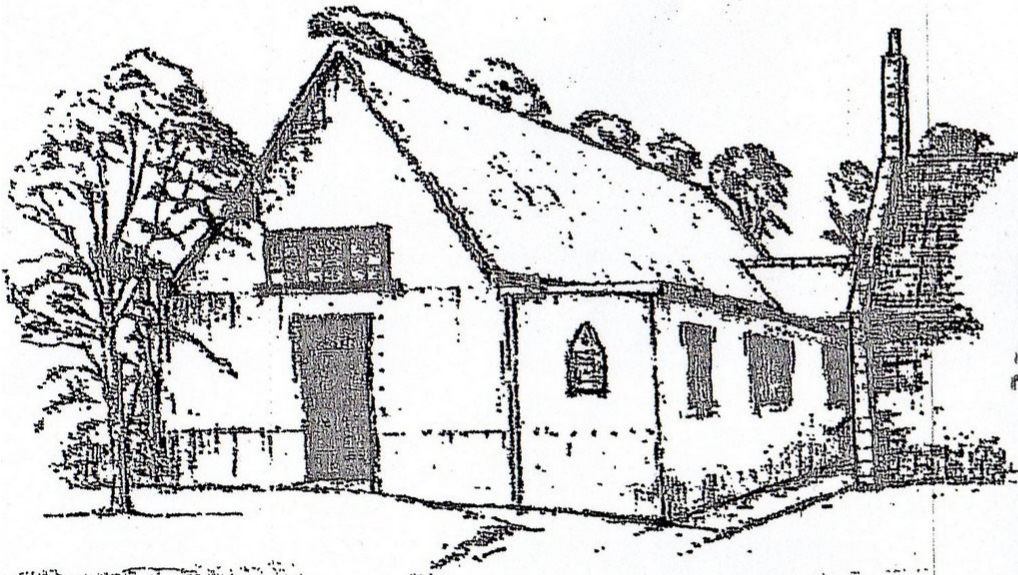


**St Bride's Church  
Brodict  
Autumn 2015  
Newsletter**



*Brodict Church War Memorial Hall*



**Scottish Charity No SCO12017 [www.brodictchurch.org](http://www.brodictchurch.org)**

I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;  
I fled Him, down the arches of the years;  
I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways  
Of my own mind; and in the midst of tears  
I hid from Him, and under running laughter.  
Up vistaed hopes I sped;  
And shot, precipitated,  
Adown Titanic glooms of chasmed fears  
From those strong Feet that followed, followed after.  
But with unhurrying chase,  
And unperturbed pace,  
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,  
They beat – and a Voice beat  
More instant than the Feet-  
'All things betray thee, who betrayest Me'.

So runs the first stanza of Francis Thompson's 'The Hound of Heaven', a poem always in my mind when I am called upon to perform a baptism. And recently there has been a very busy run of baptisms in the parishes of North Arran and not just of local residents but of children of Arran folk now resident in New Zealand and Canada, in one case going back to the third generation since their particular family left the island. The sense of a connection to the island 'family' church, clearly still runs deep. This is also very evident given the number of people who come every year to visit our churches especially to see their name on the Cradle Roll and find out the date of their baptism. I'm glad to say no one yet has, as has happened in other places, asked under 'Data Protection' laws for their name to be removed from the 'Cradle Roll'. I guess they don't want anyone to know that they were once even nominally raised as a Christian, or ever had any connection to the Church. Here by contrast, although many people choose not to worship in our churches regularly, or at all, still there exists a great deal of goodwill and fondness for the parish Church and its work, clearly shown once again in support given to church funds during the summer fund-raising season at all the many fetes, sales of work, auctions and concerts. And very thankful

indeed are all the congregations for that support, which means we can keep our buildings at Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill & Shiskine wind and watertight and open for worship for another year. That said, we are aware that if only people still actually attended worship, there would be no pressing financial need to have such fund-raising events. Hence once again we will hold our annual 'Come to Church Sunday' on 29<sup>th</sup> November, when we will issue invitations to folk in our parishes to do just that. In particular we will be sure to invite those who were baptised in the church to consider renewing their affiliation to the place where they were first introduced to the Christian faith, albeit perhaps as babes in arms before they were able to know anything about what was happening to them.

At baptism promises are made by loving parents to 'bring their children up in the life and worship of the church.' Of course on reaching maturity individuals will make their own informed decision whether to continue to do so or not. However, another promise is made at a baptism, a promise by the congregation to also be 'involved in the Christian upbringing of every child baptised, by being the sort of Christian congregation which they would be proud to join; and to set a joyful example of Christian fellowship, love and service'.

