

St Bride's Church Brodick

May Newsletter

Church Notice – Spring 2020

Death Thomas Watt, Brodick 11th March

Stated Annual Meeting Report Sunday 15th March 2020

At the start of 2019 membership stood at	118
Removed by death	3
Transfers from other churches	0
By restoration or resolution	3
At the close of 2019 membership stood at	118
Supplementary Roll stood at	29
Adherents stood at	21
Baptisms in the Parish	3
Weddings in the Parish	0
Funerals in the Parish	11
No of elders	16
No on Congregational Board	12

Elizabeth Lawrie (Session Clerk)



Spring 2020

Corriecravie

May 2020

Dear All

When with the heaviest of hearts I announced on the 10th March my painful decision to demit as minister at Brodick linked with Corrie linked with Lochranza & Pirnmill linked with Shiskine, I nor anyone else present could for a moment have envisaged the current situation we now find ourselves in as the impact of the Carona Virus is felt nationwide. Whilst my reasons for feeling utterly compelled to give up my charge remain the same, circumstances in all our lives have altered beyond imagining. To walk away from ministry here in North Arran at such a time, especially when as never before in modern times, people both within our congregations and beyond in the wider community are seeking spiritual support and comfort, would I feel be a gross dereliction of my calling to the ministry of Word and sacrament in the Church of Scotland and as your minister in particular.

I have therefore now intimated my decision to the Presbytery Clerk not to demit my charge on Easter Sunday as planned, and I will endeavour to the very best of my ability continue to discharge my duties as minister of the North Arran linkage, for as long as I possibly can, until the situation or circumstances dictate otherwise.

In the present circumstances it was a very strange Easter, no family, friends or visitors to welcome back to the island and our churches empty and locked to keep people out. At least thanks to modern technology, Jean and I are managing to record and send out weekly worship via the church websites. Keeping in touch via e-mail and phone also ensures we can communicate with everyone, especially those who need a little bit of pastoral support. Unfortunately, Montrose House and the hospital remain out of bounds, but we continue to pray for those completely shut off from the outside world, trusting them to the care of wonderful and dedicated staff striving heroically in the front line of the fight against Covid 19.

But if the message of Easter tells us anything, it is that after the darkness of the tomb, comes the joy of resurrection. The love of God cannot be shut away from the world, nor can the world shut it out. It continually seeks to break free and it is constant in the rain and the sunshine of our lives, both in the here and now, and for all eternity.

Although for now, we cannot know how long this present crisis will last, we continue to hope that sooner or later better days do lie ahead. One thing is for sure, the wonderful fellowship we share a St Bride's, as well as the other churches in the linkage and the wonderful community spirit we know here in Brodick and indeed around the island, will see us through.

Until that hoped for time comes, may the joy at the heart of the Easter message seep into your very being and restore your weary souls, for Christ has risen, he has risen indeed. Halleluiah.

Angus

Editor's Remarks

Unprecedented, challenging, surreal, frightening, these words have all been used many times lately to describe the times we are living through at the moment. Schools, most shops and businesses, churches have all closed down, ceased trading, stopped working but guess what Mother Nature did not get the memo.

As most of us have been hunkered down in our homes she has been hard at work doing what she does every spring; birds are building their nest, lambs are being born in the fields, spring flowers are in full bloom and all around trees and hedgerows are bursting into new life. Yes, life is going on as normal in the natural world and will, given time, be the case for us all. With the help of our friends and families and the support of the wonderful Arran community we will get through this crisis. Life for us will, God willing, return to normal.

This edition of the magazine, because of the Corona virus restrictions, will only be available on the church website www.brodickchurch.org My thanks, as always, to all who have made this edition of the magazine possible.

I can be contacted on 01770303579 or sheenamcl4@gmail.com

Financial Report for the year 2019

As the total income did not cover expenditure the accounts showed a deficit of £4,973 for the year.

Income		Expenditure	
Weekly and monthly offerings	£30,577	Ministry & Mission	£34,314
Gift Aid tax recovered	9,200	Heat, Light & Maint.	7,956
All other income	<u>13,200</u>	All other expenditure	<u>15,680</u>
Total Income	<u>£52,977</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>£57,950</u>

During the COVID-19 crisis, although the Church has remained closed unfortunately the bills still have to be paid. With the only source of income during the 'lockdown' coming from those who have elected to give their offerings by Standing Order this have given some financial security. If you currently give by the traditional methods, Donation Envelopes and open plate offerings, would you consider setting up a Standing Order? If so, please contact me for details.

I would also be happy to receive your envelopes/donations for the past few weeks if you would like to forward them to me.
Many thanks and blessings to everyone for their generosity.

