

## Paws for Thought

Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a turkey filled Christmas, and a happy New Year. I certainly had a turkey filled Christmas (and sausages, and ham, and steak pie). Thank you to those of you who sent me Christmas cards. Maybe I should start sending out photos of myself to my fans? I could wear one of my many outfits – fortunately this year mummy forgot about my Santa costume until it was too late. I'm glad the snow didn't last long – you try walking naked through snow when you are only 6 inches off the ground!

I got my favourite ever Christmas present, but mum and dad really made me work for it. I could sniff it for days – it was driving me crazy trying to find it. Once I got quite close and tipped over the box it was in, but I got told to wait until Christmas. I got 2 tennis balls and a squeaky toy that I rapidly unwrapped and destroyed (it's a terrier thing!), and 3 bags of my favourite treats. I only like one kind of treat – mummy found that out the hard way! When I was a little puppy, she took me to owner training classes (I think that's what they were called). Anyway, I was supposed to teach mummy how to stay, sit and lie down but quite honestly it wasn't worth it. All I got was a liver treat, and I don't like liver treats so I went on strike. Mummy used to go home from school crying, so eventually we reached a compromise where I'd do as I was told in return for a nicer treat. I only lasted one term before mummy couldn't take any more!

Till next time,

Dougie



## Weather

By the end of December the deep cold which had prevailed had relented but I suspect the cold will have returned by early New Year.

One of the main weather events of 2010 was the floods which affected Pakistan during their monsoon season. The “Noah” flood would get the prize for being the greatest, but some 5,000 years ago Mesopotamia (now Iraq) poets told stories of a great flood sent to destroy the world. One man Utnapishtim built a huge vessel to save his family and every type of animal. Eventually the story was written down on a clay tablet, the flood tablet, in about 700-600 BC: “Build a boat! Abandon wealth and seek survival. Spurn property, save life. Take on board seed of all living things.”

This might sound like the biblical story of Noah, but the flood tablet was created 400 years before the oldest surviving version of the Bible. In fact, stories of a great flood were told by many cultures. That flood may have been triggered when the ice sheets melted at the end of the last Ice Age. Lake Agassiz in North America burst and an immense flood of freshwater tore into the Atlantic. That led to a catastrophic rise in global sea levels, including the flooding of the Black Sea from the Mediterranean.

Chris Turney of the university of Exeter has said “Entire coastal communities must have been displaced--- they would have taken farms with them across Europe. It was a revolutionary time.”

The Flood Tablet is at the British Museum.

George Watt



## Christmas cards

A total of £100 was donated to church funds from the delivery of local Christmas cards. We are grateful to all who supported this and thanks goes to the Posties; Pat Alsop, May Cunningham, Bob Stirling and Meg & Eric Peacock.

## New Year Resolutions

Should we make a New Years resolution or not some people say “A New Year’s resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.”



## LIFE & WORK

Please note that the cost of the magazine has increased this year. This is the first price increase for 5 years.

The annual fee is now £18-36 and £1-53 if paying monthly.  
May Lothian

## “THANKS”



“Thanks to the Church for remembering me, and to all those who have been kind to me”.

Margaret McKissock



## 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](mailto:robertnelson285@btinternet.com)



Moses' first and last day as a lifeguard.



A preacher visits an elderly woman from his congregation. As he sits on the couch he notices a large bowl of peanuts on the coffee table. "Mind if I have a few?" he asks. "No, not at all!" the woman replied. They chat for an hour and as the preacher stands to leave, he realizes that instead of eating just a few peanuts, he emptied most of the bowl. "I'm terribly sorry for eating all your peanuts, I really just meant to eat a few." "Oh, that's all right," the woman says. "Ever since I lost my teeth all I can do is suck the chocolate off them."



A minister tells of his first Sunday in a new parish and of presenting the children's message. The church had some magnificent stained glass windows, so his message centered on how each of us is called to help make up the whole picture of life Like the pictures in the windows, it takes many little panels of glass to make the whole picture. And then he said, "You see each one of you is a little pane." And then pointing to each child, "You're a little pane. And you're a little pane. And you're a little pane. And..."

For reading and meditation :- John 1 v.1-18



A new year, a new beginning!

My resolution is not to make any resolutions. I will try to learn from all the mistakes I made in 2010 and try to do better in 2011. Because God loved us so much he sent His Son so that we can all have a new beginning. Jesus came to give us a second chance. This is a good time to take stock and look at our vision of life in Jesus and within our church.

