

CHURCH NOTICES – Autumn 2016

Weddings: Jenny Dunsmuir and Scott Bevin in Brodick Church 30th May
Rebecca Hughes and James Spink in Brodick Church 9th June
Margaret Graham and Ruairadh Ferguson in Brodick Church
25th June
Lynne Benn and Philip McKee in Brodick Church 23rd July
Suzie Paton and Jamie Gray in Big Wooden House 7th September

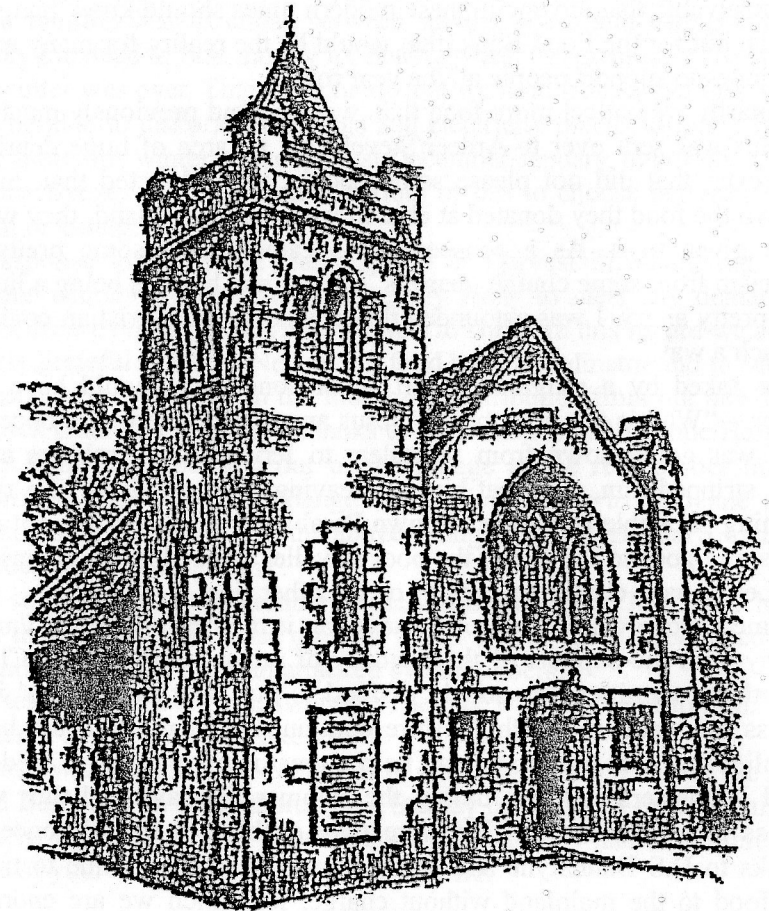
Deaths: James Macmillan, Hamilton 2nd March
Andrew Hannah, Auchloch, Lesmahagow 19th July
Margaret Alexander, Park Cottage, Brodick 10th August
Steven McEwan, Springbank Terrace, Brodick 27th August
Vera Barker, Montrose House 7th September

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

23rd October 10.30am Harvest Thanksgiving Service
24th October 2pm St Bride's Ladies – "Street Pastors" illustrated talk
26th October 10.30am to 12noon Church Coffee Morning in the church hall
12noon Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Brodick
2nd November 10.30am to 12noon Church Coffee Morning in the church hall
**6th November 11am Linkage Communion Service in Lochranza Hall,
followed by a soup and sandwich lunch
7pm Thanksgiving Service in Corrie Church**
13th November 10am War Memorial Service, Brodick
10.30am Armistice Service during morning worship
14th November 2pm St Bride's Ladies – Graeme Johnstone on "A.Y.F"
16th November 10.30am to 12noon Church Coffee Morning in the church hall
24th November 12noon Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Shiskine
27th November 10.30am Bible Sunday and Come to Church Sunday
28th November 2pm St Bride's Ladies – Douglas Johnston on "Wood"
30th November 10.30am to 12noon Church Coffee Morning in the church hall
3rd December 2pm St Bride's Ladies Christmas Fayre
5th December 7.30pm Island Carol Concert, Lamlash Church
12th December 12 for 12.30pm St Bride's Ladies Christmas Lunch outing
14th December 10.30am to 12noon Church Coffee Morning in the church hall
24th December 11.30pm Christmas Watchnight Service
25th December 10.30am Christmas Day Service
1st January 10.30am New Year's Day Service
9th January 2pm St Bride's Ladies – Talk by Dr Elizabeth White
23rd January 2pm St Bride's Ladies Scots Afternoon

St Bride's Church Brodick

Newsletter



Autumn 2016

Brodick Manse
November 2016

'Food Matters'

It is almost 5 years since the Arran Churches Together Food Bank was established in response to the knowledge that an Arran family had gone hungry over Christmas time. Yet for many still on this island, it is almost inconceivable that anyone in these modern times should know hunger. The fact is, but for the Food Bank, that would be the reality for many and so it continues to support people all the year round.

