

Weather



The mean temperature for March ended up as 8.5°C—well above the average, But April was much colder. Up until the 27th the mean was only 6.4°C, mainly due to lack of any real warm days and a lot of night frosts. The temperature at dawn on the 5th was minus 4.6°C—lower than any of the winter months. Not surprisingly some early planted potatoes were blackened.

Rainfall was just a little below normal but half the total was in just one night (16/17). 1.68ins fell making us the wettest place in the U.K.!

Following the sighting of two swallows on the 25th March the next brief sighting was not until the 19th of April, followed by three local House martins on the 23rd. By the end of the month most of the swans, which have overwintered near the River Stinchar, except for one pair which I suspect are locals. Some pewits and curlews were seen or heard, and at least five greylag geese had a good feed on newly sown barley.

For the third month running the planet Venus and the new moon made a fine sight in the evening sky from the 23rd. We should have one more chance to see them both together in the northwest between the 22nd and 24th of May. Venus then passes between Earth and the Sun. In June Jupiter and Venus become pre-dawn objects to the east or northwest.

Who or What am I?

1. If you have it, you want to share it. If you share it, you don't have it. What is it?
2. What stays where it is when it goes off?
3. A skin have I, more eyes than one. I can be very nice when I am done. What am I?
4. What's long and thin, covered in skin; red in parts, and put in tarts?
5. What goes up and never comes down?
6. What has to be broken before it can be used?
7. A man builds a house with all 4 sides facing south. A bear walks past the house. What colour is the bear?
8. A farmer had seventeen sheep, all but nine died, how many did he have left?
9. You heard me before, yet you hear me again. Then I die, till you call me again. What am I?
10. What is the moon worth?
11. What has feet and legs, and nothing else?
12. What's the greatest worldwide use of cowhide?
13. How many bricks does it take to complete a building made of brick? ...
14. What does no man want, yet no man wants to lose?
..... -



Coffee Morning



In aid of Senior Citizens Summer Outing
In Community Centre Saturday 12th May
10am—11.30am
Adult £2. Child 50p.

Donations of baking, plants & produce will be gratefully received.

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.

Used Stamps



As well as used stamps, we also collect old spectacles and used ink cartridges (except Epson). Please note! All stamps should have a 10mm or more border around the stamp.



Paws for Thought



You'll remember last month I introduced you to our new member of the family – Hamish the puppy Westie. I apologise for the depressive tone my article took. I think slowly I am coming to terms with the fact that he is here to stay. I can't say I'm happy about it, but Hamish is quite amusing and I'm learning not to growl at him so much.

Hamish is settling in well. His favourite things are sticks and socks – he even pulls them off the children's feet! Hamish has now learned to jump onto the couch so nowhere is safe, but he spends a lot of his time in a pen in the utility room so I get some peace and quiet. At night time we both sleep in the utility room. Until last week I couldn't wait to get out of there in the morning – quite frankly little puppies smell a lot, but now he is a bit more trained we both make a dash for the garden in the morning.

He's also started going walkies with me – if you live on the Foreland or Shore Road you have probably noticed us! 9am every morning you will hear us before you see us! I think Hamish might become the youngest recipient of an Anti-Social Behaviour Order – for a little puppy he is loud! I just walk on behind him cringing. Mummy says I barked all the time when I was a puppy, but I don't believe her. I could never have been that bad!

Till next time

Dougie



Answers.

1. A secret 2. An alarm clock 3. A potato 4. Rhubarb 5. Your age
6. An egg 7. White Polar Bear in the North Pole 8. Nine
10. A dollar as the moon has 4 quarters. 11. Stockings 12. To cover cows
13. Only one, the last one 14. Work—employment



News Letter

Items for next months news **29th May**

Prayer



Dear Lord, I give you my hands to do Your work; I give You my feet to go Your way; I give You my eyes to see as You see; I give You my tongue to speak Your words; I give You my mind that You may think in me; I give You my spirit that You may pray in me. Above all, I give You my heart that You may love in me – love the Father and love all humankind. I give You my whole self, Lord, that You may grow in me, so that it is You who lives, works and prays in me. Amen.

Marina and Tom Dempsey wishes every one a Happy Easter and sent us this wee e-mail to let us know they haven't forgot us.

A FLORIDA COURT SET ATHEIST HOLY DAY

In Florida, an atheist created a case against Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such days. The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood, objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honour, How can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays..." 

