

Locum Minister – Mrs Elizabeth Clarke
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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
Hazel Gardiner Tel: 830635

Church Organist

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

Last Sunday in the month 10.15am Pirnmill Church only

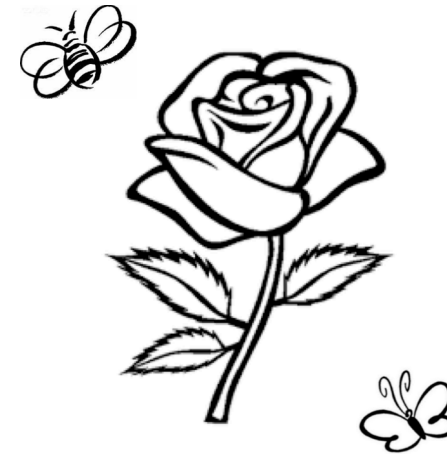
Also

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

www.lochranzachurch.org.uk

Lochranza & Pirnmill

Scottish Charity Registration No. SC009377



Church & Community Newsletter

July 2022

www.lochranzachurch.org.uk



Mr Nobody

It may well be the case that something gets misplaced in your house from time to time. You know fine well where the object was last sitting but when you go to retrieve it, quite simply it has gone. Of course, when the investigation takes place everyone, but everyone who's questioned, hotly denies any knowledge of having seen the object let alone having moved it somewhere else, leading to cries of "it wisnae me – I never touched it".

Maybe it is reminiscent of the children's poem Mr Nobody.

*I know a funny little man, as quiet as a mouse,
who does the mischief that is done in everybody's house!
There's no one ever sees his face,
and yet we all agree that every plate we break
was cracked by Mr. Nobody.
'Tis he who always tears our books,
who leaves the door ajar,
he pulls the buttons from our shirts,
and scatters pins afar;
that squeaking door will always squeak,
for, prithee, don't you see,
we leave the oiling to be done by Mr. Nobody.
He puts damp wood upon the fire,
that kettles cannot boil;
his are the feet that bring in mud,
and all the carpets soiled.
The papers always are mislaid,
who had them last but he?
There's no one tosses them about but Mr. Nobody.
The finger marks upon the door
by none of us are made;
we never leave the blinds unclosed,
to let the curtains fade.
The ink we never spill;
the boots that lying round you see a
re not our boots -- they all belong to Mr. Nobody.*

I am quite sure we all recognise the scenarios painted by that particular poem. And it is all too easy to try and be Mr Nobody when things seem to be going wrong.

Yet perhaps we should be proud instead to be Mr Somebody, no matter what.

For as we look through the pages of the Bible we find importance attributed even to the very humblest of individuals

Postings from Pirnmill Village Association (PVA)

Dougarie Day: Sunday 3 July, 2-5pm – do come along for gardens and plant sale, plus afternoon tea/cake sale in The Boathouse!

Big Jubilee Lunch

Great to see 70+ residents, friends, family and island visitors at our Big Jubilee Lunch in early June, a lovely community event held in the school playground. Thanks to all volunteers who made it happen and to NAC for funding support.

Coffee Mornings

Thanks to all who supported Marie Curie in April. We're planning to take part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning for MacMillan Cancer Support at the end of September again – watch out for posters and come along to support!

Gardening opportunities: plenty of work for volunteers at the Memorial Garden (Monday mornings, fortnightly), the grounds around the Community Centre (as and when!) and Pirnmill Pioneer project (every Sunday from 11am) – new volunteers always welcome.

Japanese Knotweed: outbreaks along the shoreline (Whitefarland to Catacol bridge) have been recorded and reported to the Estate for action.

Pirnmill Village Association: our AGM will take place on Wednesday 20 July, 7pm, at the Community Centre – please come along to support.

Pirnmill Community Centre: all welcome at weekly activities: Art group (Tuesday afternoons), Table Tennis (Thursday evenings), Darts club (Friday evenings). Line Dancing will re-start in September – get your name down for this (talk to Susan at the shop)!

