

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
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),
Douglas Coulter (Property Manager),
Fiona Henderson, Lizzie Adam

Pastoral Care Group

Group Leader - Anne Coulter Tel: 830219
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

Lochranza & Pirnmill

Scottish Charity Registration No. SC009377



Church & Community Newsletter

Spring Edition 2023

www.lochranzachurch.org.uk



Hello folks,

Happy New Year!
Aye,

its 2023 already and we can be forgiven for looking at it with some trepidation. Having just come through the Covid lockdown we are now faced with global issues – conflict, warming, gas and electricity supplies – to name but a few. And then there are our “local” issues – cost of living, strikes, NHS and so on. And there are issues for each of us as individuals to grapple with.

I think I’m rather a “glass half full” person -quite positive - but it is difficult to remain so in the current circumstances.

In any time or sort of trouble there is an answer to be found in a book, actually THE book, God’s Word, the bible. When Fiona was leaving the island, she was given a New Testament from the church which had a section right at the front offering passages to read under different circumstances – loneliness, fear etc. I know she used them a lot as she began to make her own way in the world.

In Romans 5; 2b-4 it says,” And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we^q also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.

So, we can always depend on God’s help even as we struggle to make sense of the events in our lives. And while it may be a challenge, there are always positive things to think of to encourage the build up of Hope. There are times when just waking up to a new day gives hope.

While writing this, a hymn came to mind. Its not one we have sung often – but it will be! Have a look at the words for CH4 237 which begins with “Look forward in faith...”

Let us all do our best this 2023 to look forward in faith, focusing on the positive things in our lives, remembering that our “cup runneth over”.

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.

Blue Bin

Feb 7, 21
Mar 7, 21
Apr 4, 18
May 2, 16, 30
June 13, 27
July 11, 25



Black Bin

Jan 31
Feb 14, 28
Apr 11, 25
May 9, 23
June 6, 20
July 4, 18



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

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

Articles can be emailed to:
bg.ornsay@btinternet.com

“Caticol 13th March 1889

Mr Murray

Dear Sir, After considering the matter over, if there is no other way of getting Mrs Kerr's privy removed but by allowing summer visitors to go through ours to get to the back of hers. My father thinks he would rather submit to the inconvenience and try it this summer to see how it would do rather than have his house not let on account of it being where it is...

Perhaps those who most needed the income from letting their front house for the summer were those complaining most. Ten years later what was a more serious sanitation problem in Catacol was the subject of angry letters both to the factor and to the County Council:

“Patrick Murray Esq. Factor, Arran Estate, Strabane, Brodick. 29 July 1899

Dear Sir, I have been requested to send you a copy of a letter which has been sent today to Mr J.E. Wilson, Clerk to the County Council at Rothesay. I trust you will give the matter your earnest support in order that the evil will be at once remedied. Yours Faithfully” (the letter is signed by hard to read signatures with details such as Banker, Greenock)

The copy of the letter filed by Murray makes one share the outrage of the visitors that particular July:

“Dear Sir, we the undersigned who have been sojourning here during the summer months for the last few years, beg to draw your attention to the very unsatisfactory state of affairs at Caticol.

I. *The emptying of all slops, including the contents of the outside water closets on the foreshore, above high tide mark, thereby constantly causing a most offensive unhealthy and dangerous smell.*

II. *The ashpit situated between Mr D. Kerr's house and the Row is also being used for the same purpose and is as offensive. Apparently it never seems to be emptied.*

. The water arrangements are very defective, the water trench from which nearly all the village is supplied, is open so that cattle, sheep and dogs drink out of it and most of the washing of the place is done along side of it, also it is used as a receptacle for old paper and other items...

The letter continues to describe ‘the great amount of sickness, aching and diarrhoea during the past fortnight with which most of the visitors’ families have suffered’

Mr Murray must have been extremely busy during August 1899. No summer holiday that year for him. Did the regular visitors return for summer 1900? Would you have done? Drains and water long continued to be a Catacol problem, Lochranza were more fortunate for thanks to Archibald Kerr's generosity it became the first village on Arran to have piped water.

