



Paws for Thought

It's nice to be able to share my news with you after a long summer break. It's been a busy summer, and I hope you have all enjoyed the beautiful weather we had. I didn't get out much so see it, but I'm sure it was lovely. My sister had her sun parasol out a lot, but she calls it an umbrella.

One of my highlights of the summer was winning the "Best Dressed Dog" certificate at the Ballantrae Gala. I have my certificate up on the kitchen wall next to Daddy and my brothers certificate for "Cutest Float" (they were pirates) and my sisters certificate for her sponsored cycle at nursery.

I had a 2 week holiday in Edinburgh which was very peaceful. Mummy took me lots of walkies because Daddy wasn't well. The children seemed to do lots of interesting things, but I stayed in the flat. Just as well, the flat was on the 3rd floor and my wee legs can't cope with that many stairs anymore.

Talking of coping, another highlight of the summer was that I got a huge new bed with a massive fluffy mattress. The downside of it is that it is in the utility room. I used to sleep on a sofa in mummy and daddy's room but apparently I was making too much use of the en-suite facilities.

I've received lots of letters and postcards from some of my loyal readers, but I'll share those with you next month.

Till then Dougie



Weather

Undoubtedly the most interesting weather news over the summer months was the floods in Pakistan—the worst for over 80 years. I get my TV pictures via Sky and every morning I switch to Sky news, press the red button for Sky active and on the weather section you often get a satellite picture from above the Indian Ocean.

This is particularly interesting during the monsoon season and even more so this year.

Back home July was wetter than average which made the grass green again after the very dry May and June. Augusts rainfall was below average and this allowed good progress with the harvest. One farmer was actually bailing just after the combine was past, and all the bails were cleared from the field by dusk. One day there may be a machine that does it all—and costs the earth!

This past August was the 100th anniversary of an extraordinary heat wave in Shetland. On August 6th, 1910, Sumburgh Head recorded 27.8°C (82°F), the highest temperature in the U.K. that month, and a record for the Shetland Isles that still stands.

One feature of the night sky in the coming months will be the appearance of Jupiter—much higher than last year.

George Watt

Noah's Ark Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark .

ONE: Don't miss the boat.

TWO: Remember that we are all in the same boat!

THREE: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

FOUR: Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

FIVE: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

SIX: Build your future on high ground.

SEVEN: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

EIGHT: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

NINE: When you're stressed, float awhile.

TEN: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

ELEVEN: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Church Fair



The total raised on the day was £2256.69. Thank you to all who donated, helped out and contributed in any way to our annual fundraiser. It was an excellent total and thanks to all!

Barrhill Film Night



10th September 2010 at 7pm
Furry Vengeance
Barrhill Memorial Hall

News Letter



Items for next months news letter should be in by
30th September



Oh, no it is THAT time again!

Sorry, I haven't introduced myself. I am Alfie the sheep and I am 12 years old. My human slave (HS) tells me that a dog writes a column in the Church magazine so I thought if one of them can do it, so can I.

For most of the year, we have quiet, uneventful lives. We eat then we lie down and chew our cud. Sometimes HS decides that we need some medicine or other and at other times, we get sore feet and HS tries to catch us to fix them. It is amazing how fast we can go even with sore feet. We normally outstrip HS unless we are crept up on and caught unawares!

To get back to the subject, THAT time occurs every year as soon as the days get longer and a bit warmer. For some reason, human slave thinks we need to have our coats removed. It is alright for humans, they can put theirs back on if it gets colder or it rains, but we have no option but to shiver it out.

I have heard that the pantomime season in other places is around Christmas time. Up here it takes place in the middle of summer!

Do you have any idea how embarrassing it is to be dragged upside down across a field just as a tourist (usually from Australia) appears to take a photograph? Even worse, sometimes it is one of us who is upside down!

One thing you do not want is to be the first to be shorn because the rest of us think you are a stranger and pick a fight. If you are second, at least you have a fellow-sufferer. Once the first one is done the warning goes out and suddenly, perfectly tame sheep are as wild as any others.

The other thing you do not want is to get the title that is awarded annually - Rough Clip of the Year. Now you might think that that is funny but you have no idea the stick we get from our mates!

Now, I like when one of the others is being shorn. I always keep them company just in case there is any left over "sheep-bait" in the form of biscuits. I can always be relied upon to dispose of it. (Just to prevent it from being used to lure another sheep, of course.) HS says I am just a greedy pest (or worse).

You know, writing this takes up a lot of valuable eating time. I reckon that dogs must have too much time on their paws. Think I will leave the journalism to them in future.

Wait a minute, I have just realised that all the rest are shorn and that means that it is my turn.

Must run.....
Submitted in June

From our Prayer Correspondent



For reading and meditation :- Psalm 95:v. 6-7

Once again we are at the start of the new year in our church calendar. A time to rededicate ourselves to God and reflect on what it means to be committed to our calling as Christians.

