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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

Also

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

www.lochranzachurch.org.uk

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Lochranza & Pirnmill

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Church & Community Newsletter

November 2021

www.lochranzachurch.org.uk



Hello Everyone

So it is the autumn of the year now and it won't be long before the clocks go back an hour and the evenings get dark earlier. For me, autumn is a time to sit back a little and reflect on the events of the previous months.

At Swallowbrae our summer has been dominated by church services, the veg garden and visits from friends and relations. I would not say we have had a quiet summer! It has been a busy, joyful time, helped by the unusually good weather we had in July. Now I'm contemplating the changes we will see as we go into winter.

The veg garden has yielded its harvest and it is stored away for us to enjoy over the next 6 months. Our working freezer contains many bags of peas, beans etc and – its amazing what you can do with a broken chest freezer – our tatties are stored perfectly in it.

The clematis is finished as are the lupins, but the lobelia is still giving us a display.

The birds – swallows, tits, sparrows & finches – have all fledged and I will miss sitting at our kitchen window watching the adults busily flying in and out of their nests to feed their young. What hard workers they are.

While these things are past for this year, there are some things that are just starting in the autumn.

One of our favourite entertainments is to watch the squirrels playing in the garden. They have not been to see us all summer, but we have had a few visits in the last week and once the winter weather kicks in, we will put out some food for them and the birds. For me, they are a much better way to while away the hours than the Internet or video games.

But, apart from being incredibly cute and entertaining, squirrels can teach us a few lessons.

Squirrels teach us to be good stewards of our earth.

A DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

A CONCERT BY THE RESOL STRING QUARTET

**will be held in St Bride's Church, Lochranza
SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER AT 1PM**

(entry by donation, under current COVID regulations masks should be worn)

**CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE 11am
in
St Bride's Church, Lochranza
All Welcome**

The L & C Hall Committee are pleased to announce

SCOTTISH OPERA

**will be performing in the hall on
THURSDAY 3RD MARCH 2022
(details to follow)**

**BLUE BIN
NOV. 2,16,30
DEC. 14,28
JAN. 11,25
FEB. 8**



**BLACK BIN
NOV. 9,23
DEC. 7,21
JAN. 4,18
FEB. 1**



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER!

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

bg.ornsay@btinternet.com

Postings from Pirnmill Village Association (PVA)

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Many thanks to bakers, helpers and all those who came to support us on 20 September. We managed to raise a whopping £662, a fantastic achievement.

Arran Community Council

A massive thanks to Liz Evans, who has stepped down after 12 years representing Pirnmill on the Arran Community Council and a warm welcome to Kirstin Weir, who has volunteered to take up the mantle in the absence of a formal nomination.

Pirnmill Community Centre - Community Asset Transfer (CAT)

One step closer... we were delighted to learn that our CAT application was approved at North Ayrshire Council's Cabinet meeting on 28 September. Thank you so much for your support in getting us this far. Exciting times ahead!

Pioneer Project

On 10 September our three little pigs joined us. They are settling in well but would really love more volunteers to visit them and get involved in their upkeep. If interested, drop the Pioneer Project an email at arran@pioneerproject.scot

Pirnmill Gardening Group

Our volunteers meet fortnightly on a Monday from 10:00am to 12:00pm. All welcome whether green fingered or not, no experience needed.

November	December	January
8	6	3
22	20	17
		31

Pirnmill Community Centre Events

- **Tuesdays 2-4pm** - Art/craft group, contact Katy on 850252 for details
- **Fridays 7-9pm** - Table tennis, all ages welcome.
- **5 November, 6:00pm** - Bonfire night followed by pop-up pub
- **14 November** - Remembrance service **10:15am at the hall, 10:50am at the War Memorial**
- **29 November, 10-30am-1.30pm** - Coffee morning in aid of SCAA (Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance)

Wishing you all the best.

Hazel
PVA Chair

Squirrels eat seeds and nuts (and other things) and although they bury their food for the winter, we know they often forget where they have buried the seeds which can result in a new plant appearing. We too need to be good stewards of the planet so as well as living off its resources, we need to give back into its richness.

