

Interim Moberator – Rev David Sutherland
Parish Assistant - Mrs Jean Hunter B.D. Tel: 01770 860380

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,
Elspeth MacDonald Tel: 850284,
Christine Black Tel: 850263, John Adam Tel 850230

Church Organists

Lorna Buchanan-Hollingworth Tel: 840681
Aileen Wright Tel: 830353, John Clarke 860219

Congregational Board Members

Christine Black (Clerk),
Richard Wright (Property Manager),
Fiona Henderson, Lizzie Adam, Archie Cumming

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

During the present restrictions a shortened service can be found
every week on the church web site
www.lochranzachurch.org.uk

Lochranza & Pirnmill

Scottish Charity Registration No , SC009377



**ACT OF
REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY
8th NOVEMBER IN
ST BRIDE'S
LOCHRANZA 10.15am**



**Church & Community
Newsletter
November 2020**

www.lochranzachurch.org.uk

A letter from Angus

‘The days of a mortal are as grass; he blossoms like a wild flower in the meadow: a wind passes over him, and he is gone, and his place knows him no more (Psalm 103: 15/16)

By now as you read this, my time with you will be over, my ministry at North Arran ended and already I am ‘yesterday’s man’. I have crossed the Rubicon, no going back. Yet if I may be permitted a moment to look back at my time over the past 14 and a half years at Brodick lw Corrie lw Lochranza & Pirnmill lw Shiskine, the overwhelming emotion is one of thanksgiving for having been granted the enormous privilege of being your parish minister and sharing together with you, many times of laughter and joy, as well of course, of times also of deep grief and sadness.

In preaching my final farewell discourses, I have already said all I wanted to say to 5 wonderful congregations, but the one thing that can never be said often enough, is how grateful I am for the constant kindness, support and encouragement shown to me during those years, not only by good loyal church folk, but by many, many others in the wider Arran community.

Any regrets? A few and all to do with those moments when despite giving my all, in my human frailty, I got it wrong. Even then, I do take a little comfort from the old saying ‘the man that never made a mistake, made nothing.’ I hope on those painful few occasions, I at least learned from my mistakes and put things right, or made it right, with those who felt aggrieved.

Will I miss being your minister? Yes, especially conducting worship on a Sunday, never a chore, always a joy. But more even than that, as I will now not see any of you as regularly, if at all, I will miss above all else, your friendship.

If my successor is as richly blessed with that same friendship and support that I have been shown, he or she will be richly blessed indeed. My greatest hope is that under a new minister the congregations of North Arran will be secure for many, many years to come and enabled to continue to serve the people of their respective parishes in the same wonderful manner in which they have always done.

It remains for me to say to each of you a final grateful, heartfelt thank you. I wish each of you all the very best for that future and may God bless you all.

Angus

Angus Adamson

As you are probably aware Angus has now demitted his ministry on compassionate grounds. I'm sure I speak for everyone to say that he will be sadly missed. Angus has looked after not just us in Lochranza and Pirnmill but all 5 parishes in the north of the island with great care sympathy, attention and support to us all. For the last 15 years Angus has been a big presence in our communities, the first to arrive with a kind and concerned word should anyone have troubles, be it the loss of a dear one an illness or a worry of some kind. Always giving wise advice and comfort to those in need and I speak from my own experience of how much help and kindness he has shown to me and my family over the years. I am sure many of you reading this will have experienced the same. Our grateful thanks go to him for all the years he has served us so well.

We wish him, Susan and his ever increasing family all the very best in the future.

I am delighted to say that our Church is now open for services conducted by **Jean Hunter** and **Liz Clarke** with organ music played by **John Clarke**.

From **1st November** all services will be held at **10.15am in St Brides Church Lochranza** as Pirnmill Church is unable to take the both congregations due to the Covid 19 restrictions.

