

## Weather



As you know we actually had some summer weather in July with the temperature reaching a peak of 27°C (81°F) on the 19th. It was the first month this year with above average temperatures. August too has been drier than normal though not quite as warm..

One curious thing happened at my home. I usually have a lot of house martin activity. This year they were late in arriving and although they started off repairing and building new nests under the eaves, only one was completed and then abandoned. I think part of the problem was they did not get on with the sparrows which had taken over many of the older nests. I noticed eggs had been turfed out with yokes streaking down the house walls. A pair of house martins returned in July for a couple of weeks but that was it. I got the impression much fewer birds returned in the spring and there were breeding problems of one type or another during the summer, but there were plenty “new” sparrows. There has always been a large flock of them around my house. They have certain times the day when they just sit in their favourite bush and bawl at each other!

George Watt



## Annual Summer Fair

Thank you to everyone for their hard work, time and effort for this summer's fair. We made the highest ever total of over £2600. Well done all!



## News Letter

Items for September news letter by Thursday 26nd Sept

## Ballantrae “Auld Kirk” & Smugglers



After the smugglers festival in Ballantrae earlier last month, it is interesting to see in the following excerpt that the “Auld Kirk” building of Ballantrae had an illustrious past.

Ballantrae "was not, however, created a Burgh of Barony till 1617. The inhabitants are chiefly fishermen, and in early times the smuggling of tea, tobacco, and brandy formed one of the staple industries of the place. Large pirate vessels called Buckers, carrying 20 or 30 guns, were accustomed to lie in the bay and discharge their cargoes at Ballantrae. The arrival of one of these vessels was the signal for the smugglers, who were called Lintowers, to proceed in a large body to the shore, with their horses, ready to receive the contraband goods, and convey them through the country. The lintowers numbered about one hundred men, all of them stalwart fellows, armed with cutlass and pistol ready to fight if resistance was offered them in the discharge of their illegal calling. The old Kirk was a favourite place for hiding the contraband goods."

*"Ayrshire Nights Entertainment: A Descriptive Guide to the History, Traditions, Antiquities of the County of Ayr"* by John MacIntosh of Galston, Ayrshire, published in 1894, by John Menzies & Co. of Kilmarnock, Dunlop and Drennan

Some of you may have heard the story about one of our former ministers who when going around visiting the old and sick in his parish was known to recommend a “Drap o’ the Auld Kirk” as a general “Pick me Up” and remedy for many ailments. He would then produce from the pocket of his tail coat a bottle of the remedy which was administered freely.

In light of the above paragraph on the smugglers a “Drap o’ the Auld Kirk” take on a whole new meaning.

## PAWS FOR THOUGHT



Hi pals,

It seems a long time ago, but our holidays were first spent at a place called Crieff, where I got a walk up a hill each day. Then we went to my grandparents house in Mallaig. My family stayed with me a few nights and then they obviously decided I was big enough to stay with them myself when they went off to a place called North Uist. I only later heard them talking about cats in North Uist and wished I had been able to chase them, though Daddy said they may have chased me (scary!). My holidays were good, but the weather in Ballantrae has been good too and I have enjoyed working on my tan, though I still seem as white as ever.

I hope you had a good Smuggler Festival, Daddy took me round the village to see many of the scarecrows, but all I saw was a lot of people sitting or standing very still. I would get bored sitting still for that long, but I guess some of you enjoyed it.

Daddy has now promoted me to door duty in the manse, and so any time someone comes to the door, I need to make a loud noise to let daddy or mummy know that someone is there. It is good fun and what is even better fun is barking when no one is there and watching Mummy and Daddy run to the door.

Till next time,

Hamish



## Fact

September begins on the same day of the week as December every year, because there are 91 days separating September and December, which is a multiple of seven (the number of days in the week). No other month ends on the same day of the week as September in any year.

## PRAYER



Dear Jesus

When we are afraid, may we reach out and put our hand in Yours. Knowing you are close beside us. Keep us trusting in Your loving promises that "all will be well". You are our anchor in stormy seas Our friend who never lets us down And, in these moments when fear threatens to overwhelm us May we listen to Your still, small, voice of calm Until, in the quietness, Your words of living hope Bring peace. Reassuring, renewing our strength..... -For, You are with us always wherever we are- And nothing can separate us from Your love.

Thank-you! Amen

## Fireman's Dog



A Sunday School helper was delivering a car full of kids home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children began discussing the dog's duties.

