

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



and  
suddenly  
there was with  
the  
h  
e  
**angel**  
a multitude of  
the heavenly host  
praising God  
and saying  
**Glory to God**  
in the highest, and on earth  
peace, goodwill towards  
men  
Luke 2  
13-14

**Newsletter**  
**Christmas 2022**

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Scottish Charity No. SC008536

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# CHURCH SERVICES



## Ballantrae Parish Church

**We meet every Sunday at 11:30am in Ballantrae Church.**

**A service is held in Glenapp Church at 3pm on the third Wednesday of each month.**

## St Colmon (Arnsheen Barrhill and Colmonell) Parish Church

**We meet on Sundays at 10am in Colmonell Church. All Sunday morning services are followed by refreshments in the Kirk Hall.**

**On the 4th Sunday of each month our service is held in the Kirk Hall which has easy access for those with mobility problems.**

**On the 3rd Sunday of each month a service is held at 3pm in Barrhill Memorial Hall.**

**On the first Tuesday of each month an informal café-style church service is held in the Kirk Hall at 7:30pm.**

## From Your Minister

Dear Friends,

I hope that this Advent and Christmas edition of our newsletter finds you all well.

During this season we take time to reflect on the idea of God breaking into time. We give thanks for the first Advent when Jesus was born saviour of the world and look forward in hope to the time when Christ will come again. It is a time for spiritual growth and reflection. We hope to welcome you to services over the festive season.

At the time of writing, the Presbytery plan for this area has not yet been accepted. When it is St Colmon Kirk Session have agreed to seek a review and the community council have prepared a report to send with this request (the session hope to change the category of St Colmon Kirk from “to be disposed of” to “to be retained” should that be confirmed by General Trustees).

Please do look through the magazine for information about our churches. Many thanks to all who have sent good wishes following the birth of Evangeline.

Every blessing for Advent, Christmas and 2023.

Rev'd Theo Corney

## Points for Prayer

**“An angel said to them: ‘Do not be afraid; I bring you good news of great joy that will be to all the people. Today in the city of David a Saviour has been born to you – He is Christ the Lord’”**

Luke 2. v.10—11

We look forward to another Christmas and remember He who came to Bethlehem’s stable to change the course of history. As we look back let us also look forward to His coming again in glory to establish His kingdom on earth when ‘every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.’

**Let’s pray** for our troubled and broken world – countries at war, countries suffering famine, countries coping with financial stress, and countries where Christians are persecuted.

**Let’s pray** for our own country and our government in Westminster and Holyrood. Pray for honesty and integrity amongst our MPs; that each one would seek the good of the people and have the wisdom to know what that would be.

**Let’s pray** for our own congregations and that we too may have the wisdom to discern right from wrong. Pray for the peace of the Church that by our living and speaking and doing we may be enabled to carry a true witness to the grace of God out into our communities.

**“Come to me, all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest”**

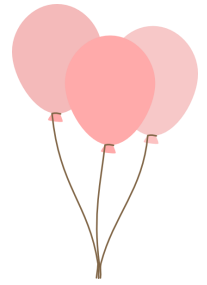
Matthew 11 v. 28



Pat Guthrie

## **New Baby**

Congratulations to Theo and Rachel on the birth of their daughter, Evangeline on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November. She was a healthy 8lb, 12 oz baby. Wishing the manse family all the blessings from Ballantrae and St Colmon churches. God Bless.



## **Ballantrae Church Christmas Craft Fair**

The craft fair was held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November and got everyone in the mood for Christmas with a delightful selection of craft stalls, mince pies and shortbread. Thank you for the homemade soup available in the kitchen too! Over £600 was made for church funds.

## **Line Dancing Night**

Ballantrae church had another night of fun with Mary Stirling guiding us through line dancing in November. Thank you to Mary for organising it and making it an enjoyable evening. £130 was raised for church funds and 32 people took part. We plan to have more line dancing in the new year – listen out for the announcements.

## **Blythswood Shoebox Appeal**



Thank you to everyone who filled a shoebox. A total of 39 boxes were sent away and will be delivered in time for Christmas to Moldova and other Eastern European countries.

## **Harvest Thanksgiving Service**

Thank you for the generous donations which were made to Girvan Food Bank from both Ballantrae and St Colmon harvest services. Ballantrae collected money for Christian Aid too.

## **Ballantrae Community Association Festival of Lights**

There will be a switching on of Christmas lights around the village during the week commencing Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Please register your intention to 'switch on' at home with the Community Association and you will be allocated an evening to take part. The church will switch on their lights during this week. Mince pies and mulled wine will be available in the village hall to enjoy!

### **Flower List**

Flowers in the church – anyone wishing to arrange flowers and distribute them in Ballantrae, please speak with Lorna or Margaret Bean.

### **Malawi Update**

The Church Malawi committee organised a very successful coffee morning in Ballantrae Hall. Thanks to the hard work of the committee and other helpers baking, setting up and serving and of course to all who attended. The grand sum of £750 was raised for our funds.

Meg Peacock, who was one of the founders of the Malawi group and who cajoled and encouraged people to give their time and talents to the work, retired from the committee. Her retiral was marked by a presentation at the coffee morning of a framed map of Malawi, cushions covered in local Malawi fabric and a bouquet of flowers in thanks for all she has done over the years.