There will be a **Remembrance Service in Lochranza Church at 10.15 on Sunday 8th November**, regrettably the usual **Act of Remembrance** at the Pirnmill War Memorial has had to be cancelled due to the latest Covid 19 restrictions. Any wreaths or crosses can be brought to this service and will be transferred to the War Memorial afterwards. (Please wear masks to the service).

Online services are still available on the Lochranza Church website every Sunday for those people unable to attend church. **www.lochranzachurch.org.uk**

Regrettably the Church is only open for the Sunday service as we have to follow the government guidelines.

As a **fundraiser** this year **Gordon Potts** has kindly donated **100 tile coasters** with the round window printed on. This is the second donation of tiles Gordon has produced as the last ones sold out very quickly.

Our grateful thanks to Gordon for all his generous support to the church.

These will make an excellent little Christmas gift... so please support the church!

Bill Scott - Session Clerk



10 x 10cm

**Price £3 each
or
4 for £10**

Phone 830304

or

email bill.ornsay@btinternet.com

The Philosophers Society

The Philosophers Society continue to meet weekly and since lockdown this has had to be via zoom.

Since **1st October** I have taken over as chairperson and the society take this opportunity to thank outgoing chair **Paul Padfield** for his enthusiastic involvement

In the current climate of covid, I do not anticipate that we will be able to meet in the hotel or the outdoor centre for the foreseeable future and will have to continue to meet via zoom

Further to discussion on whether or not we should extend our meetings to one and a half hours, it has been agreed that the meetings will continue to start at 5pm for one hour.

During the last few weeks we have had two very interesting and thought provoking talks, one from Gavin Prichard and one from Archie Cumming.

A number of speakers are lined up for the coming weeks and as usual I hope for a good turnout

Ken Thorburn

Kids at War 4 – Aftermath

I feel I must start this episode with a disclaimer. The advancing years are starting to play havoc with my memory. That being so, I cannot swear to the exact timing of some of my recollections. That is compounded by the effects of this Covid-19 virus. I am spending so much time alone I am losing the art of conversation, and, at times, groping for the correct words. However, I can say with certainty that my childish recollections occurred before the age of 12 years when I went away to boarding school.

My very first memory was of a small wooden horse on a wheeled trolley, which, I claim, saved our lives and helped to win the war. One night when the sirens sounded a warning of an impending attack Mum drew the blackout curtains. Shortly afterwards a warden shouted out 'number 35 put that light out'. A corner of the curtain had not closed and refused to do so. Mum used my little horse to sprag the curtain in place. So, that little horse played its part in preventing the enemy homing in on me.

During the course of the war anything made of metal was in great demand. Until enlightened by Mum I could not understand why all things metal were vanishing. All the nice wrought iron railings surrounding the church, the park, some of the old buildings disappeared without trace. Road signs were confiscated and it was difficult to find anything left made of metal. To my consternation Mum even confiscated my prize collection of shrapnel gathered with great dedication and effort. My mates were also subjected to the same arbitrary indignity. When asked for an explanation Mum, declared, 'We're sending it back to Germany'. However, the street gas lamps were given an exemption, but not used as much.

Oh yes, I remember the time when we sold my wee sister to an American soldier. The situation until shortly before D-Day was that American troops were quite common in our area. As I mentioned previously the cleared bombed site behind our flat had been converted into a tank holding site for tanks arriving from America. Hence the troops. On one occasion, we fell into conversation with one of them, 'any gum chum' was the usual greeting. During what I can only think was a very erudite discourse he asked if we had sisters. The older boys pointed me out, indicating that I had a sister. After some negotiation and a transfer of a few packets of gum we took him up to my aunties house where my wee sister was sitting outside in her pram with a dummy stuck in her mouth. Exit stage left, rapidly. He was not best pleased.

Mum was a wonderful woman. Hard working, honest as the day was long, and, never short of a pithy saying to put us in our place. How she coped with eight kids in twenty years fills me with admiration. Later in life when I had four of my own I blamed Dad for not telling me what kept causing them.

