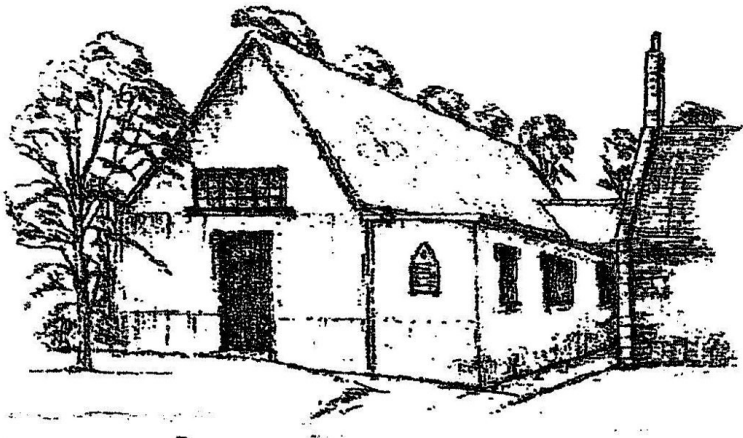
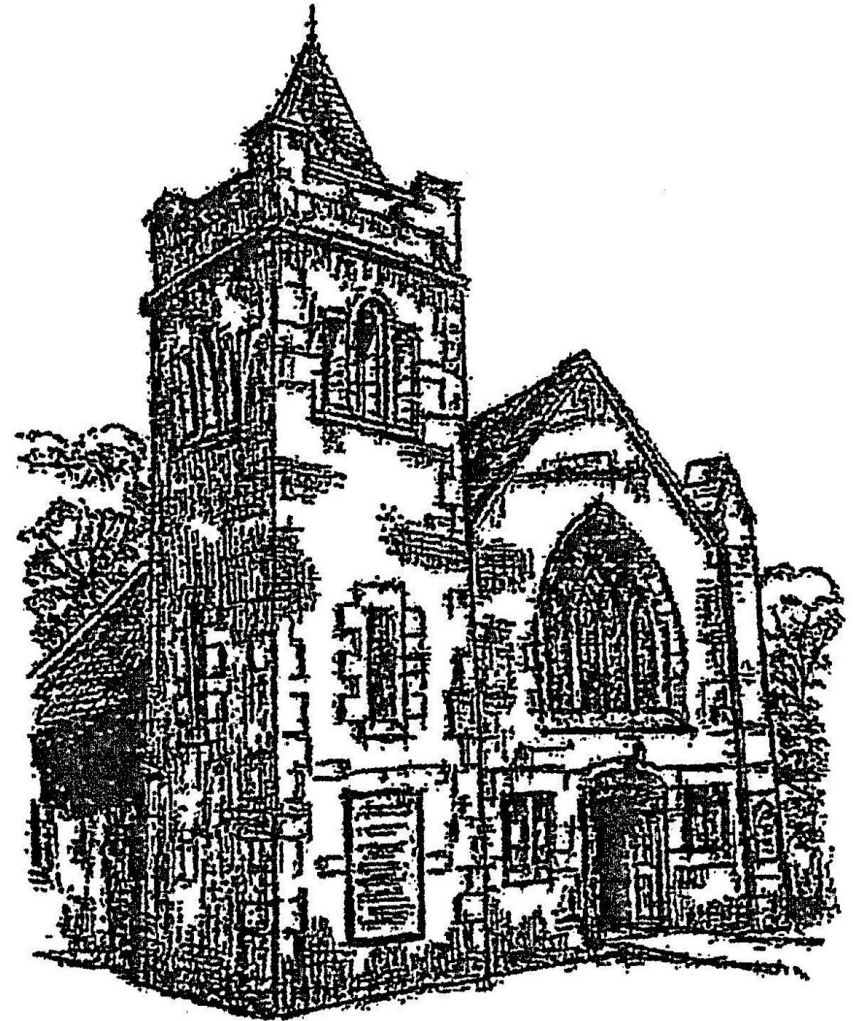


# St Bride's Church Brodick

## November Newsletter



*Brodick Church War Memorial Hall*



**Autumn 2019**

Corriecravie  
Autumn2019

'Should we stay or should we go? Should we look east or look west, which is best?'

In the face of the decision made at this year's General Assembly to streamline the Kirk by drastically reducing the number of Presbyteries in Scotland from 43 down to just 12, these are the big questions our Church of Scotland Kirk Sessions on Arran are currently grappling with.