Sylvia Alison
Treasurer

Property Report

Approval to demolish and rebuild the North Arran Parish Manse has been given consent. Neil Young has the paperwork and will, I presume, commence work when the lockdown finishes.

C.MacKenzie

The Church

I came across this and wanted to share it with you.

"I share this reflection on our current church situation. Just a thought to ponder at a time when we thought this could never happen, it has and public worship has been suspended."

Christ's church is not closed; the doors may be shut,
The lights out in the building up the street,
But the Church is not closed.

We may be told to stay at home, self isolate, we may be ill or too frail to come, we may be disillusioned with the institution, or with God,
But the Church is not closed.

The church cannot close because it is not a building.
The church is you, and me, and every child of God, who feels the tug of His love and senses His presence, even in the darkness, even in the loneliness, even in fear or sorrow.

The Church is open, though the building is closed.
It will stay open as long as his children stay open to God,
And seek his presence wherever they may be.

This day Christ says to you "I am with you always."
So take this moment to enjoy his companionship.
To be still to give thanks and to hand over your cares,
And know that you do so in company with God's family,
Not only in our building but all over the world.

(Written by Alison Britchfield 17th March 2020)

Every blessing

Jean Hunter

Arran Churches Together Foodbank

How does the foodbank normally work?

The regular foodbank volunteers collect donations from the basket in the big Co and store them in the transept, along with other donations left in the vestibule. This store is used to top up the vestibule shelves so that those in need can help themselves without a reference from Health, Social Services or Education. We do work in partnership with these agencies all of whom have sought support from the foodbank for individuals and families known to them. Jean Hunter is our treasurer and manages any monetary donations made to the Food and Fuel fund which is used to buy household fuel – normally organised along with Social Services – and to supplement food items when needed. We note the number of items used to top up the vestibule shelves each day and Ann Hart pulls the figures together every month. These figures are shared with the Arran Churches Together committee, North Ayrshire Council and are displayed in Brodick Church vestibule.

Through the work of the Arran Economic Group and other bodies we understand that the cost of private and social housing rentals on Arran is much higher than in other areas. Private rental can be sub-standard accommodation, poorly insulated and damp, and the cost of heating these properties can create fuel poverty. Due to the cost of transporting goods to the island food tends to be more expensive. The rise of in-work poverty has been driven by all of these factors. During school holidays we see an increase in use of the foodbank, presumably because families whose children receive free school meals find themselves under financial pressure during holidays. Along with everyone else, we find ourselves dealing with a situation we'd never dreamed about and we've had to adapt the way we work, making changes as we respond to guidelines and need.

What has been the response to Covid-19 ?

By March 20th we had established a bank of delivery drivers. These drivers volunteered through Arran Community for Voluntary Services (ACVS) and agreed to safeguarding and confidentiality statements. Initially we advertised a delivery service only to those people having to self-isolate. At the end of March, we changed this service to deliver to anyone, not just those self-isolating, in order to reduce footfall in the vestibule. We have created a Facebook page - Arran Churches Together Foodbank -and have posted a message offering this delivery service.

The doors from the vestibule into the church are now locked; the general public only have access to the vestibule. 'High touch areas' such as door handles, light switches, and fridge doors are being cleaned on a daily basis by Ann, Catriona, Ann, and Susan. There is advice on the church door about how to keep a social distance while using the foodbank and hand sanitiser is available with advice to use before and after using the foodbank.

The foodbank will continue as normal with our regular volunteers collecting donations from the Brodick Coop collection basket and keeping the vestibule shelves in Brodick Church stocked, for those who are struggling financially to be able to help themselves.

Our regular volunteers have used an agreed list to make up bags with enough food for up to 2 people for at least 3 days. These are stored in the church ready for uplift.

North Ayrshire Council is providing weekly food boxes to families whose children normally receive free school meals. This has helped many of the families we expected would need to use the foodbank; although foodbank use has increased, we are coping with demand.

How can we continue making donations?

For those who are still shopping in Brodick Co, the collection basket is still there and we are still emptying it; for those who are placing an order for delivery with Brodick Co, you can add an item to your list which they will put in the collection basket. Donations can also be left in the church vestibule.

We owe thanks to many people:

To all of you who have offered help and enquired about how we are getting on.

To everyone who continues to donate, the Coop basket continues to be filled.

To shops, hotels, cafes and businesses which unfortunately have had to close or reduce hours, for donating food items close to their date.

To individuals, Arran Singers and Faith in Community Scotland for donations made.

To the volunteer delivery drivers.

To ACVS and Brodick Coop for their continued support.

