

Congratulations

to Janette Sloan, Ballantrae Church Organist for the last nine years, who was presented with a Church of Scotland long service certificate by Rev Ogston. After a career spanning sixty years, Janette has no plans to retire!



Ballantrae Church of Scotland Guild

1.30pm to 3.30pm Community Centre
Mondays 18th September - Crossreach
16th October Theme Day – “Love”
20th November Birds Slide Show Angus Hogg
18th December Christmas games & food
Guild Coffee Morning Saturday 25th November
The Guild is Open to All

Colmonell Circle

All are welcome at 7.30pm in St Colmon Kirk Hall on Mondays
25th September – Mercy Ships
30th October – South Ayrshire Coast film show
27th November – Scottish Night with Alan & Friends in
Colmonell Community Centre

Barrhill Services

Barrhill Memorial Hall has closed for a few months for extensive renovation work. Anyone from Barrhill who would like a lift to services at St Colmon Church please contact Claire on 841644.

Ballantrae S.W.I.

Meeting in the Community Centre at 7.15pm. All are welcome.
Mon. 2nd Oct. Baking by Diane Buchanan
6th Nov. Avon by Ann Robertson
4th Dec. Christmas Dinner to be arranged.



September – November 2017



Rev Stephen Ogston

Interim Moderator: Rev. Ian McLachlan
Email: IMcLachlan@churchofscotland.org.uk
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

LETTER FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

Let me begin by saying how privileged I feel to be asked by the Presbytery of Ayr to be your Interim Moderator. I am sure that some of you will know me already as I have often covered for Stephen when he and his family have been away on holiday. I have always felt at home in the parishes of Ballantrae linked with St. Colmon and I have always felt warmly welcomed into your communities. I very much enjoyed my recent visits to St. Colmon, Ballantrae and Barrhill on Sunday 20th August. It goes without saying that I will miss Stephen a great deal. He and I worked on several projects together including Presbytery News Lines and the Rural Conference. I also really appreciated the lifts he gave me in his car to and from Presbytery events. Not only as it meant that I did not have to drive myself – but also it meant that we had good long chats together in the car afterwards. While some of these conversations were about church matters – others were about some of the interests we shared. He will be a huge loss to the Presbytery. He is an excellent colleague and friend.

I very much appreciated being invited to his leaving 'do' in Ballantrae and being part of the recent Induction that was held in Glenluce. Stephen may have gone but he will never be forgotten. All ministers throughout their time in a parish add something special to the life of a congregation. But all ministers are different with different talents and outlooks.

I have been appointed by the Presbytery to work with you all as you search for a new minister to be with you in your continuing journey. I am different to Stephen in many ways – and your potential new minister will be different again.



Thanks go to all who contributed to the delicious buffet meal and those who helped in so many ways.



While St Colmon's evening of farewell for Stephen, Barbara, Chelsea and Conar was a sad occasion, it was also a time to relive happy memories and enjoy each other's company.

Although there is a vacancy at present, it is very much 'business as usual.' I am extremely grateful for the fact that you have a Worship Team willing to lead so many Sunday services. The work of the church communities goes on. And the more involved and the more help that individual members can be at this time - the better.

On the Sundays where the Worship Team are not able to take the Sunday service I have arranged for different preachers to lead worship. Those taking the Sunday morning services have all been scheduled up until the end of the year. In November, the Kirk Sessions will be looking at how this current arrangement has worked out and will initiate any changes if they are necessary.

I myself will be leading worship in Ballantrae and St. Colmon on an occasional basis. Since there is no Locum I will be conducting any weddings, baptisms and funerals in the parishes for the foreseeable future. However, if someone wants to ask someone else to take these services then in most circumstances I would be willing to step aside. I am only here to help you in any way that I can, to continue the good work that Stephen and everyone else has been doing these past years.

