



### Fiona's Holiday

*During my visit to New Zealand I had the opportunity to visit Rangiatea church in Otaki, where we returned the offering*

*plate donated to Ballantrae church by Lord Ballantrae.*

*After looking round the church and taking photographs I thanked the church officer and he very kindly gave me a book on church history. I have now passed on this book to John our session clerk where it will be available for anyone interested in reading it.*

Fiona Carle.

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Ladies will meet on Wednesday  
**4th February** at 2pm in the  
Community Centre

### Used Stamps

As well as used stamps, we also collect old spectacles and used ink cartridges (except Epson).  
Thanks to all who have donated

### Service of Thanksgiving for The Rev. Ernest J. Brain

*Since Ernest and I first met you all in 1987, we have thanked God daily that he brought us to you. These were wonderfully happy years and we were so privileged to spend them with you.*



*No one would have been more surprised than Ernest at the huge number who made that long journey to be present at the Service. For me it was both uplifting and comforting — that great singing plus the prayerful support, added to the vast quantity of cards, letters and flowers.*

*I can only repeat the words I used when we took farewell of Ballantrae Church — "Thank you. We love you all".*

*Rev. Isabel Brain*

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### Leprosy Mission

Each year many members and friends support the work of the mission and this year donations will be gratefully received by Georgina McKinley.



### Robert Burns(1759-1796)

Rabbie Burns is proclaimed the national poet of Scotland. Since the publication of his songs and poems they have never been out of fashion and in days gone by his book of poems was often found on the shelf beside the bible. His birthday January 25th is the annual occasion of "Burns Night" festivities.

Burns revealed his views on religious matters mainly in his series of satirical poems consisting of "Holy Willie's Prayer", "The Holy Fair", "The Ordination", "Address to the Unco Guid" and "The Kirk's Alarm".  
Looking at "**Holy Willie's Prayer**"

*O Thou that in the Heavens does dwell,  
Wha, as it pleases best Thyself,  
Sends ane to Heaven, an ten to Hell,  
A' for Thy glory,  
And no for onie guid or ill  
They've done before Thee!*

It was written about an Elder (William Fisher) in the parish of Mauchline at whose instigation the Kirk Session took action against Gavin Hamilton for his failure to celebrate the Sabbath in said proper manner. Fisher was a hypocrite and himself a sinner, Burns described Fisher as "*a rather oldish bachelor, much and justly famed for that polemical chattering which ends in tiptling orthodoxy, and for that spiritualised bawdry which refines to liquorish devotion*".

The poems were not anti religion, it was a condemnation of the religious hypocrisy and self righteousness evident in those days.

## Join the club



Just a line to say I'm living,  
That I'm not among the dead,  
Though I'm getting more forgetful  
And more mixed up in the head.

For sometimes I can't remember,  
When I stand at the foot of the stair,  
If I must go up for something,  
Or if I've just come down from there.

And before the fridge so often,  
My poor mind is full of doubt ,  
Have I just put food away,  
Or have I come to take some out?

If it's not my time to write dear  
I hope you won't get sore,  
I may think that I have written  
And don't want to be a bore.

Remember, I do love you,  
And I wish that you were here  
But now it's nearly mail time  
So I must say goodbye, my dear.

There I stood beside the mail box  
With my face so very red  
Instead of posting this to you,  
I have opened it instead.

I like my new bifocals,  
My dentures fit me fine,  
My hearing aid is perfect,  
But Lord, I miss my mind.

## Peanut Crunch



12oz Rich Tea Biscuits  
8oz Peanut Butter  
4oz Marg  
2oz Sugar  
6 dessertspoons Syrup  
Chocolate to cover

Method; Melt marg, sugar and  
syrup and boil for a min. Add  
crushed biscuits and peanut  
butter to mixture. Spread in small  
swiss roll tin and cover with  
chocolate.

Leave to set and enjoy

Gillian Taylor

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## Newsletter

Items for March should be in by  
26th February. The *Newsletter*  
costs approx. £400 per annum to  
produce.

Donations towards the cost may  
be left in a suitably marked  
envelope in the offering plate at  
any time, or given to the minister  
or any office bearer. The total for  
this year was £300, sincere  
thanks to those who have  
donated.



Global warning seemed to give Ballantrae a miss during 2008 as the mean temperature of 9.45degC was the lowest since I started, in August 2001, to measure temperatures properly, that is using thermometers of known accuracy and housed in a Stevenson screen. This figure is derived from adding up both the 366 maximum and the minimum daily temperatures recorded during the year and dividing by 732. The “end” figure does not vary too much — the highest was for 2007 at 9.99degC, so not much should be deduced from figures for just one year.

I have now acculated 12years of daily rainfall readings (that's4383!), and while the 2008 total of 1752.7mm (69ins) was above the 12year average of 1512.6mm (59.55ins), it was not as high as 2000 and 2002.