These few extracts from the Dougarie archive give glimpses into the lives of those who lived before us, they show, however, some of the difficulties of those lives rather than the pleasures and joys. For those one must read what John Kennedy wrote in his long paper about Arran Gaelic.

Penny McWatters - Catacol



Drinking from My Saucer.

by John Paul Moore

I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now.

But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.

And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed.

I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

I don't have a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough.

But I've got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.

I thank God for his blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed.

I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong, and my faith wore somewhat thin.

But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.

So God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I've hoed.

I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage when the way grows steep and rough.

I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads.

Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

Every blessing, Liz

Arran Churches Together - Dates for your diary

World Day of Prayer	St Mollo's, Shiskine	3 rd March	2 pm
Walk of Witness	Holy Cross, Brodick	7 th April	2pm
Songs of Praise	Lamlash Green	25 th June	3pm

The offering from the Christian Unity Service will be donated to Mary's Meals in Turkey and Syria where they are working with homeless people as well as children. **NB: Any donations given before the end of March will be matched by the Government.**

We hope to see you at some of these events,

Lochranza & Catacol Community Association Report

“Our Lochranza and Catacol Community Association (LCCA) committee year commenced officially from the AGM in April 2022, but even before that remnants of the previous committee were working on a number of ongoing issues.

One involved liaising with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) to assist them in the removal of large items of dangerous scrap metal and defunct boats items from the HES castle spit ground. This activity has been off and on throughout the year, but has now reached the stage where a local haulier has been appointed for removal / scrap of the agreed items and a works start is imminent.

Next came expressing the village community views regarding the Erranghail Renewable Energy (Wind Farm) project. This will be eventually constructed on land directly opposite Lochranza on Kintyre between Skipness and Tarbert. It will be very obvious on the skyline. It is now known that 13 large wind turbines will be constructed on the land site which is 300 metres above sea level. The turbines themselves comprise 102.5 metre high towers, with 3 off 72.5 metre radius blades. There will also be a 105 metre high meteorological mast. All the structures will be equipped with lights, as a warning to aircraft : white halfway up and red at the top.

The LCCA submitted a formal objection in May 2022 to the appropriate Scottish Government body, for the village, citing the excessive height of these turbines on the wind farm hills, that would require flashing lights on top and the degradation of the locally much loved dark skies. We were not objecting to wind turbines per se.

There was much debate during early 2022 about the issue of wild deer wandering about the village looking for food and sometimes injuring residents. These hungry deer were clearly a hazard and the committee determined to try signage. The signs warn about the eventual consequences of people hand feeding deer, in that the deer which become a local nuisance, would have to be shot. Several feeding deer warning signs were procured, some with the help of Arran Estates and these have been erected in prominent places around Lochranza village.

“These certify that the bearer Catherine Robertson in Penrioch, was about four years ago left a widow with three young children still under her care. That on account of the present very high price of provisions she is reduced to straitened circumstances and to our certain knowledge is an object of charity; and as such we recommend her to William Stevenson Esq. Factor on Arran beging (sic) the assistance of His Grace the Duke of Hamilton so far as it may be convenient at this time. Attested at Lochranza Island of Arran. 17 Feb 1802

By Dan Campbell Catechol, James Cowie Session Clerk, Robert Kerr Elder, Finlay Kerr Elder”

It is hoped the factor was able to satisfy the petitioners despite the then Duke having to pay the illegitimate young daughter of his recently deceased predecessor the modern value of over two million pounds to purchase the contents of the four mansions he had inherited! A single parent and her children certainly merited having food on the table or even somewhere to live – the letter is annotated on the reverse: Cath. Robertson Penrioch, petition for a house.

Frequently there were in fact requests for housing, reported problems with damp or drains; here is a short letter, short but to the point:

“Caticol 25 December 1900

Mr Murray, Dear Sir

I learn that some of the neighbours here are to get the front of their houses repaired for damp. So I drop you this to say that my house is very damp and if you would kindly allow mine to be done also, if so I would feel greatly obliged. Mrs Hendry”

Difficulties with sanitation and drains could cause village squabbles, the close nature of Catacol provided multiple instances of these. There is a letter strongly suggesting one such situation:

“Caticol Feby 7th of yr 1889

We the undersigned, neighbours to Mrs D. Kerr, certify that her privy is neither a nuisance nor annoyance.”

