

**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

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

# Lochranza & Pirnmill

Scottish Charity Registration No. SC009377



## Church & Community Newsletter

**November/December  
2022**

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



Hello folks

The long days and evenings when it was daylight until near midnight are gone once again. Its time to “batten down the hatches” and prepare for winter as this year of 2022 draws to a close. It most certainly has been an eventful year so far, exposing us to war, natural disasters and man-made disasters but, every now and again, giving us some good news to give us a lift – to keep us going.

This last quarter of the year is a busy time in the Christian calendar. We have just had an incredibly successful all-Arran Harvest Thanksgiving: an uplifting service with incredible singing and much fellowship and a lovely lunch shared after the service. In case you didn't hear, all the food donations went to the foodbank and the collection of £574 (and 8p) was given to the fuel fund. Both these facilities will, I suspect, be in much demand over the winter.

The next significant date in the N Arran calendar is the joint Communion service in Lochranza on 6 Nov, led by our Interim Moderator, Rev Tom Macintyre.

This is followed by Remembrance Sunday on 13 Nov. Rev Dr Ian Macleod will conduct the services at the war memorials and churches in Brodick and Corrie. I will be at war memorials and services in Pirnmill and Shiskine. This is always an emotive time since most of us of a “certain age” have family stories of war or were involved directly in some way. For me, it is heartening that many of our younger people in this country have no experience whatsoever of war or conflict of any kind. However, this time of remembrance is an opportunity to alert them to the consequences of armed conflict, both on individuals and countries.

**LOCHRANZA LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCH  
(INCLUDING CATACOL AND PIRNMILL)**



A Christmas Meal has been booked at the

**Wineport Cladach, Brodick  
FRIDAY 2nd DECEMBER FOR 13.30pm**

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

Numbers are limited to 30, anyone interested please let  
me know no later than

**MONDAY 21st NOVEMBER**

Please telephone me for menu as I require your choice  
beforehand.

**Prices are** - 2 course including tea/coffee, mince pie and  
tip - **£29.00**

3 course including tea/coffee, mince pie and  
tip - **£36.00**

Money due for meal on **Friday 25th November** or  
before.

**Anne Coulter - Tel. No. 830219**

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

Articles can be emailed to:

**bg.ornsay@btinternet.com**

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**Contact Number for Lochranza and Catacol.**

**Julie Graham Tel: 830 247 email:- [acc.lochranzajulieg@gmail.com](mailto:acc.lochranzajulieg@gmail.com)**

**Contact Number for Pirnmill**

**Dr John Adam Tel: 850230 email: [acc.pirnmill.jca@gmail.com](mailto:acc.pirnmill.jca@gmail.com)**

**NAC – Local Officers report 25.10.2022**

**Report It**

<https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-road-fault.aspx>

As of the 1st April you can report any road faults via the council website. It is a very quick and effective way to have your concerns recorded. It will also show where others have reported faults too (hopefully cutting down on duplicates) Please continue to circulate this link.

**Cleansing**

To help prevent fly-tipping on the island we would ask that anybody giving waste to a third-party contractor asks a few basic queries before doing so. Businesses are obligated under law to do this, but it is good practice for homeowners/occupiers to only choose to use contractors who are registered, who have insurance and can evidence that they are legally compliant. NAC cleansing offer a bulky uplift service – up to 5 items for £25.20 or items can be deposited without charge at the HWRC.

**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

This year the 27 Nov is the first Sunday in Advent. The four Sundays before Christmas take us slowly through the Bible story and remind us of how we got into this pickle we have come to call life and how God's plan to join us in it and raise us out of it came to pass. In Advent the prophets call us to a new way of living in preparation for the coming of our Saviour, the kind of living worthy of what Jesus called the Kingdom of heaven, a living that will transform us into active assets for bringing in that Kingdom, full of the life of Christ himself with the promise that he will be with us every step of the way. So, four Sundays, four themes and sets of readings, four candles to light to speak of justice, peace, faith, and love.

And then, finally, after the anticipation, the build-up, comes Christmas day – which falls on a Sunday this year. I hope you manage the secular side of the Christmas preparations and arrive at the day feeling full of genuine Christmas spirit.

