

Weather



Not only was March's weather newsworthy but I and the rest of "the team" lost our much loved and appreciated old friend Jackie / "nurse" de Rijky on Sunday 24th of March, aged 98. I had managed to visit her in Ayr Hospital every day except the last two because of the weather. The last time I saw her was on the Thursday and knew she had not long to go. Therefore I was so grateful for Stephen's visit to station 9 at the same time. His prayer said everything I would have wanted at a service, especially as Jackie was still present. She was a real friend to me personally and I will miss her terribly. It was also a privilege for me to receive "the call" just 10mins after she died.

I have not worked out the mean temperature for March at time of writing (28th) but you do not need me to tell you it was the coldest for quite a while. The last time my local area around Auchenflower was as bad was on 12th March 2006, and the road remained closed for two days. This time (20th) the drifts were more widespread but thanks to local farmers and their low loaders, a passage was established between Colmonell, Heronsford and Ballantrae b noon, and the A77 was reopened in the afternoon.

George Watt



Malawi Cream Tea

In spite of pretty awful weather there was a great turn out for the "Malawi Cream Tea" on Saturday 17th. March. After expenses £510.00 was raised between entrance monies, sales and donations. Grateful thanks are extended to all who did so much to make our Malawi Fundraiser such a success and to the many who travelled in stormy conditions to support our annual Malawi effort.

Sincere thanks to everyone, our Malawi Family will benefit from your efforts.

Meg Peacock

Ballantrae Church Malawi Committee.

Too much Prayer

Johnny, a bright 5 year old, told his daddy he'd like a baby brother and, along with his request, offered to do whatever he could to help. His dad, a very bright 35 year old, paused for a moment and then replied, " I'll tell you what, Johnny, if you pray every day for two months for a baby brother, I guarantee that God will give you one!" Johnny responded eagerly and went to his bedroom early that night to start praying for a baby brother. He prayed every night for a whole month, but after that time, he began to get skeptical. He checked around the neighbourhood and found out that what he thought was going to happen, had never occurred in the history of the neighbourhood. You just don't pray for two months and then, a new baby brother. So, Johnny quit praying. After another month, Johnny's mother went to the hospital. When she came back home, Johnny's parents called him into the bedroom. He cautiously walked into the room, not expecting to find anything, and there was a little bundle lying right next to his mother. His dad pulled back the blanket and there was -- not one baby brother, but two!! His mother had twins! Johnny's dad looked down at him and said, "Now aren't you glad you prayed?"

Johnny hesitated a little and then looked up at his dad and said, "Yes, but aren't you glad I quit when I did?"



On a very cold winter morning, a wife texted her husband; "Windows frozen, won't open."

The husband texted her back; "Pour lukewarm water over it."

Wife text back five minutes later; "Computer really screwed up now."



SWRI

The next meeting will take place on Monday 8th April.
A talk on Guide Dogs for the Blind.

All welcome.

PRAYER



O Christ, today, gloriously, joyfully, you live for ever in the life of the world,
in the hearts of those who love you,
in the power of the Spirit to transcend even death.
May we who love you, and find in you our hope,
bear witness, as Thomas did,
that your risen body still carries the marks
of the world's violence, injustice and greed,
and as we remember and rejoice,
help us to keep faith with all who still, today,
suffer the outrages of violence, injustice and greed.
In our actions, in our prayers, in our choices and in our commitment,
teach us the true meaning of good news for the poor

Amen

DID YOU KNOW

John Wesley (28th June 1703 – 2nd March 1791.)

The Evangelist and Methodist Movement founder John Wesley toured throughout Scotland several times and on April 30th 1765 passed through Ballantrae. He wrote in his journal *“We rode over high and steep mountains between Ballantrae and Stranraer where we met with as good entertainment of every kind as if we had been in the heart of England”*

John Keats (31 October 1795 – 23 February 1821)

Famous for his poetry Keats was also a long distance walker and in the company of Charles Brown a wealthy Scottish Stockbroker in 1818 passed through Ballantrae, they usually stayed at local Inns but were warned off staying at the Inn at Ballantrae because the landlord was in ‘a little trouble’ i.e. he had been ‘taken’ for robbing the Paisley Bank.

PAWS FOR THOUGHT



Dougie Ogston 8th April 2000 – 20th March 2013

As many of you may know, Dougie passed away last month after a short illness. Over the course of a week his health declined rapidly until he was suffering from breathing difficulties and we made the very difficult decision to let him go. Dougie was almost 13 years old, having been my “millennium baby”. When Dougie came to join the family, I was still living at home with my parents and hadn't even met Stephen so Dougie was with me through many important stages of my life. At our wedding my father-in-law even joked that Stephen was only marrying me because he'd fallen in love with Dougie! Dougie happily retired to Ballantrae where he enjoyed the garden, beach and the crumbs that all the visitors left behind. He truly was a Manse dog and will be much missed by us all, and his brother Hamish who will take over writing his newsletter articles. In the words of our daughter, “Dougie has gone to Heaven to get a girlfriend and where Jesus will throw tennis balls for him.”

Barbara



Coffee Morning

In aid of Ballantrae Senior Citizens Summer Outing
Will be held in the Community Centre
On
Saturday 20th April 10am-11.30am
Adults £2 Child 50p.



News Letter

Items for April news letter by **Friday.26th April**

Announcements
Wednesday Worship

Wednesday 10th April at 11am in Ballantrae Church. Midweek reflection. All welcome.