Squirrels teach us to pace our lives – to live in God's rhythm.

In the spring they get up at sunrise and spend the day finding food, building their drey and rearing their young. In the summer, most squirrels slow down and have a wee snooze in the afternoon before going back to finding food and to much playing. During the winter, they get up near sunrise, work until mid-day and spend the rest of the day resting and conserving heat. They work with the rhythm of the seasons.

God gives us 4 seasons in our life to grow, rest and enjoy and each season gives us great things to do and experience.

Squirrels teach us to enjoy life to its fullest.

We all enjoy watching squirrels playing – running up and down the trees and jumping from branch to branch. Like our friends the squirrels, God wants us to live a rich and joyful life.

I love the fact that it is God's will that our joy be filled:

John 16:24

"Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

Every blessing,

Liz

FOOD BANK UPDATE

The September figures - well down on previous months with the lowest total of the year. The numbers did rise towards the end of the month as expected. The yearly figures are not quite as high as last year. I think there will be more need of the foodbank in the coming months with energy bill rises, the cut in Universal Credit and cost of living rises.

RED MARBLES

I was at the corner grocery store buying some early potatoes. I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily appraising a basket of freshly picked green peas....

I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes.

Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr Miller (the store owner) and the ragged boy next to me.

'Hello Barry, how are you today?'

'H'lo, Mr Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin' them peas. They sure look good.'

'They are good, Barry.. How's your Ma?'

'Fine. Gittin' stronger alla' time.'

'Good. Anything I can help you with?'

'No, Sir. Jus' admirin' them peas.'

'Would you like to take

'No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with.'

'Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?'

'All I got's my prize marble here.'

'Is that right? Let me see it' said Miller.

'Here 'tis. She's a dandy.'

'I can see that. Hmm mmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?' the store owner asked.

'Not zackley but almost.'

'Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble'. Mr Miller told the boy.

'Sure will. Thanks Mr Miller.'

Mrs Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me.

With a smile she said, 'There are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever.

When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, when they come on their next trip to the store.'

I left the store smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado , but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering for marbles.

Community Council

Community Council meetings have taken place at the Ormidale Pavilion for the last two months with the next meeting on Tuesday 30th November @ 6pm Members of the public can attend. ZOOM Digital will be used in the event of further Covid 19 restrictions or inclement weather. Meetings are monthly on the last Tuesday of the month with the exception of December. Minutes are available on the 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.

Contact Number for Lochranza and Catacol.

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

LOCHRANZA LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCH

A Christmas Meal has been booked at the **Wineport at Cladach, Brodick** for **FRIDAY 3rd DECEMBER for 13.30pm.**

Leaving on the service bus at 12.48pm (Church) returning on the service bus from Cladach at 16.30pm.

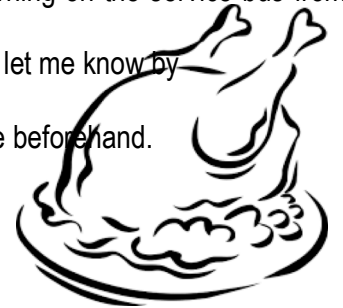
Numbers are limited to 30, anyone interested please let me know by **FRIDAY 19TH NOVEMBER.**

Please telephone me for menu as I require your choice before hand.

Prices are - 2 course including tea/coffee and tip

£26.00 - 3 course including tea/coffee and tip £29.00.

Money due for meal on 26th November or before.