That promise is not made lightly, or for the moment, it is a promise binding for a life-time. Just as our loving Heavenly Father, the 'hound of heaven' never gives up on anyone and lovingly pursues us all our lives long, so the congregation has a life-long obligation never to give up on reaching out to anyone, no matter how long it is since they last came to church to worship.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> November we would be overjoyed to welcome 'home' anyone who accepts our 'Come to Church' invitation, especially if your name is already inscribed there on our Cradle Roll.

And as for the poem 'The Hound of Heaven' it too has a happy reunion at its ending:

Halts by me that footfall:  
Is my gloom, after all,  
Shade of His hand, outstretched caressingly?  
'Ah, fondest, blindest, weakest,  
I am He Whom thou seekest!  
Thou dravest love from thee, who dravest Me'

## Editor's Remarks

We have been blessed, over the last few weeks, by some glorious warm sunny days but there are many signs of summer taking its final farewell to be replaced by the arrival of autumn.

This heralds the start of the church organizations that meet regularly in the church over the next months, The Sunday school, St Bride's Ladies on alternate Monday afternoon, and Ladies Bowling on Friday afternoons. New members will be made most welcome.

My thanks, as always, to all those who have contributed to this edition of the magazine.

## Arran Churches Together

As Mrs. Valerie Cross has left the island, Mrs. Ann McKay has kindly agreed to become the second Brodick representative for Arran Churches Together, and I am very grateful to her.

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August, we had another successful Quiz Night. Unfortunately, it clashed again with the School Prizegiving, resulting in the clergy being unable to attend.

The Christingle Service will be held this year on 26<sup>th</sup> November in Whiting Bay Church at 6.30pm for 7.00pm.

We hope a good number will join us for Carol Singing in the Co-op on 12<sup>th</sup> December from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

Finally, the Service of Christian Unity will be held in St. Molios Church on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 12 noon.

## St Bride's Ladies

The winter session is about to begin and we are looking forward to some interesting afternoons.

The ladies have not been idle over the summer as we were involved in various ways at the Church Summer Fayre in July. This was followed by the Highland Games in August when we provided catering in the pavilion. This was very successful and, although hectic at times, an enjoyable day.

The committee has worked hard to compile an interesting programme which we hope you will enjoy.

Our first meeting is on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October when Fiona Crawford will give an illustrated talk which should be very interesting. On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October we depart from our usual meeting with a Harvest lunch in Brodick Golf Club. Our meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November is a talk on Eco Savvy followed on 23<sup>rd</sup> November by Jan McGregor whose subject is Fairtrade. This brings us to December with our Christmas Fayre on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> and our Christmas party on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup>.

The meetings are all at 2p.m. now and are open to everyone. We are always delighted to see some men attending.

The syllabus is available in the church vestibule if you have not already got one.

## Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2015

There is just enough time to hand in your filled boxes if you have not already done so. The final date is Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

## Friends of Montrose House Association

### Autumn 2015

As the autumn colours deepen, the leaves begin to fall, the days grow noticeably shorter and the sun makes a defiant effort to show us what might have been, we approach the latter part of the year and reflect on events which have taken place recently.

It is now 12 months since the new building was completed and nominally handed over to NAC, although for practical reasons it wasn't occupied till January of this year. The initial corporate terminology, not without its challenges' very aptly describes the sequence of events which have unfolded. Undoubtedly the most significant occurrence has been the emergence of a need for and the formal establishment of a new organisation entitled 'Montrose House Residents Support Group', MHRSG. The Mission Purpose stated in its constitution is 'To directly represent the interests and needs of the residents and to enhance communication for residents, relatives, all relevant agencies and everyone involved with Montrose House'. This is clearly in no way in opposition to the objectives of our organisation, rather being complimentary, as 'To liaise with Friends of Montrose House' appears as a sub-title in their constitution. We have been invited to attend all meetings and have so far been able to make a positive contribution to defining their constitution.

Certainly the most significant item on the agenda is the urgent need for the appointment of a permanent full time Manager, preferably based on the Island, and the establishment of realistic Staffing levels to meet the developing needs of residents. This has so far prompted an indication that consideration is being given to the appointment of additional nursing staff - staff nurses and charge nurses - within the staffing complement. The introduction of an Enabling Unit consisting of 8 beds will cater for those in need of care on a temporary basis of 4-6-8 weeks duration. An additional two rooms will have to be converted to therapy rooms.

