

Weather



April started where March left off—some sunny days but cold and frosty nights. Still most farms got the ploughing and sowing underway, and from the 11th it was much more spring like, albeit with some rain. The grass turned green at last and even started to grow. The first bumble bee came out on the 5th while around the 20th a few swallows were seen passing through on their way north. My local house martins had not arrived by the 26th, and when they do, they will find that most of last year's nests have been taken over by sparrows. A large flock of gold finches and siskins are very noisy in my back garden at present while on the 18th a herd of about 30 red deer ran through my back field and over the road to Heronsford near Auchenflower T-junction. The four swans which were in winter residence next to the river Stincher near Lagan dairy farm left around the third week, probably for Russia.

The weather was fine for the London marathon on the 21st, and Allan my Prestwick nephew aged 46yrs managed a personal best of 3hours 24 minutes. He was 3874th out of 35,000 runners, so very well done.

George Watt

Joseph Heughan of Auchencairn,
reverent description of God

Though nae ee can him see, yet
he is, yet he is,
Though nae ee can him see, yet
he is,
Though nae ee can him see,
He was an' aye will be
King o' Immensity,
Micht is his.



Joseph waited 13years,
Abraham waited 25years,
Moses waited 20years,
Jesus waited 30years,
If God is making you wait,
You're in good company.

Lydia Smith



do markets make the sick, walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?

Why do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke? Why do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters?

Why do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in our driveways and put our useless junk in the garage?

EVER WONDER

Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

Why can't women put on mascara with their mouth closed?

Why don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

Why is it that doctors and attorneys call what they do 'practice'?

Why is 'abbreviated' such a long word?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavouring, and dish washing liquid made with real lemons?

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff??

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?



Cheese Soda Bread

Ingredients

Butter for greasing
1 tbsp rapeseed oil
1 large leek, thinly sliced
1/2 tablespoon dried sage
75g mature cheddar, grated
450g Self Raising Flour
1tsp salt
1 large egg, beaten
275mls buttermilk
1-2tbsp semi-skimmed milk
flour for dusting



Method

Preheat oven to 190°C/fan oven 170°C/gas mark 5.
Grease baking sheet with butter. Heat the oil in a medium, non stick frying pan and add leek and cook gently for about 10mins, until it is just starting to brown. Add sage and allow to cool. Put leeks and sage in a large mixing bowl with the cheese, flour, salt and some freshly ground black pepper. Add beaten egg, now gradually add the buttermilk until you have a smooth dough. You might need to add extra milk. Don't worry if dough sticky. Transfer dough to floured work surface and knead it to bring it together. Form dough into a round. Put dough onto a greased baking sheet and press down to form a round, make deep cuts across the top to make 6 wedges and bake in the oven for approx. 30-35mins. Until golden brown. Leave to cool on a wire rack.
The bread is best served warm but will keep for a couple of days if it doesn't all disappear as soon as served.

PRAYER



We praise you O Lord for all that we see of you in the work of creation, the earth, the sea and sky and everything that has breath. You are worthy to be praised and we know that your promises are true, that now We are only beginning to taste the glory that shall be revealed when you O God take power and reign.

Lord God We are surrounded by blessings and our hearts are full of thanksgiving for all that you have done for us. I know that we are not worthy to be called your child and yet we give you thanks that you love us and gave your only Son Jesus Christ who died for us.

Lord God we thank you for all of your faithfulness to us and others who worship you. We praise you that you are faithful, good and true and that you hate nothing that you have made. For your love and kindness to us and to all your children we praise your name. Now may the offering of our life and the words of our mouth be acceptable acts of thanksgiving and praise to you.

Lord Jesus you prayed that your people would be one. Forgive us Lord and take away the pride and arrogance which divides your church. Break down the walls which separate us; unite us with your bonds of love and accomplish your will. I pray that by the power of your Spirit and your healing will work in the body of your church and through us, to bring about the purpose of your will.

In Jesus name Amen



A married couple were arguing who is making the coffee, the wife said that in the Bible it says that men should make the coffee and the husband asked her where it said that. The wife opened the Bible and said: "Right here in HEBREWS!"



