

**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

**Church Organists**

Aileen Wright Tel: 830353, 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](http://www.lochranzachurch.org.uk)**

*Printed @ Omsay, Lochranza*

# Lochranza & Pirnmill

Scottish Charity Registration No. SC009377



## Church & Community Newsletter

**MAY 2021**

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



Hello folks,

I am writing this sitting at my desk,  
which is located in front of a window,  
which looks out on to our front garden,  
which is a mass of daffodils just now.

Every year they appear but I don't remember another year when there were so many. And when I drive to Blackwaterfoot, Brodick or Lochranza I am equally struck by the sheer proliferation of these sunshine flowers.

These displays caught William Wordsworth as he wrote in this famous poem:

I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils.....

.....And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.

Our daffodil legacy at Swallowbrae comes from John's mum, Marla who planted them all many years ago. It must have taken her many, many hours.

All of us who live on Arran now owe this wonderful, annual display to all the folk who, like Marla, took the time to plant thousands of bulbs around the entire island.

For me, these flowers give a real boost to my spirits – sunshine, warmth, summer are in my thoughts, not just when I am looking at the daffodils but their image stays with me for a long time, keeping my spirits high. I'm sure I'm not alone in this. It is possible to see folk standing straighter, walking more briskly and smiling more.

## CHURCH NEWS

Well you will have noticed that we have had a few changes since the last Newsletter was published. Apart from coping with all the restrictions of Covid 19 and churches opening then having to close again we have lost our Minister who demitted in September and our much loved Parish Assistant Jean Hunter retired in February.

However, times move on and we have an Interim Moderator Rev. Dave Sutherland who is Minister at Ardeer & Livingston Parish Churches. Rev. Sutherland is at present overall in charge of all the churches in Arran. He will be coming to preach in Lochranza on 13<sup>th</sup> June when we will all have a chance to meet him in person.

Meanwhile we are lucky enough to have Mrs Liz Clarke who has been appointed as our Locum Minister, Liz takes services in Lochranza every other Sunday. Should you have need of a Minister you will find Liz's telephone numbers on the back page. On alternative Sundays we will have visiting Ministers and Readers. We must thank John Clarke for coming up from Shiskine every Sunday to play the organ and cheer us up!

Unfortunately Pirnmill Church is temporarily closed, however, everyone is welcome to come along to Lochranza Church where we have all Covid regulations in place. Please remember to wear a mask and use the hand sanitizer on entry. Hopefully restrictions will soon be lifted and we will all be able to sing hymns and recite the Lord's prayer out loud again!

For those of you who do not feel ready to come back to church yet Rev. Dave Sutherland has offered his weekly on line service to anyone who would like to join in. Details of the Ardeer & Livingstone service is available on YouTube from 8am every Sunday and the best way to access it is through [www.livingstonechurch.org.uk](http://www.livingstonechurch.org.uk)"

**Bill Scott - Session Clerk**

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### AUGUST NEWSLETTER!

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

[bg.ornsay@btinternet.com](mailto:bg.ornsay@btinternet.com)

*Many thanks. Ed.*

## LOCHRANZA & CATACOL VILLAGE HALL REPORT

Although the Hall has remained resolutely shut for social events, the Committee have not been idle. Christmas decorations went up as normal and we had a lovely tree- thanks to Ian and Betty Buchanan. Our annual Xmas meal for older residents took on a new look this year with a "reheat at home" delivery from Stags to those over 70 years living on their own. This seemed to be much appreciated.

A new carpet has been purchased and laid in the entrance hall and right through to the Committee room.

Now that there is a hope that normal service may be resumed, albeit on an incremental basis, we can begin to think about what we may be able to organise. It is hoped that at least two weddings will go ahead this year. Of course the Hall has been used for the annual flu vaccination programme, and will be in use again on May 6th for the Parliamentary elections. Indoor social events are still probably some way off, but we hope to be able to have some outdoor activity in the summer. The committee have resumed regular meetings via Zoom, and have a "WhatsApp" group to keep in touch.

