

St Bride's Church Brodick

Newsletter

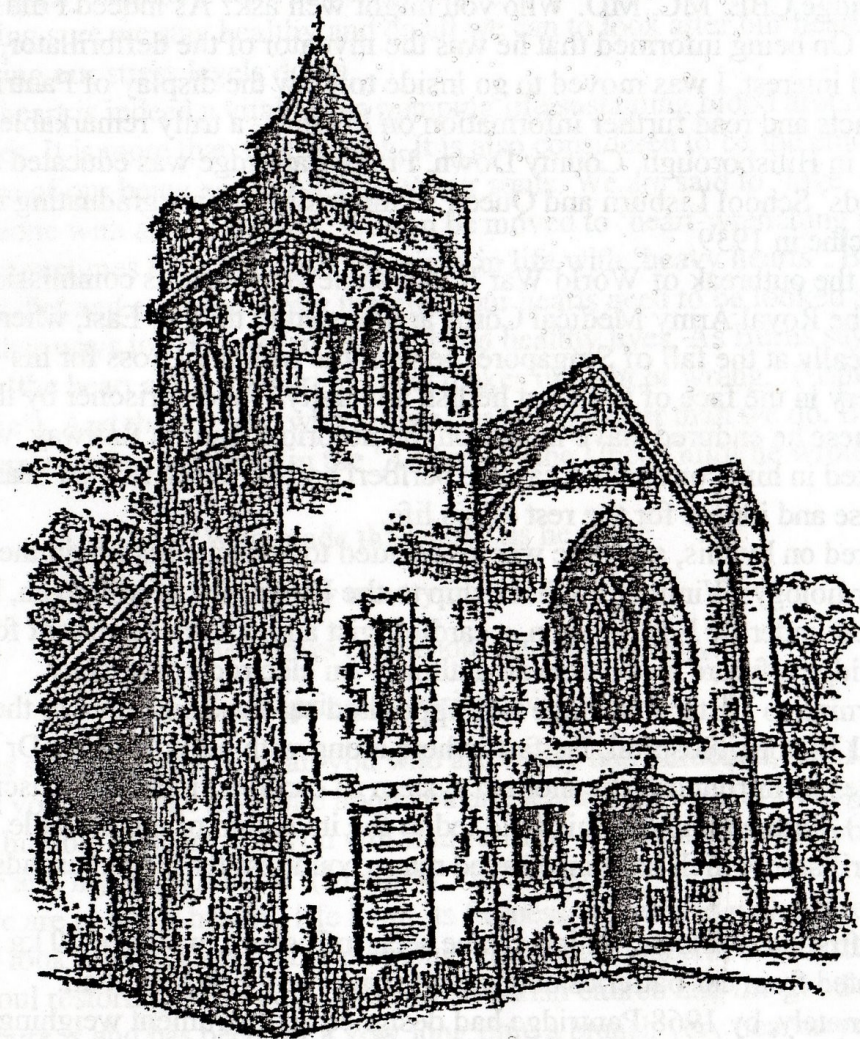
CHURCH NOTICES-Spring 2018

Deaths

William Loos Dickie (previously Brodick) 16th February
Jean Haggart Montrose House 17th February
Audrey Allsop Montrose House 1st April

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

6th May **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 10.30am.**
6th May Service of Thanksgiving Brodick Church 7pm.
9th May Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am.
23rd May Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am.
31st May Service of Prayers for Health and Healing Shiskine 12 noon
6th June Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am.
20th June Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am.
27th June Service of Prayers for Health and Healing Brodick 12 noon
4th July Coffee morning in Church Hall from 10.30am.
18th July Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am.
21st July **Summer Fayre 2pm**
26th July Church Auction in Brodick Golf Club
1st Aug Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am.
12th Aug **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper 10.30am.**
15th Aug Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am.
29th Aug Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am.



Spring 2018

Brodick Manse

May 2018

Last November, whilst on a visit to Northern Ireland, outside Lisburn Town Hall, I came across the statue of Professor James Francis 'Frank' Pantridge CBE, MC, MD. Who you might well ask? As indeed I did at the time. On being informed that he was the inventor of the defibrillator, with raised interest, I was moved to go inside to view the display of Pantridge artefacts and read further information on his life – a truly remarkable life. Born in Hillsborough, County Down, Frank Pantridge was educated at Friends' School Lisburn and Queen's University Belfast graduating in medicine in 1939.

With the outbreak of World War II that same year, he was commissioned into the Royal Army Medical Corps and posted to the Far East, where heroically at the fall of Singapore, he won the Military Cross for his bravery in the face of the most hellish adversity. Taken prisoner by the Japanese he endured slave labour on the notorious Burma Railway, which resulted in him contracting cardiac beriberi and suffering related heart disease and illness for the rest of his life.