Every blessing for this coming season. May it truly be a peaceful, joyful celebration of the birth of our friend and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Liz**

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**Arran Churches Together Fuel Support**

**If you, or someone you know, is struggling with household fuel payments, Arran Churches Together can help.**

**Contact Catherine Jenks on 07700289700 to discuss what help can be given.**

**All calls will be treated in the strictest confidence.**

## Zero Waste Cafe

The Zero Waste Cafe is a sustainable food project from Arran Eco Savvy with the intention of preventing food waste and packaging. The cafe runs fortnightly on a **Tuesday from 11am-1pm at Lochranza and Catacol Hall.**

Upcoming cafe dates are: **November 8th and 22nd**

**December 6/20, January 3rd, 17th and 31st, February 14th and 28th,**

**March 14th and 28th**

The cafe has zero waste dispensers containing bulk dried goods such as oats, chickpeas, pasta, rice, flour, red lentils, broth mix, quinoa, gram flour and more. Please bring your own containers and we will fill these for you in the quantities you require. These dry goods are priced to be comparable with Asda pricing. We also stock a range of tinned items.

We look to make local produce available whenever possible. We've had produce from the Pioneer Project, Clachaig Farm and Holy Isle to date. We give these growers the donations we receive for the produce as the cafe is a point of distribution for them.

The cafe is also a distribution point for the Food Share initiative. We have donated a freezer to the hall. This contains frozen Food Share items which are free and can be accessed whenever the hall is open.

Every fortnight we stock a different seasonal soup. This is freshly prepared by Jess and we serve it with bakehouse bread. Ruth also makes delicious cakes and sweet treats which are available alongside teas and coffees.

The cafe runs on a donation basis to ensure it is inclusive to all. Over time we hope to include workshops to bring more activities to Lochranza.

All of this is really only possible if people attend and enjoy the cafe. If you haven't been along yet we hope to see you there soon so that you can see what it's all about!

**Pop-up Pubs:** at the community centre, from 7pm, on:  
Saturday 5 November  
Saturday 3 December  
Saturday 21 January (to celebrate Burns Night)  
All welcome for pool, darts, quiz, drinks and plenty of chat!

***Hazel PVA Chair***

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## **Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall Report**

The Hall has had a successful summer, including some "pop up" pubs which have proved popular, especially the quizzes organised by Vicki. The Ceilidh held on 21st July was very well attended and the young musicians were so talented. The Food share has restarted on alternate Monday evenings at 9pm with the Zero Waste cafe on the following Tuesday mornings. Details are circulated round the village. The less food we send to landfill sites the better for the environment so we would encourage everyone to make use of these facilities coming to the village.

We enjoyed a great evening on 4th November for the Fire Festival. The weather was kind and the firework display with the backdrop of the castle was super to watch. The bar, BBQ and dance added to the evening.

Our AGM was held on 2nd November, the weather that day had a significant impact on the numbers attending. Nevertheless, it was a satisfactory meeting, the committee as it stands were all re-elected, but we are always looking for new members, so if anyone feels that they would like to be involved please get in touch.

As it gets nearer to December we will be planning our festive activities, We are hoping to provide a Christmas dinner this year as in the past and will have a pop up pub the same evening. Further details will be available nearer the time. Similarly, we are considering the possibility of having something at the hall on New Years Eve, again, more details nearer the time.

**Ros Lyall – Secretary**

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## Postings from Pirnmill Village Association (PVA)

**Bonfire Night:** Saturday 5 November from 6pm – all welcome at the school playground for bonfire (on the beach), fireworks, BBQ and pop up pub in the community centre!

**Coffee Mornings:** thanks to all who supported the MacMillan Cancer Support event in September - we raised £415, a fantastic amount. We're planning a charity coffee morning in aid of Ayrshire Hospice in February (probably Monday 20th) - details will be posted on social media and on the village noticeboard nearer the date. All welcome.

**Food Share:** available in Pirnmill fortnightly on Mondays (November 14 and 28 and so on), 8.30pm at the community centre. All welcome for a cuppa as well as free food from the Coop ('best by/use by' items), helping our island to reduce food waste.