Pop-up Pubs: check on the village noticeboard and on FB for forthcoming dates, generally last Saturday of the month.

All the best.

Hazel PVA Chair

The Newsletter will be published **before Easter and in July & November**

Articles can be emailed to:

bg.ornsay@btinternet.com

Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall Report

The last few months have been busy for the Hall Committee. The new front doors and windows have been fitted and are a big improvement. There are still some outstanding maintenance issues but they are gradually being dealt with as time and funds allow.

We had a very successful night with Scottish Opera, the event was sold out and was very well received by all those who attended.

The Daffodil Tea returned this year, with a slightly different format- Car boot sale in the rear car park and only the raffle, baking and tombola held inside. Thankfully the weather was kind to us and it was a very successful afternoon. We made just under £1000, with which we are delighted.

We hope to organise a dance later in the year to raise money for Ukraine. In the meantime, the hall has a number of bookings for weddings and other events over the summer which will also bring in much needed funds for the upkeep of the hall.

Future local events include a Family Ceilidh on Thursday 21st July as part of the Argyll Ceilidh Trail summer tour. Those who have been before will remember an excellent night with super talented young musicians from across Argyll schools. This will be closely followed by the Arran Visual Arts exhibition starting on Friday 22nd July.

There is now a dartboard in the "committee room" and a small group of enthusiasts (both good and not so good!) meet informally to play. Anyone interested should contact Lorna (830349)

Ros Lyall - Hall Secretary

Black Bin

July 05,19
Aug 02,16,30
Sept 13,27
Oct 11,25
Nov 08



Blue Bin

July 12,26
Aug 09,23
Sept 06,20
Oct 04,18
Nov 01,15



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

.For instance, who would ever have thought that Jeremiah but a youth would become a great and mighty prophet; or David the young shepherd boy would defeat the mighty giant Goliath.

And these are only a couple of examples for on just about every page you find individuals valued by God and entrusted to carry out some task in his name. Even individuals who failed him and let him down were still considered of importance.

We are God's helpers today in making known his love, his kingdom, his hope. By the example we show to the world in the things we say, in the way we act, we can make a difference to life and be a somebody.

That is the life God calls us to and it is the life we should be only too willing to live, even if it is a way that does not lead to glory and power, but instead to a stable and a cross.

From the very act of creation, we are told "The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'" (Genesis 2:18)

And so begins a pattern that no individual in life is alone, a nobody. For we all exist side by side, family, friends, strangers, black and white, rich and poor, young and old, the fellowship of God's church here on earth, and together we can reach out and help one another, so making the world a better and a more peaceful place in which to live.

We have all needed help in life from time to time, be it in practical terms like getting a lift somewhere, or changing a flat tyre, or moving a heavy object, or else emotionally, needing a listening ear or a shoulder to cry on. And hopefully we too have been able to offer help when it has been most needed.

Just look at Jesus – "he went up on a mountain and sat down there and great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the dumb, and many others and they put them at his feet and he healed them". No-one was beyond his help, his care.

His compassion reached out even further for he saw that the crowd were hungry and so from meagre resources of bread and of fish he made a great feast so that all ate and had enough. His help knew no bounds but gave time and again, without counting the cost.

When Jesus offered his help it was often to the poorest, weakest members of society, those regarded as nobodies, but nevertheless seen as somebody through the eyes of Christ.

We should all be somebody for God, ready to reach out with his love, his compassion, his help, trusting that through us he can do great things.

Every blessing,
Liz

Ardrossan Presbytery News

The Draft Presbytery Mission Plan for Ardrossan Presbytery was presented to Presbytery in May for noting. This Draft Plan was sent down to Kirk Sessions for comments and it detailed ministry numbers given to each area and also which buildings had to be retained for the Presbytery's Mission and which had to close.

