



**BALLANTRAE PARISH
CHURCH**
linked with
**ST COLMON PARISH
CHURCH**



April – May 2019



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Ballantrae Parish Church

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Facebook as 'Ballantrae Church' and 'St Colmon Church'

From your Interim Moderator

Dear All,

Many would see the piece in the Ayrshire Post (06.03.19) about the state of the churches in South Carrick. There was an element of the sensational about the reporting – ‘no one home’, ‘without a minister’, ‘crisis facing kirk congregations’ – as if God had deserted the churches in the area. The fact is that various arrangements have been put into place, which mean that every congregation is alive and worshipping God on a Sunday morning at the appointed time.

Of course, it would be foolish to deny that there are problems in the national church. There is a shortage of trained ministers, congregations are falling in number and consequently it becomes more difficult to meet the financial demands of running a church, the average age of members is rising, and it becomes more difficult to find people to fill the necessary offices. It would be foolish to deny that there is a challenge.

Through the Presbytery the General Assembly has decreed that the number of ministers in South Carrick area should fall from 7 to 5. This will inevitably lead to readjustments among the

South Carrick churches, but Ballantrae linked with St Colmon is in the fortunate position of having authority from Presbytery to call a minister. Your Nominating Committee is working hard to make this possible.

In the meantime, churches need to develop strategies to deal with a vacancy or with the long-term prospect of not having a minister. This means, at the same time, being more self-sufficient and looking after each other.

One of the significant developments in recent years has been the rise in the number of people who have been trained to lead worship. Worship Teams can be deployed at all our centres of worship and are a clear indication of the desire to support ourselves when ministers are scarce.

Congratulations are in order to those who have recently completed their Worship Team training – George McArdle, Cathy Thorburn, Mary Stirling, Susan Fairbairn and Gavin Fairbairn. Of course, not everyone feels suited or comfortable being a worship leader, but anyone who is interested in the Presbytery of Ayr's training programme should speak to me or to one of the Session Clerks.

The other main area of self-support is in pastoral care. Through their districts the Elders should be able to keep in touch with members and their well-being, but it is mostly by word of mouth that information is passed on. Evening meetings, from the Guild to Food and Fellowship, are invaluable in keeping people informed of how others are, so that everyone is included in the family of the church, and at the same time the church reaches out in mission.

Paul reminds the Ephesians (4:1-16) that individuals are called to different tasks in the church, and each role is appreciated and needed. The objective is to 'equip God's people for work in his service' – and that points further to the hope that we will find 'the full stature of Christ'.

The Ayrshire Post may despair of the church in South Carrick – but we don't!

With every blessing,

Jim Anderson

Ministerial Vacancy

Our nomination committee are praying and working hard to attract a Minister and have received expressions of interest, which we pray will result in God guiding the right Minister to us.

In this time of vacancy, our Churches continue to do God's work in the area. We are endeavouring to keep the Church active during this vacancy and would welcome your support at this important time.

Elders are available to visit anyone who would like a listening ear, is unwell and would like a visit, or is sick or in hospital. Because of the Data Protection Act we cannot contact the hospitals to find out if anyone is a patient, nor can the Medical Practice point us in the direction of people who are ill or need a helping hand. We therefore need your help to keep us up to date. Please do not assume someone else will have told the Elders or Session Clerks. We would much rather hear about someone in the parish needing support, several times, rather than not at all.

Rev Ian McLachlan has asked those who have visited him to pass on his best wishes to our Churches.

Points for Prayer



John 16:33 (NLT)

“³³ I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”



The following is from a letter in Life & Work magazine

Dear Friends,

It will not have escaped your attention that we are currently living through a time of tumultuous change in the United Kingdom’s relationship with the European Union.

Across the country this change is having, and will continue to have, a profound impact on individual lives within our congregations and our communities.

I am increasingly struck by the need within our communities for space to come together, to listen, to reflect and pray, to learn from and celebrate one another.

This period has the potential to create division and distress amidst the uncertainty of what happens next. I believe that there is a place for the Church to work for hope, unity and peace. That is why, as the UK’s planned departure from the European Union approaches, I am inviting congregations to open their doors, in partnership with other local churches and congregations, to provide spaces of welcome, and reflection: spaces in which our communities might come together and demonstrate hope in the face of uncertainty, belonging instead of rejection, and a joy in one another that surpasses our disagreements or political differences.

What this invitation might look like in practice will differ according to the unique character and context of each of the communities who choose to take it up.

Hopefully these things together show some of the small but significant ways in which we the Church can offer spaces of welcome, spaces of hope, spaces of joy and spaces of belonging in this time of uncertainty.

