

**Presbytery of Ayr
Malawi Alternative Gift Scheme**

In Malawi 6.5 million of our brothers and sister are suffering famine due to extremes of drought and flood. Please purchase a £5 gift card and tell the person you give it to they are saving lives, as the money will be spent on seed and fertiliser to restore the ground and crops.



Two Spoon Supper

The Harvest Two Spoon Supper held on Friday 20th October raised £365.00 for our sister church in Lwambaza. Our sincere thanks to all who attended or gave their time, talents and money toward this fund raiser for our mission in Malawi.

Meg Peacock

Ballantrae Parish Church Malawi Committee.



November 2017 – January 2018



Interim Moderator: Rev. Ian McLachlan
Email: IMcLachlan@churchofscotland.org.uk
Telephone: 01465 713370

Ballantrae Parish Church

Session Clerk: Mrs Claire Strain – 01465 831246
clairestrain@live.co.uk / www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk
Scottish Charity No. SC008536

St Colmon Parish Church

Session Clerk: Mrs Claire Pirrie - 01465 841644
stcolmon.sessionclerk@gmail.com
www.stcolmonparishchurch.org.uk
Scottish Charity No. SC014381

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

To All Our Readers,

Despite the fact that there is a vacancy in our linked parishes at the moment, they continue to be very busy places. I have been very impressed indeed with all the work that continues to go on in our churches and I am very grateful indeed to all the office-bearers for all they continue to do to ensure the smooth running of parish life and work.

On Sunday mornings we continue to have the services of our Worship Team for which we are very grateful. If it weren't for them I would have to find even more visiting preachers willing to travel quite a distance. I am beginning to ask people to preach for us in the first half of 2018 and I very much hope that we will be able to call on the services of a large number of preachers. All those who have been guest preachers so far, have all found their visits very fulfilling and they have commented on the warm welcome that they have received from the parishioners.

I continue to enjoy my visits to you as well. I will be preaching in St. Colmon's and Ballantrae on a few occasions in the next couple of months. I am particularly looking forward to being with you on the morning of Christmas Eve. Christmas is for me - like it is for most of you - a very special time of the year. I hope that these two services on Christmas Eve morning can be very much family services.

Hopefully a number of people of all ages will decide that Christmas is a season of the year where attending a religious service should be an important component of the Christmas experience.

Christmas is of course one of the two main festivals in our faith And it is always good to spend time reflecting on God's greatest gift of all to us.

The gift of his Son who entered our world at a particular point in our history. God loved the world and its inhabitants so much that He wanted to teach them how they might live their lives in the best way possible.

Come and Sing Carols in the Ring



Ayr Mart
Wednesday 6th December
at 7.30pm.

Meet Ayr Presbytery's Pioneer Minister for the Rural Community, Chris Blackshaw, who is working with RSABI (Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution) and Ayr Farming Support.

This will be an evening of Scottish music, readings, meditations, carol singing. Can you help with refreshments please e.g. sandwiches, buttered fruit loaves, cakes, biscuits?

The organisers need an idea of numbers, so please get in touch if you are going along and if you can contribute.

Isabell Montgomerie
Session Clerk, Ochiltree Parish Church

Email isabellmont@btinternet.com

Telephone 01290 700330

07967 653934

St Colmon Harvest Celebration

In October our Church held services to celebrate Harvest time and God's goodness in creation. We also remembered our responsibility to care for those who do not have as much as us by donating to the Foodbank.

Girvan Foodbank wrote to say "A very big thank you to you all from the team at Girvan Foodbank. Your generosity means that we can give extras to the people who are at a low point in their lives."

Many thanks also to those who helped to raise £113 for the Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution.

THANK YOU

Despite absolutely dreadful weather Lynne and Brian would like to thank everyone who supported the St Colmon Annual Auction whether by the donation of goods, helping to set up, portering on the day or obviously bidding and purchasing. We raised just over £600 for church funds. Dr Tom Smith, very regrettably, was unable to "wield his gavel" due to ill health, but we wish him a continuing good recovery and hope his gavel is in working order next year.

Our thanks to Brian who was a very worthy stand-in.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Only Members and Adherents present in Church will be able to elect the Nomination Committee on Sunday 10th December. Please note, those who are appointed to our Nomination Committee will be asked to attend a meeting with Ayr Presbytery Vacancy Committee the same day at 1.30pm in Ballantrae Manse. Lunch will be provided from 11.30am in the Manse.

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Hopefully a number of people of all ages will decide that Christmas is a season of the year where attending a religious service should be an important component of the Christmas experience. Christmas is of course one of the two main festivals in our faith and it is always good to spend time reflecting on God's greatest gift of all to us. The gift of his Son who entered our world at a particular point in our history. God loved the world and its inhabitants so much that He wanted to teach them how they might live their lives in the best way possible.

