

**Locum Minister** – Mrs Elizabeth Clarke

Tel: 01770 860219 Mob: 07833251486

**Session Clerk** – Bill Scott Tel: 830304

**Church Treasurer** - Fiona Henderson Tel: 830270

**Lochranza & Pirnmill Church Elders**

Bill Scott Tel: 830304, Chris Knox Tel: 830618

Anne Coulter Tel: 830219, Louise Minter Tel: 850263

Neil Robertson, Wilma Morton Tel: 850272,

Elsbeth MacDonald Tel: 850284,

Christine Black Tel: 850263, John Adam Tel 850230

**Church Organists**

Aileen Wright Tel: 830353, John Clarke 860219

**Congregational Board Members**

Christine Black (Clerk),

Richard Wright (Property Manager),

Fiona Henderson, Lizzie Adam

**Pastoral Care Group**

**Group Leader** - Anne Coulter Tel: 830219

Aileen Wright Tel: 830353, Lizzie Adam Tel: 850230,

Christine Black Tel: 850263, Robert Cumming Tel: 830302

**F.O.L.K. & Pirnmill**

*(Friends Of Lochranza Kirk)*

**Chair** – Shared by the Elders – **Treasurer** – Anne Coulter

**Sunday Service**

**10.15am St Bride's Church, Lochranza**

**Also**

At present a shortened service can be found every week on the  
church web site

[www.lochranzachurch.org.uk](http://www.lochranzachurch.org.uk)

*Printed @ Ornsay, Lochranza*

# Lochranza & Pirnmill

Scottish Charity Registration No. SC009377



## Church & Community Newsletter

**AUGUST 2021**

[www.lochranzachurch.org.uk](http://www.lochranzachurch.org.uk)



Hello folks,

I don't know about you but I'm a great one for putting things off – especially when it's something I don't really want to do or don't feel comfortable with.

For example I really don't enjoy cleaning the house! So if I can find something else to do to delay the job I will.

Eventually however, I will have used up all my options and have no choice but to get the vacuum cleaner and duster out. I am quite successful at delaying though so John has been known to describe our house as the only place where spiders die a happy death!

And then I will put off making phone calls for as long as I can especially if it is to a company or business when I know that I will be put in a queue and subjected to canned music for what seems like an eternity. When we were having trouble with our land line a few years ago I spent hours in a queue over several days trying to speak to BT – I have never felt the same about Beethoven's 5<sup>th</sup> since! And when you finally get through you are asked to choose from a list of many options none of which seem to be the right one!

Continuing with the phone call theme – I do have difficulty occasionally phoning someone I know. For example, I have been meaning to phone my Aunt for some time now – just to hear how she and all the family are doing. It keeps being transferred through my "to do" list and the longer it goes on the harder it becomes for me to make the call. Have you been there? And when the other person phones me first I get that guilty feeling.

When some things are put off it is not important – my mum used to say, "the house will be there when I'm not". But delaying making that phone call might result losing the last opportunity to speak to that person.

So as Benjamin Franklin said:

*"Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today."*

I wonder if you have a Bucket List? For me this is a relatively new phrase indeed it meant nothing to me the first time I heard it. Now I know what it means and I even have one of my own!

So, I enjoyed travelling when I was younger but haven't been away much over the last 30 years! So I have places I would still like to visit – our friends in Switzerland, the Lake district, the outer isles and the small isles, not to mention the more exotic ones like Cyprus.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers;

- I Know My Rights
- I Want It Now
- Someone Else Is To Blame
- I'm A Victim

**Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.  
If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.**

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BLUE BIN		BLACK BIN	
AUG	10,24	AUG	3,17,31
SEPT	7,21	SEPT	14,28
OCT	5,19	OCT	12,26
NOV	2,16,30	NOV	9,23
DEC	14,28	DEC	7,21
JAN	11,25	JAN	4,18
FEB	8	FEB	1

## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER!