I am also available for any pastoral or hospital visits that you might require. I cannot guarantee that I will be available immediately but hopefully I can follow up any requests as soon as possible. I can hopefully play a part in the local schools, as well. I can be contacted on 01465 713370 or at IMcLachlan@churchofscotland.org.uk I am also willing to attend any local events if asked to and if my diary permits me to do so.

Hopefully there will be a new minister for you on the horizon. Hopefully we will all pray that that day will come as soon as possible. And that we will all seek to determine God's will for the continuing work of these churches in this beautiful part of His world.

In this difficult time in our society, indeed in our world's history, it is important that we play our part in ensuring that the gospel of Jesus Christ is not only heard but also acted upon by as many people as possible.

With God's blessings,

Your Interim Moderator, Ian.

Please Help

What qualities would you like to see in our Minister? What will attract the right Minister to our Churches and parishes?

As we begin the search for a Minister it is up to us, the congregations, to attract the right person. What can we offer that makes us stand out from the other 16 vacant Churches in Ayr Presbytery alone?

Above all, at this time please support your Churches and Kirk Sessions in every way you can, as we will only succeed if we worship, pray and work together. Thank you.

COMMUNION



Please note the date for Communion will be Sunday 29th October, when Communion will be served in St Colmon and Ballantrae Churches.



farewell speeches from Headmistress Yvonne Templeton, Chair of Ballantrae Community Council Dr Mhairi McKenna, Treasurer Colin McNally, Jessie Brown on behalf of the Guild, and a presentation by Claire Strain, Session Clerk.



A sad farewell for our Minister Stephen took place in Ballantrae Hall. A really enjoyable social evening with good food (the table was laden with cakes, biscuits, and sausage rolls prepared by some fabulous bakers); good company (the hall was packed); good entertainment as Janette Sloan and Andy Jones played a range of tunes to get the evening going;

Points for Prayer



“I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear, I will help you.” Isaiah 41.13

Give thanks that at this time of change and uncertainty, we have the assurance that God is in control of our situation still.

Pray that we may be open to his guiding, and willing to follow where he leads.

Pray for faithfulness and commitment from all our church members as we move forward together to discover what is ahead.

Pray for Stephen and Barbara in their new situation at Luce Valley Church in Glen Luce, that God will bless them and their new congregation as they work and worship together.

Pray for the new venture of **“Filling Station”** starting in September in Girvan. **Pray** that it will bring blessing and refreshment to the Church throughout this area.

Keep praying for our Christian brothers and sisters in areas of conflict and persecution. Think of Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq; as we bring them to God in prayer, that they will experience His presence and know that they are cared for.

“The greatest tragedy in life is not **unanswered** prayer, but **unoffered** prayer” FB Meyer Pat Guthrie.

Rev. Stephen Ogston

After eight and a half years serving the Church of Scotland parishes of St Colmon and Ballantrae Churches, Rev Stephen Ogston has been called to be the Minister at Luce Valley Church in Glen Luce.

Stephen worked hard to support Church and community organisations in many ways in the five villages from Lendalfoot to Barrhill. The three primary schools have appreciated his monthly visits for assemblies, and his many skills and talents, including sound and lighting for their shows and creating animation films.

God blessed us through Rev Ogston's faith, and his cheerful and enthusiastic ministry. As well as regular Sunday services, Stephen leaves us with fresh expressions of Church happening on a regular basis. Café Church twice a month; weekly Bible Book Group; Messy Church for families; Alpha courses for those who want to explore what Christianity is about. Most importantly, prayer has become a leading part of Church life through regular prayer meetings. Everyone is welcome to let us know if they would like us to pray about someone or some issue.

Stephen, Barbara, Chelsea and Conar, not forgetting Hamish the manse Westie, will be much missed, and we wish them well in the new chapter of their lives. Our Minister may have moved on, but God's work continues, and with His help we now look for a Minister who will help us to build on the past and look to the future.

