

## Weather



My final rainfall figures for 2012 were 1625.9mm (64.01ins), making it above my 16years average of 1535.9mm (60.47ins), but 2011 was much wetter with 1843.7mm (72.59ins). The worst flooding was on the 19th November when many roads became impassable including the A77 near the Stinchar bridge. On the 25th of October 2000 it was only slightly worse.

The mean temperature for the year was 9.08°C compared to my 11years average of 9.57°C only 2010 was colder. I recorded my highest May temperature on the 25th with 27.8°C (82°F). I remember saying to myself “That’s the summer for another year” and it was!

2013 started fairly mild but turned colder on the 10th January. Not much snow until 21st when I ended up getting 10cm (4ins) of level snow by late evening. The measured rainfall between the 24th and the 26th was 85.5mm (3.44ins) and I expect by the time you read this we shall have had our fair share of “seasonal” gales.

George Watt



## Miraculous Journey's



Mrs Marble, a Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when little Percy interrupted. 'My mummy looked back once while she was driving,' he announced, 'and she turned into a telephone pole.'

### Narrow escape



The Reverend Douglas Johnston was not the best of drivers. One Sunday he was driving home from church when unfortunately, he had a minor bump with cyclist. The poor man was knocked off his bike into the ditch. The Minister naturally stopped his car, got out and profusely apologised and gave the cyclist his calling card saying that if he could ever be of help, then the man should not hesitate to ask. As the man rode home he looked at the card which said, 'The Reverend Douglas Johnston is sorry he missed you today.'



## Ballantrae Church Flower Fund



Coffee morning in B.R.I.C.C.  
House  
Thursday 21st of February  
10a.m.-11-30am  
Free entry  
Donations in support of  
Church Flower Fund



I would like to thank everyone who visited. For the flowers, Baking, sweets and also all the lovely cards received after my fall.  
Thank you all for your kindness.

May Lothian

## Chicken And Mushroom Pie

The ultimate comfort food, this chicken and mushroom pie made with double cream, white wine and thyme is great on cold nights.

### Ingredients

- 55g (2oz) butter
- 1 onion, peeled and sliced
- 300g (10½ oz) mushrooms, halved
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and chopped
- 2tbsp chopped fresh thyme
- 40g (1½ oz) plain flour
- 150ml (5fl oz) dry white wine
- 300ml (10fl oz) chicken stock
- 4 ready-roasted chicken breasts, cubed
- 142ml pot double cream
- 250g packet ready-rolled puff pastry
- 1 egg, beaten
- Sprigs of thyme, to garnish



### Method

Preheat the oven to 200°C (400°F, gas mark 6). Heat the butter in a large saucepan, add the onion and cook over a medium heat for 5mins. Add the mushrooms and cook for a further 5mins. Add the garlic and thyme and fry for 3mins. Stir in the flour and cook, stirring, for a further 5mins. Add the white wine and the chicken stock, bring to the boil and simmer until thickened. Stir in the chicken, simmer for 5mins, add the cream and season. Spoon into four ovenproof dishes and top with circles of pastry. Trim the edges and brush with the beaten egg. Top each with a sprig of thyme. Bake for 15 mins until risen. You can use Elmlea instead of double cream if you are watching your weight.

For the minister's 60th birthday, the congregation, decided to give a present of a new suit. The minister was so moved by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and began his homily with a tear in his eye, 'Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit.'



## PAWS FOR THOUGHT



Hello, Dougie again.

It's been a very quiet month for us, we've been hibernating.

We did go on holiday which was good fun. It was the first time Hamish had been to Crieff. He had lots of fun chasing squirrels and lots of new sniffs on his walks. It was also our first holiday that all 6 of us had been on together. It was a bit of a squash in the car. Hamish travelled in a dog carrier in the boot, while I had my harness on and was strapped between the two children. The children think it is funny to sit their teddy bears on my back. I don't think it's funny at all, but I put up with it. I know my place.

You might remember last month I was telling you that I was dragged off to the vet for some tests. Well I got taken again this month. I was given this stuff that made me feel a bit sleepy. I'm not really sure what happened next, but when mummy came to get me I spent the rest of the day falling asleep in strange places and confusing windows for doors and trying to get out them. Mummy says I'm being tested for Cushings Disease, which I guess must mean I spend too long asleep on the cushions on the couch. I'll let you know what happens.