The Hall garden is being tidied up by a small group of volunteers but any additional help will be gratefully received. Anyone interested can contact me on 830276

**Ros Lyall (Secretary)**

### BLUE BIN

MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 18<sup>TH</sup>  
JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>, 15<sup>TH</sup>, 29<sup>TH</sup>  
JULY 13<sup>TH</sup>, 27<sup>TH</sup>  
AUG 10<sup>TH</sup>



### BLACK BIN

MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 25<sup>TH</sup>  
JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>, 22<sup>ND</sup>  
JULY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 20<sup>TH</sup>  
AUG 3<sup>RD</sup>

## 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

What an amazing thing those people did all those years ago. I wonder if they realised what a lasting legacy they were leaving for generations to come.

John, in "retirement" is able to spend more time in the veg garden – his joy and passion. He loves growing veg and I love eating them! Last year was such a good year – witness the fact that we are still eating French beans and Broad beans (from the freezer) and – even better – Purple Sprouting broccoli still growing in the garden now! I am so looking forward to this year's crop.

And that's not all I'm looking forward to – I have a haircut booked, I'm planning a visit to family (especially grandchildren) in July and now that church is open again I can look forward to a not-too-distant time when we will be able to sing the hymns again.

I hope you are all feeling more optimistic now with many sunshine thoughts of things to do in the coming days, weeks and months. Let's go forward to our new "normal" in hope, faith and love.

**Liz**

In the unlikely place of a Jewish concentration camp, someone wrote these words on the wall –

*"I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.*

*I believe in love even when I cannot find it.*

*I believe in God even when He is silent"*

*In all the touching places of life may we say with Jacob*

*"Surely the Lord is in this place".*

*(Read by Liz as part of her sermon 28/03/21)*

## ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER FOODBANK

The foodbank operates from the vestibule of Brodick Church and is open 24/7. Its purpose is to provide emergency food support for those in financial crisis. The foodbank continues to be used by those needing this type of support and continues to be supported by the Arran Community by means of food and monetary donations.

### THE WEE SHOP

Arran Churches Together latest venture has been to set up a subsidised grocery shop providing low cost items to people who are struggling to make ends meet. The shop is intended to help top up a weekly shop and stocks items such as fresh and tinned food, toiletries and household cleaning products. It has been set up in the small hall at Brodick Church and is open on Fridays from 10am – 2.30pm.

The shop opened on 12<sup>th</sup> March and will be reviewed after an 8-week trial period however as customer numbers have increased from four on week 1 to twelve on week 4, it seems there is currently a need for this service. Arran Churches Together have received grants which are being used to subsidise costs.

It operates on a booking system with only one household able to shop at a time; as the hall is small it would be difficult otherwise to adhere to social distancing and one household at a time allows for some privacy. High touch points in the hall are wiped between customer visits, hand sanitiser is provided and face masks must be worn.

#### To Book

Email [the\\_wee\\_shop@yahoo.com](mailto:the_wee_shop@yahoo.com)  
Facebook Messenger The Wee Shop Arran  
Call/text 07731562352

## TO MY FRIENDS IN LOCHRANZA & CATACOL

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for my retirement gift. I'm sorry I wasn't able to speak to more of you before I finished up, but I stopped a week earlier than I expected. I certainly didn't expect a gift and I am utterly overwhelmed.

Thank you for your patience when I first took on the post office and was still learning the job, and struggling with the clapped out equipment.

Thank you for your kindness when I broke my elbow, from the get well messages to the food parcel!

Thank you for making me feel part of the community. It has been a privilege to share in your joys and sorrows. Coming to Lochranza was more like visiting friends than going to work.

Thank you again for your generosity. I think I would like to get a piece of jewellery as a memento of my time with you. Not that this is goodbye! I'll be at the coffee morning when it starts again. Meantime, much love to you all and heartfelt thanks. **Jane**

Psalm 141:3 "Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips."

### A Poem by Evelyn Meyer Doyle

My mouth runneth over –  
A problem with which long I've  
coped –  
When humility, justice, kindness and  
love,  
Are traits for which I'd hoped.

