

New Year Prayer



Thank You Lord for giving me the brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should as each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom that I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage so a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty, help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy and happiness it brings.

Amen

Weather



For me two cards at Christmas stood out above all the rest. One was from the Met Office's HQ in Exeter. It said "We wanted to acknowledge the efforts of our very best observers. It was not easy drawing up a shortlist but I am pleased to say you were identified as one of those who consistently send in high quality data." The second card was from one of the staff of the Met Office in Edinburgh. It said "Your climate data is highly regarded and your dedication much appreciated. I feel honoured that much of what I learned in observing came from yourself back at Glasgow Weather Centre in 1982. Many of your explanations are still firmly etched in my mind." A "Thank you" goes a long way—and I got two!

I have not finished compiling the statistics for 2013 yet, but there were at least three memorable events—the severe snow storm on the 22nd of March, the three weeks of summer weather in July and the frequent gales in December.

All the best to you all in 2014.

George Watt

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and click its first letter then its last letter to highlight it. (John 1)



Cried, Faith, Father, Fulness, Grace, Man, Received, Sinner, Son, Things, Witness, Christ

Answers given in a Bible Knowledge test



The first book of the Bible is Guinness's. In the book of Guinness Adam and Eve were created from an apple. (Hmm could they mean Genesis?)

Noah built the ark and the animals came on in pairs. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of the Ark. 😊

Moses went to the top of Mount Cyanide to get the 10 Commandments.

The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery. 😊



PAWS FOR THOUGHT



Well my dear friends, I hope you had a lovely Christmas and New Year. I did, but my birthday was a bit forgotten about in all the busyness however I did receive a lovely gift from an admirer in Colmonell. I also received a lovely letter from a fellow canine friend called Rex. He is a little bit younger than me, so I think he wanted me to share my wisdom with him. So Rex, you seem to be doing all the right things — but lifting your leg on the washing baskets gets a much better reaction. You should try it!

I am hoping for a new bed this month. Mummy has lost count of the beds I've destroyed so far. I'm winning—she hasn't found an indestructible one yet. The most recent has lasted the longest so I might get another one the same. Mummy has realised there is no point getting me a furry one or one with a zip. She has even assigned one of the children to “fluff duty” to clear all the fluff I've pulled out of my bed and toys!

Till next time

Hamish



Film Night



Friday 17th January

6pm— Rise of the Guardians (PG)

8pm—The Impossible (12A) (Based on a true story of a family caught in the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami).

Friday 31st January

6pm—Planes (U)

8pm— Star Trek into Darkness (12A)

Thank You

Jean Dunlop and family would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and flowers received following their sad bereavement. Their thanks also to everyone who attended the funeral service, Rev Stephen Ogston for his kindly help and to all who contributed to the retiring collection at Masonhill Crematorium.

Your offers of help are very much appreciated by the family

Stinchar Holm

33 Downan Avenue

Wee White Dug

Many thanks to all those at the Pinwherry craft fair, Colmonell Circle and Ballantrae Church who have bought jewellery over the autumn. £400 has been raised for the church Malawi Fund through sales of jewellery.

I hope you enjoy your purchases.

Christmas Card Facts



In the year 1843 the first Christmas cards went on sale in London for 6 pennies each.

At auction one of the first Christmas cards reached a record breaking £20,000

700million Christmas cards were delivered by the Royal Mail in 2012 and they expect to deliver a similar amount this year 2013.

Announcements

Congregational Board and Kirk Session

Wednesday 15th January at
7.30pm.

Home Group

Friday 17th January at 10:30am
Will meet at
3 Main Street Pinwherry
All are welcome for a time of
worship, bible study and prayer.

South Carrick Churches Together

Week of Prayer for Christian
Unity Service
Sacred Hearts Catholic Church
Sunday 19th January at 7pm

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**



News Letter

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



Ballantrae Church Guild



The December guild meeting was
the Christmas Lunch at Malin
Court which was very enjoyable.
The first meeting in the new year
will be the 20th January in the
community centre at
7-15p.m. The speaker will be
Moira McAlpine
" Prison Governer "

S.W.R.I



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

Going on-line ?



Worth a look!

<http://www.christianweb.org.uk/>

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/>

<http://www.christianitymagazine.co.uk/>

<http://www.biblegateway.com/>

<http://www.biblegateway.com/app/>

Used Stamps



There is still time to hand in your
stamps from 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.

Glory to God in highest heaven, Who
unto man His Son hath given; While
angels sing with tender mirth, A glad
new year to all the earth." - **Martin
Luther**

FLOWER LISTS



The Flower Calendar for
2014 is at the Church
entrance, and those wishing to
donate the Church Flowers should
add their name against the
appropriate Sundays. If you feel
you can't afford to provide all the
flowers for a Sunday, there is a
Flower Fund to which donations
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 Feb. 2nd.

Lorna Greenhill, Florence Brown,
Penny Savage & Liz Gregg

Church Cleaning Team

Jan.

5th. Tom & Jean Davidson

19th. Anthea Russell & Jessie
Brown

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 brothers and sisters,

Throughout 2014, I am going to write about belonging to God's family. When we gather together on a Sunday or at any other time, we do not gather as individuals, nor as members of a club or society, instead we come together as children of God. We have not gathered together by accident, but are here because of God's great love for us.

John, who is often called the Apostle of Love, wrote in his first letter, "See how very much our Father loves us, for he call us his children, and that is what we are!" (1 John 3;1a)

Love is important in all families and the church is no exception. It is important to always remember the deep love that God, our heavenly Father, has for us. It is His love that welcomes each one of us. It is His love that surrounds us and cares for us. It is His love that picks us up when we fall down. It is His love that holds us forever.

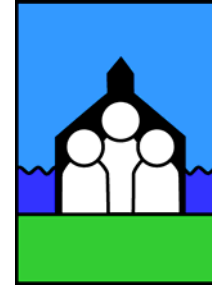
Children always enjoy demonstrations of love from their parents, and we are no exception. That is why Jesus means so much to us. For it is through Jesus that God showed all the whole world how much He loves us.

John also wrote: "God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." (1 John 4:9,10)

As we start a new year, let us remember this wonderful truth at the heart of our faith—that the love of God for us was so great that he did all he could to bring us into his family. How amazing is the love our Father God has for us!

God bless,

Stephen



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

St. COLMON

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