As the body of Christ, the Church exists beyond human borders; our calling to live out the generous love of God in our communities, in our country, in Europe and beyond remains, steadfast and unchanged. May I invite you to be particularly mindful of this over the coming, and significant, days and weeks in the life of the country.

Yours,

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland,
Rt Rev Susan Brown

Prayer written by Rev Dr Martin Johnstone, Secretary to the Church and Society Council of the Church of Scotland.

*God,
who in Jesus,
broke down all barriers,
between people of different races
rich and poor,
male and female,
Jew and Gentile,
between heaven and earth
we worship you.*

*God,
at this time of heavy responsibility,
as decisions about future relationships
with our neighbours in Europe are being taken,
we pray for our leaders:
that they will lead wisely;
that they will listen attentively;
that they will exercise grace;
and that they will know peace
in their deliberations.*

*God,
at this time of uncertainty,
within our nations and communities,
we pray for ourselves:
that we will remain open to the stranger;
welcoming to the neighbour;
and committed to those who struggle.*

*God,
we pray for your church of which we are a part:
that we might be a place of honest reflection;
respectful dialogue;
open friendship;
humility and reconciliation.*

*We pray that
we might be a community that points to heaven,
and shows ways in which heaven is glimpsed on earth.*

*God,
who in Jesus,
breaks down all barriers,
between people of different races
rich and poor,
male and female,
Jew and Gentile,
between heaven and earth,
we worship you.*

AMEN

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Prayer is essential for our Churches and the world around us. All are welcome to join us in St Colmon Kirk Hall each month at 10am when we



on the 4th Saturday of worship and pray.

Easter Services in Holy Week

South Carrick Churches Together is organising services which will be held on Monday to Thursday evenings at Girvan North Church.

Thursday 18th April at 7pm

Agape Supper (pot luck supper with Readings and Communion) will be held in St Colmon Kirk Hall.

Please let Claire Pirrie know if you will attend for catering purposes.

Good Friday's open-air service will be held at 12noon at Stumpy Cross in Girvan and at 7pm everyone is welcome to a service in Milestone Christian Centre.

Save Your Stamps

Stamps must have a **one-centimetre border of envelope** left around them and not be torn or damaged.



The Stamp Appeal of 2019 will support the Chigodi Women Centre in Blantyre Malawi which is celebrating its 50th anniversary as it delivers a broad range of skills training to address the challenges faced by women in Malawi.

Training in tailoring, fashion design and chicken farming will improve the women's skills in marketing and entrepreneurship. The aim is that the women's socio-economic status is improved and their chances of future employment increase. By selling the produce made at the Centre the plan is that when the funding finishes the project will be self-sustainable – able to continue to improve the lives of women in Malawi.

Hand your stamps in at St Colmon Church, and we thank Mary Smith for her work sorting and sending them on to raise the much needed funds for projects supported by the Church of Scotland.

Ballantrae News

Congratulations to Jim and Irene Stewart who have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Jim and Irene say "Thank you to everyone who has given gifts and cards for Jim and Irene's recent wedding anniversary and Irene's hip operation. They were much appreciated".

Fiona Carle would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes, cards and flowers during her recent illness.

Claire Strain is organising a congregational meeting for **Wednesday 24th April** at 730pm in the church to discuss how we all have a responsibility to invite people to church and church events. Come and have some tea, cake, chat and inspiration!



Dates for your Diary

12th -18th May - Christian Aid Week

Saturday 1st June - Fundraising Cream Tea for Malawi

Saturday 8th June - Home baking at Ballantrae Food Festival

Saturday 6th July - Ballantrae Gala

Saturday 27th July – 2pm Ballantrae Church Annual Summer Fair

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th September -

Best of Ballantrae and 200th Anniversary of the church building.

Leprosy Mission

Thank you to everyone for raising £80 for the work of the Leprosy Mission, making this up to £160 as the UK government is doubling every donation made.

Ballantrae Finance Report

Income sadly again this year has dropped with a fall from the previous year from £51,000 down to £43,000. Donations were up slightly, however with no legacies this year it does not make great reading.

Individual donations and wedding income assisted us greatly.

The tax returned on Gift Aid which is very well managed by Jillian Nelson provided us with £2,799 raised in the last financial year.

Costs were down, mainly as a result of not having a minister, and therefore we do receive a reduction in the stipend fee. However, the main change is the amount spent by the Malawi team in the last year due to not having a minister in the parish we were not sending regular funds. This has now altered, and they now have a minister, and this has resumed.

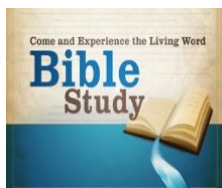
Income from investments was £7,075 and we spent £21,000 on the fabric of the building, including making the Manse meet Presbytery requirements. We expect to spend around £17,500 in this coming year.

