

Hal & Jackie would like to thank everyone for their support, prayers and good wishes over the past few months of Hal's illness. This support has encouraged us both during the low times and the prayer sustained and comforted us.

It has been very humbling to realise how much support there has been and continues at present.

Hal is happy to report that at long last he is on the road to recovery and although convalescence is slow he is feeling better each day.



Kids Are Quick

TEACHER: Millie, give me a sentence starting with ' I. '

MILLIE: I is..

TEACHER: No, Millie... Always say, 'I am.'

MILLIE: All right... 'I am the ninth letter of the alphabet.'



TEACHER: Clyde , your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

CLYDE : No, sir. It's the same dog.

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

HAROLD: A teacher

MORE SIGNPOSTS SEEN OUTSIDE CHURCHES

Happy Easter to our Christian friends
Happy Passover to our Jewish friends
To our Atheist friends... Good Luck

Down in the mouth
Come in for a Faith Lift

**THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS
THAT CAN'T BE ANSWERED
BY GOOGLE**

Adam blamed Eve
Eve blamed the snake
and the snake didn't have a leg
to stand on.

The name Barclay conjures up memories of the William Barclay lectures which were broadcast on BBC TV Scotland in the 1970's.



I was, however, reading recently in The Times" that the Barclays of Scotland are best known for the bank set up in their name—I always thought it was an "English" bank. Another branch of the clan settled in the Baltic and 200yrs ago in 1809 General Barclay De Tolly became a Russian war hero.

During a bitter winter Russia invaded Finland and on March 13th attacked Sweden. Conditions were so cold that the Gulf of Bothnia froze and General Barclay used the frozen sea to lead 4000 men and cannon across 47miles of ice from Finland. It was a treacherous crossing, as an officer, F Bulgarin described. "The cruel wind, which had been blowing all winter, had broken the thick ice, throwing it up into enormous blocks, like huge cliffs. They rose on all sides, sometimes running along it. From a distance these mountains of ice were an extraordinary sight. It was as if the waves of the sea had suddenly froze in a moment of intense cold".

There were warnings that the ice could suddenly crack up in a thaw, so the Russians took regular readings, possibly the first temperature measurements made under battle conditions. These revealed temperatures about minus 15°C (5°F).

General Barclay reached the Swedish mainland on March 22 and captured the fortified city of UMEA almost unopposed. Barclay was promoted to Field Marshall and in 1812 masterminded the defeat of Napoleon's invasion of Russia during another notoriously cold winter.

Our local area seemed to miss extremes of weather other parts of the U.K. had in the past winter but on the evening of the 3rd March we had 5ins of snow and around 9pm on 7th March a severe gale squall caused some damage.

George Watt F.R.Mets.



S.W.R.I

Next meeting on
April 6th
Crafts by Sheila Kyle
New members welcome



Thanks



Jim and Irene would like to thank everyone for their good wishes, cards and presents on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding.

An Obituary printed in the London Times.....

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, **Common Sense**, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as: *knowing when to come in out of the rain; Why the early bird gets the worm; Life isn't always fair; and - maybe it was my fault.*

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge). His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly pupil, only worsened his condition. **Common Sense** lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

He declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an Aspirin to a pupil; but could not inform parents when a pupil became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims. **Common Sense** took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, **Truth** and **Trust**, by his wife, **Discretion**, by his daughter **Responsibility**, and by his son, **Reason**.

He is survived by his 4 step-brothers: *I Know My Rights; I Want It Now; Someone Else Is To Blame* and *I'm a Victim*.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.



Creche

Facilities now available during morning service. Anybody wishing their child to attend or if they can help out in any way please see

Barbara Ogston (831352)

Project Group

We would be very keen to re-start the Project Group and would love to have some new ideas for fund raising, to that extent if you are keen to help form a new group could you give your name to Penny Savage. It is very important to keep fund raising activities going as they help provide extra support in backing up the churches finances. They also provide the community with a sense of fellowship and are GREAT FUN!!



Newsletter

Items for May should be in by 31st April.

From our prayer Correspondent



For reading and meditation:-John chapter 12.v. 27-34

At the end of verse 34 the crowd asked, "who is this Son of Man?" Are we asking the same question?, or do we know Him?. We have the advantage of the scriptures to help us and also history! His-story is the truth that sustains us in a world filled with unbelief. Easter is the time when we know the truth of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Our God you did not leave or forsake us You gave your true and only Son to be our Saviour. Thank you Father for this greatest gifts, a gift that will last until the end of time and beyond. At this Easter time let us rejoice in the new life that is ours, help us to fulfil the purpose for which you made us, bring us to new life and awareness in you.

