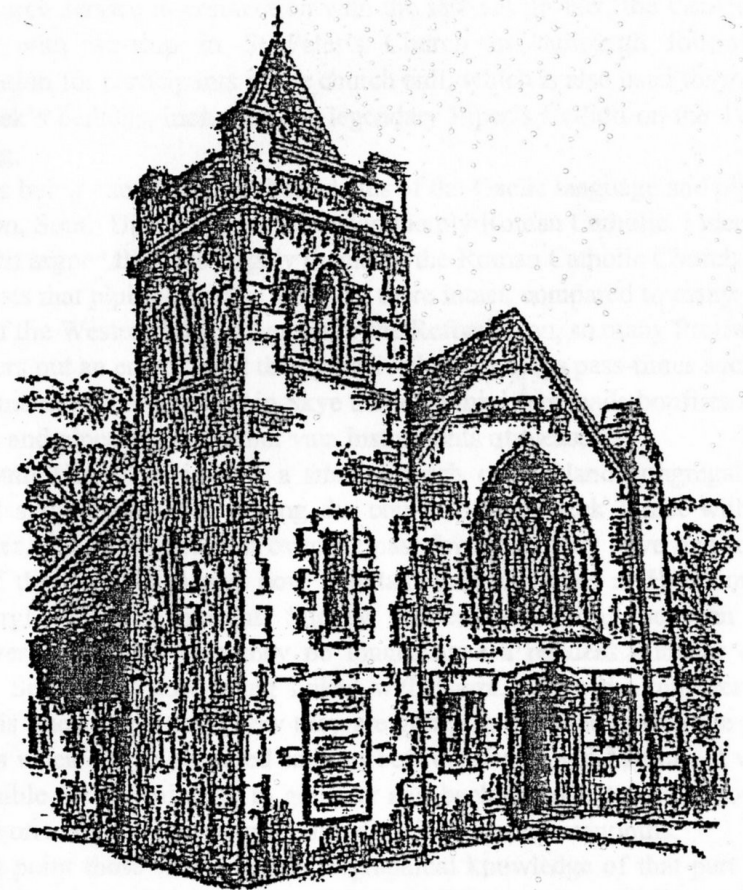


*Brodick Church War Memorial Hall*

## St Bride's Church Brodick

### Newsletter



**Autumn 2017**

Brodick Manse  
November 2017

This July I enjoyed a week on South Uist at the Ceolas Festival, a wonderful celebration of Gaelic culture, music and heritage. Like our McLellan Festival here on Arran, which each September celebrates the work of Poet and Playwright Robert McLellan as well as the Scots language and the arts, there is a church service in connection with the festival. In fact, the Ceolas week begins with worship in St Peter's Church in Daliburgh followed by registration for participants in the church hall, which is also used for many of the week's ceilidhs, including the legendary Piper's Ceilidh on the Tuesday evening.

Besides being one of the true heart lands of the Gaelic language and piping tradition, South Uist is of course predominantly Roman Catholic. Indeed, it has been argued that it is largely thanks to the Roman Catholic Church and its priests that piping heritage survived there intact, compared to many other parts of the Western Isles, where after the Reformation, so many Protestant ministers put an end to what they perceived as frivolous pass-times such as music making. It is said that in Skye the local ministers made bonfires of fiddles and pipes and any other vain instruments of pleasure.

On South Uist there is also a small Church of Scotland congregation of around sixty people and during the course of my week I met with their treasurer. She explained that over the past few years they have had to close two of their buildings and now maintain only churches at Howmore and Daliburgh, with, at present, Sunday services alternating between them. However, as of last year they no longer have a resident minister on the island, South Uist now being linked with Barra, where the minister lives. There is uncertainty as to how they are going to continue during the winter months when due to curtailed sailings between Barra and Eriskay, it will be impossible for the minister to get over and back in order to preach on both islands on a Sunday, as she currently does in the summer months.

At this point those with a good geographical knowledge of that part of the world will be wondering why not link South Uist to either of its immediately northern neighbouring islands of Benbecula or North Uist, connected by a causeway and very much largely Protestant islands, with existing vibrant Church of Scotland congregations. The simple answer is differing theology. Whilst the Kirk folk of South Uist are fairly liberal and happy to call a

female minister, North Uist is very conservative, so much so, that the Rev Dr Lindsay Schluter would not be welcome in any of the pulpits there. In fact, due to this anomaly, South and North Uist are now in different Presbyteries, South Uist having in recent years disjoined itself from the Presbytery of Uist and is now in the Presbytery of Argyll.

