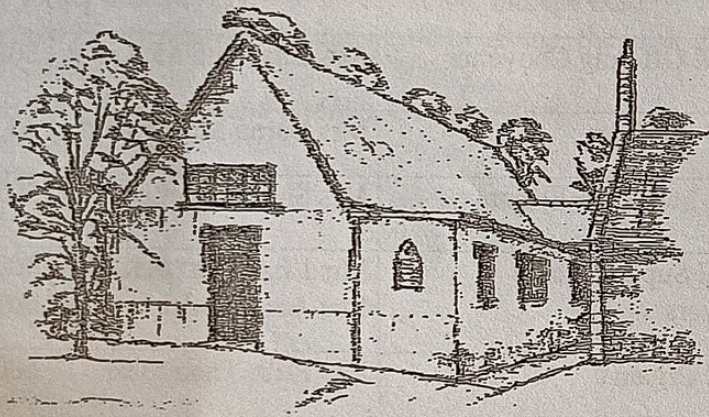
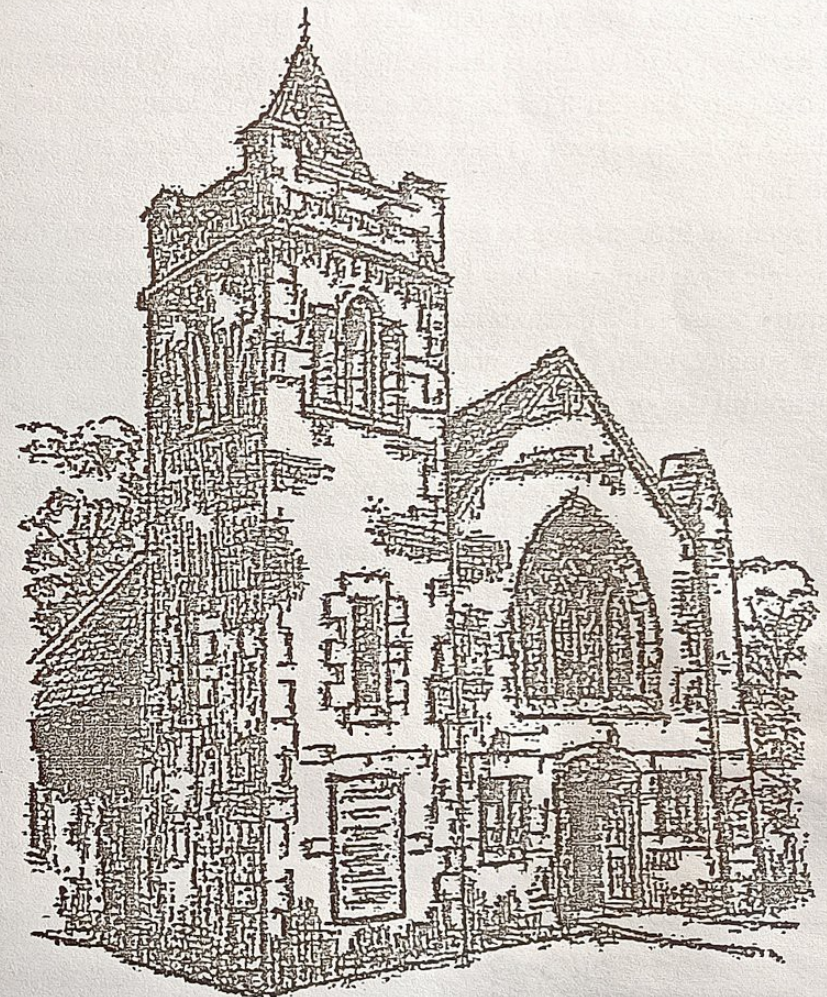


May Newsletter



*Brodick Church War Memorial Hall*



Spring 2022

## "The Springs of Life"

Prov 4:23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.

The snowdrops have gone. The daffodils are blooming – in their thousands. The clocks have gone forward. The days are getting longer. We have even seen some sunny days. Its spring!

The effect of all of this is that thoughts turn to .... Spring cleaning. I must say that I'm thinking a lot about spring cleaning just now ... but that's as far as it goes – I have managed to avoid **doing** any spring-cleaning so far!

It seems a little strange to me but, it appears to be something that many people have built into their DNA that when the first flowers start to bud many households enter spring cleaning mode.

Personally, I don't really understand this sudden urge to take a perfectly beautiful day or weekend and spend it messing up the house just to clean it up.

This messing up normally exposes places that no one ever looks in or under to see if there is any dirt there.....

Of course there is dirt there...

I am just confused as to why we suddenly need to do something about it....

What is it hurting...?

How is a dust bunny ever going to evolve into a dust elephant if we disturb the natural process?

Now don't get me wrong, I am not against having a clean home or even cleaning, it is just the idea of all that work.

But its not just our homes that need a spring clean – it is good to have a clear out of all the junk we accumulate in our mind and in our heart which serves to interfere with our Christian living.

In Psalm 139 David wrote:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting."

