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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 Tel: 850224, 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

Rev. Angus Adamson, 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 Services

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

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Church & Community Newsletter

MAY 2020

www.lochranzachurch.org.uk



Dear All

When with the heaviest of hearts I announced on the 10th March my painful decision to demit as minister at Brodick linked with Corrie linked with Lochranza & Pirnmill linked with Shiskine, I nor anyone else present could for a moment have envisaged the current situation we now find ourselves in as the impact of the Corona Virus is felt nationwide. Whilst my reasons for feeling utterly compelled to give up my charge remain the same, circumstances in all our lives have altered beyond imagining. To walk away from ministry here in North Arran at such a time, especially when as never before in modern times, people both within our congregations and beyond in the wider community are seeking spiritual support and comfort, would I feel be a gross dereliction of my calling to the ministry of Word and sacrament in the Church of Scotland and as your minister in particular.

I have therefore now intimated my decision to the Presbytery Clerk not to demit my charge on Easter Sunday as planned, and I will endeavour to the very best of my ability continue to discharge my duties as minister of the North Arran linkage, for as long as I possibly can, until the situation or circumstances dictate otherwise.

In the present circumstances it was a very strange Easter, no family, friends or visitors to welcome back to the island and our churches empty and locked to keep people out.

At least thanks to modern technology, Jean and I are managing to record and send out weekly worship via the church websites. Keeping in touch via e-mail and phone also ensures we can communicate with everyone, especially those who need a little bit of pastoral support. Unfortunately, Montrose House and the hospital remain out of bounds, but we continue to pray for those completely shut off from the outside world, trusting them to the care of wonderful and dedicated staff striving heroically in the front line of the fight against Covid 19.

But if the message of Easter tells us anything, it is that after the darkness of the tomb, comes the joy of resurrection. The love of God cannot be shut away from the world, nor can the world shut it out. It continually seeks to break free and it is constant in the rain and the sunshine of our lives, both in the here and now, and for all eternity.

Although for now, we cannot know how long this present crisis will last, we continue to hope that sooner or later better days do lie ahead. One thing is for sure, the wonderful fellowship we share a Lochranza & Pirnmill, as well as the other churches in the linkage and the wonderful community spirit we know here in the northend and indeed around the island, will see us through.

Until that hoped for time comes, may the joy at the heart of the Easter message seep into your very being and restore your weary souls, for Christ has risen, he has risen indeed. Halleluiah.

Angus

Pirnmill Primary by Hannah Lord

Pirnmill primary was built in 1912 so has now been around for 108 years!

It is a small school with 13 pupils in it.

The teachers are always helpful and kind and love to help out.

Every year we always have a Spring fair to raise money for swimming which is another fun activity the school does with our swim teacher Sally.

Another activity we do is the Christmas show's where we all get to dress up and have an absolute blast!

The school has done so many shows every year and has been super fun and every year so many people from the community come to see us.

We also want to help the environment, so to do that we have beach cleans and clear the rubbish.

On Wednesdays we have Mandarin classes with our brilliant teacher Miss Dong.

The school also wrote a poem about Imacher because people are planning to make a slipway where there's wildlife and endangered species.

At the end of the school term we have a service and the pupils always sing songs, rap and do poems.

When its Easter the whole school goes on an easter egg hunt which is so amazing and fair we each get our own easter egg that are delicious.

There are two teachers in our school, Mrs Milesi and Ms Gray, who are amazing teachers.

The deputy head is Mrs Boyle who does PE with us and our headteacher is Mrs MacLachlan who replaced Mrs Kelly.

My grandad, Terry Lord, comes to the school to help out with growing vegetables and fruit in our garden so we know what they are and how they are grown.

We use so many of the fruits and vegetables for soups and we use our apples from our apple trees to make yummy apple crumble.

In 2019 we made bread out of our wheat.

On Fridays we have golden time where we have a bit of time to go on computers and draw or play at the end of the day.

The school also plays a maths game called Sumdog and there are sometimes competitions so we get very competitive!
When summer is near we have another service where we sing and say goodbye to the p7's who are leaving for high school.