Anne Coulter - Tel. No. 830219

*As someone who thought it worthwhile to go overland from Kings Cross to Bombay when 19 years old, and who thought nothing about spending two Bolivares on backing an accumulator of six winners in a row in Caracas, I consider that two of the most important words in life are 'Be unafraid'. Even it is something big, like Covid or a community buyout of a hotel, **BE UNAFRAID**'. It is not the same as being thoughtless or impulsive.*

Tony Baboolal

Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall Report

Dates for your diary and Call for new Committee members

The Hall has reopened for business. Coffee mornings have restarted, on a Friday only 10.30 -12 noon, and have been well received, badminton has recommenced and it is hoped that indoor bowls will also start soon. Meetings have been held, other activities are starting up and it is beginning to feel like normality is returning. The Committee have been busy organising the **Festival of Fire on 6th November**, which will provide an opportunity for the whole village to come together after the last 18months. The festivities commence at 6.30pm Full details and timings are available in the flyer elsewhere in the church magazine - there will be fireworks, a bar, music and dancing etc. It is hoped that other traditional events such as Halloween will also be organised.

The next major event for the Hall will be its **AGM on Thursday 18th November @7pm**. The Committee members all have to be re-elected at the AGM for the next year and some of our long serving members are standing down. Therefore, your Hall needs you- new committee members- to ensure that we represent all sections of the Lochranza and Catacol communities. In common with almost all organisations, we need to increase our diversity in respect of age, gender and ethnicity so it is up to you to ensure that we provide a resource and events which meet many different needs. We hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM on 17th November and at the Festival of Fire.



NORTHEND FESTIVAL OF FIRE
LOCHRANZA & CATACOL VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 6th NOVEMBER FROM 6.30pm
ARRAN PIPE BAND BONFIRE
BBQ FIREWORKS
FLOODLIT CASTLE LIVE MUSIC
8.30pm -10.30pm Family Dance in the hall
with the Sound Cradle Band
£5 Donation at the door (licenced Bar)

Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there learned that Mr. Miller had died. They were having his visitation that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could. Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts...all very professional looking. They approached Mrs Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket. Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one, each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes... Our turn came to meet Mrs Miller. I told her who I was and reminded her of the story from those many years ago and what she had told me about her husband's bartering for marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket. 'Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim 'traded' them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about colour or size.....they came to pay their debt.' 'We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world,' she confided, 'but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho.' With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

We will not be remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds. Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away!
Today I wish you a day of ordinary miracles:

- A fresh pot of coffee you didn't make yourself...*
 - An unexpected phone call from an old friend*
 - Green stoplights on your way to work...*
 - The fastest line at the grocery store...*
 - A good sing-along song on the radio...*
 - Your keys found right where you left them.*
- IT'S NOT WHAT YOU GATHER, BUT WHAT YOU SCATTER!!! ❤️

Copied from St Columba's church, Kilbirnie Facebook page

-Anon

Reflections on the Year.

The 15th October this year marked the Centre's 6th anniversary of becoming a Community Interest Company and going it alone, so it is an opportune time to reflect on the year just past and to look to the future.

Each year has its challenges, and none more so than this past year. Thanks to the government furlough scheme, this allowed all of the staff to maintain a wage throughout the course of the pandemic which was a tremendous blessing. When staff were unable to work, through lack of demand or the furlough policy, they could train. As such our instructor staff all gained their Summer Mountain Leader award, which was a first for the Centre, in having every member of the instructor staff qualified in this discipline. Many of the staff also undertook further training and qualifications in paddle sports, including our latest acquisition, paddleboards, and in mountain biking. In this respect we must give thanks to those experts around the island who came in to help deliver this training which was greatly appreciated.

That said the furlough scheme is only part of the story in keeping the Centre going. Over the winter period, the Scottish government kindly listened to the outdoor industry and provided some grant funding for the other essentials involved in keeping any establishment going, namely insurance, rate relief, utility costs, and the expense of mandatory safety checks. This was all meant to help Centre's survive until the end of the summer academic term i.e., the end of June. Thankfully at the end of May, we played host to our first party in 14 months from Derby University. Since then, we have had 4 more university parties and by the end of our season, we may, if things go to plan, have taken around 10 school parties. This though, is a long way short of a pre-covid level of 60 parties in a year.

