

## Weather



One of the most significant weather events in November was Typhoon Haiyan which divested part of the Philippines. The North Pacific is the most dangerous part of the world for tropical cyclones which can be so powerful that they have even helped to change the course of history. In 1274 the Mongol Emperor Kubla Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan, launched an invasion of Japan with 900 sailing vessels and 40,000 men. On November 18th the armada reached Hakata Bay on the island of Kyushu and the outnumbered Japanese samurai warriors were no match for the Mongol troops with their weapons of explosive shells, poison tipped arrows and accurate bows. Next day, after suffering huge casualties, the Japanese retreated, but during the night driving wind and rain began to lash the coast. The Mongol fleet was forced to sail into open sea to avoid running aground, but they sailed straight into a typhoon. By the end of the storm a third of the fleet had sunk with the loss of 13,000 men. Kubla Khan was still determined to conquer Japan for his immense empire and landed in 1281 and launched a second invasion with more than 4,000 ships and 140,000 men. Two armadas were launched from China and Korea. These would join up by spring before the worst of the typhoon season. The southern force was late and the invasion was delayed until late June. This time they faced vastly improved defences and fighting tactics. Bitter fighting raged without the Mongols making headway. Then a mighty typhoon blew up. Many ships collided, others made it out to sea only to be smashed up. Kubla Khan managed to escape but he never attacked Japan again. Had he succeeded Japan might now be part of China. In thanks the Japanese called the typhoons their “divine winds” or Kamikazes.

George Watt

### Ballantrae Christmas Film Night



Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December  
7pm – Nativity 2: Danger in the Manger

## Prayer



Luke 21:5-19

I pray that you cling to the love that upholds you  
when life is dismantled and nothing remains;  
when stones that were shelter lie broken and scattered,  
when hope that flowed freely dies, bound up in chains.

I pray that you cling to the love that upholds you  
in this vast transition this dark disarray  
when pain strikes like lightning and order is ruptured  
and nothing makes sense in the light of the day

I pray that you cling to the love that upholds you  
embraced, held and cradled find rest and release  
with words for your knowing and wisdom for others  
I pray that you cling to the peddler of peace

Jennie Gordon

### SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY



For Ballantrae Residents in the  
COMMUNITY CENTRE  
On WEDNESDAY 11th DECEMBER  
At 5pm

Persons aged 60yrs or over, plus their Spouse/partner, are  
invited

ALL WISHING TO ATTEND PLEASE PUT NAMES ON  
LIST IN SCOTMID CO-OPERATIVE

## PAWS FOR THOUGHT

Dear Friends,



I'm beginning to think that it is maybe my birthday soon. I'll be 2 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December however I can't tell the date so I need to use my Westie skills to look for clues. The first thing I noticed was that it is dark when I get my dinner. After dinner I go out to the garden and Mummy is very glad I am a white doggy so she can still see me! Next, I saw Mummy carrying lots of shopping bags so she must have been buying my presents. Now I hear Mummy and Daddy arguing about when they are going to put up my party decorations. I'm just waiting for one more sign then I'll be sure it is my birthday – Daddy bringing a real tree into the house for me to lift my leg on. I am such a spoilt little puppy. I do miss Dougie, and I'm sad he'll miss my birthday but I am hopeful that I'll get his share of the yummy party food. Especially turkey. I'm not as good at catching it in my mouth as Dougie was, so I'm trying to get Mummy and Daddy to keep throwing food at me so I can practise.

As Dougie used to always say at this time of year, Happy Christmas! May all your trees be well watered and remember that a turkey is not just for Christmas – it's for my birthday too!

Til next time,

Hamish 

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? 

[It's Christmas, Eve!]

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? 

*Claustrophobia!*

Why does Santa have three gardens? 

*So he can 'ho ho ho'!* 

Why did Santa's helper see the doctor? 

*Because he had a low "elf" esteem!*

## Brandy Ice Cream

4 eggs, separated

100g (4oz) Caster sugar

300ml. 1/2 pint double cream

4 tablespoons Brandy

Whisk the egg whites on fast speed, using an electric hand whisk, until light and stiff. Beat in the sugar, still on a fast speed, a little at a time until you have a thick glossy meringue. Fold in the egg yolks. Whisk the cream and brandy together until thick. Folding into the meringue mixture. Freeze in a flat polythene box overnight, for at least 12 hours. This ice cream can be frozen up to a month.

Try this ice cream with your Christmas pudding.