At present we are in the Presbytery of Ardrossan, which looks set to unite with the Presbytery of Irvine & Kilmarnock and the Presbytery of Ayr. To the minds of many, being a rural island, Arran might not fare too well in a predominantly urban, mainland presbytery. The alternative would be to petition to become part of the Presbytery of Argyll, made up as it is of predominantly rural and island congregations, not unlike ourselves. Indeed, that is what happened some 9 years ago when we felt we were not getting a fair deal in Ardrossan Presbytery. In the end we were not given leave to make that move, but following the setting up of a committee to look into our grievances and to Ardrossan Presbytery's credit, certain recommendations being put into place, Arran was content to remain and we are currently very happy with arrangements at presbytery level. To the minds of some, staying in the same Local Authority and Health Board area in many ways makes sense, and of course the main link to the mainland is via Ardrossan. It may be that we would therefore be content to enter into the new Super Presbytery of Ayrshire and currently on-going talks will hopefully reveal how that might work for us. To that end all three Ayrshire Presbyteries met on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September in Kilmarnock and under the guidance of Rev George White the Principle Clerk of the General Assembly, discussions began.

Ardrossan however, is not the only link to the mainland. To the west of us the Presbytery of Argyll meet quarterly, twice a year in Tarbert, once per annum in Portavadie and on the other occasion the church of the incoming moderator. We now have an all-year round ferry link to Kintyre, albeit a reduced one in winter. Plenty folk on Arran feel that instead of becoming part of Cunningham District Council area, now North Ayrshire, the island might have been better served by remaining in Argyll and Bute local authority area. To help us make a comparison in which Presbytery area might be the best for the future, the Presbytery of Argyll helpfully approached us and invited our congregations to send representatives to their Presbytery Conference held at Portavadie Marina on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of September, entitled 'Argyll Presbytery – Shaping the Future'.

This was an excellent conference with the key note speaker being former Moderator and Principle Clerk of the General Assembly, the Very Reverend John

Chalmers, the person entrusted with leading the task group, also appointed at this year's Assembly with the remit of streamlining the structures of the church to meet the challenging demands of the present times. Besides during the day and over dinner having the chance to meet with our presbytery counterparts from Argyll, we also had the opportunity, over lunch, to meet with senior presbytery figures to discuss how Arran might fit into the Argyll structure. The following day we attended the presbytery meeting. It was very comforting to listen to the way Argyll Presbytery conducts its business and understands not only island life, but the issues faced trying to resource and minister to the needs of multiple rural linked charges. And in many regards Argyll, having formed some 15 years ago with the union of the Presbyteries of South Argyll, Lorn & Mull and Dunoon is already ahead of the game. I was impressed that having grasped the nettle and having already made the leap of faith, many of the presbyters at that meeting were genuinely excited by the opportunities to be grasped in the midst of change. In stark comparison, at the meeting of the three Ayrshire Presbyteries in Kilmarnock the following week, I was very strongly struck by the way the other representatives from the Ayrshire congregations, despite many of them seeing the island in the distance daily, had absolutely no conception of island life, or of the workings of multiple rural linkages. Indeed, they didn't even realise that I would not be able to get home to Arran that night. The new Presbytery of Ayrshire now has many teething problems to overcome in its formation and has a long way to go before it is in the same position as Argyll, who are up and running and working hard and well to serve the congregations within its bounds.

At least now in any future decisions we have something to compare what life might look like in Ayrshire, as opposed to Argyll. Historically Arran has previously been in both. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century we were in the Presbytery of Irvine and then in the Presbytery of Kintyre, until at the 1929 union with the United Free Church most Arran congregations entered the Presbytery of Ardrossan with the exception of the North End congregations, which remained in Kintyre Presbytery until the mid-nineteen-fifties, when they too entered Ardrossan Presbytery.

So east or west, which is best? That remains to be seen and for sure there are uncertain and challenging times ahead. But not in one very important regard. For one thing remains ever sure. In the words of the Psalmist 'were we to flee beyond the east or dwell in the farthest place in the west, our God will be there to lead us.' (Psalm 139: 9-10).

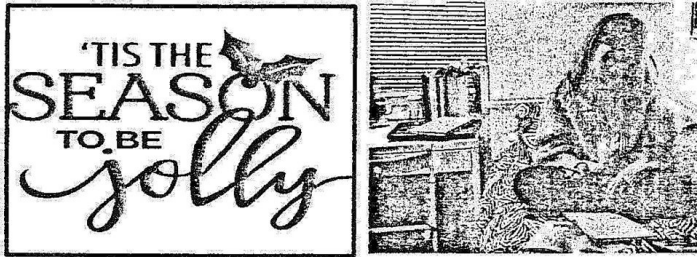
Angus

## 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



Help needed...can you put a smile on Mariam's face?

Can you make room for an international student to experience true British Festive hospitality?

Hosting an international student will bring a whole new dimension to your Christmas, with a chance to learn about another country's traditions and enjoy the connection and friendship that such sharing brings.



HOST UK arranges for international students to enjoy brief visits-one day, a weekend or, over the festive period, a three-day visit, with UK hosts.

