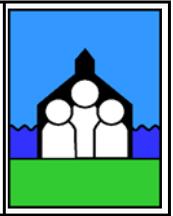


**BALLANTRAE  
PARISH CHURCH**

linked with

**ST COLMON  
PARISH CHURCH**



**September & October 2018**



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

## To All Our Readers,

I am happy to be given the opportunity to write to you all again. I have been your Interim Moderator for more than a year now and I can really say that I have very much enjoyed the opportunity of getting to know two new congregations. There have been many happy times over the past years as well as unfortunately some very sad times too. I think that I have learned a great deal from watching how you do things and it is good to know that despite the vacancy, a lot of good work is being done for the Lord in our two congregations.

I very much enjoy attending social events and the two Pot Luck suppers that I was able to go to in St. Colmon were particularly memorable. For once I did not mind the drive! Social events are very important for congregations as they give members an opportunity of getting to know one another in a less formal setting. Congregations that thrive are inevitably ones which are composed of people who enjoy one another's company. In the days of the early church, Christian socialising together was important for them too.

The next time I will be in your churches will be on the ninth of September. I will be conducting the sacrament of Holy Communion on that day. On that same Sunday we will have a guest preacher from Malawi called the Rev. Jailos Kamisa. His theme is to be - *Strange Times, Strange Christians*. The link that your two churches have with Malawi is very important so hopefully there will be a good attendance on that Sunday. It is always interesting to learn about the work of the Church in other parts of the world. I feel that we have a great deal to learn from churches in other parts of the world. And I very much look forward to working with Jailos.

Until the next issue. All the best, Rev. Ian K McLachlan

## Points for Prayer

"Come, let us bow down in worship. Let us kneel before the Lord, our maker. For he is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care." Psalm 95 v 6,7.

## News from the Church of Scotland World mission Council

**Floods in Kerala:** Our partner Church of South India along with the National Council of Churches (India) tells us that church volunteers have been actively involved in relief operations in local areas providing food, clothing, and medical help in the relief camps. This has been a major disaster in South India; 3,800 households have been badly affected. **Please pray** for this situation and especially for the many volunteers who work tirelessly to bring relief.

**A prayer from Christian Aid:** Compassionate God, source of all comfort. We pray for the people whose lives have been devastated by rain and flood. Bring them comfort, we pray. Have mercy on all those working to rescue the stranded and to feed the hungry. Help us to respond generously by our praying and our giving. In Jesus' Name, Amen

### **Nearer to home:**

1. **Pray** for the children of our parishes, back at school now, that this will be a happy experience for them enriching them in body, mind and spirit. **Pray** for the teachers that they will find the commitment and strength to guide and influence those under their care. **Pray** that the problems of being decanted into other places during the rebuilding work at Ballantrae will be overcome without undue stress.
2. **Pray** for our congregations as things get underway for the winter's work. Remember those who carry the burden of organisation in the Kirk Sessions and especially continue to **pray** for the work of the Nomination Committee as they look for a minister.
3. Jesus said that if two of you agree on any prayer requests in his name, the Father would grant that request, so remember that we have that opportunity on the last Saturday of each month to get together in the Church hall. This meeting is not for the experts! We are all invited to come expecting great things from God.

“Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your unfailing love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation”. Psalm 85 v6,7.

Pat Guthrie



## Vacancy

Following an inspection of Ballantrae manse Presbytery have now deemed it habitable. Members of the nomination committee are actively seeking a minister and while there have been some expressions of interest no applications have been received. Copies of the Parish Profiles are available in both churches and on the Church websites.

## South Carrick Churches Together

Pot Luck Supper on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 6pm in the Catholic Hall.

All are welcome and Ballantrae and St Colmon Churches are asked to donate desserts. Please contact Claire Strain or Claire Pirrie if you can contribute. Other items will be donated by Sacred Hearts, Milestone, South Parish, North Parish and Methodist Churches. Entertainment will be arranged, and a collection will be taken on the night.



