

PRAYER



He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:29–31, NIV

Lord our God, our loving Father, we thank you for all that our hearts and spirits are allowed to receive from you. We thank you for the community you give us, strengthening us to face life even through toil, struggle, and privation. Grant that your powers flow out to give us strength and courage. May we see and recognize you in your deeds ever more clearly. Do not let us faint or grow weary, no matter what we have to suffer. Grant that your Spirit may penetrate us ever more deeply to bring peace to us and those around us, and finally to bring blessing for all peoples of the earth.

Amen

February

Traditionally it is said that the 12th and 14th of February were “borrowed” from January and if these two days were fine then the weather would be foul but if they were stormy then the year ahead would have good weather. It is also said that if the weather is fine and frosty at the end of January beginning of February there is more winter weather to come.

If February has much snow,
A fine summer it doth foreshow.

Answers given in a Bible Knowledge tests



Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.

The greatest miracle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he actually obeyed him.

Unleavened bread is bread made with no ingredients.

A Christian should have only one wife. This is called monogamy.

Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Jericho.



Solomon had 1000 wives and 700 concubines.



The epistles were the letters of the apostles.

When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.

When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found Jesus hidden in the manger.

The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 disciples.

St. Paul converted to Christianity. He preached holy matrimony, which is another name for marriage.



Film Night



Friday 14th February

6pm – Croods (PG) (Animation)

8pm – Leap Year (PG) (Romantic Comedy)

PAWS FOR THOUGHT



Dear Friends

It's a hard life being a single pet in the household. It can be a bit lonely at times, especially when the children are at school. Nothing to do except sleep next to mummy's radiator in her office, dreaming of running along the beach. Well I got a big surprise recently. Mummy had been very busy making secret arrangements. Lots of parcels and boxes arrived and I worked out that some were from the pet shop. I got so excited when I heard mummy say "new arrivals" that I had a bit of an accident on the carpet. At last the big day arrived, and we were all invited into the "visitors room" as the children call it, to meet the new additions to the family. Honestly, I have never been so disappointment in my life. I had been imagining running around with a puppy friend or watching a hamster run around in its wheel as I tried to catch it, but oh no, mummy has bought the most boring pets in the world. An enormous fish tank. I mean really, what is the point? I'm not allowed to eat them. They just do the same things all the time. You can't cuddle them or take them for walks. And, even worse, they have their very own heater in the tank that's on all the time! Mummy counts the fish every morning. I'm sure she thinks I might eat one. You never know.....

Till next time

Hamish



Thank You

The Nelson family would like to thank friends, neighbours and the Rev. Stephen Ogston for the kindness and support shown to them during their recent sad loss.

High Kilphin.



Gift Aid

giftaid it

giftaid it

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

jills04@outlook.com

YOUR GIVING HELPS THE CHURCH GROW

Your giving helps the church grow by developing partnerships worldwide, providing social care services in Christ's name, and contributing the Church's opinion in public debate.

Decide in your own heart what to give, not reluctantly; without feeling compelled: God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7



Announcements

Evening Celebration

Sunday 2nd February and 2nd March
7:30pm in the Church

Wednesday Worship

Wednesday 5th February
11am in the Church
We will be continuing our look at Jesus in the Gospel of Luke.

Home Group

Friday 14th February at 10:30am
at Ballaird Farm, Pinwherry
Friday 28th February at 10am at
Druidslea, Garleffin, Ballantrae
A time of worship, bible study and
prayer.
See Stephen for more information.

Intimation

Funeral of George Watt
Monday 10th February at 10:30am
Masonhill Crematorium



News Letter

Items for February news
letter please no later than
Wednesday 29th February



Ballantrae Church Guild



At the January meeting of the Guild members enjoyed hearing Mrs Moira McAlpine speaking about her work as a female Prison Governor in the Scottish Prison Service. It was quite a challenging career in the various Scottish prisons which she worked in. The next meeting will be on Monday 17th February at 7.15pm. in the buffet room of the Community Centre. The speaker Christine Eldridge will be speaking on 'Working with Church Groups'.



S.W.R.I

Will meet on Monday 6th Jan.
Cookery Demonstration
by Susan Crosswaite

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**

Snowdrop



“The Snowdrop, in purest white array,
First rears her head on Candlemass day.”

The snowdrop appears in February and is a symbol of hope. Legend says the snowdrop became the symbol of hope after Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden. When the winters were really cold and Eve thought they would never end, an angel appeared and turned some of the snowflakes into snowdrop flowers, this then became a sign that winter does give way to spring.

Facts about snowdrops.

Snowdrops are also known as Candlemas bells. The actual name snowdrop does not mean “drop” of snow but stems from drop as in eardrop—the old word for earring. The Latin name for snow drop is Galanthus, which means “milk flower”. There is 20 species of wild snowdrops in the world and up to 2000 cultivated varieties They are not native to the UK and it is unsure when they were brought into this country but they became very fashionable in Victorian times “mid 19th century”

FLOWER LISTS



Feb.
2nd. M Peacock
9th. C Strain
16th.
23rd. J Brown

Just to remind everybody the flower calendar is at the church entrance, anyone wishing to donate flowers should add their name against the appropriate Sunday's date.

Tea Sunday March. 2nd.



Dorothy Flitter, Margaret Maule & Anthea Russell

Church Cleaning Team

Feb.
2nd. Sharon Taylor & Irene Stewart
16th. Tom & May Lothian
March.
2nd. Meg Peacock & Lorna Greenhill

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,

Last month I said that over the course of the coming year, I was going to reflect on belonging to God's family. We started by thinking about God's love for each one of us and the love he has shown us through Jesus.

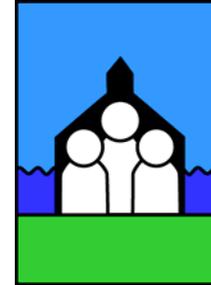
The family of God is open to all people in the world but it does not contain all people of the world. That is not what the bible teaches and to suggest otherwise is to misrepresent what our faith is all about. Yes God loves all people, but as Peter said, while full of the Holy Spirit, "There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12) And so while God loves all people, and the offer to become his children is open to all, it takes belief in Jesus to become part of God's family.

This is great news for us, that in order to become children of the one who created us and loves us completely, all we need to is believe in Jesus and accept him. We don't have to perform ten daring tasks or do one hundred good deeds or live perfect lives. All we need to do is believe in Jesus and accept the love that is offered to us.

And yet, as the bible makes clear, not everyone in the world thinks this is good news. As John writes at the beginning of his gospel, "Jesus came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:10-12)

And so let us, who have believed in Jesus and accepted him, rejoice that God loves us as his dear and precious children and has welcomed us into his family through Jesus.

God bless,
Stephen



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

St. COLMON

www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk

Minister: Revd. Stephen Ogston

Tel. 01465831252 E-mail: ogston@macfish.com

