



**BALLANTRAE  
PARISH CHURCH**

linked with  
**ST COLMON  
PARISH CHURCH**



**July & August 2018**



Photo by Andy Muir

**Interim Moderator:** Rev. Ian McLachlan  
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**Ballantrae Parish Church**

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**St Colmon Parish Church**

**(Barrhill, Pinwherry, Colmonell & Lendalfoot)**  
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Scottish Charity No. SC014381

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

**FROM YOUR INTERIM MODERATOR**

To the members of the congregations of St. Colmon and Ballantrae,

I am delighted to say that all the work that needed to be done in the manse at Ballantrae has now been completed. I am very grateful for all the work that Claire Strain and her team have done so that the manse has been upgraded in such a way that the Presbytery is happy for it to remain the manse for this linkage. Now that the Presbytery has passed the manse it means that our vacancy can appear alongside all the other vacant charges in Scotland and beyond. This means that I am eagerly awaiting ministers contacting me to say that they might be interested in becoming the new minister of this charge.

At this time, I cannot say what the potential level of interest may be, but I hope that you all keep the vacancy in your prayers and I hope that someone, somewhere decides that this is where they feel that God is calling them to serve. Exciting times ahead!

I am currently trying to put together a list of preachers for the remainder of this year. I like to plan as far as possible particularly as there are so many vacancies in the Presbytery at present, some with Interim Moderators looking for potential preachers. As before I do my best to provide a variety of different preachers and I know that those I have spoken to afterwards have very much enjoyed their time spent on Sunday in the two churches.

Of course, the work of the two churches is not restricted to Sunday services and I am delighted with all the ongoing work which is being carried on in this time of vacancy. I am grateful to everyone who has helped in any way with this and if you want to lend your support to any project then I am sure that your help would be much appreciated.

I try to attend as many events as I can, but I am sure you all know that driving anywhere is difficult for me and I am always extremely grateful to those people who are prepared to offer me a lift. With Dailly Church about to be refurbished next month, I am busy just now but not too busy to offer any help or support that anyone in our parishes might need. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason – I am just a phone call or an email away.

This is the time of year that many of you decide to go on holiday. Whether you choose to holiday in Britain or further afield I hope that you have an enjoyable time and return home refreshed and feeling that you have put your free time to good use.

As I write this the weather has been particularly good. I hope that it remains so for the rest of the summer.

With every blessing, Ian. Interim Moderator.

## *PRAYER AND PRAISE*

St Colmon Kirk Hall  
Last Saturday of each month at 10am.

Prayer is essential for our Churches, communities and the world around us. Please join us in a time of prayer and praise as we seek God's will, pray for guidance and pray for the people and the issues that concern us all.

### Points for Prayer

"You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You: because he trusts in you." Isaiah 26.3.

A prayer from the World Mission Council :

Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee, and had no place to call his own; look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger, homeless and hungry. Bless those who work to bring them relief, inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts and guide the nations of the world towards that day when



Jesus returns and brings justice and peace with his kingdom here on earth. In his name, Amen.

Having seen so many instances of desperate people braving the rigours of the Mediterranean in order to escape persecution or war in a bid for safety, it's good to read of the work of the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy which is set up to support refugees. Many Italians have opened their homes to help welcome and shelter, to offer language tuition and employment opportunities.

**Please continue to pray for this situation which is ongoing. Also, for Fiona Kendall, Mission Partner from the Church of Scotland, who works with "Mediterranean Hope", as a legal affairs advisor.**

**The other urgent request for prayer from the Mission Council is for continued prayer for Sawan Masih who is facing the death sentence after being falsely accused of blasphemy. He is one of hundreds of Christians accused and imprisoned under Pakistan's harsh Blasphemy Law.**

**We know, too, about Asia Bibi, a young mother who has been on death row for years while lawyers argue her case. Pray for the lawyers who not only work on behalf of their clients but also are at serious risk themselves from death threats.**

Nearer to home: Our congregations have now been given permission to call a minister, but the task will not be easy and those members who are on the **Nomination Committee** will need all our support. Please remember them in your prayers.