We warmly welcome new volunteer hosts to join us.

To learn more, go to our website [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org)

or leave us a message on <http://visits.hostuk.org/Public/ApplyToBecomeAHost>

## Arran Churches Together Food Bank

Since last October, we have been recording the number of Food Bank items used for North Ayrshire Council. An amazing 11, 072 items (See table below) have been used by those in need on Arran and this total would have been more had we not run out of some items during the months. The majority of these items have been donated by all the generous people on Arran, without whom the Food Bank would not be able to function, so a huge 'Thank You' to you all.

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Harvest Thanksgiving and also the Christmas Appeal when everyone had made an effort to include 'luxury' items to make Christmas special for those in need.

At the moment, we have a large supply of Pasta, Pasta/Rice Sauces, Tinned Tomatoes, Kidney Beans and Sweetcorn. Items which we often run out of during the month are Long Life Milk, Sugar, Coffee, Juice, Jam, Tinned Fish, Tinned Meat, Tinned Custard/Rice and Tinned Fruit although after the generosity of church members at the Harvest Thanksgiving, we have adequate supplies at the moment.

Susan has been in touch with the Co-op and it is planned that, when there is a shortage of a particular item, the Co-op will place a label beside that item so that shoppers will know which items are low in stock in the Food Bank. Hopefully, this will start in the near future.

The Christmas Appeal for this year will be announced in November.

Month	No. of Items Used
October	886
November	660
December	1233
January	1305
February	1142
March	1068
April	789
May	833
June	661
July	979
August	797
September	719
Total	11072

With Sincere Thanks -----The Food Bank Team

## Friends of Montrose House Association

Autumn 2019

A recent report from the Care Inspectorate gave Montrose House a good report, identifying that the residents were treated with care, dignity and compassion. Residents' needs were planned for and well met. It was acknowledged that more activities could possibly be offered and the third wing opened, if more staff were available.

It was also noted that the outdoor areas and gardens were well laid out and cared for. Thanks are due to Minnie and Marjorie for their continuing input.

A new assistant manager, Laura Richardson, has been appointed. She previously worked for Social Services so is well acquainted with the needs of the elderly.

The Home is hoping to offer more outings for the residents, and support for the staff would help. Recently some of the residents enjoyed a visit to the Lagg Distillery where they were given a nice lunch. Three of the Friends accompanied them to give some help.

The winter events are being arranged: the Halloween Party on the 31st October; Christmas Party on Wednesday 4th December; and the Scots Night on 22nd January 2020.

Visitors are always welcome, as would help with decorating for these events.

Anyone requiring assistance or company to visit should contact me or one of the Friends.

Alison Keir

## Property Report

We have had two surveys carried out on the church and hall buildings. A survey was carried out by Allied Surveyors on behalf of Ardrossan Presbytery to report on the condition of the buildings and we await feedback from it. There was also another survey carried out on both buildings to ascertain whether or not there was any asbestos present in either building. This is a requirement under Health and safety legislation. The result of this survey was that no asbestos was found in either building.

The process of painting the woodwork and windows on the hall and church has been started but because of the bad weather it has been agreed that the remainder of the work such as the roof of the hall and the railings will be put off until the spring.

The Manse Committee set up to deliver the new North Arran Parish Manse have had meetings with representatives from Ardrossan Presbytery and the General Trustees and progress is being made towards final plans.

C.MacKenzie

## Think of a number -- then double it!!

At our Harvest Thanksgiving service the other week, we sang a "modern" hymn (written by Brian Wren, probably in the "70's" – which makes it about 50 years old):

"Praise God for the harvest of orchard and field"

which continues the "Harvest Home" theme of other hymns like: "We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land" which is over 120 years old.

Has anything changed in our world?

What set me wondering was verse 3 of "Praise God..."

How long are we going to sing:

"Praise God for the harvest that's quarried and mined, when sifted and smelted, or shaped and refined;

For oil and for iron, for copper and coal,

praise God who in love has provided them all."

It is only 20 years before Scotland declares itself "carbon-zero". It is expected that in the intervening years, the world population is likely to increase to 8,000,000,000.

In 1974 I read a book called "LIMIT TO GROWTH", which looked at the worldwide implications for Food, Fossil Fuels, Copper, Finance and World Population.

They all forecast massive problems from overusage or overgrowth by the year 2025. It's certainly heading that way, and warnings are getting louder.

So does the Christian Church have anything to say about what we called "God's World"?

Climate change is upon us. World population is exploding. We produce more and more – and have no solution to the heaps of obsolete cars, aeroplanes, trains and ships; and the relentless flood of plastics sweeping tide-like over land and sea.

World population was said to be

in 1800AD                      1,000,000,000

in 1900AD                      1,700,000,000

in 2000AD                      6,000,000,000

in 2050AD                      9,000,000,000

Think of a number.....