After comments were received from Kirk Sessions, the Appraisal Committee met and after the Draft Presbytery Mission Plan had been tweaked after listening to Kirk sessions, it was presented for approval at the Presbytery meeting on 14th June. Each congregation was cited to send up to three representatives to the Presbytery meeting for their interest. One representative from those congregations present was invited to speak but for no more than three minutes each to ask a question or make a comment. It was as well there was a time limit as eighteen representatives spoke and a few members of Presbytery as well. The Appraisal Convener did well to answer the questions and comments and he again explained the situation. Quite a few of them that had spoken, it was because their buildings were proposed for closure. The convener kept repeating that the church was the people and not the buildings. It was a long evening as you can imagine as we had begun the evening celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper together.

There was a **ballot vote** taken to approve the Presbytery Mission Plan and presbyters voted -

After months of work by the committee and in consultations with Kirk Sessions all those months, the Presbytery Mission Plan was approved with **29 votes for and 10 against**.

What that means for Arran is that the congregations will be united, with **one Kirk Session** instead of seven Kirk Sessions and **four church buildings** open for worship. For the ministry and mission on Arran there is to be two full time ministry posts, that is **1 Minister of Word and Sacrament and 1 Ministries Development Staff worker**, working in a team ministry.

It is sad that some churches have to close but with less people attending church or supporting financially that is the reality we live in these days.

The plan is for one united Church of Scotland on Arran working together, sharing resources, finances and people resources for the church and mission on Arran.

There is also an Appeals process for those congregations in Presbytery who feel they need to go down that route because of the proposed closure of church buildings. Thankfully it will not be Presbytery that will deal with appeals, it will be a **Review Panel appointed at this year's General Assembly**.

"Look to the rock from which you were hewn!" He points to their history....how all the great events were enacted in difficult times and it is going to be like that again, he says. And we **can** use the past for guidance, learn from our mistakes, but we can seldom or never use the past as a pattern for the present.

So our question **shouldn't** be "What succeeded a generation or two ago?" BUT "What does the present generation or situation demand?" The logical conclusion of this is that, **if there is one thing the Church should never fear, it is CHANGE!** Remember the words in the visionary book of Revelation 21.5 '**Look! I am making all things new**'.

God give us, not the defeatism which accepts things as they are, but the vision which, in the life and strength of our Saviour Jesus Christ, will battle to change things.

So we are on the move, always in transition, willing to be transformed.....we are followers of Jesus Christ after all.....WE CAN NEVER GO BACK.....WE MUST LOOK FORWARD IN FAITH!

My best wishes for your summer activities.

Tom Macintyre
Interim Moderator

Community Council

Contact Number for Lochranza and Catacol.

Julie Graham Tel: 830 247 email:- acc.lochranzajulieg@gmail.com

Contact Number for Pirnmill

Dr John Adam Tel: 850230 email: drjohnadam@btinternet.com

Thoughts for the Church's way ahead in Arran

Marian and I have just celebrated our Golden Wedding. At our celebration we had a slide show of all the events and experiences throughout our time together. It is astonishing how much has changed during that time. Our youngest son Struan illustrated this by listing all the things that had happened or were happening on that day 50 years ago.

I don't think the action-packed celebration would have happened so smoothly if it hadn't been for our daughter-in-law Jo who is one of those people who makes things happen so effortlessly. In her professional life she is a 'change management specialist' and it is this subject I want to talk to you about.

Nothing is quite so good the second time it's done. For instance, so often we return to a holiday destination, only to find that it is not quite so appealing the second time around. In the Church too, we may feel inclined to repeat an initiative within our congregations, and often it doesn't live up to our first attempt. We say "We did this a few years back, and it worked fine then, so let's do it again". But does it ever work as well a second time? I put it to you....if we try to repeat a success, it can mean that we are living in the past.

Many a congregation has had a great ministry, and it spends an awful lot of time talking about that great ministry, and trying to repeat it, instead of getting on with the new ministry and the business of sharing the Good News.