Contemporary Praise Evening

Sunday 14th April at 7:30pm in Ballantrae Church. Worship led by Alan, Barbara and Gina. All welcome

Jesus in Film

The study group will continue on 21st April at 7:30pm at the Manse. We will be using clips from films about the life of Jesus to help us reflect on the cross and the resurrection.



Can I thank everybody who kindly gave to this years Leprosy collection which raised £135. A great sum of money and much needed by Leprosy Scotland to further their work in many countries where this disease is still rampant.

Penny

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.



Ballantrae Church Guild

Ballantrae Church Guild held its A.G.M. on Monday 18th March. The committee for the coming year is as follows.

Convener:- Margaret Maule

Treasurer:- May Lothian

Correspondence Secretary :-

Jessie Brown

Minutes Secretary:- Myra Heap

Projects partner:- Pat Guthrie

New member to the committee

May Cunningham.

The next meeting of the Guild will

be the "Open Night"

on Monday 15th April

at 7-15p.m.

in the Community Centre.

entertainment will be the

" Maybole Concert Party"

All are Welcome.

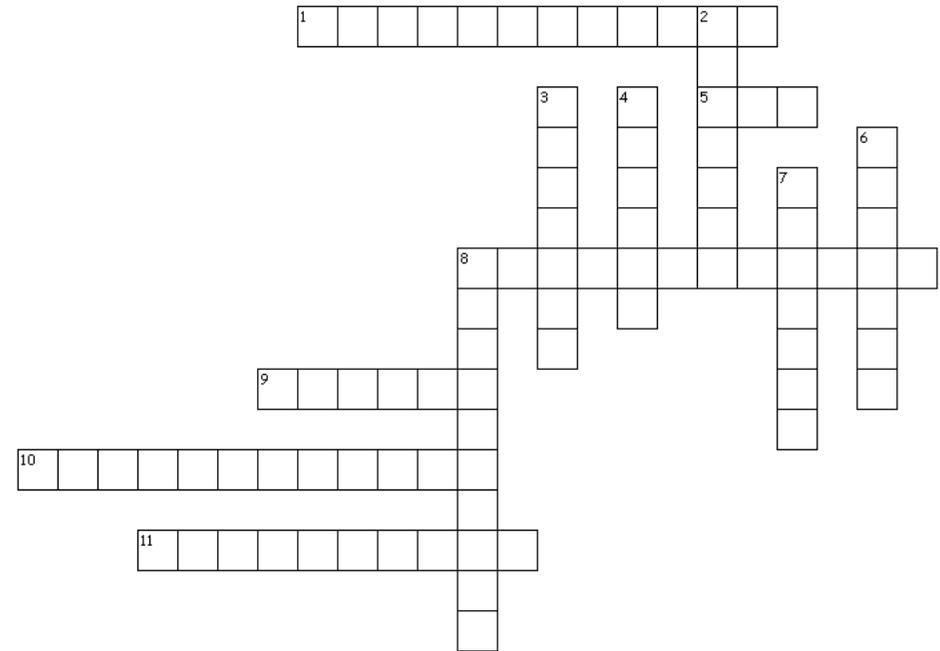
Diary Date :.

Coffee Morning Sat.11th May.

Wisdom

The good news: God is a nag. God won't give up, if we are destined to carry out some Divine idea, we won't be able to shrug it off. For most of us, God doesn't just whisper within. If we're supposed to get a message, we start to see it and hear it everywhere - books, sermons, television shows, conversations with friends

Lent



Across

- 1. Lent continues until _____ .
- 5. The Church gives us _____ weeks of Lent to prepare for Easter.
- 8. The day Lent begins.
- 9. The liturgical color for Lent is _____.
- 10. Lent is the time that we prepare for Jesus' _____.
- 11. Giving to the poor.

Down

- 2. To go without.
- 3. Easter celebrates the _____ Mystery, the mystery of our dying to sin and rising with Christ to the new life of grace.
- 4. We open our hearts to God's love by the Lenten practices of _____.
- 6. Lent is a time of _____.
- 7. Going without food
- 8. Not eating meat.

Dear Friends,



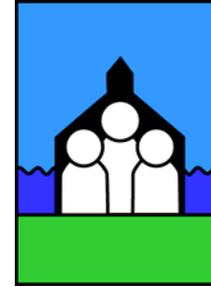
I am writing this on the evening of the first full day at Spring Harvest in Skegness. For those of you who haven't heard of Spring Harvest, it is a huge Christian event that takes place in the two Butlins Resorts at Skegness and Minehead each year around Easter. There are lots of activities for all ages to attend, great songs to learn and speakers on various subjects, as well as the normal Butlins facilities.

When I was a teenager, my family went to Spring Harvest each year for about 6 years when it was held in Ayr at the old Butlins site (now Craig Tara). It was a great time, which really sustained my faith and I really don't think I would be a minister if it wasn't for those years attending Spring Harvest. That is one reason why it is great to be here with my family and I am sure we will come back again if we can.

It is important, as Christians, to have times in our lives when our faith is sustained and strengthened. My hope is that this happens during the times we gather as a church family to worship, pray and enjoy fellowship. God does not want our faith to stay the same from year to year, rather he wants it to grow and develop so that we change and become more like Jesus. Therefore, if there is anything that you would like me to do to help your faith be strengthened, please let me know.

Over my time here at Spring Harvest, my hope is that God will renew and refresh my faith, so that I can continue to faithfully serve him as your minister.

God Bless
Stephen



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

St. COLMON

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