Verbosity can be a gift – or a curse  
–  
Can make one a star – or a bore –  
Depending upon who is coaching  
one  
And the richness of one's lore.

Something within me starts to churn,  
When any subject at all comes up.  
For the life of me, I cannot just sit,  
And quietly hold my cup.

Deep down inside I'd rather not be  
One with the verbal skill –  
To slay dragons – feed impossible  
dreams –  
Or spew words with the power to  
kill.

There are other cups to fill –  
So I jump in both feet first,  
With very little persuasion –  
Just the first pause that occurs.

So each day must start with  
meditation  
And for guidance a petition  
If speak I must, and I must speak –  
Let my words be those of blessing.

I extract, examine, explain and  
exhort –  
You might say monopolize –  
Till the Lord in his mercy shows me  
Interest waning in my listeners eyes

(Contributed by Liz Clarke)

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## GOOD NEWS!

**'LOCHRANZA LOOS' HOPE TO  
REOPEN THE LOCHRANZA TOILETS  
BY THE BEGINNING  
OF  
MAY 2021!**



## LOCHRANZA PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY REPORT

The Lochranza Philosophical Society has continued to operate on a mainly online basis. Our weekly meetings continued through the winter and into April, with up to a dozen and a half gentlemen of the North End taking part. Most meetings have taken the form of a talk by one of our members, but we did also have very welcome talks by guest speakers Dr. Krystyna Gruszecka on some aspects of her career, and Fiona Henderson on her many travels. Contributions from members included some details of the pandemic, growing old in Lochranza, and the Minoans.

The Walking group has also been inhibited by Virus regulations, but has managed some local walks during times of partial relaxation. The intention remains to offer a range of walks, from the undemanding to the challenging, and members often bring their dogs along. Leader, Richard (Sherpa) Wright, reports on the following walks:

1. The old postman's path to Catacol, up the old peat track to the moor and back to Lochranza, with beautiful views of Glen Catacol.
2. Over the Narachan track to Laggan Cottage, over the fallen rocks to the Fairy Dell and back to Lochranza.
3. Up the Torr at the head of the loch, into Gleann Easan Biorach and back to Lochranza.
4. Over Creag Ghlas to the Fairy Dell Fault, a fascinating canyon of moss, lichen and plant life in a world of its own.
5. On relaxation of restrictions we spread our wings on a glorious day to walk up to Coirein Lochain, then climb up and along the horse shoe ridge to lunch at the spectacular summit overlooking A'Chir and the mountains to the east. We descended to Loch Tana and down the glen to Catacol. A memorable 6 hour day to remember.

The most important event in recent months, however, was the loss of one of our most stalwart members, an active supporter of both our regular meetings and our companionable walks. We will all miss the irreplaceable and irrepressible Archie Cumming very much, and our sympathies go to Maureen and his family.

We have now suspended our regular meetings for the summer, but hope to continue (possibly more ambitious) walks as the weather and laws allow. We hope that physical indoor meetings over a pint or two will resume in the autumn. Any North End gentleman who is interested in exploring the possibility of joining us in any of our activities should contact me, as acting chairman, at

[RSHBKK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RSHBKK@GMAIL.COM)

**Richard Henderson**

## THANK YOU

### Dear friends

I write to thank you for your gift on my retirement from my post of Parish Assistant. It was very generous of you and I truly appreciate the gift and quite overwhelming. It seems no time since I came among you good folk of Lochranza and Pirmill in 2001 and moved into Shiskine Manse. I have always said that I never tired of the view while driving up the coast to Lochranza on a Sunday and then back down to Pirmill and then home to Shiskine.

I have now moved in to my new home in Corrie although still surrounded by boxes I am trying to settle in. A different kind of view this side although lovely all the same. I have a new sofa bed and T.V. courtesy of the gift you gave me. I am quite comfortable on my sofa and watching T.V. when I have the time. However, I hopefully will not be watching T.V. all the time. I hope to get out and about with the Covid restrictions lifting and enjoy some free time in my retirement and going for walks with Max, I'm sure his tail will be wagging at that.