Planning is well advanced for the traditional end of year events such as the Halloween, the Christmas Party and the Scots Night in January. All events now have to be held in the Daycare part of the building which necessitates close liaison with Stronach staff to arrange suitable dates and organise logistic movement of furniture. Just another of the additional 'challenges' we have to overcome.

Re-planting of external tubs with winter bulbs is also planned, hopefully involving the AYP group once again.

It has to be said that we are greatly disappointed at the sporadic attempts of the contractors to maintain the extensive gardens surrounding the property.

This is such a contrast to the award winning past efforts of our 'Garden Gang'.

One item of interest which took place recently was the holding of a Memorial Service for Sadie Ritchie in Brodick Church, followed by a Tea Party in the War Memorial Hall. The event took place on a Saturday afternoon and was attended by a large contingent of residents and carers from Montrose House, transported by 'My Bus'. Despite being strictly contrary to our accepted rationale for holding such events in-house, this was very much appreciated by all who attended and raised the suggestion that it might be possible to arrange further outings in future - maybe on Wednesday Morning Coffee dates.

Finally it is with sadness that we also have to acknowledge the death of Peggy Grundy. On that occasion a Memorial Service was held in-house. We also have to record the recent death of May Fenton, formerly Session Clerk of Lochranza Church.

### Come Ye Thankful People Come

One of the most beautiful seasons of the year, especially for the church, is Harvest. It is a season I love. To see the house of God tastefully decorated with the fruits of the field and flowers of the garden is a sight to gladden any heart. The fruits and flowers are evident tokens of the manifold provisions of God; and it is right that we should have special services of thanksgiving. Harvest time is also a great opportunity to press home the truths of the Scriptures.

Harvest, however, is mainly a time of praise and thanksgiving. I can well remember how much sheer pleasure I experienced, as a girl, just from singing the harvest hymns. I remember those lovely hymns, stirring hymns like, *We plough the fields and scatter.., Bringing in the sheaves..* and this one *Come ye thankful people come...* All these bring back a flood of precious memories. *Come, Ye Thankful People Come* was first published in 1844 and its original title was '*After Harvest*'. Only the first stanza deals with the temporal harvest here on earth. The other three portray the spiritual harvest of precious souls and the time when God shall come 'to gather in' His people. It seems clear that this hymn is based on those encouraging words in Psalm 126:6 'He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him'. The lines of each stanza are well worth a thoughtful perusal.

The author, Rev. Henry Alford DD was born in London on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> 1810. From all appearances he was a very godly man. Indeed, it is reported that when he was just fifteen years old he dedicated himself to the Lord in the words of the sacred vow:

*'I do this day, in the presence of God and my own soul, renew my covenant with God, solemnly determined henceforth to become His and to do His work as far as in me lies'*

It seems that he never deviated from this for the rest of his life. Biographers describe Henry Alford as a 'pious young student, an eloquent Preacher, a sound Biblical critic, a man of great learning and taste, one of the most gifted of men of his day and an affectionate man, full of good humour'.

His literary skills were displayed in every department of the art. He wrote a total of fifty books, the most important of them being his four volume *Exposition of the New Testament*. It took him more than twenty years to complete. But above all, he was a superior preacher, who ever lived in the light of eternity and sought to point his listeners heavenward.

*Come, ye thankful people, come,  
Raise the song of harvest-home;  
All is safely gathered in,  
Ere the winter storms begin;  
God our maker, doth provide  
For our wants to be supplied;  
Come to God's own temple come,  
Raise the song of harvest-home.*

I hope and pray that we as a church would come to God, a thankful people at harvest time and always for all the blessings on us, those seen and unseen.

Ivan Hunter

## Property Report

### The Manse

#### The Kitchen & Utility

Subject to the reinstatement of plywood and linoleum to the floor area the works to the kitchen will be complete.

#### Main Entrance Hall

Iain Barbour, the painter has been notified to make arrangements with Angus for the varnishing of the main entrance hall thereafter.

#### Master Bedroom

At the same time the damp patch on the master bedroom ceiling seems to have been cured, and can now be emulsioned

#### Exterior

Painting of the external woodwork, weather permitting, hopefully will be carried out before the end of the year.