**Pirnmill bridge:** Murchie will begin preparing the foundations and fencing for a temporary vehicular bridge (late October) and, after BT complete their re-routing of fibre optic in early November, the new temporary bridge will come into operation whilst the old bridge is demolished and rebuilt. Vehicular access through the village will not be affected and the footbridge will remain in use. We are advised that this is planned as a 12 week project.

**Pirnmill Community Centre:** all welcome at weekly activities: Art and craft group (Tuesday afternoons), Darts club (Thursday evenings), Table Tennis (Friday evenings).

**Pirnmill Community Resilience Planning:** work has begun, with the help of Fiona Laing and local agencies, to prepare an emergency plan for the village, together with improvements to the community centre to create a safe space/hub for use in emergency situations. A 'Winter Information Pack' has been collated by trustees and will be delivered to all residents, including advice about emergency planning and support during the current cost of living crisis.

## Food Share in Lochranza and Pirnmill

The Food Share has started back up in the collect and distribute model and is now in Lochranza and Catacol Village hall and the Pirnmill village hall on alternating Mondays at 9pm. Upcoming dates are:

**Lochranza: 7th, 21st November, 5th, 19th December, 2nd, 16th and 30th January**

**Pirnmill: 14th, 28th November, 12th, 26th December, 9th, 23rd January**

The food share is open to all and is a scheme to prevent good food from being binned. Please come along!

**Many thanks,  
Jessica Wallace  
Sustainable food coordinator**

**Arran Eco Savvy  
Project Office  
Ormidale Pavilion  
Brodict, Isle of Arran  
KA27 8DL**

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## **DATES!**

**Apologies for the late delivery of the Newsletter, the Editor has been away sunning herself in the Canary Islands! Hence the reason some dates advertised have passed.**

**TIME** by Eileen Veronica Bennett

*In the dark of the night the only sound  
Is the hand of the clock ticking round and  
round  
Diminishing the lifespan second by second  
Goodbye to yesterday, tomorrow beckons.*

*Half-sleeping, half-waking, at the midnight  
hour,  
I dreamed I acquired a magical power  
To stop the clock and make time stand still  
Or turn it back to wherever I will.  
What meaningful phase of my life will I  
choose?  
What parts to keep, and what to lose?*

*Will it be in childhood? Each happy,  
carefree day  
Filled with fun and laughter, endless games  
to play.  
The sun was always shining and days were  
ages long –  
There were comforting arms to hold me if  
anything went wrong.  
Should I keep that childhood innocence  
forever locked in time?  
Would that be the moment when all was  
fair and fine?*

*Or would I choose the fragile growing years  
Balanced so finely between smiles and  
tears?  
There was nothing so hard I wouldn't try.  
I could have solved the world's problems –  
if I weren't so shy!  
The butterfly from its chrysalis was striving  
to emerge;  
With such apprehension I teetered on the  
verge*

*Should I stop it there, this life of mine?  
- Or choose another momentous time  
When I scornfully turned aside from toys  
To discover that some of the people were  
– boys!*

*Life was lived then at the peak of emotion  
Swinging through love, and hate, and  
utter devotion.  
These sweet, painful yearnings of my  
youthful days  
Must certainly hold a most treasured  
place.*

*The more I wield this imaginary power  
The harder to choose the happiest hour.*

*Of the many shining highlights I've  
mentioned but a few  
Interwoven with them were sad, poignant  
moments too  
And dark depths of sorrow, beyond even  
tears.  
How can I deny them down through the  
years?*

*But, what of that step, that so clear  
decision;  
"This is the one!" No more confusion.  
To promise two lives to merge together  
Shouldn't such a perfect moment last  
forever?*

*But, if we should stop our clock today  
What would we miss? Who can say?  
Tick on, little clock, we will not silence  
you,  
The future is just coming into view.*

*This is a beautiful poem that was read at a 'hand fasting' ceremony in Lochranza Church. It was written by the bride's Mother and read by her sister. Ed*

And if all that was not enough, she seemed also to enjoy life – riding and horses and dogs and family and nice clothes and mimicking people and the occasional gin before lunch.

Latterly, she ventured into the film industry as seen in her contribution to the opening ceremony of the 2012 London Olympics, when, for me, she out shone James Bond. Perhaps she met her match in Paddington Bear though!