## Christmas Card Delivery



The box for the delivery of Christmas cards in the local area will be in the Church vestibule on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup>. and 15<sup>th</sup> December.

It would be appreciated if cards could be clearly addressed.

Hi Everyone,

For those who don't know me and John, we are going through a very sad time at the moment due to John being very ill. Last Sunday he wasn't good but when I came home with flowers from church from everyone, it picked him up and he didn't know people cared about us., but with everyone around us and your support and prayers we'll get through this.

God Bless and Love to all  
Bev & John



## S.W.R.I



Will meet on Monday  
2nd December.

Mrs Jean Wyllie will demonstrate  
Christmas crafts.

## 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**

## Announcements

### Wednesday Worship

a traditional service lasting 30 minutes. 4<sup>th</sup> December at 11am

### Christmas Services

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December:**  
3pm – Candlelit Service in Glenapp Church

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December:**  
7:30pm – Carol Concert in St Colmon, Colmonell

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December:**  
11am – Ballantrae and Colmonell Primary Schools Christmas Service

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December:**  
11:30am - Christmas Nativity Service

7pm – Christmas Carols in Ballantrae Church

**Tuesday 24 December:**  
11:30pm – Watchnight Service

**Wednesday 25 December:**  
10:30am – Christmas Family Service



## Ballantrae Church Guild



The next meeting of the Guild will be the Xmas lunch to be held on

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December  
in Malin Court at 12-30pm.

### Home Group

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 10:30am  
at the Manse.  
All are welcome.

### Malawi Mosquito Net Gift Cards

£7 buys one mosquito net for a family in Malawi, cards available to purchase each week from the minister or from Meg Peacock. An ideal and very valuable Christmas gift.



### Church Decoration

Everyone is welcome to come along and help decorate the Church on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 7pm  
Please bring greenery!  
Any queries contact Claire 831246.



### News Letter

Items for January news letter please no later than **Wednesday 1st January**

## Shoe Box Appeal 2014



Blythewood are delighted with the response of a 103 shoe boxes and wish to thank all who gave so generously.

### Used Stamps



REMEMBER to keep all your stamps at Christmas. Please leave a 2cm / 1/2" border all round.

The money raised by selling the stamps helps to provide funds for a project. In 2013, the stamp money is going to an environmental centre in the Czech-Moravian Highlands where they are teaching ecology and the impact of water on biodiversity. Money raised from the stamp project will go towards improving the education programme and offering more hands on exploration of plant and water life by restoring the old well at the centre and building a small lake. *You* can help further this exciting endeavour by collecting your used stamps which are sold to make money.

## FLOWER LISTS



Dec..

1st.

8th. M. Lothian

15th.

23rd. I Stewart

29th. P Savage

Flower Fund to which donations of any amount can be given at any time. These should be left in the offering plate in a suitably marked envelope, or given to the minister or any office bearer. If you wish to donate the flowers but don't feel able to arrange them, this can be done for you.

### Tea Sunday

Jan. 5th.

Betty Nelson, Rossi McKinley & Meg Peacock



### Church Cleaning Team



Dec.

8th. John & Janice McIlwraith

22th. Penny savage & Liz Gregg

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.**

## Letter from the Minister



Dear friends,

With Christmas just around the corner, we all find the next few weeks busy, as we try to get everything done. Whether it is making sure all the presents are bought, wrapped and labelled; sorting out arrangements for the various celebrations or just making sure we attend every event we are expected to be at.

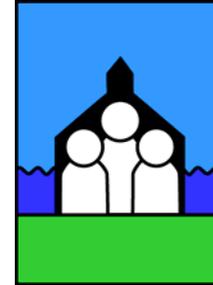
Sometimes we think about the first Christmas as being a time of peace and quiet, after all each year we sing carols such as “Silent Night” which present a tranquil image. And yet the pictures on the Christmas cards are probably far from the truth, because the census had brought lots of people back to the Bethlehem to register.

There is no doubt that Mary and Joseph were extremely glad to find anywhere to camp in such a busy, noisy town. However the little peace and quiet that existed was soon disturbed by the shepherds as they burst in with the news of angels in the night sky or wise men who spoke of a guiding star, not to mention all the animals whose shelter had been disturbed. I think we can be sure that the first Christmas was not that quiet or peaceful.

And yet I do hope that the time we spend together gives you a real break from all the busyness of Christmas. And that each service provides you time and space to reflect on the good news of Christmas and the joy that the birth of Jesus brings us all.

May God bless you as you enjoy Christmas this year.

Stephen



# CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

## St. COLMON

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

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