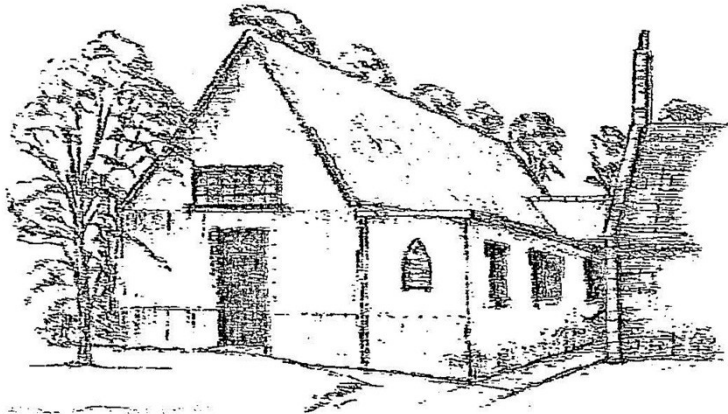
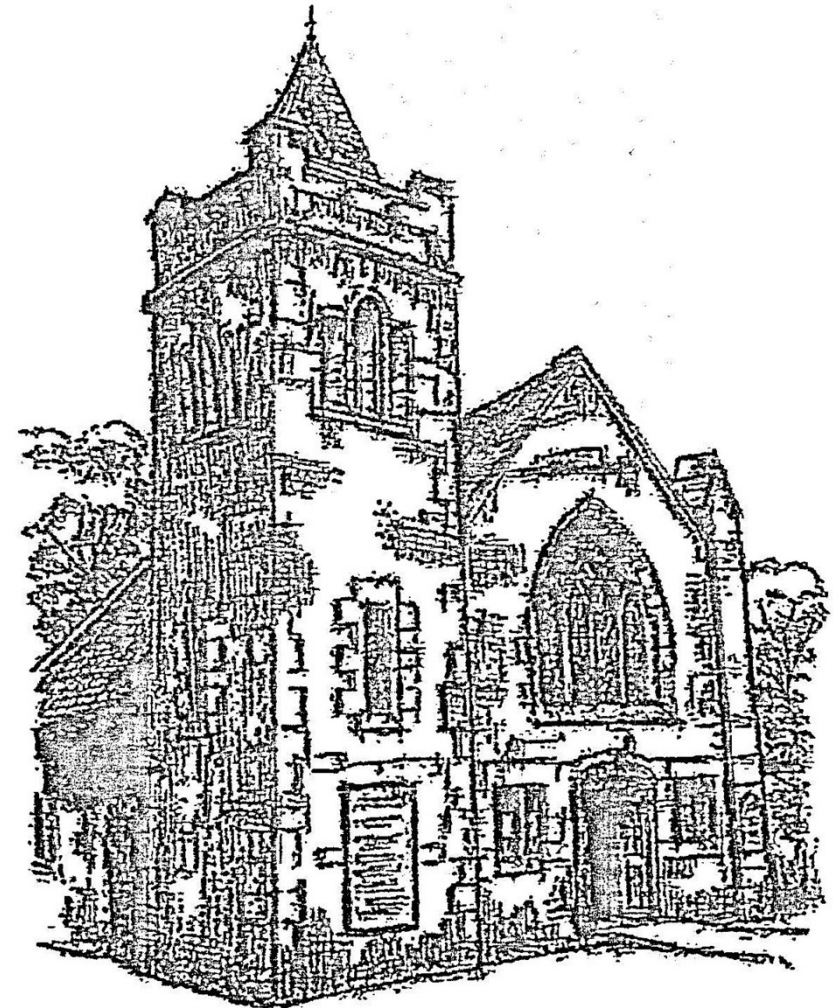


St Bride's Church Brodick

November Newsletter



Brodick Church War Memorial Hall



Autumn 2020

“The days of a mortal are as grass; he blossoms like a wild flower in the meadow: a wind passes over him, and he is gone, and his place knows him no more” (Psalm 103: 15/16).

By now as you read this, my time with you will be over, my ministry at North Arran ended and already I am ‘yesterday’s man’. I have crossed the Rubicon, no going back. Yet if I may be permitted a moment to look back at my time over the past 14 and a half years at Brodick lw Corrie lw Lochranza & Pirmill lw Shiskine, the overwhelming emotion is one of thanksgiving for having been granted the enormous privilege of being your parish minister and sharing together with you, many times of laughter and joy, as well of course, of times also of deep grief and sadness.

In preaching my final farewell discourses, I have already said all I wanted to say to five wonderful congregations, but the one thing that can never be said often enough, is how grateful I am for the constant kindness, support and encouragement shown to me during those years, not only by good loyal church folk, but by many, many others in the wider Arran community.