Amen

A Blessed Easter to everyone in His name.
Pat Thackray



Coffee Morning

In aid of

Senior Citizens Summer Outing.
Saturday 16th May in Community Centre. 10am-11.30am
Adults £2. Child 50p.



World Day of

There was a good attendance at the service arranged by Christian women in Papua New Guinea. It was enjoyed by everyone



Young Women's Group

The YWG AGM was a well supported meeting and gave us all a chance to meet and speak to Stephen.

The new committee are:

President Claire Strain
Vice President Fiona Maclean
Secretary Jillian Nelson
Treasurer Alison Cosslett

Wed 22nd April meeting to discuss next year's syllabus.

Lenten Lunch

The Guild would like to thank everyone who supported the Lenten Lunch. The total of £344 was raised and will be paid into church funds.



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD



The March meeting of the Guild was the A.G.M. The minister conducted the election, the result being that the secretary's duties will be shared by Mrs M. Bean and Mrs P Savage. Mrs P McKnight was appointed to the committee.

Mr Ogston then gave an outline of his life leading up to becoming a minister, included was a most amusing account of a visit paid to a church by Elvis Presley! Because the next day was St. Patrick's Day the supper had an Irish flavour.

The Guild Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday **18th April** in Ballantrae Community Centre, from **10am —11.30am**

Admission: Adults £2, Children £1.

Please try to support this.

Guild open night is on Monday **20th. April** in Ballantrae Community Centre at **7.15pm**

Entertainment by Mrs J. Sproule and "Jaggy Thistles"

Everyone is most welcome to come and enjoy the evening.

Guild Quiz

The Guild has prepared a Bible Quiz, Price 50p., available from Guild members or at the coffee morning.

The Flower Calendar



Just to remind everybody the flower calendar for 2009 is at the church entrance, and there are several blank spaces, anyone wishing to donate flowers should add their name against the appropriate Sunday's.



Leprosy Mission Collection

I have forwarded the marvellous total of £141 to the Leprosy Mission Centre.

Many thanks for all your kind donations.

Georgina McKinley



Easter Coffee Morning in aid of BRICC club funds BRICC House



on

Saturday **11th April 10-11.30am**
Stalls—Baking, produce raffle etc.
Thrift shop open **10am-12noon**

LISTS AND ROTAS

Flower Calendar



April

5th. S. Crosthwaite
12th. D Flitter
19th G Goudie
26th M Bean



Tea Duty 3rd May

Betty Nelson
May Cunningham
Rossi McKinley
Meg Peacock

Church Cleaning Teams

5th April.

Tom & May Lothian

19th April.

Meg Peacock & Lorna Greenhill

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.**

Sunday Duty Rota

April	May
5th B	3rd A
12th C	10th B
19th D	17th C
26th E	24th D
	31st A

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends

Easter is a time of great celebration in the Christian Year. It is a time when we celebrate the reason for our faith – the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Over the last couple of months we have been looking at 1 John, and I hope that it has been clear how important we are to God, that we are his children and that we are deeply loved by him. God's love for us is so great that he was prepared to do whatever it took to bring us into his family. While Jesus birth is amazing, without the events of Easter, we would never have been given the opportunity to know God as our Father.

It is great to feel that we belong somewhere, to feel that people are glad that we are with them. That's definitely how Barbara and I feel as we continue to settle into this area, and get to know you. The hope is that our church continues to be just as welcoming to all those who come, so that everyone feels they belong to this church, and more importantly that they belong to the family of God.

We need to be accepting of all, just as the welcome of God is for all the world, regardless of what their background is. Hopefully, as we grow and continue to experience God's life changing love in our own lives, we will continue to bless those around us with God's love.

The cross reminds us of the vast love God has for us, as 1 John 4 verse 9 says, "God showed his love for us by sending his only Son into the world, so that we might have life through him."

Easter is about two things: the cross and the life. The cross which takes our sin away and the life that is ours because of the life given to Jesus. May you be challenged and refreshed by the good news of Easter and the great love that our Father God has shown to us.

God bless,
Stephen



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

ST.COLMON

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