

Paws for Thought

C is for the cards I'll bite the postman for
H is for my winter coat Hanging by the door
R is for the Ruff Ruffs that I barked to surprise
I is for the ice cream and my Gala prize
S is for the Spleen that I didn't have this year
T is for the Turkey that I'll steal this year
M is for the Mail I received from fans
A is for the All the food I've eaten where it lands
S is for the sleep I've had in the new bed I got, trust me that really was quite a lot

Thanks for reading my articles this year and for all the mail you've sent. I'm looking forward to another year of entertaining you all. Have a Happy Christmas, and please remember a turkey isn't just for Christmas- it's for me too!

Dougie 



You do know what would have happened if it had been **three** wise **women** instead of men, don't you? They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought disposable nappies as gifts!

Did you hear about Ballantrae school Christmas nativity? Two kids dressed as Mary and Joseph on their way to the inn in Bethlehem. On the other side of the stage, a boy in a shepherd's outfit is on a mobile phone, calling for reservations.



SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

For Ballantrae Residents in the
COMMUNITY CENTRE

On

WEDNESDAY 8th DECEMBER

At 5pm

Persons aged 60yrs or over, plus their Spouse/partner, are invited
**ALL WISHING TO ATTEND PLEASE PUT NAMES ON LIST
 IN SPAR.**



Weather



During December the outer planet Jupiter is prominent in the southeast after sunset and slowly moves towards the southwest during the evening. Before dawn you can't fail to see the brilliance of the inner planet of Venus in the southeast.

Up until the 18th Nov. was very wet, the total rainfall being 238.1mm (9.37Ins). In the 24hrs ending at 9pm on the 8th we were by far the wettest place in the U.K. Leek in Staffordshire was quoted on ceefax as having 47.6mm(1.87ins) while I recorded 78.6mm(3.09ins). Thankfully the weather turned much drier from the 19th but also colder with frost at night. I expect by the time you read this , we shall have had some snow, but a cold November does not necessarily lead to a bad winter. An old folk lore saying goes: "Ice in November that will bear a duck, the rest of the winter will be slush and muck". There could be some truth in this because every few years the tropical seas of the Pacific become cooler, a phenomenon called La Nina. This can give a cold start to our winter but a mild end, and the stronger La Nina the bigger likely impact. The Pacific is currently in the throes of a growing La Nina that could become the most powerful on record. The last time a big La Nina appeared was in 1973-74. November '73 began mild but turned cold and snowy by the end. The cold eased off by midwinter and February was the mildest of the 70's.

Turning now to the star of Bethlehem, there is an interesting slant on this enduring mystery by Nigel Henbest in the Dec issue of "Sky at Night" magazine. Mathew wrote in his gospel soon after an expedition of Eastern Magi, led by the Armenian King Tiridates, had arrived in Rome. They had fallen at Nero's feet, exclaiming: "I have come to you, my God, to worship you" just as the wise men, according to Mathew, "Saw the child with Mary, and fell to the ground and worshipped him". This arrival of Tiridates was in AD66 when Halley's Comet was blazing in the sky. So perhaps Halley's comet had a role in the Nativity story in inspiring Mathew. It prompted him to furnish his account with a special star that matched Abraham's prenatal spectacle and upstaged Tiridates adoration of the pagan Nero. As a devoted biographer Mathew was compelled to write a brilliant Star of Bethlehem into his script! It is unlikely we will ever know for sure.

Perhaps the real "STAR" was lying in the manger!

George Watt



Gift Aid



Please contact me if you would like weekly offering envelopes.

You can donate to the church in this way whether church members or not. Please consider signing the Gift Aid declaration so the church can gain more from your gift at no extra cost to yourself. As long as you are a taxpayer your donations can be part of the Gift Aid scheme. If you already make donations and wish to know if they are part of the Gift Aid scheme please get in touch with me.

Jillian Nelson
Telephone 871221
email

robertnelson285@btinternet.com



Ballantrae Film Nights



Wednesday 29th December at 7pm

We are showing the British comedy:
Nativity! (2009) (U)

with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies after it.

Harvest Collection



Total amount was £736.

Thanking everyone for their kind donations.



Christmas cards

The Christmas card box will be in church on **Sunday 12th** and **Sunday 19th. December** for cards to be delivered locally. Please address envelopes clearly, addresses are important especially the street numbers. Donations to church funds.



Shoe Box Appeal

May I once again thank you, on behalf of Blythswood Care, for all your efforts this year in amassing a 148 shoeboxes and donations from Ballantrae and St.Colmon Parish Church members and friends.

Sincere Christian greetings,
Fraser Hutchison.

Christmas is the one time of year when people of all religions come together to worship Jesus Christ.
- Bart Simpson



For reading and meditation:- 1 Peter, v3-5 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in heaven for you, who are shielded by God's power until the coming of salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. As a family we have suffered many bereavements, parents aunts and uncles, cousins, grandchildren, friends More recently a brother and a much loved sister. We all face sadness in our lives. On the joyous side we have welcomed a new baby, our great grandson.

Over two thousand years ago another baby was welcomed into a family. An event that we will celebrate on the 25th December, The birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. An event that brought and still brings with it joy and sadness We are in the season of Advent, thinking about the events that led up to the birth of Jesus,— what does it mean for us? It means that we are forgiven our sins and the promise of eternal life is ours through Him.

