

**Interim Moderator:** From 12<sup>th</sup> November  
Dr James Anderson  
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**Ballantrae Parish Church**

**Session Clerk:** Mrs Claire Strain – 01465 831246  
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Scottish Charity No. SC008536

**St Colmon Parish Church (Barrhill, Pinwherry, Colmonell & Lendalfoot)**

**Session Clerk:** Mrs Claire Pirrie - 01465 841644  
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Scottish Charity No. SC014381

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

## **From your Interim Moderator**

Dear All,

As I write this letter to you all, unfortunately things have changed somewhat for me, which means that sadly in the next few weeks I will have to hand on the role of Interim Moderator to someone else. In the middle of November I will be leaving for Blairgowrie where I now have a house suitable for my retirement whenever that will be. I will be remaining there for about six months or so to have some medical treatment. However, all being well I will be returning to Girvan after that to take up whatever duties I am able to continue with. I am pleased to intimate that Dr. James Anderson, who has been preaching on occasions in your churches, will be taking over as Interim Moderator. I wish him well in his new appointment and I assure him that it is a pleasure to be working with your two congregations. I am sure that you will all give Dr. Anderson all the support that you have given me over the last year or so.

I am disappointed that in recent weeks I have not been as involved in your two congregations that I would like to have been. However, I know that all your office bearers have ensured that the work of the congregations still goes on. While it is never easy for congregations at the time of a vacancy, your two churches are coping remarkably well. For example, I am delighted to hear that so many of you are willing to do the worship training which will greatly help the Presbytery at a time when there will be fewer and fewer ministers available to conduct worship. While I hope and pray that sometime soon a new minister will be inducted to your parishes, vacancies seem to, in the main, take longer and longer to be filled especially if the churches are not located in the centre of Scotland.

However, we must remember that the church is not just the minister. And that churches truly flourish when as many people as possible get involved in keeping their church going as well as paying attention to the important job of mission.

Our society and our world desperately need to not only hear the gospel of Jesus Christ today, but also it needs to try and live out the teachings of Jesus day by day. Things only really get better for everyone when everyone is prepared to play their part in working together and contributing whatever talents that they possess for the wellbeing of all.

God bless you all as you continue on your Christian journey and I hope very much to get the opportunity of working with you again in the near future.

Your soon to be former Interim Moderator. Ian.

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### ***Our thanks to you Ian.***

Ballantrae and St Colmon Churches offer our sincere thanks to Rev Ian McLachlan for his work and support for our Churches, kirk sessions and nomination committee in the last 14 months. He has organized regular pulpit supply ministers and readers who have inspired and encouraged us. Ian has also undertaken several baptisms,

weddings, funerals and Communion services and never complained about the additional workload on top of his own churches at Girvan South, Dailly and Barr.

Our congregations will hold you in prayer and we wish you well in your house move and treatment.

### **Vacancy News**

Members of the Nomination Committee are:

Ballantrae: Margaret Maule (Convenor to NC), Claire Strain (Session Clerk), Colin McNally (Treasurer), Betty Nelson (Elder), Hal Maxwell (Elder), May Lothian (Elder), Jackie Maxwell (Member).

St Colmon: Claire Pirrie (Session Clerk), Harriet Ellis (Clerk to NC), Anne Shankland (Elder), Andy Muir (Elder), Irene McCrae (Member), Pat Guthrie (Member).

The committee continue to actively seek a minister and have taken advantage of a reduced rate to advertise in the November issue of Life and Work. Adverts are also on Facebook. However, the best way to spread the news is by word of mouth – please pass the word around as we should all be looking out for a potential new minister.

If you know of someone who may be interested, please pass on our contact details or let us know if you think of someone we might approach.

Our Churches are vacant, but they are also open and active. God is ever present and working throughout our parishes and your support is vital for our Churches, so please come along to any services or events.

Dr Anderson, as our interim moderator, will ensure we have ministers or worship teams to lead all Sunday services and he will also arrange for ministers to conduct any Communion, baptism, wedding or funeral.

