

from your **Minister**

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. 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 we need to build a church in this area, which is sustainable and developing. It has been so good to see the Sunday Club in Colmonell develop over the last month, and I hope that in all that we do we will remain a welcoming and friendly church for all those who come.

Too often people think that church has served its purpose, and that it should be consigned to history. However I strongly disagree. I know that God called each of us into his family and that he will continue to call people to be his children.

There were many times in the first few centuries of the church, when people thought that the church would die out, but it never did. People are still coming to know God and putting their faith in him every day. People are still learning about God, about all that Jesus did for us and about the hope and joy that comes from believing in Jesus.

Therefore whatever the future holds for our church, I remain convinced that God will watch over and guide us. We are God's family in this place, and together we have an exciting future ahead of us, which while different from the past, will still be hand in hand with God.

God bless,

Stephen



ST COLMON PARISH CHURCH

October 2010 Newsletter

What's on this month?

Sunday 3rd October
10am - **All Age Service**
St Colmon Church, Colmonell.

Sunday 10th October
10am - Service - no Sunday Club
St Colmon Church, Colmonell.

Sunday 17th October
10am - Service - no Sunday Club
St Colmon Church, Colmonell.
3pm - Service - Barrhill Memorial Hall

Tuesday 19th October
7pm - Kirk Session - St Colmon Kirk Hall

Sunday 24th October
10am - Service **with Sunday Club**
St Colmon Church, Colmonell.

Monday 25th October
7:30pm - Colmonell Circle
St Colmon Kirk Hall

Sunday 31st October
10am - Service **with Sunday Club**
St Colmon Church, Colmonell.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Joint Church Social in one way or another and made it such an enjoyable night for all.



Paws for Thought



Well friends, October is here again. I like the autumn, you might not realise 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 Colmonell Fun Day.

Till next time, Dougie



The tree in memory of our friend Christine Murray was dedicated in a short service after the morning service on Sunday 19 September.

The plaque says the following:

Planted in memory of
Mrs Christine Murray.
Died 9th March 2010.
Colmonell Church organist
since 1977 and elder
of this parish for 19 years.

Announcements

Flower and Refreshment Rotas

Please remember to check the rotas for flowers and refreshments and add your name if you can help in any way or would like to mark an anniversary with a flower arrangement.

Ballantrae Film Nights

22nd October in Ballantrae Church.

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).

Celebrating the 450th Anniversary of the Scottish Reformation

A morning conference organised by Ayr Presbytery.

Location: Ayr - Castlehill Church

Day: Saturday 30th 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.

Barrhill November Service

Please note that the service in Barrhill will take place on the 7th November instead of the 21st. This will also be a Communion service.



Colmonell Circle
Monday 25th
October at 7:30pm
in the Kirk Hall.

Stamps

Remember your stamps this year are raising funds for a residential hostel which houses and educates 400 girls in Sialkot, Pakistan. Please put them in the box in the vestibule.

St Colmon Kirk Session

will next meet on the 19th October at 7pm in the Kirk Hall.

The Minister is on holiday

from 12th to 19th October and Rev Ian McLachlan is providing pastoral cover. The service in Colmonell on the 17th October will be taken by the Worship Group and the Barrhill service by Rev Jim Guthrie.

Family Photography Session

The Parent and Toddler group in Ballantrae are hosting a professional photography session on Saturday 23rd 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!