



St Colmon's Newsletter

April/May 2009

NEWS FROM BARRHILL

Monthly worship continues at Barrhill with services in the Memorial Hall on the 3rd Sunday each month at 3pm. A cup of tea after the service provides an opportunity for fellowship. Our thanks go to Ballantrae Community Association for lending us their keyboard for each service and to Elsie McLachlan for playing so well. (Not forgetting Jimmy for carrying it!)



The spirit of worship that began in Arnsheen Church continues today as the Minister uses the lectern with the pulpit fall that was used in Arnsheen Church, and the font from Arnsheen also stands in the hall. On Communion Sundays we continue to use the Arnsheen cups, decanter and platters. There are also historical items in the form of the trowel used to lay the Church foundation stone and 2 of the original collection bags.

We have started a flower rota and St Colmon provides a cross to give a religious focus to our worship. Some parishioners have suggested we have banners in the hall to brighten it during services. Colmonell Circle hope to make a banner as one of their projects next year and Arnsheen Friendship Group may make another one. The Elders for Barrhill are Harriet Ellis (881221) and Claire Pirrie (841644) so please give us a call if we can be of any help. The next Communion Service will be held in the Barrhill Memorial Hall on Sunday 17th May at 3pm.

Claire Pirrie

Urgent—Choir Volunteers

I am making this fervent appeal for anyone who likes to sing and can spare an hour on a Sunday morning to come along to Colmonell Church and join the choir. There is a long tradition of music in this Church and there is now the danger that this will discontinue through lack of singers. I wouldn't like to see this happen so if you feel you can help, even on the occasional Sunday, then please call me on 831435. Please give it some thought.



Christine Murray, Organist.

The contact details for the Minister are: Rev Stephen Ogston
The Manse, 1 The Vennel, Ballantrae,
KA26 0NH
Tel: 01465 831252
Email: ogston@macfish.com

On 16th November Mr Ogston preached as sole nominee in St Colmon and also in Ballantrae Parish Church. The vote was unanimously in his favour, which led to his ordination and induction held in Ballantrae on 27th January 2009.

Since then the Rev. Stephen Ogston has worked hard in the parish gaining the admiration and respect of those with whom he comes into contact. Attendances have risen and it is a pleasure to welcome him and his family, including "Dougie" the wee terrier, into our midst.

If you haven't had the opportunity of meeting him come along to St Colmon at 10.00am any Sunday morning or to Barrhill Community Centre on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 3.00pm. All welcome.

James McLachlan, Session Clerk

Dear Friends,

I have now been the minister in this beautiful area of the country for just over 3 months, and my wife and I, with our family – one daughter and one dog – are really settling in well. We have really appreciated your welcome, and we look forward to getting to know you in the months and years to come.



We have moved down here from Glasgow, where I worked for three years for the Royal Bank of Scotland before beginning my training to become a minister. Being a young minister and this being my first church, I may well do things differently from what you have been used to in the past. I enjoy being creative and come with new ideas, some of which will work and some won't. This is a new chapter in the life of St Colmon (Arnsheen Barrhill and Colmonell) and I am so glad to be with you for the adventure that lies before us.

I am slowly getting to know many of you, but if I haven't met you yet, then I look forward to meeting you soon. It will also take time to get to know the area that I am responsible for, and I reckon it will take a few years to be confident about who lives where as well as where all the farms are in the parishes.

In this season of Easter, we celebrate the forgiveness that is ours because of all that Jesus did for us on the cross, and the eternal life that is ours because of his resurrection. My prayer and hope is that this good news will continually fill us with joy, as we grow in our understanding of God's love for each one of us.

May God continue to bless you.

Stephen

POINTS FOR PRAYER

- Pray for World Leaders at this time of conference and decision making.
- Pray for a new spirit of concern for the world, of compassion for the poor, of commitment to change for the good of all.
- Pray for the persecuted church—have another look at the poster in the vestibule to see just what is happening in the world. North Korea has the worst record of all; thousands of believers are in prison without trial with no prospect of release.
- Let's target the country with our prayers believing that God will answer and they will know that they are not forgotten.

Have a look at the story of Peter's imprisonment in Acts ch 12 v 1—18. "So Peter was kept in prison but the church was earnestly praying for him"

Pat Guthrie, Prayer Promoter.



COLMONELL CHURCH FETE



Please keep an eye out for notices advertising our annual Church Fete which will give details of exactly when and where it will be held this year. Come along and give us your support.

Arnshen Friendship Group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. between October and March with a varied programme of entertainment and a very appreciated cup of tea. Please come and join us.



USED STAMPS

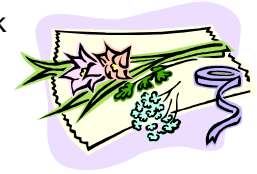
We continue to collect used stamps and postcards which are then "recycled" (very environmentally friendly) to raise money for causes throughout the world. Last year the money you helped to raise was used to provide schooling for girls in India and you were all a part of it. Please put your used stamps and/or postcards in the box in the vestibule. It is important that the stamps are undamaged so please leave a good border around them. Thanks to everyone who left their Christmas stamps in the box.



Christine Murray

CHURCH FLOWERS

It may be long past, but this is our opportunity to thank those who helped with special Christmas preparations,



MANY THANKS TO:

- * Knockdolian Estate for a most beautiful tree,
- * Jim and Rab who delivered it right to its place,
- * Helen for time devoted to its decoration,
- * Harriet for holly, for long hours arranging flowers and for the wonderful background for the Nativity Scene and last, but not least,
- * Those who donated towards flowers for the period.

All year round we are indebted to you who give generously either flowers or funds, enabling us to enhance the beauty of our Kirk Sunday by Sunday. It's a lovely way to commemorate an anniversary.

Sincere thanks to everyone

Elsie McLachlan

ANNUAL AUCTION



The Annual Auction will again (hopefully) take place in Colmonell Community Centre in September/October. If you haven't been to any of our auctions you should try to attend the next one. So if during your spring clean you come across items that you no longer want but are too good to throw away please let me know and I can store them until the auction.

Christine Murray

THE CIRCLE

Unless otherwise stated meetings are held in Colmonell Church Hall on the 4th Monday of the month. All are welcome. We restart after our summer holidays on September 24th when Helen Dodds, Wigtownshire Woman of the Year, will be giving a talk on her trek along the Great Wall of China in aid of Multiple Sclerosis.

Other events eg banner making, different speakers, whist drive etc are planned for throughout the next session. So, come along and see what you're not missing!