Please could I have articles for this by **22nd Oct**  
at the latest!

[bg.ornsay@btinternet.com](mailto:bg.ornsay@btinternet.com)

## An Obituary printed in the London Times

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- **Knowing when to come in out of the rain;**
- **Why the early bird gets the worm;**
- **Life isn't always fair; and**
- **Maybe it was my fault.**

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place.

Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault

**Cont.....**

I loved skiing 30 years ago but I've never skied in Scotland so a trip to Aviemore at a suitable time is on the list.

I would like to learn to speak Gaelic properly rather than have just have a few words and phrases.

And so on....

All have been added to my bucket list - for some time now - but – I have yet to tick any of them off as “done that”.

I think that it is a good thing if I leave this life with some things unticked on my list but it would be a shame if none of them had been completed.

So it is my non-New Year resolution to DO rather than just WRITE.

In the bible we can read:

### **Proverbs 27:1**

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.

and

### **James 34:13-14**

#### **Boasting about tomorrow**

<sup>13</sup> Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' <sup>14</sup> Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

**Every blessing,**

*Liz*

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## **Ardrossan Presbytery News**

One thing I keep getting asked when I meet people from the church or in the community is “**when are we going to get a new minister**” and I have to say “I don’t know”. I will try to give you a very shortened explanation of why in this letter.

We are a Presbyterian church and have to follow the Procedures of the Church of Scotland. Intimations called Edicts have to be made to Congregations in church at certain stages of the Vacancy process. However, during the last year and a bit that hasn’t been easy because of COVID and with churches either being closed because of the pandemic or constrained because of numbers allowed in church.

Each Presbytery has to have an agreed Presbytery Plan in place and so it is with Ardrossan. The Presbytery Appraisal Committee, the committee that is responsible for preparing the Presbytery Plan, presented part of that to the Presbytery for Approval on the 4<sup>th</sup> May. The part they presented was for Mission Group 4 which was for the congregations on Arran. Presbytery approved that part of the plan for 2.7 ministries for Arran, two full time ministers of Word and Sacrament and a part time Ministries Development Staff. Although that was approved by Presbytery the proposal had then to go to a higher authority for approval, the Presbytery Planning Task Group.

However, before a decision could be made, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was held virtually in May and everything changed.

After a report by the Faith Nurture Forum, who is responsible for ministries among other matters, they presented a new Presbytery Mission Plan Act and the General Assembly agreed to this new Act which is more radical than all that has gone before.

In the next five years there is a large percentage of ministers due to retire and not enough men and women in training for ministry to fill the posts. The Church at the moment is also running with 290 vacancies and then there is the financial implications and all of this can’t be sustained in the years ahead. A third of the congregations in the C of S are subsidising the other two thirds through their Ministries and Mission Contributions to pay ministry costs.

### **What does this mean for Ardrossan Presbytery that we are part of?**

The General Assembly agreed that going forward there would be a total of 600 paid ministries for the Church, this would include ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministries Development Staff. The Church would also run with no more than 60 vacancies at a time. Each Presbytery has been given an allocation of ministries.

In our Presbytery Plan in May, the Appraisal Committee were preparing for a reduction of 20% ministries but what we have been allocated is a reduction of 43%. In the current Plan we have 23.1 ministries and this has to be reduced to 13.5 for the whole of Ardrossan Presbytery

## **Postings from Pirnmill Village Association (PVA)**

As advised in our last post, we have now installed three dog poo bins, which I’m pleased to say are being used. These have been sited at the entrances to the beaches at Whitefarland, Pirnmill and Thunderguy. Reminder also that free poo bags, supplied by North Ayrshire Council, are available at the Pirnmill shop.