### **Points for Prayer**

“Peter was kept in prison, BUT the church was earnestly praying to God for him”. Acts ch12 v 5

We are asked to be thinking especially this month about prisoners, and as believers we should be praying earnestly for all those imprisoned for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The story of Peter’s imprisonment can be an inspiration to us. Our own World Mission Council highlights the ongoing saga of Asia Bibi, the young Christian mother who fell foul of the barbaric blasphemy law in Pakistan. She has been in prison for 9 years, separated from her husband and children. The Supreme Court of Pakistan met on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> and yet again reserved judgement on her case. She is not the only one to be suffering at this time, so please remember them in your prayers, and believe that God has a plan through these circumstances which will be revealed in His time.



**A prayer from Christian Aid:** God of the impossible, we pray for justice, peace and reconciliation. Remind us of your resurrection power and the miracles of your love

and grace that happen when injustice is dismantled and rebuilt in peace. Help us to know that the impossible can happen and to live as if it might do so today. In Jesus Name, amen.

“Pray, pray without ceasing if in your heart you believe, faith shall at length be rewarded; you shall the answer receive.” P.G.

## SERVICES

### **Ballantrae Parish Church**

11:30am every Sunday in Ballantrae with Sunshine Club for all children up to 12 years old. On the first Sunday of each month at 3pm a liturgical and ecumenical service is held in Glenapp Church and followed by refreshments. We are grateful for the dedication of the team that lead these services.

### **St Colmon Parish Church**

10am every Sunday in Colmonell. Children are welcome at all services with colouring books and toys provided. Some may find the church steps a challenge, so on the last Sunday each month the service is held in the Kirk Hall, which has full disabled access. At 3pm on the third Sunday of each month a service is held in Barrhill Memorial Hall. All services are followed by refreshments in the Kirk Hall.

## CHRISTMAS

Sun. 2<sup>nd</sup> December 3pm Carol Service at Glenapp Church

Sun. 16<sup>th</sup> 7pm Carols & Readings in Barrhill Memorial Hall

Thur. 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Christmas Concert in St Colmon Church

Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> Nativity Service 10am in St Colmon and 11.30am in Ballantrae Church

Mon. 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 11.30pm Watchnight services in both churches

Tue. 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.30am Joint Churches Christmas Day service in Ballantrae Church.



Do you wonder what the Church of Scotland does? Find the answer in Life & Work magazine.

Please consider subscribing to Life & Work which will support the Church of Scotland as well as inform and entertain you. The price is reduced for group orders so please contact Claire Pirrie if you would like to order at St Colmon Church.

## 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.

November 16<sup>th</sup> with Alan McWilliam from Whiteinch Church Glasgow.

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

Filling Station Girvan

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

## Malawi News

In October, Ayr Presbytery was host to four visitors from our linked presbyteries in north Malawi: Rev Jailos Kamisa from Nkata Bay; Rev Shadreck Mnthali, Presbytery Clerk, Bandawe Presbytery, Thipula; Lizzie Nkata, women's guild Bandawe Presbytery, Chintjeche Church; Suzhou Phidias, nurse at Kavusi Clinic.



On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October we were delighted to hear the Rev Jailos preach at both St Colmon and Ballantrae Churches, followed by an open fellowship lunch at BRICC house.

On Monday, Suzgo and Lizzie spent a day hosted by Hal and Jackie Maxwell. In spite of the inclement weather, the group visited Alloway, including the gardens, followed by a visit to St Colmon's Kirk

where they were provided with a very welcome cup of tea and biscuits, followed by a tour of the Kirk courtesy of Claire Pirrie.

Jackie provided lunch at Machair, where the ladies were able to warm up before visiting the Martyr's tomb at Barrhill. The group then proceeded to Ballantrae, where they visited the church and were brave enough to battle against the wind and rain at the harbour.

During their visit to Ballantrae the ladies showed great interest in the cattle and sheep they saw in the adjacent fields. Lizzie demonstrated the art of milking, explaining that the biggest farms in her area would have fewer than ten head of cattle. Claire Strain kindly arranged for the group to visit her parents' dairy at Laggan Farm, where 150 cattle were being milked by machine! The group then visited Glenapp Church and the evening concluded with supper at



Burnbank with the Malawi committee, courtesy of Meg and Eric. After a delicious meal, Lizzie and Suzgo entertained us with singing and dancing in the Malawi style. Gavin taught us all a Malawi hymn.

The evening concluded with the ladies singing Auld Lang Syne in both Tonga and English, which they learned in church. Hal and Jackie then drove them both back to their host family in Dundonald.