But even in the way she chose to spend her leisure time we saw her Christian devotion expressing itself. She didn't *have* to invite a different pastor every weekend of her six-week Balmoral holiday to spend time with her family, but she did. She didn't *have* to drive herself to the Sunday service in the church on the Sandringham estate when she was there, but she often did. She didn't have to find out the names of the Sunday School prize winners and choose and present their prizes, but she did.

There's certainly no doubt about the identity of the King our Queen served. Nor is there any doubt that the prayer that her people have so often prayed (perhaps without realising that it was a prayer) was answered. God saved our Queen. Our Queen was 'gracious' and 'noble' and 'victorious' in the things that really matter – hope and faith in Christ, love of God and of the people she's been empowered to serve.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the gift of his servant Elizabeth.

And may God grace our King in his reign as he graced his mother in hers.

**Every blessing, Liz**

*Thank you Liz, wonderful memories of our late Queen put together at such short notice, a great comfort to all who attended the service. Bill Scott*

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When you are going through hard times and wonder where God is,  
Remember the teacher is always quiet during a test.

*'I hope in the years to come, everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge, and those who come after us will say the Britons of this generation were as strong as any, that the attributes of self-discipline, quiet, good-humoured resolve and of fellow-feeling still characterise this country. The pride in who we are in not a part of our past. It defines our present and our future.'*

Indeed, Elizabeth's understanding of her role and our nation's role in the world were, it seems, similarly shaped by a robust biblical framework. So back in 1957 she said:

*'I cannot lead you into battle, I do not give you laws or administer justice but I can do something else. I can give you my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the people of our brotherhood of nations. I believe in our qualities and in our strength. I believe that together we can set an example to the world which will encourage upright people everywhere...'*

In the context of Britain's imperial past this is a remarkable vision. It is not a vision of military superiority, economic dominance, ideological hegemony, creative brilliance, or sporting excellence but of moral example, a vision that would not inspire envy or fear but encourage generosity, justice, kindness, 'uprightness'. It is similar to God's original hope for the people of Israel in the Bible, that they would be 'a light to the nations'. Britain's military power had diminished but for her size really didn't matter – even as the granddaughter of a king who had ruled over a quarter of the planet. What mattered was the quality of our example. We see a similarly robust vision in her commitment to the development of the Commonwealth, arguably one of her greatest achievements. When she became Queen, it consisted of eight nations, primarily ruled by white men. Today it consists of 54 nations and territories.

How do you turn nations you have conquered, ruled and exploited for decades into friends?

How has it happened that, in our deeply fractured world, 54 nations should choose to meet regularly, not out of military expediency or vital economic self-interest but out of a commitment to a common vision for a different kind of world?

The short answer is through the determination, the warmth, and relational skills of the Queen. When she took the throne she said:

*'The Commonwealth bears no resemblance to the empires of the past. It is an entirely new conception built on the highest qualities of the spirit of man: friendship, loyalty, and the desire for freedom and peace. To that new conception of an equal partnership of nations and races I shall give myself heart and soul every day of my life.'*

## Patient Participation Group

In the past, the Arran Medical Group (AMG) had a Patient Participation Group (PPG), for communication between it and us, the patients. With the resignations of Fred Shortland and Julie Graham, among others, that PPG ceased to be. It has now been revived. I am a member, and want to do my best to make it serve the needs of the North End.

It must be clear what the PPG is, and is not, for. If you have questions or concerns about the way the AMG serves us in general, then I hope you will pass them to me (by email to [rshbkk@gmail.com](mailto:rshbkk@gmail.com)). If, on the other hand, you have queries or concerns about clinical decisions, or specific admin failures, the PPG is not the right vehicle. There is a hard-to-find form on the AMG web site for that sort of issue. If you can't find it, email me, and I will send the precise web address. Of course, if you don't have email, I will be happy to help by other routes. Just ask! (Another electronic source of information about the AMG is its Facebook page, not hard to find if you use Facebook.)