### ***Pioneer Project***

Work is well under way with the fencing for our community farm to the north of the village. Once complete we look forward to welcoming our three little pigs, who are being recruited to clear the bracken on site. If you are interested in getting involved in looking after the pigs drop the Pioneer Project an email at [arran@pioneerproject.scot](mailto:arran@pioneerproject.scot)

### ***Pirnmill Pruners***

Ever wondered how our Memorial Garden looks as good as it does! We have a group of volunteers who tend to the garden on a Monday from 10:00am to 12:00pm once a fortnight, plus a few ad hoc days thrown in throughout the year. If gardening or volunteering is your thing and you would like to get involved just turn up on the day, the more the merrier. Our schedule for the next three months is:

July	August	September	October
5	2	13	11
19	16	27	25
	30		

### ***Pirnmill Village Association AGM***

We are hoping to hold our **AGM on Saturday, 31 July** followed by our first pop-up pub in 16 months. This will be very much dependent on Covid restrictions in place at that time, however. Your health and safety is a priority so we will continue to monitor the situation and keep you posted.

All the best.

**Hazel - PVA Chair**

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## TAKE NOTE OF DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

- Distillery** - on front wall of the visitor centre  
**Cal Mac building** - on the outside wall  
**Pirnmill Shop** - in red telephone box



All cabinets are unlocked and open to anyone who requires to take the defib. No prior experience of using one is required make sure you've called 999 to get an Ambulance & the **First Responders** on the way

### Community Council

During Covid 19 Community Council Meetings have taken place by Digital ZOOM on the last Tuesday of the month, with the exception of December. Minutes are available on webpage: - Arran Community Council. Click Records. Also on this site are Ferry Committee Minutes.

### Lochranza and Catacol

Paper Copies of each meeting are available in a folder at the Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall. A resume of the main points is sent by email to all residents.

### Pirnmill

Any items relevant from Community Council meeting are discussed monthly via ZOOM at Pirnmill Village Association. All main points from the Village Association Meeting are sent out by email to all residents who have given the committee their email address. For those who do not have access to email, please check the Pirnmill Notice Board. Community Council minutes in full are available in the Pirnmill Shop.

### Contact Numbers:-

Julie Graham 830 247 email:- [acc.lochranza.julieg@gmail.com](mailto:acc.lochranza.julieg@gmail.com)  
Liz Evans 850 267 email:- [acc.pirnmill.lize@gmail.com](mailto:acc.pirnmill.lize@gmail.com)

If you have any queries, please contact:- Julie for Lochranza and Catacol.  
Liz for Pirnmill

The General Assembly agreed to suspend all Presbytery Plans from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 until after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 in order for Presbyteries to draw up this new Presbytery Mission Plan. The only congregations that are allowed to call a minister at present are those who have gone through the steps of the Vacancy Procedure and are at the stage of having a sole nominee (someone preaching for the vacant charge) and can do that before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 will be allowed to have a minister inducted to the charge. If those congregations have not had a sole nominee preach for the vacant charge by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 they will have to wait until 2023 to proceed. In Ardrossan Presbytery we only have two congregations at that stage the rest of the vacant charges will have to wait including those on Arran.

The Ardrossan Presbytery Appraisal Committee has a challenging time ahead and not an easy one in drawing up the Presbytery Mission Plan, they have begun though and their next meeting is in August. There will be consultation with Kirk Sessions and congregations in due course. We remember that "The Mission of the church is Christ's Mission". This is the mission of the whole people of God and not just those in paid ministries.

There are Five Marks of Mission in the new Presbytery Mission Plan Act we have to work to, offering a framework for understanding mission. They are as follows:

- 1 To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;**
- 2 To teach, baptise and nurture new believers;**
- 3 To respond to human need by loving service;**
- 4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation;**
- 5 To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.**

The former Moderator, the Very Rev Martin Fair said in his closing address to the General Assembly this :

*"with the 3, 4 and 5 marks of mission 'there is a work for us to do' with all that is going on in the world. The church has to get its act together though. The Church needs refreshed, revitalised and reformed. If that is to happen then we had better see to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 5 Marks of Mission to enable the church to survive in new and creative ways to do 3, 4 and 5".*

**Cont.....**

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As I have said all Presbyteries have to draw up a Presbytery Mission Plan for the congregations within their bounds. Congregations in turn are encouraged, as the whole people of God, to think of the 5 Marks of Mission in a positive way and how they can use them for 'the mission of Christ' where they are for the way ahead.

