

Paws for Thought



Dear Friends,

It's been a busy month in the Manse, though not for me! I spent most of February asleep. Mummy says I was hibernating. I've also started following Mummy and Daddy around all the time – I think she quite likes it though gets a bit cross when I get tired on the stairs and fall asleep half up. The children like to leave toys on the stairs too, which Mummy says are like an obstacle course.

We had an interesting night last week when Daddy had a film night to show people “The Kings Speech” ahead of the study group who will be coming to eat cake every week from now until Easter. They had “Pick and Mix”, and popcorn!

There's lots of talk in the Manse just now about Malawi. By the time you read this, Daddy will have been on a sponsored walk to raise money for his trip. This gave me an idea. I go for at least 2 walks every day – can you imagine how much paw-ket money I could raise if people sponsored me? Daddy only goes for a walk once – and he raises lot of money!

Mummy and the children went into the pet shop this week and bought me a “road kill squirrel” soft toy to play with. It is great and reminds me of all the squirrels I met as a puppy. My granny and grandpa kept squirrels in their loft and even had a special “Squirrel Man” who came to visit them and take them out places. Though come to think of it, I don't remember them ever coming back. One day when I was a tiny puppy I met a baby squirrel in the garden and I didn't know what to do I just barked and barked at it.

Till next time



Dougie



2012 Leprosy Collection

This years collection has raised £125.00. Thank you very much to all who have donated this year. I have just read that unfortunately in India, cases of Leprosy are on the increase, so every penny that is raised helps a little.

Thank you again Penny.

Forest Gump And St. Peter

When Forest Gump died, he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St Peter said, “Welcome, Forest. We’ve heard a lot about you.” He continued, "Unfortunately, it's getting pretty crowded up here and we now have to give people an entrance examination before we let them in." "Okay," said Forest. "I hope it's not too hard. I've already been through a test. My momma used to say, 'Life is like a final exam. It's hard.' " "Yes, Forest, I know. But this test is only three questions. Here they are."

- 1) Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'?"
- 2) How many seconds are in a year?
- 3) What is God's first name?



"Well, sir," said Forest, "The first one is easy. Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'? Today and Tomorrow."

St. Peter looked surprised and said, "Well, that wasn't the answer I was looking for, but you have a point. I give you credit for that."

"The next question," said Forest, "How many seconds are in a year? Twelve."

"Twelve?" said St. Peter, surprised and confused.

"Yes, sir. January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd ..."

St. Peter interrupted him. "I see what you mean. I'll have to give you credit for that one, too."

"And the last question," said Forest, "What is God's first name? It's Andy."

"Andy?" said St. Peter, in shock. "How did you come up with 'Andy'?"

"I learned it in church. We used to sing about it." Forest broke into song, "Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me, Andy tells me I am His own."

St. Peter opened the gate to heaven and said, "Run, Forest, Run!"



Film Nights



- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 9th March | 6pm - Hop (animation/live action)
8pm - Johnny English Reborn (spy/comedy) |
| 30th March | 8pm - TinTin: Secret of the Unicorn (animation) |



Prayer

Lord, we come before you as we are.
 We ask you to take away from us
 all that makes us less than human.
 Strengthen us with the power of your Spirit
 that our attitude and outlook may develop,
 and our “way of looking”
 may become more like yours.
 Help us to remain positive -
 encouraging and appreciating one another,
 looking upon people in the same way that you do.

Amen.

Sponsored Walk for Malawi

11 people set off on Saturday morning in the rain and were rewarded
 with a glorious day of sunshine



Weather –and Astronomy!



If you were outside at 6.30pm on Friday 24th February and looking towards the west, you would have seen something nice. There was a break in the cloud! Not only that, the crescent of a new moon, Venus and Jupiter get even closer until the 13th of March. They are not really close, however, as at the Mount Venus is on our side of the sun and to the left, while Jupiter is on the far side, again to the left. Their relative positions slowly change during March, so that Jupiter drops below Venus.

Weather wise you will have seen that the South Eastern half of England is short of water– again! Locally it is a different picture with some fields next to the River Stincher having had permanent ponds for most of the winter—complete with four ducks and a heron on the 26th February. I expect the heron will have to wait a while before a fish appears! To me they almost look like a leftover from the pre-historic Pterodactyle age.

Thankfully we missed out on the very low temperatures which the east and south of England experienced but also the very high temperatures later. Having said that many a local camellias were in full bloom by the fourth week.

George Watt



Billy and Jean McClung wish to thank everyone for their congratulations, good wishes, cards, gifts and all donations for charity on their Golden Wedding.



**MALAWI
 AFTERNOON CREAM TEA
 FROM 2pm –4pm
 SATURDAY 17th. MARCH
 BALLANTRAE
 COMMUNITY CENTRE.**



Service in Glenapp Church
on Palm Sunday
1st April at 3pm.