Prayer

Lord we welcome this opportunity to rededicate ourselves to you
To show our commitment as followers of Jesus
Lead, guide and strengthen us as we seek to show your love to others by following your example
Help us to be good stewards of all that we have been given
To share not only our possessions but also ourselves for the glory of your kingdom
Holy Spirit teach us how to pray with power, fill our hearts each day with your healing love
Help us as a church family grow in faith, love, caring and commitment to each other.
Thank you Jesus for commitment to us We give back to you what is your own.

Amen.

With every blessing Pat.



Fair Trade Stall

There will be a Fair Trade Stall in the church for a few weeks in September.
Please come and have a look at what is available.
If you wish to take a catalogue home and would like to place an order, please let Liz Gregg know.



S.W.R.I

First meeting of the season is on Monday **6th Sept.**
Travel Talk:- "The Italian Job"
Rev & Mrs Alex Cairns.

Old and new members will be given a warm welcome



Church Family

Baptisms

Zoe and John Stevenson – 25th July

Weddings

Garry Thompson & Natalie Lopes
31st July



Deaths

Harry Willis & Annie King
“I am the resurrection and the life”

Intimations

Ballantrae Board & Kirk Session
meet on 8 September at 7:30pm.

Rededication & Communion Service
Sunday 12th September

Joint Church Social
Friday 1st October 2010
Ballantrae Community Centre

Harvest Thanksgiving Service
Sunday 3rd October

New Members

If anyone is interested in joining the church, please could you speak to the Minister as soon as possible, as new member classes will hopefully start in the near future.



Ballantrae Church Guild

The Guild summer rally was held in Mauchline Church in June. A few of our members attended.

Summer outing. It had been decided that the choice this year would be Portpatrick if fine, Soleburn if wet. However the ladies who attended managed to combine both. After lunch and a stroll in Portpatrick the group proceeded to Soleburn for afternoon tea. An enjoyable outing.

The new session starts in September and a very warm welcome is extended to all our old members to return and we would also welcome new members who would like to join. Visitors are also welcome.

Events for September are Sunday **12th Sept.**, rededication in Church Monday **20th Sept.** opening meeting. The speaker will be The Very Rev Dr Alexander McDonald, former moderator. His subject will be "Houses I have lived in" We would like to encourage as many members and friends as possible to hear this very interesting speaker. This meeting will be held in Church at 7.15pm. Tea will be served.

Saturday **25th Sept.** Coffee morning in the community hall, 10.00am-11.30am

Pot Luck Supper
26th September 2010
7pm – South Parish Church Hall
All Welcome



SHOE BOX APPEAL 2010

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 “Best before “date JULY
10th, **NO CHOCOLATE.**
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 Sunday 7th November.



A man was vending oranges, he put his basket down as he crossed the road to make a delivery to one of his customers. Coming back, he found a small boy looking Admiringly at his basket of oranges, he then asked the boy , “You naughty boy, are you trying to steal my oranges?”. The little boy replied, “No sir, I’m trying not to steal them”.

LISTS AND ROTAS

Flower Calendar



Sept.

5th. I. Stewart
12th. L. Gregg
19th. P. Savage
26th. M. Maule



Tea Duty

October 3rd

Lorna Greenhill, Florence
Brown, Liz Gregg, Georgina
Mckinley & Liz Gregg

Church Cleaning Team

Sept. 6th. May & Tom Lothian

Sept. 19th. 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.**

Please note church should be cleaned prior to date indicated.

Sunday Duty Rota

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

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

I hope you have all had a good summer and enjoyed all that has been going on. As I have said before, I always expected the summer to be a bit quieter, but here it can be even busier, what with Church Fairs, Galas and the Flower Show. Still, I hope you got some rest and space to yourselves.

Over the summer, you will have noticed (unless you slept through all the services) that we have been looking at the story of Joseph. The story of Joseph, clearly reveals to us that even those who trust in God still have highs and lows in life. However, it also teaches us that God is in control and that he always looks after his children.

Stories are important for our faith. We all have two stories. The first is about all that we have done in life, and the second is about our faith, though obviously they are closely related. Just as we have grown up physically from a baby through childhood, adolescence and into adulthood, we have also grown in our faith since we became a Christian.

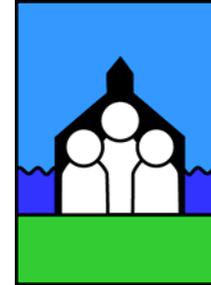
It is important that we have story rich lives. Stories are always good to share, and just as we share with our friends what we have done, so we need to share what God has done in our lives and how our faith is developing.

Therefore over the next few months, we are going to be reflecting on some of the Parables (the stories) that Jesus told. There are about 36 parables, but we will only look at about 9 of them. I am sure many of them will be well known to you, but hopefully as we read and study them, we will see them in a fresh light and they will help our faith to grow as our spiritual story continues.

Are you sitting comfortably ... then let us begin.

God bless,

Stephen



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

St. COLMON

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