Claire Pirrie, St Colmon Session Clerk
Claire Strain, Ballantrae Session Clerk



Café Church is on the 2nd and 4th Friday 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, music and chat.

Malawi Two Spoon Supper.

Friday 20th October.

5.30pm Ballantrae Community Centre.

Best of Ballantrae'

Saturday 30th September 1.30-4pm

An Exhibition of Flowers, Local Photos, Church Memorabilia, Silver donated to Glenapp Church in memory of Elsie Mackay, Ballantrae Golf Trophies.

Tea & Coffee served in the manse.
Come along and give us your support!

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.



Thanks to your support in 2016 Blythwood distributed 121,474 shoeboxes. Around 4% more than 2015. Boxes were distributed in Albania, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Kosovo, Hungary, Moldova, Pakistan, and Ukraine.

The shoeboxes go to families who have to choose between food or fuel at Christmas time – presents are just not a priority. Many do not have running water, heating or electricity and often live in just one or two rooms. Many elderly people are left alone due to families leaving to work away.

Please start collecting shoeboxes and look out for leaflets soon.

Please support your Church by subscribing to Life & Work – your magazine. Check out a copy and you will find it is full of articles, serious and humorous, and information about the outstanding world-wide work of the Church of Scotland and its charities. Discounted rate through your Church is £27.36 annually. Please contact your Church's Life & Work promoter.



Harvest Celebration Service

As we celebrate our harvests on Sunday 8th October please consider bringing a tin or packet of food which will then be donated to the Girvan Food Bank.



All are welcome to join us in Prayer
Sat. 30th September
10am to 12noon in
St Colmon Kirk Hall.

If anyone has a prayer request please pass it on to Claire Pirrie or Pat Guthrie. <http://www.national-prayer-weekend.com>

Pot Luck Supper

by South Carrick Churches Together
Girvan North Parish Church 6pm on 24th September
Selection of hot & cold food & desserts
Variety of Music by The Milestone Group
Ballantrae & St Colmon Churches are asked to bring desserts if possible. Everyone welcome. Any queries or to arrange a lift please phone Jillian Nelson 871221.



Every Thursday 7.30pm at St Colmon Kirk Hall.

Do you enjoy reading the Bible and want to understand it better? Join us in seeking the answers. Refreshments. All are welcome.

What's On .. Sep. – Nov. 2017

Tuesday 19th September

19:30 - St Colmon Kirk Session in St Colmon Kirk Hall

Friday 22nd September

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

Sunday 24th September

10:00 - St Colmon Church in the Kirk Hall

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

15:00 - Sunday at Glenapp

Tuesday 26th September

18:30 – St Colmon Kirk Session in Kirk Hall

19:45 – Ballantrae Kirk Session in Vestry

Saturday 30th September National Prayer Weekend

10:00 to 12noon - Prayer & Praise in St Colmon Kirk Hall

Sunday 1st October

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

Wednesday 4th October

18:30 – Ballantrae & St Colmon Kirk Sessions

Stewardship Meeting in Ballantrae Church

Sunday 8th October Harvest Celebration Service

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

Friday 13th October

18:30 for 19:00 - Taste & See Café Church

St Colmon Kirk Hall

Sunday 15th October

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

Sunday 22nd October

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

Friday 27th October

18:30 for 19:00 - Taste & See Café Church,

St Colmon Kirk Hall

Saturday 28th October

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

Sunday 29th October Communion

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

15.00 - Sunday at Glenapp

Sunday 5th November St Colmon Kirk Hall

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

Friday 10th November Acts of Remembrance

11:00 - Pinwherry Memorial

14:00 - Heronsford Memorial

18:30 for 19:00 - Taste & See Café Church,

St Colmon Kirk Hall

Sunday 12th November Remembrance Sunday

09:30 - Colmonell War Memorial

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

12:30 - Ballantrae War Memorial

15:00 - Barrhill War Memorial