Alan M. Thompson

## Arran Churches Together

The weather was lovely for this year's Songs of Praise on the afternoon of 7th July. A good turnout from church members around the island ensured that the singing attracted a number of holidaymakers to join in. Sadly there were only about four Brodick members there.

The other event to report upon is the Social night and Quiz held in our church hall on 12th September. Almost 30 folk attended, including a small group of holidaymakers, but again only four from Brodick. An excellent spread was provided by representatives from each church represented, and Helen Kerr, the current ACTS chairperson presided as quizmaster.

Forthcoming events are as follow:

**St Andrew's Night** service at 6.30pm, followed at 7pm by a ceilidh in Lamlash Church.

**Carols at the Coop** on Saturday 14th December from 11am to 12 noon.

**Service of Christian Unity** on Sunday 19th January at 12noon in St Molio's Church, Shiskine.

It would be nice to see more participants from Brodick at each of these events.

## USED STAMP APPEAL

Many of our members support the used stamp appeal by leaving their used stamps, throughout the year, in the box below the vestibule table for which we are very grateful. As we approach Christmas and receive more than usual numbers of letters with stamps on, we would be grateful if as many people as possible could save such stamps for the church used stamp collection.

These are sent regularly to a central Church of Scotland address where they are prepared for sale to philatelic companies, thus raising substantial money for good causes.

*That being the case we need your help with the donated stamps, by cutting around each stamp leaving a margin of about a centimetre or quarter of an inch minimum. This saves everyone involved in the process lots of time having to trim unwanted chunks of paper off the stamps before they can be processed for despatch.*

## Count Your Blessings

*'Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God' (Psalm 46:5)*

We have just come through another Harvest season with our Harvest Thanksgiving services in our churches in the linkage. Our thanksgiving doesn't need to stop there though now the Harvest services are over. You may be someone who prefers warm, sunny days to gloomy, rainy ones. However, we know that rain nourishes the earth and brings forth green plants and beautiful flowers. Cloudy days also help you appreciate the days when you can bask in the sun. The biography of Johnson Oatman Jr. does not mention many gloomy days but he certainly encouraged others to take their cares to God when life becomes difficult for them. As a Methodist minister Johnson wrote more than five thousand hymns, including "Count Your Blessings." The lyrics of the chorus—

Count your blessings, name them one by one,

Count your blessings, see what God has done.

The words remind us that when we take our concerns to God, who is Lord over all, we do not have to be worried.

If you are feeling low or are experiencing many gloomy days, it may be time to stop and count your blessings. Remember the people who love you, the steps you have already taken toward a goal, and the beauty that surrounds you in this world. Be thankful for lessons learned from past frustrations. Thank God who sends blessings and is always with you. Trust that God will be with you as you continue on your way with him.

Jean Hunter

## St. Bride's Ladies

The winter session will commence on 28th October.

However, during the summer the ladies have been busy with the Church Fete and the Highland Games. As usual, we provided the catering in the pavilion at the games. This very successful event would not be possible without the help of many of you providing food and assisting on the day. Many thanks to all concerned.

On Monday 28th October we welcome Hazel Robertson from Arran Aromatics.

Fiona Laing will be our speaker on 11th November when she will talk about the Coastguard.

On 25th November Margaret Wright from Save the Children will be our guest. She will give an illustrated report on her visit to Mozambique.

Our Christmas Fayre takes place on Saturday 7th December.

The first half of the session will end with the very popular Christmas lunch.

This will take place on Thursday 19th December in Brodick golf club.

As usual, everyone is welcome at our meetings including gentlemen.

The syllabus will be available in the church vestibule and also from members of the committee.

Jean Robertson

### CHURCH NOTICES- Autumn 2019

<b>Deaths</b>	Norval Murray	Montrose House	5 <sup>th</sup> August
	Rodney Smith	Oban	16 <sup>th</sup> August
	Dr Ian Saint-Yves	Montrose House	1 <sup>st</sup> October
	Eileen Mandor	Cooriedoon	8 <sup>th</sup> October

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am
30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Service of Prayers for Health and Healing in Transept at 12noon
3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	<b>North Arran Joint Communion Brodick Church at 11am</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Pastoral Support group meets in the Transept at 10am
27 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am
27 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Service of Prayers for Health and Healing in Transept at 12noon
1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Pastoral Support Group meets in Transept at 10am
7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Xmas Fayre in Church Hall at 2pm</b>

## WHO'S WHO AT BRODICK CHURCH

Minister	Rev. Angus Adamson	870228
Parish Assistant	Mrs Jean Hunter	860380
Session Clerk Deputy Session Clerk	Mrs Elizabeth Lawrie Mr. Alan Milligan	302782 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 Convener	Mrs Susan Dobson	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