### Thanks

Carol and Rab Sandford wish to thank all those who have visited and given gifts during their recent bereavement.

## BALLANTRAE NEWS

### Best of Ballantrae



Thank you to everyone who brought along photos and memorabilia to be displayed in the church and to Keith and Christine our local historians!

An excellent afternoon tea was served in the manse along with a home baking stall. Thank you to those who

baked, served and washed dishes. A great time was had by all who attended and a total of over £400 was raised for local church funds.



### Ballantrae Congregational Board and Kirk Session

meet on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 730pm in the church vestry.

### Christmas Baking Stall

The church will have a Christmas themed baking stall at the craft fair organised by Ballantrae Community Association on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November.



**Ballantrae Church of Scotland Guild** is open to men and women who will commit their lives to Jesus Christ and express their faith in worship, prayer and action. The projects being supported this year are The Boys Brigade, Seema's Project and the Sailors' Society. We meet in Ballantrae Community Centre at 7.15pm and you will be welcomed as a visitor to any evening.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. Guild Sunday Service

Mon. 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. Slide Show of Visit to Czech Republic by Annette Torbet

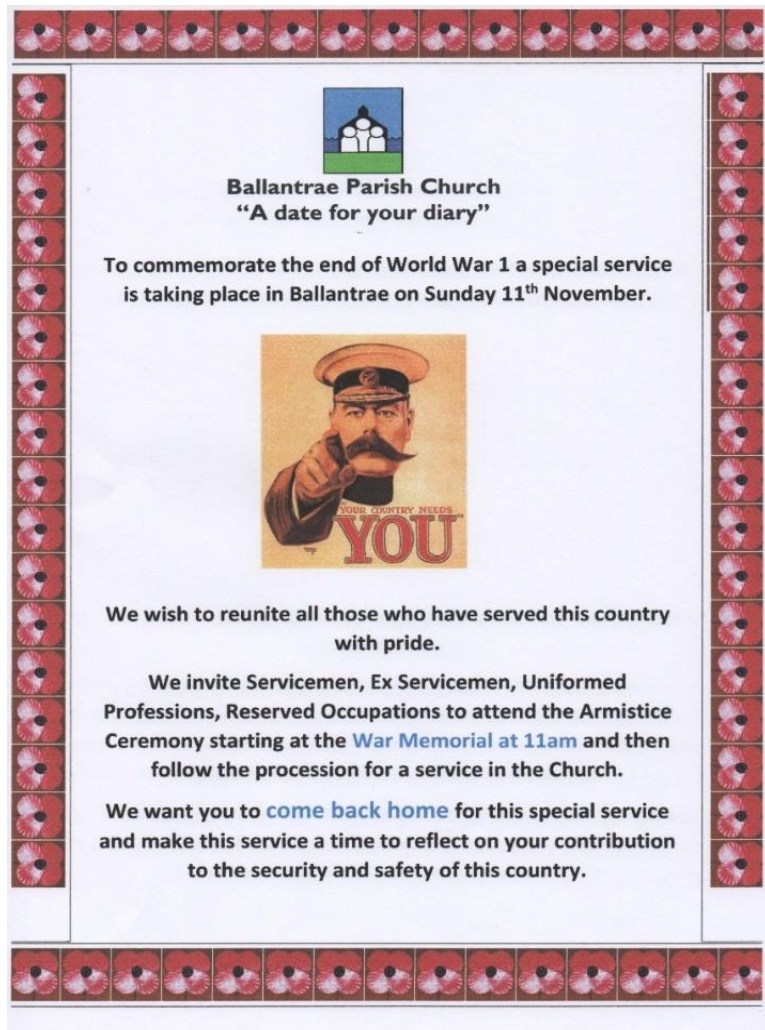
Mon. 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. Christmas Theme Night with games and refreshments.


Mon. 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. Open Evening with "The Rural Revellers" and refreshments.

## Remembrance Services


- Heronsford War Memorial on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm
- Ballantrae War Memorial on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11am followed by a service in the church.

There will be silhouettes around the village, and poppies on display.



  
**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.

## St COLMON NEWS

### CONGREGATION MEETING

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in the Kirk Hall.

We all know the Church of Scotland is facing major problems and we are told change is inevitable. General Assembly instructed Kirk Sessions to inform congregations and give the opportunity for discussion and feedback. Please come along to hear the details and let us have your thoughts.