Spurred on by this, after the war he decided to dedicate his life in the field of cardiology. Winning a scholarship to the University of Michigan, he studied under Dr F.N. Wilson, a cardiologist and, vitally important for Pantridge's future work, also an authority on electrocardiography. Returning to Ulster Pantridge was appointed cardiac consultant to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, where along with his colleague, Dr John Geddes he introduced the modern system of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Further study in this field led to the invention of the portable defibrillator, which has since saved many countless tens of thousands of lives.

That first defibrillator, which can be seen in Lisburn, weighed 70 kg and operated from car batteries and wasn't really very portable at all. Fortunately, by 1968 Pantridge had designed an instrument weighing only 3 kg, incorporating a miniature capacitor manufactured for NASA. I'm sure our wonderful island First Responders are grateful for that development and nowadays don't have to lug around 70 kg pieces of equipment. A further refinement of the automated external defibrillator by Pantridge allowed it to be used by members of the public and today there are many of these vital pieces of life saving equipment located all around

the island in shops, village halls and other central locations in each of our communities.

As Scotland has one of the highest percentages of heart related illnesses in the world, indeed recent studies have shown Scots are most likely to be killed by heart disease, having such life saving pieces of equipment easily and readily available to everyone is hugely important. As of course, is making sure we stay healthy and do all we can to look after our hearts by keeping our stress levels down.

The heart is indeed a vital organ pumping life sustaining blood around our bodies. It is more than that though. It is also considered to be the emotional centre of our being and connected to our souls. We are said to 'love someone with all our hearts'. We can be moved to 'heart-wrenching pity' and sometimes have to tackle situations in life with 'heavy hearts'. Besides good diet and exercise surely therefore our hearts need to be looked after in other ways too in order to lead full and healthy lives. As Burns says so well 'the heart aye's the part aye that makes us right or wrang.' ('Epistle to Davie'). And there is one who knows our hearts better than we do. Burns understood that too when in the 'Address to the Unco Guid' he wrote:

'Who made the heart, 'tis he alone

Decidedly can try us

He knows each chord its various tone,

Each spring its various bias:

Jesus said: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light.' (Matthew 11: 28-30).

If we are to live a healthy life in all its fullness we need to make sure we also look after our spiritual well-being. One place concerned with that kind of soul restoring 'heart care' is the local parish church and the good news is, there is and has been for a very long time a branch very near to you, like the defibrillators centrally located at the heart of every one of our island communities, including Brodick.

Brodick Parish Church specialises in its own brand of 'heart health care' and each Sunday at 10.30 a.m. all are welcome to come in and experience that for themselves.

Angus

Editor's Remarks

After such a long cold, wet and miserable winter we are happy to feel the temperature beginning to rise and signs that spring has come around once again are popping up all over the island.

Our principal fund raising events of the year will soon be upon us i.e. the Church Fete to be held on July 21st and the Auction on Thursday July 26th. As usual, we will be most appreciative of all and any help from as many people as possible on the day, so make a note of the dates in your diary.

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

Report from Session Clerk to the Stated Annual Meeting on Sunday 11th March, 2018.

At the start of 2017 membership stood at	123
Removed by death	8
Transfers from other churches	3
By profession of faith	1
At the close of 2017 membership stood at	119
Supplementary Roll stood at	31
Adherents stood at	23
Baptisms in the Parish	1
Weddings in the Parish	6
Funerals in the Parish	16

One new elder was ordained and one member who was already an elder in the Church of Scotland was admitted to the Kirk Session.

Friends of Montrose House Association Spring 2018

Although there is some movement of staff, there is now just one part time vacancy and almost all are on permanent contracts. The unit feels comfortable, the appointment of new kitchen staff has improved the meals and the baking is much appreciated.

There is a new large screen television which is very popular and there are plans to make the unit more homely in the next few months by decorating the old smoking room in an old fashioned style and using it as a quiet room or possibly a shop. Volunteer paper hangers or painters would be very welcome! There is also a plan to personalise the residents' doors to help the corridors look less clinical.

Minnie Bell is still working hard on the garden mostly in her own time. With the help of a few volunteers she is weeding, clearing and planting all the small areas. Hopefully there will be some council funding to help with the large area maintenance. Brodick Primary School pupils are also involved by creating a vegetable bed and a fairy garden.

A great success has been the visits by children of Lamlash Early Years to Montrose House and Brodick Early Years to Stronach.

At the Scots Night on 25th January Alistair Hume piped in the haggis, and fiddlers Sandie McQueen and Ian MacLeod accompanied by Jim Arnold on his accordion played throughout the meal. This was very popular and ended in an impromptu sing-along.

Most of the residents joined in the annual Easter basket competition in March, kindly organised by Ellie Jones. They arranged very colourful displays for the home and their rooms.