As you may have heard the Presbytery of Ardrrossan has agreed its Mission Plan, which means that all the congregations in Arran will be united in a single parish with one unitary Kirk Session, served by a minister of Word and Sacrament and a Ministry Development Staff worker. It is hoped that readers may join this team to provide additional support across the parish. There will be four centres of worship. This will inevitably mean change in the way we worship and work. Until a ministry team is appointed, it is my job with the other interim moderators and readers to help manage this change.

Harnack, the German Lutheran Theologian, once said that the danger of all great institutions is that they begin to **worship their own past**. But you cannot go back; you must either go forward.....or perish!

Of course we **can** use the past for inspiration.....as the writer of the book of Isaiah often points out,

The Presbytery meeting on the 14th June was the last ordinary meeting of Ardrrossan Presbytery. However, we will have to have an extra meeting to receive the information from Faith Nurture Forum if they have concurred with the approved Ardrrossan Prebytery Mission Plan as it was set out.

Presbytery of the South West of Scotland

The **14th June** was the last ordinary meeting of Ardrrossan Presbytery because they are uniting with another five presbyteries to form a **Presbytery of the South West of Scotland**. The other presbyteries are, Annandale & Eskdale, Ayr, Dumfries & Kirkcudbright, Irvine & Kilmarnock and Wigtown and Stranraer. Some years ago the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland agreed to a reduction of the number of presbyteries to around **twelve**, at that time there were about forty seven.

We in Ardrrossan had been in consultation with Ayr and Irvine & Kilmarnock prebyteries from 2017 to form a new united presbytery. However, as that was not going to be viable, and leaving a smaller united presbytery in the South West, the six presbyteries began consultations to unite. The Basis of Union of the six presbyteries to form the united presbytery was passed at the General Assembly of 2021. The first meeting of the new **United Presbytery of the South West of Scotland** will meet in **Kilmarnock on Saturday 1st October** for the service of Union, the installation of the Moderator elect and thereafter the conduct of ordinary business.

With the new presbytery, the number of meetings will be reduced -there will be two in person meetings and two meetings on zoom per year. There will also be employed staff including a Presbytery Clerk, I will get to retire as Presbytery Clerk of Ardrrossan after six years in that part time post.

Jean Hunter
Presbytery Clerk

I would personally like to wish Jean a long and happy retirement especially after all the hard work she has done as a Parish Assistant over many years and as the Ardrrossan Presbytery Clerk. Presbytery Clerk has involved many hours of work including a great many meetings both by zoom and travelling to attend on the main land. Jean has helped me greatly and advised me many times when I needed help. She has helped to guide us all through the current Church changes that will take place.

Bill Scott
Session Clerk

Following the Science

A claim made by the UK's central and devolved governments during the pandemic is that they were going to "follow the science". On the face of it, a laudable aim. Others have already argued about whether or how far they did so. I want to make a slightly different point - namely that (at least in many respects) there wasn't any science to follow.

That naturally brings us to the question "What is Science?", and hence "What is Scientific Method?". The essence of scientific method is this. A scientist uses observations to form an hypothesis - a conjecture about how the world, or some of it, works. He (a term which should be construed as comprehending both sexes, and as many ridiculous "genders" as the Scottish government can dream up) then devises an experiment to test his hypothesis. In some sciences, such as cosmology (the science of the universe), direct experiment, in the sense of pulling the universes legs off in a laboratory, are not possible - but observations to test the hypothesis must be, at least in principle. (A good example is Einstein's general theory of relativity, which hypothesised that large masses would distort space. That was untestable until a total solar eclipse allowed observers to confirm that the positions of stars close in the sky to the massive eclipsed sun were subtly shifted.)

The utterly essential point is that the hypothesis **must** be falsifiable. It must be possible, thanks to experiment, to say "This hypothesis is definitely wrong". The opposite is **not** the case. An experiment can **never** prove an hypothesis to be right - only that it hasn't been invalidated yet. Newton's gravitation theory passed many, many tests - until it turned out to be only approximately correct (i.e. wrong).