The congregations in the North Arran linkage are currently well served with Liz Clarke as our Locum and the others conducting worship on Sundays and we are grateful to them.

Please uphold them and the Office bearers in your prayers.

Every blessing  
Jean Hunter, Presbytery Clerk

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Church Report

The last few months have been hard for ministers readers and congregations sitting on hard pews with masks and itching to sing the hymns beautifully played by John and Aileen. However it seems life is slowly getting back to normal in that our pews are now a bit more comfortable and the singing of hymns albeit through a mask is a great improvement.

I would like to thank all the kind people who support our Church either through generous donations standing orders and the offering plate. These funds are much needed as we have been unable to raise funds by our annual Fete and ARCO concert As you will have read from Jean Hunter's article above there is little chance of us having a minister any time soon.

I would like to thank Liz Clarke for all her hard work in conducting our Sunday Services and organising Readers to ensure that we can worship every Sunday.

Finally, I urge you all to think of the FOODBANK when doing your weekly shop. Any donations can be left at anytime in Brodick Church

Bill Scott - Session Clerk

**LOCHRANZA LOOS AGM will be on 15th September 2021 at 7pm.**  
If circumstances are right the meeting will be in Lochranza Hall but it may have to be a Zoom meeting. A decision will be taken nearer the date.

Lochranza Surgery

The committee have written to the Arran Medical group asking when the Lochranza surgery will reopen

Frequency of Meetings

It has been agreed that we should have an AGM in September and at that meeting propose an amendment to the constitution decreasing the number of public meetings to once a year. The committee would continue to meet as before.

Ken Thorburn – Chair

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Philosophical Report

Since the last newsletter we have had several more mundane low level walks which do not merit reporting, however in addition two more significant walks are worth a mention.

Back in late May on one of the more glorious days a significant number of the members turned out for a walk from Corrie up Coire Lan to North Goat Fell, a pleasant walk on a good track up to the saddle between N.G.Fell and Mullach Buidhe.

The view from the saddle over to the Caisteal Abhail, Cir Mhor and A'Chir in my opinion is one of the most spectacular of many views on Arran.

After some refreshments and a wee detour up N.G Fell we trekked the path to Goat Fell, to meet civilisation, it was busy!!!

Pleased to see many tourists enjoying the hill though. Only downside was a broken bottle of buckfast encountered on the descent.

To round off the day we had a beer and banter back in Lochranza in a members back garden.

The other walk worth a mention was a few weeks ago when a smaller contingent walked from North Glen Sannox Car Park up Coire Nan Ceum and Coire Fhearghas once again to a saddle between the Castles and Suidhe Fhearghas. Spectacular, walking along the the ridge above Glen Sandbox to the summit of Suidhe Fhearghas, absolute magic !!

Lunch at the top and then back down a steep path to the car park, 5 hours of sheer pleasure and fulfilment.

On most walks we have a good turnout of our four legged friends including Shula, Bran, Jess and McKinley, — we have to keep an eye on our sarnies!!!

Weather in April and June has been ideal for the high tops and hopefully we can enjoy further adventures in the months to come.

Wishing you all good health and an enjoyable summer.

SHERPA DICK

- I AM BLESSED
- I've seen better days but I've also seen worse.
- I don't have everything that I want but I do have all I
- need.
- I woke up with some aches and pains but I woke up.
- My life may not be perfect but I'm blessed.



## The Arran Pioneer Project

The Arran Pioneer Project was set up in the spring of 2020. It's aims are to ensure food security and develop food production and resilience on the Isle of Arran.