Thank you for supporting Pirnmill Primary School

Lochranza Philosophical Society Report

"This has been a difficult year for the Lochranza Philosophical Society. We started well last September with a series of planned thoughtful talks and discussions. Notable among the many talks was a visit to Lochranza's very own geo park classroom and geological display room with explanations, courtesy of Stuart Blake. This really is a must to visit if you want to understand Arran and Lochranza's place in time. Also, Stuart Gough from Corrie explained how marriages at the Gretna Green blacksmith's shop came to pass from the mid 18th century onwards, through the medium of postcards and prints. There were other talks of course from our learned experts ranging from Transport, Council houses, the Montrose family, naval apprenticeships, all of which promoted more general group discussions.

Then, there were the great debates upon the issues of the day, when no brave presenter was willing or able to come forward. The Millstone Point salmon farm ; whether it should go ahead or how to prevent it, Lochranza being in the front line, as it were. Brexit, and which side were members on? The General Election last December! Members organised a parliamentary style debate with exponents for each party over a period of a couple of weeks to debate the pro's and con's. Voices were raised, opinions aired but it did not seem to me, standing on the sidelines, that any opinions were changed! Then we had the endless discussion of the seemingly endless ferry dramas. How did the Scottish Government manage to spend £200M+ on scottish islands ferries that no experts seem to want for 2018, but still there is no replacement ferry for the Caledonian Isles. What is happening to the re-design of the Ardrossan ferry port. Will the port arrangement changes make it easier for the larger Glen Sannox to dock in Winter. When will the Arran public get to know what is going on and will this be soon enough for their views to count constructively? However, these ongoing issues to one side, the Philos and their partners held a well attended Christmas Party at Stags on a very rainy night, which everyone seemed to enjoy. All lamented the passing of long standing member Sinclair Macleod, whose humour and songs on such occasions were sadly missed.

However, 2020 has been marred with the personal tragedy with the passing of the Chairman's eldest daughter Eleanor at the young age of 42 years over the Xmas break.

Now of course, the whole of the UK is struggling with the Covid19 pandemic and we have all been in lockdown since early March, self isolating and seem likely to remain so until mid-May at least.

So the Philos have since been experimenting with the virtual meeting App "Zoom" using electronic meeting technology. Thus far we have managed to usefully hold one talk by Gavin Pritchard on the reasons found by the marine accident board of enquiry that were behind the sinking of the local fishing boat, the "Nancy Glen" in May 2019. The Nancy Glen fished out of Tarbert on the Kintyre. The board found that the boat's prawn net filled with mud during a turn but the boat was basically unstable due to the late addition of a heavy deck crane. It was recommended that all UK fishing boats under 15 metres length overall should have statutory stability checks. Hopefully, we shall continue to improve with our meetings on "Zoom" as it appears older folk such as myself will stay locked down for some time yet.

As you all know (?), the ageing Philos has a mountaineering section for the fittest. The previous laudable exploits of Archie Cumming were recorded for posterity by an assemblage of his famous walking moments over the past few years by Paul Padfield and presented to Archie as a personal album for his retention. It is a very good walks record of the group and a very kind gesture.

Cont.....

However, hill walking this winter has been restricted due to the continuing severe weather, with good days few and far between. Never the less, we were able to have some really exciting days, particularly in the limited snow. Two days come to the mind of "Sherpa Dick" who has given this report. A walk up Glen Rosa to the saddle between Chir Mhor and A'Chir, however ice and snow curtailed further progress along the path just below the ridge. A truly "bluebird" day without a cloud in the sky. Canny be beaten!

The other day was up the North Glen Sannox path into the coire below the Castles, the snow became so deep our dogs were disappearing and we had to retrace our steps, which was probably just as well due to weather.

Lastly, due to the current pandemic, a planned climb for May up Scafell Pike, England's highest peak to celebrate Douglas's 75th birthday had to be cancelled. It is, however, planned to do this walk when circumstances permit to complete the highest hills in Scotland, England and Wales, namely Ben Nevis, Scarfell Pike and Snowdonia. Yours Aye"!

John Ford, The reluctant Chairman

The 'Philo boys' were charged with writing one(?) verse of a poem entitled CORONA starting with Tony who was then to nominate the next person and so on! So here goes.....