SWRI



The next meeting will take place
on Monday 6th May
In
BRICC House
A.G.M
All welcome.

Announcements

Wednesday Worship

Wednesday 5th June at 11am in Ballantrae Church. Midweek worship and reflection

Contemporary Praise Evening

Sunday 5th May and 2nd June at 7:30pm in Ballantrae Church. A time to sing modern praise songs, to know God's presence with us and to reflect on all that God has done for us.

Congregational Board and Kirk Session

meets on Wednesday 8th May at 7:30pm in the Vestry.

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 832252



Ballantrae Church Guild



The Guild held their Open Evening on Monday 15th April. There were visitors from various Guilds and groups. We were entertained by "Hugh and Friends" from Maybole with songs and amusing stories. Members provided a delicious Supper. The floral decorations of Daffodils on the tables looked beautiful and were provided by our Convener Mrs. Penny Savage.

Next Guild meeting will be on the 20th May at 7-15p.m. in the buffet room. There will be a speaker from Glasgow talking about the charity "Marys Meals" which supplies school meals daily to children living in poor countries.

Ballantrae Church Guild Coffee Morning will be held in the Community Centre on Saturday 11th May 10a.m. - 11-30a.m. with the usual stalls, Baking, Produce/Plants Hamper. Tickets Adults £2.50 Children £1

PAWS FOR THOUGHT



Hello.

Last month my mummy shared the news that Dougie was now playing with tennis balls in heaven. Life without Dougie, has been a bit quieter, but I have kept myself so busy chasing birds, playing in the garden and lying by the fire, that I have hardly noticed that he hasn't been here. I have become very skilled at chasing birds that I have even managed to catch or injure a few of them. Westies are meant to be ratters, but I much prefer birds. My technique is something like this. 1) I lie in a bush and wait until they get near. 2) I bark at them from within the bush, which seems to confuse them. (Daddy said that he had heard of a burning bush, but never a barking bush.) 3) I emerge from my hiding place and chase them, at top speed, around the garden until they either fly close to the ground :o) or fly out of the garden :o(. It is great fun, and it reminds me of the saying Dougie often said to me, "A bird in the mouth is worth two in the bush."

Till next time,

Hamish



Coffee Morning

In aid of Senior Citizen's Christmas Party

In

Community Centre

Saturday 1st June 10am—11.30am

Adults £2 Child £1 Under 5 free

Donations of baking, plants & produce will be gratefully received

Raffle

Hamper

News Letter

Items for April news letter by **Thursday 30th May**





Dear Friends,

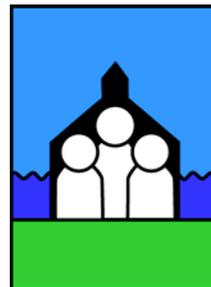
On Easter Sunday I showed an animation that I had helped Colmonell Primary School to make. It took us over a week to plan the scenes, make the scenery, make the characters out of plasticine and then film it. Each scene, of which there were about 15 in total, took about an hour to film, because for every second of animation you need to take 12 photographs making very small changes between each one. When we were making the changes between each shot, we kept wanting to make large movements, but that would end up with the characters making either fast or jerky movements. Patience was definitely the keyword as we sometimes struggled with the slow pace that creating an animation demands.

Life can often be very similar, because often the small changes that are made from day to day hardly seem to make much difference to us. However when we step back and look at the whole sequence over time, then we can clearly see the difference that has been made. I think God works like that in our lives and in the life of our church. We can often just see the still shots and think everything is static, but God sees the motion of change and loves to watch us as we grow in our faith.

In Philippians 1:6, Paul wrote, "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." and in Romans 8:28 we read "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."

When we were animating, it was when the animation was played at the end, that we could then see the importance of the changes, and each time we were amazed by the result. God is working in us and through us, and when we reach heaven we will be able to see why every part of our life is significant, and the final result will be great.

May God bless you as he continues his good work in you
Stephen



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

St. COLMON

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