie" of Pinmore to "Dougie" of the manse. I enjoyed your "Paws for thought" and thought I would reply. I used to live in Ballantrae and visit your home regularly in fact te previous occupants used to look after me when my "Mummy" was going on an outing and I know what fun I had running up those lovely stairs and also the walled garden was great to roam around in.

I was so upset to hear about your having to go to the vets and then having surgery, but glad to hear you are feeling better now - woof-woof. We have three puppies in the house at the moment and I am not sure that I like them, they are very playful and getting a bit more attention than I am. I am even older than you are and up to know have been the centre of attention.

Maybe one day you and I will meet and share a "Paws for Thought"

Corrie

Easter Services



- 28th March** - Palm Sunday
10am – Colmonell
11:30am – Ballantrae
3pm – Glenapp
- 29th March** – Monday
7pm - Girvan South
- 30th March** – Tuesday
7pm - Girvan South
- 31st March** – Wednesday
7pm - Girvan South
- 1st April** - Maundy Thursday
7:30pm - Communion
Service - Ballantrae
- 2nd April** - Good Friday
12 noon - Open Air Service
at Stumpy
7pm – United Service at
Girvan South
- 4th April** - Easter Day
7am - Service at Ballantrae
Harbour, followed by
breakfast at the Manse
10am – All Age Service at
St Colmon
11:30am – All Age Service
at Ballantrae, with Easter
Egg Hunt afterwards



Easter Funday Sunday

Lots of Easter fun, games and crafts. **21st March** from 11am - 12:30pm in Ballantrae Community Centre. For all children in P1 to P7. All children will need to be signed in and out by an adult.

Ballantrae Church Guild



Today, **7th March** is Lenten Lunch. Why not come along to the Community Centre and enjoy a bowl of soup and a chat? The next Guild meeting is in the community centre on **Monday 15th March** at 7.15pm. This meeting is the Guild AGM. After the business has been conducted Rev Ogston will give us an account of his first year as minister of our parish. Everyone welcome.

Young Women's Group



Wednesday 3rd March
Debate - Justice for all?
8pm in the vestry

Wednesday 17th March
AGM 8pm in the manse

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



On the outskirts of a small town, an old pecan tree stood inside the cemetery fence. One day, two boys picked a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts.

“One for you, one for me” said one boy. Several dropped and rolled down toward the fence.

Another boy came along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down and sure enough, he heard, “One for you, one for me”

He just knew what it was. He jumped back on his bike and rode off. Just around the bend he met an old man hobbling along. “Come here quick,” said the boy, “you won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls.”

The man said, “Beat it kid” When the boy insisted, the man hobbled slowly to the cemetery. Standing by the fence they heard, “One for you, one for me”.

The old man whispered, 'Boy, you've been telling the truth. Let's see if we can see the Lord.' Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence, still unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord. At last they heard, “One for you, one for me. That's all. Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done.” They say the old man made it back to town a full 5 minutes ahead of the kid on the bike.

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

April 4th

Fiona Carroll, Jean Davidson,
Diane Buchannan, Marina
Dempsey, Janice McIlwraith &
Irene Stewart

Church Cleaning Team

March. 7th.Anthea Russell &
Marina Dempsey

March. 21st Pearl & Bill
McKnight

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

March	April
7 th A	4 th E
14 th B	11 th F
21 st C	18 th A
28 th D	25 th B

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

When we first moved down to Ballantrae, I remember finding it a long drive between Ballantrae and Ayr. It definitely took time to get used to the twisty roads, especially between Lendalfoot and Girvan, even if it is nothing in comparison to the stretch of road between Pinwherry and Girvan!

However, on a bright sunny morning, it is a wonderful journey, especially the stretch between Ballantrae and Girvan, which still amazes me even though I have driven it many times by now. First you have the long straight stretch of road with the rolling sea on the left and the Bennane up ahead. And then from the top of the Bennane, you can see Ailsa Craig, looking like royalty on its golden ring. And as you descend towards Lendalfoot you see the coastline stretched out in front of you, truly a scene which deserves to be painted!

There are many other journeys in this area which I still fill me with amazement and wonder, either when there is bright blue sky or when the sunlight is dancing on parts of the landscape. I am sure you are the same, though probably at different places from me.

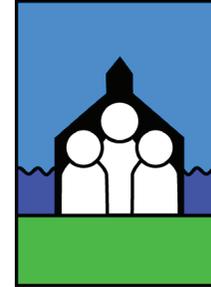
Each year there are two journeys that we take together as a Church. One is during Advent as we head towards Christmas, and the other is during Lent, as we head towards Easter. No prizes for guessing what journey we are on now!

Lent is a time, to look towards Easter and reflect again at all that God did for us through Jesus' death and resurrection, and be amazed even though we have thought about it so many times before. I am convinced that as we remember the forgiveness we have through the cross, and the life we have through the resurrection, we will renew our wonder and joy of Easter.

Therefore my prayer is that you will delight in the journey that you take towards Easter, and experience afresh God's great love for you, as we celebrate Easter together.

God bless,

Stephen



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

St. COLMON

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