As long as we keep this crucial definition of Science and Scientific Method securely in mind, we can immediately see that a whole raft of so-called sciences are in reality nothing of the sort. Quite plainly, there is no such thing as a "social science", for a start. Anyone who thinks of himself as a social scientist may well doubt this, in which case I have a challenge for him. Name any leading thinker in his field who, following an experiment or observation has withdrawn a major theory, admitting the observation having shown it to be plain wrong. No? Thought not. It doesn't make their work worthless - but it isn't science. (Mathematics is also not a science. It depends on axioms - essentially, assumptions. IF a THEN b. Mathematics doesn't really care whether a is true or false in what we think of as the "real world".)

St Bride's Church, Lochranza

Tuesday 9th August 5 -7pm

Opening of the photographic exhibition

"Children in Palestine today"
with a talk by the photographer
Sabrine Mukarkar

(refreshments available)

Wednesday 10th August 11am - 5pm
Exhibition open

(tea, coffee & biscuits available all day)

Entry to both events will be by donation
ALL WELCOME

F.O.L.K. & PIRNMILL

(Friends Of Lochranza Kirk & Pirmill)

Thursday 6th October 2pm
Meeting in St Bride's Church, Lochranza

A talk by Shona Hume
"Travels in Jordan"

Tea & Coffee will be served after the talk before a short business meeting
Everyone very welcome

Bethlehem photographer exhibits in Arran

The Occupation of Childhood: Children in Palestine today

'Every year, hundreds of Palestinian children are detained by Israeli authorities. They are the only children in the world who are systematically prosecuted through military, rather than civilian, courts. The most common charge is throwing stones – for which the maximum sentence is 20 years in prison.' (Save the Children - Palestine)

Our photographic portrayals of childhood often involve notions of 'sweetness' and 'innocence'. But can these qualities persist in a childhood under Occupation ?

Sabrina Mukarkar- Zeidan spends her life photographing children. The families that visit her studio usually like to preserve memories of their children untainted by the daily harassments of an occupying power.

In this exhibition, however, she portrays the lives of Palestinian children beyond the confines of the studio, and poses the question, can innocence survive in a country where children are systematically oppressed by a brutal occupying power?

The Network of Photographers for Palestine is proud to sponsor this outstanding young photographer in a tour of Scotland from 1st-20th August this year. They will be accompanying Sabrina around the cities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness and Dundee, where she will exhibit her work and talk about her experiences as a photographer and mother of two in the Occupied West Bank. **This is the first time the Network has visited Arran and we are delighted that Lochranza Church has agreed to host this event.**

For more information about the Network of Photographers for Palestine, see their website

<https://nppalestine.org/>

I once studied physics, which in these terms is definitely science. Then I moved to economics, which, I can promise you, is not. Think of the great battle in the 1970s and 1980s (probably about to be re-fought) between the Keynesians and Monetarists. Fashions have shifted from time to time as one side or the other has predominated - but no-one admitted his theory had been disproved.

Back to the pandemic. What was done in the name of "the science"? There were lock-downs of various kinds and degrees, quarantines, regulations concerning sizes of meetings, mask mandates, and more. How many of these were backed by "the science". As far as I am aware - none.

Take the wearing of masks. Prior to the pandemic, there had been one scientific test of the efficacy of mask-wearing - in Denmark. The conclusion was that no conclusion was possible. If masks made a difference, it was too small to be measured reliably. That may change. We may eventually know whether masks helped, or would help next time - but our rulers were not following the science in mandating them. It is perfectly plausible that wearing a mask might help - but it isn't "science" just to say so.

Much the same applies to the lockdowns imposed by the four UK nations. These were largely the result of epidemiological modelling - computers using algorithms to predict how many infections, hospital admissions, intensive care patients and deaths were likely. These models are the simple proof that epidemiology isn't a science, either. However wrong the models were, however often, they were never admitted to be nonsense. (And time after time they **were** wrong, and they **were** nonsense.) There was no falsifiability. But in the name of science, the economy, and many lives, were devastated. Again, maybe lockdowns helped, although on the whole it seems a little unlikely. But lockdowns weren't "science" in action.

