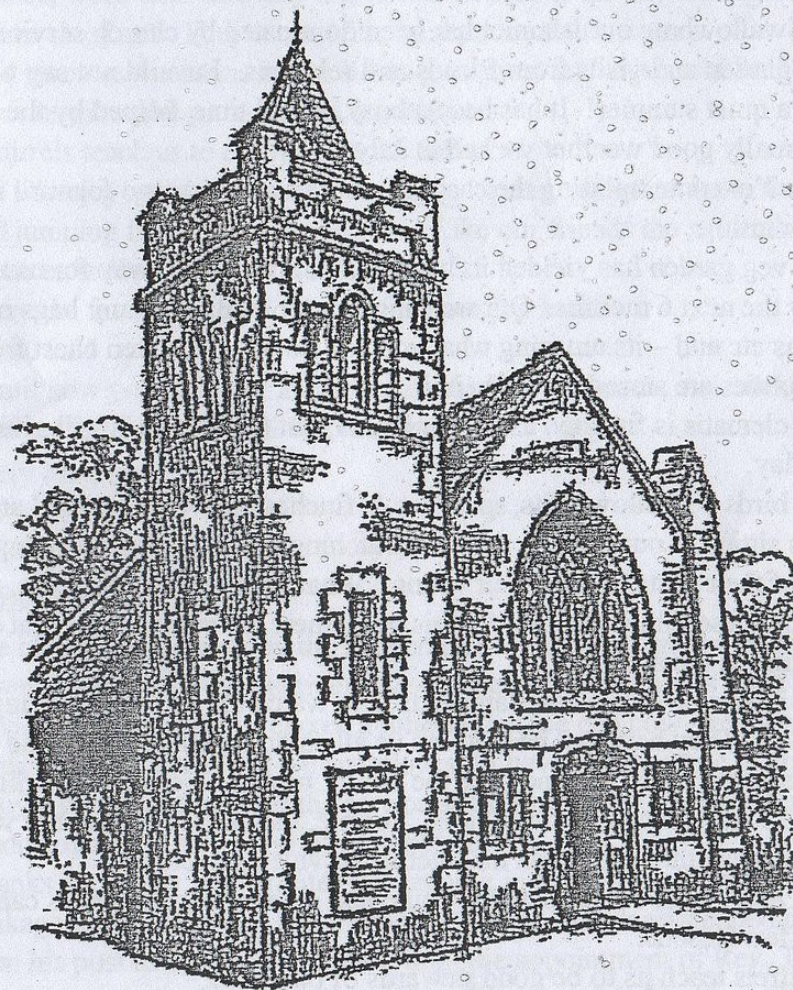


WHO'S WHO AT BRODICK CHURCH

Interim Moderator	Rev. Tom MacIntyre	07464 788678
Locum Minister	Mrs Liz Clarke	860219
Session Clerk Deputy Session Clerk	Mrs Shona Hume Mrs Elizabeth Lawrie	302625 302782
Clerk to the Congregational Board	Mrs Frances Corbett	07890 997652
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
Coffee Morning Convener	Mrs Margaret Bryce	302117
Sunday Tea Convener	Mrs Susan Dobson	302365
Church Flower Convener	Mrs Ann Lauder	303517

St Bride's Church Brodick

November Newsletter



Autumn 2021

Hello everyone,

So it is the autumn of the year now and it will not be long before the clocks go back an hour and the evenings get dark earlier. For me, autumn is a time to sit back a little and reflect on the events of the previous months.

At Swallowbrae our summer has been dominated by church services, the veg garden and visits from friends and relations. I would not say we have had a quiet summer! It has been a busy, joyful time, helped by the unusually good weather we had in July.

Now I'm contemplating the changes we will see as we go forward into winter.

The veg garden has yielded its harvest and it is stored away for us to enjoy over the next 6 months. Our working freezer contains many bags of peas, beans etc and – its amazing what you can do with a broken chest freezer – our tatties are stored perfectly in it.

The clematis is finished as are the lupins, but the lobelia is still giving us a display.