It was nice to hear one of the main organisers of Ceolas say that, although she herself was Roman Catholic, she hoped the Church of Scotland on the island would survive to maintain its presence. Despite that sentiment, one shared by many others I spoke to, still there lingers an underlying tension along denominational lines, especially when local couples marry across the so-called religious divide. Mixed marriage between Protestants and Roman Catholics doesn't make life any easier for those who find themselves in that situation, as I found out when I spoke to the local barman, himself a Protestant married to a Roman Catholic.

All that made me feel saddened and a little despairing, that despite the wonderful teachings of Jesus about love of neighbour, Christians, even those on such a wonderfully welcoming and friendly island as South Uist had problems in getting along with each other. Surely nothing puts people off organised religion more than such as this.

It made me very glad that here on Arran, another island renowned for its warm welcome of strangers and the friendliness of its inhabitants, we have a wonderful organisation called Arran Churches Together, in which Christians from the Roman Catholic, Church of Scotland, Baptist, Scottish Episcopal and now Free Church congregations are not only happy to meet together, but to worship together several times a year as we do on Christian Unity Sunday each January, on Good Friday each Easter, at the summer songs of praise service in July and at the end of November each year, usually for a Christingle service. The fact that this year the last Thursday in November coincides with St Andrew's Day has prompted a change for 2017, and once again after a break of several years we will have a St Andrew's night service in Brodick Church, a short half an hour service, followed by a ceilidh in the church hall.

Neither are exclusively just for church people and anyone church or non-church would be most welcome to come along on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30 p.m. to help us celebrate our common heritage on our national saints' day.

Angus

### St Bride's Ladies

In August St Bride's Ladies held their annual Tearoom at the Highland Games which, as usual, proved to be very popular. Thanks are extended to all those who helped in any way to make this the successful day that it was. This is the only event the club has during the summer and now I am looking forward to seeing you all at our fortnightly meetings during the winter. The first of these is on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm, when Sheila Mitchell will be our guest speaker. We will be holding our Christmas Fayre on 9th December which will have all the usual stalls and donations for these would be greatly appreciated. Our Christmas Lunch will be on 11<sup>th</sup> December and anyone who would like to attend can add their name to the list on the hall notice board,

Sylvia Alison

### Treasurer's report

With Income from all sources totalling £42,426 and all expenses to date of £46,356 we have a shortfall of £3,930 at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Projected income is higher than projected expenses for the next three months so barring any unexpected outgoings I would hope to finish the year with only a small deficit. With regular offerings falling by around 5% every year we are relying more and more on income from donations, use of the War Memorial Hall and of course our ever popular Fete and Auction.

It is not always possible to thank everyone personally for their support so to all who contribute by standing order, freewill envelopes and the open plate, those who give donations and use the hall, attend the Fete and Auction, all who give their time and expertise to organise and run all that takes place to raise funds for St Bride's, thank you for your continuing support.

Sylvia Alison

### Property Report

Not much to report this session apart from the installation of the new sound system in the Church. It has had a few teething problems but hopefully these are now resolved.

Colin MacKenzie

## **Friends of Montrose House Association** **Autumn 2017**

Montrose House is now only awaiting the appointment of two more part time staff and can now take residents for respite care. The third wing cannot open until the Care Commission has passed it, but a visit is due from them soon.

Curtains have been hung in the winter garden room and photographs of Arran, purchased by the Friends, hung on the corridor walls and the Home is looking cosier.

Some residents are continuing to enjoy the monthly Music Matters in Lamlash and join in with the Day Care participants at the regular exercise class held in Stronach.

The MacMillan Trust held a well attended coffee morning on Friday 29th September in the Home. Some staff even came in on their off duty day to help.

Socially the next events are the Hallowe'en Party on Tuesday 31st October from 5.30pm to 7.00pm when hopefully local guysers will visit for apple dooking and to "entertain" the residents. The Christmas Party is on Wednesday 6th December from 4.00pm to 7.00pm in Stronach. We hope to be entertained by some local talent and Arran High School students. Anyone who would enjoy helping to decorate Stronach for these parties would be very welcome on Saturday 28th October at 2pm and Monday 4th December at 10am. The Scots Night will be on Thursday 25th January from 4pm.

