

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
On those living in the land of deep
darkness a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9 : 2



The Parish of Ardchattan www.ardchattanchurch.org.uk

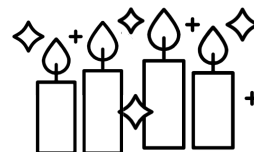
November, Advent & Christmas 2025

Print Out ...

A round up of news, information,
views and a bit of fun.

Safeguarding

The Church of Scotland has clearly defined policies concerning the protection of young people and vulnerable adults. The Safeguarding Coordinator for Ardchattan Parish is Allison Davies, who can be contacted by email at allison.m.davies@btinternet.com or by telephone on 07771996352.



Scottish Charity Number SC000680



Ardchattan linked with Coll linked with Connel and Dunbeg

The Church of Scotland

Welcome to our Printout ...



Autumn leaves have been blown away, returning to the ground for natural recycling. Remaining cotoneaster and other berries are being enjoyed by local and migrant birds alike. Some spring bulbs are starting to appear which is encouraging, if a bit early.

Some of us have a natural instinct to hibernate through the darker months and technology can assist us in this.

It can be good to socialise though and there is a wide variety of local events, some mentioned here, where we can gather together. It is also good to be out in the open air, our walking group on Thursday mornings could be good to join, weather permitting.

December 21st is the Shortest Day and then our days will start to lengthen again. A cheerful thought!

We begin to look forward to the joy and excitement of Christmas. Another intriguing nativity play is being planned, this year it will coincide with a joint service in St. Modan's on the 21st - more details will be available nearer the time.

Dates and times for your diary

November 16th - 10am Joint Service at St. Oran's, Connel

November 23rd - Communion Service (*Scottish Bible Society)

December 13th - (Saturday) - Messy Church - Christingle Service 4pm, all welcome

December 21st - Joint Service at St. Modan's with a Congregational Nativity - 11.30 am

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th - 11.30 pm- (*Erskine Hospital) led by members of the Kirk Session

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25th - 10.30 am- (*Christian Aid)

(*indicates the Charity to which our retiring collections will be donated)



Coffee and tea are usually available in the Church hall after service. It's a good chance to catch up with folk. If you might be able to help wield a teapot sometimes, do let Morag know.

Ardchattan Worship Services Plan,

November- December 2025
(Sunday services in St Modan's start at 11.30am unless otherwise stated)

	St. Modan's	Comments
November		
2nd	Margaret	
9th	Willem	Remembrance
16th 10am	(Joint Service, Willem, Connel)	
23 rd	Willem	Communion
30th	Willem	(First Sunday in Advent)
December		
7th	Margaret	
13 th 4.00pm	Christingle Service in the Campbell Memorial Hall	
14th	Willem	
21st	Joint Service, Willem and Congregational Nativity	
24 th 11.30pm	Christmas Eve Watchnight Service, Kirk Session	
25th 10.30am	Willem	Christmas Day
28th	Willem	

Wishing You
Joy, Hope, Peace and Love
this Christmas



‘What’s on in Ardchattan?’

Some local community events in November and December -

Bookends - continue to hold their ‘open days’ on the 3rd day of each month in the Victory Hall, Benderloch.

A warm space, tea & coffee available, lots and lots of books to look at and/or take away.

The next ones are on Monday, November 3rd and Wednesday, December 3rd, 11am - 4pm

Indoor car boot sale - Victory Hall

Sunday 9th November - 12 noon - 3pm,

Soup and sandwiches, tea & coffee available.

(The ‘Bookends’ room is also open during this event)

Our own Quiz Night -

Friday, November 21st in the Victory Hall (see p.7 for details)

Do come, with friends or family if you can!

The Ardchattan Centre - Pop Up Tea Rooms -

On the third Sunday of each month, 1pm - 3pm.

Everyone welcome.

Christmas Fayre - Victory Hall, Benderloch -

Friday 12th December - 7pm - entertainment, gift stalls, teas and more.