New Year's day 2009 was sunny and calm but with a hard frost at first. The more seasonable gales and rain returned on the 15th and even more so on the 17th with some vivid thunder and lightning as a finale.

It is now 150years since the SS Royal Charter foundered in a storm off the north coast of Anglesey. As a result of an inquiry into the disaster, the first official gale warnings were inaugurated, making use of the new electric telegraph as a means of communication. It was in the time of office of the first director of the Met. Office (then called “the Meteorological Department of the Board of Trade”), namely Robert Fitzroy — the same Admiral who sailed to South America with Darwin on HMS Beagle.

George Watt



### SWRI



New members welcome to attend  
our monthly meetings.  
Next meeting on the  
**2nd March.**  
70th Birthday Party

## Acknowledgement



I would like to thank everyone who  
passed on there condolences in any  
way for the recent demise of my  
Father. Your thoughtfulness was  
very much appreciated.

Marina Dempsey.

## CHURCH FAMILY

### Deaths

Mrs Joan Reid  
Mr Alan Houghton

*"I am the resurrection and the Life"*

### Sunday service

Ballantrae will welcome our New minister The Rev. Stephen Ogston when he preaches his first sermon

on  
**Sunday 8th. February**  
at  
11.30am



### World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer service will be held in church on **Friday 6th. March @ 7pm.** This year the service has been prepared in Papua New Guinea, The title is "In Christ There Are Many Members, Yet One Body".



## YOUNG WOMENS GROUP

### Friday 6th Feb.

Y.W.G. Safari night with a Burns Theme!

### Weds. 18th Feb.

Mr Keith Brown - Ballantrae's History

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## CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD



At the January meeting our speaker was our Presbytery Elder, Mrs Meg Peacock, who had gone to a great deal of trouble preparing her talk about the work of the Presbytery and its various committees. It was most interesting hearing about all that presbytery deals with.

Copies of past minutes were passed round, and questions answered.

A well deserved vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs Margaret Bean.

The next meeting will be on **Monday 16th Feb.** When Mrs Penny Savage will speak about "Penny's Norwegian Adventure". Please remember to bring any unwanted items for exchange on the Martha gift table to next guild night.



## The MASTER'S CARD

There are some things money can buy, for everything else there's the MASTER'S CARD.

I'm sure you've all received applications in the mail. However, I'm here to advertise a different card.

**The MASTER'S CARD.**

Let me tell you about it.

There are no finance charges, no payments due.

My bill has already been paid...it's a prepaid deal.

I couldn't afford the price, so Jesus Christ stepped in and paid it for me.

My name is written on the card for all to see.

The MASTER'S CARD is accessible twenty-four hours a day from anywhere in the world.

The MASTER'S CARD has so many benefits it's hard to list them all, but let me share some of them with you... you might want to apply for your personal card.

Just for starters there is UNLIMITED GRACE.

There is no pre-set limit to the amount of grace you receive from the MASTER'S CARD.

Have you been looking for love in all the wrong places? Then, look no farther than the MASTER'S CARD.

It offers the greatest love that has ever been offered.

The MASTER'S CARD is perfect for you.

Another great thing about the MASTER'S CARD is that it never expires and will never be cancelled.

Once you're a member, you're a member for life...eternal life, that is.

Membership has its privileges.

## LISTS AND ROTAS

### Flower Calendar



Jan. 4th

11th

Awaiting update

18th.



### Tea Duty

2nd March

Dorothy Flitter  
Margaret McKissock  
Margaret Maule  
Anthea Russell

25th

### Church Cleaning Teams

**8th Feb.**

Tom & Jean Davidson

**22th Feb.**

Anthea Russell & Marina Dempsey

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

Feb.		Mar.	
1st	C	1st	B
8th	D	8th	C
15th	E	15th	D
22nd	A	22nd	E

## Message from the Manse



Dear friends,

*I am so glad that Barbara, Chelsea and I are part of your family and those at St Colmon. You have all been very welcoming to us since we moved into the manse and we are extremely grateful for the generosity you have shown us. We are settling well into the manse and things are taking shape, although it looks like we will be unpacking boxes for many months to come.*

*After five years of spending a year in one church then a year in another, throughout my training, it is good to know that this is our home for the foreseeable future. We can put our roots down and settle, without feeling that we will move again in a year's time. It will take time, but I look forward to getting to know each of you and learning more about this area.*

*As I said at the social, I have felt called to this charge since May last year, though I wasn't able to apply until October because I was working as a probationer. And so after months of praying and waiting, it is so good to be here, and begin the work that God has called me to do. While covering an area which was up to recently served by two ministers will bring many challenges, I really believe that there are exciting times ahead for us as we grow in our faith together.*

*As a new chapter begins in the life of Ballantrae Parish Church, I really pray that I will serve and care for you to the best of my abilities and that I will encourage the strengthening of your relationship with our heavenly Father and with one another.*

God bless,

Stephen



# CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

**ST.COLMON**

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"The Lost Sheep" by Noleen Taylor age 6