The points mentioned above also fail to recognise the parties who wanted to come but were thwarted because of an increase of covid cases in their respective areas, which made it not safe for them to travel to us, or the councils, who would not allow parties to travel, even when the headmaster/teacher/parents wanted them to come. Whilst we have been open, we have worked hard to spread people about on Centre, to limit numbers and not mix too many people together at one time allowing them to social distance themselves and to undergo testing prior to coming and whilst here.

Behind the scenes the Centre has also been awarded a grant from Heritage lottery for new sit on top kayaks and a trailer which have already been used during Chris's very successful Arran day camps. It has been a great privilege to see so many local youngsters enjoying themselves and be taught new skills outdoors. The Centre was also instrumental in getting the grant from H.I.E and the Arran Trust for the Arran Geopark to make the trilogy of Arranology films which was aimed at promoting the landscape, heritage and biodiversity of our wonderful island as told by many local experts and enthusiasts to both visitors and locals alike. We hope you will guide people toward and have a look at the Arran Geopark website.

In recent months we have also been trying to remove our older storage radiators and water boilers to try and replace them with more efficient heating for our rooms and water, hopefully making us a little greener. This along with the water bottle filler at the front of the centre and the electric car charger point is something we would like to continue to develop

In short, we have been working hard, with the resources at our disposal to improve the centre and we are looking towards 2022 with more renewed optimism that we can continue to survive and play our part in helping the community.

Why wear a poppy?

"Please wear a poppy", the lady said,
And held one forth, but I shook my head,
Then I stopped and watched as she offered
them there,
And her face was old and lined with care.

"But beneath the scars the years had made,
There remained a smile that refused to fade.,
A boy came whistling down the street,
Bouncing along on carefree feet.

"His smile was full of joy and fun,
"Lady" said he "may I have one?"
When she pinned it on, he turned to say,
"Why do we wear a poppy to-day?"

"The lady smiled in her wistful way,
And answered: "This is Remembrance Day,
"And the poppy there is a symbol for
The gallant men who died in the war. "

"And because they did, you and I are free,
That's why we wear a poppy you see,
I had a boy about your size,
With golden hair and big blue eyes.

"He loved to play and jump and shout,
Free as a bird, he would race about,
As the years went by, he learned and grew,
And became a man - as you will too. "

"He was fine and strong, with a boyish smile,
But he'd seemed with us such a little while,
When war broke out and he went away,
I still remember his face that day.

"When he smiled at me and said good-
bye,
'I'll be back soon, Mum, so please don't
cry,
' But the war went on and he had to stay,
And all I could do was wait and pray.

"His letters told us of the awful fight,
(I can see at in my dreams at night),
With the tanks and guns and cruel barbed
wire,
And the mines and the bullets, the bombs
and the fire."

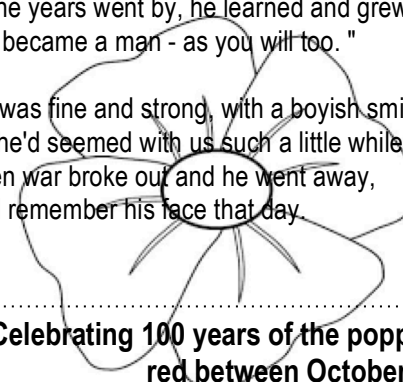
"That sure did sound like an awful fight,
But your son - did he come back alright?"
A tear rolled down each faded cheek,
She shook her head but didn't speak.

"I slunk away in a sort of shame,
And if you were with me, you'd have done
the same,
For our thanks, in giving is aft delayed,
Though our freedom was bought - and
thousands paid.

"And so, when we see a poppy worn,
Let us reflect on the burden borne,
By those who gave every all,
When asked to answer their country's
call,
That we at home in peace might live.
Then wear a poppy, - and give.
Remembrance Day - Lest We Forget.

By Don Crawford

**Celebrating 100 years of the poppy Lochranza Church will be lit up in
red between October 22nd to November 14th**



CHURCH NEWS

I am delighted to welcome Hazel Gardiner as an elder to our church. Hazel, I know will be a great support to me and of course the community. Her area of responsibility is to anyone needing pastoral support or help living between the Village Hall to the Hotel. Hazel has also agreed to be the Safeguarding Officer for Lochranza & Pirmill Churches.

