

**Ballantrae Parish Church  
linked with  
St Colmon Parish Church**

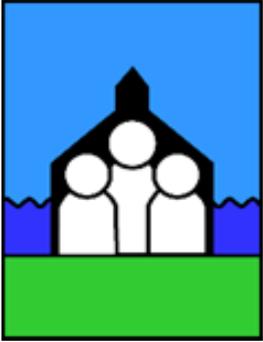


**Newsletter  
April & May 2022**

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**Ballantrae Parish Church**

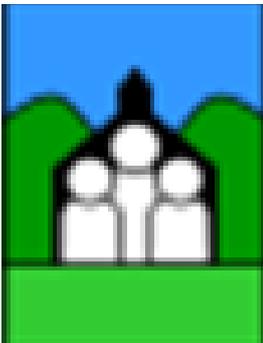
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# From Your Minister

Dear all,

It is lovely that we are beginning to enjoy some lovely spring weather and for that we are thankful. As churches we are beginning to see more restrictions lifted and more opportunities to restart activities. We have also been praying for the situation in the Ukraine and have held collections for aid.

As Holy week comes upon us we are reminded of the deep love of God for his people. As we dwell on the last week of Jesus' life may we be moved and encouraged in our life and faith.

On Maundy Thursday we will be holding a service at 7pm at St. Colmon and on Good Friday there will be a service at 10.30am in Ballantrae. On Easter Day when we celebrate our Lord's victory over death there will be an outdoor service at 7am at Ballantrae Harbour, followed by bacon rolls and coffee in the BRICC House. Further Easter services will be held at 10am at St Colmon and 11.30am in Ballantrae. We hope that you will be able to join us for some of these services!

May you have a blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter!

Rev`d Theo Corney

## Points for Prayer

**“The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much”.**

James Ch.2 v. 16

As we approach Easter, the time when we especially remember the passion of Jesus, his suffering to win our freedom from sin, and his glorious resurrection which assures us of eternal life with Him, we also have the situation in Ukraine very much in our minds. Daily we are bombarded with images of death and destruction throughout that land: a war brought about by the apparent insanity of a man driven by his lust for power. Jesus was born into a world also in the grip of foreign invaders occupying the land and wielding power by brutality and threat. The Roman Empire was at the height of its terrifying march across the world. Jesus said **“in the world you will have tribulation but I have overcome the world”**. And so we look forward in hope to his coming again when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess the He is Lord.

Now let's pray, perhaps in these words from three Ukrainian people.

- Remember to pray in Jesus' name.
- Pray for peace in both Ukraine and Russia.
- Pray for both governments and for the leaders of the nations who are trying to bring peace.
- Pray for refugees.
- Ask God to intervene quickly to stop this tragedy.
- Pray for families divided by the war – men left behind to fight.
- Thank God for every heart and home making room for refugees.
- Pray that essentials will reach those in desperate need of food, water and medicines.
- Pray for protection for all church leaders and aid workers who have stayed to help.

Words from a soldier directly from Ukraine:

**“We feel your prayer support. Sometimes something really incomprehensible happens, as if someone's invisible hand really takes the bullets and shells away from us, and they fly past. We become invisible to the enemy. So we ask you not to stop – support us and pray. We really need you”.**

And pray too for our own situation, that we would begin to see revival coming to our own congregations, and throughout Scotland.

Pat Guthrie

**For reading and meditation: Luke Ch. 24 v. 1—12**

How would we have felt had we experienced what Jesus' followers experienced that first Easter morning; the stone rolled away the tomb open and empty? Fear, despair, disbelief, awe, wonder? Hard to tell. The disciples had gone through the trauma of seeing Jesus their promised Messiah crucified and dead on Friday, then to be told He had risen and was alive on the Sunday. Unbelievable—until Jesus appeared to them in the flesh!

So it is with us, many go through times of darkness and despair when life does not seem worth living and has nothing to offer. Then we remember what Jesus went through for us. He died so that we could have new life in him. Easter and Spring are times of renewal and new life when we can rejoice not only in the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus but also with nature as she unfurls her beauty. It is a time when we can sing a new song and live for Jesus.

