1560 <u>St Brides Church - Lochranza</u>

1918

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Strong historical evidence exists to illustrate that there has been a church on this site since medieval times and certainly since before the dawn of the Reformation in Scotland in 1560. Originally known as St James's, this name did not survive the anti-catholic feelings of the seventeenth century. It finally became known as St Bride's Chapel only in 1929 when the established Church of Scotland united with the U.F.Church. The former U.F.Church in the village (now part of The Field Studies Centre.) then became known as "Lochranza East & Pirnmill". It was then that the headstone, with the skull and crossbones, was removed from the interior and mounted into the exterior wall, on the north side of the building.

In that same year The Reverent John Colville, minister of the Chapel, realised his dream and by raising an endowment fund, enabled Lochranza Chapel to become a "Quad Sacra" thereafter known as St. Bride's Church.

The names of Priests who served here, prior to the break with Rome, are unknown but from 1560, records of the reformed clergy, responsible for maintaining the ordinances of religion, are more readily available. At the Reformation, Arran was divided into two parishes Kilmory and Kilbride, the boundary between them leaving Lochranza village and the south-side of the loch in Kilmory, whilst Newton Shore and the north-side of the loch was in Kilbride. Any worship that might have been conducted in the church would therefore have been the responsibility of the Kilmory minister in whose bounds the church lay.

By the mid of 17th Century the existing structure was quoted as being "in no fit state for worship" and a decision was made by the Synod of Argyll, in 1642 *that there be a third kirk builded and erected in the said yle* (Arran), *situated at the head of Lochransay.* Unfortunately, due to the violent upheavals of this Civil War period none of this proposal came about at that time . However, records show that in 1654, a "Chapel of Ease" was built on the site:- *A thatched building with an earthen floor.* It was within the walls of this chapel that the dead were buried. This building fell in to disrepair and it was not until 1712, thanks to the generosity of The Good Dutchess Anne, the chapel was rebuilt.

The Duchess also provided a stipend for a catechist at Lochranza and the farm of Colliemore at a nominal rent. This licentiate of the church acted as assistant to both the parish ministers of Arran, taking charge of the northern extremities of both parishes, from the Iorsa water in the west to Corrie in the east. In the course of his duties he was responsible for the conduct of worship and assisting in the celebration of the sacraments.

The final rebuilding of the church took place in 1795 and it was further improved in 1835 to seat 300. Alas!, just seven years later at the Disruption of 1843 the Church was almost deserted by the people, in favour of the Free Church. From that point on the Church was looked after by the Kilmory minister, very often assisted, again by a number of missionaries and assistants. Gradually as the century drew to a close the Established Church began to recover its former position in the North end of the island, so much so, that the Church, which was again falling in to disrepair, was refurbished by the Duke of Hamilton, who, in 1895, granted 0.99 of an acre surrounding it, for a graveyard - "God's own acre".

Only on the 28th June 1918 Lochranza St Bride's Church became a ministerial charge of the Church of Scotland in its own right.

The adjacent roll of incumbents, lists both the Kilmory Ministers responsible for Lochranza as well as those catechists, licentiates and ordained ministerial assistants who were at Lochranza. (denoted \mathbb{O})

Roll of Ministers & Continued 1845 1930 Free Church & United Free Church

AT THE DISRUPTION OF 1843, AS A RESULT OF THE INFLUENCE OF MR ANGUS MCMILLAN OF KILMORY, (PREVIOUSLY CATECHIST AT LOCHRANZA), THE CONGREGATION WENT ALMOST COMPLETELY OVER TO THE FREE CHURCH. AS A RESULT. THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH CHAPEL OF EASE . HERE, WAS FOR SOME TIME ALL BUT DESERTED, WHILST LOCHRANZA AND LENIMORE BECAME A CHARGE OF THE FREE CHURCH IN 1844.

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

1845 ~1847 John Hamilton ~ ~ ~

Congregation vacant for almost ten years

Duncan MacNicol-~ ~ ~ 1857 ~ 1877 - - - - - 1877 - 1887 Dugald McCormick -

WANT OF HARMONY BETWEEN THE TWO SECTIONS OF THE CONGREGATION LED TO FORMATION OF TWO SEPARATE FREE CHURCH CHARGES BEING ESTABLISHED IN 1887

LOCHRANZA

LENIMORE

Tames Johnstone - - 1888 Alexander I. Grant - 1897

John Kennedy - 1888

ON THE UNION OF 1900 BETWEEN THE FREE CHURCH AND THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BOTH BECAME CONGREGATIONS OF THE UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Alexander J. Grant - 1908 John Kennedy - 1910

IN 1910, LOCHRANZA U.F. CHURCH AND MANSE WERE UNITED WITH LENIMORE AND PIRNMILL, BECOMING LOCHRANZA & PIRNMILL UNITED FREE CHURCH.