"They use him to keep crowds back," said one youngster.



"No," said another, "he's just for good luck."

A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrant."



Nine year old Joey was asked by his mum what he had learned in Sunday school.

"Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a bridge, and all the people walked across safely. He used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters and call in an air strike. They sent in bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that REALLY what your teacher taught you?" his mum asked.

"Well, no, Mum, but if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"



## Announcements

### Home Group

The first meeting of the home group will be at 10:30am on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September in the Manse. We will meet for a time of bible study, prayer and fellowship. Please speak to the minister for more information.

### Wednesday Worship

4<sup>th</sup> September and 9<sup>th</sup> October at 11am in Ballantrae Church. All welcome.

### Congregational Board and Kirk Session

11<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm in the Vestry.

### Evening Celebration

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm in Ballantrae Church

### 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 Guild will meet on Monday 16th September in the Community buffet room at 7-15 p.m. This will be the first meeting of the 2013/2014 season. The speaker will be the Rev. Richard Moffatt the new minister at the North Parish Church.

The theme for this year is "A Friendship to build" which we will hear more about at future meetings. All are very welcome. The Guild coffee morning is on Saturday 28th September in the Community Hall 10-11-30am. There will be the usual stalls.



### S.W.R.I



Start the new season on Monday September 2nd  
Mrs Mary Jeans - Talk on Health.  
New members welcome.



### Blythswood Care

Is glad to receive donations of food, clothes, bedding, bric-a-brac and household goods. A truck will collect from this area on 2nd Tuesday of every month. Contact any WRVS member for more information.

## Tomato & Basil Sauce



### Ingredients

1tbsp. Olive oil  
1 Garlic clove, crushed  
400g chopped tomatoes (Fresh or you can use a tin)  
½ crumbed stock cube  
1tbsp tomato puree  
1tsp sugar  
Few fresh basil leaves.

### Method

Heat the oil in a pan, add the garlic then fry gently for 1min. Tip in all the other ingredients except the basil, then bring to the boil. Reduce heat, then simmer uncovered for 5mins, stirring occasionally. To finish, tear the basil leaves, then stir into sauce. This quick and easy sauce is great with pasta, meat or fish.

To make it creamy stir 2tbsp mascarpone into the sauce and pour over tortellini and top with spoonfuls of more cheese and bake until edges bubbling. To spice sauce up a little and make it sweet omit the basil and sugar. Add 2tsp honey & ½ tsp each of cinnamon and coriander and serve with lamb meatballs and couscous or chicken.

## FLOWER LISTS



### Sept

**1st.** I. Stewart  
**8th.** Jessie Brown  
**15th.** Penny Savage  
**22nd.** Liz Gregg  
**29th.**

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

L Greenhill, F Brown  
L Gregg & P Savage

### Church Cleaning Team



### Sept.

**15th.** Tom & Jean Davidson  
**29th.** 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.

Dear Friends,



It is good to be able to meet each Sunday in church and enjoy the time worshipping God and learning from him, and also the time of fellowship as we meet with one another. At the start of this year I said that the five foundational aspects of a church are: Worship, Teaching, Prayer, Fellowship and Serving. It is my hope that all that we do fits into at least one of the categories and that through all of them we will see the church being strengthened.

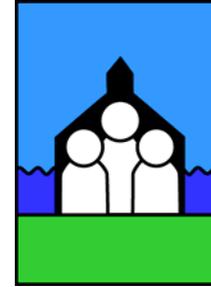
While often we think of church as being limited to what we do on a Sunday or at least in the church building, that is not the case. Church exists when we meet with other Christians for at least some of the activities listed above. Therefore if a small group of us meet for worship, prayer and bible study then we are the church at that time.

On 6<sup>th</sup> September we will have our first home group, and the hope is that this will be the beginning of a smaller gathering of those who want to study the bible together, prayer together and enjoy fellowship together. We know from Acts that the early Christians often met in each others homes, and while the first of the gathering will be in the manse, the future ones will take place in some of the homes of those who attend. These home groups are open to all and if you want more information please let me know.

Over the coming months we are going to be looking at the letter of James and reflecting on what it says our life of faith should be like. James wrote the letter to encourage and challenge the Christians throughout the wider church at that point, and I hope our reflections will strengthen our faith and help us to draw ever closer to God.

May God bless us as we continue our walk in faith together,

Stephen



# CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

## St. COLMON

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

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# September 2013