



Woodland Bay Hotel
Friday 16th February 7 (coffee / cakes) for 7.30pm
Speaker – Andy Hall from Lighthouse Troon

Malawi Information

In Malawi 6.5 million of our brothers and sister are suffering famine due to extremes of drought and flood. Thank you to everyone who purchased a £5 gift card and helped to raise £250 from Ballantrae and £175 from St Colmon (£425) to provide seeds and fertiliser to restore the ground and crops.

Ballantrae Malawi Group delivered Christmas cards in the local area and raised £100 for our linked church in Lwambaza so thanks to all who participated.



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



February – April 2018



Interim Moderator: Rev. Ian McLachlan
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Telephone: 01465 713370

Ballantrae Parish Church

Session Clerk: Mrs Claire Strain – 01465 831246
clairestrain@live.co.uk / www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk
Scottish Charity No. SC008536

St Colmon Parish Church

Session Clerk: Mrs Claire Pirrie - 01465 841644
stcolmon.sessionclerk@gmail.com
www.stcolmonparishchurch.org.uk
Scottish Charity No. SC014381

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

FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

Since I last wrote to you Christmas has come and gone. Hopefully you all enjoyed the festivities and that you devoted some of your time to considering the real meaning of Christmas. And that is that Jesus came into our world on that special of days to teach us, to inspire us, to help us and to ultimately give up his life for us.

The next Christian festival that we will be celebrating will be Easter. There are some folk who make an extra special effort to attend church at Christmas and Easter, but do not make much effort to attend between these two dates. There are many other Sundays in-between though and we should use these Sunday to reflect on the many incidents in Jesus' life.

Jesus lived a very busy life. He healed a number of people and by doing that he really changed their lives. He spoke to hundreds of people at a time – sometimes using parables – sometimes using more direct teaching methods. He also interacted with a number of people on a one-to-one level, as a result of which their lives always improved for the better.

Just hearing the Christian message at Christmas and Easter is Hearing only a part of Jesus' life story. And that is why it is important that Christians attend church as regularly as possible and not only on special occasions.



Flowers at St Colmon Church

Very many thanks to all who have contributed to our Kirk flowers through the seasons. The Flower Fund being at a rather low ebb at this time of year, any help would be gratefully appreciated – perhaps, for instance, by a simple bunch of flowers placed in the Kirk. The flower rota in the vestibule still has some spaces.



SUPPORTING
year of young people
bliadhna na h-òigridh
2018

Ballantrae and St. Colmon churches have signed up to the national Year of Young People.

Churches, including those with few or no children, are invited to explore what they can do, both in church services and beyond, and explore some new ways of engaging with children and young people. We plan to hold a service to introduce the theme and watch out for events through the year! Please get in touch if you have any ideas.



Your Easter Egg gift can help to spread the Good News if you give a real egg complete with the Easter story. Please consider ordering "Real Easter Eggs" through Life & Work or Embrace the Middle East magazines.

Details are available in the Kirk Hall.

Nomination Committee

The following people have been elected and will be responsible for seeking a minister and bringing their nomination to the congregations of our linked charges:

Convener – Margaret Maule, Elder, Ballantrae

Clerk - Harriet Ellis, Elder, Colmonell

Ballantrae Church: Claire Strain, Session Clerk
Colin McNally, Treasurer
Betty Nelson, Elder
Hal Maxwell, Elder
May Lothian, Elder
Jackie Maxwell, Member

St Colmon Church: Claire Pirrie, Session Clerk
Anne Shankland, Elder
Andy Muir, Elder
Irene McCrae, Member
Ann Robertson, Member

Farming Ministry

“Carols in the Mart” was a very successful evening with standing room only. It gave us all an opportunity to meet Rev Chris Blackshaw who has been appointed as Ayr Presbytery’s Pioneer Minister to the Farming Community. Chris can be seen regularly at Ayr cattle market and has also visited some members in our parishes. If you wish to speak to Chris, please phone 07980 975062 or contact your elder.

In the coming weeks there will be some new preachers at our morning services. From what I have heard the two congregations appreciate this opportunity to hear a variety of different people proclaim the Christian message. The congregations also appreciate the work of the various Worship Teams and all they do to present the gospel in interesting ways. A vacancy offers congregations a unique chance to hear a number of different preachers while still attending their local church.

There are some issues which need to be resolved before the vacancy is advertised. However, I am hopeful that these can be completed soon. A vacancy puts a great deal of pressure on office-bearers and I am very grateful for everyone who has supported me and who has worked tremendously hard to ensure that for the two congregations it is very much ‘business as usual.’

All being well I will be with you all on the second Sunday in February. Until then if there is anything that I can do to help then please do not hesitate to get it touch with me. I may be busy just now – but I am never too busy if anyone needs me.

All the best, Rev. Ian McLachlan, Interim Moderator.



Ballantrae Flower List

Flower List for 2018 is available to donate flowers to decorate the church. These are then passed onto those in the community who are in our thoughts.

Points for Prayer

“Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls.” Matt.11.28



Give thanks that the God whom we worship is always available to hear our prayers and will always answer us; He is the Father who loves his children and desires the best for us.

Give thanks for the promise of Spring and the possibilities it brings of new life and renewal that we see in nature around us.

Pray that we as congregations of believers may experience renewal in our own lives and in the life of the church here.