John MacLellan - 1910 - 1924 Alexander Shaw, M.A., B.D. - 1924 - 1927

ON THE UNION OF 1929 BETWEEN THE UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, THE PARISH CHURCH BECAME LOCHRANZA, ST. BRIDES, THE U.F. CHURCH BECAME LOCHRANZA EAST & PIRNMILL. BOTH WERE UNITED IN 1930. LOCHRANZA ST. BRIDE'S REMAINING THE PARISH CHURCH, WHILST THE FORMER U.F. CHURCH (NOW LOCHRANZA OUTDOOR CENTRE) SERVED AS THE CHURCH HALL.

1931 Roll of Ministers & Continued Lochranza & Pirnmill

Hugh Fitch,	M.A.	~	~	~	~	~ ~	~	~	~	~	1931 ~1939
Hector Mun	10	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	1940 - 1948
Robert Carm	icha	el,	M.+	4.		~	~	~	~	~	1948 - 1957
William McT	ougo	all	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	1958 - 1965
James Dow,	M.A.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	1965 - 1977

Lochranza & Pirnmill

(Linked with Shiskine)

Robert Walker, M.A., B.D	~	~	~	~	~	~	1977 - 1984
Andrew Barrie, B.Sc B.D.	~	~	~	~	~	~	1984 - 2000

Lochranza & Pirnmill

(Linked with Shiskine & Lamlash)

Barry Knight, B.D.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	2002 - 2004
Jean Hunter, B.D.	(A	tta	ich	ed 1	Rea	der)-	~	~	2002 - 2004

Lochranza & Pirnmill

(Linked with Shiskine & Brodick & Corrie)

Angus Adamson, B.D	~	~	~	2004
Jean Hunter, B.D. (Parish Assistant)	~	~	~	2004

This information and associated frames have been specially researched and the display is dedicated to the fond memory of

Rev. Kenneth Fisher B.D.

Locum, Interim Moderator and good friend of this parish 2003- 2004

1560 Lochranza Church Boll of Ministers & Catachists	1930
LOOU Roll of Ministers & Catechists	1000
Alexander McAllestar	1560 -????
Hector McAllestar	1580 -????
James McKirdie or McQuirtie	16?? ~ 1648
Alexander McLaine, M.A	1651 - ????
John McLean, M.A.	1688 - ????
Dugald Bannatyne	1701 ~ 1748
James McLea (C)	1708 - ????
James Stewart (C) (translated to Kilbride)	1709 ~ 1723
Charles Bannatyne	1743 ~ 1751
James Stewart (now Minister at Kilmory)	1752 - 1761
James Stewart	1758
John Hamilton (C)	1754 ~ 1760
Walter McLeish (C)	???? - 1766
John Hamilton (now Minister at Kilmory)	1762 ~ 1768
Daniel Hyndman (C)	1768 - 1769
Colin Lindsay (C)	1772 - 1778
John Stewart (C)	1780 - 1795
Daniel Campbell (C)	1796 - 1803
Duncan Smith	1799 - 1801
Neil McBride	1802 - 1814
Angus McMillan (C)	1812 - 1822
Dugald Crawford	1815 - 1821
Angus McMillan (now Minister at Kilmory) -	1822 - 1843
John McMaster (C)	
Charles Stewart (C)	1833 - 1843
Charles Stewart (now Minister at Kilmory) -	1843 - 1869
Duncan Black	1869 - 1902
D. MacDonald	1885
Robert Hutcheson (C)	1888 - 1891
Dougald MacEachern, M.A., B.D. (C)	891 - 1895
John McKenzie (C)	
Andrew McLean (C)	A REAL PROPERTY AND A REAL
Andrew W. Kennedy	
Neil Macleod (C)	Charlenge Barbaners and Article Science 113
John Colville, M.A., B.D. (C)	AND LADER AN ADDRESS SPECIAL S
Duncan Connacher, M.A	
*** John Colville, M.A., B.D	1918 - 1930
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This illustrates the four 15" x 18" display panels which are hung in the vestibule of St. Bride's Church