Then one day I suddenly realised he never did find out. However, I digress. I have the distinction of reducing Mum to jaw dropping silence on one occasion. We had been to our local park where we indulged in winding up old 'Spider' Jones the park keeper. He didn't like us but couldn't run as fast as us. While rooting about I found a small tin box concealed in some shrubbery. On examination we found it contained small paper packets containing what appeared to be balloons. However, they were much longer and wider than balloons and the entrance ring was far stronger than normal. In addition the other end had a sort of narrower and longer teat shape. What really disappointed us was that they were impossible to blow up being of much stronger rubbery material than normal. We soon lost interest but I kept the unopened packets to show to Mum to find out what they were. That was when she was rendered speechless, but not for long. She threw them on the fire. Later on in life when I was more knowledgeable I often wondered if I had ever met anybody whose presence on earth I was inadvertently responsible for.

Well, in the fullness of time things started to change. The tank laager emptied out: no more fun messing about in the tanks, no more pelting each other with bags of Silica-gel Crystal and no more Yanks to pester. Exciting news from the continent of the progression of the war and the prospect of Dad coming home for good. The end of the war was really exciting. I have never seen so many people so happy. People who for many years had hardly spoken to each other were hugging, kissing and dancing in the streets. Friends and neighbours coming together, pooling rations to set up street parties and generally throwing constraints to the wind. I bet even old Spider Jones the Parkie stopped waving his stick at kids and the old fella with the pawnshop stopped shouting at kids for pressing their snotty noses against his windows while admiring all the fascinating shiny stuff within. Yes, a happy time.

The next even happier occasion came with the homecoming of the prisoners of war. Again, much rejoicing. However, this was a much more restrained celebration as it tended, understandably, to be more of a family affair. Bunting was put up along the landings of the tenements and bed sheets with welcome home messages displayed were hung over the walls. The men involved were not left in any doubt that they were considered to be everybodys heroes. On a personal note, for us, the really high point was the arrival home of Dad. It had been a long war full of uncertainty and we were so glad to have him home again. It was the beginning of a whole new chapter in life, which brought new brothers and sisters into my world.

Looking back it was a strange time. A time when we grew up spending much of our free time unfettered by pervasive and stultifying rules and regulations that seem to have no roots in common sense. A time of development in confidence and reliance in oneself and one's friends at an age that would scare the life out of present day parents. And yet, for all our 'wildness' we did no harm to anyone and not one of us had any trouble with law and order. We knew the difference!

Terry Crawley

Postings from Pirnmill Village Association (PVA)

What strange times indeed but we are so fortunate to live amongst a great community of people and have such inspiring views of land and sea around us - we remember to count our blessings!

The PVA committee has been working away behind the scenes over the past few months and we look forward to reporting back at our virtual **AGM on 10 November**. We are delighted to confirm that we have successfully gained charitable status and our Association is now a **Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)**. This means that a wider range of funds are available to us for future projects and we are in a better position in our negotiations with North Ayrshire council about the future of the Community Centre. Our thanks to **ACVS** for their support in this process and to **Shiskine Village Hall committee**, who shared their recent experience of SCIO application with us. We hope that the proposed network of village halls across the island, delayed in person due to Covid, will come to fruition and we look forward to playing our part in that.

It has been good to be a part of the **Island Community Toilets** group and are delighted to have been granted additional sanitisers for use in the village. Thank you to the Arran Community Council for coordinating this and to ACVS for their initiative.

We were pleased to see the repair of the **sea wall** at the south end of the village during July and August, after prompts to North Ayrshire Council by the Village Association and Arran Community Council.

We have also checked all the **benches** in the village during the summer months, making repairs to some (thank you to Rob Stevens for doing this work) and replacing others. We were delighted to support the sawmill at Cladach for these purchases.