Of the seven signatures six are from the Row, one is perhaps from the farm. Mrs Dugald Kerr, whose husband was a ship’s carpenter and perhaps often away, most likely lived in what was later called South Cottage, next to the drying green. The majority of those signing lived nearest her house. Mrs Kerr’s privy clearly was an ongoing problem to some, for five weeks after the previous letter there is one attempting what seems like a compromise:

Cont.....

LOCHRANZA AND CATACOL MANY YEARS AGO

The writer is much indebted to Mrs Lavinia Gibbs of Dougarie Lodge for her kind and generous permission to study some of the archives there, especially letters from tenants and ministers addressed to Patrick Murray, Factor to the Dukes of Hamilton during the late Nineteenth Century and into the Twentieth. These make fascinating reading: Murray was meticulous in annotating and preserving the letters which were of their very nature mostly complaints about problems he was expected to deal with. If he did reply in writing rather than with deeds the letters would not necessarily have been retained by the recipients and it is doubtful that any have survived. What emerges from this collection is the thought that some things never change – here is a letter about flooding in Lochranza, it is dated **7th July 1903**:

“Caticol Manse, Lochranza, Arran

Dear Mr Murray,

I am requested by the managers of the Kilmory School Board for the Lochranza School to draw attention to the flooding of the lade in front of the school, and also to the frequent overflowing of the Lochranza burn on to the road above the school and over at the wooden bridge. On two occasions recently the scholars could not get to the school without wading a foot deep in water.

The managers will be greatly obliged if the Trustees can see their way to put right the lade up at the loch or otherwise improve the situation so as, if possible, to prevent flooding.

I understand the question is about to be taken up by a deputation from Lochranza shortly.

I am yours truly, John Kennedy”

John Kennedy was the minister at the now demolished Lenimore Church, his manse was Craigard in Catacol, devoted to his parishioners and a great Gaelic scholar, there is an impressive memorial to him erected by them in front of the now disaffected stone church in Pirmill. The school stood where now stands the Lochranza Centre. The spelling of Catacol has varied a great deal over the years.

Surely flooding in Lochranza is a problem that never happens nowadays? And were the school children expected to wade through the flood or were they given a holiday?

Now, we are living in a new age, an age of poverty and food banks, partly due to the high rise in price of basic necessities. Have such things happened before? Here is a letter dated **1802**:

Two signs are still available if anyone identifies a particular spot where they would be helpful.

Another significant activity has been agreeing collectively to object to North Ayrshire Council planning about the proposed building development between Kirn Point and Kilbrannan on the Newton Shore. A local builder proposes to construct four residential homes on the site, which are unlikely to be what is known as “affordable homes”. The objection issues were access restriction to The Arran Coastal Way, loss of natural Arran wildlife in that area, loss of parking / vehicle turning space, increased hazard to the single track access road and the sea flooding risk to any properties built on that site. The NAC allowed the developers plan, “in principle” in January 23, in spite of the NAC’s statement that there were 56 written objections (only 37 are publically viewable on the NAC site). Several constraints have however been placed in respect to the application and it will have to be resubmitted to planning.

Such highlights of the LCCA activities are briefly described but there have been many other issues addressed including lobbying Calmac and Transport Scotland for a meaningful Winter Ferry service to the Kintyre this coming Winter, support to the North Arran Community Benefit Society, lobbying for affordable housing in Lochranza, lobbying for accessible disabled toilet signage at the Lochranza Ferry terminal etc.

We think collectively we can make a difference to the result of common local issues and are more effective as a group than doing the same alone. “Together we stand, divided we fall” is the phrase.

If you think you can help your village please come to our next AGM in April this year.

Save the date: 19th April 7.00 pm at Lochranza Hall.