If you are aware of anyone who could benefit from Foodbank support please let them know that they can access food from the church vestibule 24/7 or receive a delivery.

Contact Ann Hart, Ann MacKay, Catriona Smith or Susan Dobson.

Palm Sunday

Jesus on His journey still, preaching and healing along the way,
Though He knew the time was coming, for on Earth He could not stay
He tried many times to tell His disciples the path He was going to take
They couldn't quite understand Him, but afraid to ask for their own sake

Onward He walked towards Jerusalem, stopping at the Mount of Olives
He sent two disciples on ahead to find a colt that a villager would give
The colt, which no-one had ridden before, was untied to be brought back
"Why are you untying it" the owner asked, The Lord needs it, simple as that.

They put their cloaks upon the colt as Jesus sat on it and ready to ride on
Fulfilling what the prophet said, "See your King comes to you, Daughter of Zion
Gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" the way it was to be
And so off they set along the road to what is known as The Triumphant Entry.

In Jerusalem for the Feast around this time, many people had come to meet, Hustles
and bustles of the city while they prepared in pray and where to eat Soon the great
crowd heard Jesus was on His way, so to meet Him they ran out They waved palm
branches, put their cloaks and palms on the road, and shout.

"Hosanna, to the Son of David, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord"
Over and over these words joyfully shouted out to praise God in voices loud,
"Blessed is the King of Israel!, "Hosanna! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest"
Jesus had arrived but what was going to happen to Him was hidden from their eyes.

Melanie Whitlow - 31st March 2020

Friends of Montrose House Association Spring 2020

In common with all homes, Montrose House has not received any visitors including family, since the lockdown. The regular staff are coping well, some are staying on site but other carers still need to travel from the mainland. The Stronach Day Care Unit has been closed so the service users are being cared for in the community but MH has benefited from the addition of some of the staff.

Residents are keeping in touch with families by Skype and some have managed to enjoy the gardens in the pleasant weather. Minnie is also continuing with planting and maintenance when time allows. Depute Unit Manager Laura Richardson is planning the next issue of the quarterly Newsletter for residents and their families.

The last event of 2019 was the Christmas Party, a happy evening with great musical entertainment from Yvonne Brothers, Mike Bailey and the MH Ceilidh Band, and a visit from Santa who handed out gifts of chocolates to the residents and entertainers, generously donated by James Chocolates. At the Scots Night in January the residents again enjoyed the Ceilidh Band; the haggis was piped in by Alastair Hume and addressed by Harry Gilmore. Our thanks go to all of them. The Easter Basket making, planned for April 8th could not happen but the Coop kindly donated flowering plants for the residents' rooms or to be planted out in the garden.

Our next event should be the Summer Fete on Wednesday 1st July. If this cannot take place as planned, hopefully there will be a fundraising event later on in the summer.

A.Keir

Safe-guarding always

At every door God's love be near
On every floor Christ's grace be here
Down every path the Spirit cheer
Each step be with God.

Within my home God's peace abound
Away from home Christ's grace surround
Returning home be Spirit sound
Each step be with God.

Throughout my life God's way be known
Into my heart Christ's joys be sown
Eternal Life be Spirit grown
Each step be with God.

Now Something To Make you Smile

Tae a Virus

Twa months ago we didna ken
yer name or ocht about ye
But lots of things have changed since then,
I really must salute ye.
Yer spreading rate is quite intense,
ye're feeding like a gannet
Disruption caused, is so immense,
ye've shaken oor wee planet.

Corona used tae be a beer,
they garnished it wae limes
But noo it's filled us a' wae fear
these days, are scary times.

Nae shakin hawns, or peckin lips,
it's whit they a' advise
But scrub them weel, richt tae the tips,
that's how we'll a' survive.
Just stay inside, the hoose, ye bide
Nae sneakin oot for strolls.
Just check the lavvy every hoor
And stock-take, your loo rolls.

Our holidays have been pit aff
Noo that's the Jet2 patter.
Pit oan yer thermals, have a laugh
And paddle 'doon the watter'
Canary Isles, no for a while
Nae need for suntan cream
And a' because o' this wee bug
We ken tae be..19

The boredom surely will set in,
But have a read, or doodle
Or plan yer menu for the month
Wi 95 pot noodles.
When these run oot, just look about
A change, it would be nice
We've beans and pasta by the ton
and twenty stane o' rice.

So dinny think ye'll wipe us oot.
Aye true, a few have died.
Bubonic, bird flu, and Tb
they came, they left, they tried.
Ye might be gallus noo ma freen'
as ye jump fae cup tae cup
But when we get oor vaccine
Yer number will be up!

Anonymous (as far as we know)