The tablet with speakers continues to give the residents much pleasure. They use it to Skype family, download old films and photographs and music to which they have regular sing-alongs. The Friends will continue to pay for the WiFi.

The bird camera moved from the old building was finally deemed to be irreparable and the purchase and the fitting of a suitable camera and monitor was complicated, so as only one resident expressed any interest in watching birds close up, it was agreed a window sticker feeder would suffice which the Friends will purchase. There are already bird feeders placed around the building.

The garden remains a concern and anyone who has visited will be aware that it has become very overgrown and untidy. There is no

budget for garden maintenance apart from grass cutting but Tom the handyman has done some weeding in his limited time and Minnie Bell has been working hard to try to get some order into the garden. She is spending any spare time and much of her own, weeding and planting. Recently Rosie Cook and Kate Nichols, with helpers, have worked hard to clear the overgrown raised beds and plant them with bulbs which will make a colourful display next spring. Many thanks to them and also to John Sillars. He has come along to give some advice. Howard Wood has kindly volunteered to meet with Minnie and anyone interested to give suggestions on how the garden could be easily managed.

The Friends used to have a large group of regular gardeners but there are very few left so volunteers would be very welcome. An occasional hour weeding and bulb planting would make such a difference.

Minnie says she is happy to liaise and the Friends will provide bulbs and any other materials. Gardening skills are not required!

The Friends are also looking for volunteers to join the small group who are able to spend one hour on Wednesday afternoons giving company to residents, some who may not have many visitors. News from "outside" is always appreciated.

May Dunn, who was a resident for many years, sadly passed away on 25th September. She was well known to many and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with her family Jaqueline and Hugh. There will be a memorial service held in Montrose House on Friday 3rd November at 2pm.

### **Editor's Remarks**

With the temperature dropping, the evenings drawing in, and the leaves beginning to fall from the trees there is no doubt that autumn is well under way.

This, of course, means the restart of the church organisation that meet regularly like The Sunday School and St Bride's Ladies. New members will be made most welcome.

My thanks, as always, to all those who have contributed to this edition of the magazine. If you would like to contribute to the magazine I can be contacted on 01770303579 or sheenamcl4@gmail.com

### "Give us this day our daily bread"

"You're late, Reuben. Are you hungry? Enjoy your lunch?"

"Yes, thanks, Mum. It was super!"

"Did you share it with anybody?"

"Yes, Mum. Five thousand - and some kids".

"Now don't you go telling lies like that!

Just wait till your Dad gets home! What'll he say?"

"But Mum - it was a big crowd!"

"Right. Tell me what happened - no lies!"

"Yes, Mum. Me and Joshua and Samuel went off to see that chap, Jesus - lots of folk did. He talked all day - about sheep and goats, and boats, and houses and all sorts. Two of his mates, I think they were called Andrew and Philip, were saying everybody must go home, and this Jesus says to them: "Give them something to eat". Andrew says "What?" Jesus says "What have you got?"

Andrew says "Nowt!! - well, there's a lad here with his lunch".

Jesus says to me "What's your name, son?" I told him "Reuben",

and he says "Will you share your lunch with me, Reuben?" I says, "Of course.

Jesus took it, said a prayer, and began to give out pieces of bread and fish by the handful, more and more and more, to his mates and then the crowd.

Andrew stood mouth wide open and Philip just pointed at Jesus' hands, looked round and said "There's thousands here". Then Jesus said to his mates,

"Don't waste any; pick up what's left".

There were twelve baskets full - one each. And Jesus said:

"Always thank God for bread".

That's one of the miracles of Jesus, and it's told in all four Gospels.

Mark chapter 8, tells of a similar event when four thousand were fed. It seems to be a natural event - just "speeded up" in Jesus' hands, because, after all, this is what the Lord of Creation does once a year - through seed-time and harvest; "and some seed produce a hundred-fold". And Jesus taught us to pray to our Heavenly Father: "Give us this day our daily bread"- which means food grown and gathered, shared, bought and sold, or given away. Mixed into life is the miracle of loving care, with food-banks, parties, donations to charities, and countless acts of love by millions of hands making the world a better place just through a simple act, like sharing your lunch.

