



## Paws for Thought

Well friends, October is here again. I like the autumn, you might not realize this but to a dog autumn is very interesting. Food even falls from trees! The manse garden is coming along nicely, lots of apples to sniff! We had a young rabbit living in the garden for a few weeks too. That was interesting – the children would tip me off that it was outside the window and I'd start barking, but it just ignored me. It made me so mad.

The summer seems so long ago already, but I have some nice correspondence to remember it by. You may remember a few months ago I set a challenge to see how far my articles reached. I have had many replies, so thank you everyone. I had a postcard all the way from Edinburgh! It has a picture of Greyfriars Bobby. Now that was a good film – did you see it? The star is a Westie very much like me, and in one great scene Bobby catches a salmon as it leaps through the air. I love that bit. You may have wondered what dogs dream about – well now you know. I also received postcard of a very good looking girl Westie and 2 nice letters. My fame has reached somewhere called Australia and amazingly I even have a fan all the way from Cumnock! It was nice to meet some of my followers at the Ballantrae Gala and the Colmonel Fun Day.

Till next time

Dougie 



## Celebrating the 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Scottish Reformation



A morning conference organised by Ayr Presbytery.

Location: Ayr – Castlehill Parish Church

Day: **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October**

Time: **9:30am – 12:30pm**

Speakers: Mr Harry Reid and Very Rev Dr Finlay MacDonald

For more information or if you require transport to it, please speak to the Minister



## Weather

On July 15th (appropriately St. Swithin's Day) about 50 people attended the rededication of George Symon's gravesite in Kensel Green Cemetery, West London. George Symon's (1838-1900) was the founder of what became known as the British Rainfall Organization and he was twice the President of the Royal Meteorological Society. His grave was restored by the society earlier in the year and handsome slate plaques were added to the existing grave-markers. The rededication ceremony was led by the Society's current President-Elect, Professor Tim Palmer F.R.S.

The British Rainfall Organisation was a network of 3,500 volunteers that recorded rainfall across Britain. This was the first network of its kind in the world and formed the basis, including averages, of today's rainfall observations in the U.K.

Less well known is Symon's search for more than 30years for the elusive "thunderbolt". In Greek mythology a thunderbolt was a ferocious spear thrown by Zeus in anger. The legend of the thunderbolt later became that of hot rocks or stones discharged by powerful lightning strikes. They were said to give off smoke and smell of sulphur.

There maybe a scientific explanation for the legendary story thunderbolt. When lightning strikes sandy ground it can melt sand grains into remarkable tubes of glass that form a network somewhat like a tree's roots. These are called Fulgurites, and could have been mistaken for spears or rocks thrown down from thunderstorms.

George Watt



### S.W.R.I

**Next meet on October 4th**

Ruby Weir will demonstrate  
Beadwork.

Old and new members will be  
given a warm welcome

### News Letter

Items for next months  
news letter should be in by  
**28th October.**





## Obituary



Our church was saddened to learn of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else. Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list, "Let Someone Else do it." Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results; "Someone Else can work with that group."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in our church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference. Someone Else was a wonderful person; sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did? When you are asked to help this year, remember -- we can't depend on Someone Else anymore

## Thanksgiving Is.

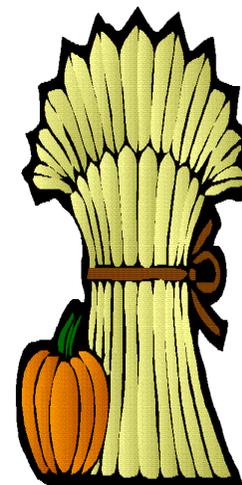


Thanksgiving is  
a time of gratitude to God, our Creator and Provider,  
whose guidance and care go before us...  
and whose love is with us forever.

Thanksgiving is  
a time to reflect on the changes,  
to remember that we, too, grow and change  
from one season of life to another.

Thanksgiving is  
a time of changing seasons, when leaves turn golden  
in Autumn's wake and apples are crisp  
in the first chill breezes of fall.

Let us remember the true meaning of Thanksgiving.  
As we see the beauty of Autumn,  
let us acknowledge the many blessings which are ours...  
let us think of our families and friends..  
and let us give thanks in our hearts.



Author Unknown

One day a little girl was watching her Mum washing the dishes, She suddenly noticed her Mum had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast to the rest of her brunette head. She looked at her Mum and asked, " Why are some of your hairs white Mum?" Her Mum replied, "Well every time you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought for a while then said, "Mommy, how come all of grandma's hairs are white?"

## Blythswood Care



Is glad to receive donations of food, clothes, bedding, bric-a-brac and household goods.

A truck will collect from this area on 2nd Tuesday of every month. Contact any WRVS member for more information.



## Ballantrae Film Nights



These will resume on Friday the **22<sup>nd</sup> October** and will be held in Ballantrae Church as before.

At 6pm we will be showing Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (U), and at 8pm we will be showing Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (12).