**HE IS RISEN—RISEN INDEED**

O Lord we give thanks on this Easter Morning  
For you our Risen Saviour  
You give us hope in our darkness and despair  
You bring light into our lives  
You give us joy, healing and love  
Loving Lord you rise up in our hearts  
We believe even though we have not seen.  
Amen

Contributed by Patricia Thackray



## Collections for Ukraine

Ballantrae church recently held a collection over a couple of weeks for the Church of Scotland Ukraine appeal. £787 was raised and this will be directed towards the Reformed Church in Hungary who have connections with the Reformed Churches in Ukraine, Poland and surrounding countries.

St Colmon Church held a special collection for the Emergency Ukraine Appeal organised by the charity Mission Without Borders. MWB is a Christian charity which works in various countries in Eastern Europe providing material, educational and spiritual support to vulnerable children and families. A total of £344.70 was raised.

Thank you to everyone who donated! If you have not donated but would like to, details of how to do so can be found on the Church of Scotland and Mission Without Borders websites.



Thank you to the P4–7 pupils at Colmonell Primary School for creating this beautiful display for the church!

## Prayer Meetings for Ukraine

On 9th and 16th March St Colmon Church held special times of prayer in the church and kirk hall in response to the crisis in Ukraine. The pictures below show some of the items which were displayed in the church during these weeks.



## Prayer Pointers

- Pray for the governments of both countries
- Heartfelt prayers for refugees (Think of images you have seen and offer your prayers on their behalf - crying out to God)
- We were asked to remember to pray in Jesus' name
- Ask God to intervene quickly to stop the tragedy of destruction and death.
- Pray for all who have already lost loved ones to this war
- Pray for those forced to live in shelters (e.g. cramped basements)
- Pray that essentials like food, water and medical supplies to be made available quickly to those in desperate need
- Pray that God will protect all refugees as they attempt to travel many miles to safety
- Pray for families divided by this war - especially where the men folks are left behind to fight the enemy.
- Lord Jesus, you know grief and sorrow - come to those suffering and broken
- May the image of God be awakened in all Christians that they may serve in His name
- Pray for wisdom from God himself to those who make decisions
- Pray for peace and to overcome hatred
- Pray for President Zelensky and his government
- Pray for all church leaders and aid workers who could leave but who have decided to stay with the people
- Thank God for every heart and home making room for refugees
- Thank God for all the assistance at border crossings
- Pray that God will prevent the Russian army from making further advances
- That God will not allow any further destruction of their land
- That the people will soon be free again to rebuild their nation
- Remember to pray for other war-torn countries and refugees

## My Son: For God So Loved The World

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect great works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art.

When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his son. About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you and your love of art." The young man held out this package. "I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this." The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. "Oh no, sir" he replied, "I could never repay what your son did for me; it's a gift!" The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected.

The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his Paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited to see the great paintings and to have the opportunity to purchase one for their for their collection. On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel: "We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this Picture?" There was silence ... then a voice at the back of the room shouted, "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one!"

But the auctioneer persisted, “Will somebody bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100? \$200?” Another voice said, angrily, “We didn’t come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Goghs and the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!” But the auctioneer continued, “The son! The son! Who’ll take the son?” Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the long-time gardener of the man and his son. “I’ll give \$10 for the painting ...” Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. “Going once, going twice ... SOLD for \$10!” A man sitting on the second row shouted, “Now, let’s get on with the collection!”

The auctioneer laid down his gavel. “I’m sorry, the auction is over. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal this stipulation until this time; only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings. The man who took the son gets everything!”

