

## Weather



This year I managed to grow four giant sunflowers (Helianthus Annuus) - without sowing any seeds. This was done by the birds. One seed even managed to germinate in the hard ground outside my driveway gate. When it was about a foot high, the flower bud was pinched by a passing animal, but I ended up with twelve smaller flowers. Another sunflower grew to five feet high with the flower eleven inches across and the seed core eight inches.

A recent incident involving the birds in my back garden was interesting. I frequently get about fifty of different kinds plus one rook who speaks away to himself in a very deep and croaky voice. A few times a day a kestrel joins in. The noise the other birds make as they escape is quite loud and sudden, so much so, it can cause the cows in the neighbouring field to stampede!

On the 12th September a large group of at least fifty swallows were still on the wires around Laggan Dairy farm but were away the next day. Astronomically the planet Jupiter is almost overhead before dawn and very bright. Around the 15th October and looking low to the ESE, again before dawn, you may be able to see the red planet Mars. With binoculars and slightly to the left you may be able to spot Ison, while 20° further to the left there is comet Encke. It is still very uncertain how bright Ison will become. Only now is the comet approaching the Solar System's equivalent of the snow line which lies outside the orbit of Mars. When this occurs, water-ice in the comet's nucleus will sublimate that is, turn directly from a solid to a gas. How Ison behaves at this point will indicate just how active it is likely to get i.e. how long and how bright a tail it will acquire.

George Watt

1843 was the first time a Harvest Festival service was held in a British church.

## News Letter

Items for November news letter by **Thursday 31st October**



## Ballantrae Film Nights for Autumn



Friday 25th October

6pm- Epic

8pm- The Hobbit – An Unexpected Journey

Friday 15th November

6pm - Monster University

8pm - Song for Marion

Friday 29th November

6pm - Despicable Me 2

8pm - Oblivion

Friday 27th December

7pm - Nativity 2



## Halloween



Have you ever wondered when modern Halloween celebration began?

During the Middle Ages (about 600 years ago), the Roman Catholic Church at that time, decided to make the change-over from pagan religion to Christianity a bit easier, and therefore allowed the new converts to maintain some of their pagan feasts. It was agreed, however, that from now on they would be celebrated as "Christian" feasts. So instead of praying to their heathen gods, they would now pray to, and remember the deaths of saints. For this reason the church decided to call November 1 the "Day of All Saints," and the mass to be celebrated on that day "All Hallowmass." In consequence of this, the evening prior to this day was named, "All Hallowed Evening" which subsequently was abbreviated as "Halloween." In spite of this effort to make October 31 a "holy evening," all the old customs continued to be practiced, and made this evening anything BUT a holy evening!

## PAWS FOR THOUGHT



Hi Pals,

My kingdom is surrounded by four walls and has in it some trees, bushes, and lots of grass. There is also my shelter under the climbing frame and my viewing platform that Daddy just built during the summer.

In the past month I have noticed my kingdom changing, not just that the grass is growing longer (Daddy, I think it needs a cut), but all of a sudden it has become quite dangerous. In one corner of the garden stands two apple trees, which I used to sit under for shelter, but not any more! For some reason the trees have fallen out with me and have started to throw apples at me. At first it was just one or two, but now can't go near them.

I am reminded of a man, I think called Isaac Newcity, or something like that, who was also was also sitting under an apple tree and when one fell he said, "Ouch!". If I can give you some advice for these autumny days, it would be - don't sit under apple trees!

Till next time,

Hamish



### St Colmon Church Auction

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2013 in St Colmon Kirk Hall, with viewing from 1.30pm and the auction starting about 2.00pm. Auctioneer: Dr Tom Smith. The Auction is great fun for everyone and the "banter" is a wonderful way to spend a November afternoon.

### S.W.R.I

Will meet on Monday  
October 7th.  
David Kirkwood M.B.E.  
Will talk on Policing.



### Donations for the Food Bank

There will be a box for donations for the Girvan Food Bank in the church each week, for people to donate tins or packets of food for those who are financially struggling in our local area. For more information please speak to the minister.

## PRAYER



The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Romans 13:12, NIV

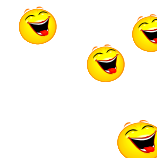
**Father in heaven**, we thank you for giving us light.

We thank you for the great hope for a day whose light is not of our making, whose source is in you, a day to come that can touch our lives already today. Keep our hearts steadfast, free of all human wavering. May we always hold to the love you have given through your grace, and may we find joy in your love, which is full of light and understanding.

Amen.



### More Church Bulletins!



The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning Jesus Walks on the Water.  
The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus.

Don't let worry kill you off- let the church help.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24th in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

The minister would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday

This evening at 7pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.



