



# Arrochar Parish Newsletter

## Winter 2024



### Church Services Arrochar Parish Church

December services begin at 10am unless otherwise stated.

**Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>** - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent service led by Rev. Ian Millar

**Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>**- 2nd Sunday in Advent service led by Rev. Ian Millar

**Dec.15<sup>th</sup>** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent service led by Liz Nau

**Dec 18<sup>th</sup>** Service of lessons and carols at **7pm**

**Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent Service led by Rev. Ian Millar

**Dec.24<sup>th</sup>** Watchnight Service at **5pm**. Service led by Rev. Ian Millar.

**Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>** Service led by Rev. Ian Millar

### 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>

### Thank you

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

### Quiz Night

The Quiz Night, held on 25<sup>th</sup> October was very popular, great fun and raised about £300 for church funds. Thanks to everyone involved, especially quizmaster, Stuart Greenwood, and organiser Gayle Stead-Kerr.

### Blythwood Shoebox Appeal

Blythwood Care collected 60 bags and shoeboxes from the church. These will be sent to needy people in the Ukraine. I was asked to pass on Blythwood Care's thanks for our continued support of their work.

## Use of the church organ & other music resources

We are very keen that the church is seen as building that can be used by all in the community.

We have a simple pipe organ (single keyboard and no foot board) which has been renovated and re-tuned. If anyone is interested in playing it, we would be delighted.

We have also recently installed a new mixer and amplifier courtesy of a grant from the Arrochar & Tarbet Community Benefit Fund, if any musicians wish to use the church for practice etc we would be pleased to assist.

Regarding both of these opportunities please contact Alan Nimmo on 07803 245584 or by emailing [arrocharchurch@outlook.com](mailto:arrocharchurch@outlook.com)

## Arrochar & Tarbet Community Benefit Fund

Thanks to the generosity of the Arrochar & Tarbet Community Benefit Fund we awarded £2,430 to support us deliver the following items:

- Upgraded website
- Back door ramp
- Hymnaries, including large print and melody editions
- Improved sound system
- Improved donation station for visitors

We are extremely grateful to the Trust for this contribution and hopefully it will be appreciated by everyone who makes use of the church.

## Church Renovation

The church underwent significant work in the 1990s thanks to the efforts of the local community which ensured that the church is still able to be used.

However, in order to ensure that we have a church building able to celebrate its 200-year anniversary in 2047 we require to undertake some significant work on the building.

The flat roofs on the tower and either side of it need to be completely re-worked to stop water entering the building. We also need to improve the underfloor ventilation, internal insulation and other general maintenance work to windows, water drainage etc.

We are looking to improve the accessibility and usage of the building by creating ramped access to the front door of the church, re-working the chancel area so that people with disabilities can move from the church through to the hall area.

The hall area will be re-worked to provide a better layout with a new kitchen and disabled toilet.

The estimate we have for this work is in the region of ½ million pounds. This is obviously too great an amount for a small village church to raise by local fund raising alone so we are actively looking at what grants can be obtained to contribute towards the total.

The good news is that the Church of Scotland's view is that Arrochar Parish Church is a church that should remain open so hopefully we can obtain the necessary funds to allow us to complete the work and keep this beautiful building open.

### Renovation Raffle



As part of our efforts to raise money towards the renovation we are raffling a quilt. Made and donated by one of our members it measures 180cm x 180cm (6ft x 6ft). The quilt is reversible with one side featuring spring colours and the other autumn shades. The second prize is a photographic print by Bob Smith; plus more prizes.



Tickets cost £1 each and are available from church members, via the church website <https://arrocharparishchurch.org/raffle.html> or by scanning the QR code.

The draw will take place at the church after Sunday worship on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025

## Memory Stars

Every year the Christmas tree in the church is bedecked with stars, each remembering a late loved-one. Once the tree is taken down the names on the stars are recorded in a book which is kept in the church.

For a small donation you can have a Memory Star hung on the tree in memory of a loved one.

Please email

[arrocharchurch@outlook.com](mailto:arrocharchurch@outlook.com).



## Poppy Scotland Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who supported the Poppy Scotland Coffee Morning on Sat 9th November. An amazing total of £601 was raised. Thank you to all our bakers, servers and volunteers for creating a great atmosphere and to Ann Huggans for the beautiful handmade poppies that decorated the tables.

## Dates for your Diary

### Craft Fair

On 1st December there will be a craft fair at the 3VH between 11am and 4pm with a range of stalls and refreshments provided by Arrochar Primary School.

### What's on at the 3VH

Strength & Balance, chair-based fitness exercises continue at the 3VH on Mondays at 10.30.

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/>