I was also touched by the kids of Pirmill Primary School who made me a big Easter Card. They had all drawn separate pictures on it and as well as wishing me a Happy Easter they and the staff wished me a long and happy retirement. I always enjoyed the school assemblies and being associated with the school. It was a privilege being invited into the school and to the many events they have held over the years.

I miss you all but hope to see you at some time in the days and months ahead. There have been a lot of changes in the past year and not just with the effects of Covid but in the church and will in going forward -

Jeremiah tells us this:

*"For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".*

*May we know the one who holds the future for all of us in His hands.*

**Every Blessing on you all  
Jean Hunter**

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## North Arran First Responders

As with almost every aspect of life Covid has had a serious impact on the service the First Responders can provide to the community. At the outbreak of the pandemic in March last year the Scottish Ambulance Service took the decision, due to the increased risks to our health, to stand down all Community First Responders in Scotland, so on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020, after nearly 17 years of being on call 24/7, the North Arran Responders were stood down.

It wasn't until October that enough had been learnt about Covid to enable the First Responders to resume serving their communities in the event of medical emergencies. New protocols were introduced and training in the correct use of PPE was given, once this was completed responders could return to active duty.

At the start of the pandemic the North Arran group had 11 responders, today as I type this there are only 2 left who can book on. Understandably some of the responders, for a variety of reasons, have decided to retire from First Responding, so a huge thanks to Douglas Coulter, Richard Wright, Gordon Furzer and Mark Harwood for the time and dedication they put into the group. Of those who remain we now have a much stricter set of criteria due to the increased risks of attending to patients and as a result most are not permitted to respond just now but hope to become active again when the risks decrease sufficiently.

In terms of the impact this will have on our ability to attend to patients, obviously it is not possible for 2 people to provide 24/7 coverage, but we are doing our best and hope to have someone on call for about 90% of the time. We can still only attend medical emergencies, not falls or other traumatic events unless it is known these have been the result of a prior medical event ( eg a cut head as a result of a medical collapse), please call 999 and ask for an ambulance and they will decide (if a responder is booked on) whether we should be tasked to attend the patient whilst awaiting the arrival of the ambulance. On our arrival please do not be alarmed as part of our new protocols is that we must don facemask, face visor, gloves and a plastic apron before approaching a patient.

It is hoped you won't need our services, but if you require a defibrillator and we are not on call please remember that the Public Defibrillators at the Distillery, Lochranza Ferry waiting room and Pirmill Shop are all there for you to take if needed. Hopefully all the current responders will soon be able to return to active service and we will be able to recruit and train new responders at some point this year which will enable us to get nearer to the 24/7 service we provided before but that will take some time.

**Fiona Laing**

## Why is Lochranza Golf changing?

Nigel and I look back at the Hope Cup of summer 2019 as the pinnacle in Lochranza Golf's history, thanks to Pablo's greenkeeping expertise. Not long after, the course was almost entirely covered in boulders, gravel, fences and bushes.

The flood of August 2019 left significant impacts on the golf course, including drifts of gravel dumped by the flowing floodwater onto the greens and fairways. It was very difficult to clear. Lochranza Golf is situated in a flood plain, so we have to accept that flooding will happen again in these times of climate change, intense rain and possible landslides. Whilst Pablo, in our eyes, is a greenkeeper beyond compare, expecting him to deal with flood damage regularly (not to mention the usual sheep and deer impacts) then produce an immaculate golf course is simply not feasible.

Less than a thousand rounds of golf were purchased in 2019. If you do the sums you will quickly realise that golf income would certainly not cover Pablo's wages, purchase and maintenance of machinery, fuel, replacement of equipment etc. We realised that it was time for change.

We decided to create an 11-hole Pitch and Putt course, open to all, that would offer shorter golf and be easier and more affordable to maintain. We will be replacing the putting green by Mrs McAllister's and creating a footpath round the circumference of the middle field of the golf course.

Our aims are for the Pitch and Putt to be enjoyed by all ages and sporting abilities, for the course to be sustainable, and to protect the stunning natural environment that we are lucky enough to occupy.