Ordinarily we collect more food than we need and previously much of the surplus was sent over to Ardeer/Stevenston, an area of huge deprivation. However, that did not please some people, who objected that, had they known the food they donated at church was going off island, they wouldn't have given to it. As a consequence I came in for some pretty nasty criticism from some church quarters. At the time, besides being a little hurt and pretty angry, I was astounded that any so-called Christian could think in such a way.

Once asked by a religious expert – someone who should have known better – “Who is my neighbour?” Jesus answered “There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, stripped him, and beat him up, leaving him half dead.” So runs the opening preamble to the well-known Parable of the Good Samaritan, who stops and goes to the aid of the poor traveller in need, after the priest and the Levite have chosen to 'pass by on the other side'.

For me anyone who is in need, near or far, is my neighbour and I'm happy to say with the support of the majority of others on the Arran Churches Together committee, the supply of food to our 'near neighbours' in need across the water in North Ayrshire continued. The most recent batch of supplies was sent over in July to help a great many parents to feed school aged youngsters at home during the summer holidays and thus without access to a school meal. We were only enabled to do this once again, thanks to D.S Bannatyne and Arran Transport who continue to transport the food to the mainland without charge, for which we are enormously grateful.

However all that said, for the first time, during the period between October and February last winter, we had a job to keep up with demand made on the Food Bank locally here on Arran. This need tailed off around Easter time and we think that this was because seasonal related work then became

possible for those who had relied on food bank assistance to get them through winter time. In my experience no one asks for help from the Food Bank when they can afford to do otherwise. It illustrates too, that contrary to misguided opinion, very often it is people who are in work, or very willing to work, who find themselves in the terrible position of not being able to feed their own families.

Another possible explanation for this tail off in demand at Easter, is that some families had to choose between staying warm and eating and quite simply the need to find money for heating wasn't as great once the worst of the winter was over. Thanks to funds that we hold from donations, we will also be able to disburse coal/ logs and electricity tokens to many families once more this winter as we did last December/January, hopefully ensuring no one freezes over the festive period, or has to choose between staying warm or eating.

In response to our Food Bank appeal at Harvest Thanksgiving in our various churches, we are now hopefully ready to meet any demand that might arise over the long winter months to come. In this regard we are also hugely grateful to Helen Nelson our food bank coordinator and to Matthew Johnson who assists her in the food bank distribution from our new base at Brodick Church. Previously, thanks to the kindness of Vivienne Haigh, the Food Bank had operated out of the garage at the rear of her home at 'Thornlea', Lamblash. The change of location is due to Vivienne having recently sold 'Thornlea'. All the above, along with D.S. Bannatyne truly are our local 'Good Samaritans'.

And so to return to the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus concludes it with these words: “In your opinion which one of these three acted like a neighbour towards the man attacked by the robbers?”

The teacher of the Law answered, “The one who was kind to him.” Jesus replied, “Go then, and do likewise”.

Anyone wishing to make donations of either food or money for the ACTS Food Bank can do so at church on a Sunday morning, or by contacting me directly. I guarantee your contributions will certainly make a difference to some of your 'neighbours' in need, near or far.

Angus

Editor's Remarks

Once again we have been blessed with a number of weeks of mainly dry sunny days but there is a definite nip in the air when out of the sun and with the days becoming shorter and the leaves beginning to fall autumn is once again well under way.

This, of course, means the restart of the church organisation that meet regularly over the coming months, St Bride's Ladies, The Sunday School and Ladies Bowling.

New members will be made most welcome.

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

Communion

Our next communion service is, as always in November, a linkage service when all the churches in the North Arran Parishes come together for this most symbolic way of expressing how we are all working together in His name.

This year's service will be held in Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall at 11am on **Sunday 6th November**, and will be followed by a soup and sandwich lunch, so that we may all meet together socially afterwards. In the evening our Thanksgiving Service will take place in Corrie Church at 7pm.

Transport to both services is being arranged, so that as many people as possible can get there. If you can offer a lift, or would like a lift, to either or both services please speak to John Lauder (303517) as soon as possible.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2016

There is just enough time to hand in your filled boxes if you have not already done so. The final date is Sunday 30th Oct

Property Report

The Church

New double glazed windows have been installed in the flower room and toilet in the church. The roof has been inspected and a repair carried out to flashing above the organ. The church notice board has been updated and a new "No Parking" notice put up on the gate. The piano has been tuned. Damp has been found in an area of the back wall of the church. This appears to have been a problem in the past and I am trying to contact the company who carried out the work then.