The next event is the Summer Fete on Wednesday 4th July at 2.00pm in Stronach. There is always a lovely tea, a great raffle and some stalls. A good turnout is hoped for, as this is the Friends only fund raising event.

Sadly, two deaths in recent weeks: Jean Haggart and Audrey Allsop. Our thoughts are with their families.

The AGM of F.O.M.H.A. will be held in Montrose House on Monday 14th May at 2pm. anyone interested will be made very welcome.

A.Keir

Ebenezer Church, NSW Australia

I was on holiday recently in Richmond, Australia, an area that is of great historical interest. It is a Lachlan Macquarie town beside the Hawkesbury River. I attended St Andrews Uniting Church to worship in my time there. Myself and my granddaughter stayed with my friend Ann in Richmond and she took us touring around the area. We visited towns like Windsor, Wiberforce and Penrith which I found strange as they were all names that I knew. One of the places we visited was Ebenezer Church which is the oldest church in Australia opened for worship in 1809. Not so old as some of our churches though especially St Bride's Lochranza which has celebrated its Tercentenary.

Ebenezer Church had its beginning in London. In 1801 seven couples and two single men, many of whom worshipped at the Crown Street Court, Church of Scotland in London, agreed to migrate to New South Wales, Australia. Most of them came from the border region of Scotland and England but were working and living in London. One of their number, George Hall had shared with them a Government offer in response to a letter written in January 1798:

'We whose names are undersigned acknowledge that, at our own request, we offer ourselves as settlers to go to N.S.W. with our families under agreed terms'

These families, mainly of Scottish background, were motivated to emigrate by a desire for freedom of worship and independence. The settlers set sail from Deptford on 12th February 1802 on the Coromandel, an East India sailing ship. Also on board were 136 male convicts and much needed supplies for the colony. On this historic voyage the Coromandel was not to lose a single convict life. However the voyage was not without its discomforts. A diary by George Hall recorded the discomforts and concerns. Upon arrival in Sydney the Coromandellers were directed by Governor King to settle on the Government Farm at Toongabbie for the remainder of 1802, so that they could plant wheat, maize and potatoes without delay.

In 1803 these pioneers were settled on 100 acre grants of land along the Hawkesbury River in the area known as Portland Head (now Ebenezer).

They settled along both banks, the river becoming the community's life line, providing the pioneers with water for daily living, fish for eating and a usually reliable safe means of transport.

The religious faith of the eight Coramandel families and their desire for communal worship was shared by seven other families in the district. Initially they joined together in worship in the open under a tree. That tree still remains today although probably only half the size it was and a bit black and withered. There is also a fence around it for protection.

The worshippers came from no one denomination. Members of the Church of England and the Catholic Church, Congregationalists and Calvinists were all represented. A leading role was taken by a Presbyterian, James Mein. He had led the settlers in worship on the Coramandel and he continued to lead as a chatechist or possibly as an elder.

By 1808 the community felt a need to formalise their society. A meeting was held and it was agreed to covenant to build a church and a school and set up the logistics for that. At the next meeting on 21st January 1809 rules and regulations for the guidance of the society were read and adopted. Although the building of a church and school was challenging for a small congregation of limited financial resources – the little church was ready for worship in 1809. It was a plain, unadorned building divided by a cedar partition into two rooms, one room used as a church the other as a classroom.

For the first twenty years of the settlement, the pioneers of Portlandhead were not aligned in their worship to any one denomination but in 1824 Ebenezer Church became the first Presbyterian Church in the colony.

The name of the church was chosen from 1 Samuel 7:12: *'Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mispah and Jeshanah, and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, "Hitherto the Lord has helped us"'*.

It was an amazing peaceful place to visit on the banks of the Hawkesbury River. The church is still an active church open for worship each Sunday with many weddings taking place there. The classroom is now a museum though where they serve lovely afternoon teas with scones, jam and cream which we very much enjoyed.

Jean Hunter

"A Matter of Life and Death — and Life!"

Christianity is a way of life founded on the historical event of the resurrection from the dead of Jesus the Christ.

What evidence is there for the resurrection?

Everyone agrees that there were no witnesses to the event. What other "Superhuman" or "Angels" were present is given in very variable ways. The narratives of the four Gospels (Mathew, Mark, Luke and John) were written much later than the event – between 40 and 60 years later. Earlier evidence is to be read in the Letters of the apostle Paul to various people and congregations. The earliest – and irrefutable – evidence, however, is the existence and growth of those congregations themselves. They were in utter contrast to the fear-filled, scattered, dismayed friends of Jesus a few weeks earlier when it seemed the earthly mission of Jesus ended on Good Friday in utter catastrophe with his death and burial.