Anyway, till next time

Dougie



## Ballantrae Film Nights



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
6pm – Madagascar 3  
8pm – Skyfall



Hew Drum very much appreciated the cards, visits and flowers together with good wishes following his surgery.  
Thanks to you all.

## Announcements

### Wednesday Worship

6th February and 13th March at 11am in Ballantrae Church  
Come and join us for a half hour traditional service.

### Contemporary Praise Evening

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February and 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7:30pm  
in Ballantrae Church  
worship led by Alan, Barbara and Gina

### Jesus in Film – Lent Study Group

on the following dates we will be reflecting on how the events leading up to Easter have been portrayed in film and how this compares with what the Bible says.  
Sunday Evening – 7:30pm in the Manse.  
17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March.  
All are welcome

### 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



Unfortunately the January meeting was cancelled owing to bad weather, also a number of members had cancelled because of illness..  
The February meeting will be on Monday 18th February at 7-15p.m. in the buffet room.  
Subject "A Faith to Proclaim"

### Diary Dates



### World Day of Prayer

will be on Friday 1st of March at 7p.m. in the Church.

The **Annual Lenten Lunch** will be held Sunday 3rd of March after morning service in the Community Centre.  
Adults £4 Children £2.



## SWRI



The next meeting will take place on Monday 4th Feb.  
All welcome.

## Prayer



Dear God,  
Sometimes the world is rubbish.  
When nothing goes right . . .  
When we quarrel with people . . .  
When no-one speaks to us . . .  
When work is too hard . . .  
When parents quarrel . . .  
When there are wars and fights . . .  
When there are floods and earthquakes . . .  
When people are hungry or homeless . . .  
When all these things happen we are sad.  
Help us to know that you hold all things together.  
Sometimes we know that we are the ones that are wrong.  
We are the ones who have messed up.  
We are the ones who have been angry.  
We are the ones who said : it wasn't me!  
We are sorry.  
But we know that even when we are wrong you love us and hold us together.  
Thank you and keep on holding us together.

Amen.



## News Letter

Items for February news letter by **Tues.26th February**

## Leprosy Collection



Yes it is that time of year again.  
Anyone who would like to give a donation to this great cause can do so at anytime in February.  
Please give your donation to Penny Savage or Liz Gregg.  
Thank you in anticipation.

## Flower Calendar



Just to remind everybody the flower calendar is at the church entrance and there is still a few vacant spaces, anyone wishing to donate flowers should add their name against the appropriate Sunday's date.



Dear Friends,

Where has the last four years gone? That's right, it is now four years that I have been your minister and I just want to say that it has been a great privilege. You have always been friendly and supportive, even if you haven't always agreed me. You have cared for my family and I, and I have enjoyed getting to know you over the years. You are my family, and I care for each one of you and pray that God will continue to bless you as we continue our journey together.

And it is a journey that we are on, which even though we were apart for many years, we are now taking together. Each one of you has taken a different route to get here and have different experiences and views on what church should be like. Some of you may have grown up in this church and always been a part of it. Whereas others will have been part of different churches over the years, and so have a variety of experiences. Personally, I think I have been part of about a dozen churches over my life and each one was different to the other.

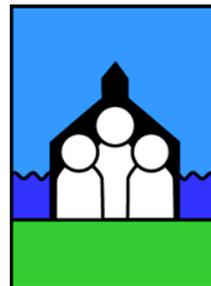
Therefore when we come together, it is good to remember that what we think church should be like is not going to be what everyone else thinks it should be like, especially in regard to our worship. This is why I try to have a balance in the services of worship that are on during each month. Some are more traditional and some are more contemporary and interactive, but hopefully there is something for everyone.

However what I hope that we can all agree on, is that our church should always be a friendly, welcoming place where everyone can experience God's love through the worship, prayer, teaching, serving and fellowship. We are a church, the family of God in our community, and even if we struggle to see eye to eye at all times, I know that we will always care for one another just as God cares for us.

As I look to the years before us, let me say that just as you are each precious to God, so you are precious to me and I am so glad to be part of your fellowship.

May God always bless you,

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)**

