

Paws for Thought—April 10

Well by the time you read this, many of you will have enjoyed your Easter Breakfast at the Manse. Can I just say thank you very much for “accidentally” dropping bits of sausage and bacon – it was very thoughtful of you. There is another big event happening this month – on 6th April it will be my 10th birthday. I can't believe I'll be reaching double figures in human years though the thought that in dog years I'm 70 is a bit depressing. I'll be on holiday on my birthday, but will still happily accept your birthday cards and tennis balls on my return.

I had my first haircut of the year last week. Why mummy looked out the window at the hailstones and thought it was time for me to loose my warm winter coat I'll never understand. At least I can now see where I am going so that's an improvement. The Crafty View of Easter group did something interesting at their last session. They made miniature gardens involving soil, plants and stones. I get into such trouble for bringing bits of the garden into the house, but Daddy actually helped them do it.

Till next time
Dougie



Ballantrae Patchwork and Quilting Group



The above group are having a 25th anniversary show in Ballantrae Church on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th April, from 10.00am until 4.00pm.

Tea and coffee will be available for £1.50.

Entry is by donation.

All proceeds will be given to CHAS.

Celebrating spring



Originally Easter was called Pascha after the Hebrew word for Passover, a Jewish festival that happens at this time of year. It was replaced by Easter, a word which is believed to have evolved from Eostre, the name of the Anglo-Saxon goddess of fertility and springtime. The date of Easter is determined, like its pagan festival equivalent, by the lunar



Weather

For the 103 days from the 10th December 2009 to the 10th March 2010 there were 56 days with air frost and 87 days with ground frost. Since then the grass has turned green again though still with not much growth, and as I was writing this on the 29th of March, the rain was turning to sleet! Earlier in the day there was a fairly good halo around the sun as it shone through Cirrostratus cloud. Just after dawn on April 20th 1535 a spectacular halo display appeared in the sky to the east of Stockholm and included sun dogs - bright patches of light to the left and right of the sun. The scene was recorded in a painting called “Vädersolstavlan” or “sun dog painting”. It also showed the medieval city of Stockholm and has become an icon of the capital being featured on banknotes and stamp. During April watch out for the planet Venus to the west north west just after sunset. If your eyesight is very good you may spot the other inner planet Mercury on the 6th of April just to the right of Venus. On the 16th the two day old crescent of the new moon lies just above Venus with Mercury just below.

George Watt

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening of religious service when she was startled by an intruder. As she caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables, she yelled, "Stop - Acts 2:38!" (..turn from your sin...) The burglar stopped dead in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done. As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you." "Scripture?" replied the burglar, "She said she had an AXE and two 38's!"



It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Johnny stayed home from. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," "Wouldn't you know it," Johnny said, "the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up."

From our Prayer Correspondent



For reading and meditation -- Ecclesiastes Ch:3, v. 1-12
He sets the time for sorrow and the time for joy. (v.4)

Dear Lord, we have come through a week of joy, sorrow and suffering
Celebrating the triumphant entry into Jerusalem,
Then the torture, crucifixion and death on the cross.

Is this the end Lord—NO

You have the VICTORY you rose from the dead on that first Easter
Morning.

Father God You set the time for everything that happens

You alone have given us hope for the future

By the greatest sacrifice possible -- JESUS

You have taken our burdens to yourself

We come to you in our sin, you forgive us

We come to you in our sickness, you heal us

We come to you in our sorrow, you give us peace

Loving Lord, you are the joy of our salvation, we thank you,

We come before you with joyful songs, and a heart filled with praise

As we celebrate, help us to remember what we owe you - - Our Risen
Lord.

Amen

With love in Jesus name Pat.



LENT

Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday. For many Christians, this is a period of fasting and repentance in preparation for Easter, culminating in a feast of seasonal and symbolic foods. In the late 17th century, girls in service brought a rich fruit cake called simnel cake home to their mothers on the fourth Sunday of Lent. The cake was enriched with marzipan and decorated with 11 marzipan balls representing the 12 apostles minus Judas, who betrayed Christ.

Why not try alternate recipe for chocolate simnel cake on inside of back page.



Ballantrae Film Night

Thank you to all those who helped and came along to the various nights that we have had since October. For our first year, it went really well and I am looking forward to our next season which will begin in the autumn. However, if you can't wait until, then there is going to be a film night in Barrhill Memorial Hall on Friday 23rd April, run in association with St Colmon Parish Church. At 6pm we are showing 'Alvin and the Chipmunks 2: The Squeakquel' (U) and at 8pm we are showing 'Marley & Me' (PG).



LIFE & WORK

Copies of Life and Work the Church of Scotland's national magazine, are available from May Lothian.



News Letter

Items for next news letter should be in by **29th April**

Malawi



On Sunday, 14th. March, 2010, sixteen boxes were taken from Ballantrae to Prestwick North Parish Church on the first stage of the journey to Malawi. Regrettably, due to the ever increasing cost of sending a container to Malawi (£8,000 +) this will be our last consignment of items, although the Presbytery Malawi Ad Hoc Committee continue to research sources of funding which might enable the container project to continue.

Sincere thanks to everyone for supporting the project over the last three years, for the huge variety of items supplied, for all the help with packing, storing and transporting and for the generous cash donations which were received to help with shipping costs.

The Minister is currently reviewing the availability of a suitable and sustainable 'one to one' link with a community in Malawi as a way forward for Ballantrae Church to continue working inside the Presbytery of Ayr Malawi Partnership and will keep us informed as things develop. From our family in Malawi I thank you once again for all your support
Meg Peacock.

