

An Litir Bheag le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

An Litir Bheag is a shortened and simplified version of Ruairidh's Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh (also available on the BBC website), designed for those who are at an earlier stage of learning Gaelic. The topic each week is the same as Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh so that, once the Litir Bheag is mastered, a student of the language might wish to try the full Litir. This is Litir Bheag 353 (which corresponds to Litir 657). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk.

Religion caused Dugald Buchanan distress. The Jacobite rebellion didn't help him. Dugald was against the Prince's cause. But he was angry about the way in which Highland soldiers were put to death in Carlisle. He was wanting revenge. But he was also wanting to grant the murderers forgiveness.

Around 1750 he finally found spiritual peace. He married a year before that, a woman called Margaret Brisbane. In 1753 he took a job as a teacher. That was in Kinloch Rannoch in Perthshire. Two years after that, he got work as a Catechist in that parish.

Dugald won himself a reputation. He was a spiritual poet and evangelist. The people of Rannoch were wanting him as a minister. The Dunkeld Presbytery were wanting him as a minister. But the Church itself didn't agree. Dugald remained as a Catechist.

He was famous as a scholar, however. He was asked to superintend the translation of the New Testament into Gaelic. It's the Rev James Stewart of Killin that was doing it. Dugald moved to

Chuir creideamh Dùghall Bochanan tro àmhghar. Cha do chuidich Ar-a-mach nan Seumasach e. Bha Dùghall an aghaidh adhbhar a' Phrionnsa. Ach bha e feargach mu mar a chaidh saighdearan Gàidhealach a chur gu bàs ann an Cair Luail. Bha e ag iarraidh dioghaltas a dhèanamh. Ach bha e cuideachd ag iarraidh maitheanas a thoirt do na murtairean.

Timcheall air seachd ceud deug is caogad (1750) fhuair e fois spioradail mu dheireadh thall. Phòs e bliadhna roimhe sin, tè Mairead Brisbane. Ann an seachd ceud deug, caogad 's a trì (1753), ghabh e dreuchd mar thidsear. Bha sin ann an Ceann Loch Raineach ann an Siorrachd Pheairt. Dà bhliadhna às dèidh sin, fhuair e obair mar Cheistear anns an sgìre sin.

Choisinn Dùghall cliù dha fhèin. Bha e na bhàrd spioradail agus na shoisgeulaiche. Bha muinntir Raineach ga iarraidh mar mhinistear. Bha Clèir Dhùn Chailleann ga iarraidh mar mhinistear. Ach cha do dh'aontaich an Eaglais fhèin. Dh'fhuirich Dùghall na Cheistear.

Bha e ainmeil mar sgoilear, ge-tà. Chaidh iarraidh air rian a chumail air an eadar-theangachadh dhen Tiomnadh Nuadh gu Gàidhlig. 'S e an t-Urramach Seumas Stiùbhart à Cill Fhinn a bha ga dhèanamh. Ghluais Dùghall a Dhùn

Edinburgh for that. In Edinburgh, he published a book of his spiritual songs.

He went to classes at the university. He met famous scholars. He met the philosopher Davud Hume. Hume didn't side with the Church. Hume asked Dugald to recite a piece of religious writing that was as good as Act IV of the Tempest by Shakespeare. Dugald recited a section from Revelation. It appears that David Hume was satisfied with that. The piece ended: And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God...

Dugald didn't know it but he would himself be among the dead standing before God in a short time. I'll tell you about his death and about his famous spiritual songs next week.

Èideann airson sin. Ann an Dùn Èideann, dh'fhoillsich e leabhar de na laoidhean spioradail aige.

Chaidh e gu clasaichean aig an oilthigh. Thachair e ri sgoilearan ainmeil. Thachair e ris an fheallsanaiche, Daibhidh Hume. Cha robh Hume a' taobhadh ris an Eaglais. Dh'iarr Hume air Dùghall pìos sgrìobhaidh diadhaidh aithris a bha cho math ris an *Tempest* Earrann 4 le Shakespeare. Rinn Dùghall aithris de earrann à Taisbeanadh Eòin. Tha e coltach gun robh Daibhidh Hume sàsaichte le sin. Chrìochnaich an earrann: *Agus chunnaic mi na mairbh, beag agus mòr, nan seasamh ann am fianais Dhè...*

Cha robh fios aig Dùghall ach bhiodh e fhèin am measg nam marbh ann am fianais Dhè an ceann ùine nach robh fada. Innsidh mi dhuibh mu a bhàs agus mu a dhàin ainmeil spioradail an-ath-sheachdain.