To all who have provided funds in any way; gift aid, free will offering, plate, donations of money, goods and services and reviewing the church accounts, I thank you for your valiant efforts for last year and for future years.

Colin McNally

St Colmon News

Wednesday 24th April at 7.30pm in the Kirk Hall come along for coffee, cake and chat about Church and the way forward. Do you have questions and / or suggestions?



Wednesday 1st May at 7.30pm in the Kirk Hall
Informal chat over a coffee to see how the Bible is relevant to life today.

Wednesday 22nd May at 7pm for 7.30pm in the
and fellowship. Let Claire know if you are attending



Kirk Hall. A time of food
for catering purposes.

FLOWERS

Reminding us of God's wonderful creation, flowers add a special touch to our services, whether as an arrangement or a simply beautiful vase of cut flowers. If you would like to remember a special person or event with flowers please have a look at the year plan on the vestibule table or speak to Harriet.

St Colmon Church Finance

The Stated Annual Meeting will be held at the end of the service on Sunday 14th April when the treasurer will present the annual report and accounts. Copies will be available for those who wish, and any questions should be addressed to the treasurer, Claire Pirrie.

FOOD BANK

Food banks provide a minimum of three-days' nutritionally balanced, non-perishable tinned and dried foods and rely on your kind donations. They also distribute essential non-food items such as toiletries and hygiene products. Items can be left at church or delivered to Milestone Christian Centre at 35a Bridge Street, Girvan on Monday or Friday 10am to 12noon.

Church Services & Meetings

NB Joint Kirk Session meeting as part of Local Church Review
Venue and time to be confirmed

Ballantrae Parish Church

We meet at 11:30am every Sunday in Ballantrae Church and children aged 0 – 12 are welcome to Sunshine Club.

Glenapp Church services

are held at 3pm on the first Sunday of each month.

St Colmon (Arnsheen Barrhill & Colmonell) Parish Church

We meet at 10am every Sunday in Colmonell. Children are welcome, and an area is set aside with toys and colouring books. The service on the last Sunday of each month is usually held in the Kirk Hall, which has easy access for those with mobility problems. All services are followed by refreshments.

Barrhill Services

At 3pm on the third Sunday of each month a service is held in Barrhill Memorial Hall. All are welcome, and refreshments are served after the service.

What's On .. April to May '19

Friday 12th April Filling Station at Woodland Bay 7 for 7.30pm

Sunday 14th April Palm Sunday

10am St Colmon Church & Stated Annual Meeting

11.30am Ballantrae Church

Easter Week

Monday 15th April 7pm at Girvan North Church

Tuesday 16th April 7pm at Girvan North Church

Wednesday 17th April 7pm at Girvan North Church

Thursday 18th April 7pm Agape Supper in St Colmon Kirk Hall

Good Friday 12noon Stumpy Cross Open Air Service

7pm Milestone Christian Centre service

Sunday 21st April Easter Sunday

7am Ballantrae Harbour Service

10am St Colmon Church

11.30am Ballantrae Church

3pm Barrhill Memorial Hall

Saturday 27th April

10am Prayer & Praise in the Kirk Hall

Sunday 28th April

10am St Colmon Church in the Kirk Hall

11.30am Ballantrae Church

Sunday 5th May Communion Service

10am St Colmon Church

11.30am Ballantrae Church

3pm Sunday at Glenapp

Sunday 12th May

10am St Colmon Church

11.30am Ballantrae Church

Friday 17th May Filling Station at Woodland Bay 7 for 7.30pm

Sunday 19th May

10am St Colmon Church

11.30am Ballantrae Church

3pm Barrhill Memorial Hall

Saturday 25th May

10am Prayer & Praise in the Kirk Hall

Sunday 26th May

10am St Colmon Church in the Kirk Hall

11.30am Ballantrae Church

Ayr Presbytery Rural Churches Conference

“Helping Churches to connect with communities in the 21st century”

Saturday 4th May 10am to 3pm at the Carrick Centre, Maybole.

Booking is essential for catering. Contact Rev Chris Blackshaw

cblackshaw@churchofscotland.org.uk

For a lift contact Claire Pirrie 841644

A NEW INFORMAL WAY OF EXPRESSING
THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND DRAWING
CHRISTIANS TOGETHER FROM
DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND
CHURCHES



7:30 PM FRIDAY 12TH APRIL

WOODLAND BAY HOTEL
WOODLAND FARM, GIRVAN

DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 PM FOR REFRESHMENTS
AND FELLOWSHIP

THIS MONTH WE WELCOME BACK
MARIETTE LOUW
FROM YOUTH WITH A MISSION IN TROON



Thefillingstation.org.uk
Facebook: The Filling Station - Girvan