Pray that we may go on believing that God has a plan for our parishes and that he will fulfil it.

Pray for those who have found the winter hard and have suffered illness or deprivation.

Pray that each of us will be willing to reach out in friendship to those around us, to make life better for some or to bring encouragement to those who may be discouraged.

Pray especially for those who have the task of keeping the work of the church going in this time of vacancy: For the Interim moderator, for the session Clerks, for the Worship Team and for the Nominating committee as they search for a new minister.

Colmonell Circle

All are welcome
7.30pm in St Colmon Kirk Hall
Mon. 26th February “Street Pastors” - Gilly Baldock
Mon. 26th March “Card Craft” – Marion McQuiston
Refreshments will be served.

Ballantrae Church of Scotland Guild



Meeting at 1.30pm in Ballantrae Community Centre
Mon. 26th February – join Colmonell Circle as above
Friday 2nd March – World Day of Prayer
Mon. 19th March – Annual General Meeting
Mon. 16th April – Open Evening “Big Sing”
Secretary Jessie Brown 831544
The Guild is Open to All



Every Thursday at 7.30pm in St Colmon Kirk Hall. Informal discussion over coffee / tea to find out how the Bible can benefit our lives. Do you have questions and want to understand the Bible's place in our world today? Join us in seeking the answers over a coffee or tea.



Café Church is on the 2nd and 4th Friday (not 22nd December) each month 6.30pm for 7pm in St Colmon Kirk Hall.
Church, but not as you know it. A time for coffee, cake, hot chocolate, worship music and chat.

Church Services & Meetings

Ballantrae Parish Church

We meet at 11:30am every Sunday in Ballantrae Church and children are welcome.

Glenapp church services now take place on the first Sunday of each month. These ecumenical and liturgical style services are at 3pm. Everyone is welcome to attend this 'Kirk down the Glen'. Refreshments are served after the service.

Ballantrae Session and Board

Ballantrae Congregational Board and Kirk Session meet on Wednesday 21st March at 730pm in the vestry.

St Colmon Parish Church

We meet at 10am every Sunday in Colmonell. Children are welcome, and an area is set aside with toys and colouring books. For those who find the church steps a challenge the service on the last Sunday of each month is usually held in the Kirk Hall, which has easy access.

St Colmon Church Meetings

Kirk Session meets on Tuesday 20th February at 7.30pm in St Colmon Kirk Hall.

Barrhill Services

At 3pm on the third Sunday of each month a service is held in Barrhill. While the Memorial Hall is closed we meet in the Primary School. All are welcome, and refreshments are served after the service. If anyone from Barrhill would like a lift to services at St Colmon Church please contact Claire on 841644.

Pray for peace and harmony as we work together and pray that every member will take on responsibility cheerfully as needed.

Pray always for the persecuted Church worldwide. Christians are suffering imprisonment, torture, abuse because of their commitment to Christ. They need to know that they matter to us and that we care.

Pat Guthrie, Prayer Promoter.

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 on the 4th Saturday of each month at 10am when we sing a couple of songs and pray. There is no obligation to pray out loud, just come and join in by quiet contemplation.

Coffee @ Kirk

Every Wed. 10am to 12noon drop in to St Colmon Kirk Hall for coffee for the price of a donation. Pick up a book or just catch up with friends. A podiatry clinic is held every 7 weeks.

A Thought

A businessman, well known for his ruthlessness, once announced to writer Mark Twain, "Before I die I mean to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I will climb Mount Sinai and read the Ten Commandments aloud at the top."

"I have a better idea," replied Twain. "You could stay in Boston and follow them."

What's On .. February to April '18

Friday 9th February

18:30 for 19:00 - Café Church, St Colmon Kirk Hall

Sunday 11th February

10:00 - St Colmon Church with Baptism

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

Sunday 18th February 1st Sunday of Lent

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

15:00 – Barrhill Service in the Primary School

Friday 23rd February

18:30 for 19:00 - Café Church, St Colmon Kirk Hall

Saturday 24th February

10:00 - Prayer & Praise in St Colmon Kirk Hall

Sunday 25th February 2nd Sunday of Lent - Communion

10:00 - St Colmon Church in the Kirk Hall

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

Sunday 4th March 3rd Sunday of Lent

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

15:00 – Sunday at Glenapp

Friday 9th March

18:30 for 19:00 - Café Church, St Colmon Kirk Hall

Sunday 11th March 4th Sunday of Lent

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

Sunday 18th March 5th Sunday of Lent

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

15:00 – Barrhill Service in the School or Memorial Hall

Friday 23rd March

18:30 for 19:00 - Café Church, St Colmon Kirk Hall

Saturday 24th March

10:00 - Prayer & Praise in St Colmon Kirk Hall

Sunday 25th March Palm Sunday

10:00 - St Colmon Church in the Kirk Hall

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

Easter Week Monday 26th to Friday 30th

Look out for details of South Carrick Services Together services including Communion.

Sunday 1st April Easter Day

07.00 - Ballantrae Harbour Service followed by breakfast

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

15:00 – Sunday at Glenapp

Sunday 8th April

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

Friday 13th April

18:30 for 19:00 - Café Church, St Colmon Kirk Hall

Sunday 15th April

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

15:00 – Barrhill Service in the School or Memorial Hall