

The Prayer

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served.

When little Johnny received his plate he started eating right away.

"Johnny, wait until we say our prayer."

"I don't have to," the boy replied.

"Of course you do," his mother insisted. "We say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That's at our house," Johnny explained, "but this is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook."

Blythswood Care



Is glad to receive donations of food, clothes, bedding, bric-a-brac and household goods. A truck will collect from this area on 2nd Tuesday of every month. Contact any WRVS member for more information.



GOING ON LINE

Worth a visit to keep up to date with events in Scotland
www.scottishchristian.com/
Latest information for young-people
<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/youngpeople/ypmandd.htm>



Newsletter

Items for the February issue should be in by 31st January. The *Newsletter* costs approx. £400 per annum to produce. Donations towards the cost may be left in a suitably marked envelope in the offering plate at any time, or given to the minister or any office bearer.

Christmas Cards

A total of £79 was donated to church funds from the delivery of local cards. We are grateful to all who supported this and thanks to those who acted as postman.



Ballantrae Church History

Organ Blowers

Pre 1957 the Ballantrae Church Pipe Organ was operated by a hand bellows pumped by youths who sat behind the organ during the services. In 1957 the organ blowers became redundant and were replaced by an electrical driven motor

Organ Blowers	Date (where known)	Pre
Allan Wilson	1938	Pre 1938
Wm. Cunningham	Pre 1938	
Gib Templeton	Pre 1938	
John Mitchell	Up to May 1938	
Jack McNally	From June 1938 to 1942	
Robert Morrison	1942	
Ronald Brown	1942	
Robbie McNally	Nov 1942 to 1945	
John Spence	1945	
Ian Douglas From	June 1945	
Willie Blain		
Billy Carle		
David Livingstone		
Charlie Ringland	1957	

During this period the Organists were:

Miss Turnbull
Mrs Nessie Logan (Nee Clark)
Mrs Laura McCormack (Nee McWhirter)

These names are to be found written on the back of the organ.

Information supplied by Robbie McNally



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD

Ballantrae Branch will meet on Monday 21st Jan. @ 7.15 pm in the Buffet room when Mrs O. Caldwell will speak about her visits in Malawi. All interested are welcome to attend.

YOUNG WOMENS GROUP

Will meet on **Wed 16th Jan**

Open Night

Dr Tom Smith

THANKS

The Congregational board would like to thank Mrs Caroline McIlwraith for her many years service of looking after the Covenant/Gift Aid accounts.

Sunday School

Our Sunday school resumes on Sunday the 13th January

Used Stamps

As well as used stamps, we also collect old spectacles and used ink cartridges (except Epson).

From our prayer correspondent.

Psalm 145-v 18

The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.



We are at the beginning of a new year, a time for reflection, a time when we look back over the year past and look forward to what the new-year holds for each of us. Some things we may regret, others we remember with affection or pride, whatever we have done or left undone we cannot change, perhaps we have been hurt or hurt others we can only resolve to try to do better as the new year unfolds.

One thing that will never change is our Saviours love for us, whatever we do or have not done, His love for us is constant, and the same for everyone, rich or poor, high or low, young or old.

As believers we can approach the throne of grace in prayer and the Lord will hear us, as children of God we have equal access with everyone else. So as we reflect on the old year, remember the gift that was given and what it means to us, and let us go forward into the new year with gladness in our hearts and call upon the Lord in truth May the love of Jesus surround you Pat.

Loving Father as we begin this new year let us reflect on what is past and what this new beginning has in store for us. We give you our failures, our regrets and our disappointments of the past for they are done with

We give you our hopes and dreams for the future as we stand at the beginning of a new year

we pray that they will truly reflect your will for us. We thank you for the gift of Jesus as once again we celebrate His birth, and realise our need of Him

It is only when we openly acknowledge we belong to Him that we can truly know Him

Show us the way forward Lord, as we come before you in prayer, speak to our hearts, that we may come to the throne of grace knowing that you our loving God will not turn us away.

Only through Jesus can we see you Father God as you really are And be safe in the knowledge that we belong to you.

In Jesus precious name Amen

Leprosy Mission

After many years of service Mrs Jean McClung has retired, and we would like to extend our thanks to her for the excellent service she has provided over the years. Many members and friends support the work of the mission each year and now donations will be gratefully received by Michelle Ollermann who has kindly offered to take over from Jean..

Maori Offertory Bowl

When the late Lord Ballantrae returned to Ballantrae after he was Governor General of New Zealand he brought with him a gift of an Offertory Bowl from the congregation of Rangiatea Church.. Sadly this church was destroyed by fire and all was lost, a new Church has been built and the Congregation asked if the bowl could be returned as it is the only link with the old church. The Congregation of Ballantrae were asked and have kindly agreed that the bowl should return to New Zealand. Arrangement are in hand for the bowl to return in January prior to the dedication of the New Church in February.