The birds – swallows, tits, sparrows & finches – have all fledged and I will miss sitting at our kitchen window watching the adults busily flying in and out of their nests to feed their young. What hard workers they are.

While these things are past for this year, there are some things that are just starting in the autumn.

One of our favourite entertainments is to watch the squirrels playing in the garden. They have not been to see us all summer, but we have had a few visits in the last week and once the winter weather kicks in, we will put out some food for them and the birds. For me, they are a much better way to while away the hours than the Internet or video games.

But, apart from being incredibly cute and entertaining, squirrels can teach us a few lessons.

Squirrels teach us to be good stewards of our earth.

Squirrels eat seeds and nuts (and other things) and although they bury their food for the winter, we know they often forget where they have buried the seeds which can result in a new plant appearing. We too need to be good stewards of the planet so as well as living off its resources, we need to give back into its richness.

Squirrels teach us to pace our lives – to live in God's rhythm.

In the spring they get up at sunrise and spend the day finding food, building their drey and rearing their young. In the summer, most squirrels slow down and have a wee snooze in the afternoon before going back to finding food and to much playing. During the winter, they get up near sunrise, work until mid-day and spend the rest of the day resting and conserving heat. They work with the rhythm of the seasons.

God gives us 4 seasons in our life to grow, rest and enjoy and each season gives us great things to do and experience.

Squirrels teach us to enjoy life to its fullest.

We all enjoy watching squirrels playing – running up and down the trees and jumping from branch to branch. Like our friends the squirrels, God wants us to live a rich and joyful life.

I love the fact that it is God's will that our joy be filled:

John 16:24

“Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”

Every blessing,

Liz

Editor's Remarks

The nights are drawing in, the temperature is dropping and more and more leaves are falling from the trees, all sure signs that autumn is upon us. The Covid regulations have relaxed a little so that we can now sing in church albeit behind a mask and we are allowed to have more people in church, enjoy a cup of coffee after the service and there has been a slow but gradual return to some sort of normality in our daily life.

Thanks go to Mrs Jean Hunter for stepping in to help the North Arran Linkage through the gap left when Rev. Dave Sutherland stepped down from his post as Interim Moderator until the appointment of Rev. Tom MacIntyre who took over in September. We were delighted to welcome him and his wife when they came over recently to introduce themselves to the congregation. We hope to see them again soon. 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 sheenamc14@gmail.com

Friends of Montrose House Association

Autumn 2021

Visiting restrictions have slightly eased, and the staff are now keen for more people to visit especially those residents who may not have local family.

Visitors must adhere to Covid precautions which may be subject to updates so please check with Montrose Home (302132) before arriving and be aware that Covid testing and the wearing of face coverings are mandatory.

The Friends are holding a delayed AGM on Monday 25th October 2021 at 2.00pm in Brodick Church transept (entry by the side door of the church) when the future of the association will be discussed. Anyone interested is very welcome. For more information phone Alison Keir (302372)

Arran Churches Together Foodbank

Firstly, a huge thank you for all the generous donations of food and money received at the Harvest Thanksgiving service. £251 was donated which will certainly be a big help when we start to make up the Christmas bags in December for those in need.

This year the number of Foodbank items taken has peaked at 1900 in February during lockdown with the numbers gradually dropping off to just over 900 in September. As you can see from the yearly totals, the number of items used are down slightly from last year. We no longer buy toilet rolls for the Foodbank as this was only a stopgap when there was a shortage at the start of the pandemic and also, left over frozen food is now available 24/7 at the Co-op so these numbers are down. We have been fortunate that businesses have donated biscuits/treats etc. both last year and this year when they have had to close for lockdown so these numbers are high.

We are expecting there to be a rise in use of the Foodbank once the end of furlough, the removal of the £20 Universal Credit top up, the high energy bills and the cost of living rise kicks in. Presently, we have a very large amount of pasta, tinned spaghetti and long-life milk. Tinned fish, meat, fruit, custard, and rice are always needed.

Thank you once again for your continued support of the Foodbank. The generosity of the Arran community helps so many families in need.

