

## Paws for Thought



Dear Friends,

Well April lived up to all my expectations and was a great month! It began with my birthday, and I would like to say thank you to all those who sent me presents and cards, and a special thank you to a secret admirer who sent me a gift! It was all a bit of a mystery – I have no idea who it was!

Also this month was my ultimate highlight of the year – Easter Breakfast! Sausages, bacon, toast, fruit puddings, tattie scones..... oh and so much more!! I think the 24 people who came must have still been half asleep because they kept dropping food on the floor! I was of course very helpful and tidied up immediately!

May is a quiet month in the manse, not so many visitors so I'm hoping mummy and daddy remember to feed me. Daddy has been very busy in the garden planting lots of strawberries so I have spent lots of time in the garden – you would think that would make a dog happy but not me. I'd rather be inside asleep on my beanbag!

Till next time

Dougie



Hywel would like to thank everyone for their visits, gifts, cards and get well wishes he received while in hospital and during his convalescence.



In Aid of Ballantrae Senior  
Citizen's outing  
In the  
Community Centre  
**Saturday 14th May**  
**10am-11.30am**  
Adults £2  
Children 50p



## Malawi

Following our twinning with the church in Lwambaza I thought I would look at the geography and climate of Malawi this month.

Malawi used to be called Nyasaland in my stamp collecting days but changed in the mid 1960's. It is flanked on its eastern side by Lake Malawi (previously Nyasa) which is 1434ft above mean sea level. This is the third largest lake in Africa and is sometimes called the Calendar Lake as it is 365miles long and 52 miles wide. It forms the southern section of the Great Rift Valley and is 10 to 15° south of the equator and 35° east of Greenwich, making it about 2hrs ahead of GMT (or UTC!). Only in the shire Valley in the South of Malawi is the ground below 2000ft but the rest of the country is quite high. Lilongwe, the capital is about 3,600ft above sea level and I suspect Lwambaza to the north (near Mzuzu) is at least as high with the mountains rising to over 10,000ft.

In Lilongwe the average annual rainfall is about 770mm (30ins) and most of this falls between November and April with the wettest month being December to February. Very little rain between May and October. In amongst the mountains the average is 1500 and 2000mm (60-80 ins). Ballantrae is about 1500mm (59ins).

In Malawi the period between May and October is also the coolest part of the year. In June and July the average daily maximum is about 23°C (73°F) and the minimum at night about 7°C(45°F). On rare occasions you can get slight frost. During the Winter months the maximum is 23-30°C (80-86°F) and 15-18°C(60-65°F) at night.

George Watt



### 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.



### S.W.R.I.



A.G.M in B.R.I.C.C house  
"Taste and Try" Supper  
**Monday May 2nd.**

## The Legend of the Starfish

A vacationing businessman was walking along a beach when he saw a young boy. Along the shore were many stranded starfish that had been washed up by the tide and were sure to die before the tide returned. The boy was walking slowly along the shore and occasionally reached down and tossed the beached starfish back into the ocean. The businessman, hoping to teach the boy a little lesson in common sense, walked up to the boy and said "I have been watching what you are doing, son. You have a good heart, and I know you mean well, but do you realize how many beaches there are round here and how many starfish are lying on every beach every day. Surely such an industrious and kind hearted boy such as yourself could find something better to do with your time. Do you really think that what you are doing is going to make a difference?" The boy looked up at the man and then he looked down at a starfish by his feet. He picked up the starfish, and as he tossed it gently back into the ocean, he said, "It made a difference to that one."

Don't be afraid to make a difference, even if it is only to one thing or person.

A Sunday School teacher asked little Willie who the first man in the Bible was.

"Hoss." said Willie.



"Wrong," said the teacher. "It was Adam."

"Aw, shucks!" Willie replied. "I knew it was one of those Cartwrights."



One step won't get you very far—you've got to keep on walking.

One word won't tell folks who you are—you've got to keep on talking.

One foot won't make you very tall—you've got to keep on growing.

One trip to church won't tell you all—you've got to keep on going.



## From Our Prayer Correspondent



For reading and meditation:- John 15, v 9-17. NKJ  
V 13 -"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

Would we be willing to lay down our lives for someone else?

A hard question!

That is what Jesus did for us. God loved us his children so much that Jesus gave the ultimate sacrifice - HIS LIFE.

Father God, Lord of life and love,

As Jesus gave his life for us we can do no less than give our lives to you

Help us each day to ponder on the sacrifice you made

Let each of us be worthy of that sacrifice

And put you at the heart of our worship

Living Lord, Eternal God we give you thanks.

Amen

With every blessing in Jesus precious name Pat.

## Film Night



**Fri.13th May**

Ballantrae Community Centre

6pm – Megamind

8pm – The King's Speech

All welcome .



Irene would like to thank everyone for all the cards visits and well wishes following her unexpected overnight stay in hospital.



