

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

*Humble yourselves before the Lord,  
and He will lift you up in honor.*

*James 4:10*

**January & February 2022**

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### Ballantrae Parish Church

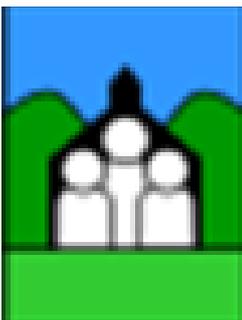
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## From Your Minister

Dear Friends,

As we begin a New Year, we do so amid uncertainty caused by Covid 19. As a church some restrictions are in place and we are unsure how things will progress through the year. None the less, I wish everyone a happy 2022 and trust that it can be a blessing for all of us. God is faithful and will bless us as we place our lives and our future in his hands.

There will be various events that we will be able to mark as churches in 2022 including the 250th Anniversary of St Colmon's church building as well as Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We look forward to restarting various activities as restrictions are lifted. May the Lord be with us as we journey on.

Every blessing for 2022,

Rev`d Theo Corney

## Points for Prayer

**“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged; the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”**

Joshua 1v9

A verse to take into the New Year with us; we have no idea what the future holds for us, we only know who holds the future in His hands as he has held the past. And so we look with confidence to Him ; no matter how bleak the present may seem and how uncertain our circumstances, we follow the One who said “come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest”.

**Some prayers from Christine Stewart, prayer co-ordinator – Ayr Presbytery.**

Father God, thank you that you welcome us when we choose to pour out our anxieties and fears to you. You pick us up when we fall and guide us through the darkest valleys.

Lord we confess that there are many reasons that lead us to disagree with one another.  
Grant us your way of peace and help us to respect others.

Father, forgive us when we lose sight of you, when our faith wavers, when we give more time to other things than to you. Take control of our lives so that we can share your generous love with all who cross our paths.

Lord, grant your grace and healing to all who mourn the loss of loved ones, to those who are sick, to those who struggle with depression, to those who are lonely. In Jesus’  
Name, Amen.

Pat Guthrie



## The Altos' Lament

It's tough to be an alto when singing in the choir;  
The sopranos get the twiddly bits that people all admire  
The basses boom out like loud trombones, the tenors shout with glee  
But the altos' part is on two notes (or if you're lucky three)  
And when we sing an anthem and we lift our hearts in praises  
The men get all the juicy bits and telling little phrases.  
Of course the trebles sing the tune, they always come off best  
The altos only get three notes and twenty two bars rest.  
We practice very hard each week from hymn book and the psalter  
But when the conductor looks at us our voices start to falter  
Too high, too low, too fast, you held that note too long  
It doesn't matter what we do, it's certain to be wrong.  
Oh! Shed a tear for altos, they're the martyrs and they know  
In the ranks of choral singers they're considered very low.  
They are so very humble that a lot of folk forget them  
How they'd love to be sopranos but their vocal chords won't let them.  
And when the final trumpet sounds and we are wafted higher  
Sopranos, basses, tenors – they'll be in the Heavenly choir.  
While they sing "Alleluia" to celestial flats and sharps  
The altos will be occupied polishing the harps.

Contributed by Rev. Jim Guthrie

# Unchanging and Unshakable

Hebrews 12v28, 13v8.

As we begin a New Year our lives have not changed much  
we still live in uncertain times, not sure what each day will bring  
Our world is full of unrest and rumours abound of threats,  
conflict, terror and new strains of Covid  
But we have a God who is unchangeable and unshakable  
One we can turn to in our times of fear of the unknown  
Let each of us turn to Him and trust Him.

## Prayer

Our ever loving God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit  
Guide and guard us as once again we face an uncertain future  
We struggle to understand what is happening to your world  
We often ask why! do we really want to know the answer?  
The selfishness and greed--- uncaring self centeredness  
All the nations are being shaken with upheavel and change  
But you O Lord are unshakable and unchangable  
Help each of us to do your will O Lord  
and be what you made us to be  
Keep us strong and faithful  
In your great mercy Lord help each of us  
To find your unshakable kingdom  
Through the precious life of your Son Jesus Christ  
and The Holy Spirit.

AMEN

Patricia Thackray



How long is it since you last saw a hedgehog? They are now officially classed as vulnerable to extinction in the UK. There are many reasons and it's sad to think of such a fate for this prickly little God's creature. Here are ways to help:

- Link your garden with Hedgehog Highways.
- Create a wild corner.
- Make your pond safe with a ramp.
- Clear away netting and litter.
- Put out food and water.
- Stop using chemicals.
- Check before strimming.
- Be careful with bonfires.
- Make a home for hedgehogs.
- Become a Hedgehog Champion.

What's a Hedgehog Highway? Since they travel between 1-2 km a night searching for food and a mate, a small gap in your fence the size of a CD case will let them pass through. Ask your neighbours to do the same!

If you spot a hedgehog when driving at night and can't stop in time, try to steer so it will pass under the middle of the car where least likely to be harmed.

You can become a Hedgehog Champion by registering on <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/> website, which has resources to make your garden, neighbourhood and Parish hedgehog-friendly zones.

Moira Grant, Falkirk

Hedgehog Champion with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society/Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species.

Christmas 2021 is now quickly becoming a memory and whilst in the church we were not able to celebrate as much as we would like, as with everything we adapted and did what we were permitted. We were able to celebrate the birth of our Lord throughout the Parish with Christmas services being held in Lendalfoot and Barrhill as well as in St Colmon. Our annual Christmas Concert had to be curtailed but we held a Carols and Lessons evening with members of our congregation taking a lead. The Watchnight service was at the earlier time of 7.00pm this year and we welcomed some of our younger members to this.

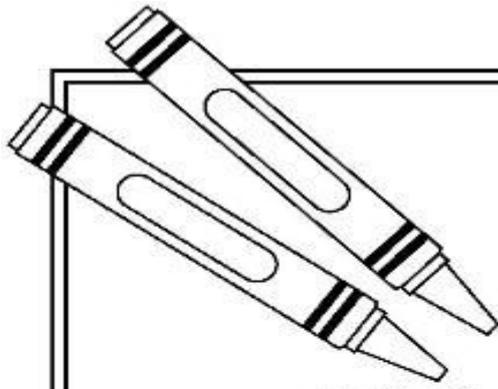
Thanks must go to Claire, Elsie and Harriet for all their hard work in making the church so festive and to Knockdolian Estate for the gift of the Christmas tree again this year.

We all hope and pray that 2022 will bring resolution to the pandemic and that we will be able to resume Church activities without ongoing restrictions and look forward to welcoming you.

Happy and blessed 2022,

Lynne McIlwraith





# Just for **KIDS**

## *The true vine*

In a vineyard, the vine gives life to the branches, which, in turn, produce the grapes. Follow the puzzle directions below to learn about our special relationship with Jesus, our true vine.

Directions: Circle every other letter and then write them in order on the lines below.

START ▶ ① b a s m L t r h g e c v d i e n f e g y h o i u j a K r

a v f F l i s s e u h t c T n s a R r q b p e o h n t M e L  
w m x a y n Z r a e A m b a C i d n e s F i f n m m n e

e c b a l l r i q w f e o h b m m i l h k n j i j l i d Q n p  
d a e r f m g u h c C h d f D r E u e i j t

" I

apart from me you can do nothing."

J o h n 1 5 : 5 , N I V

Answer: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit,"