To book a stall, email victoryhallbenderloch@gmail.com

St. Oran’s & Dunbeg Churches hold a soup lunch on the first

Saturday of each month in the Connel Village Hall. 12.00 to 2.00pm

Soup, rolls, baking, tea & coffee (by donation).

If you know of any events in the Ardchattan Community which might be of interest to our readers, do let Jane know about them.

Answers to the quiz

1. Saturn, 2. The Traitors, 3. Aftershocks, 4. Yellow, 5. Watson,
6. Acute, 7. Ringo Starr, 8. Mungo, 9. Amy, 10. Naan, 11. D-Day,
12. Colon, 13. Orchid, 14. Zucchini, 15. York



You are invited to be part of
the congregation of
St. Modan’s Church as it
celebrates the Lord’s Supper
on Sunday November 23rd
at 11.30 am

Jesus said “Do this in memory of me”

The Minister and Kirk Session hope you will
be able to be present on this occasion.

There will be a retiring collection after this service in
aid of the Scottish Bible Society

*We use gluten free bread and grape juice (rather than
anything with or resembling alcohol) for our Communion.*

From our Minister ...

To follow that star...

I tried so hard to follow the Orionid Meteor Showers!

Just think about it:

On the 21st of October, Comet C/2025 A6 (Lemmon) passed the earth, closer than the moon: Its first and only appearance in 1,350 years. But cloud cover obstructed my view...

Then I planned to observe Comet Swann, which orbits the sun every 22,554 years, on Tuesday, the 22nd of October. But cloud cover crashed the party again.

I did everything in my power to witness this spectacle...

I followed all the guidelines: Orion rises in the East after midnight and it's best to watch out for the comets; flying out from the region of Orion. I did exactly that; but to no avail.

Then, looking up at the clouds, I started thinking about another midnight spectacle- long, long ago:

In my mind's eye I walked with the Magi; trying to find that incredible star:

And yes, it was there: Hovering above a small town called Bethlehem.

But that star was only a beacon; guiding me to another light; much brighter, far down below:

A child in a manger:

In his heart burned a light much brighter than all the stars in the sky.

A light called Love...

A light no darkness can ever engulf!

May this light of love guide you in the days to come. May we become children again- to gather around that child in the manger.

And share the radiant light of God's eternal love; with ALL God's children...

Willem

Our Open Church - War Memorials



We continue to open St. Modan's Church daily.

A rota of folk aim to have it open between 10 am - 4pm

We know that locals and visitors alike find peace and a quiet space here for reflection and prayer, as well as a chance to look around.

It is good when folk leave messages in the visitors book. People found us from the U.S.A., Netherlands, Germany and Taiwan this year.

Some people have visited after years away, reviving memories.

The Parish War Memorials can be seen at the front of the church, by the pulpit.



Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Were you able to come to our Harvest Festival this year?

Following Storm Amy it really did feel as if 'all had been safely gathered in' before the storm.

With the church open people had been able to leave their donations of harvest arrangements throughout the week before, some folk had picked flowers from their gardens just before the storm arrived. The North Connel Guide company had produced delightful arrangements for the pew ends on the Thursday.

The winds broke the stems of our Pineapple Lilies at their bases leaving the flowers intact so they could be added to the decorations. On Harvest Sunday with gardens, hedgerows and trees in the area looking truly bruised and battered outside, the church looked lovely.

Generous donations of vegetables for soup, long life food and, Christmas treats which we were able to pass on to Hope Kitchen and St. Modan's Larder were received with thanks. £126 was raised for Christian Aid in the retiring collection.

St. Modan's Larder

St. Modan's Larder can still be found in the cupboard/larder inside the back door of the church. This door is open all day, 7 days a week so the larder can be accessed at any time, by anyone in need.

We try to ensure that it is kept stocked, please let us know if supplies are low. It would also be helpful to know if we are missing anything which would be useful.

Do spread the word about it.



Quiz Time!