The Memorial Garden continues to offer a splash of colour in all seasons. A small group of volunteers meet every other Monday morning to keep it tidy and, most recently, to plant a few more spring bulbs. North Ayrshire Council continue to offer support, for which we are very grateful. It's lovely to see visitors to the village stop walk round the garden and read the names on the two memorials - it is a much-admired spot. If anyone would like to join this volunteer group, please contact **Susan Furzer on 850580**. All welcome!

Pioneer Projects are developing a patch of land between the village and Auchamore and have already been engaging with our school pupils about their plans. We look forward to seeing this project as it develops and supporting as we can.

One of our committee members, **Katy Penn**, is involved in the development of a new **Arran Arts Heritage Trail** and is researching historic artists (painters and craftspeople) who were inspired by the west coast of Arran, either as a resident here or simply creating artwork inspired by this area. If anyone has any information that might be of interest to this project, please let Katy know (**850252 or email penndkah@gmail.com**). Thank you.

As you are all aware, it is hard to plan any events at the moment. In the meantime, the PVA committee will continue to operate - **minutes** from our meetings are always available at the **village shop** and we are now putting a notice in the village notice board (near the bridge) giving a summary of the most recent meeting. If anyone would like to have this summary emailed to them, please let me know at the shop.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Hazel
Chair, Pirnmill Village Association

Report from the Lochranza & Catacol Village Association

As we continue to live in unusual times, your committee have only met twice during the last four months, namely on **1st July** and as recent as **Thursday 15th October**.

The committee is in good heart and continue to discuss and debate a number of matters that directly affect both Lochranza & Catacol.

As chair, I am happy to report that all the **old cars**, abandoned on the roadside at **Ballarie Farm** have been removed. Our thanks go to Mr. Charles Fforde who was instrumental in removing these vehicles.

On the Castle Spit we have another problem, not abandoned cars but **abandoned boats and trailers** of varying types and sizes. The committee have agreed, where possible to contact owners and where this is not possible a notice will be placed in the Banner asking anyone with a boat or trailer on the Spit to remove them otherwise the committee will take steps to have them all removed.

As far as the **deer nuisance** is concerned, letters have been sent out by the estate and people made aware that **feeding deer is not permitted under any circumstance**.

As recent as the 9th October the Banner published an article that a revised **planning application** had been submitted to NAC from the **Scottish Salmon Co.** for a reduced number of fish pens from 20 down to 12 at Millstone Point. The committee advised by Coast will mount a plan of objection to this latest application and we hope as many residents and holiday home owners as possible will write to NAC voicing their objection to this revised plan.

The committee still have a number of matters for discussion among them - **speeding traffic** through the villages - the **planned development** by forestry at **Imacher** - possible development on the **Newton Shore** - discharge of **Distillery effluent** at Lenimore. A report is still awaited from SEPA as level of discharge appears to be higher than originally planned.

Ken Thorburn

Interim Moderator

Ardrossan Presbytery at its recent virtual meeting, appointed **Rev Dave Sutherland**, minister of the charge of Stevenston Ardeer l/w Stevenston Livingstone as Interim Moderator for the North Arran Linkage. He is very familiar with the parishes of North Arran as he and his wife Maureen have holidayed here many times and mostly in Lochranza.

A minister of a charge as Angus was of Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza & Pirnmill and Shiskine, is Moderator of a Kirk Sesion(s). In a vacancy, the Presbytery who is responsible for the supervision of ministers, elders and congregations within its bounds have a duty of care and an obligation to appoint an Interim Moderator (in place of the minister) to look after a vacant congregation.

Rev Sutherland will look after the business of the congregations. He will moderate Kirk session meetings, Congregational Board meetings and will oversee the business of the vacancy giving advice and leading.

Rev Sutherland will conduct weddings or arrange for someone else to do that, conduct Communion services and Baptisms although again because of Covid-19 restrictions, Communion and Baptisms will not take place in the Church until restrictions are lifted.

In due course Rev Sutherland I expect, will introduce himself to the congregations.