That in accepting Jesus as our Saviour we acknowledge Him as the true and only Son of God our Father. Hidden within the joy of Christmas is the sadness that we will have to reflect on the death and suffering of Jesus at Easter. All is not lost. We know that our Saviour lives. He was born. He died and was resurrected. This is the glorious hope that we celebrate at this season, not the tinsel, the turkey and the trimmings.

Prayer

God our Father, thank you for your Son Jesus, As we approach this time of celebration help us to meditate on the gift you gave us. A gift that transcends all gifts. In today's world we need to remember the positive, not the superficial and negative that surrounds us, We need to show those around us the joy that comes from knowing you Let our hearts be filled with love for our brothers and sisters As your heart was filled with love for us Accepting them as Jesus accepts us.

With every blessing in Jesus name Pat.

Christmas Services



Sunday 12th Dec. at 3pm
Glenapp Christmas Candlelit
Service

Sunday 19th Dec. at 11:30am
D.I.Y. Nativity – come and join in
our fun retelling of the Christmas
story.

Wednesday 22nd Dec. at 11am
Ballantrae Primary School
Christmas Service

Friday 24th Dec. at 11:30pm
Christmas Watch night Service

Saturday 25th Dec. at 10:30am
Christmas Day Service – bring your
toys as we celebrate Jesus' birthday

Sunday 26th December at 10am
Lessons and Carols
A Joint Service in St Colmon
Church, Colmonell

Sunday 2nd Dec. at 11:30am
All Age Service



Christmas Lunch at the Manse

**Thursday 9th Dec. at 12 noon
until 2pm**
A time of fellowship, faith and food.

All welcome.



Ballantrae Church Guild



The Guild Christmas meal this year
will be lunch in the Harbourhead
Restaurant, Girvan. This will take
place on Monday **20th December,**
12.30pm for 1.00pm.

Members will be notified of
transport arrangements at a later
date.

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT



St Colmon Parish Church in
Colmonell

Friday 17th December 7.30pm
Come and sing all your favourites
Tea, Coffee, Mince Pies and
A Warm Welcome to All



S.W.R.I



Meet on Monday 10th January

“Healthy Tips”
From Cathy Thorburn.

Old and new members will be
given a warm welcome.

Eggnog Cookies



Makes Approximately 3
Dozen
Preheat oven to 300 degrees.



Ingredients

2 1/4 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 1/4 cups white sugar
3/4 cup butter, softened
1/2 cup eggnog
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 large egg yolks



Directions

In a bowl, combine all the dry ingredients
together. In a large bowl, cream together the
sugar and butter until it resembles a grainy
paste. Add eggnog, vanilla and egg yolks and
beat at medium speed until smooth. Add the
flour mixture and beat at low speed until
blended. Do not over mix. Drop by teaspoons
onto ungreased baking sheet, 1 inch apart.
Sprinkle lightly with additional nutmeg. Bake
for 23-25 minutes or until bottoms turn light
brown. Transfer to cooling rack immediately.
Something different for the holiday season.

News Letter

Items for next months news letter
should be in by
29th December.



LISTS AND ROTAS

Flower Calendar

Dec.

5th. M. Dempsey
12th.
19th. Guild
26th. P. Savage



January Tea Duty

Betty Nelson, May
Cunningham, Rossi
McKinley & Meg Peacock

Church Cleaning Team

Dec. 12th. Irene Stewart &
Georgina McKinley
Dec 26th. May & Tom
Lothian

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

Dec.		Jan.	
5th.	B	2nd.	F
12th.	C	9th.	A
19th.	D	16th.	B
26th.	E	23rd.	C
		30th.	D

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

During the week, I was sent a book called the 'McWhirters of Colmonell: Genesis & Exodus' which has been written by Douglas A McWhirter, who lives in Toronto, Canada. In the book he charts the beginnings of the McWhirters and what life was like in Colmonell, before looking at those who emigrated to North America. It is a very impressive book and if anyone would like to see my copy or order one for themselves then please ask. (The reason I was sent a copy of his book was that I had helped him during his research by providing a scanned copy of the unpublished book 'The Parish of Colmonell' by David Dryan written in 1873.)

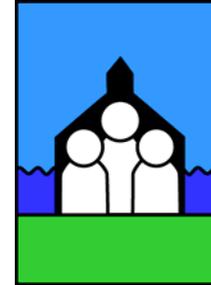
Journeys are part of our life, and during most days, we will journey from one place to another, even if it is just to the shop or to see our friends. However, many of us will have had to move from one place to another during the course of our lives. It was nearly two years ago that Barbara and I moved down here from Glasgow, and so two years ago just now our house was full of boxes as we prepared for the move.

At Christmas, we remember the journey made by Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. I am sure that they did not know exactly what to expect. In the days before instant or even quick communication, they could not book a place to stay before they arrived. Nor did they know how long they would be in Bethlehem. The press release from the Roman Empire had been vague on many of the important details, all it had said was that they were to return to Joseph's home town. And so as they packed they did not know when they would be back, nor when they would see their families and friends again.

As we reflect on that journey, let us remember our journey of faith, which we are all making throughout our lives. During much of it we will have peaceful times, when we feel close to God and our faith remains strong. However as we all know there will be times when life is more challenging and our faith seems to be more of a struggle. These times are natural and we need to always remember that regardless of how difficult we find the change, God is with us, and will always care for us throughout our journey.

I hope you have a great and joyful Christmas,

God bless,
Stephen



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

St. COLMON

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