

## Guess The Elder

1



## Christmas Gifts Jesus Would Have Approved



To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent,  
tolerance.  
To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service.  
To all, charity. To every child, a good example.  
To yourself, respect.

## Paws for Thought



Dear Friends,

December is here again. I can't understand calendars but I still know it's here. I usually get a bit of warning that it is approaching when Mummy and Daddy start repeating themselves. They have the same conversation every year. Daddy says he's putting the decorations up on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Mummy says no, he can put them up on the 12th. Daddy gets grumpy and says he'll compromise and put them up in his study where Mummy can't see them. Mummy says that's fine but none downstairs until the 12th. Daddy pleads that now the Crafty ADVENTure group has started, the decorations should be up. Mummy says not before the 12th. Daddy suggests putting them up when the church gets decorated on the 8th. Mummy reluctantly agrees and makes a mental note that when planning the date the Young Woman's Group decorates the church next year, to make it a week later.

I am really looking forward to this month. The Crafty ADVENTure group have been visiting on Sunday nights and Mummy has lots of Christmassy yummy treats for them to eat. The Lunch at the Manse group will also be having a special Christmas meal on 15<sup>th</sup> December. I think Mummy is going to have to take me for longer walkies or I'm going to end up looking like a Christmas Pudding.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas. Maybe all your tennis balls be given to me, and all your Christmas trees be well watered.

Till 2012

Dougie



## From Our Prayer Correspondent



For reading and meditation - Mathew, Chapter 2 v.1-12.

V.11. They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him, they brought gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh and presented them to him.

Christmas! A time to give and receive, a time when children, young people and adults are all clamouring for the latest model of mobile phone, a Wii, a computer game or the newest toy or gadget.

Is that really what Christmas is all about? Or is it the joy of knowing that our Saviour, God's one and only true Son came into the world. We know that Jesus was not actually born on 25th December but this date focuses our minds on the most stupendous event that ever happened, an event that changed the world and is still having an impact over two thousand years later. Jesus is God's most precious gift of eternal life to all mankind if only they would recognise and acknowledge it.

### Prayer

Loving Father we thank you for the greatest gift of all time.

You gift to us will outlast anything that is made on earth,

You entrusted us with your son Jesus, Help us to unwrap your gift and give it to the world as you gave Jesus to us.

Help us to show your love to others as you have shown your love for us

Glory to God in the Highest.

Amen

May peace and joy fill your hearts.. Pat.

## SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

For Ballantrae Residents in the  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

On WEDNESDAY 7th DECEMBER

At 5pm

Persons aged 60yrs or over, plus their Spouse/partner, are  
invited

ALL WISHING TO ATTEND PLEASE PUT NAMES ON  
LIST IN SCOTMID CO-OPERATIVE

giftaid.it

## Gift Aid

Please

Contact me

if you would like

weekly offering envelopes.

You can donate to the church in this way whether church members or not. Please consider signing the Gift Aid declaration so the church can gain more from your gift at no extra cost to yourself. As long as you are a taxpayer your donations can be part of the Gift Aid scheme. If you already make donations and wish to know if they are part of the Gift Aid scheme please get in touch with me.

Jillian Nelson

Telephone 871221

email

[robertnelson285@btinternet.com](mailto:robertnelson285@btinternet.com)

giftaid.it

## Christmas Cards



The Christmas card box will be in church on Sunday **10th** and Sunday **17th**.

**December** for cards to be delivered locally. Please address envelopes clearly, addresses are important especially the street numbers.

Donations to church funds



## Used Stamps

As well as used stamps, we also collect old spectacles and used ink cartridges (except Epson).

Please note! All stamps should have a 10mm or more border around the stamp.



## Out of the Mouths... Christmas Story

 Daniel aged 4, returned from Sunday school with a new perspective on the Christmas story.

He had learned all about the wise men from the east who brought gifts to the baby Jesus.

Daniel was so excited he just had to tell his parents, 'I learned in Sunday School today all about the very first Christmas. There wasn't a Santa Claus way back then, so these three blokes on camels had to deliver all the toys. And Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer with his nose so bright wasn't there yet, so they had to have this big light in the sky to find their way around'



## Weather



In the spring of 1958 and as part of my higher English examination, I had to write an essay and chose the mysterious tragedy of the Flannan Isles. Just as I had collected my thoughts and was about to put pen to paper, a fellow pupil got up and handed in his completed essay! It therefore will come as no surprise that just as I was coming to the climax of my short story and about to reveal all when a 500foot wave was about to strike, the invigilator called "Time. Put your pens down!" So we shall never know what happened except that I failed. ( I was very good at passing but that was only 5 marks out of a 100).

The Flannan Isles or Seven Hunters are a group of small islands about 20 miles west of Gallan Head on the Atlantic Coast of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides. In December 1900 Donal Macarthur, James Ducat and Thomas Marshall vanished from the 75ft. High lighthouse on one of the islands (Eilean Mor). The three keepers had been at the end of a 14 day shift but had been prevented from leaving due to bad weather. That something was amiss was first reported by the crew of a passing ship when they noticed the light was out. Soon the support ship SS Hesperes arrived to investigate but all that was found was a battered jetty with twisted rails, an upturned chair inside, unmade beds and an untouched meal of cold meat and boiled potatoes. The log revealed there had been a storm the day before but the final entry on Dec. 15th 1900 said the storm had abated.

In 2000 Alasdair Macaulay, a BBC reporter in Stornoway researched the incident and found that a woman in Uig, near Gallan Head, had been hanging out her washing that day, and had seen a massive wall of water coming in from the west. She managed back to the house but her washing and the line were swept away.