The Church Hall

The window in the kitchen in the hall has also been replaced as well as repairs made to the wooden windows. The varnishing of the hall floor has once again been carried out. I would like to thank Iain Barbour for the kind donation of his time in carrying out this work.

ST. BRIDE'S LADIES

Once again St. Bride's Ladies provided refreshments at the Highland Games in August. This is always a very busy but enjoyable and rewarding day.

We are now looking forward to the start of our winter session. The committee has been working hard to compile an interesting programme. Our first meeting on Monday 24th October is an illustrated talk from the 'Street Pastors'. Some time ago they visited Shiskine and were highly recommended to us. Our syllabus with the full programme is available from committee members or from the Church vestibule. The meetings are at 2p.m. and are open to anyone who is interested. You will be most welcome.

South American Adventure (Part 3)

'Lord, you have been our dwelling-place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God'

In Part 2 of the adventure I closed by describing our journey rounding Cape Horn with its unique rock formations. From there we cruised up the coast of Chile heading to the Chilean Fjords. On reaching the area we cruised through Tierra del Fuego and saw the snow capped peaks of the Andes mountain range in the distance. We entered into the Fjords, Passo Shoal then Passo Summer where at its shallowest point there was only 1.4 metres below the keel. As we sailed slowly up the fjord with the mountains steep and rugged on either side, I had a walk round the outside deck of the ship. I was told if you went one and a half times around the ship that was one mile.

We headed for the Sarmiento Canal where the captain told us to look out for the largest colony of sea lions in South America. When we entered the canal the captain told us to look to the left. However I think the sea lions were on holiday because all we saw were two of them basking on the rock. The blue and greens of the sea though showcased the silvery ice of the immense glaciers of these majestic Chilean Fjords. We sailed on up the canal to see the Brujo Glacier. It was an awesome sight. We were told that it is moving forward 1 metre a day. We saw the ice falling off the glacier but didn't hear it calving. The ice went sailing past the ship in big chunks and on down the canal. The ship turned and cruised back down the canal and eventually into the Pacific Ocean.

Our next destination was to sail to the Chilean Lake District, a region with more than its fair share of spectacular natural beauty. We disembarked in Puerto Montt and headed, on our tour, to the 'Petrohue Cascades' & 'The City of Roses'. We travelled to the Petrohue River and towards Vicente Perez Rasales National Park where there was a series of waterfalls cascading over the hard

volcanic rocks. The scene was lovely but you can see similar waterfalls here on Arran although at the time I had to remind myself I was on the other side of the world. As I walked along the path there was a breathtaking view of the Osorno Volcano, the snow capped top of which looked as if it was sitting on top of a cloud. We then headed to Puerto Varas – the City of Roses, so called because there are roses growing everywhere. They were really lovely. On the bus we headed back to the ship along Lake Llanquihue, one of Chile's largest lakes.

After another day at sea we arrived in Valparaiso and disembarked the Zaandam for the final time. We boarded the bus which took us to Santiago for a night in a hotel. Santiago is a city of over six million people. It is surrounded by part of the Andes mountain range. We went on a walking tour around a small part of the city. Some of the roads are closed off on a Sunday to encourage the people to take exercise – cycling, jogging or walking, hence our walking tour. We then went on the funicular railway which took us up to the top of San Cristobel hill where from the top, the panoramic view of the city was spectacular. Before going on to the hotel there was time for some shopping and to find a place for a meal.

Next morning, after breakfast at our hotel it was time to head for the airport and our flight home via Paris, London and finally landing in Glasgow, then of course the ferry back home to Arran.

Elizabeth and I certainly had an amazing South American adventure from Buenos Aires to the Falkland Islands, the Strait of Magellan and the Magdalena penguins, Cape Horn, the Chilean Fjords, Santiago and all places inbetween. We had visited some amazing places and saw some awesome scenery on the way, all part of God's creation. This was an adventure I will not forget in a hurry.

Jean Hunter

Heaven's Grocery Store

I was walking down Life's highway a long time ago.
One day, I saw a sign that said "Heaven's Grocery Store",
As I got a little closer; the door came open wide,
And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.

I saw a host of ANGELS. They were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said, "My child shop with care".
Everything a Christian needed was in the Grocery Store,
And all you couldn't carry, you could come back the next day
For more.

Firstly, I got some PATIENCE, LOVE was in the same row.
Further down was UNDERSTANDING, you need that wherever
You go.
I got a box or two of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH,
I Couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST for it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE to help me run this race.
By then, my basket was getting full, but I remembered some GRACE.
I didn't forget SALVATION for SALVATION it is free.
So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.

Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had everything to do my MASTER'S will,
As I went up the aisle I saw PRAYER and just had to put it in,
For I know when it's tough outside, I would run right into sin.