1. Which gas giant is the second largest planet in our solar system?
 2. Which BBC TV programme starts with competitors arriving at a Scottish castle?
 3. What do we call small quakes that occur after a major earthquake?
 4. Which primary colour combines with blue to make green?
 5. What was the surname of Sherlock Holmes' friend and associate?
 6. What do we call an angle of less than 90 degrees?
 7. Which musician played drums in the "Fab Four"?
 8. This patron saint is otherwise known as Kentigern?
 9. What was the recent storm in early October called?
 10. What is the Indian bread often served with curry?
 11. How is June 6th 1944 generally referred to?
 12. This word can mean a punctuation mark or part of the intestine?
 13. From what kind of plant does vanilla come?
 14. What was the name of the short tax collector who climbed a tree to see Jesus?
 15. Which UK city was previously known at different times as Eboracum and Jorvik?
- 8 Can you find the words spelled by the first letters of each answer?

Ordination Service

On Saturday 1st November Aileen Binner was ordained as an Ordained Local Minister by the Presbytery of Cleir Eilean I.

This was the culmination of two years of study and probationary service which was preceded by years of service as a Reader.

All were welcomed to join to celebrate this very special event.

The Ordination Service was held in St Modan's, followed by refreshments along the road in the Victory Hall.

We congratulate Aileen on her achievement and wish her well in her future ministry.

Books, Broth & Blether is back!

(Bookends Benderloch with Ardchattan Church)



The Ben Lora Cafe is now closed until next Easter 2026, but our 'Books, Broth & Blether' is starting back again in the Church Hall on November 6th.

It is planned to be held every Thursday
from 12 noon - 2.30pm.

We provide a warm space with friendly folk, books to look at and borrow if you like, a soup and bread lunch with tea & coffee and a chance to chat.

Come on your own, come with a friend, arrange to meet up there.

These events are FREE

All welcome.

Do spread the word.

(Donations to Church funds are always welcome)

If you would like to help please have a word with Allison



Messy Church



We celebrated Harvest at September's Messy Church .

Messy' activities included vegetable hunting in the church, and using these vegetables to paint a vegetable print picture of harvest fields. We junk modelled tractors and constructed rich tea biscuit barns with icing. All the children loved making music shakers from yogurt pots filled with pulses and beans. By the end of the morning the carpet was indeed very messy! The shakers were put to good (noisy) use when we sang 'Come on and Celebrate', and 'Thank you God for.....'. When asked to fill in the gap, what do you suppose the children 'Thanked God for ?' Biscuits and chocolate of course!

During October's Messy Church session we looked at the story of Noah and centred our activities around the animal world. It was a wonderful session with a number of children coming for the first time and definitely lived up to the Messy description. There is a bug hotel mounted on the wall of the hall for all to see.

We continue to be delighted that families are coming along to Messy Church. It's great that we are sharing a bible story, singing songs, being busy and creative together at St. Modan's. We have now had a total of 17 different children from 11 families participate since starting Messy Church. Come and join us if you would like to see what goes on. The next Messy Church session is on Saturday 29th November at 9.30am – 'Messy Christmas', and the December Messy Church will be a Christingle Service at 4pm on Saturday 13th.



Club nan Caraidean (Friends' Club)



5th November Make tree decorations for
St Conan's Christmas Tree Festival

19th November Palestine Talk

3rd December Carols with the Community Singers

6 10th December Christmas Lunch - 12.30pm



Ardchattan Parish

Quiz Night -

Friday, 21st November

in the Victory Hall in Benderloch

Starting at 7.30pm, Doors open from 7pm

Teams of up to 6

(even if you don't have a team do still come,
we'll help you to find one)

Youngsters on a team can be very helpful!

£5.00 pp entry, (primary age children £2)
includes a light supper

BYOB

Raffle

Contact Allison on 07771 996 352 to book a table
or come along on the night.

Proceeds will be divided between Church funds and
The Victory Hall.

Everyone Welcome, do invite your friends.

The Kirk Session

Our next meeting is in the Church Hall on Thursday, 20th November
at 7pm.

If there is anything that you would like them to discuss please
contact Allison Davies (see back page).



Stamps

Don't forget to save the used stamps from letters and
Christmas cards and put them into our collection box
for World Mission.