

## From our prayer Correspondent



For reading and meditation:- Jeremiah, chapter 18. v. 1-6

The Potter v. 4—Whenever a piece of pottery turned out imperfect, he would take the clay and make it into something else.

We are like the clay the potter used, we are imperfect and the Lord takes and reshapes us into something different. He takes our imperfections and transforms us through His love and teachings until we take on the perfect shape of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus.

Loving Lord, you took on our imperfections and sin  
You became sin—shaped so that we could become perfect  
You were crucified and died for us  
Then you were transformed on the third day  
You are now with the Father in radiant glory  
We put our trust in you  
Knowing on that last day we will be changed forever  
And live with you reshaped and remodelled

Blessed be His name forever. Amen

Pat Thackray



Those of you who buy the Stranraer & Wigtownshire Free Press will have seen the photograph in the March 12th issue, taken by John Lindsay of Stranraer, of the cloud formation over Ailsa Craig. I called it Stratus Sombrero Ailsacraigiensis or Ailsa Craig genitus, meaning a layer of cloud, looking like a very wide –brimmed hat and caused by air flowing over and around Ailsa Craig.

I am sure the Romans had not heard of Mexico, let alone a sombrero, but just as in the Botanical and Zoological Sciences all the clouds have Latin names. It was Luke Howard (1772-1864, an English manufacturing chemist, who in 1803 proposed three main types Cirrus (hair), Cumulus (heaped) and Stratus (layered), but as our knowledge of clouds grew, this system proved inadequate. Despite their infinite variety of forms it is possible to define 10 basic types of world-wide occurrence. These are taken as “Genera”. Most genera possess several “species” and many of these, in turn, occur as a number of “Varieties”, sometimes accompanied by supplementary features and accessory clouds.

There are 10 basic types (genera).

The high based ones (18,000 to 35,000ft.) are Cirrus, Cirrocumulus and Cirrostratus.

The medium based ones (8,000 to 18,000ft) are Altopumulus and Altostratus. The low based ones (surface to 8,000) are Nimbostratus, Stratocumulus, Stratus, Cumulus and Cumulonimbus. The last named may be low based but their vertical extent can be over 30,000ft, especially in summer and in the Tropics, and are distinctful by their “anvil” tops.

George Watt F.R. Met. S.



### GLASGOW PHOENIX CHOIR

The Choir will be singing in Old Cumnock Old Church on Saturday 6th. June, 2009. Tickets cost £7.00 and are available from Meg Peacock (831-284)

Travel arrangements available where possible.

### Used Stamps

As well as used stamps, we also collect old spectacles and used ink cartridges (except Epson). Thanks to all who have donated

### LIFE AND WORK

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



### S.W.R.I



Next meeting  
**May 4th.**  
Business meeting In  
**BRICC House**



### “Pray Across Scotland”

Service in  
**Newton on Ayr Kirk**  
On  
**Sunday 17th May at 6:30pm**

## A BEAUTIFUL STORY... TAKE MY SON

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art. When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son. About a month later, just before Christmas, There was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, 'Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you, and your love for art.' The young man held out this package. 'I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this.' The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. 'Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift.' The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected. The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection. On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. 'We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?'

There was silence. Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, 'We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one.' But the auctioneer persisted. 'Will somebody bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200? Another voice angrily. 'We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Gogh's, the Rembrandts. Get on with the Real bids!' But still the auctioneer continued. The son! The son! Who'll take the son? 'Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room.. It was the long time gardener of the man and his son. 'I'll give \$10 for the painting..' Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. 'We have \$10, who will bid \$20?' 'Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters.' The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections. The auctioneer pounded the gavel.. 'Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!' A man sitting on the second row shouted, 'Now let's get on with the collection!' The auctioneer laid down his gavel. 'I'm sorry, the auction is over.' 'What about the paintings?' 'I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings. The man who took the son gets everything!'

God gave His son 2,000 years ago to die on the cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is: 'The son, the son, who'll take the son? 'Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything.'

**FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, WHO SO EVER BELIEVETH, SHALL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE...THAT'S LOVE**



## Coffee Morning

In aid of

Senior Citizens Summer Outing.  
Saturday 16th May in Community  
Centre. 10am-11.30am  
Adults £2. Child 50p.

The trip is to Dumfries on  
Wednesday **3rd June** leaving the  
community centre at 10:30am.  
Stopping at Clatteringshaws for a  
packed lunch (provided) then on to  
Dumfries. Returning to Newton  
Stewart for our meal at 5:30pm. The  
list will be in Spar  
after the coffee morning. Please  
put your name and choice of menu  
on it.



## How Do I Get into Heaven?

A teacher asked the children in her  
Sunday School class,  
"If I sold my house and my car, had  
a big garage sale and gave all my  
money to the church, would I get  
into heaven?"

"NO!" the children all answered.  
"If I cleaned the church every day,  
mowed the yard, and kept every-  
thing neat and tidy, would I get into  
heaven?"

Again, the answer was "NO!"  
"Well," she continued, "then how can  
I get to heaven?"