**God gave his son over 2,000 years ago to die on the cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is “The son! The son! Who’ll take the son?”**

**Because whoever takes the Son gets everything.**

Contributed by Rev. Jim Guthrie



Ballantrae church will be collecting monetary donations for the Blythswood Charity during the month of April. Every year we collect items and pack shoeboxes which are taken by Blythswood and sent out to countries in Eastern Europe such as Romania and Moldova. Blythswood have been working in these areas for many years and have strong connections with them. Now these poor countries, which greatly appreciate our Christmas donations, are on the front line for taking in refugees from Ukraine. Please support our appeal to send money to Blythswood which will be forwarded to partners in these countries.

## Stamp Collection for Scripture Union Scotland

Each year, SU Scotland connects with between 10,000 and 20,000 children and young people across Scotland. Running outdoor education, creative and active SU Holidays and supporting schools with SU Groups and resources - your contribution to this scheme can help them build positive relationships, enhance life skills and explore the world they live in.

St Colmon Church is currently collecting stamps to raise funds for Scripture Union Scotland. Used stamps can be put in the box marked 'stamps' in the church vestry or given to Ruth Murray. Stamps must have a one centimetre border of envelope left around them and not be torn or damaged.

## Church Flower Fund Rota

The St Colmon Church flower fund rota can be found at the back of the church for anyone who would like to make a donation.



## Upcoming Events

### **Sunday 10th April**

St Colmon Church 10am

Ballantrae Church 11:30am

### **Maundy Thursday 14th April**

Service in St Colmon Church 7pm

### **Good Friday 15th April**

Service in Ballantrae Church 10:30am

### **Easter Sunday 17th April**

Service at Ballantrae Harbour 7am. Followed by bacon rolls and coffee at the BRICC house.

St Colmon Church 10am

Ballantrae Church 11:30am

### **Saturday 11th June**

Ballantrae church will be having a baking stall at the Food and Drink Festival.

### **Saturday 30th July**

Ballantrae Church Summer Fair will be at 2pm.