**John Ford,
Secretary LCCA
23 February 2023**

IF YOU DON'T USE IT YOU LOSE IT –

Contrary to what you read in the Banner, Pirmill Church was not closed by the Church of Scotland but by the Board and Session of Lochranza and Pirmill Church with the consent of the remaining active members of the congregation. Although on paper we were a viable congregation, in fact there were so few of us regularly attending closure became inevitable.

All are welcome in our sister church in Lochranza. If anyone would like a lift there on Sundays, please contact Chris or Louise on 850 263. This also applies to anyone who lives anywhere on the route from Pirmill.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Contact Number for Lochranza and Catacol.

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

Contact Number for Pirmill

Dr John Adam Tel: 850230 email: acc.pirmill.jca@gmail.com

Lochranza Loos Year to March 2023

Lochranza Loos is now a charity.

Thanks to its volunteers and other local support it has been quietly carrying on providing public toilet facilities in Lochranza and the North End. The Loos are still totally funded by donations and are self sufficient.

Metal hand rails up the steps to the toilets were added during the past year, and donations can now be made by text, and gift aided.

Our aim is to continue trying to improve the services Lochranza Loos have provided since August 2017.

Lochranza & Catacol Hall Report

The Hall has been busy since the last report. We had a very successful Christmas Lunch for older residents although the evening “pop up pub” was not that well attended. Similarly with the Hogmanay Open Hall, despite enthusiasm for the idea few people came. Since then we have had a further “Burns Themed” pop up with a ceilidh provided by Chris Traill and soup available for people to buy. The ceilidh was good fun and those that attended had a good time. Hopefully, as the weather improves, more people will be willing to venture out on a Saturday night.

The next pop-up pub will be on **11th March** and the French Fox will be providing food, either to sit in or takeaway. So please come along and support the Hall.

We have started doing Soup and Sandwich lunches once a month to raise funds, this was a successful endeavour and we hope that even more people will attend the next one on **4th March** where all funds raised will go to the Disasters Emergency Committee for use in Ukraine and Turkey/Syria. We will also be offering Coffee/Tea and Cake in addition. Soup and Sandwich for £5, Coffee/Tea and Cake for £3

More Dates for your diary

Our next big event will be the Daffodil Tea on **8th April**, we will be asking for donations for the Tombola, Raffle and of course, the Baking Stall. We hope to have a car boot sale again as it proved very popular last year. Tea, scones, cream and jam will of course be available.

The Gala Day will be held on **22nd July**.

We hope that the circulation of Committee Meeting minutes, after they have been approved, will be of use in keeping people informed about what goes on at the Hall.

Ros Lyall
Hall Secretary

Postings from Pirnmill Village Association (PVA)

Coffee Morning: thanks to all who supported the coffee morning event on 20 February - including bakers, helpers and all those who came along. A donation of £250 was sent to Ayrshire Hospice.

Pirnmill Community Centre: we're delighted that our kitchen facelift is nearing completion, thanks to the support of local residents and businesses. Our focus next will be to reduce our carbon footprint and improve facilities for disabled residents and visitors. Our current weekly activities include Art and craft group (Tuesday afternoons), Darts club (Thursday evenings), Table Tennis (Friday evenings). All welcome to join in these activities.

Pirnmill Memorial Garden: Susan Furzer has left us the amazing legacy that is the village Memorial Garden, and her planning and planting skills are there, in the area behind the memorials, for residents and visitors to enjoy. She is greatly missed but the Monday morning gardening volunteers are committed to maintaining Susan's high standards. Anyone interested in joining the group would be most welcome. Meet fortnightly, Mondays, 10 til 12, including 13 March, 27 March etc.

Pop up pubs: all welcome at Pirnmill Community Centre for drinks, darts, quiz, pool and plenty of chat - from 7pm on last Saturday of the month - March 25th, April 29th, May 27th, June 24th.

Open music session: return of the popular Pirnmill open music night. Taster session 8-11pm, Saturday April 15th. Play, sing, join in, or just listen and enjoy the craic. All welcome, BYOB.

Food Share: available in Pirnmill fortnightly on Mondays (March 6th, 20th and so on), 8.45pm at the community centre. All welcome to free food from the Coop ('best by/use by' items), helping our island to reduce food waste.