## The Filling Station

In need of a spiritual "top-up"? Looking for something different? Why not try The Filling Station? It is a non-denominational gathering of Christians from across the area in an informal setting with contemporary style worship / visiting speakers / opportunity for prayer ministry and healing. There are Filling Stations across Scotland and the UK.

**Girvan Filling Station** meets on the 3rd Friday of the month (not 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:

21st Sept - speaker Hilary McNutt - topic Encountering God

19<sup>th</sup> Oct. - speaker Fred Drummond from Evangelical Alliance Scotland.

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



Filling Station Girvan

[www.thefillingstation.org](http://www.thefillingstation.org)

## Journey of Faith

Dear Friends,

I often think living the Christian life is a kind of journey. Sometimes the way is easy and other times it's very hard. Sometimes all is well and then suddenly - bang - we're right in the middle of it! Where to turn; what to do? This story, in a rather strange way, illustrates the point. We're back in the 1930's.

This letter was found in the notorious desert of Brazil, known as the Amargosa; where temperatures often reach over a 100 degrees Fahrenheit. The letter was found in a tin can tied to the handle of an old pump which offered the only hope of drinking water on a very long and lonely trail. It was very much at the point of no return. The letter read.

*"This pump is alright as of June 1932. I put a new suction washer in it and it ought to last for another five years. The washer dries out and the pump has got to be primed. Under the white rock I've buried a bottle of water, out of the sun and cork-end up. There's enough water in it to prime the pump but not if you drink some first. Pour in about a quarter to soak the leather washer. Then pour in the rest quick and pump like crazy. You'll get water; the well has never failed yet. Have faith. When you get watered-up, fill the bottle and put it back under the rock for the next feller*

*God bless, Desert Pete.*

*PS. Remember, don't go drinking the water first. Prime the pump, before you do anything and you'll get all the water you need."*

When it comes to the question of salvation, the Bible story asks us to put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. That is a matter not just of trust but of faith also. The Bible promises that His word is faithful and true. The question is, can we trust it. Many would answer 'Yes'. But when it comes down to it it's a personal choice, just like the story in the Amargosa desert. I pray that your choice is the right one and that your journey is with Jesus; the author and finisher of all faith.

With every blessing.

Jim Guthrie,

## Blytheswood Shoebox Appeal



A big thank you to everybody that contributed in any way to the Shoe Box Appeal in 2017 when 115,932 shoeboxes were distributed in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosova, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

Please start collecting empty shoeboxes (standard size) and if you have any spare please bring them to church for others to use. Look out for leaflets and boxes will be collected by November.

## Ballantrae News

Thank you for the marvellous support of our fundraising efforts over the summer. The baking stall at Ballantrae Gala made £250 and the Annual Summer Fair raised £1666. Thank you!

Ballantrae Congregational Board and Kirk Session meet on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September and 21<sup>st</sup> November at 730pm in the vestry.

### **Ayr Presbytery Malawi Visit**

Four people from our linked Presbytery in Malawi are visiting the area in September. Rev Jailos Kamisa will be in St Colmon and Ballantrae churches on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September. There is an open social evening in Girvan North church on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 645pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. For further information, please speak to Meg Peacock. Please keep this visit in your prayers and join us in welcoming our brothers and sisters from Malawi.

### **Best of Ballantrae**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 1pm to 4pm in the parish church with tea, coffee and baking stall in the manse.

Focussing on local youth groups and organisations. Please bring along mementoes / photographs from your childhood in Ballantrae to be copied and added to Ballantrae Archive.

## Ballantrae Cinema

Ballantrae Trust have organised a cinema showing in the church on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October – watch out for further information!

## Armistice



**Ballantrae Parish Church**  
“A date for your diary”

To commemorate the end of World War 1 a special service is taking place in Ballantrae on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November.



We wish to reunite all those who have served this country with pride.