## Announcements

### Evening Celebration

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm  
in Ballantrae Church.  
A time of worship and reflection.

### Wednesday Worship

9<sup>th</sup> October at 11am in Ballantrae  
Church. A short service in the  
middle of the week.

### Home Group

This will meet at 10:30am on Friday  
18<sup>th</sup> October at Alan, Barbara and  
Gina's house at Ballaird Farm,  
Pinwherry and at 10am on Friday 1<sup>st</sup>  
November at Myra Heap's house in  
Lendalfoot. We will meet for a time  
of bible study, prayer and  
fellowship. Please speak to the  
minister for more information.



### Communion

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at  
11:30am.

Communion is for all those who  
love Jesus and seek to love him  
more.

### 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



The next meeting will be on  
Monday 21st October in the  
Community centre at 7.15p.m.

The speaker—Joe Cassidy  
on the Julius Project (Homeless  
people) All are Welcome  
The Guild wish to thank all who  
supported the Coffee morning on  
the 28th of Sept. We had a good  
attendance on a beautiful autumn  
day. As the new Convenor I  
personally wish to thank the  
committee and members for their  
help and support. We are getting  
thin on the ground, and finding  
manpower a little difficult, but so  
many good people rallied to the  
call. I should especially like to  
thank our honorary male members  
Munro Clark and Arrick  
Wilkinson. Thanks also to young  
Rhona Nelson for her assistance  
and to our hall keeper Roy.

Apologies to those I have omitted  
to mention as there will be some.

*Margaret Maule*

### Malawi Mosquito Net Gift Cards

(see letter from the minister for  
more information)  
£7 per card, available to purchase  
each week from the minister or  
from Meg Peacock. An ideal and  
very valuable Christmas gift.

## SHOE BOX APPEAL 2013



### Celebrating 20 years!

Desirable items for the boxes are :  
hats, gloves ,sock, toothbrush  
toothpaste, (all items must be new).

Further suggestions  
Toiletries (**no talcum powder**)  
New Clothes

Miscellaneous ; New make-up  
Sewing equipment, Household  
candles, Screwdrivers/pliers &  
kitchen utensils. New stationery

Small toy

Sweets; **NO CHOCOLATE.**

“Best before “date **July 10th**,  
Please state who the box is for i.e.  
boy, girl, man, women, family  
and state ages of recipient.

Filled boxes can be left in the  
church at any time last date is the  
Friday **8th November.**

Please wrap your box and lid  
Separately, tick off the checklist  
and secure it to the outside of lid.  
Secure your box with rubber bands  
to allow the box to be checked as  
per Custom regulations.

It costs approximately £3,500-  
£4000 to send a container overseas  
and we value your donation of  
£2.50 or more.

## FLOWER LISTS



Oct.  
**6th.** Molly Griffiths  
**13th.** R. McKinley  
**20th.** M. Clark  
**27th.** M. Maule

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.



### Tea Rota October.13th

Lorna Greenhill, Florence Brown,  
Liz Gregg & Penny Savage

### Church Cleaning Team



Oct.  
**13th.** Irene Stewart & Sharon  
Taylor

**27th.** Tom & May Lothian  
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,

With this mild weather I guess some of you won't have put your heating on or started using a hot water bottle. However I am sure we will soon be putting on the various layers on our bed in order to ensure we are kept warm as we sleep.

While we do have to cope with the cold at least we can sleep without the fear of being bitten by insects, unless you leave a window open for midges to enter the room.

Sleeping in Malawi is not so safe as there is a high probability that as you sleep a mosquito will bite. The resultant itch is bad enough but in Malawi there is also a chance that the mosquito was carrying the Malaria virus. The initial symptoms of malaria are flu-like and include a fever, headache, sweats, chills and vomiting, however if it is not treated properly it can lead to life-threatening complications. Malaria is the number one cause of death in Malawi, with children under 5 and pregnant women most at risk.

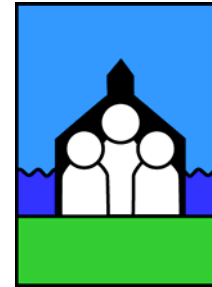
However with just a simple net covering covering the bed, those sleeping on the bed can do so protected from the mosquitoes. A simple net that can save lives.

In order to help provide these much needed nets for more of the population (as only 55% of the population of Malawi currently have them) the Presbytery of Ayr have just launched an alternative gift scheme, which allows you to give a gift of a mosquito net.

You pay £7, you get a gift card which you can give to family or friends, and a family in Malawi will receive a life saving net and be able to sleep safely for the first time. There are not many gifts that are life changing, but this is definitely one of them.

May God bless you for your generosity.

Stephen



# CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

## St. COLMON

[www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk)

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