### The Church Hall

The varnishing of the hall floor was duly carried out on programme, by Iain Barbour, at no cost to the congregation. I have sent a letter, on your behalf, thanking him for his generous gesture, time and expertise in carrying out the work. The paint work on the front door has been touched up. The microphone is now in working order. Please try to remember, if any organisation is using this system with their own equipment, to replace the plug in the back of the amplifier.

Kicking plates have been fixed to the toy, and chair store cupboard doors.

### The Church

I have received two small signs from Edinburgh and under Health and Safety rules they are to be fixed adjacent to loft access areas.

### Church Grounds

I have received help from Mr John Murchie of Brandon Farm, in controlling the weeds in the Church Grounds. I have written to him on your behalf with grateful thanks.

As this will be the last news letter of 2015, may I thank everyone for their support over the previous months.

NC

## CHURCH FETE AND AUCTION.

This year's church Fete was held on Saturday 18th July. Because of a poor weather forecast it was held inside, but fortunately the weather improved and the fete was very well attended. An astonishing £3180 was raised which compares well with recent years' results.

The auction was held as usual in Brodick Golf Club on Thursday 23rd July, and although less well attended than in previous years was nevertheless an enjoyable and successful evening, raising a further £1147 on the night.

Many people worked very hard to achieve these excellent results and deserve our very grateful thanks.

## CHURCH SUMMER OPENING.

From April to September the church was again open every day from 10am until 4pm allowing visitors to see inside our splendid building. We have no way of knowing how many people took advantage of this opportunity to visit the church except for a number of complimentary entries in the visitors' book.

We do however appreciate the support of the stewards on door duty each Sunday who willingly undertook to open and close the church each day in the week following, an added job for many in their busy lives.

## DATA PROTECTION ACT.

Many thanks first of all to the elders who had the recent task of taking round the consent forms to the members in their district needed for our compliance with legislation under the Act. The vast majority of members have already signed up for which many thanks, and in the coming weeks the elders will be seeking to follow up those who have still to comply.

## RECENT CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

Mrs Joyce Buchanan, to Scotthaven, Park Terrace, Lamlash, Telephone 600308.

Mrs Peggy Currie, to Cooriedoon, Whiting Bay.

Mrs Irene Rollo, to 5 Manse Crescent, Brodick, Telephone 302718.

## CHURCH NOTICES – Autumn 2015

### Baptisms:

Lewis Arthur Hendry	10th August
Hayley Carey	21st August
Daisy Catherine Holly Campbell Earle	13th September
Rowan Hazel Josie Earle	13th September
Beatrix Gwendoline Mary Gladys Earle	13th September

### Deaths:

George White, Brathwic Terrace, Brodick	11th July
May Corbett, Iona, Shore Road, Brodick	10th August
Peggy Grundy, Montrose House, Brodick	13th August
Douglas Proudfoot, Westways, Brodick	20th August
Marion Hannah, Auchlochan Garden Village	4th September
Sadie Ritchie, Montrose House, Brodick	15th September
Ann Smith, Casa Mara, Brodick	1st October
May Proctor, 12a Sheean Drive, Brodick	11th October

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

25th October	10.30am Harvest Thanksgiving service,
26th October	St Bride's Ladies – Lunch at Brodick Golf Clubhouse.
29th October	12noon Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Shiskine.
1st November	<b>11am Linkage Communion service, Shiskine Church.</b> <b>7pm Thanksgiving praise service, Corrie Church.</b>
4th November	10.30am to 12noon Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.
5th November	7.30pm Service of Taize Worship, Shiskine Church.
8th November	10am War Memorial Service, Brodick. 10.30am Armistice Service during morning worship.
9th November	2pm St Bride's Ladies, Eco Savvy talk, Church Hall.
18th November	10.30am to 12noon Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.
25th November	12noon Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Transept.
26th November	6.30pm for 7pm Christingle Service, Whiting Bay Church.
29th November	10.30am Come to Church Sunday.
2nd December	10.30am to 12noon Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.
5th December	2pm St Bride's Ladies Christmas Fayre, Church Hall.
7th December	7.30pm Island Carol Concert, Lamlash Church.
14th December	2pm St Bride's Ladies, Christmas Party, Church Hall.
16th December	10.30am to 12noon Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.
24th December	11.30pm Christmas Watchnight Service.
11th January	2pm St Bride's Ladies, Rev. Lily McKinnon talk, Church Hall.
25th January	2pm St Bride's Ladies, Scots Afternoon.
7th February	<b>10.30am Sacrament of the Lord's Supper</b>