

Weather



The juxtaposition of Venus, Jupiter and the new moon on the evening of the 25-26th of March again provided a fine sight. On the evening of the 27th March Venus was 38.52° above the horizon and it seems this is the highest it has stood at sunset since March 12th 1865.

On March 1st, I saw a Peacock butterfly at Heronsford, followed by many more on the 26th, including small tortoiseshells. Two swallows were seen on the 25th & 26th around Lagan Dairy Farm. During the generally fine spell of weather in the fourth week when 23.2°C was recorded at Cromdale, just east of Granton on Spey, mention was made in a report in "The Scotsman" that an ice cream shop, S Luca, in Mussleburgh sold 4000 cones on the 25th—normally 400. I remember we used to stop at this shop frequently on the way home from Edinburgh to Haddington in the 1940'-50's. The "big" cone cost sixpence (2.5p).

The night of April 14-15th marks the 100th anniversary of the sinking (after striking an iceberg) of the liner Titanic off the coast of America during its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York. Since 1912 shipping has been warned of the danger by ice patrols and latterly satellite images. Rarely icebergs travel east and have occasionally been seen within 300 miles of Scotland. At the height of the "Little Ice Age" between 1690 and 1730 bergs were regularly seen in Scottish waters, and bizarrely the occasional Kayak-bourne Inuit (an Eskimo from North America or Greenland).

George Watt



The sun shone and lots of people turned out for a very successful Malawi Cream Tea which raised £620.00 for our linked village of Lwambaza, Malawi. Thanks to everyone who allowed us to borrow beautiful china, lovely cake stands and ramekin dishes: to all who baked, washed dishes, filled endless teapots and served lots and lots of cups of tea, for all the support and donations received we say on behalf of our Malawi family, thank you very, very much.

Meg Peacock, Malawi Committee.

The Moderator's Easter Message



As this significant event in our Christian Calendar approaches, it would be appropriate to reflect how far we have come since Jesus' time, His followers were small in number, and his message was passed on by personal words of his disciples. The knowledge of the World at that time would have been very limited compared with today.

If we look at our society today, Christianity exists in some form or another in most countries of the World. Communication of the message of Jesus is so much easier now—modern technology has seen to that. It is still important even today that we concentrate on the message of Jesus, rather than the "Easter Egg Syndrome."

Although there are many more challenges to our Christian faith and beliefs, we have to stand firm and commit ourselves to continuing the work started by Jesus so long ago.

In a society which has dwindling Church membership, we Christians need to be innovative in presenting the Christian message—indeed there is a need for us to move out of our comfort zone, and take a leap of faith to ensure that what Jesus told us will live on for many years to come.

May the blessings of this season be with you all.

Bill Mackie

Moderator



WHY



If swimming is a good exercise to, then are **WHY WHALES** fat?
WHY does everyone want to go to **HEAVEN** but nobody wants to die?
If we have freedom for **SPEECH**, then **WHY** telephone bills?
If **MONEY** doesn't grow on trees, **WHY** do **BANKS** have branches?
WHY does a round **PIZZA** come in a **SQUARE** box?
WHY doesn't **GLUE** stick to its bottle?
WHY do you still call it a **BUILDING** when its already **BUILT**?
If it's true that **WE** are here to help others, then what are **OTHERS** here for?
If you are not supposed to **DRINK AND DRIVE**, then **WHY** do **BARS** have car parks?

Prayer



For reading and meditation:- Luke24,v.1-12.

V.6 He is not here; he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was in Galilee:

We are coming out of the dark depressing days of winter! But are they? During the winter season many things are going on under the surface. Bulbs, plants and trees are renewing and building themselves up for the beginning of spring and bursting into new life as we have already witnessed with the beautiful snowdrops and daffodils.

So it is with us. Many people go through times of darkness and despair, when they feel life has nothing to offer them in their desolation. Then comes Easter a time of new beginnings and we can rejoice in the resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ and all that means for us as Christians.

This season gives us hope for today and for our future, knowing that however dark our days He is always there for us, just a prayer away. He is Risen – Risen indeed.

O Lord we give thanks for you our Risen Saviour, who brings light into our darkness. You help us carry our burdens—whatever they maybe. You are our hope in despair and darkness, our refuge when no one else seems to care.

Loving Lord you rise up in our hearts and bring us joy, we believe even though we have not seen.

Amen.

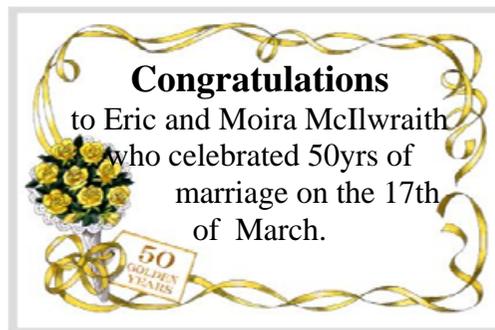
With every blessing in our Risen Jesus.

Pat



News Letter

Items for next months news
28th April



Paws for Thought



Well, I just don't know what to say this month. I'm shocked, depressed and rather grumpy. I can't believe mummy and daddy have done this to me. It all began a few weeks ago when we were all in the garden. I hate the garden, and mummy says this makes me a silly dog. Before I knew it, my world was turned upside down. I'm sure you have all already heard about the new addition. Apparently Hamish is a Westie puppy, just like I used to be. I can't believe I was ever that energetic! I struggle to see the good points of having him around. He gets fed twice a day, has an en-suite toilet and gets lots of cuddles. I guess on the plus side, I get more walks than him and he can't jump up onto the couch yet so that's quite good. I seem to be spending a lot of my time on the couch at the moment. He also keeps playing with my toys and djkhfpiereg hfbgfp yugae yugf **HAMISH** – get off the computer!! Now it looks like he is going to take over writing my articles!! We'll soon see about that. Mummy says he needs to learn to type first so it might be a while. Mummy says I'm a grumpy old man and I need to be more cheerful and welcoming.