Alan A Thompson

### Your used stamps could change lives!

Please accept this reminder to clip the stamps from the letters, parcels and postcards etc that you receive and pop them into the box below the vestibule table. These are then sent off regularly to the Church of Scotland World Mission Stamp Appeal, who sell them, and each year the proceeds are used to support a particular overseas project.

This year it is a ministry training college originally established as the Giffen Institute of Theology by the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan in 1974. Unfortunately due to violence in the country it has had to be relocated twice since then, and is now based in a Kenyan refugee camp. Many of their resources have been lost and so the need is to fund much needed resources such as books for their library.

Please trim them leaving a border of no more than half an inch all round. Do not soak the stamps off the paper. We can accept foreign and UK stamps, and even coins no longer in circulation. Rare stamps and collections no longer required can be of high value.

Christmas is coming, so please get into the habit of clipping the stamps off everything you receive to help this worthwhile appeal.

Thank you

### Arran Churches Together

The popular A.C.T Quiz Night was held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August in St Bride's War Memorial Hall, attended by upwards of twenty people. The evening of fun and fellowship was concluded with a light supper.

The next event is a St. Andrew's Night to be held in St. Bride's Church Brodick, starting with a short act of worship in the church starting at 6.30pm, followed by a ceilidh and supper in the church hall at 7.00pm. This is a family evening and hopefully will be well supported.

On December 16<sup>th</sup> there will again be Carol Singing in the Co-op between 11.00am and 12 noon and it is hoped that there will be a good turnout. Looking ahead to next year, the Service of Christian Unity is to be held in Whiting Bay Church on 21<sup>st</sup> January at 12 noon.

**CHURCH NOTICES – Autumn 2017**

**Deaths**                      May Dunn              Montrose House      25<sup>th</sup> September

**Marriages**                      Ellis Anderson and Andrew Fyfe              20<sup>th</sup> August

**Baptism**                      Louis William Whalley                              1<sup>st</sup> October

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- 26<sup>th</sup> Oct    Service of Prayers for Health and Healing Shiskine at 12 noon
- 26<sup>th</sup> Oct    Harvest Supper Corrie Church 6.00 for 6.30pm
- 29<sup>th</sup> Oct    Harvest Thanksgiving Brodick Church 10.30am
- 01<sup>st</sup> Nov    Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30 to 12noon
- 05<sup>th</sup> Nov    Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at St. Molio's 11am. Joint Linkage**
- 05<sup>th</sup> Nov    Thanksgiving Service in Corrie Church at 7pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> Nov    Remembrance Day Service 10am at War Memorial
- 15<sup>th</sup> Nov    Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30 to 12noon
- 29<sup>th</sup> Nov    Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30 to 12noon
- 29<sup>th</sup> Nov    Service of Prayers for Health and Healing Brodick at 12noon
- 13<sup>th</sup> Dec    Coffee Morning in Church hall from 10.30 to 12noon
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dec    Christmas Watchnight Service at 11.30pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> Jan    Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30 to 12noon
- 31<sup>st</sup> Jan    Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30 to 12noon

**WHO'S WHO AT BRODICK CHURCH**

Minister	Rev. Angus Adamson	302334
Parish Assistant	Mrs Jean Hunter	860380
Session Clerk	Mrs Elizabeth Lawrie	302782
Deputy Session Clerk	Mr Alan Milligan	303968
Clerk to the Congregational Board	Mrs Shona Hume	302625
Treasurer	Mrs Sylvia Alison	302613
Property Convener	Mr Colin MacKenzie	302329
Freewill Offering Convener	Mrs Elizabeth McKellar	302230
Presbytery Elder	Mrs Lorna MacDonald	302499
Church Magazine Editor	Mrs Sheena McLean	303579
Pastoral Support Team Conveners	Mrs Elizabeth McKellar Mrs Ann Lauder	302230 303517
Sunday School Leader	Mrs Ann MacKay	600944
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Mrs Lorna MacDonald	302499
Hall Letting Conveners	Mrs Joyce Buchanan Mrs Susan Dobson	600308 302365
Church Minibus Convener	Mrs Alison Bilsland	303505
Coffee Morning Convener	Mrs Margaret Bryce	302117
Sunday Tea Convener	Mrs Susan Dobson	302365
Church Flower Convener	Mrs Ann Lauder	303517
"Life and Work" Convener	Mrs Elise White	302387