Table-top sale: Saturday 1 April in Pirnmill Community Centre, 2-5pm, plus teas/coffees and home baking. All welcome.

All the best.
Hazel PVA Chair

Remember? By Lorna Hallyburton

*Oh, why can't I remember
What happened yesterday
Oh, why can't I remember
The things I want to say.
Oh, why can't I remember
What I had for tea,
Is this fairly common, or is it only me?*

*I know so many faces
But can't remember names
It makes me feel so stupid
My memory is to blame.
I go out to the freezer
But don't know why I'm there.
Is this fairly common,
Or should I start to care?*

*And when it comes to phoning
Who's turn is it tonight
With stickers lined up on the wall
You'd think I'd get it right
And when it comes to card games
Who's turn is it to deal
Yes.....it's fairly common
Now you know just how I feel!*

THANK YOU

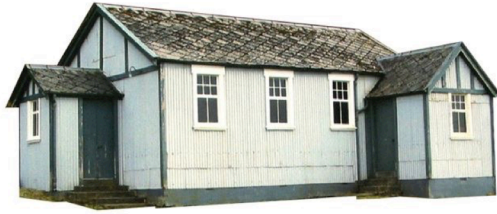
A big thank you to Richard & Aileen Wright. Richard has been the Property Manager for our church for a number of years.

He carried out his duties most diligently and we are very grateful for his support.

Aileen has supported the church in many ways, she has played the organ, sang in concerts and been a valuable member of the Pastoral care team for many years.

We wish them both much happiness in their new home in Carrbridge. We will miss you both.

The Elders & Congregation of St Bride's



**Farewell words spoken
at the last Church of
Scotland service held in
the tin church in
Pirnmill on Sunday 29th
January 2023**

As we say goodbye to worship in Pirnmill a few words on the History of our “Tin Church”

Built in 1920 this is one of the few remaining examples of 'tin' churches that were popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

These corrugated iron buildings were manufactured in kit form in Edinburgh and Glasgow and widely used in Scotland, overseas and in remote communities due to the material's inexpensive qualities and quick and easy assembly features.

A glance at the previous history of churches in Pirnmill is interesting. In 1845 Lord Rossmore, an Anglo Irish peer who had in 1820 married Ann a daughter of 8th Duke of Hamilton, built a church between Catacol and Pirnmill for the Free Church and Church of Scotland worshippers of these villages.

The Church of Scotland meeting was in the morning, the Free Church service in Gaelic was in the afternoon. The former Catacol Bay Hotel was the Manse.

In due course the Church of Scotland folk of Pirnmill built their own sandstone church in the village which was opened and dedicated in 1912.

In the early 1990s Presbytery decided to close Pirnmill Church on the grounds that it was too expensive to maintain and suggested that the congregation should move to Lochranza.

Locally such a prospect was deemed unacceptable.

A determined group of villagers and their Minister, Rev. Andrew Barrie, resisted the change. A maintaining lease with The Free Church was agreed for this building, the Free Church Hall.

The Church of Scotland Presbytery agreed that both Lochranza and Pirnmill congregations should account for everyday expenses and that Pirnmill should maintain the building.

And so it was that the “Tin Church” remained the centre of worship in Pirnmill.

The bell outside our church always raises interest. For this we may thank Elspeth Macdonald.

With the approach of the Millennium celebrations Elspeth felt that there was a need for an appropriate recognition.

A bell was found and mounted outside here on a structure designed and fabricated by Simon Horne of Pirnmill.

Later on we will hear a little of those 17 dedicated Villagers who, in the early 1990s, made it possible for Pirnmill people to worship in their own Church.

Happily one of that strong band is with us today and will shortly give us her reflections on Pirnmill's Tin Church.

John Adam

*“When I joined Pirnmill Church, meeting in this loved building I
joined a community offering*

Fellowship and Friendship

Caring and sharing

Joy and sorrow

Tears and laughter

*With the loving concern for each other and for the wider
community.*

*All supported by faith, prayer and worship, a shining example
of what “church” should be.*

*Many of those people are now with the saints, others can no
longer attend, but those of us who remain hope to carry the
spirit forward into the new Church in Arran.”*