At this point I would like to thank my fellow Elders and Board members during this past very difficult year, you have all coped with Zoom meetings and all the different Covid regulations asked of us. Thank you for all your support.

I have organised a concert in Lochranza Church on **Saturday 11th December** at 1pm – the concert will be performed by the **RESOL STRING QUARTET**. Entry will be by donation and masks should be worn in order to comply with current COVID rules.

I look forward to welcoming you all to the concert.

I am hopeful that we might be in a position to start the proceedings for a new Minister in the latter half of next year.

I am indebted to Liz Clarke our Interim Minister for organising pulpit supply so we can have a church service every Sunday including a family service on **Christmas Day at 11am**. Everyone is most welcome to this service including the excited children with, hopefully, Santa toys in hand!

Finally, I know it is early to wish you all a happy peaceful and healthy Christmas but this year we are not sending Christmas cards to everyone in the village from the church as I am sure you will understand our church funds are depleted and coloured printing costs are high.

Best wishes to you all for the coming season.

Bill Scott - Session Clerk

Lochranza Philosophical Society

The philosophical meetings have now restarted after our enforced break. Currently with our own hotel closed, we are meeting at the Corrie Hotel at 5pm on a Friday. This is a bit of an experiment and we continue to explore other options given the distance. We always welcome new people so if you are interested, even if you are only here from time to time, please join us. We have occasional speakers and otherwise spend our time networking and debating issues of the day as befits a bunch of sociable and friendly grumpy old men



Sorry boys couldn't resist it.....Ed.

Throughout this time, we have greatly appreciated the support from the community and would welcome your ideas for our future development. Please note that if you do have need of a room to meet in or a bedroom to stay in during the winter period, just ask and we will see how we can help!

Stuart Blake - Lochranza Centre CIC

Lochranza and Catacol Community Association (LCCA)

The LCCA met for the first time since April in the village hall on the 13th October.

This short report summarises the main points discussed, a fuller report can be found in the circulated minutes of the meeting

North Ayrshire Council and Historic Scotland have been contacted regarding the mess of old boats and trailers on the Castle spit. Unfortunately the committee have been unable to contact the owner of the Castle spit and now seek the view of other interested parties

The issue of roads was again discussed. The committee felt that the signs erected to slow down traffic on the Newton road were too small and the promised speed monitor had not materialised. A letter will be sent to the road dept.

Derelict housing. Despite the best efforts of the committee, the problem persists. It was also reported that the estate acknowledged the problem with Laggan cottage, but there were no plans to do anything

It was reported that we should hear shortly the outcome of the appeal following the refusal of the application by NAC planning for the planned fish farm

Nothing further to report on the Imacher forestry development. At present all timber is being taken over the string to Brodick

The committee felt that a serious challenge to our community was the closure of the hotel and the lack of young people in the village After a wide ranging discussion it was agreed that we should seek the views of residents and holiday home owners with regard to a community buy out of the hotel, an email has already been circulated and to date the committee have received very positive feedback

The next stage in this process will be a public meeting to take the proposal forward

It was agreed that we should continue to lobby for affordable housing through NAC and also contact the new minister of transport and again lobby for a daily winter return service from Lochranza to Tarbert .If this could be achieved it would help to arrest the steady decline in visitors and allow locals the opportunity to plan a return visit to Argyll on the same day throughout the winter months

The committee noted the planning application for a new house to be built in the village and felt this would complement the young families we already have in the village

It was also noted that that it was hoped to resume normal service at the Lochranza surgery

No timetable is available at this time

Ken Thorburn – Chair

Rainbows over Arran!

On my first visit to Arran as your temporary minister, rainbows appeared in the skies almost throughout the entire day, and a complete bow spread over the harbour at Brodick – glimpses of God's promise of long ago.