Wednesday Worship
7th March at 11am in Ballantrae
Church
All are welcome for a short tradi-
tional service.

Lunch at the Manse
Thursday 22nd March 2012 at
12noon in the Manse
Come and enjoy food, fellowship
and faith.
All welcome, even if you haven't
been before, there is always plenty
of soup and sandwiches. In Febru-
ary our soups were 'Curried Butter-
nut Squash with Coconut' and
'Carrot and
Coriander'.

**Congregational Board and
Kirk Session**
meet in the Session Room
on Wednesday 14th March at
7:30pm.

Finding a Voice
A Study Group for Lent based on
the film 'The King's Speech'.
Every Sunday evening in the Manse
during Lent at 7:30pm
All are welcome.

Young Woman's Group



8pm in the Manse
Wednesday 21st March - AGM
See Barbara Ogston for more
information (831252).

 **Ballantrae Church
Guild** 
Lenten Lunch
11th March @ 12.30pm in the
Community Centre
19th March—A.G.M

 **S.W.R.I** 
Will meet on the 5th
March—Birthday Party

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.



Come Dine with me
I would like to thank all those who
supported my fund raising effort
towards the ministers visit to
Malawi. Also a special thank you
to Georgina, Rossi, Penny and
Pearl for all the help they gave me.
Myra

Truffle Filled Filo Tulips

Makes 24 Pr-heat oven 200°C/ Gas mark 6

Ingredients
3-6 sheets Filo Pastry
45g. (1½oz) unsalted butter
Sugar for sprinkling
Lemon rind to decorate.

Truffles
250ml double cream
225g/8oz dark chocolate
55g/2oz unsalted butter
30ml brandy

In a pan over a medium heat bring the cream to
the boil, remove from heat and add choc. Stir
in the chocolate until melted, beat in the butter
and add the brandy, place in a bowl and chill for
1 hr.

Place the filo sheets on a work surface, cut into
2½ins squares and brush lightly with melted butter
Sprinkle with sugar. Brush melted butter on
another square, place over 1st square at an angle
and sprinkle with sugar. Brush a third square and
place over the first 2 squares so that the corners
are uneven. Press layered square into a tray.
Bake the filo cups for 4-6 mins until golden
brown. Cool for 10mins in the tray then remove
and leave to cool completely.
Stir chocolate mixture it should be just thick
enough to pipe. Using a star nozzle pipe a swirl
into each cup and decorate with lemon rind.

A small boy's prayer:

"Dear God, I hope you take care of yourself.
'Cause if anything happens to you, we would all
be in a terrible mess."

LISTS AND ROTAS



Flower Calendar

March

4th. G McKinley
11th M Griffiths
18th J Brown
25th Y.W.G

Tea Duty-April


Diane Buchanan, Fiona
Carle, Jean Davidson,
Irene Stewart & Janice
McIlwraith

Church Cleaning Team

Feb.

11th. Tom & May Lothian
25th Meg Peacock & Lorna
Greenhill

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

March.	April
4th A	1st E
11th B	8th F
18th C	15th A
25th D	22nd B
	29th C



Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

Let me begin by thanking you for your amazing support for my visit in May to the churches in Malawi, including Lwambaza Church which we are twinned with. In fact everyone has done so well that it looks like I will be able to take funds with me to help support the work of the Church in Malawi. Once all the donations are in, I will be in a better position to say how much we have raised, but let me say again how grateful I am for all the many ideas people have had to raise funds for this project.

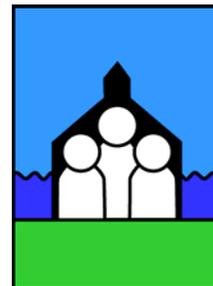
With May fast approaching, I have been busy preparing for the visit and have so far had three injections, bought anti-malarial tablets (which I had a nice trip to Glasgow to purchase), bought sun hat, insect repellent and I have even had to learn how to do balloon modelling/twisting. The balloon modelling is because George Fiddes entertained many of the children when he was out in 2010 and he has encouraged some of the team to help him this time.

I have a long list of items I need to take with me, but I am slowly getting through it. It is so important that I go to Malawi prepared for my time there, and it is so important that as Christians we are prepared for the life before us. Paul in Ephesians 6:10 – 18 describes how we as Christians must be prepared for all that lies before us. He uses the metaphor of a soldier putting on armour as they prepare for the battle that is before them. In the description he tells us to put on the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the good news, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and to hold the Word of God as the sword which the Spirit gives us.

Therefore may we all be prepared for everything we face in life, and may God bless you and our church as we continue to serve him.

Your friend and minister,

Stephen



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

St. COLMON

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