

Arrochar Parish Newsletter

Spring 2022



Sunday Worship

Arrochar Parish Church

Every Sunday at 10am

SS Peter & Paul RC Church

Sunday Service 11.45am until April 10th; thereafter 8.30am

Easter Sunday Service

April 17th 10am in the Parish Church.

Followed by a walk to the Cross at Glen Loin where you are invited to place flowers. Everyone is welcome.

Dates for your diary

Spring Fair

April 30th 10.30am in the 3VH

Plant Sale

May 28th at 10am at the 3VH

About our community survey

At the end of 2021, guided by the Church of Scotland, our church distributed questionnaires to as many people as possible within our communities and congregation. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete one.

The purpose of the questionnaires was to better understand the feelings of the parish about our community and the parish church allowing us to think about how we as a church



can work to have a more proactive involvement within the local community. The seven questions asked were provided by the Church of Scotland.

1. What would you say is the most exciting thing that has happened in our community / church in the last five years?
2. Looking ahead five years, what would you most like to happen here? (church / community)
3. What are the most pressing needs of our community?
4. Besides buildings and money, what resources would the communities need to make these happen?
5. What do you see the church doing in our community?
6. What would you like to see the church doing more of in the community?
7. Would you say that the church building is easily accessible to all?

We were very happy to get a 30% response rate to the questionnaire distribution. The summary of the responses is too large to put in this small newsletter but can be accessed from the link on the home page of the Arrochar Parish Church website at <https://arrochar.lochkirks.org.uk/> or on the notice boards at the Three Village Hall and Arrochar Parish Church. We felt that it was important also to share the results of the questionnaire with local groups and as such a copy has been sent to the Community Council, The Development Trust and The Three Villages Hall Committee.

As a church we will be using the results to plan ways to increase our visibility, relevance and usefulness to the community. This newsletter is one way that we hope to increase communication of the church within the community.

Lorna Nimmo

Arrochar Parish Church Going Forward

Currently Arrochar Parish Church does not have a minister, following the retiral of Rev Louis Bezuidenhout. Unfortunately, this is not a unique situation for the Church of Scotland and at present there are approximately 400 churches without ministers.

Despite having no minister, we are still open for worship and our services are held at 10am every Sunday led by different worship leaders each week. We are always keen to welcome visitors to our services.

There had been some discussion about the possibility of Arrochar Parish Church uniting with the Lochside Parishes (Roseneath, Kilcreggan & Garelochhead) to share the ministers. However, at last year's General Assembly (the key decision forum for the Church of Scotland) a report was presented highlighting the limited number of ministers available and that there was no

imminent likelihood of improvement. Following this report all possible changes to Parishes & their ministers were put on hold and each region was charged with producing a new plan by the end of 2022 this has to take account of the reduction in ministerial numbers. Our region is looking to produce a draft plan by September.

We therefore await the new plan and, in the meantime, give thanks for the support and assistance we receive from our band of Worship Leaders who lead us each Sunday.

The church is open to visitors every Wednesday 1pm – 2.30pm

Alan Nimmo
Session Clerk

Thank you

We would like to thank the **International Clan MacFarlane Society** for their generous donation to help provide an internet connection within the parish church.

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

In October 2021 a lorry came to collect the 55 shoeboxes and bags that had been donated by people in our community to this annual charity appeal.



The first shoebox appeal was in 1993 and since then the initiative has blossomed.

In 2021 almost 83 000 boxes and bags were distributed in Eastern Europe.

For many people the content of one shoebox is all that they receive at Christmas, so it is very heart-warming to see the boxes go off in October when the process begins all over again. If you would like to help in any way please speak to me or any member of the church.

Irene Cameron

Three Villages Hall

Weekly

Walk in the Park
Table Tennis
Zumba
Kids' Library
Christian Fellowship

Coffee mornings

2nd & 4th Saturday of each month

Monthly

Camera Club
Community Council
Book Club

For more information about any of these events please contact the Three Villages Hall.

3VH

<http://www.threevillageshall.scot/>
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