The Foodbank Team

Item/Date	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Pasta	269	515	472
Rice/Noodles	203	346	889
Pasta/Rice Sauce	292	719	832
Beans/Spaghetti	624	1270	1225
Soup	645	1152	1422
Tinned Fish	791	1556	2049
Tinned Meat	1352	2123	2288
Tinned Vegetables	816	1642	1354
Tinned Fruit	501	730	669
Custard/Rice	537	779	598
Cereals	278	575	484
Tea	221	304	300
Coffee	203	382	265
Long Life Milk	361	705	702
Juice	189	333	121
Sugar	74	201	126
Biscuits/Treats	942	1883	1619
Jam	258	305	398
Toiletries	874	917	569
Condiments	418	501	499
Sanitary Products	93	229	233
Baby-(Nappies/Milk)	21	178	222
Household Cleaning	167	175	75
Toilet Rolls	646	1376	812
Bread/Rolls	64	71	7
Dog/Cat Food	233	207	100
Frozen Foods		1664	260
Total	11072	20838	18590

Red Marbles

I was at the corner grocery store buying some early potatoes. I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily appraising a basket of freshly picked green peas....

I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes.

Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr. Miller (the store owner) and the ragged boy next to me.

'Hello Barry, how are you today?'

'H'lo, Mr. Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin' them peas. They sure look good..'

'They are good, Barry.. How's your Ma?'

'Fine. Gittin' stronger alla' time.'

'Good. Anything I can help you with?'

'No, Sir.'

Jus' admirin' them peas.'

'Would you like to take

'No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with.'

'Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?'

'All I got's my prize marble here.'

'Is that right? Let me see it' said Miller.

'Here 'tis. She's a dandy.'

'I can see that. Hmm mmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?' the store owner asked..

'Not zackley but almost.'

'Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble'. Mr. Miller told the boy.

'Sure will. Thanks Mr. Miller.'

Mrs... Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me.

With a smile she said, 'There are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances.. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever..

When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, when they come on their next trip to the store.'

I left the store smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado, but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering for marbles.

Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there

learned that Mr. Miller had died. They were having his visitation that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could.

Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts...all very professional looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket.

Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one, each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes...

Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I told her who I was and reminded her of the story from those many years ago and what she had told me about her husband's bartering for marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket.

'Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about.

They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim 'traded' them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about color or size.....they came to pay their debt.'

'We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world,' she confided, 'but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho ..'

With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband.

Resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

We will not be remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds. Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away!

Today I wish you a day of ordinary miracles:

A fresh pot of coffee you didn't make yourself...

An unexpected phone call from an old friend

Green stoplights on your way to work...

The fastest line at the grocery store...

A good sing-along song on the radio...

Your keys found right where you left them.

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU GATHER, BUT WHAT YOU SCATTER!!! ♥

-Anonymous⁰⁸¹

Copied from St Columba's church, Kilbirnie Facebook page

Preparing For Christmas ?

The preparations for the first Christmas took a very long time. Well over a thousand years!! The ebb and flow of human affairs during this time meant some generations enjoyed a quiet spell. Other generations knew only horror and war. But there were always some people aware of a Spirit of Goodness touching their lives. Sometimes it was a human voice – speaking prophetic words of justice and love; sometimes a national disaster provoking the cry “Why?”

This awareness of an “OTHER POWER” focussed eventually on the name of God.

And a voice rang out! “Comfort, comfort my people.”

Words like a hammer striking an anvil! “Look up my people”.

God has seen the suffering, the evil, the sorrow of His world – He is about to act. His mercy is the wooing whisper of forgiveness. His love still surrounds His people.

That is the theme of the spoken – then written – word of “Isaiah” about 500 years before the first Christmas.

Why the delay? Only God knows!

Hopes and fears.

Joys and sorrows.

Darkness and Light.

Thus did the preparation for the first Christmas begin – the birth of a baby – not with the shaking up of some straw in a manger in Bethlehem. It began long, long ago in the unchanging love of God, who keeps on revealing Himself to generation after generation.