### Prayer

Father God, we love you because you loved us first thank you for all the blessings we receive through Jesus Christ. You are a God of second chances if we truly repent of our sins. Thank you for the opportunity to be put right with you through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, May we experience great joy in the coming year as we seek to know you better through your word. Holy Spirit fill us with the holy fire let the flame burn bright within us at the start of this new year. Joy to the World, The Lord is Come.

Amen

With every blessing in His precious name for Peace in your hearts and home. Pat



### Used Stamps

As well as used stamps, we also collect old spectacles and used ink cartridges (except Epson). Please note! All stamps should have a 10mm or more border around the stamp.



### Ian White Concert

Here is a reminder:  
Ian White will be giving a concert in Girvan North on **8<sup>th</sup> February 2011**. Ian White has written many hymns and songs over the last 25 years.



## Church Family



S.W.R.I



### Baptisms

Anna Maisie McKinley

### Glenapp Service

with the Baptism of Douglas Russell

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2011 @ 3pm

All welcome

### Wednesday Worship

12<sup>th</sup> January 2011

11am in Ballantrae Church

All Welcome

### Lunch at the Manse

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January

12 noon until 2pm

### Congregational Board and

### Kirk Session

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January

7:30pm in the Session Room

### Ballantrae Church Guild

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Jan.

in the Community Centre

Mrs P Evans will tell us her  
“Thoughts on Complimentary  
Medicine”

### Meet on Monday 10th January

#### “Healthy Tips”

From Cathy Thorburn.

Old and new members will be  
given a warm welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Flower Calendar



The Flower Calendar for 2011 is at the Church entrance, and those wishing to donate the Church Flowers should add their name against the appropriate Sundays. We are grateful to those who donate the Church flowers, which are sent to those who are sick or elderly. If you feel you can't afford to provide all the flowers for a Sunday, there is a 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.

## Lemon Cheese Mincemeat Strudel

Use up left-over mincemeat from Christmas  
125g/4oz packet cream cheese  
Grated rind of 2 lemons  
1 Green apple, peeled & roughly grated  
8 tbsps. Mincemeat  
60g/2oz Fresh white breadcrumbs  
8 small or 4 large sheets Filo pastry  
30g/1oz Butter melted  
Icing sugar for dusting

Preheat oven to 2000/400F/gas mark 6.  
Beat the cream cheese until smooth then add the grated lemon rind and apple, mincemeat and breadcrumbs - you need the breadcrumbs to absorb the juices from the apple.  
Make one large strudel with large pastry leaves. or two smaller ones. Brush one sheet with melted butter, cover with another and brush again - the final stack will be 4 sheets thick. Spoon the mincemeat mixture down the centre of the filo (longways), then fold the short sides of the pastry in over the filling. Roll up from the long side and seal well then transfer then strudel to a lightly greased baking sheet. Bake 20 minutes, or until golden brown.  
Dust with sieved icing sugar and allow to cool. Serve sliced

\*\*\*\*\*

### News Letter

Items for next months news letter  
should be in by  
**27th January.**



## LISTS AND ROTAS

### Flower Calendar



Jan.

2nd.

9th.

16th. **Waiting update**

23rd.

30th.



### February Tea Duty

Betty Nelson, May  
Cunningham, Rossi McKinley  
& Meg Peacock

### Church Cleaning Team

**Jan. 9th.** Meg Peacock &  
Lorna Greenhill

**Jan. 23th.** Robert & Caroline  
Dalrymple

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

Jan.	Feb.
2nd. F	6th E
9th. A	13th F
16th. B	20th A
23rd. C	27th B
30th. D	



## Message from the Manse



Dear friends,

This year Barbara and I got the best Christmas present just before Christmas. After 18 months of waiting we finally adopted our son. He has been part of our family from the first day we met him, therefore unsurprisingly our relationship hasn't really changed, however we are now completely responsible for him and he will always be part of our family.

It is great when someone really feels that they belong, either to a family or a group of people or a community. Most of us would struggle if we did not feel we belonged to any group, especially during the difficult times of our lives. We all find comfort and reassurance from our family and friends, as well as having people to share good news with.

While it is good to come to church each Sunday, the most important thing is that we know we belong to Ballantrae Church. Not in a club member sort of way, but as a member of a family and strong community. When we made a commitment to God, we became part of his family on earth and took on all the responsibilities of a member of his family. Therefore we need to make sure we strengthen the relationships within God's family, by doing all we can to get to know God better and by caring for one another.

It is important that as we begin a New Year, we make sure that our priorities as individuals and as a church, are set to strengthen the relationships, so that we all know that we belong to our church family.

God bless,  
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)**

*Printed by Century21 Computing*

2011  
**Happy  
New  
Year**  
**January 2011**