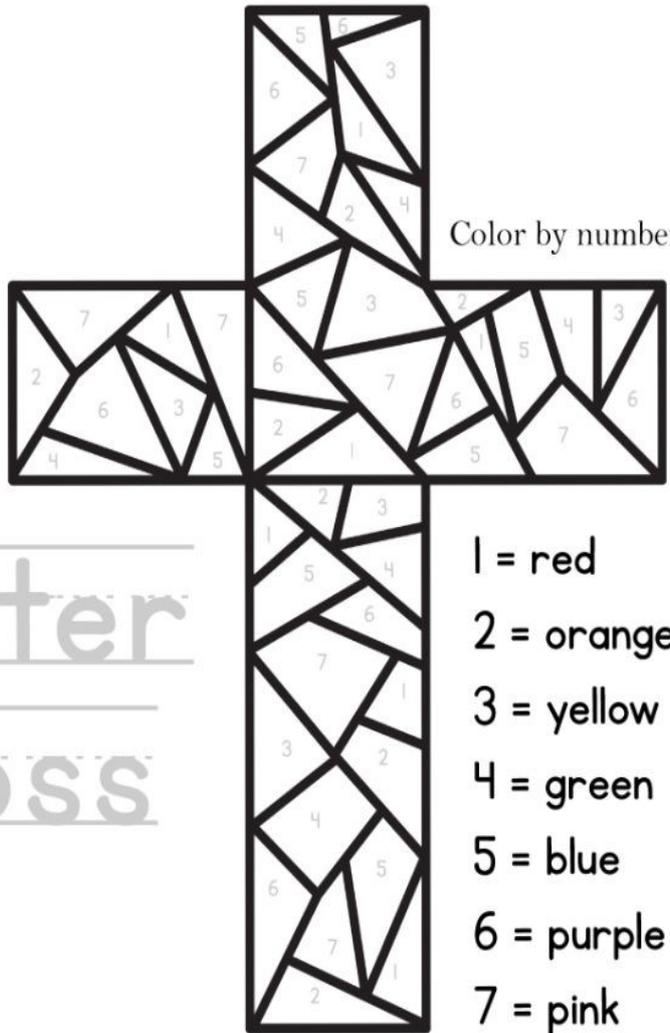
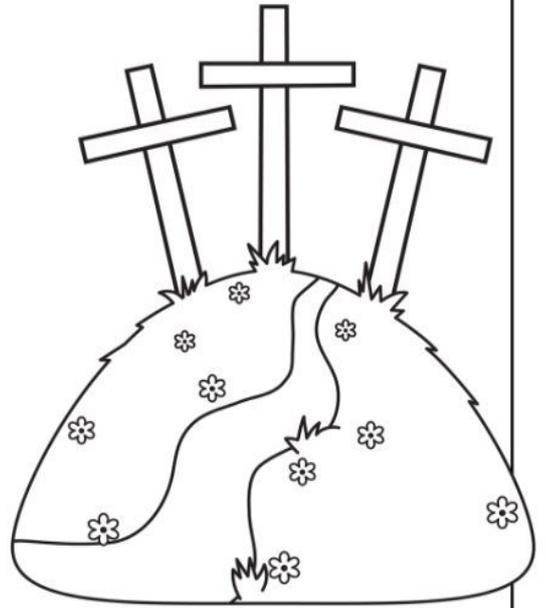
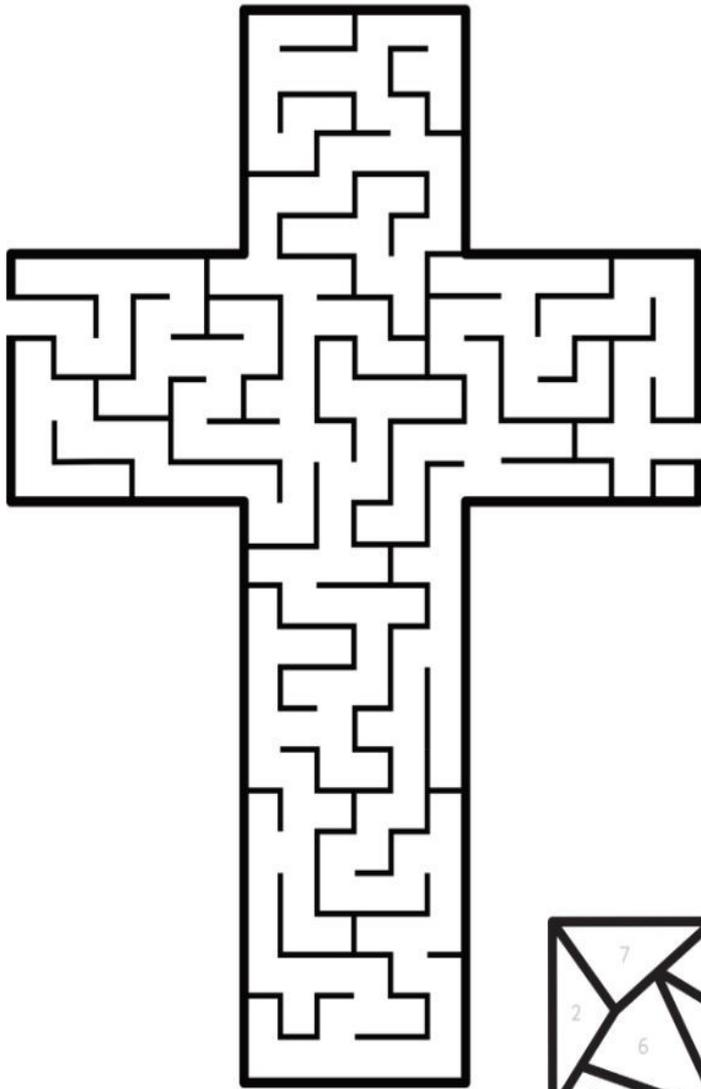
## Coffee Mornings

**Ballantrae Church** coffee mornings take place every Tuesday in the King's Arms Hotel at 10:30am.

**St Colmon Church** coffee mornings take place on the first Wednesday of each month in the Kirk Hall between 10am and 12pm.



# Easter Cross Maze



Easter  
cross