### **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 can guide, 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: A CHANGE to Community Choir.** Please see separate information.

**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.

### **Remembrance**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov.** 11am at Pinwherry School War Memorial.

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

Church - organ recitals; soup lunch in the kirk hall; exhibition.

Community Centre - exhibition of information and history.

**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 and 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 Clachanton hill.

7.05pm Church bells ring in celebration of Peace.

**Barrhill** War Memorial Act of Remembrance at 3pm Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> followed by a Service of Remembrance in the Memorial Hall with refreshments.

### **Colmonell Circle**

**Annual Whist Drive** Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. at 7.30pm – venue to be confirmed.

**Scottish Night** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 7.30pm in Colmonell Community Centre. Enjoy an evening of Scottish music with Alan & Friends and some favourite Scottish food as refreshments.

### **Coffee @ Kirk**



Every Wednesday St Colmon Kirk Hall is open between 10am and 12noon for coffee, tea, biscuits for the price of a donation. Books are available to borrow or buy. Every 7 weeks a podiatry clinic is held. Contact Claire Pirrie to book an appointment.

### **Barrhill Car Share?**

If you travel to St Colmon Church from Barrhill would it help to share transport? A couple of people have mentioned this so do get in touch if it would help.

### **Community Choir**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 7.30pm Colmonell Community Centre**

Don't keep your singing in the shower! - Join the Stinchar Valley Community Choir. There's no need to be able to read music, audition or sing solo. You can simply turn up and enjoy making sounds together. Singing is a fun way of improving health and wellbeing. Come along to this first meeting and see what you think.

### **“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.

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, are treated fairly. The Armed Forces Covenant Trust has provided the silhouettes for our project “Lives Given & Remembered” and you will see them in all local villages.

### **PRAYER CAUSED A STIR!**

When the Rev. Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kamas State Senate he caused quite a stir. Here is what he prayed:-

*Heavenly Father we know your word says, ‘Woe on those who call evil good’, but that’s what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values. We confess that;*

*We have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it pluralism.*

*We have worshipped other gods and called it multi-culturalism.*

*We have condoned perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle.*

*We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.*

*We have neglected the needy and called it self-preservation.*

*We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.*

*We have killed the unborn and called it choice.*

*We have shot abortionists and called it justice.*

*We have failed to discipline our children and called it character.*

*We have abused power and called it political savvy.*

*We have polluted our society with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.*

*We have ridiculed the values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.*

*Search us, O God and know our hearts; cleanse us from every sin and set us free; for we ask it in the name of your Son our Lord, even Jesus Christ. Amen.*

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

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

15:00 – Sunday at Glenapp

### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

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

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

11:00 Act of Remembrance Pinwherry War Memorial

14:00 Act of Remembrance Heronsford War Memorial

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

10:00 – 16:00 Open weekend to commemorate Armistice

### **Remembrance Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

09:30 – Service of Remembrance in St Colmon Church

11:00 - Act of Remembrance at Colmonell War Memorial

11:00 - Act of Remembrance at Ballantrae War Memorial

11:30 - Service of Remembrance in Ballantrae Church

15:00 – Act of Remembrance at Barrhill War Memorial

15:30 – Service of Remembrance in Barrhill Memorial Hall

### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

19:00 – Filling Station at Woodland Bay Hotel

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church **with Communion**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

19:00 – Ballantrae Church Guild in Ballantrae Community Centre

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov.**

19:30 - Stinchar Valley Community Choir in Colmonell Community Centre

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov.**

19:30 – Circle Whist in St Colmon Kirk Hall

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

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

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

10:00 - St Colmon Church **with Communion**

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

19:30 – Coffee, Cake & Chat

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec.**

10:00 - St Colmon Church in the Kirk Hall

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

15:00 – Sunday at Glenapp

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

19:30 – St Colmon Congregation Meeting in Kirk Hall

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

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

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

19:00 – Barrhill Carols Evening in Memorial Hall

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

19:00 – St Colmon Christmas Concert

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec.**

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

23:30 – Watchnight Services in Ballantrae & St Colmon Churches

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

10:30 – Joint Churches Service in Ballantrae Church

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

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

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

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

11:30 - Ballantrae Church