

Paws for Thought



Dear Friends,

Well I'm back, I hope you all missed me over the summer! Thank you for the post cards and the mysterious gifts I have been sent "from an admirer!". It's been puzzling me for weeks who it could be. I do like getting mail, I'm not so sure the postman likes it when I try to attack him through the letter box. Sometimes it's a race between me and the children to get there first! I had a bit of a miserable summer I have to admit. I did have 3 weeks holiday at my grannys house and my aunty's house which was nice. Granny has a garden and my aunty has several pet rats – what more could a Westie want? I have however been ill for most of the summer. I've developed the Dreaded Westie Skin Disease – it's horrible and itchy and I've scratched a lot of my fur out. My skin has even turned black! I hope I don't become a Scottie! I've had several trips to the V.E.T. who thinks I might be allergic to grass!! Can you imagine how annoying that would be?

I'm not sure why, but mummy has started giving me 3 treats a day with little crunchy white bits in them. Most odd, but very kind. I'm glad she's not daft enough to try to give me tablets!! I think she tried to give one tonight, it was really big like a capsule but I was having none of it. Three times it went into my mouth and 3 times it came out again. Not sure what happened to it but my bad behaviour was rewarded by some left over chicken (with a strange crunchy bit in it?).

Till next time

Dougie



Weather

Last spring we saw that the part of England around Lincolnshire and the Wash were experiencing severe drought and the harvest promised to be a disaster. Then came the rain and one farm between Spalding & Kings Lynn is claiming to have beaten the UK wheat record yield. Previously this was set in 1981 by a farmer Gordon Rennie in Midlothian with 13.99 tonnes per hectare (2,471 acres). This year David Hughes is claiming 14.3 tonnes per ha.

During the summer we have heard about the drought in Somalia. It is a terrible reminder that the Horn of Africa and surrounding regions have a long history of lack of rain with devastating results. About 4,200yrs. Ago an extraordinary drought helped to bring down the Old Kingdom of Egypt. A recent study of the muddy sediment on the bottom of Lake Tana in the highlands of Ethiopia revealed that the lake almost dried up at just the time when Ancient Egypt was plunged into crisis. Lake Tana is the source of the Blue Nile, the main tributary of the Nile river. The low waters would have stopped the annual flood of the Nile, the lifeblood of ancient Egyptian civilisation, which irrigated the rich farmlands and fertilised the soil with fine silt.

The old Kingdom was the grand period of pyramid building in Egypt, reaching its peak with the Sphinx and Great Pyramid of Griza, which remained the world's tallest structure for nearly 4,000yrs. Until Lincoln Cathedral was built in the 1300s. The Pharaohs were treated as living Gods who ruled over their subjects absolutely, and Egyptian civilisation flourished with new art, science, technology, and trade across the Mediterranean. The old Kingdom, however began to suffer from poor Nile floods before the savage drought took grip for decades. The lack of water and river silt would have left the farmland in ruins and sent shockwaves through Egyptian society, leading to famines, social disorder and the disintegration of central government. The Pharaoh could no longer keep the country united and this led to the rise of powerful provincial leaders and rival claims to the Egyptian throne.

It is clear that the usual monsoon rains failed to arrive far enough north into Ethiopia to replenish Lake Tana. The extent of the drought was more widespread and brought down other civilisations, across the Mediterranean, the Akkadian Empire in Mesopotamia and the ancient civilisation of the Indus Valley, as well a ravaging the mid section of North America. A similar lurch in the climate if it happened today would be catastrophic.

George Watt



THE BIBLE SPEAKS!

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read : "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses"

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note: "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."





MALAWI

On Monday 15th. July, 2011 eight boxes were taken to The Raven Trust H/Q in Strachur on the first leg of their journey to Ekwendeni Hospital, Malawi.

The boxes contained fifty two plastic basins 52 hot water bottles, 104 baby blankets 104 baby hats, 104 baby grows 104 soft toys. We also managed to send a box of miscellaneous baby clothes. All these items for premature babies born at Ekwendeni Hospital.

A donation of £100 was made to the Raven Trust from our Malawi Funds to help with the transportation costs to Malawi. This is such good value as I am sure it would cost at least £10.00 or more to send a similar single box to London using a carrier.

Sincere thanks to everyone for this tremendous effort that arose spontaneously after the visit made to Ballantrae Church by Liz and David Geddes.

Well done everyone



Meg Peacock

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?"

A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy.

"Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked? "You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven..."



From Our Prayer Correspondent



For reading and meditation:- Romans ch12 v 6-8. Good News Bible V.6 So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us.

Gifts come in all shapes and sizes and in different wrappings to suit all kinds of occasions, birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas and so on. We do not know what these gifts are until we unwrap them.

God has given each one of us a different spiritual gift. Whatever that gift is we must do our best to share it with others. Whether it is to preach, teach give, serve, encourage or just to be there for someone in their time of need. However inadequate we feel God will give us the strength through His Grace to cultivate those gifts.

Prayer

Loving Father, we do not know which gifts you have given us.