Now, a wee bit about myself and what I've been up to as a minister. I have come to help, advise and support the churches in the north of Arran. My wife Marian came with me on my first visit and we renewed our acquaintance with Arran, this beautiful island that is your home. We had been before, during the time when we lived in Stevenston where I was minister of the High Kirk (1976-1988). Our 3 children grew up there and enjoyed the country and coastal life and they have many happy memories of holidays on Arran.

During this time the High Kirk celebrated its 150th anniversary when there was much community engagement, involving the young people of the church and the 'Music Makers', a music group in the Sunday School. It was in this period that I was able to experience 'team-work' within the Kirk Session which had a Unitary Constitution.

Moving to Paisley: Wallneuk North (1988-2006) brought new experiences of 'Team Ministry', with 2 projects in a 'joint parishes arrangement' - a project to help single mothers to reach their potential in education/work and a youth project in an area of deprivation. As part of a sabbatical spent in downtown Toronto, Canada, I learned of innovative 'ministries' directly responding to peoples' needs 'on the ground', one example being the 'bike ministry': bikes were made available to those seeking work, allowing them to travel to interviews all across the city. I also spent a few months on Iona as part of the resident staff in the Abbey – mostly in the kitchen making bread and porridge! The communal life, work and witness of the Iona Community has greatly inspired me, especially in terms of worship.

I was for 4 years Convener of the Church of Scotland Ecumenical Relations at the General Assembly, also work-shadowing at the World Council of Churches in Geneva, and attending the WCC in Harare, Zimbabwe as part of the Scottish delegation.

In Shetland (2006-2021) I served rural communities on the Westside of the Mainland, including the islands of Foula and Papa Stour; one reached by air (7-seater plane), the other by ferry, so I am very familiar with the vagaries of island life and travel!

After retiring in 2011, I continued to serve as locum in various Shetland situations, but also in ALT churches (Lochcarron). No two situations are the same – although there is always the challenge of how the Church addresses its mission! It became clear that the churches in Shetland could no longer continue as they were, with 31 buildings, 7 charges all with linkages and some ministers having retired. In anticipation of this 'looming crisis', the Presbytery invited the Ministries Council to help.

Over the last 4 years, conversations with Kirk Sessions, congregations and the community at large took place, with the help of Assessor Ministers and Place for Hope. Listening to one another was vitally important! This process enabled the church folks to realistically come to terms with what would be radical change: ie 11 church buildings deemed to be fit for purpose and a new model of 'ministry team'. Shetland Churches became one parish (100 miles north to south, with several islands reached by ferry). The finances were combined and this resulted in a pool of money to resource 'well-equipped spaces in the right places' and more importantly the mission of Christ.

As you will begin to realise, Arran, along with every other part of Scotland faces similar, if not the same, challenges. At present the Kirk Sessions are involved in a process to survey the current situation of our churches and how to respond to the future mission in a changed church landscape and in an ever-changing society.

We will then be asked to consider our future as the Church of Scotland on Arran. What we have to work out, like our forebears did, is what the mission of the church is in today's world. This will inevitably be uncomfortable and rigorous, BUT I am confident that together we will be able to reach a solution that will enable the churches to thrive once more.

Now...back to rainbows! You will remember that this was a sign to Noah that all would be well. And like all the journeys in the Old Testament, there was hardship and trial, doubt and fear, but like Abraham, Moses and the others – we will get there with God's help!

Let there be rainbows over Arran!

Tom Macintyre - Interim Moderator

Loving Earth Project

Most people these days are concerned about climate change but many feel powerless to do anything about it. The Loving Earth Project aims to change that by using creative and reflective ways to help people discover steps we can take to help without being overwhelmed. Hundreds of people across the UK have joined in this project to help build a can-do attitude to prevent climate change. People have chosen areas of concern and made a 30x30cm panel using a variety of textile media and written a short piece explaining why this is important to them. More than 300 panels have been made so far and are being exhibited in small venues.

In Lochranza we have a small exhibition at the Lochranza Centre in the Geo Park for people to visit. If you would like to add a panel to the exhibition please contact **Tessa Smith 01770 830622**.
