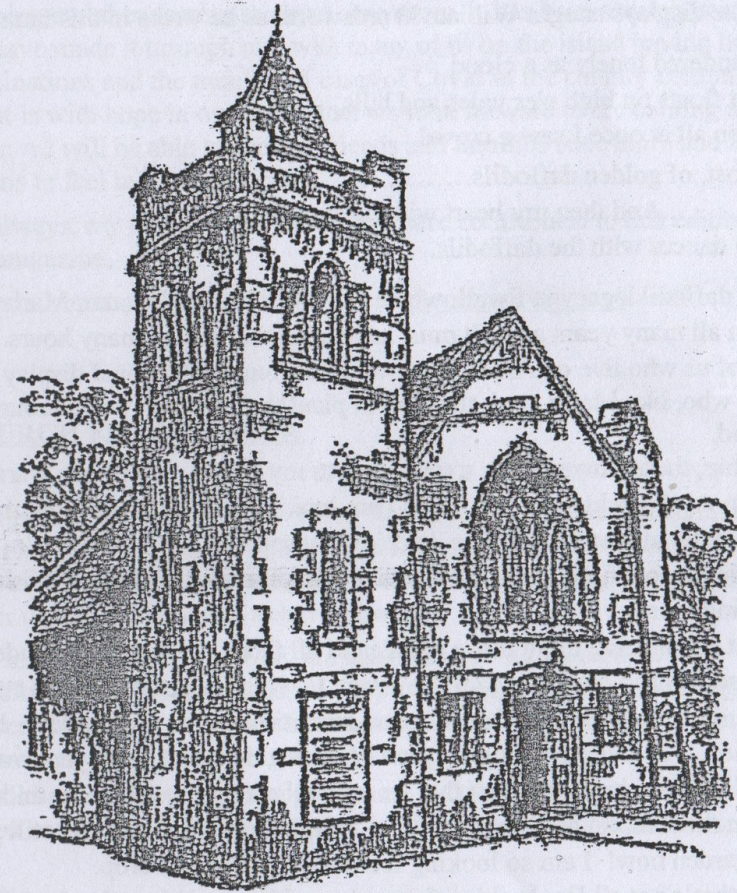


WHO'S WHO AT BRODICK CHURCH

Interim Moderator	Rev. David Sutherland	
Locum Minister	Mrs Liz Clarke	860219
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

St Bride's Church Brodick

May Newsletter



Spring 2021

Scottish Charity No. SC012017 www.brodickchurch.org

Hello folks,

I am writing this sitting at my desk, which is located in front of a window, which looks out on to our front garden, which is a mass of daffodils just now. Every year they appear but I don't remember another year when there were so many. And when I drive to Blackwaterfoot, Brodick or Lochranza I am equally struck by the sheer proliferation of these sunshine flowers.

These displays caught William Wordsworth as he wrote in this famous poem:

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils.....
.....And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

Our daffodil legacy at Swallowbrae comes from John's mum, Marla who planted them all many years ago. It must have taken her many, many hours.

All of us who live on Arran now owe this wonderful, annual display to all the folk who, like Marla, took the time to plant thousands of bulbs around the entire island.

For me, these flowers give a real boost to my spirits – sunshine, warmth, summer are in my thoughts, not just when I am looking at the daffodils but their image stays with me for a long time, keeping my spirits high. I'm sure I'm not alone in this. It is possible to see folk standing straighter, walking more briskly and smiling more.

What an amazing thing those people did all those years ago. I wonder if they realised what a lasting legacy they were leaving for generations to come.

John, in "retirement" is able to spend more time in the veg garden – his joy and passion. He loves growing veg and I love eating them! Last year was such a good year – witness the fact that we are still eating French beans and Broad beans (from the freezer) and – even better – Purple Sprouting broccoli still growing in the garden now! I am so looking forward to this year's crop.

And that's not all I'm looking forward to – I have a haircut booked, I'm planning a visit to family (especially grandchildren) in July and now that church is open again I can look forward to a not-too-distant time when we will be able to sing the hymns again.

I hope you are all feeling more optimistic now with many sunshine thoughts of things to do in the coming days, weeks and months. Let's go forward to our new "normal" in hope, faith and love.

Liz

Editor's Remarks

What a year it has turned out to be. Who would have thought this time last year that the last twelve months would turn out the way it has with lockdown being repeated, schools and businesses as well as churches being a reopening and then having to close once more. It has been a tough year but we have made it through and with many of us on the island having had our vaccinations and the number of cases of Covid in the country continuing to fall it is with hope in our hearts that we look forward to the coming months when we will be able to see our friends and families once more and life begins to feel more like normal.

As always, my thanks to all those who have contributed to this edition of the magazine.