Any regrets? A few and all to do with those moments when despite giving my all, in my human frailty, I got it wrong. Even then, I do take a little comfort from the old saying ‘the man that never made a mistake, made nothing.’ I hope on those painful few occasions, I at least learned from my mistakes and put things right, or made it right, with those who felt aggrieved.

Will I miss being your minister? Yes, especially conducting worship on a Sunday, never a chore, always a joy. But more even than that, as I will now not see any of you as regularly, if at all, I will miss above all else, your friendship.

If my successor is as richly blessed with that same friendship and support that I have been shown, he or she will be richly blessed indeed. My greatest hope is that under a new minister the congregations of North Arran will be secure for many, many years to come and enabled to continue to serve the people of their respective parishes in the same wonderful manner in which they have always done.

It remains for me to say to each of you a final grateful, heartfelt thank you. I wish each of you all the very best for that future and may God bless you all.

Angus

Editor's Remarks

What a year 2020 has turned out to be, a year like no other, one that will live long in the memory of everyone. This year has brought many changes in our lives especially in the way we go about our daily living but it has also brought about many changes in the parish of St. Bride's Brodick.

The saddest of these changes has been the stepping down of our dear minister Angus. He was planning on leaving at Easter but with the onset of the Corona pandemic he decided to stay on to see us through the worst of it and for that we are extremely grateful. Along with Jean he has been bringing services of worship to our homes, via the internet, every Sunday as well as keeping in touch with everyone via the telephone. He has now given his last sermon as our minister. He will be hugely missed by us all so farewell Angus. We wish you well and God speed on whatever path life takes you.

There have also been a number of changes in the session. Shona Hume has taken over as Session Clerk with Liz Lawrie as her deputy. Alan Milligan has retired and Frances Corbett has taken over as Clerk to the Board.

After 18 years of dedicated service to the children of the parish Ann MacKay has stepped down from her post as Sunday School Leader. Grateful thanks to Alan and to Ann for their many years of service to the congregation of St. Bride's.

Elsie White is also stepping down as "Life and Work" convener and many thanks to her for her years of service.

Who know what changes next year will bring!

We welcome Rev. David Sutherland who has been appointed Interim Moderator to the North Arran Linkage and look forward to meeting him in the near future.

Interim Moderator

Ardrossan Presbytery, at its recent virtual meeting, appointed Rev. David Sutherland, minister of the charge of Stevenston Ardeer l/w Stevenston Livingstone as Interim Moderator for the North Arran Linkage. He is very familiar with the parishes of North Arran as he and his wife Maureen have holidayed here many times and mostly in Lochranza.

A minister of a charge, as Angus was of Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza & Pirmill and Shiskine, is Moderator of a Kirk Session(s). In a vacancy, the Presbytery who is responsible for the supervision of ministers, elders and congregations within its bounds have a duty of care and an obligation to appoint an Interim Moderator (in place of the minister) to look after a vacant congregation.

Rev. Sutherland will look after the business of the congregations. He will moderate Kirk Session meetings, Congregational Board meetings and will oversee the business of the vacancy, giving advice and leading.

Rev. Sutherland will conduct weddings or arrange for someone else to do that, conduct Communion services and Baptisms although again because of Covid-19 restrictions, Communion and Baptisms will not take place in the Church until restrictions are lifted.

In due course Rev. Sutherland, I expect, will introduce himself to the congregations.

A Locum will also be appointed by the Kirk Sessions of the North Arran Linkage to conduct the Sunday services and for pastoral work - conducting funerals, visiting, schools and pastoral care. (Although because of restrictions at the moment no visiting or schools - but still pastoral care.)

In the meantime if you have any questions or concerns please phone me.

Jean Hunter

Pathway

One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go
From the old things to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you.

And its from the old I travel to the new

Keep me travelling along with you. (Sydney Bertram Carter)

Young and old like singing this Hymn. We always liken it to a journey through life and a journey in the Christian faith.

A few weeks ago on the online service I spoke about a book by Rev Lezley Stewart, a Church of Scotland minister, the book called "Let everyone find their voice Re-imagining the Psalms for worship and devotion."

In her book Lezley reimagines key Psalms in strikingly beautiful contemporary language and incorporates them into ready to use liturgies that focus on central themes some of which are on Pathway.

She says "Pathway immediately suggests a journey and lends itself to the exploration of all the twists, turns and different directions in the life of faith."

In the Psalms, Pathway is a repeating metaphor and translates with ease into how we encounter the adventure of faith today, albeit in a different landscape from that known by the Psalmist.

There is much to explore from a variety of approaches in worship, which can be as varied as the pathways that people are on.

Some are searching for a pathway that leads closer to God. Others have taken a turn away from God but may be struggling to engage honestly about this.