Anyway, I've also to say thank you to everyone who has donated reading material for me to read and Hamish to pee on. It's my birthday this month, I'm going to be 12. That means in dog years, I'm in my 80s. Please cheer me up and send me some tennis balls.

I'll try to be more cheerful next month.

Till then,
Dougie



Ballantrae Rural Initiative Care in the Community Ltd



All , in the area covered by the surgeries of the Ballantrae Medical Practice and who are pensioners or housebound are welcome at the BRICC Club or Drop In Club social afternoons, to enjoy entertainment , tea, friendship and care. Held in the BRICC House, both clubs are free to those who partake. Transport is provided if required.

They are open 52 weeks of the year.

BRICC CLUB—Tuesdays 2-4pm. DROP in CLUB—Fridays 2-4pm
If you would like to come and join us please phone—01465831380



Announcements
Easter Services

Monday 7pm – Girvan South
Dr James Anderson

Tuesday 7pm – Girvan South
Rev Stephen Ogston

Wednesday 7pm – Girvan South
Rev Arrick Wilkinson

Thursday 7:30pm – Ballantrae
Maunday Thursday Joint Service

Friday – 12 noon – Good Friday
service at Stumpy, Girvan

7pm – Girvan North, South
Carrick Churches Together

Sunday – 7am – Dawn Service
Ballantrae Harbour, followed
by breakfast at the Manse (bacon,
sausages etc)

11:30am – Easter Day All Age
Service with Easter Egg Hunt for
Sunday School

Wednesday Worship

11th April at 11am in Ballantrae
Church. All are welcome for a short
traditional service.

Lunch at the Manse

Thursday 3rd May at 12noon in the
Manse – 1 The Vennel, Ballantrae.
Come and enjoy food, fellowship
and faith.



**Ballantrae Church
Guild**

Next meet on **Monday 16th April**
Mrs M Mortimer



Young Woman's Group



8pm in the Vestry
Wednesday 18th April
Syllabus Meeting
See Barbara Ogston for more
information (831252).



S.W.R.I



Next meet on **Monday 2nd. April**
when John Scott will tell us all
about life as an MSP

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.



Diet tip

Eat an Easter egg before each
meal.
It'll take the edge off your appetite,
and that way you'll eat less.

Jelly Bean Poem

Tell a story true.
A tale of Father's love
Just for me and you.

GREEN is for the waving palms.
YELLOW is for the sun above.
BROWN is for the soft earth where
People sat hearing of HIS love.
A **SPECKLED** bean for fish and sand.
RED for precious wine and
BLACK is for the sin
He washed from you soul and mine.
PURPLE'S for the sadness of
HIS family and His friends,
WHITE is for the glory of
The Day HE rose again.

Now that you've heard the story
You know what each colour means.
The story of our Father's love
Told by some jelly beans.
So every morning take a bean
They're really very yummy.
Something for the soul, you see
And something for the tummy

Happy Easter



**LISTS AND
ROTAS**

Flower Calendar



April
1st.
8th. P Savage
15th. E Scott
22nd.
29th.



Tea Duty-May
Betty Nelson, May
Cunningham, Rossi
McKinley & Meg Peacock

Church Cleaning Team

April
1st. Robert & Caroline
Dalrymple
15th. John & Janice McIlwraith

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

April		May	
1st	E	6th	D
8th	F	13th	E
15th	A	20th	F
22nd	B	27th	A
29th	C		

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

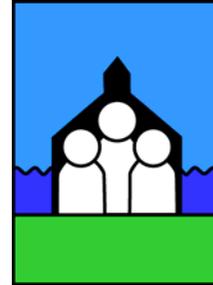
Let me begin by expressing my sincere thanks to all those who donated to the Malawi fund over the past couple of months. Thank you to everyone who attended Myra's 'Come Dine With Me', were at the Thistle Friendship Group's New Year Party, sponsored the Youth Club for their 12 Hour Disco, sponsored myself or others on the walk from Glenapp to Ballantrae or attended the Malawi Cream Tea. Altogether the total raised presently stands at about £2650, which is a very impressive figure and is £1650 more than I needed for my visit. The plan is to take some of the money to give to the people in Lwambaza, to spend some of it to purchase items that they require, and to keep some in the Malawi account so that we can continue to support them over the coming years. More information about the trip will follow in next month's newsletter and over the coming weeks in church.

We are about to celebrate Easter, and in the northern hemisphere, and therefore not in Malawi, we also enjoy spring and various symbols we associate with both, whether it is bunnies or eggs. As you know, especially if you have read Dougie's article, we have a new puppy in the Manse, called Hamish. Hamish is a Westie pup, and is full of energy and mischief and just wants to do everything. He is getting on very well with the children and Dougie is just about putting up with him. New life is always exciting and at Easter we celebrate the new life that is ours, because of Jesus.

In 1 Peter 1:3, Peter says, "God is so good, and by raising Jesus from death, he has given us new life and a hope that lives on." We all share in the new life, that Jesus was given through his resurrection. The life we once had, before we put our trust in Jesus, has gone and we are now new people and part of God's family forever. Therefore as we see all the new life displayed in the world around us, let us remember the amazing gift of new life that is ours through Jesus.

May God richly bless your lives,

Stephen



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

St. COLMON

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