And please give your support to all the summer services and special events. Our **Session Clerks and Kirk Sessions and Interim Moderator** are working hard to keep things going but they cannot do it without all church members playing their part.

We know that God has a plan for our future here, and it is by prayer that we are able to discern His will for us.

Pat Guthrie, Prayer Promoter.

### **Church Services & Meetings**

**Communion** will be celebrated in both Churches on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September. You are all most welcome to join us.

### **Ballantrae Parish Church**

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

### **Glenapp Church**

Services are held 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 19<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the vestry.

### **St Colmon Parish Church**

We meet at 10am every Sunday in Colmonell. Children are welcome, and toys and colouring books are available.

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.

All services are followed by refreshments in the Kirk Hall.

### **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 offering a time of fellowship.

### **St Colmon Kirk Session**

St Colmon Kirk Session meet on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm in the Kirk Hall.

### **Congratulations**

Everyone at St Colmon Church are delighted that Andy Muir has been accepted for training as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. In these days when we face a future of not enough ministers for the number of parishes, it is wonderful to see God guiding one of our Church family into ministry.

Andy is a valued member and elder in our Church and will be missed as he spends time on placements in other Churches. We pray for God's blessing on Andy and Shona as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

### **New Season Open To All**

Café Church has now stopped, and a new season of regular events in St Colmon Kirk Hall begins in July. All are welcome, and we hope the variety offers everyone something to enjoy.

All will be held on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in the Kirk Hall, except Filling Station on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at Woodlands.

In a five-week month we will have an evening of coffee, cake and chat on the extra Thursday.

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday: Bible Study** – over a coffee join us to discover how the Bible is relevant to, and can guide, our lives today.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday: Food & Friendship** – if you would like to join us for a meal (or even cook it!!) please let Claire know for catering.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Friday: Filling Station** – see separate advertisement

**4<sup>th</sup> Thursday: Film Night**

**Last Saturday monthly 10am** Praise and Prayer continues

## BALLANTRAE

There was enormous support from all the bakers in the village to the home baking stall at the Scot Sheep event. A marvellous £700 was made. Thank you to everyone who supported it by baking and assisting to sell the goods!



The church is having a home baking stall at the Ballantrae Gala Day on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July. Hope to see you there!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our recent Christian Aid collection in May. The total we are sending is £780.

Over the summer months the service at Glenapp church continues on the 1<sup>st</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> August at 3pm in the afternoon at the 'wee kirk down the glen'.



The Annual Summer Church Fair is to take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July from 2pm. All the usual stalls with the hall open in the morning to receive donations.

The Gaiety, Ayr and Ballantrae Trust have organised the band 'Kilda' to play in the church on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 730pm. They are a group of young musicians who have created tunes and songs from their Scottish roots.

We are planning another 'Best of Ballantrae' event on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Put the date in your diary!

## BALLANTRAE

We live I am afraid in challenging times, with income from the plate down on the year, reflecting a general fall in attendance. However, we managed with the assistance of the £3,867 funds generated through Gift Aid to keep our head above water. Individual donations and wedding income assisted us greatly, and without these the financial picture would be significantly different. Costs were also steady, with a slight saving made from Stephen's departure (saving on stipend and travel) offsetting some smaller cost increases elsewhere.

Fundraising activities continue to be a major source of income for us and thanks go to those who run and deliver these for us.

Income from investments was £6,971 and we spent £23,000 on the fabric of the building, including windows in the Manse (of which we received funds from St Colmon for their share). In the coming year the spend on the manse is estimated at £20,000.

Therefore, again I ask that you continue the great work of 2017 and continue to think of new ideas to raise much needed funding.