Some may be seeking release from a destructive pathway, or one that has simply led to disappointment and pain.

In the context of worship this theme invites an encounter that understands that God is in company with us, in every experience, yet acknowledging that we can often feel as if we walk alone.

The challenge is to try to express, beyond the beauty of the ancient poetry found in the Psalms, words that connect with journeys that are being experienced in the here and now."

Psalm 23 is one of the most well known of the Psalms, whether it is read or sung to the various tunes.

Psalm 23: this version in words from Rev Lezley Stewart.....

God is a pathway for my life. I find peace when I am with God.

Even on rough ground, even in darkness, even when the direction is unclear, I am never alone.

Way-markers guide my steps, offering pointers to my next turn.

Christ walked this path before me- he is my companion on the road.

Step by step, the pilgrim path sustains me. Step by step, freedom in Christ is found.

The eternal one secures my life, leading me always forward.

I will praise God while I live and move.

This for contemplation...

Which pathway are you following?

How do you allow God to direct you?

Have you missed a turn?

Have you found peace and freedom in Christ?

Every Blessing

Jean Hunter

Property Report

With the church being closed, since the last magazine, there is really nothing to report other than following the guidelines from Edinburgh the church has now opened for worship on a Sunday morning.

Work continues on the new manse. The walls are up and the roof was recently added to the building.

Colin MacKenzie

Friends of Montrose House Association

Autumn 2020

Visiting in Montrose House is still restricted to 1 designated visitor per week for half an hour indoors, but outdoors 3 people from 2 households can see a family member.

The Friends have not been meeting or fundraising but there are still sufficient funds to support Minnie Bell's garden projects. These are limited too as she has been unable to rely on Marjorie Bannatyne's assistance, but she has plans to plant more spring bulbs and plants, and lay stones painted by Brodick Primary School children round the paths. The residents are as well as can be expected and have been enjoying the garden in the warmer days. Staff report no issues.

A.Keir

Arran Churches Together Foodbank

This has been a particularly busy year for the Foodbank which can be seen from the end of year totals below with the number of items used nearly doubling. These figures do not include the many bags which were delivered during the March to July lockdown period where a further nearly 4000 items were dispatched.

Thanks to the continued generosity of the Arran Community both through donations of food and money, the Foodbank was able to support all those in need. With furlough finishing at the end of October, there is likely to be an even greater demand on the Foodbank so please continue to donate what you can over the coming months.

The Arran Churches Together Foodbank Team and all those who use and benefit really appreciate your ongoing support.

Item/Date	2018-19	2019-20
Pasta	269	515
Rice/Noodles	203	346
Pasta/Rice Sauce	292	719
Beans/Spaghetti	624	1270
Soup	645	1152
Tinned Fish	791	1556
Tinned Meat	1352	2123
Tinned Vegetables	816	1642
Tinned Fruit	501	730
Custard/Rice	537	779
Cereals	278	575
Tea	221	304
Coffee	203	382
Long Life Milk	361	705
Juice	189	333
Sugar	74	201
Biscuits/Treats	942	1883
Jam	258	305
Toiletries	874	917
Condiments	418	501
Sanitary Products	93	229
Baby-(Nappies/Milk)	21	178
Household Cleaning	167	175
Toilet Rolls	646	1376
Bread/Rolls	64	71
Dog/Cat Food	233	207
Frozen Foods		1664
Total	11072	20838

The Foodbank Team

CHURCH NOTICES – Autumn 2020

Baptism Sophie Mae Corbett (at home)

New Members by Profession of Faith

Sophie Mae Corbett (at home)

Rebecca Frances Corbett (at home)

Deaths

Maureen Grant Cooriedoon September

John White Brodick 5th September

Iain Hendry Brodick 7th October

Fundraising

Did you know that the church can receive donations from the AmazonSmile programme?

AmazonSmile is a simple automatic way for anyone shopping online to support our church – at no cost to you. If you are an Amazon customer and you would like to support the church all you need to do is login at – **smile.amazon.co.uk** – with your usual login details and select your charity, we are listed as Brodick Church of Scotland, thereafter AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price on eligible purchases to Brodick Church every time you login at – **smile.amazon.co.uk**.

Even if you do not shop with Amazon you may like to pass this information on to any friends and family who may want to support Brodick Church.

Thanking you for your support

Sylvia Alison

Congregational Treasurer

WHO'S WHO AT BRODICK CHURCH

Interim Moderator	Rev. David Sutherland	
Parish Assistant	Mrs Jean Hunter	860380
Session Clerk	Mrs Shona Hume	302625
Deputy Session Clerk	Mrs Elizabeth Lawrie	302782
Clerk to the Congregational Board	Mrs Frances Corbett	0789099 7652
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
Church Organist	Mrs Ruth Thompson	600687
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