I can be contacted on 01770 303579 or sheenamc14@gmail.com

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

In normal circumstances the church flower rota would be pinned up on the church hall noticeboard. This year, of course, things are different. However, despite present restrictions and with no singing or organ etc. to cheer us, we are still able to have flowers.

The months of April and May are taken care of but I would be very grateful if I could have names of people willing to supply and arrange flowers from then on. If you have never taken a turn, why not give it a go? It would not need to be a big arrangement.

I shall be very happy to have your name and the date(s) you would prefer if you can help. The phone number is 303517. Thank you in anticipation!

Ann Lauder

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER FOODBANK

The foodbank operates from the vestibule of Brodick Church and is 24/7. Its purpose is to provide emergency food support for those in financial crisis. The foodbank continues to be used by those needing this type of support and continues to be supported by the Arran Community by means of food and monetary donations.

THE WEE SHOP

Arran Churches Together latest venture has been to set up a subsidised grocery shop providing low cost items to people who are struggling to make ends meet. The shop is intended to help top up a weekly shop and stocks items such as fresh and tinned food, toiletries and household cleaning products. It has been set up in the small hall at Brodick Church and is open on Fridays from 10am – 2.30pm. The shop opened on 12th March and will be reviewed after an 8-week trial period. Customer numbers have increased from four on week 1 to twelve on week 4, so it seems there is currently a need for this service. Arran Churches Together have received grants which are being used to subsidise costs.

It operates on a booking system with only one household able to shop at a time; as the hall is small it would be difficult otherwise to adhere to social distancing and one household at a time allows for some privacy. High touch points in the hall are wiped between customer visits, hand sanitiser is provided and face masks must be worn.

To Book

Email the_wee_shop@yahoo.com
Facebook Messenger The Wee Shop Arran
Call/text 07731562352

Psalm 141:3 "Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips."

A Poem by Evelyn Meyer Doyle

My mouth runneth over –
A problem with which long I've coped –
When humility, justice, kindness and love,
Are traits for which I'd hoped.

Something within me starts to churn,
When any subject at all comes up.
For the life of me, I cannot just sit,
And quietly hold my cup.

There are other cups to fill –
So I jump in both feet first,
With very little persuasion –
Just the first pause that occurs.

I extract, examine, explain and exhort –
You might say monopolize –
Till the Lord in his mercy shows me
Interest waning in my listeners eyes.

Verbosity can be a gift – or a curse –
Can make one a star – or a bore –
Depending upon who is coaching one
And the richness of one's lore.

Deep down inside I'd rather not be
One with the verbal skill –
To slay dragons – feed impossible dreams –
Or spew words with the power to kill.

So each day must start with meditation
And for guidance a petition
If speak I must, and I must speak –
Let my words be those of blessing.

"Now Jesus has been raised by God, and of this we are all witnesses."
ACTS 2:32

There are three groups or people involved in this event.

1. People who met Jesus, the preacher from Nazareth. They heard amidst.
2. People who "met" the Risen Lord Jesus who had passed through "death" into LIFE – during the seven weeks between EASTER DAY and the Feast of Pentecost.
3. THE REST OF US.

For the first group everything was normal as they heard and saw this man in their midst. He said and did exceptional things and crowds followed.

For the second group something almost beyond understanding had taken place. Their friend Jesus had been killed and buried – but NOW he was often in their midst. They knew Jesus, but he was different. They kept meeting up with him. They told others about him. Wonder, amazement and awe overflowed from their words and deeds.

Then there began, and continues until today, the retelling of the story of "Jesus and his Love", so that we are in that story if we believe that Jesus has been raised by God. We each have heard from someone about Jesus and been challenged to become a follower of Jesus.

To enable that retelling to continue we have been given some "tools". From the beginning some people have been "gifted" by the Holy Spirit of God to be "Ministers of Word and Sacrament". Now, on Arran, we have a break in the system. Should we seek, by prayers through the Holy Spirit, to remake the system? Is there any alternative?

We have "Church" buildings – with very limited use.

Should we seek to maintain – any? some? all? Their use has been replaced for many people by "ZOOM" etc. in our homes, in the living room, kitchen, etc.

If our church buildings are no longer necessary for worship, what are they for? How much of our "church income" is used just for upkeep?

Is there an obstacle in their structure with the church pews facing the same way?

We have the Bible. Within fifty years of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, some eyewitnesses collected the sayings of Jesus, wrote them down and produced the four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, then added letters from Paul, Peter and others. Through copies and translations the Bible has come to us. The Old Testament Scriptures are the preparation for and foreshadowing of God's great and final act in the redemption of the world by the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. The primary function of the Bible is to bear witness to the Christ. The Old Testament taught that the Christ would come. The task of the Christian evangelists was to proclaim that Jesus of Nazareth is he. So the Scriptures are to be read in the light of the resurrection of Jesus. The Spirit of the Risen Lord would interpret to the Christian reader the things in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

So how is this to be done today, when in the Church of Scotland as well as many other denominations there has been a very serious decline in the number of potential evangelists – that is "Church Members."

