

## Weather



Well that is another summer by and not much to write home about. True there were some good days and even five together in the second week of August. Like recent years the harvest looks like being late in completion, and the best of the weather was in late spring. At least the grass was kept green.

The moon and the planets Venus and Jupiter frequently gave us something nice to look at during the spring evenings, and early on the 9th of August they were at it again at 4am! Clear nights were rare this past summer and I did not notice any noctilucent clouds. Cirrus clouds are normally at a height of 6 - 9km above the earth but noctilucent clouds are nearer 80km. A recent study using satellite data identified extraterrestrial substances in the clouds as a possible source. When meteors fly into the Earth's upper atmosphere from space they burn up as shooting stars, leaving behind trails of smoke made up of very tiny particles. These specks of meteor smoke form the seeds for water molecules to gather into tiny ice crystals which form the night-shinning clouds, and it is no coincidence that clouds form at exactly the same height in the atmosphere that meteors burn up. The microscopic crystals also explain the strange blue colour of the night-shinning clouds because small particles scatter blue light down to Earth more than any other wavelength, or colour of light. Convincing as this new theory is, questions still remain.

George Watt

### 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.

### 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

## Prayer



O Giver of all gifts, who has so enriched our lives, we have many needs this day.

Grant us the gift of patience so that we may live in harmony with all. Grant us the grace of compassion so that we may not bypass anyone in need. And give us enthusiasm for the tasks of this autumn so that we may invest it with our love and life.

As we embrace the mystery that we are one with all the earth and its children, we bring our needs before God. . .

We ask you, God of the Harvest, who has filled heaven and earth with your glory, to help us make our hands into your hands, so that Your will may be done by us.

Form our words into your words to affirm the faint-hearted, to support the faltering and to encourage the poor of spirit. Fill up all that is lacking in us, so that we may be your servants, co-creators in your endless drama of creation.

In Jesus name we pray Amen



### SWRI



Next meeting will be  
the Open Night  
on Monday 1st October.

All welcome for a demonstration of hand bell ringing.

### St Colmon Church Auction

Saturday 13th October

in Colmonell Community Centre from 2.00pm onwards

This annual event is a great way to spend an afternoon having fun and raising money for St Colmon as well as picking up a bargain or three! Once again we are delighted that Dr Tom Smith has agreed to act as our auctioneer and he has plenty of experience in ensuring that you 'willingly' part with your cash. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Paws for Thought



Hello! (Woof woof lick lick lick) I'm Hamish and I've been told that I can write this month's Paws for Thought! (Woof woof lick lick lick pant pant). Dougie says quite frankly he can't be bothered climbing the stairs to the computer, but I have lots of energy so I ran up to take his place. I'm getting a big boy now, I am 8 months old now and nearly the same size as Dougie, though he is still a bit more "filled out" to put it politely. Mummy says I am getting to be a good boy. I have got out of my bad habit of doing my business behind the couch whenever there were visitors in the lounge, and I really like the garden and spend lots of time there. I made an interesting discovery last week – there is a hedgehog living in my garden! It can run very fast.

I hope you all had a nice summer. I went on holiday to Glasgow and then Edinburgh. I had a lovely time and learnt all about Greyfriars Bobby. I was also in kennels for a few nights. I thought it was fun, but Dougie was unimpressed at having to share a small space with me – but I think it made us better friends. I'm looking forward to meeting you all soon, and tripping you up so you drop your cake on the floor. Dougie has taught me well.

Till next time (if Dougie lets me)

Hamish 

## Community Announcements

### Keeping Ballantrae Safe

Thursday 27 September

7:30 – 9pm in BRICC House

An opportunity for Ballantrae residents to hear from the experts about how we can ensure Ballantrae continues to be a safe place in which to live and work.

Discus with the Carrick Policing Team their priorities for Girvan and the surrounding villages and road safety issues in the village, get some crime prevention and fire safety tips, and hear about the role of the South Ayrshire Council Community Safety Officer.

## IN THE BEGINNING



In the beginning, God covered the earth with, green, yellow and red vegetables of all kinds, so mankind would live long and healthy lives. Then using God's bountiful gifts, Satan created Ben and Jerry's and Krispy Kreme. And Satan said, "You want hot fudge with that?" And Man said "Yes!" And Woman said, "I'll have another - with sprinkles." And lo they gained 10 pounds.

God created the healthy yogurt so Woman might keep the figure that Man found so fair. And Satan brought forth white flour from wheat and sugar from cane and combined them. And Woman went from size 6 to size 14.

So God said, "Try my fresh green salad." And Satan presented crumbled Bleu Cheese dressing and garlic toast on the side. And Man and Woman unfastened their belts following the repast. Then God said, "I have sent you heart healthy vegetables and olive oil in which to cook them." And Satan brought forth deep fried coconut shrimp, butter dipped lobster chunks and chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter. And Man's cholesterol went through the roof

God made running shoes so that his Children might lose those extra pounds. And Satan came forth with a cable TV with remote control so Man would not have to toil changing the channels. And Man and Woman laughed and cried before the flickering light and started wearing stretch jogging suits.

Then God brought forth the potato, naturally low in fat and brimming with potassium and good nutrition. Then Satan peeled and sliced it into chips and deep-fried them in animal fats and added lots of salt. And Man put on more pounds. God then gave lean beef so that Man might consume fewer calories and still satisfy his appetite. And Satan created McDonald's and the 99p double cheeseburger. Then Lucifer said, "You want fries with that?" and Man replied, "Yes! And Super size 'em!" And Man went into cardiac arrest. God sighed and created quadruple bypass surgery. And Satan created Health Insurance packages.