In the back of the room, a five-year-  
old boy shouted out,  
"You gotta be dead!"



## Malawi Open Evening

On Friday **22nd. May, 2009**,  
in Ballantrae Parish Church, at 7.30p.m.  
speakers from the Presbytery Malawi  
Team will give a presentation and update  
on the progress of the Presbytery  
Malawi Project which so many of you  
have supported over the years.  
The Team, who have all been to Malawi  
will share their personal experiences and  
using Power point slides will show us  
how things are developing at the Malawi  
end of the Project.  
A cup of tea and time for chat will  
complete the evening, all are very  
welcome and we hope for a good turn  
out.

Thanking you all for your continued  
support.

Meg Peacock.



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## Going On Line

<http://www.homecomingscotland.com/default.html>  
Worth a look!  
<http://www.bible-knowledge.com/>  
Some interesting stuff!



## Newsletter

Items for June should be in by 24th  
May.



## CHURCH FAMILY

*"I am the resurrection and the Life"*

Mrs Pat Fox

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A Service to celebrate Communion will be on the 10th May at 11.30am. All welcome.



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## Easter Service



There was an excellent turn out for the all the Easter Services. The sun shone for the early birds from Ballantrae and St. Colman's who attended 7am service at the harbour followed by a Michelin Star breakfast at the manse thanks to Stephen and Barbara for their hospitality.

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If anyone can play a musical instrument and would be prepared to use it to help lead the congregation in worship on a Sunday morning, please could you speak to Stephen Ogston (831252).



## CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD



### Coffee Morning

The support we receive in so many different ways from so many people resulted in the Coffee Morning raising the marvellous sum of £613. We are extremely grateful to everyone who made this possible.

### Open Night

Our Open Night on Monday 20th April was very well attended. The road diversion, though a nuisance, fortunately did not prevent people from coming. The music provided by Mrs Sproule and the "Jaggy Thistles" from Stranraer gave the audience a great deal of pleasure, and a whole lot of fun.

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## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK



Will be from the 10-16th May. Ballantrae has always given valuable support to the envelope collection and we ask for the same again. The envelopes will be distributed within the next week or two.

### Church Sale of Work

Meeting to organise this on Wednesday 20th May 2009 at 7pm in the vestry. New ideas welcome!

## Syrup Flapjacks



100g(4oz)Margarine  
1tbsp Golden Syrup  
100g(4oz) Sugar  
50g (2oz) Oats  
50g (2oz) Self Raising Flour  
75g (3oz) Cornflakes crushed

Heat oven to 190degrees C 375 degrees F Gas mark 5. Grease a baking tray. Melt margarine and syrup but do not overheat. Mix in a bowl the sugar, oats, flour and cornflakes. Pour the margarine mixture into the dry ingredients and mix thoroughly. Place on the tray and bake for 15-20 minutes until just firm. Cut into fingers whilst still hot, leave to cool on the tray.

Very Moorish 1 piece not enough!

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## Project Group

We would be very keen to re-start the Project Group and would love to have some new ideas for fund raising, to that extent if you are keen to help form a new group could you give your name to Penny Savage. It is very important to keep fund raising activities going as they help provide extra support in backing up the churches finances. They also provide the community with a sense of fellowship and are GREAT FUN!!

## 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.



### Tea Duty

31st May

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

### Church Cleaning Teams

**3rd May** Robert & Caroline Dalrymple  
**17th May** John & Janice McIlwraith  
**31st May** Penny Savage & Liz Gregg

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

May	June
3rd A	7th E
10th Comm.	14th A
17th B	21st B
24th C	28th C
31st D	

## Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

I am sure by now Easter will have become a distant memory, and the taste of Easter Eggs will have long since faded in your mouth. It was a good week, and whether it was at one of the services held in Ballantrae, Colmonell or Girvan, I hope you gained some new insight into Easter or were reminded of its good news.

It was great that many from Ballantrae and St Colmon were able to join together on Maundy Thursday to celebrate the Lord's Supper, and well done to the 25 people who got to the service at Ballantrae Harbour at 7am on Easter morning, which was followed by a well deserved breakfast at the manse.

Together with some friends, we recently put a list on Facebook of things that they didn't teach us during our training, which included walking up stairs in a cassock, changing water into wine and being in two places at once. The last item would have been very useful especially for certain services during the year, however instead we may have to work out a different system, which could mean shared services or someone else taking the service instead of me.

I am glad that the service on Maundy Thursday and the service at Ballantrae harbour were so well attended and that you and St Colmon are prepared to come together. It is sad when Christians get so protective of their own church and their own way of operating that they are not prepared to work or worship together. While the vast majority of the services will be apart, it is great to have times when we can join together, as brothers and sisters, all members of God's great family.

I hope that you will always remember your brothers and sisters, whether they are in the neighbouring village or on the other side of the world. As we celebrated at Easter, we have all been saved by God and will all live with him forever.

God bless,

Stephen



# CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

## ST.COLMON

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

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Registered Scottish Charity: SC008536

*Printed by Century21 Computing*



**Newsletter May 2009**