The virus on us creeping slowly
We share concern and feel quite lowly
Like Alec standing facing jury
The women venting forth their fury,
No criminality, that was the view
But folk can see what's what was true
To come, much party disarray
The independence dream, now drifts away

Robert

The land may lie quiet below our feet
And heavy may hang the air
But whether ruled by science or alchemy
We must never bend the knee to fear

Tony

And as we walk through this vale of tears
Remember trees will soon turn green
The Phoenix from ashes will arise
And what is will become what has been

Tony

Wee, sleekit, hidden, ravagin beastie
O, whit a panic his arisen frae yer fearstie
We wish ye'd start away sae hasty
Wi' hivin' loast the battle
We're coming efter ye wi' soap an' a vaccine
Cos we're starting tae rattle without tittle tattle

Richard W

We've conquered before, and we'll win once again,
No caps we will doff, or knees we will bend,
Together we stand, in our whole UK land
Stronger than ever, a United band

Archie

Spring!
Gaia awakens.
But did she truly sleep?
Storm-plagued by nightmares, perhaps
Or tossing dark, pluvial bed-clothes.
Now waking to the nightmare of plague.
And what of the South,
Slipping towards Autumn?
Gaia, like cetaceans,
Sleeps one hemisphere at a time

Richard H

Twelve little Philo boys hoped to go to heaven;
One became a GP and then there were 'leven.
Eleven little Philo boys yearned for rugby again;
One became a physicist and then there were ten.
Ten little Philo boys hoped for pies to dine;
One became a whisky buff and then there were nine.
Nine little Philo boys eating pies till late;
One became an accountant and then there were eight.
Eight little Philo boys praising Nye Nevan;
One more became a GP and then there were seven.
Seven little Philo boys watching rugby for kicks;
One went into business and then there were six.

Paul

One didn't self isolate, then there were five
Five little Philos, getting awfully bored.
One broke the distance rules,
Then there were four
Four little philos, in Lochranza toilets for a pee
One didn't wash his hands, then there were three.
Three little philos with nothing to do
One took to drink, and then there were two.
Two little philos getting old and done,
Stopped communicating on Facetime,
So now there may be just one.
One little philo, the very last one,
Was very very pleased that he was not the number none

Archie

So here's another Lockdown day
Time for outdoor jobs you say
Farmers very late with work to do
Better weather helps them through
We all need food to put on tables
All must hope they will still be able

Ted

There was an ex-aircraft engineer in Lochranza
Who was flummoxed by writing a stanza
His poetry didn't scan
He said 'I'm a plain-speaking man.
And I'm happier fixing a Lufthansa

Nigel

After six months self isolating, I'm now used to my allotted Tuesday hour
Getting up at 5 am to queue at Brodick Co for my 500 grams of wholemeal flour
I don't particularly appreciate steely glances from armed guards protecting the shelves,
Whilst my mobile rings hourly with the government mantra of the need to look after ourselves.
Faced with immediate withdrawal of ferry services and food supplies running out fast,
A clear majority of votes to build the bridge to Ardrossan was passed,
What a huge relief for the Islanders, there's hope for the solution they seek,
With recruitment of excellent Chinese contractors, the bridge will be completed next week.

David

Could pasteurisation help us yet save the nation?
And come to our aid with some hope of salvation
20 minutes at 60 will see the job done
So why wash at 20 while the bugs have their fun?
With Pasteur to help on the gloves, gowns and masks
Could re-use assist us to fulfil all our tasks?

Gordon

And who do we call on in times of stress
The Doctors and nurses they're the best
The boys in khaki they come next
Building a great big hospital in a complex
Driving the trucks supplying PPE
All with good humour and much repartee!
And how could we forget Captain Tom
Who served Queen & country with such aplomb!

Bill

***Poet laureates' you may not be
Well done! It's a thumbs up from me!
But who is next to put use to pen?
Well I'm told it is my neighbour.....KEN!***

Ed.

The Church

I came accross this and wanted to share it with you.

"I share this reflection on our current church situation. Just a thought to ponder at a time when we thought could never happen has and public worship has been suspended and we are in the midst of lockdown."

Christ's church is not closed, the doors may be shut,
The lights out in the building up the street,
But the Church is not closed.

We may be told to stay at home, self isolate, we may be ill or too frail to come,
We may be disillusioned with the institution, or with God,
But the Church is not closed.

The church cannot close because it is not a building,
The church is you, and me, and every child of God, who feels the tug of His love
and senses His presence, even in the darkness,
even in the loneliness, even in fear or sorrow,
The Church is open, though the building is closed, It will stay open as long as
his children stay open to God,
And seek his presence wherever they may be.