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

Colin McNally,  
Ballantrae Church Treasurer

# **What's On .. July & August '18**

## **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

19:30 – Bible Study in St Colmon Kirk Hall

## **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

10:00 – St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

## **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

19:30 – Food & Fellowship in St Colmon Kirk Hall

## **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

14:00 St Colmon Fundraising Auction in St Colmon Kirk Hall

## **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

15:00 – Barrhill Memorial Hall service

## **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

19:30 – Coffee, Cake & Chat in St Colmon Kirk Hall

## **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

14:00 – Ballantrae Annual Summer Church Fair

## **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

## **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July**

19:30 – Film night in St Colmon Kirk Hall

## **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July**

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

## **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July**

10:00 - St Colmon Church in St Colmon Kirk Hall

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

## **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**

19:30 – Bible Study in St Colmon Kirk Hall

## **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August**

14:00 – St Colmon Kirk Fair

## **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August**

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

15:00 – Sunday at Glenapp

## **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> August**

19:30 – Food & Fellowship in St Colmon Kirk Hall

## **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August**

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

## **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August**

19:30 - Filling Station at Woodland Bay Hotel

## **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August**

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

15:00 – Barrhill Memorial Hall

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August**

19:30 – Film night in St Colmon Kirk Hall

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August**

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

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August**

10:00 - St Colmon Church in St Colmon Kirk Hall

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August**

19:30 - Coffee, Cake & Chat in St Colmon Kirk Hall



Thanks to your saved stamps a total of **£2,194** was raised in 2017 for the work of the World Mission Council with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan.

World Mission Stamp Appeal 2018 is raising money for The Hungarian Reformed Church in Transcarpathia (TRC), Ukraine, which supports children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. They help to run day care centres providing educational, emotional, and physical support for children and young people with disabilities, allowing them to enjoy fully participating in society and family life.

Before these day care centres began, the children stayed at home, doing very little except watching TV. Children and young people were left feeling very isolated from others of their own ages with no opportunities to learn and develop their potential. The day care centres allow dozens of children and teenagers to flourish through writing and reading, massage, music, craft work, walks and games. Families of the young people are also given support, and an opportunity to meet other parents who are caring for a child or young person with a disability.

Please help.

- Simply collect as many stamps as you can
- Leave a small amount of envelope around each one
- Leave in the collection box at St Colmon; give to Claire Pirrie; or post to World Mission Stamp Project, PO Box 9191, Wishaw, Lanarkshire, ML2 0YB.
- [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamp](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamp)

## St. COLMON

### **St Colmon Fundraising Auction **NEW DATE****

A fundraising auction will be held in St Colmon Kirk Hall on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July. Viewing from 1.30pm. Auction at 2pm. Admission £1.

Refreshments available. Donations of goods are appreciated.

Items can be delivered between 6pm and 8pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> or contact Brian & Lynne or Claire.



### **St Colmon Kirk Fair**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 2pm at the Kirk Hall and Glebe. Baking, jewellery, bric-a-brac, books, plants, tea room etc.

### **Colmonell Circle**

The Circle season begins on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Kirk Hall with a speaker from Crossreach. All are welcome.

### **St Colmon Kirk Hall**

The kirk hall is available for hire for occasional events at £8 per hour or an affiliation fee for regular bookings. Please contact Claire for further information.

### **Annual Report**

If you would like a copy of St Colmon's Annual Report and Accounts for 2017 please contact Claire.

### **Fundraising**

Thanks to all who contributed to the £45 collected for Crossreach and £135 raised for the Malawi seeds and fertiliser appeal.

Thanks also to those who keep a constant supply of beautifully handknitted items for sale in the Kirk Hall.

## **THE FILLING STATION**

In need of a spiritual "top-up"? try The Filling Station? It is a Christians from across the contemporary style worship / visiting speakers / opportunity for prayer ministry and healing.



Looking for something different? Why not non-denominational gathering of area in an informal setting with

There are Filling Stations across Scotland and the UK.

**Girvan Filling Station** meets on the 3rd Friday of the month (not July or Dec.) at Woodland Bay Hotel Girvan at 7pm (cakes and coffee) for a 7:30pm start. We'd love to welcome you there.

Next meetings: August 17th September 21<sup>st</sup>

[girvan@thefillingstation.org.uk](mailto:girvan@thefillingstation.org.uk)



Filling Station Girvan [www.thefillingstation.org](http://www.thefillingstation.org)

## Coffee @ Kirk

Every Wednesday 10am to 12noon drop in to St Colmon Kirk Hall for coffee, tea, biscuits for the price of a donation.

Buy or borrow second hand Christian and general books.