A Locum will also be appointed by the Kirk Sessions of the North Arran Linkage to conduct the Sunday services and for pastoral work - conducting funerals, visiting, schools and pastoral care. (Although because of restrictions at the moment no visiting or schools - but still pastoral care.)

In the meantime if you have any questions or concerns please phone me.

Jean Hunter

Pathway

One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go
From the old things to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you.

And its from the old I travel to the new

Keep me travelling along with you. (Sydney Bertram Carter)

Young and old like singing this Hymn. We always liken it to a journey through life and a journey in the Christian faith.

Last month on the online service I spoke about a book by **Rev Lezley Stewart** a Church of Scotland minister, the book called '**Let everyone find their voice**' Re-imagining the Psalms for worship and devotion.

In her book Lezley reimagines key Psalms in strikingly beautiful contemporary language and incorporates them into ready to use liturgies that focus on central themes some of them are on Pathway.

She says "Pathway immediately suggests a journey and lends itself to the exploration of all the twists, turns and different directions in the life of faith.

In the Psalms, Pathway is a repeating metaphor and translates with ease into how we encounter the adventure of faith today, albeit in a different landscape from that known by the Psalmist.

There is much to explore from a variety of approaches in worship, which can be varied as the pathways that people are on.

Some are searching for a pathway that leads closer to God. Others have taken a turn away from God but may be struggling to engage honestly about this. Some may be seeking release from a destructive pathway, or one that has simply led to disappointment and pain.

In the context of worship this theme invites an encounter that understands that God is in company with us, in every experience, yet acknowledging that we can often feel as if we walk alone.

The challenge is to try to express, beyond the beauty of the ancient poetry found in the Psalms, words that connect with journeys that are being experienced in the here and now.”

Psalm 23 is the one of the most well known of Psalms whether it is read or sung to the various tunes.
Psalm 23 this version in words from Rev Lezley Stewart.....

God is a pathway for my life. I find peace when I am with God.
Even on rough ground, even in darkness, even when the direction is unclear, I am never alone.
Way-markers guide my steps, offering pointers to my next turn.
Christ walked this path before me- he is my companion on the road.
Step by step, the pilgrim path sustains me. Step by step, freedom in Christ is found.
The eternal one secures my life, leading me always forward.
I will praise God while I live and move.

*This for contemplation.....Which pathway are you following?
How do you allow God to direct you?
Have you missed a turn?
Have you found peace and freedom in Christ?*

**Every Blessing
Jean Hunter**

FOOD BANK

At this difficult time please remember the Food Bank when shopping, there is a constant need on the island for these donated goods. Donations can be left in the entrance of Brodick Church anytime or in the box in Lochranza Hall entrance (Tuesday & Friday 10 -1pm).

Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall Report

2020 has been a strange year for the Hall. Since March it has remained largely silent, closed due to the restrictions necessary as a result of COVID-19. Fund raising events, weddings, sports events, weekly fitness etc all suspended. But we shouldn't let this get us down, things will improve and normality will gradually return.

Our **AGM** will have to be conducted differently this year. We propose to circulate the minutes from last year and the accounts to all for comment, with a hard copy in the Hall for people to read if they go to the Post Office. Comments can be forwarded by email to the Secretary or in writing.

When we do get the go ahead to start some activities it will be slowly and incrementally. First it will be those activities that can take place in a socially distanced manner so that we can ensure the maximum safety for everyone. Large or social gatherings will be some months away. With the restrictions in place at the time of writing, it is unlikely that there will be a speedy return to the Coffee mornings.

We are hoping to be able to have some **Christmas Cheer** by encouraging everyone to “**Light up Lochranza**” again, and possibly have some **fireworks at Hogmanay**.

In the meantime, we can continue to support the Hall by subscribing to the **200 club**. Membership is still only £15.00 (per person), with monetary prizes every month. If you haven't already subscribed contact Tony Baboolal at anthonybaboolal@hotmail.com for details. Bank transfer can be arranged if preferred to writing a cheque.