PEACE and JOY were plentiful; they were on the last shelf,
SONG and PRAISES were hanging near so I helped myself.
Then I said to the Angel, "Now how much do I owe?"
He just smiled and said "Just take them wherever you go"

Again I said, "How much do I really owe?"
He smiled again and said,
"My child, JESUS paid your BILL a LONG, LONG time ago!"

(Author unknown)

(Given by Lavinia Hendry to Jean and used in one of her recent services.)

Friends of Montrose House Association Autumn 2016

It is now two years since the new building was handed over to N.A.C. The gardens were beautiful when completed but very little has been done to maintain them in the meantime, which is a great pity. Gavin Mutch has been striving to weed but in most parts the weeds are now more prolific than the plants! Hopefully by next summer the gardens will be more attractive. Stevie Bunyan planted the raised beds with colourful lobelia and bright yellow daisy type flowers which could be admired from the lounge. Daffodil bulbs have been purchased to plant in the border by the car park to brighten up the appearance on arrival. Parking, however, can still be a problem for visitors as there is limited space. We still await installation of the bird camera and outside taps. M.H. purchased two gazebos which have enabled residents to enjoy barbecues on days when the weather was suitable. Residents can also enjoy a wander round the gardens with relatives and friends. Inside the building, Art in Mind have permission to display 20 paintings and F.O.M.H.A. plans to run a competition for primary children to submit art work for one of the walls.

F.O.M.H.A. have offered to fund I.T. support so that residents will have access to Wi-Fi and with help from staff, may be able to Skype relatives especially those who live on the mainland. We have also purchased a new T.V. and a D.V.D player for Stronach Daycare which have already been enjoyed by Service Users. Residents have monthly meetings for discussion and John Sillars has kindly agreed to chair these as an independent spokesperson.

Montrose House Residents Support Group met with Helen McArthur, Morven Ross-Bain's Line Manager and Senior Manager for Community Care, on 20th September. The group expressed concern about staff who had not been at work for a long time. These are local staff who are highly respected by relatives and residents. Their suspensions had to remain confidential but it is appalling that months have passed since these people have been denied being able to work.

Angus, our minister and chaplain to M.H. has asked that all appropriate Community Groups would write to the highest authority in support of these staff members who find themselves in such an invidious situation.

Montrose House still offers respite but the third wing will not open until the Inspectorate are satisfied that the standards in the other two wings have shown greater improvement. Generally things are improving but there are clear targets to be met in the next 6 months. An action plan is in place which includes a change in shift patterns and residents will now have two key workers. To assist her, Morven now has a deputy manager Kerry Rennie who has experience in dementia.

Residents have enjoyed trips out including the monthly Music Matters in Lamplash Church Hall organised by the Rev. Lily McKinnon and a team of helpers from the Church. This takes place on the last Thursday of each month for dementia sufferers and their carers. It is a cheery afternoon of music, song, refreshments and chat which is much appreciated by all who attend.

We look forward to the traditional Hallowe'en party to be held in Stronach on Monday, 31st October from 5.30pm to 7pm. Children of all ages, parents or grandparents are most welcome. The Christmas party is planned for Wednesday, 7th December at 4.30pm to which all residents, friends and families will be cordially invited.

Finally it is with sadness we acknowledge the death of Vera Barker.

Out of the mouths of babes

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorize the words of Psalm 23. One little boy was having great difficulty in remembering them. After much practice he could barely get past the first line. When it was his turn, he stood up in front of the class and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

Women in Black - Lest we forget

On the last Saturday of every month between 1pm and 2pm a few "Women in Black" hold a silent vigil opposite the Douglas Hotel at the beginning of the Arran Coastal Way.

They meet with a worldwide network of women committed to peace with justice in our world. They meet in silence to remember ALL the forgotten victims of war, civilians and soldiers, killed in war situations not of their making. They meet to demonstrate against war and hate, to state that violence breeds violence and that peace with justice for everyone is the way.

Women in Black was started by Israeli and Palestinian women protesting against the actions of the Israeli Army.

Vigils are held around the world, including Edinburgh and Inverness and now in Arran.

Women of any or no political or religious view and who can relate to these aspirations are warmly invited to gather as above on the last Saturday of each month. Please wear black and if desired bring a placard to state your conviction. The support of our men is also welcome.

For more information contact
Isla 302214 or Jennifer 700747

Arran Churches Together

The popular A.C.T. Quiz Night was held on Thursday 8th September in St. Brides War Memorial Hall, attended by upwards of twenty people. As usual, it was an evening of good fun and friendship with the bonus of a tasty light supper. The Quizmaster, Mrs. Helen Kerr, gave us all the opportunity to display our collective abysmal ignorance on a variety of subjects. A few competitors dared to question some of the answers, but, the Quizmaster's decision being final, the evening ran smoothly and a good time was had by all.

The announcement in The Banner that Taize Worship is to take place on 13th October is an error. The correct date for the next meeting for Taize Worship is 3rd November.