Podiatry Clinic every seven weeks. Contact Claire Pirrie to book an appointment.

### **Malawi Update from Ballantrae**

#### **Vacancy**

As many of you will know our partner church at Lwambasa is currently in a period of vacancy and does not have a full-time minister. Unlike the situation in Scotland where a minister remains with a charge until he or she feel a call from God to move on or until retirement, in Malawi the minister is appointed by Synod and is moved around as Synod believes necessary to meet the needs of the various congregations. The current interim moderator covering Lwambasa is Kingsley Chirwa, please support him in your prayers.

Another difference between Scotland & Malawi is that the congregations of each church are responsible for paying the ministerial stipend & there is no support from presbytery.

Lwamabasa is one of the poorest regions in Malawi and this burden posed a real hardship to the congregation. When Closebel was minister Ballantrae part funded his stipend from monies raised by our cream tea & 'two spoons' supper. The Malawi committee will be reviewing this when a new minister is appointed.

#### **Fund Raising**

Our annual Cream Tea to raise funds for our sister church in Malawi was held on 2nd June in BRICC House, Ballantrae. The new venue proved to be very popular and we were very well supported by both local folks and visitors. The tremendous sum of £660.00 was raised.

Members of the committee would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who supported this event. To everyone who assisted in any way, by baking, assisting beforehand and on the day and of course all who came along and enjoyed this social event. Huge thanks to all.

Your support is very much appreciated

Please remember the 'two spoons' supper when the time comes – always a good meal at very modest cost.

#### **Alternative Gift Scheme**

At Christmas many of you supported the Ayr Presbytery alternative gift scheme. The focus of this was to alleviate hunger.

Ballantrae church raised £250 towards this scheme & overall Ayr presbytery

raised £10,000. The sum of 3 million Malawi Kwacha (just over £3000) has been distributed to each of Limphasa & Bandawe presbyteries for the purchase of fertilizer. The balance will be used to provide seed.



### Visits

A team from Alloway church are travelling to Malawi between the 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> July. Please remember them in your prayers. There was an interesting and informative piece in the Ayrshire Post of 19<sup>th</sup> June about the planned visit & there is an active Facebook page – Alloway Malawi Mission 2018 - if you wish to learn more.

If you do not use social media but have internet connection, then photos will be posted on the Alloway church website – [www.allowaychurch.org](http://www.allowaychurch.org)

The Presbytery will be hosting a team of four visitors from Malawi between the 6<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> September – we will update you as we get more information about their itinerary.

The Malawi Committee

### Letter in Newslines

For those who haven't seen the last edition of Presbytery of Ayr Newslines, the Moderator, David Gemmell, included this letter.

*Dear Minister,*

*I think that every person ought to be excused from attending Church for the following reasons:*

*Christmas (Sunday before or after)*

*New Year (Party lasted too long)*

*Easter (Get away for holidays)*

*Mother's Day (Must take her to lunch)*

*Father's Day (Must take him to lunch)*

*School's Closing (Kids need a break)*

*School's Opening (One last fling)*

*Family Reunions (Mine and wife's)*

*Sleep Late (Saturday night activities)*

*Deaths in Family*

*Anniversary (Second honeymoon)*

*Sickness (One per family member)*

*Business Trips (A must)*

*Holidays (At least three weeks)*

*Bad Weather (Ice, snow, rain, clouds)*

*Day Trips*

*Unexpected Company (Can't walk out)*

*Clock Changes*

*TV Specials (Ryder Cup, D.I.Y. shows)*

*Minister, that leaves only two Sundays a year.*

*So, you can count on us to be in Church on the fourth Sunday in February a  
unless providentially hindered.*

*Sincerely,*

*A Faithful Member*

**Recommended reading:**

“Hope in the Rural Church  
Reflections on the Scottish Church Census”

A report authored by the ACTS (Action of Churches Together in Scotland)

Scottish Churches Rural Group

[www.acts-scotland.org](http://www.acts-scotland.org)

Rev Stephen Ogston was one of the Church of Scotland representatives  
who worked on this report.

**Next Newsletter – September & October**

Please send articles to Claire Pirrie by 20<sup>th</sup> August aiming for distribution on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.