We invite Servicemen, Ex Servicemen, Uniformed Professions, Reserved Occupations to attend the Armistice Ceremony starting at the [War Memorial](#) at 11am and then follow the procession for a service in the Church.

We want you to [come back home](#) for this special service and make this service a time to reflect on your contribution to the security and safety of this country.

# **What's On .. Sept. to Nov. '18**

## **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

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

## **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

15:00 - Barrhill Memorial Hall service

## **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Sept.**

19:00 - Filling Station at Woodland Bay Hotel

## **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept.**

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

## **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

19:30 - Colmonell Circle in St Colmon Kirk Hall - Crossreach

## **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

19:30 - Film night in St Colmon Kirk Hall

## **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. – National Prayer Weekend**

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

13:00 - 16:00 "Best of Ballantrae" in Ballantrae Church & Manse

## **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

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

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

18:00 - SCCT Pot Luck Supper in Girvan Catholic Hall

## **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Oct.**

19:30 - Bible Study in St Colmon Kirk Hall

## **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Oct.**

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

15:00 - Sunday at Glenapp

# **Cont'd**

## **Thursday 11th October**

19:30—Food and Fellowship in St Colmon Kirk Hall

## **Sunday 14th October Harvest Thanksgiving Services**

10:00—St Colmon Church

11:30—Ballantrae Church

## **Friday 19th October**

19:00—Filling Station at Woodland Bay Hotel

## **Sunday 21st October**

10:00—St Colmon Church

11:30—Ballantrae Church

15:00—Barrhill Memorial Hall

## **Monday 22nd October**

19:30—Colmonell Circle in St Colmon Kirk Hall—*"Life of John Snell"*

## **Thursday 25th October**

19:30—Film night in St Colmon Kirk Hall

## **Saturday 27th October**

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

## **Sunday 28th October**

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

11:30—Ballantrae Church

## **Thursday 1st November**

19:30—Bible Study in St Colmon Kirk Hall

## From Andy Muir, Minister in Training

Hello everyone!

I would like to thank everyone who sponsored me or donated money towards my training expenses. The costs involved are considerable and so every donation, no matter how small or large was gratefully received.

Several of us, of all ages and levels of fitness, completed the ascent of Knockdolian Hill in times ranging from 25 to 40 minutes. (modesty prevents me from telling you who reached the top first.) Upon reaching the summit, we were greeted with spectacular views as far as the eye could see in every direction. If the views don't take your breath away, the climb will!

I recently attended my first induction conference for three days at Tulliallan Police College in Kincardine. I had the pleasure of meeting this year's intake of Candidates for full time Ministry of Word and Sacrament, OLM, Readership and Diaconate. The good news for the National Church is that there are 30 candidates in total. Nineteen of these are training for full time ministry, ten for OLM or Readership and one for the Diaconate. These figures are very slightly up on last year, but still disappointing in a country with a population of 5,254,800 people!

After enjoying just three days back home with Shona, my bags were packed once again. This time I was destined for St Andrews University where I completed my first of three, yearly candidate conferences. These are extremely intensive training courses where we are given lots of important information to learn on everything ranging from baptisms to funerals, with some church law thrown in for good measure. We will be assessed on these subjects later in the year and a practical portfolio will start to materialise. Days began with worship at 7.30am and often finished around 9.30pm, but we did have one evening free to enjoy ourselves.

Once again, I met the same people and so firm friendships were beginning to be built inordinately quickly. It's a little bit like living in a microcosm as we spent so much time with one another with little outside input, but we are assured that these friends will play a large part in our lives on our journey together to ministry.

I had the great privilege on my last day, of sitting next to the current moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Reverend Susan Brown as we ate lunch. She is a lovely down to earth lady from the Highlands and among many other things, we discussed the similarity of the demands upon our time and our family lives in our prospective new roles. I think we agreed the result was a tie!