Christmas is more than the presents, the cards, the special foods, the Christmas trees, the coloured lights, the special programmes on television, and the social events. Christmas marks the beginning of the life of the greatest person who ever walked the face of the earth. And it is important that we take some time to reflect on the true meaning of this special occasion. There will be a number of special services throughout the Christmas season in our parishes. I hope that you will endeavour to attend some of them and make time for the One whose birthday this really is.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas

and a prosperous New Year.

Your Interim Moderator, Ian.

Points for Prayer



Five hundred years ago Martin Luther set in motion a movement that would rock the very foundations of the Christian world and set the course for reform and renewal of the Church. Those were stormy times and brought suffering and sacrifice to many.

We are now walking in their footsteps and beginning to feel the chill wind of opposition in our country as Christians become marginalized by their belief in the unalterable Word of God. That Word which is being defied by our law-makers in their efforts to appease those who don't acknowledge God, and seem set on a path far from our Christian heritage.

In the book of Jeremiah, we read: This is what the Lord says: **"Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls".**

The Reformers opened up the Bible for us and also taught us how to pray, not through any priestly intermediary but directly to the Father through Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Ballantrae Church News & Information

Ballantrae Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner
Community Centre Wednesday 6th December 5pm
Aged 60yrs or over plus spouse/partner
Add your name to the list in Scotmid by 1st December

Best of Ballantrae

People travelled to view our Best of Ballantrae exhibition at the end of September. It was lovely to hear so many people reminiscing, old and new friends meeting, and relationships rebuilt. A well-earned rest was enjoyed over refreshments served in the manse and home baking to take home to remind you of your visit. Thank you to everyone who set up, baked, served and came along on the day to help us raise over £600 for church funds. We will repeat this event again.

Welcome

to Valerie Wass and Claire McKinley who joined Ballantrae Church during our Communion Service on Sunday 29th October.

Meeting

Ballantrae Congregational Board and Kirk Session meet on Wednesday 10th January 2018 at 730pm in the vestry.

Thank You

To everyone who helped in any way with our Harvest Service. The total amount received for the Christian Aid collection was £815, which is a very good sum. We don't usually get as much as that for the Harvest appeal, so it is very gratifying. Big "thank yous" to all who contributed. Kind regards, Anthea. Ballantrae also donated a large amount of food to the Girvan Food Bank. Thank you again!

Ballantrae Church News & Information

Church Cleaning Rota

Date	Name	Name
1/10/17	Robert Dalrymple	Caroline Dalrymple
15/10/17	John McIlwraith	Janice McIlwraith
29/10/17	Penny Savage	Liz Gregg
12/11/17	Tom Davidson	Jean Davidson
26/11/17	Anthea Russell	Jessie Brown
10/12/17		Rossie McKinley
24/12/17	Meg Peacock	Lorna Greenhill
7/1/18	Robert Dalrymple	Caroline Dalrymple
21/1/18	John McIlwraith	Janice McIlwraith

Please note that the cleaning teams should clean the church for the Sunday dates above i.e. clean during the week before the date. Liz would welcome any new pairs of cleaners, so please let her know if you would be willing.



Flower List

Keep a look out for the new Flower List for 2018 to donate flowers for display in the church which are the distributed to those who are in our thoughts

Martin Luther wrote two short prayers for people to use in the morning and at night:

Morning: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that you would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen

Evening: I thank you my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Let's revive again our habits of Bible reading and prayer and honour the memory of those who faithfully passed on the Good News down through the years.

Pat Guthrie Prayer Promoter.

Church News & Information

Ballantrae Parish Church

We meet at 11:30am every Sunday in Ballantrae Church. A monthly ecumenical and liturgical style service is held at 3pm in Glenapp Church. In the New Year the service changes to the first Sunday of the month, beginning on Sunday 7th January.

Ballantrae Meetings

Ballantrae Congregational Board and Kirk Session meet on Wednesday 10th January 2018 at 730pm in the vestry.

St Colmon Parish Church

We meet at 10am every Sunday in Colmonell. Children are welcome, and an area is set aside with toys, paper, crayons and books. For those who find the church steps a challenge the service on the last Sunday of each month is usually held in the Kirk Hall, which has easy access.

St Colmon Kirk Meetings

at 7.30pm in St Colmon Kirk Hall.

Kirk Session meets on Tuesday 21st November

Finance Committee meet on Tuesday 16th January

Barrhill Services

At 3pm on the third Sunday of each month we meet for worship in Barrhill Primary School while the Memorial Hall is shut. Anyone from Barrhill who would like a lift to services at St Colmon Church please contact Claire on 841644.