George Watt



## News Letter

Items for next months news letter should be in no later than **29th December**



## Christmas Services

- 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. 3pm** – Glenapp Church  
Candlelit Service
- 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10:30am** - Wednesday  
Worship, Ballantrae
- 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 7:30pm** – Carol Concert,  
St. Colmon Church, Colmonell
- 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. 11:30am** – Nativity All  
Age Service, Ballantrae
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. 10am** – Ballantrae and  
Colmonell Primary School Service,  
Ballantrae
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 11:30pm** – Christmas Eve  
Watchnight Service, Ballantrae
- 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10:30am** – Christmas Day  
All Age Service – Joint Service,  
Ballantrae
- 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2012 – 11am** – New Years  
Day Joint Service in St Colmon  
Church.

## Christmas Lunch at the Manse

Thurs. **15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 12md.** in the Manse.  
Come and enjoy food, fellowship and  
faith.  
All welcome, even if you haven't been  
before

## Crafty ADVENTures!

Every Sunday night during Advent at  
7:30pm in the Manse, we will be using  
craft based activities to help us reflect  
on Christmas. Throughout the four  
weeks, we will be using various  
materials so please wear appropriate  
clothing.



## Ballantrae Church Guild



Next meet on Monday  
**19<sup>th</sup> Dec** for Christmas Lunch



## S.W.R.I



Next meet on Monday  
**December 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Wilma Gracie will demonstrate  
Christmas Crafts



## Christmas Film Night

Wednesday **28<sup>th</sup> December**  
6pm – Mr Popper's Penguins  
8pm – White Christmas  
Mince Pies and Mulled Wine

## Recipes Required!

We are publishing a new cookbook  
in the Spring and require recipes.  
Please write them out, make sure  
your name is on each recipe, and  
place them in the box provided in  
the Church or in the porch of the  
Manse. You can also email them  
to [ogston@macfish.com](mailto:ogston@macfish.com).

## Hospital Visiting

If you know someone who is in  
hospital and would appreciate a  
visit from the minister, please  
contact Stephen on 831252.  
Ministers used to be able to see a  
list of who was in hospital, but this  
is no longer the case.

## Festive Cookies

Alternative to shortbread –dainty  
hand-painted cookies.  
Preheat oven to 190°C/375°F Gas 5.



### Ingredients

75g/3oz Butter  
50g/2oz Icing (Confectioners Sugar) Sugar  
Finely grated rind of 1 small Lemon  
1 Egg Yolk  
175g/6oz Plain Flour  
A pinch of Salt

**To decorate:-** 2 egg yolks, red & green food  
colouring.

Beat butter, sugar and lemon rind together  
until pale and fluffy, beat in egg yolk, then sift  
in flour and salt. Knead together to form a  
smooth dough. Wrap in cling film and leave  
in fridge for 30mins.

Role out dough until 1/8in thick and using a  
2 1/2in cutter make as many cookies as possible  
(approx 12).

Place on baking tray. Mark tops with a 1ins  
Holly leaf cutter and use a 1/4 piping nozzle for  
the berries. Chill for further 10mins until firm.  
For decoration put egg yolks into two small  
cups, mix in red colouring into one and green  
colouring in the other. Use a small clean paint  
brush and carefully paint colours onto  
cookies.

Bake for 10-12mins leave to cool slightly on  
baking trays then transfer to wire rack to cool  
completely.

## Guess the Elder

1. John McKinley

## LISTS AND ROTAS

### Flower Calendar



**Dec.**  
**4<sup>th</sup>.** May Lothian  
**11<sup>th</sup>.** M. Bean  
**18<sup>th</sup>** Pat Thackray  
**25<sup>th</sup>.** Guild



### Tea Duty-January.

*Betty Nelson. May  
Cunningham, Rossi  
McKinley & Meg Peacock.*

### Church Cleaning Team

**Dec.**  
**4<sup>th</sup>** Meg Peacock & Lorna  
Greenhill  
**18<sup>th</sup>.** Robert & Caroline  
Dalrymple

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

Dec	Jan
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b> F	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b> D
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b> A	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b> E
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b> B	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b> F
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b> C	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b> A
	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b> B

## Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

I recently announced that in May/June 2012 I will be going to Malawi for two weeks with a team from the Presbytery. I feel that this will be a great opportunity for our church as it will give me the chance to meet with the minister and congregation of Lwambaza, our twinned church in Malawi.

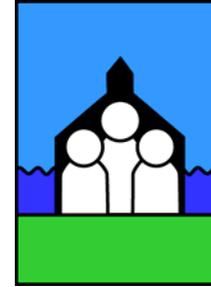
By the time I fly out to Malawi, we will have been linked with Lwambaza for just over a year and while we have had some correspondence and have send out a friendship Bible, the communication has been slow (though this is not surprising since the minister has to walk 7 kilometres and then get a bus for 28 kilometres just to access an internet cafe). And while it is great that we can communicate with them, and learn about their church and community, it will be so much better to be able to meet with them in person. It will also give us a clear understanding of their situation and hopefully show us ways that we can help over the coming years.

Christmas is now just around the corner and during this season of Advent, we celebrate the fact that God, the creator of the world became part of it, through Jesus. He did not come to learn more about us, because he already knew everything about us, instead he came to help us get to know him. Through being born and living on earth, Jesus showed us the loving connection that we have with God. God loves the world, but sadly not everyone responds to his love. It is a choice that every person must make for themselves, because love can never be demanded or forced.

Christmas is a time to remember the love that God has for each one of us, and the love that we are expected to show to God in return and to everyone else in the world. God loves the whole world, and through him, we are called to love and care for the world, especially those who need our support.

May you have a great Christmas as you celebrate our Saviour's birth.

God bless,  
Stephen



# CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

## St. COLMON

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

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