



# Arrochar Parish Newsletter

## Summer 2024



### Service of Linkage at Rhu and Shandon Parish Church

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June a service to formalise the linkage of Arrochar and Luss with Rhu and Shandon was held.

The service, attended by members of all three congregations, was led by **Revd David Burt**, Moderator of Clyde Presbytery. **Revd Robbie Hamilton**, Presbytery Clerk and **Revd Maggie McArthur**, Minister of Cardross, also participated. Other members of Presbytery were in attendance.

Thank you to Sally Butt for playing the organ so beautifully.

### Plant Sale

Thanks to everyone who supported our plant sale on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. It raised almost £630 for church funds.

As all the plants for sale are grown locally and with the expert advice on hand this meant that gardeners could buy with confidence.

### Church Services

#### Arrochar Parish Church

Sunday worship is at 10am.

A joint service for the 3 Lochs Linkage will be held at Arrochar on 28<sup>th</sup> July, and at Rhu & Shandon on 25<sup>th</sup> August.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on 27<sup>th</sup> October. All are welcome.

#### Live streaming

We aim to livestream our services every Sunday at 10am, technology permitting. If you can't get to church you can still share in our worship as it happens.

<https://arrocharparishchurch.org/streaming.html>

#### St Peter and St Paul

Sundays at 8.30am.

## A sad story with a happy ending

### Graveyard Project

Some seven years ago, with the blessing of David Pollard, the then Session Clerk, some of us undertook to record all the legible inscriptions, particularly of the oldest headstones, as it was apparent that, all too soon, many of them would be unreadable.

Since then, we have occasionally been asked to locate long forgotten family graves and these records, although incomplete, have often proved invaluable; but not when Alan Nimmo received a request to help locate the grave of Malcolm Paton.

### Malcolm's story

Malcolm, or Callum as he was known, was the youngest son of artist Sir Joseph Noël Paton FRSA.

The large family often enjoyed holidaying by Loch Long and in the summer of 1879 were staying at Ardgartan House. One evening Callum fell ill with a fever and sore throat. The usual available remedies proved ineffective. A doctor was summoned, who diagnosed diphtheria. Despite the best efforts of all the family little Callum died on 20<sup>th</sup> September aged just five years and seven months.

His father recorded in his diary that Callum was buried in Arrochar and his grave was marked by 'a simple cross'.

So, this was all the information we had – 'a simple cross'. In 1879 the burial would have been in the part of the churchyard to the south of the church, but graves in this section often appear randomly located. Chris Fowler and I walked the area scrutinising all the 'simple crosses' in the hope that perhaps one inscription had been missed. That proved not to be the case. Perhaps the cross was broken, or there was no inscription. Eventually Chris came upon what appeared to be parts of a cross. On closer examination there were four pieces; a base, two parts of a cross, and a rectangular slab with, apparently, no inscription. Carefully, moving the slab slightly away from the wall of the

old church, where it rested, we were delighted to be able to read the inscription:

**Malcolm Campbell Noel Paton**  
**Died 20<sup>th</sup> September 1879**  
**Aged 5 years and 7 months**

I contacted Cat Berry, Sir Joseph's great-great granddaughter, who had instigated the search, and told her of our success. It would be fair to say that it was an emotional moment for all of us.

Recently, Cat, came to Arrochar. She was able to see the church where her family had worshipped almost 150 years ago and visit the grave of this little boy.

Chris and I are happy to have been able to bring the family together again.



An unfinished watercolour of Callum Paton by his father, Sir Joseph Noel Paton FRSA, dated August 1789 just one month before his death.

**Reproduced Courtesy of Fife Cultural Trust on behalf of Fife Council**

To mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth there is to be an exhibition of some of Sir Joseph Noël Paton's works in Dunfermline this Autumn at the Dunfermline Carnegie Library and Galleries.

1-7 Abbot Street, Dunfermline  
KY12 7NL.

## Dates for your diary

### Coffee Morning

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 10.30 – 12 the church will run a coffee morning at the Three Villages Hall. Proceeds from the event will be shared with the 3VH.

### Doors Open Days

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 12 – 4pm the church will be open as part of the Doors Open Days Scheme. This year the theme is *Routes, Networks and Connections*. Our event will focus on St Kessog, who is depicted in one of our beautiful stained-glass windows. Tea and Coffee will be available.

### Quiz Night

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 7pm – 10pm at the 3V Hall. Come and test your general knowledge on a range of topics. Entry £3 per person in teams of up to six people. Snacks will be provided but BYOB.

### Winter Fair

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 10.30 – 12 at 3VH.

### Three Villages Hall

The **Open Doors sessions on Monday Mornings** are continuing right up to a short Summer Break and will resume again in the Autumn and Winter seasons, with the re-introduction of a Soup and Sandwich lunch. The main focus now is supporting the LL&T NPA "**Walk in the Park**" and **Strength and Balance exercises** on Mondays at 10.30 followed by **Brew and a Blether**.

Keep an eye out for all the upcoming music, drama and events at the Three Villages Hall on our Website: <https://threevillageshall.scot/whats-on/>

### Thank you

Once again, we acknowledge the generosity of the **International Clan MacFarlane Society** for their support enabling us to live-stream our services.