My training placement will begin around the second of September, when I shall work alongside and learn from a minister in Wigtown and Kirkcowan Churches and my university degree begins two days later. I shall have to travel to Paisley sometimes, but I am hopeful that the majority of course can be completed from home via a “real time virtual classroom” where I shall be able to interact with students and lecturers in Dingwall, live, by the wonders of modern technology!

It is a very exciting time in my life with complete transition happening as I leave my old career behind and travel forward to the new. I am very nervous about what lies ahead but equally I know that God would not have called me if he did not have plans for me.

In the words of the Psalmist, “... all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” Psalm 139:16 NIV. I will keep you all updated as my journey progresses. God bless, Andy.

## **Weekly Thursdays at St Colmon Kirk Hall 7.30pm**

All are welcome, and we hope everyone finds something to enjoy. Donations are gratefully received to cover costs of heating, lighting and supplies.

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday: Bible Study** – share a coffee and discover how the Bible is relevant to, and guides, our lives today.

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

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

**4<sup>th</sup> Thursday: Film Night** – request your choice.

In a five-week month the last Thursday is an evening of coffee, cake, chat, short film.

**Last Saturday monthly 10am** Praise and Prayer as we seek God’s will and pray for the people and the issues that concern us all.

## Matthew 25:35

**“I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink.”**

As we approach winter months and see food prices rising please consider those who will struggle to put a warm meal on the table for their family. If you can buy an extra tin or packet when you are shopping put it in the **Food Bank** collection box in the Kirk Hall, leave it in Church or drop off at Milestone Church in Girvan. Thank

## St Colmon News

### St Colmon Kirk Fair

Thanks to all who participated in so many ways and helped us raise £1,500. The quiz winner was A. Fynes of Girvan with second prize to Anne Hillier of Colmonell.



# National Prayer Weekend

**29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> September**

Prayer is powerful, and this weekend is an opportunity to show God's love to the people around us as local people pray for their neighbours and community. St Colmon Church invite everyone to join in or gather prayer requests together. Look out for further details of times and place

**C**olmonell Circle at 7.30pm in St Colmon Kirk Hall.

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September the speaker will be from Crossreach.  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October Richard Wiggins will speak about the life of John Snell.  
Refreshments will be served, and all are welcome.

**C**offee @ Kirk

Every Wednesday 10:00 – 12:00 in St Colmon Kirk Hall  
This continues to be a popular opportunity to drop in for coffee, tea, biscuits and a catch up. All for the cost of a donation, which is welcomed to help cover the costs incurred, especially as we approach the months when heating and lighting will be required. Books and CDs to borrow or buy, hand knitting for sale, and every 7 weeks two podiatrists hold a clinic.

## **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>:**

Church - organ recitals; soup lunch in the kirk hall; church and war graves history.

Community Centre - exhibition of information and history of those named on the village War Memorial. Refreshments for a donation to Poppy Scotland.



## **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>:**

**Please note change of Church and War Memorial times**

06:00 Piper at the War Memorial plays "Battle's O'er".

09.30 Remembrance Service in Church followed by procession to: -

11:00 War Memorial Act of Remembrance. Refreshments in the Community Centre.

6.55pm Bugler at the Church plays "The Last Post".

7.00pm Beacon of Light on a local hilltop.

7.05pm Church bells ring in celebration of Peace.

Acts of Remembrance will be held as usual at Barrhill War Memorial 3pm Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November and Pinwherry War Memorial 11am Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November.



Remembrance Sunday 2018 commemorates the centenary of the signing of the Armistice of the First World War, which came into effect on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month 1918.

St Colmon Parish Church and community organisations have signed the Poppy Scotland Pledge to fundraise and joined “A Nation’s Tribute” in an international call for peace commemorating WW1 Armistice.



### **“LIVES GIVEN & REMEMBERED” – Memory Boxes**

When we think about lives given they were, and are, given not only by dying but also by serving in so many ways and then having to live with the consequences e.g. ill health.

If you would like to receive a pack to create a memory box for a loved one or an organisation involved in the Armed Forces and have it displayed in Church please contact Claire Pirrie.