Ros Lyall
Hall Secretary

A COVID-19 CONTEMPLATION (From Pirnmill)

Covid-19 has brought many changes; to some differing measures of unhappiness, to others painful separations and to all a way of life that is as improbable today as any we might have envisaged. Measures thought unthinkable a few months ago have been implemented.

By mid March we faced a need to fight our way through Covid-19 whilst meeting new challenges in both the long and shorter term. Our emergent life has seen resilience and strength from the more agile however there are those who have been less able to cater for themselves. By dint of good fortune, our isolated island position and the good nature and friendliness of Lochranza and Pirnmill villagers these needier folk continue, like others, to soldier on.

Many rallied to the cause. The Lighthouse and the Field Centre offered takeaway fish and chips on Friday evening giving hard pressed home cooks a welcome night of respite. Most recently Stags Pavilion now has a variety of Thursday takeaway options available.

Pirnmill village shop has remodelled itself by offering an even wider range of goods and obligingly stocking individual requests. The summer months saw Hazel's shop extend into a tented market, a wondrous bazaar of fresh fish, meat, fruit, colourful veggies and other goodies. Here was our own socially distanced and safer shopping area far from the clamour of Brodick and other large centres. The indefatigable Fiona Laing extended her voluntary delivery service to include home delivery orders for Pirnmill shop to the far and wide for those less able or Covid-19 bound, as did Julie Graham who weekly delivers all the prescriptions to villagers in the North end.

The big Co-op received very well deserved national recognition for meritorious service to Arran during Covid-19. In the same vein we too have Hazel, Susan, and Jenny at Pirnmill shop who daily continue to cater as broadly and safely as is possible to the local need.

All these have rallied around to become terrific examples of a village centre community for those who are concerned or less able and for which they fully deserve our great thanks and continuing support.

ANON

A really BIG thank you!

After over 3 years of living at Kilbrannan surrounded by fantastic scenery and good people we got the removal people in and last month left for a warmer Spanish climate.

A big thank you goes out to everyone we had the pleasure to meet and especially to those who became our friends. Thankfully we managed to personally say adios to some but with Covid19 restrictions it was certainly a challenge. For those we didn't see we wish you all the best, stay healthy and stay safe.

We hope that the Community Hall can get up and running again soon, it really is a fantastic facility the village has and we loved being involved and hope we contributed a little something during our stay.

We hope to return next year, as tourists though and look forward to warm sunny low wind days during our visit!

We will miss Lochranza and its people, thank you again for making us so welcome.

All the very best,
Sharon & Iain

CHRISTMAS DAY CHURCH SERVICE

Unfortunately we are not able to hold a Christmas Day Service due to the current Covid19 restrictions which only permit a limited number of people in the church.

On behalf of the Elders of Lochranza & Pirnmill Church we wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to 2021 being back to some normality for us all.

**Bill Scott
Session Clerk**

The Arran Defib Project

The Arran Defib Project has had an expensive couple of months with nearly **£1000** of **pads and batteries** requiring to be purchased for some of the public access defibs round the island. As a result the Project is **appealing for funds** to replenish the bank account. The Arran Defib Project is completely separate from the Arran First Responders so although the responders are required to carry spare consumables the scale of the Defib Project and variance in the type of defibs means it is uneconomic to keep any spares at all so all consumables are purchased as they are needed. If you would like to donate please email fiona.laing@btinternet.com for details of the account or make a cheque payable to Arran Defib Project and pop it in the post box at **Woodside Pirnmill**. Thanks for your continued support.

Fiona Laing

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

NOV 3,17
DEC 1, 15,29
JAN 12, 26
FEB 9,



NOV 10,24
DEC 8,22
JAN 5,19
FEB 2



For the foreseeable future the Newsletter will be online and delivered by the villages email lists, however if you know of anyone who would like a printed copy let me know. The next Newsletter will be **February** & any articles should be in by **28th January**. **Ed.** bg.ornsay@btinternet.com