**Kathy Wells**

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## Lochranza & Catacol Community Association

It is with regret that I am unable to give a report on the activities of the Lochranza and Catacol Community Association ( LCCA ) as the committee have not met since November 2020

However as we move out of lockdown it is the intention to hold a meeting in the not too distant future

**Ken Thorburn –Chair**

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## The “Arranology” Project.

The Arranology project involves the production of three short promotional video's, each of which is around 5 minutes duration. The aim is to inspire both visitors and residents alike and entice them to visit some of the numerous sites of interest located in all four areas of the island.

The video's will be themed on the three “ologies”, geology, archaeology and ecology and will be filmed by three separate film crews, two of which are from Arran, Edward O'Donnelly and Chris Atkins and one from the mainland, Douglas Simpson of “Fullcoursetrails”. Each crew will be supported by local experts who wish in a few words to say what is so special about Arran. The films, which, offer a “taster”, basically cover “what we have of interest” and “where it is to be found”.

Some of the filming has already begun on the ecology video, taking advantage of the good weather and the fact that the Red deer, in early April, were still in possession of their antlers! The archaeologists have also been around the Island, consulting with the Heritage museum and other local experts, whilst the geologists have written scripts and earmarked various sites of note, ready for filming from now until early May.

The whole project is due to finish by mid- June when it is hoped that we will have managed to create three videos which can be downloaded or streamed free of charge from the Arran Geopark website or viewed at the various visitor interpretation centres located around the island.

It should also be noted that without the financial support and backing from The Arran Trust, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Arran Access Trust, together with local voluntary input from staff representing the National Trust for Scotland, Coast, Eco-Savy, Arran Heritage Museum, Lochranza Centre, Lucy Wallace, Otterstail, Visit Arran together with a great many other individuals, this project would not have got off the ground.

At a time of difficulty for many, it is nice to have a collaborative project to work on which hopefully will bring interest and pleasure to participants and viewers alike.

**Stuart Blake**

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## Postings from Pirnmill Village Association (PVA)

Our community is great isn't it. A friendly wave when out for a walk or a cheery chat across the garden, at distance of course... such simple gestures but what a huge difference they make in these difficult times.

So much has happened since our Church Magazine was last published...

Pirnmill Village Association officially became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in August last year and we are very thankful to Pirnmill residents for showing their support for our new structure. With a whopping 64 uptake in membership, we are delighted to have received such great support.

Our over 60s Christmas Dinner was a little different in 2020 but thanks to Val and Rino at Stag's Pavillion and the volunteers who assisted in delivering, our VIPs had a wonderful take-out alternative which they very much appreciated and enjoyed.

Lots of work behind the scenes planning for the future of our Community Centre, which is in dire need of refurbishing. Work is on-going with North Ayrshire Council for a 10-year lease whilst also working towards ownership of our Community Centre for the long-term benefit of our community, via the Community Asset Transfer process. We are taking advice from Community Ownership Support Services (about the asset transfer) and from Zero Waste Scotland (about energy efficiency), all of which is available without cost to the Association. We are also in discussion with 2 major grant-funding bodies, working hard to be ready for any pre-conditions for applications. We want to thank those who participated in our Community Consultation as part of this process, we received a lot of support and many wonderful ideas.

Like many other villages across Arran, we have been experiencing issues with dog-owners not clearing up after their pets. As a result, free NAC poo bags are now stocked in the village shop. We will also be installing additional red dog poo bins and signage in the village in the coming weeks. We would like to thank all of our careful dog owners for their extra vigilance, following recent communications.

Plans are also well underway for Pirnmill to become the next village to join the popular community farm initiative, the Pioneer Project. The project is very much dependent on volunteers, so if this is something that interests you please do get in touch and register your interest at [arran@pioneerproject](mailto:arran@pioneerproject).