## Church Service

### Wednesday Worship

A traditional service lasting about 30 minutes.

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 11am** in Ballantrae Church.

All Welcome.

**On 31<sup>st</sup> October**, we will celebrate Communion together. Sunday School and Crèche will still be on as usual.

The Minister is on holiday from 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October. Rev Ian McLachlan is providing pastoral cover and the service on the 17<sup>th</sup> October will be taken by the Worship Team.

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## Social Evening



The Ballantrae & St. Colmon's Social Evening

Held in the Public Hall on Friday 1st October was well attended by both churches. About 60 people enjoyed an evening of entertainment and fellowship.

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Peace is a journey of a thousand miles and it must be taken one step at a time.



## Ballantrae Church Guild



The Guild held a very successful Coffee morning on Saturday 25th when £516 was raised. Many thanks to those who donated, ladies who served tea, helped in the kitchen, managed stalls and anyone who helped in any way. Thanks also to everyone who came along and supported the event.

### October meeting

The next meeting of the guild will be on **Monday 18th October** in the buffet room at 7.15 pm. The speakers for the evening will be Mr Tom Stevenson and Mr Archie Bell, both from Stranraer speaking about the local coastal path. A warm welcome is extended to everyone to attend.

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## Portrait



The Parent and Toddler group are hosting a professional photography session on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 10am** in the Community Hall. Why not come along, or bring your family and have your photo taken – ideal Christmas present for everyone and you'll be supporting the Toddler Group!



## SHOE BOX APPEAL 2010

Desirable items for the boxes are : hats, gloves ,sock, toothbrush toothpaste, (all items must be new).

Further suggestions

Toiletries (**no talcum powder**)

New Clothes

Miscellaneous ; New make-up Sewing equipment, Household

candles, Screwdrivers/pliers & kitchen utensils.

New stationery

Small toy

Sweets; **NO CHOCOLATE.**

“Best before “date **July 10th**, Please state who the box is for i.e. boy, girl, man, women, family and state ages of recipient.

Filled boxes can be left in the church at any time last date is the Sunday **7th November**.

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An elderly gentleman was passing his granddaughter's bedroom one night and heard her repeating the alphabet in an oddly reverent way.

“What on earth are you up to?” he asked.

“I'm saying my prayers,” she replied.

“But I can't think of exactly the right words tonight, so I'm saying all the letters. God will put them together for me, because He knows what I'm thinking.”

## LISTS AND ROTAS

### Flower Calendar



Oct.

**3rd.** Harvest Thanksgiving

**10th.** R McKinley

**17th.** M Clark

**24th.** Y.W.G

**31st.**



### Tea Duty

Dorothy Flitter,  
Margaret Maule & Anthea  
Russell

### Church Cleaning Team

**Oct. 16th.** Caroline & Robert  
Dalrymple

**Oct.30th.** John & Janice  
McIlwraith

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

October		Nov.
<b>3rd</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>7th. C</b>
<b>10th</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>14th. D</b>
<b>17th</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>21st. A</b>
<b>24th</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>28th. B</b>
<b>31st</b>	<b>B</b>	

## Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

I recently turned 34, and it is a sobering fact that I still have at least another 34 years before I retire. Reflecting back over the last 34 years and all the changes I have seen in those years, I am certain that there will be many changes in the church and the country over the next 34 years.

We live in a culture where the church seems to be increasingly marginalised and as reported in a recent BBC programme some reckon that the Church of Scotland will cease to exist in 2033. Therefore as, a young minister I am well aware that the church needs to remain strong in order to still be here well past 2033, especially as I won't retire until at least 2046.

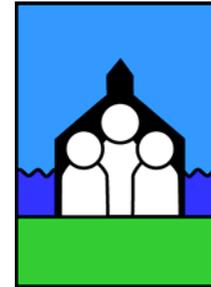
Therefore I am constantly aware that we need to build a church in this area, which is sustainable and developing. We cannot get complacent and expect the church to remain as it was in the past. In fact the Church of Scotland has always changed. 150 years ago most churches in it did not have an organ. 50 years ago no church in it had a woman minister or elder. These changes have been good for the church, and hopefully the changes that some of you may be uneasy about will also help the church to remain strong and welcoming to people of all ages.

That said, I do realise how important tradition is to many of you, and I do try to keep a balance in all that I do. One way that may help to keep the balance, is through the introduction of a traditional service on the first Wednesday of the month. Wednesday Worship will start at 11am and last about 30 minutes – 3 hymns, a prayer, a reading and a short sermon. The first of these services is on 6<sup>th</sup> October, with the second planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November. This is a new idea, and so all feedback will be appreciated.

Whatever the future holds for our church, I remain convinced that God will watch over and guide us. We are all part of God's family, and as the minister serving this church, I hope that you all know that I care for you, just as God cares for all of us.

May God bless you and keep you close to him forever.

Stephen



# CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

## St. COLMON

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

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