St Colmon Christmas Concert

Friday 15th December at 7pm

Followed by coffee/tea/juice & mincepies

In only 4 weeks' time, we will hold our Christmas Concert in St Colmon Church as part of our celebrations of our Saviour's birth. Ever since our first Christmas concert the depth of talent that has emerged from the community.

has astounded, entertained and brought us together. Therefore, whatever your talent, blatant or hidden, we want you to showcase it that night. We are looking for singers, musicians or poets; individuals, duos or groups, young or old, male or female. I look forward to a deluge of performers all desperate to speak to me after Church any Sunday, or phone me on 831390.

Lynne McIlwraith, Organist.



Colmonell Christmas Carols & Lights

Join us to go Carol Singing from Colmonell Community Centre at 6.30pm. At 7.15pm the Christmas lights will be switched on, followed by Creetown Silver Band playing in the Community Centre.

Barrhill Carols Evening

Sunday 17th December at 6.30pm in Barrhill Primary School followed by refreshments.

Colmonell Circle

All are welcome

27th November 7.30pm – Annual Scottish Night with Alan & Friends
Music and Refreshments with a Scottish Theme
in Colmonell Community Centre

19th January 7.30pm – Whist Drive in Colmonell Community Centre

26th February 7.30pm in St Colmon Kirk Hall – “Street Pastors”

Ballantrae Church of Scotland Guild



1.30pm to 3.30pm Ballantrae Community Centre

Mondays 18th December – Christmas Afternoon

15th January – “Lunch” to be arranged

26th February – “Street Pastors” with Colmonell
Circle at St Colmon Kirk Hall

The Guild is Open to All

Secretary Jessie Brown 831544



81 shoeboxes have been collected between
both Churches, wrapped with Christmas paper
and filled with a range of toiletries, clothes,
sweets and stationery and sent away to
Blythswood Care who will distribute them.

Thanks to anyone who donated knitted

items to be sent in the boxes, which will be part of a 7000 box
shipment to Albania.

Thank you for helping with our annual collection! “



Every Thursday (not December 21st & 28th) at
7.30pm in St Colmon Kirk Hall. Informal
discussion over coffee / tea to find out how the
Bible can benefit our lives. Do you have
questions and want to understand the Bible’s
place in our world today? Join us in seeking the answers.
Refreshments provided, and all are welcome.



Café Church is on the 2nd and 4th Friday (not 22nd
December) each month 6.30pm for 7pm in St
Colmon Kirk Hall.

Church, but not as you know it. A time for coffee,
cake, hot chocolate, worship music and chat.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Prayer is essential for our Churches and the world around us. All
are welcome to join us in St Colmon Kirk Hall on the 4th
Saturday of each month (not December) at 10am.

MESSY CHURCH CHRISTMAS

Saturday 2nd December at 10am in St Colmon Kirk Hall.

Crafts, music, story and brunch
for children up to 12years accompanied by family.

Coffee @ Kirk

Every Wed. 10am to 12noon drop in to St Colmon Kirk Hall
for coffee for the price of a donation. Pick up a book or just
catch up with friends. A podiatry clinic is held every 7 weeks.

What's On .. Nov. '17 to Jan. '18

Tuesday 21st November

19:30 – St Colmon Kirk Session

Friday 24th November

18:30 for 19:00 - Café Church, St Colmon Kirk Hall

Saturday 25th November

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

Sunday 26th November

10:00 - St Colmon Church in the Kirk Hall

11:30 - Ballantrae Church with a Baptism

Saturday 2nd December

10:00 – Messy Church in St Colmon Kirk Hall

Sunday 3rd December **First Sunday of Advent**

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

Friday 8th December

18:30 for 19:00 - Café Church, St Colmon Kirk Hall

Sunday 10th December **Second Sunday of Advent**

10:00 - St Colmon Church **Appointment of**

11:30 - Ballantrae Church **Nomination Committee**

15:00 – Candlelight Service at Glenapp Church

Friday 15th December

19:00 St Colmon Christmas Concert in Church

Sunday 17th December **Third Sunday of Advent**

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

18:30 – Barrhill Carols Evening in Barrhill Primary School

Sunday 24th December **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

23:30 – Watchnight Services in both Churches

Monday 25th December **Christmas Day Family Service**

10:30 - Both Churches in Ballantrae Church

Sunday 31st December

10:00 - St Colmon Church in the Kirk Hall

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

Sunday 7th January

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

15:00 – Sunday at Glenapp

Friday 12th January

18:30 for 19:00 - Café Church, St Colmon Kirk Hall

Sunday 14th January

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

Sunday 21st January

10:00 - St Colmon Church

11:30 - Ballantrae Church

15:00 – Barrhill Service in the Primary School

Friday 26th January

18:30 for 19:00 - Café Church, St Colmon Kirk Hall

Sunday 28th January

10:00 - St Colmon Church in the Kirk Hall

11:30 - Ballantrae Church