Prayer Meeting



There will be a prayer meeting on Wednesday 28th April at 7:30pm in the Manse. At each prayer meeting we have been reflecting on a prayer that was written in each of the centuries since Christ. And so in April it will be a prayer from the Fifth Century AD. After the time of reflection, we have a short time of prayer, either quietly to ourselves or out loud, whatever each person is comfortable with. I know that prayer is important for all of us, but as well as praying by ourselves, it is important as Christians to meet and pray together.



Jelly Bean Prayer

Red is for the blood he gave
Green is for the grass he made

Yellow is for the sun so bright

Orange is for the edge of night
Black is for the sins we made

White is for the grace he gave

Purple is for his hour of sorrow

Pink is for our new tomorrow

An egg full of jelly beans,
Colourful and Sweet

Is a prayer, a promise, A loved one's
treat!!

Ballantrae Church Guild



Guild Coffee Morning
In community centre,
Saturday 10th April, 10-11.30am
Teas/coffee/hamper/guess the
weight of the cake/plants/produce.
Tickets priced £2 and £1
Please come along and give your
support
Guild Open evening
in Community Centre on Monday
19th April, at 7.15pm
Entertainment will be provided by
Alloway WRI.
Tea will be served.
Everyone welcome

Young Women's Group



Wed 21/04/10

Meeting to discuss next year's
Syllabus.
Thistles Tearoom 8 p.m.



S.W.R.I



Next meeting Monday **May 3rd**
Annual Business Meeting
Followed by Cheese and Wine in
BRICC house

Chocolate Simnel Cake

100g/4oz dark chocolate (small pieces)
100g/4oz caster sugar
100g/4oz softened butter
50g/2oz ground almonds
3 eggs separated
1 tsp. Baking powder
50g/2oz self raising flour
1lb golden marzipan
Beaten egg 4 tbsp apricot jam
For the icing :- 142mls double cream
175g/ 6oz dark chocolate
Decoration :- 100g/4oz white chocolate
25g/1oz dark chocolate
Butter a round 7ins tin. Melt chocolate. Beat
sugar & butter until light and fluffy. Beat in
yolks one at a time, stir in almonds &
chocolate. Whisk egg white until stiff peaks
form then fold a quarter of egg white into
chocolate mixture, then sift quarter of flour &
baking powder. Repeat 3 more times until all
egg white & flour is evenly mixed. Pour
mixture into tin & bake for 35-40mins until
risen & firm. Leave to cool for 5mins and then
turn onto wire rack. Cut off a 1/4of marzipan
and divide into 12. Shape 11 balls and leave to
dry, return remaining piece to main lump of
marzipan and roll out to size of cake. Warm
jam and 2tbsp.water in pan press through a
sieve. Split cake in half, placing 1 on a plate,
brush with jam cover with paste and brush with
jam place other 1/2cake on top.
Icing melt choc. & cream, cool, then chill for
40mins stir occasionally. Spread over top &
sides of cake, leave to set. Cover remaining
balls with melted white choc leave to set.
Drizzle balls with melted dark choc. once set
attach to cake with reheated left over dark choc.

Oven

180C/350F
gas 4

LISTS AND ROTAS

Flower Calendar



Just to remind
everybody the flower calendar is
at the church entrance, anyone
wishing to donate flowers
should add their name against
the
appropriate Sunday's date.

Tea Duty



May 2nd

Betty Nelson, May
Cunningham Rossi
McKinley and Meg Peacock

Church Cleaning Team

April 4th. Georgina McKinley
& Irene Stewart.

April 18th. May & Tom
Lothian

If unable to fulfil your given
date, please swap with another
team. If you can help with the
Church cleaning rota, contact
Liz Gregg, tel. 841686.

**Please note church should be
cleaned prior to date
indicated .**

Sunday Duty Rota

April	May
4th E	2nd C
11th F	9th D
18th A	16th E
25th B	23rd F
	30th A

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

I'm not sure how many of you have heard of Street View on Google Maps UK (local.google.co.uk). It basically allows someone to virtually walk along a street in various parts of the country. Initially it was only the largest cities that were on it, but in now includes many villages and country roads, including most from this area.

I was interested when the photographs were taken and so decided to do some detection work. From my research, I am certain that the photographs of Ballantrae were taken between the hours of 2pm and 4pm on Tuesday 17th March 2009 (I reckon that some of the other villages were taken that day too). How do I know this? Elementary my dear Watson.

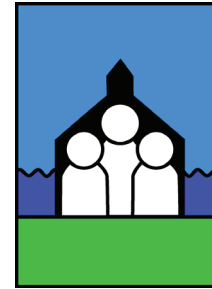
Firstly, the daffodils are out, which means it was spring 2009. Secondly, one of the posters on the notice board of the church was only on it between the 11th and the 18th March. Thirdly, I had a friend down on Tuesday 17th March, whose car is in the manse driveway. And finally, there are lots of cars outside of BRICC and the door is open to the shop, which means it must have been between 2pm and 4pm.

We can determine many things from a bit of detection, and we can be certain that Jesus is alive with a bit of investigation too. Once Jesus had died, his body was placed in a tomb. However if the resurrection didn't happen, what did? One suggestion is that the chief priest took it – but why? When the Christians started saying Jesus was alive, surely they would have just produced the body. What about the disciples? Surely not, after all they died for their faith later on, as well as countless more Christians. Jesus revived himself in the tomb? He had been crucified and a spear had pierced his side - the Romans did not make mistakes – he was definitely dead! Therefore, however hard it is for some people to accept, the resurrection did happen as recorded in the Bible.

It is important we believe this, otherwise our faith counts for nothing. It is only because of the resurrection that the first Christians gathered and it is the reason we celebrate Easter each year.

I hope you all enjoy your celebration of Easter.

God bless,
Stephen



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH

LINKED WITH

St. COLMON

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