The church collection of goods to send to Malawi has been very successful – grateful thanks to all who donated – with so far 13 boxes packed ready for transport to Dundee for onward transport to Malawi via the Banana Box Trust. If you are interested in learning more about the work of the Banana box trust have a look at their website at <https://www.bananaboxtrust.org>.

We will be looking for further donations of women's clothing, particularly blouses, cardigans and skirts over the next couple of weeks as that was one item that we have little of and has been identified as needed.

Hal Maxwell

## Ballantrae Church Guild

On 31 October our meeting featured two hymns from Malawi, collected by Tom Colvin, a member of the Iona Community during his time in parish ministry in Malawi. Singing 'Praise the Lord, join his people singing' and 'Let the world in concert sing' set the scene for an enjoyable and informative talk by Barrhill's Liz Ottaway, who lived and worked in Malawi for many years. Working as a nurse, in a region the size of South Ayrshire with only one doctor, was clearly deeply rewarding, though challenging, both personally and professionally.

Her wide ranging talk followed a presentation in September, by Deacon Muriel Wilson, who talked about the Iona Community, as an associate member who for some years was part of the resident group at Iona Abbey, the Community's birthplace and spiritual home.

Our meeting on November 28<sup>th</sup>, led by Gavin Fairbairn, focused on 'Wee seeds; big trees', the Guild's theme for the year. Talking about the way in which seemingly small acts can have significant effects in the world, allowed him to introduce us to the idea of microfinancing, and specifically to the organisation 'Lend with Care', which Theo is exploring as a possible way of facilitating our two congregations - and perhaps our wider community, in making a positive and cost effective difference to the lives of others in far flung places.

Rather than making charitable gift, whether of money or goods, Lend with Care would allow us to support people in poorer countries in working towards sustainable ways of increasing their standard of living via small business loans. This echoes the idea expressed in the saying that if you '... give a man a fish you feed him for a day; but if you teach a man to fish you feed him for a lifetime'.

Lend with Care brokers and administers loans for people who aim to feed and care for their families in many different ways – including fishing, but also farming chickens or pigs; growing crops of all kinds; providing services and buying and selling household goods. The appealing thing about this way of helping others is that once a loan has been repaid, the lender can choose another person/enterprise to support using the same capital.

The Guild Christmas Lunch is in January; all are welcome to attend any or all of our meetings. Look out for posters announcing speakers.

Susan Fairbairn



## St Colmon Church 250th Anniversary Exhibition

St Colmon Church held a special exhibition at the end of October to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the church building. The event featured an exhibition in the church itself followed by refreshments in the Kirk Hall. Attendance at the exhibition was excellent (despite the weather!) and over £250 was raised for church funds.

Many thanks to everyone who helped organise the event and volunteered on the day!



## Cosy Spaces—Colmonell Kirk Hall

For the last few weeks St Colmon Kirk Hall has been running a Cosy Space on Wednesday afternoons. The weekly coffee morning now extends into a free lunch, with the hall being open during the afternoon as a heated social space. Since the event began we have had between 20 and 30 people for lunch each week, with a wide range of ages attending both the coffee mornings and lunches, and the scheme is set to run throughout the winter.

We would like to express our thanks to VASA and the Colmonell Community Council for providing funding for the Cosy Spaces scheme, as well as all those involved in organising and cooking for the event!



# CHRISTMAS



1. The holly in the windy hedge  
And around the Manor House the yew  
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,  
The alter, font, and arch and pew,  
So that the villagers can say  
'The church looks nice on Christmas Day'.

2. And is it true? And is it true?  
This most tremendous tale of all  
Seen in stained glass window hue  
A baby in an ox's stall?  
The maker of the stars and sea  
Becomes a child on earth for me?

3. And is it true? For if it is,  
No loving fingers tying strings  
Around these tissued fripperies  
The sweet and silly Christmas things,  
Bath salts and inexpensive scent  
And hideous tie so kindly meant.



4. No love that in a family dwells  
No carolling in frosty air  
Nor all the steeple shaking bells  
Can with this single truth compare  
That God was man in Palestine  
And lives today in bread and wine.

**John Betjeman**(1906-84)

Contributed by Rev. Jim Guthrie

## 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.

### Coffee Mornings

**Ballantrae Church** coffee mornings take place every Tuesday in the BRICC House at 10:30am.

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



## **What's On: December and January**

### **Wednesday 7th December: Carols at the Mart**

7:30 pm Ayr Cattle Market with Rev. Chris Blackshaw

### **Sunday 11th December: Lunch and Carol Singing**

Immediately after Ballantrae Church service at Glenapp Castle.

Please contact Colin McNally if you are interested.

### **Wednesday 14th December: Carol Service**

3pm Glenapp Church

### **Sunday 18th December: Carol Service**

3pm Barrhill Hall

### **Saturday 24th December: Watchnight Service**

11:30pm Ballantrae Church

### **Sunday 25th December: Christmas Day Service**

10am St Colmon Church (there will not be a service in Ballantrae Church on Christmas Day this year)

### **Sunday 1st January: New Year's Day Service**

10am St Colmon Church

11:30am Ballantrae Church

### **Wednesday 20th January: Ballantrae Kirk Session and Congregational Board Meeting**

7:30pm Ballantrae Church