## News Letter

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

**27th. May**

## Church Family

### Baptism

on **15th May** we celebrate the baptism of George Mills and welcome him into our family.



This minister just had all of his remaining teeth pulled and new dentures were being made. The first Sunday, he only preached 10 minutes. The second Sunday, he preached only 20 minutes. But, on the third Sunday, he preached 1 hour 25 minutes.



When asked about this by some of the congregation, he responded this way. The first Sunday, my gums were so sore it hurt to talk. The second Sunday, my dentures were hurting a lot. The third Sunday, I accidentally grabbed my wife's dentures... and I couldn't stop talking!

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I have forgotten most of what my maths teacher taught me, except this small but useful piece of advice:

“When you face life’s problems, do so from this angle—the Try Angle.”



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### Hospital Visiting

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

## Surprise Fridge Cake



Hidden inside these rocky road style cakes are a surprise of your kids' favourite sweets like marshmallows and honeycomb & left over Easter eggs. You could even make them healthier by using chopped dried fruits and nuts instead.

### Ingredients

110g unsalted butter, cubed,  
150g plain biscuits  
90g golden caster sugar  
2tbsp golden syrup  
1 tbsp cocoa  
50g 50% cocoa solids chocolate, broken up  
150g chocolates and sweets

### Method

2lb loaf tin or square tin. Butter the tin and line it with clingfilm, allowing excess to overhang the edges.  
Crush the biscuits into small pieces. In a small pan, very gently melt together the butter, sugar, syrup, cocoa and chocolate. Remove from the heat and cool until tepid. Add the biscuits and stir in the chocolates and sweets. Mix well and spoon into the tin. Cover the top with the excess clingfilm and set in the refrigerator for a few hours. For the topping: Place a small heatproof bowl over a saucepan of gently simmering water, making sure the base of the bowl does not touch the water. Add the chocolate to the bowl and heat until it melts, stirring only very occasionally, then pour over the cake. Store in the refrigerator (preferably hidden) until you serve it. It will cut much more easily if it is not kept for too long at room temperature. Best kept in the fridge.

## LISTS AND ROTAS

### Flower Calendar



### May

**1st.** Jean Nelson  
**8th.** E Scott  
**15th.** Fiona McLean  
**22nd.**  
**29th**



### June Tea Duty

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

### Church Cleaning Team

### May

**1st.** Meg Peacock & Lorna Greenhill  
**15th.** Robert & Caroline Dalrymple  
**29th** John & Janice

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

May	June
<b>1st</b> E	<b>5th</b> E
<b>8th</b> A	<b>12th</b> A
<b>15th</b> B	<b>19th</b> B
<b>22nd</b> C	<b>24th</b> C
<b>29th</b> D	



### Communion Sunday

**8th May at 11:30am**

and then at **7:30pm**

a Thanksgiving Evening Service.

### Wednesday Worship

**4th May at 11am**

30 minute traditional service

All are welcome

### Congregational Board and

### Kirk Session

**11th May at 7:30pm**

in the Vestry

### Ballantrae Church Guild

Monday **16th May**

MAF.— Mr D Shaw



The Annual Church Fair is on **Sat 30th July.**

Please start collecting items for the usual stalls and any assistance on the day will be greatly appreciated. Claire has some small, wooden coat hangers for anyone with craft ideas. Any new ideas or suggestions will be welcome, please speak to **Claire on 831246**

## Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

This week has been dominated with weddings as I had the Ballantrae Nursery Wedding, then the Ballantrae Primary Wedding and then the Ballantrae Royal Wedding of Nicola Brown and Bobby Watters. And I am sure you have all enjoyed watching the Royal Wedding or William and Kate or to give their full names, William Arthur Philip Louis Mountbatten-Windsor and Catherine Elizabeth Middleton.

Weddings are joyful occasions when two people commit to spending their live together before God and in the presence of their family and friends. Weddings mark an important step in a relationship, which will have been developing for many months or years. Barbara and I were together for 10 months before we got engaged and then it was 8 months later that we got married, actually eight years ago in April.

Marriage is a commitment to love and care for one another, when everything is going well as well as those times when things are not. It is about caring no matter what, and always being there to support each other.

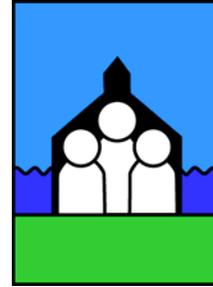
There are in fact great similarities between the commitment to care for each other in marriage, and our commitment to care for one another in church. Remember that it was Jesus who told his disciples, "Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." (John 13:34,35)

In the church we are committed to each other for life, we are to be there for one another during the good times as well as those times when we struggle. We are to support one another and show God's love to all those who belong to the church. It is when we show love to one another that all people will know we are committed to each other.

May God help our church to strengthen as we continue to care for one another.

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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