## News Letter

Items for October news letter by **Thurs. 27th Sept.**

## Announcements

### Wednesday Worship

a traditional service lasting  
30 minutes  
12<sup>th</sup> September at 11am

### Congregational Board & Kirk Session

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at  
7:30pm in the Vestry

### Evening Service with

Contemporary Praise & Worship  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 7:30pm  
in Ballantrae Church  
The worship will be led by Alan &  
Barbara Bretherton and Gina  
Gathercole, with Gina on the  
keyboard and Alan on the drums.

### Harvest Thanksgiving All Age Service

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October

### Malawi Photo and Video Evening

12<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm in Ballantrae  
Church

### Presbytery Songs of Praise

led by Bill Mackie, Presbytery  
Moderator  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 7pm in St  
James Church, Ayr



## Ballantrae Church Guild



1st meeting of the season  
September 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7-15pm  
in the community hall.  
Speaker - Dr. Simon Read  
Subject:- 'Mercy Ships.'  
(Please remember Martha's table)  
All Welcome.

Guild, coffee morning,  
Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September in the  
community hall, 10 - 11-30am

### Route Hope 2012

Come along for a day full of FREE  
fun for teenagers in Ayrshire  
(S1 - S6)

At the Ark next to the Citadel  
Leisure Centre, Ayr  
from 2pm to 9pm on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>  
September

open mic / live music / pool table /  
air hockey / graffiti art / football  
cage / messy games / FREE pizza

### South Carrick Churches Together Pot Luck Supper

7<sup>th</sup> October in Girvan North Church  
Hall at 7pm.  
Speaker: Stephen Ogston on  
Malawi

## Discussion

Discussions can be healthy, since they have the potential to build relationships and result in a "win" for everyone. On the other hand, arguments are rarely good. Why? They are forceful attempts to change another person's point of view, and thus result in a "winner" and a "loser."

Arguments always cause some damage, even if you "win." The next time you find yourself involved in a conflict of opinion, use these guidelines to make it a DISCUSSION—resolving the issue while building the relationship.

**Welcome the Disagreement.** The other person may have a perspective you haven't considered, so be thankful for it. Maybe this is your chance to be corrected before making a mistake.

**Distrust Your First Inclination to Defend Yourself.** Defensiveness is often a natural reaction. But be careful—when you justify yourself, it's hard to change your position later. Plus, you'll miss the benefit of the other person's ideas.

**Control Your Temper.** Getting angry always makes communication harder, not easier. So simmer down before you blow your top.

**Listen First.** Give your "opponent" a chance to talk. Don't defend or debate. Build bridges of understanding, not barriers of misunderstanding.

**Look for Areas of Agreement.** Dwell on areas where you agree. This establishes common ground, helping you find a solution good for both of you.

**Be Honest.** Look for areas where you can admit error, then do it. This disarms others and reduces their defensiveness.

**Promise to Think Over Their Ideas.** Tell the person that you will consider his point of view, and actually do it. He may be right, after all.

**Thank Them Sincerely for Their Desire to Help.** Most people who take time to disagree with you are interested in positive results, the same as you are. Welcome that.

**Postpone Action So You Both Can Think Through the Problem.** If need be, suggest another meeting. To prepare, ask yourself some hard questions about your "side," and focus on a mutually beneficial solution.

**Be Willing to Agree to Disagree.** Sometimes you may need to accept your difference of opinion and move on. Be flexible whenever possible.



Dear Friends,

In church at the moment we are looking at Acts, which charts the growth of the Church from just after Jesus ascended into heaven. The disciples were initially unsure of what the future held for them, and really wondered what life would be like once Jesus was gone. However, the Holy Spirit reassured the disciples that God was with them and that they had the strength to do all they had to. They were to be witnesses for Jesus and share the good news of God's love with the world and so they put aside their worries and trusted God.

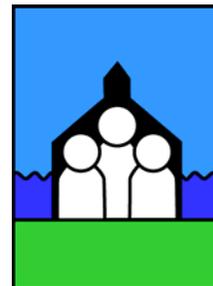
Often as Christians and as a church we are called to put aside our fears and do all that God calls us to do. God wants our spiritual life to be like a flowing river, moving steadily forward as we learn more about God and deepen our faith in him. Sometimes it will gently meander as we rest in God's love, sometimes it will rush on as we get excited about what God is doing and sometimes it will go over rocks causing froth and making us feel a bit unsettled. However, one thing that our spiritual life must not do is become stagnant and remain exactly the same from one year to the next.

The disciples throughout their life, faced different challenges, and while early days in Acts reveal a time when life which seemed wonderful, it wasn't long before they faced persecution from the Jewish authorities who had previously put Jesus to death. And yet, as we shall see, persecution just encouraged the spread of the church throughout the known world and the church continue to grow.

And so let us recommit ourselves to following Jesus and remember that when he calls us to serve him in a new way, he always gives us the strength we need. Let us not fear the unknown but continue to trust in God who loves us.

God bless,

Stephen



# CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

## St. COLMON

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

**Minister: Revd. Stephen Ogston**

**Tel. 01465831252 E-mail: [ogston@macfish.com](mailto:ogston@macfish.com)**

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