Nowadays, incessant demand for instant results, instant reward, instant gratification makes the long process seem rather strange.

Gloriously, after 2000 years since the first Christmas (so we reckon), the same promise, the same processes, the same preparations are at work.

The Most High God revealed Himself in Jesus – the Christ; the Messiah.

To us a child of royal birth, heir of the promises is given;
The invisible appears on earth, the Son of Man, the God of heaven;
A saviour born, in love supreme, He comes our fallen souls to raise,
He comes his people to redeem with all his plenitude of grace.

(C Wesley)

Alan M Thompson

Please Save Your Used Stamps.

Earlier this year the church received a very large sack of used stamps. These turned out to have originated at a mainland office where someone had persuaded the staff of the company to save the stamps from all their considerable daily input of mail. Hearing that we were involved with the Church of Scotland Stamp Project they were passed on to us.

There was only one problem. Almost every stamp was attached to a large chunk of envelope, so the consignment had to be trimmed to each stamp (or set of stamps) having only approximately 1cm or a quarter of an inch of paper surround, a massive job! Fortunately, an appeal for help to those attending our first after-service cuppa in the church hall elicited many offers, and the old saying that “many hands make light work” proved to be our saviour.

So thank you to all the good Samaritans who helped out with that problem, and also thanks to those of you who diligently save your used stamps all the year round and leave them in the container in the vestibule, suitably trimmed.

A very willing group of volunteers in Wishaw has the unenviable job of receiving saved stamps from congregations all over Scotland, and in turn they sell them to philatelic companies. The money raised is used to support a different project each year identified by the church’s World Mission Department.

So could I ask your support in joining those who have already got the habit, particularly as we approach Christmas when we should receive more stamped mail than usual, to help out in this way. A few moments spent each time you receive a stamped letter will make a world of difference to the lives of some very needy people.

John Lauder.

Property Report

The Fire Safety inspection has been completed and there are a few matters that will require attention. The inspection of the hall floor to confirm whether or not we have a woodworm infestation has not been carried out because every time the representative of the firm tried to get over he could not get a booking or the ferry did not sail. He has also been on holiday and is now trying to rearrange his visit.

The new manse build is completed but the grounds are very overgrown and will require to be cut back and landscaped. An estimate for this work and for new fencing has been obtained and is awaiting approval to get the work completed. Unfortunately as we cannot appoint a minister until 2023 we will have to look into how we maintain, heat and keep the property secure over the coming eighteen months.

Colin MacKenzie

Wednesday Coffee Morning

We are delighted to announce that the Wednesday coffee mornings have restarted. They were set up many years ago to raise funds to support two children through World Vision. As with so many church activities it was forced to stop when lockdown started way back in March 2020.

The first one was held on Wednesday 29th September and was well attended.

The coffee mornings are held on the last Wednesday of the month between 10am and 12 noon in the War Memorial Church hall and you will be sure to receive a warm welcome if you care to come along and support this very worthwhile charity. Please note that there will be no coffee morning in the month of December.

CHURCH NOTICES- Autumn 2021

<u>Baptism</u>	Maximus Blake Dayie Maclean	19 th September
<u>Deaths</u>	Marian Maclellan Montrose House	4 th September
	Ian McDermid Strathwhillan	19 th September

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

27 th Oct	Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am
27 th Oct	Service of Prayers for Health and Healing in Transept at 12noon
7 rd Nov	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 10.30 am.
14 th Nov	Remembrance Sunday
24 th Nov	Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am
24 th Nov	Service of Prayers for Health and Healing in Transept at 12noon
5 th Dec	Advent
10 th Dec	Concert Richard Scholfield's Resol String quartet
24 th Dec	Christmas Eve Service 6pm
25 th Dec	Christmas Day Service 11am Lochranza

St Bride's Ladies

St Bride's Ladies Club are pleased to announce that they will be holding their first meeting on Monday 8th November at 2.30pm in the War Memorial church hall. This will take the form a light afternoon tea. Please come along. All will be made most welcome.