Examples of issues of concern to us here which have already been raised at PPG meetings are the continuing closure of the Lochranza surgery, and thus the cost and inconvenience of surgery visits, the need for monthly prescription renewals, and errors on the AMG web site. All of these are to be addressed, although not necessarily either as promptly as we would wish, or as much to our satisfaction. Another meeting of the PPG is due towards the end of the month, so if you have anything to raise, I hope to hear from you soon.

**Richard Henderson**

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### **Some odd quips I have been sent!**

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

War does not determine who is right- only who is left.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit,  
wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars,  
but check when you say the paint is wet?

## REFLECTION ON THE DEATH OF QUEEN ELIZABETH (sermon by Liz Clarke in church on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022)

It seems clear to me that our Queen, Elizabeth, was a gift from God - to nation, Commonwealth, and indeed the global community, a beacon of humility, grace, astuteness, good humour, generosity, and deep faith – God’s woman, God’s follower, God’s Queen.

I admired the Queen, appreciated the clarity and warmth with which she spoke of her trust in Christ and the difference he made to her life, but I hadn’t really thought about her personal vision or how God might be working in and through her. Yes, she was a remarkable woman, and a remarkable monarch, but what is also clear, is that she was first and foremost a remarkable disciple of Christ. As such, she offered us an extraordinary example of consistent godliness in one of the longest and most public global ministries in the history of the world.

Since her death, our screens and papers have been filled with eulogies from family and friends, from former Prime Ministers, commonwealth leaders, world leaders, religious leaders from every major faith, royal correspondents, celebrities, honourees, former staff and so on.

We have heard of her extraordinary dedication to duty, of her dignity, of her diligence, of her capacity to change with the times, of her astute leadership of the Royal Family, of her curiosity and intelligence and her ability to make almost anyone feel comfortable and, more importantly, valued.

We have heard of her contribution to international relations, to trade deals, to tourism, to the Commonwealth, to public morale.

We have heard of her emotional resilience as she dealt with bereavement, and fires, and the divorces of three of her children, and many a scandal along the way, not least around Prince Andrew.

We have heard of her capacity to forgive, not just to shake the hands of people responsible for killing her soldiers and her husband’s mentor Lord Mountbatten but do so with great grace and a warm smile, like someone who rejoices in peace and reconciliation. But there hasn’t been much about what made her the woman she was. There’s been little attempt in the mainstream media to look at her and her life through the lens of what she said made the difference to her life – her faith in Christ.

Indeed, about that, she was crystal clear, and repeatedly so. In her 2014 Christmas broadcast she put it this way:

*‘For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ’s example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none.’*

Brilliantly, in an age that is on the one hand increasingly secular, and on the other, fraught by religious conflicts, her approach was totally inclusive. She pointed to Jesus and how he expanded her capacity to love people with different beliefs. She told the world of the inspiration Jesus had been in her own life and left the world to decide if they were interested in being inspired themselves:

She said:

*‘I hope that, like me, you will be comforted by the example of Jesus of Nazareth who, often in circumstances of great adversity, managed to live an outgoing, unselfish and sacrificial life.’*

More broadly, we can see the influence of Christ on her understanding of her job and how she did it.

At one level, her Queenship was an accident of birth, an inevitable consequence of her uncle’s abdication, but she saw it as God’s will, as God’s calling, and therefore as something that she would need his help to do. And it was a calling she embraced. Wholly. Royal biographer, William Shawcross, wrote, ‘She found, like her mother before her... an almost sacrificial quality at the heart of the service.’

Sacrifice is at the heart of the gospel – Jesus giving his life for ours. And it is at the heart of our own discipleship – taking up our cross daily to follow him. But sacrifice is intertwined with service. We no longer live for ourselves but for God and others. And that is what characterised Elizabeth’s approach not only to her own work, but to her understanding of citizenship. So, for example, at Christmas 2012 she said:

*‘This is the time of the year when we remember that God sent his only Son “to serve, not to be served.” He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ.’*

We are meant to be there for one another. Indeed, her broadcasts – Christmas and occasional – tended to highlight the particular qualities she valued – resilience, kindness, neighbourliness – qualities she’d seen in the wartime generation. When she spoke to the nation during the COVID pandemic she focused on those qualities, summoning us to live up to our heritage:

**Cont.....**