Help us to use them to encourage to encourage others, bind us together to build each other up as your body We are unique and special in your eyes Lord. Bind us closer together in your love, help us to reach out in love and fellowship, not only to those in our own church but to those in the wider world that they may see you in us.

Amen

Every blessing in Jesus name Pat.

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.



The McIlwraith family would like to thank everybody for their cards, flowers and fellowship received during their recent Bereavement.



News Letter

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

Test of FAITH

A six week study group will begin on 2nd October entitled Test of FAITH. This will series will look at the relationship between Science and Religion. The group will meet in the manse in Ballantrae at 7:30pm. All are welcome.

Lunch at the Manse

resumes on Thursday 29th September. At 12 noon we gather for lunch, usually soup, sandwiches and cakes, and then we have a reflection/discussion on an aspect of our faith. Basically: Food, Fellowship and Faith. It is held in the Manse in Ballantrae (1 The Vennel) and everyone is very welcome.

Congregational Board and Kirk Session

meet on 14th September at 7:30pm

Malawi Evening

22nd September at 7:30pm in the Church – more information to follow.

Hospital Visiting

If you know of anyone in hospital who would like a visit from the minister, please could you phone Stephen on 831252.



Ballantrae Church Guild



The opening meeting of the season will take place on **Monday 19th September**. Guest Speaker is Mr Denis Reid, Girvan. Please note this meeting will take place in the Church @ 7-15pm. Members old and new will be most welcome

Coffee Morning

The Guild will hold a coffee morning in the community hall on **Saturday 24th September** from 10.00am. There will be the usual stalls, produce/plants, baking and a hamper. Donations will be welcome. Tickets £2.00 and £1.00.



Young Woman's Group

We begin our new session at the end of the month. We usually meet on Wednesday evenings at 8pm in the Ballantrae Vestry a couple of times a month. Syllabuses are available from Barbara Ogston (831252). All new members are very welcome.

Church cleaning

New cleaning partner for Anthea required now that Marina has left for that matter anyone else who would like to join the cleaning team! See Liz Gregg



September Plums

Usually enjoyed raw, plums have a natural sweetness but when cooked release a inner spiciness. Used in a wide range of recipes from jams and preserves to pies and even homemade wine, plums are one of the most versatile fruits of the season.

Plum Cobbler

Ingredients

2lb plums
8oz sugar
8oz flour
1 egg
4oz buttermilk
3oz butter
2 tsp baking powder
Salt for seasoning



Preparation

In a broad but shallow baking pan, spread an even layer of sliced plums and sprinkle with half of the sugar needed for the whole recipe. In a bowl, mix the butter, flour, baking powder, and the remaining sugar until a thick, lumpy mixture forms. Add the egg and buttermilk and mix to make a soft, pliable dough. Tear off pinches of this dough and cover the entire area of the plums, leaving a little space between each pinch of the dough. Bake at 375 until the crust is golden-brown. When an inserted toothpick comes out clean, you can be sure that the cobbler is finished. Because of the delicate nature of plums, be careful not to overcook this dish!

LISTS AND ROTAS

Flower Calendar



Sept.

4th. I Stewart
11th. M Cunningham
18th. P Savage
25th. Liz Gregg



Tea Duty

Lorna Greenhill,
Florence Brown, Liz
Gregg, Penny Savage &
Georgina McKinley

Church Cleaning Team

Sept.

11th John & Janice McIlwraith
25th. Penny Savage & Liz
Gregg

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

Sept.

4th. E
11th. F
18th. A
25th. B

Oct.

2nd. C
9th. D
16th. E
23rd. F
30th. A

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

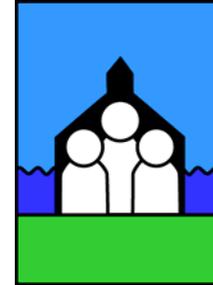
I have recently spent some time reading about the history of this area, looking at old photographs and watching video from events 20 years ago. As someone who has only been in this area for the last two and a half years, I am interested in the history and the changes that have taken place over the years. I have got a lot of photos from Keith Brown, but if anyone has documents, photographs or film, please make sure someone has a copy of them, in case they get destroyed. Personally, if anyone has any photographs of the manse inside or outside or of the garden, I would be very interested.

When we look at our church, what do we see? Do we see a historical building or do we see a place where Christians have gathered over the years to worship and celebrate God?

Remember that it is not the building that is amazing, but the heritage that we belong to, the line that we are a part of, which can be traced back hundreds of years to the first Christians who worshipped in this area. Our faith is not a modern invention nor is it a historical ritual, it is alive and well as it has been since the first prayer was said in this area. We do not gather here just because our forefathers did, instead we worship because we believe for ourselves and are following Jesus as our Lord and as our Saviour. The faith of our ancestors is good to remember, but it's only our own faith that will make a difference to how we live our lives.

I am sure some of us walk in the footsteps of our fathers and mothers, but I know that we all need to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, who is the only person worth knowing and following.

God bless,
Stephen



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

St. COLMON

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