Within a few weeks of the resurrection and burial of Jesus, these same friends of Jesus are boldly proclaiming in the streets of Jerusalem – not very far from the place of crucifixion and the burial tomb – that Jesus is raised from the dead. The tomb is empty. He has been seen by many of his friends. The public act of Proclaiming the Resurrection and Lordship of Jesus is the real evidence for the resurrection as a fact of history. There is no other evidence, apart from these changed lives.

From that day to this the "Good News" – the Gospel – the Evangel – has been proclaimed, people have "heard and believed". Each person, when they hear the Gospel, admits they are in the wrong before God, then believes that Jesus has died to put them right before God, Then, believing that Jesus is alive they begin the new way of life – Christianity – according to the teaching of Jesus. The company of believers increased from those days until now it is known around the world. Living by faith in Jesus, they rejoice in his constant companionship.

What is more, they believe the Resurrection of Jesus is in the plans for God to make the whole world right. They believe that God's purposes were made known in the centuries before Jesus life. Then that his death was also in God' purpose Then his resurrection was the declaration that God's purposes had been fulfilled. It was not a mere afterthought, nor an

attempt make the best of a bad job – but the realisation of God's love for mankind, to be received by faith, in hope and love.

"If on your lips is the confession, "Jesus is Lord", and in your heart the faith that God raised him from the dead, then you will find salvation".

(Romans 10.9).

Alan M. Thompson

PROPERTY REPORT

The Church

There was a fault with the organ which was repaired. A new minor problem has developed and I have agreed with the organ tuner that he will look at this when he comes over to work on the organ at Corrie.

I attended a meeting for Property Convenors in Glasgow in November where we were told how to go about having a heating survey done on church buildings. I reported this back to the Congregational Board who decided that this would be a worthwhile exercise. I have as a result contacted 121 George Street in Edinburgh who have sent us the necessary forms and we hope to have a heating survey done in the near future.

The Manse

Ardrossan Presbytery sent over a surveyor who met with myself and the minister. The purpose of his visit was to look at what could be done to cut the cost of heating and maintaining the manse. We are at this point awaiting feedback from his visit.

C.MacKenzie

Flower Rota

The flower rota is pinned on the church hall notice board. We are indebted to those who provide and arrange the church flowers each week, however we are few in number and more help would be greatly appreciated. I would love to hear from you if you can help.

If you feel you are unable to arrange flowers, you might like to make a donation to the Flower Fund and this can be given to Sylvia Alison or myself. Thank you in anticipation.

Ann Lauder

St. Bride's Ladies

The session ended as usual with the A.G.M. on 24th March. Sylvia Alison, President, reported on another successful year with interesting speakers on a number of different topics. Myrna was thanked for her work as secretary with Sylvia holding the fort as treasurer once again. Otherwise the office bearers and committee remain the same with the addition of one new member. We were delighted to welcome Isabel Davie to join us. Sylvia concluded by thanking the committee and friends for another worthwhile year. As usual, after the A.G.M., Jean Hunter entertained us with a selection of slides from her various interesting holidays abroad. The Spring Fayre took place on Saturday 24th March. Once again this was a successful event.

The committee are now engaged in compiling next session's syllabus and would welcome any suggestions for speakers. We also have two future events to consider, the Summer Fayre and the Highland Games. Each of these events requires your help and support for which we would be very grateful.

World Vision

At the moment we fund Tounkang, a ten year girl from Senegal, whom we have sponsored since 2011, and eleven year old Adam from Uganda who we began sponsoring in 2017 when Katerega, who we had sponsored for a number of years, turned sixteen. As well as the monthly donation we send the children birthday and Christmas cards and make a small donation to include an educational game to help with their numbers and letters. We receive yearly progress reports and I am pleased to say that both are now able to attend primary school.

Last year the cost of the sponsorship was £572 and this was funded by our fortnightly Wednesday coffee mornings. The numbers attending the coffee mornings has fallen away over the past year so why not come along and support this worthwhile cause, the chats great and where else will you get a cup of tea or coffee (with free refills) and as much home baking as you can eat for £2.

SA

Why Go To Church? – Food For Thought

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

"I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me I can't remember a single one of them, so I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor.

It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher.

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals, but for the life of me, I cannot remember the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND spiritual nourishment!

Arran Churches Together

The World Day of Prayer service was prepared this year by the Christian women of Suriname in South America. More than 40 people from churches of all denominations across Arran joined in the World Day of Prayer service at St Molios Church in Shiskine on Friday 2nd March. The theme of the service was "All God's creation is very good".

The Good Friday Walk of Witness on the 30th March again commenced at Holy Cross Catholic Church with a short act of worship and continued with the quiet walk through the village to St Bride's Church for a further act of worship. Those gathered then had an opportunity for further fellowship while enjoying tea/coffee in the War Memorial Hall.