S.W.R.I.

New members welcome to attend our monthly meetings. Next meeting on 7th Jan. Keep Fit Evening



The Luncheon club are having a Burns Night on Friday 18th January @ 7 pm in the Community Centre tickets £9.50 from G. Clark or any member.

Christmas Tea

A splendid Christmas tea was served following our service on the 2nd of december. We are grateful to all who provided the christmas fare on that day. The Session Clerk was overheard saying "that was the best cake yet!"



Fact

The twelve days of Christmas last from Christmas Day to Epiphany, on January 6th, which celebrates the day the three kings visited the baby Jesus.

PARISH REGISTER

Glenapp Kirk

Death

The Lord is my shepherd

Mrs McGavin

Christmas

Services



Our various Christmas Services were well supported.

Glenapp Church was well filled for the Candle-light Service. The Church looked beautiful, and our thanks are due to Gladys & Munro Clark.

The staff and children of our Sunday school shared in the Family Service. Our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services saw the Church very well filled. The Christmas day service was conducted by members of the congregation and included the popular toy parade. Once again our thanks go to the Young Women's Group and friends who decorated the church splendidly.

Mis-sung lines by children from Carol's or Seasonal songs.



1. No crisps in his bed (*No crib for a bed*).
2. The little lord Jesus laid down his wee Ted (*the little lord Jesus laid down his sweet head*)
3. Get dress, you married gentlemen, you must have done with May (*God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay*)
4. Santa Claus is mowing my Lawn (*Santa Claus is coming to town*)
5. Sleep in heavenly peas (*Sleep in heavenly peace*)
6. Jack Frost ripping off your clothes (*Jack Frost nipping at your nose*)
7. Deck the halls with parts of Molly (*Deck the halls with boughs of holly*)
8. Hartley Hare the angels sing (*Hark the herald angels sing*)
9. Garden centres wreck a child (*God and sinners reconciled*)
10. To save us all from sacred cows (*To save us all from Satan's power*)

FLOWER CALENDAR



The Flower Calendar for 2008 is at the Church entrance, and those wishing to donate the Church flowers should add their name against the appropriate Sundays. We are grateful to those who donate the Church flowers, which are sent to those who are sick or elderly. If you feel you can't afford to provide all the flowers for a Sunday, there is a Flower Fund to which donations of any amount can be given at any time. These should be left in the offering plate in a suitably marked envelope, or given to the minister or any office bearer. If you wish to donate the flowers but don't feel able to arrange them, this can be done for you.

LIFE AND WORK

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

"In Genesis, it says that it is not good for a man to be alone; but sometimes it is a great relief".—
John Barrymore.

LISTS AND ROTAS



Tea Duty

Sunday 3rd Feb.

Lorna Greenhill
Florence Brown
Liz Gregg
Georgina McKinley-
Penny Savage

Church Cleaning Teams

Jan. 6th

Tom & May Lothian

Jan. 20th

Meg Peacock & Lorna Greenhill

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.

Sunday Duty Rota

January	February
6th. D	3rd. C
13th. E	10th. D
20th. A	17th. E
27th. B	24th. A

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS.



In last month's issue of the Newsletter I stated that there were two things left over from the pre-reformation church about Christmas, black bun and a daft song about the Ten Days of Christmas. It should, of course, have been, the Twelve Days of Christmas. Someone very kindly gave me an article, from a magazine, about the song, which has made all things clear. I've always felt the words were symbolic of something but never knew the code. Here is the story.

As I said last month, after the 1560 Parliament of Scotland banished Christmas, people con- tinued to celebrate the feast in secret and this is where our song comes in. It's a coded mes- sage for new believers.

In the song, "My true love" is of course God and the "me" is the believer. The partridge in a pear tree, is a reference to Christ on the cross. The two turtle doves refers to Bible—the Old and New Testaments. The three French hens, means faith, hope and charity. Four calling birds ('coaly' in the Scots, means black bird), the four gospels. The first five books of the Bible, which give the law, were thought of as gold—thus 'five gold rings.' the six days of creation are described as six geese a-laying. Seven swans represent the seven gifts of the Spirit. "Eight maids a-milking" is difficult, it reps the 8 blessings in the Beatitudes. The fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness gentleness and self-control—are those ladies dancing. Ten leaping lords can only be the Ten Command-ments and the 11 pipers piping are the twelve disciples minus Judas Iscariot. And finally, the twelve drummers drumming, are the twelve points of belief summed up in the Creed. What a marvellous way to teach the things of the faith to the young.

Over the Christmas period, the number of young people in church more than doubled. What a difference it makes to our worship. We must find a way to get them back into church. If it means having daft songs or happy clappy worship, why not. Let's shake off the old, as we move into New Year for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ and his church.

With every blessing for 2008.

Your Friend in Christ.

Jim Guthrie, Interim Moderator.

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Newsletter

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

JANUARY 2008