This day Christ says to you "I am with you always"
So take this moment to enjoy his companionship,
To be still to give thanks and to hand over your cares,
And know that you do so in company with God's family,
Not only in our building but all over the world.

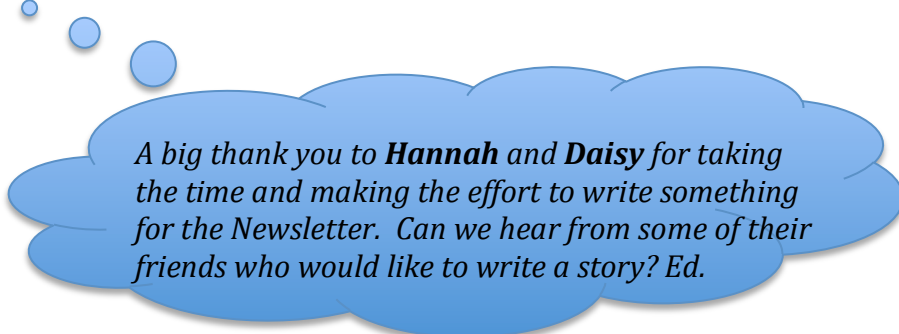
(Written by Alison Britchfield 17th March 2020)

**Every blessing
Jean Hunter**

Lochranza in Lockdown by Daisy Innes

Being in lockdown here can get very boring and frustrating for me. Not getting to go out and see friends is probably the hardest part, being with just family can do your head in! I had been looking forward to this week for months. The week when mia(Jim and Janets granddaughter) was meant to come. Another thing that is very annoying is trying to find something productive to do(instead of binge watching netflix all day) I have tried to stay fit and healthy by going on a run in the morning, doing a few exercises and not eating too much chocolate! Of course the worst thing about being on lockdown is having to do school work. For me it's worse doing it in my house because of all the noise i have to put up with. Although at least it keeps me awake otherwise i'd fall asleep as it's so dull!

Except from school and being stuck in the house all day there has been a few advantages like: Waking up late, more time to practice my instruments and having more free time. More free time can be especially good these days because i can do the stuff i never got round too when i was at school all day, i have filled a lot of time reading the Harry Potter books. Obviously there has been a lot of changes one of them being my guitar lessons. I have to do them on skype which can be a bit weird not seeing the teacher in person but it also has some benefits: I can sit on my comfy bed playing the guitar instead of a hard chair! Overall i do find lockdown really terrible at times but some good things have happened.



*A big thank you to **Hannah** and **Daisy** for taking the time and making the effort to write something for the Newsletter. Can we hear from some of their friends who would like to write a story? Ed.*

On behalf of us all.....

I am sure we would all wish to thank a large number of people who have given so much and are continuing to do so in these troubling times.

Our team of Doctors and Nurses who are doing everything they can to keep us safe and healthy

Jean Wilkinson for keeping us all in touch with the latest news.

Chris Traill and his team for organising just about everything from volunteers to rainbows!

Hazel and Susan in Pirnmill for making up our orders and organising deliveries

Kerry for cooking up gourmet meals 3 times a week

Liz Maclean and the staff at the Co for their efficiency in taking orders and organising the deliveries

Fiona and all the volunteers who deliver our groceries and just about everything else!

Not forgetting our cheery (or was that cheeky!) postie, and of course our binmen.

I am sure there are other people who are quietly helping others by phoning and keeping in touch with neighbours

During these hard times I'm afraid our Churches are closed but if anyone wants to go in on their own for a few minutes of Prayer and a quiet moment you can always borrow the key from either John Adam in Pirnmill or myself in Lochranza.

I should also thank Angus and Jean for their Sunday Services which have proved to be of great comfort and support to many at this time. These can be found on the church web site. For anyone not able to access this online if you would like a hard copy of the sermon each week please contact John Adam or myself and we can arrange to get it delivered to you.

Please stay safe and keep to the guidelines and we will all meet again in happier times

**Bill Scott
Session Clerk**

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

Blue Bin

May 5, 19,
June 2, 16,30
July 14,28,
Aug 11



Black Bin

May 12, 26
June 9, 23
July 7, 21
Aug 4, 18



Hopefully we will be able to deliver the August Newsletter to your house. If you would like to put in an article or report (should you have one!) in the August Newsletter please would you let me have it by

22nd July

bg.ornsay@btinternet.com

Ed.