What should we conclude? First, not everything said by a scientist is science. Second, despite Maureen Lipman (who seems suddenly to have become famous all over again), not every "ology" is a science. Third, a lesson we should all have learned over and over already, statements by authority must be treated with a healthy degree of scepticism

**Richard Henderson
The Anchorage**

A Famous Arran Art Collector

Whenever I return to Brodick I am happy to see the name ALEXANDER remains over one particular shop front. The premises have lately become an accountant's office, I believe, though "back of Alexanders" has remained for me over the years a wonderful gardening and hardware shop.

But who was Mr Alexander? In fact there were two gentlemen Tom Alexander and his brother Jim. They opened the shop in January of that very cold Winter 1947 and it is Tom and his art collect who is of most interest as I write.

Tom was born in Falkirk in 1915, his Father James headed a chain of 8 hardware stores in central Scotland. Tom attended Edinburgh Academy but had to leave when he was 17 as his Father died suddenly of an accident. He joined the family firm but in 1939 when war came he enlisted as a Private in the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. At the end of the war he was a Lt Colonel when he left the Army. For a while he worked again in the family firm.

Towards the end of 1946 Tom and his Brother struck out for themselves, they came to Arran, where they had enjoyed childhood holidays, to establish the hardware shop in Brodick which still displays their name. Eventually in 1984 Tom and his wife Catherine retired to Edinburgh where he died in 2000.

Tom Alexander's public service was notable – he was active in the Arran community both in matters concerning the enlargement of the hospital, in the development of the High School thus ensuring that scholars no longer needed to go to Bute to continue their education, and the establishment of the Museum. He was effective on a national scale being a member of the then Scottish Arts Council, a member of the Scottish Crafts Committee and also the film committee of the S.A.C.

These interests in arts crafts and film where his heart and passions resided. All forms of visual art, paintings, sculpture, ceramics enthralled him, so much so that the Brodick hardware shop sold items by leading British potters, then lesser known at prices now considered as derisory,

given the astronomical figures they now reach at auction. I regret that I came to the island to buy a Lucie Rie piece for 12/6d but I still love my butter dish of a cow in a bath, head, udder and back legs above the water-line. I must have paid about £3 or £4 for it – it was offered recently on line for just under £100!

Tom discovered that he would receive £40 for being a reserve Army Officer and decided to use this extra money to indulge his passion for the arts. Over the years he wrote to well known artists explaining that he was a shopkeeper on a Scottish island with a wife and 4 children to support, thus enjoying only limited financial means. He wondered if the artist had anything in his or her studio that they would be willing to sell for £40. I believe that the sum offered as time went by went to £100. Those he contacted mostly answered positively and gradually Tom acquired an amazing collection of paintings, sculptures, ceramics and other works of art which embellished his Brodick home to the delight of family friends and well known visitors who valued the Alexander's company. When Tom and Catherine moved to Edinburgh the collection accompanied them, though I believe one item was sold for an amazing sum to help fund their retirement. In 2010 ten years after his death, the family arranged for the art works to be shown in the Talbot Rice Gallery of Edinburgh University. Items bought for £40 were worth well over £1,000,000, I saw the collection there and marvelled at its richness and diversity – what a tribute it made to this hard - working and enterprising gentleman!

I learned more about Tom Alexander from his daughter Judith a lady influential in the Scottish craft world, whom I met several times in her fascinating knitwear shop in Stockbridge, Edinburgh. It had a little museum at the back showing Fair Isle knitting, with photos of the Prince of Wales later Edward VIII, wearing Fair Isle pullovers while golfing. His other daughter Vivien, with who I recently talked, is still painting and currently working on a 3 x 3 painting of Goatfell. Tom and Catherine's two sons are Mike, a Scottish film maker and Keith a BBC TV producer.

Penny McWatters