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, 

"But you do. Your client, counsellor, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honour, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fool's Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day.

Court is adjourned..." 

You got to love a Judge that knows his scripture!

Announcements

Wednesday Worship

13th June at 11am in
Ballantrae Church
All are welcome for a short
traditional service.

Congregational Board and Kirk Session

Wednesday 9th May at 7:30pm in the
Vestry

Minister in Malawi

From 23rd May to 6th June, Stephen
will be in Malawi and pastoral cover
during this time will be provided by
Rev Ian McLachlan (713370).

Lunch at the Manse

Thursday 21st June at 12noon in the
Manse – 1 The Vennel, Ballantrae.
Come and enjoy food, fellowship
and faith.

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.

If God brings you to it, He will
bring you through it.

Ballantrae Church Guild

The last meeting of the session will
take place on Monday 21st May in
the hall at 7.15pm. The speaker for
the evening will be Rev David
Watson and his subject
"Place for Hope"

S.W.R.I

Next meet on **Monday 7th May**
in BRICC House
Annual Business Meeting
"Taste and Try Supper" Members
invited to bring food to sample.



[http://goafrica.about.com/library/
bl.mapfacts.malawi.htm](http://goafrica.about.com/library/bl.mapfacts.malawi.htm)

Worth a look if you want to know
more about where our minister is
going.



Celebrating the life of the Church

[http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/
news_and_events/events/events/
heart_and_soul_2012](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/events/events/heart_and_soul_2012)

Kit Kat crunch cheesecake



This easy to make cheesecake mixes
naughty, indulgent chocolate bars
with delicate mascarpone and citrus
cream.

Ingredients

6 x 4-finger Kit Kat's
25g butter, melted
500g tub mascarpone cheese
200ml whipped double cream
Juice of 1 lime
Zest of 2 limes
50g sugar
20cm cake tin

Method

Smash 6 x 4-finger kit kat's and mix
with melted butter. Use to line cake
tin and place in fridge to chill. Mix
together mascarpone cheese with
200ml whipped double cream, juice
of 1 lime, zest of 2 limes and sugar.
Spoon over base and chill for 30mins
until set.

Measurement

Did you know carpets are bought by
the metre– but are worn out by the
foot?

LISTS AND ROTAS

Flower Calendar



May

6th. Jean Nelson
13th.
20th.
27th.



Tea Duty-June

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

Church Cleaning Team

May

13th. Tom & Jean Davidson
27th. Anthea Russell & Jessie
Brown

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 | |
|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| 6th | D | 3rd | B |
| 13th | E | 10th | C |
| 20th | F | 17th | D |
| 27th | A | 24th | E |

Message from the Manse



Dear friends,

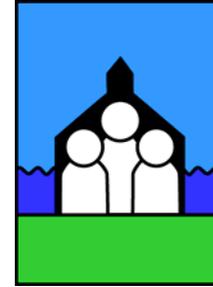
I now have less than three weeks to go before I leave for Malawi on 23rd May. I think I have nearly bought everything I need for the visit. I have clothes, gifts, balloons and lots of things that I just might need. I also have various types of photographic equipment so that I can take thousands (quite literally!) of photos and hours of video! I don't know when I will have time to sort them all out, but I will worry about that when I come back. I have spent hours researching various things that I need to take, including what mobile phone network is the best in Malawi. If everything goes according to plan, I hope to be able to at least text Barbara each day, and probably phone some days.

When Dr Livingstone journeyed to Africa, his family and friends would have heard now and again how he was doing, but there could be weeks or months between the letters. In fact the person who said "Dr Livingstone, I presume?" was Henry Stanley who was sent to find out if Livingstone was alive, as everyone back home had begun to think he had died in the jungle. I guess that communication has come a long way since then, and it will be great to keep in touch while over there.

We all take communication for granted, and we now have various ways that we can keep in touch with family and friends. And yet sadly there are many people in our country who feel isolated, who have no one to talk to, and feel that no one cares for them. An important part of being a Christian is caring for all people, as we show everyone the love that Jesus has shown us. This means that we should be concerned about those who are next door to us, or down the street or across the world in Malawi, and we should do all we can for them, so that they know we care. It really doesn't need to be a lot, just a small act of kindness goes a long way to helping people in our community feel a strong sense of belonging.

Once again thank you for your kind support for my visit to Malawi and I would be grateful if you could keep me in your prayers during the time I am away - 23rd May to 6th June.

God bless,
Stephen



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

St. COLMON

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