The area of land we are tenanting was identified and donated by the local laird Charles Fforde who has been very supportive of our project. It was then up to the Arran Pioneer Project and the local community to make a success of the farm.

The response we had from the north end community was fantastic. The key to this farm working however was the involvement of the local children. The inception of the farm was at the beginning of lockdown number 1 and the children's enthusiasm to come down to the farm and play and help meant the parents were able to get together too and work on the infrastructure of the farm. It was like a large farming crèche!

Our first jobs were to secure the site with a fence that protected our produce from the deer, rabbits and badgers. We got funding from The Arran Trust to help us buy the materials for this. We had help from those who knew about fencing, and we were able to learn as a group. Not every aspect was taught however and as a group we have a "have a go mentality" which is crucial in getting this project off the ground. We have accepted we are new to farming and that we are learning every step of the way. Sometimes we have guidance and sometimes we learn from our mistakes. Either way we are learning and moving forward with the project.

Our organic, no dig, permaculture approach means we have to build our soil. We were able to get soil from a local building contractor. We added 30 tonnes of compost from a local lady's garden... 60 years of grass clippings and food waste. Without the use of a tractor and trailer we would still be building our soil. The same tractor and trailer went down to the beach to collect seaweed which added more nutrients to our soil mix. Finally we were able to get about 3 tonnes of manure to add to our soil. We build raised beds using larch logs and filled them with the soil. We also created a large tattie and brassica patch. All planted now and brimming with produce.

Our organic approach means we aren't using pesticides so we have lined the brassica patch with sheep's wool. The lanolin in the wool is a good slug deterrent. We have also started work on the pond which will be a home to amphibians that feed on slugs. Finally the children have built wee hedgehog hotels with the hope we can rehouse some hedgehogs too.

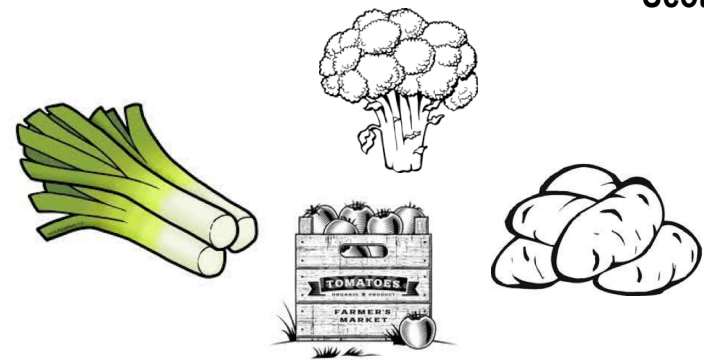
The children also planted an orchard on the lower part of the site where the soil is of a much better quality. They planted apple, pear, plum, elder and walnut trees. These trees should start to bear fruit within the next 5 years.

With food production going extremely well the next stage is to build a wee honesty shed so we can sell our produce and not rely solely on funding to survive. Those that have helped on the farm are encouraged to take food home with them. It is hoped that those in the village that are in need of a little help will receive periodic deliveries from the farm too. The food that is left can then be sold to sustain our ongoing efforts.

There are also plans to build a wee kitchen and community area on site. This will enable us to preserve, pickle and produce secondary food products from the food grown on the farm. There will also be scope to have food based social events, such as curry nights, jam making sessions etc. This will also give us an opportunity to raise money to sustain the farm.

It is only a year we have been there and it is nowhere near finished but progress has been impressive. I am so proud to be involved in such a pioneering project that is beneficial to our community on so many levels. I've made lots of new friends with shared interests and learnt lots of new things. I'd like to sincerely thank everyone that has helped make this wee dream a reality. The Lochranza community farm has connected people to the land and each other. We think it's a model that would benefit any community in Scotland.

**Scott Murdoch**



*A 'Market Day' is planned at the Lochranza project every Saturday 1 -3pm starting **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July**.*