There are more Bibles in Scotland than ever (according to the Bible Society) but fewer are being read. Who will read them – aloud to others, or quietly to themselves? But the Bible is for the world's redemption and renewal. How will the world hear?

Christians meet together:

- to worship the Risen Lord;
- to hear the Scriptures read;
- to "gossip the Gospel" to tell each other what the Lord has done;
- to pray for each other;
- to build each other up in faith;

How are we going to do it "post-lockdown"

Alan M. Thompson

CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST LAKE BOHINJ

When we have not been able to travel during the last year I have often found myself reminiscing about past holidays. One lovely holiday we had was beside Lake Bled in Slovenia. Whilst we were there we visited a beautiful, little medieval church. The Church of St John the Baptist was in a picturesque setting at the head of Lake Bohinj and beside a stone bridge.

Inside the church the walls and ceiling are decorated with beautiful frescoes many dating from the 15th and 16th century. One fresco is a depiction of Cain and Abel with a white devil sitting on the shoulder of Cain. The namesake of the church was of course beheaded and sitting on a table is the decidedly gruesome carved wooden head of John the Baptist which dates from 1380.

As we left the church we saw a rather good looking young man on a mountain bike coming towards us. When he stopped he was greeted warmly by our guide and introduced as Father Paul the priest in charge of the little church and of a larger parish. He was also the youngest priest in Slovenia. A service was only held monthly in the little church but most of the considerable cost of its upkeep came from weddings. The wedding photographs being taken on the bridge with the lovely backdrop of the lake and mountains.

Sadly all weddings are prohibited in Slovenia just now but religious ceremonies can take place if strict guidelines are followed. No doubt the people of Slovenia are hoping and praying like us for a return to normal life.

Lorna MacDonald

Treasurer's Report

The accounts for 2020 have been approved by Presbytery and accepted by the Scottish Charity Regulator. Please contact me if you would like to receive a copy of the 2020 accounts.

Income in the first three months of 2021 was, Offerings £7,058, Donations £179, Gift Aid refund for the period October to December 2020 £1,500, giving a total income of £8,737. Expenses were £6,402.

We have reserves as follows

General Fund: £49,864

Fabric Fund: £20,200

Organ Fund: £5,563

Flower Fund: £583

Manse Rebuild Fund

Since the appeal for funds began in January, we have received donations of £5,520. Many thanks to all for your generosity. If you would like to make a donation, please contact me for details.

At the end of March Brodick Parish had paid £38,982 as their share of the build so far. A further payment of £23,466 is due in April, leaving a balance of approximately £35,500 due on completion. These last two payments will be taken from the Reserve General and Fabric Funds.

Sylvia Alison
Treasurer

Property Report

I have recently had meetings with Stewart Hamilton (Surveyor for Presbytery) and Neil Young and we are now discussing the final work to be done. Flooring has been agreed as has ground work in the garden. At the present rate of progress the new North Arran Parish Manse may be ready to be handed over to the parish fairly soon.

Colin MacKenzie

Friends of Montrose House Association

Spring 2021

Relatives are now permitted to visit on a restricted basis and they and the residents can enjoy the lovely garden on good weather days. This has made an improvement in the wellbeing of the residents and staff.

Long standing care worker Minnie Bell has left Montrose House to work in dementia care. She will be greatly missed as a carer but will be especially missed by those of us concerned with the garden as she instigated and almost single handed transformed what was rapidly becoming a wilderness into a beautiful garden with themed areas, sheltered places for residents to sit, pretty flowerbeds, and areas in which primary school children can grow vegetables. Much of her gardening was done outwith her working hours and even after she had left employment, she was still going in to "finish things off". Marjorie Bannatyne has been a great help to her and we hope she will continue. Where possible the Friends will continue to support the garden from their funds and donations.

A.Keir

Something to Ponder

In the unlikely place of a Jewish concentration camp, someone wrote these words on the wall –

“I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.

I believe in love even when I cannot find it.

I believe in God even when He is silent”

In all the touching places of life may we say with Jacob “Surely the Lord is in this place”.

CHURCH NOTICES-Spring 2021

Deaths

Bessie Sillars	Montrose House	3rd March
John MacLure	Corriegills	17 th March

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

23rd May Sacrament of the Lord's Supper 10.30am

This service will be conducted by Rev. Ian MacLeod

(Please note that depending on government guidelines booking for this service may still be required)

Church Statistics for 2020

Membership Roll	120
Removal from Roll by death	2
Removal from Roll by Certificate	4
Supplementary Roll	29
Adherents Roll	23
Communicants admitted by Profession	2
Communicants admitted by Certificate	1
Baptisms	1