Keep safe everyone.  
**Hazel PVA Chair**

## AN EXTRACT FROM THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER.....December 1976!

### BY THE REV. J. DOW

No doubt many of our friends who live furth of the island would be thinking of us at the beginning of the month and saying to themselves, "Arran must be looking lovely just now with the snow on the hills. It must be like a Christmas card"

And so, indeed it is....seen through glass. There the resemblance ends, however. Most of us are sitting with our feet as far up the chimney as they will go, and whispering, 'If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?' As Bud Neil would have put it: *"Winter has came, an' it's murder I'nt it?"*

We seem to be in the mood for quotations this morning, and the mind turns to Shakespeare, *"and to milk coming frozen home in pail, and Dick the shepherd blowing his nail"*. No reference is really intended to Tom Logan and John Hendry.

The villages have been, as might be expected, quiet in these latter days. But there is one death to be recorded, that of Mrs MacLeod widow of Alex MacLeod of Pirnmill who for many years acted as precentor in the Free Kirk. Some little time after his death she went to Montrose House, but died suddenly in the War memorial Hospital. We assure the family of our sympathy in their loss, for she was one held in high esteem and for whom the village had much affection.

It's quite a while since we had a wedding in the parish: this month there will be two. Eileen McAllister will be married to Stewart Dickie, and Flo MacAllister will be married to Ian Scott a Doctor in Canada and will be going out there with Mhari and Kinnon. I'm sure I speak for all of you when I wish them all well.

On the last Sunday of November we had the usual exchange of pulpits round the island, and we had Ian MacLeod of Brodick and Corrie with us, though he is not really a stranger to Pirnmill at any rate, since his wife taught there for some time. I was unlucky in the draw and had to journey to Kilmory. It was a cold day and their boiler seemed to have a wee touch of pneumonia.

I thought I would have to go over to the mainland on the 9<sup>th</sup> to do recordings for STV's "Late Call" and I wasn't greatly looking forward to it. The date has been changed to the 17<sup>th</sup> January and I'll be Late Calling during Burns Week, if anybody's interested. I don't suppose I'll be away again till mid-February when Margaret and I are going South to see the Sassenach half of the family. I'll just be the one Sunday off.

Two who will be departing from our midst in the New Year, and whom we're very sorry to see go are John and Mrs Stewart. But they're only going as far as Lamlash, so that they're not leaving us altogether.

Two who are desperately anxious to get back to us again are Jackie and Babs Hunter. I should have said three, for Nigel is probably even more desperate to get back. But they

can't move from Kent for about eighteen months yet: till Simon's finished school. So if anybody knows of a house that will be up for sale about then, the Hunters would be glad to hear about it.

The Communion Services were well attended, and we find the roll gradually growing again as new folk come in: the Mars, and the Cants, and the Smiths and the Whiteheads and the Busbys and the Patersons and one or two others who haven't found there way along to the church yet, but will no doubt do so in the fullness of time. It's very satisfactory.

Last month I mentioned the lamps and the stained glass window of the Free Kirk, and invited any who are interested to make some contribution towards the cost, which in the end of the day will be quite considerable.

We now have the lamps though they won't be hung till they're thoroughly cleaned, and we're still waiting for a stained glass window expert to come down and give us advice and an estimate of cost before we do anything about the window.

The appeal fund has had some results but not just as many as we had hoped, and I repeat it now.

**now over £450**

The Guilds have met and started the wheels in motion for next year, but there's no particular news where the aforesaid wheels will carry us before we're done. So there's nothing to report there.

And now all that remains to be done is for me, on behalf of the congregation to wish all are far flung friends the traditional compliments of the season. And this is done, not because these compliments are traditional but because they are real, meaningful and sincere. We'd find it very hard, if not impossible, to get on without you.

The services remain as I intimated last month:

Christmas Day in Lochranza at 11am

New Year's Day in Pirnmill at 11am

Special offerings for the TEAR Fund and Quarriers Homes at the Christmas Day service at Lochranza and on the Sunday after New Year at Pirnmill the 2 January.

**Since this was printed, an anonymous donor has paid  
For the lamps! There are 8 of them, valued at £48 each**

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*Thank you to the person who sent this to me to print, it was found when clearing out old files! If anyone else has any hidden gems of their village history I would be delighted to receive them! Ed.*