That's not something easy to cope with – asking God to shine a light on all the rubbish in our life. It's something we usually try to avoid, rather than intentionally seek out. And that's part of the problem. Often, when God

sends messengers to speak to us – messengers in the form of a husband, or a wife, or a friend, or even an enemy – we put our hands over our ears. We refuse to listen, we change the subject, we attack the messenger, we leave the room. If that doesn't work, then we deny the offence; we redefine it, we rationalize it. And finally, if all else fails, we rename it to make it seem less offensive, or if possible, even virtuous. We come up with a pleasant-sounding euphemism. So, gossip becomes "just sharing my concerns". Greed becomes "thriftiness". A glutton is someone with "a healthy appetite". Pride is reframed as "high self-esteem". Lying is "stretching the truth". A harsh, critical attitude merely indicates that you have high standards.

Now, what do we do when God answers our prayer, and begins to open our eyes to some area of our life that needs to change? It's something like when getting ready for visitors to arrive and you suddenly realize just how dirty and untidy your house has become. "Look at those windows! I can barely see out of them! And this rug! It's covered with dog hairs!" And so on. The first reaction is to close our eyes, because we don't like what we see. It was more pleasant and comfortable before, when we didn't have to deal with the reality of grimy windows, and a filthy rug. We liked being able to tell ourselves that everything was fine, so that we could go golfing or shopping, instead of spending the weekend scrubbing windows and vacuuming the rug. There's a strong urge to just forget what we've seen.

So, we have to be open to God because if we are not, we will find some way to avoid hearing what God is saying.

There is one thing that helps me to listen and that is the knowledge that God is a gentle, and kind, and compassionate father. And because of that, he won't give me more than I can bear. Instead, he will lovingly, and carefully, reveal enough to produce repentance, but not so much that I despair. How do I know that? Because that's how Christ dealt with the disciples. When he was preparing to leave them, he said,

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth." – John 16:12-13

### Editor's Remarks

The experts tell us that spring has been arriving a little earlier every year. This year, however, after a mild start there was another cold snap. Thankfully over the last couple of weeks temperatures have been on the up and all over the island spring has arrived. The daffodils are in full bloom and the trees are gradually turning green. Add to all this the legal restrictions imposed on us due to Covid have been lifted, although we are still advised to be cautious. All this helps to lift our spirits and look to the future with optimism.

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

I can be contacted on 01770 303 or [sheenamcl4@gmail.com](mailto:sheenamcl4@gmail.com)

### What is the Christian Belief

Firstly a Christian shares some convictions with others. A Christian believes behind all life and at the heart of it there is a living God. It is this personal Power who is creator of all and life within everything that is. He believes that a human being is the highest creation of the mind of God, the crown of the evolutionary process, the children of one common Father.

The Christian conviction – to use the Bible phrase is “Jesus is Lord”. This means that Jesus was the best man that ever lived, was truly human, but that in and through Him we see what God is like. What enables a person to call themselves Christian is not that they are born in a nominally Christian country, or that they have been baptised or that they are a member of Christ's Church or they believe in certain intellectual propositions. A person is a Christian in the New Testament sense when able to say with sincerity “Jesus Christ is Lord of my life”.

Christianity is not a philosophy – it is a personal relationship with God. It is not a creed, accepted with the mind, it is the true living God to whom I give obedience and through whose spirit within me I seek to serve Him, and others.

Ephesians. Ch.3. V. 14-21

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith in Him”

Ruth Thompson

### Friends of Montrose House Association

The FoMHA was formed over 20 years ago after a public meeting where volunteers agreed to form a group for the benefit of the residents to provide assistance, support, and some of the extras that could not be provided by the council.

In the early years the residents were required to be self-caring and most were quite mobile and able to go out either independently or with assistance from the Friends who would accompany them.

There was a weekly rota of Friends who would assist the caring staff in organising activities like carpet bowls, musical events, quizzes and board games. There was also a mobile shop for a short while until transfer of funds made this too difficult to continue. A gardening group was formed to maintain the garden of the old MH and a team would meet weekly to tidy, and plant bulbs and shrubs. Originally the Christmas party and pantomime was run by the staff though the Friends did the decorating, but as the residents became older and less able, the caring staff had less time and the Friends took over all the events.

There was a Burns Night, Easter bonnet or posy making, the Summer Fete, Halloween, and the Christmas Party. Much effort went into all these events from booking entertainers, advertising, decorating, baking and fundraising.

Apart from occasional donations and a legacy, the Summer Fete raised enough over the years to purchase televisions, DVD players, games, wheelchairs and gardening equipment, plants and bulbs. Friends also donated a large amount of money for the new build MH to help with decor to make the new home less clinical.

Gradually over the years, the residents became less able to participate in most physical activities and although the Friends still organised all the events, their function became mainly visiting and befriending, until the COVID pandemic meant all visiting had to stop.

An Extraordinary Annual General Meeting was held on 22nd November 2021 where it was reluctantly agreed by the committee and a few interested Friends that the group had come to the end of its usefulness. Changed circumstances and the advancing age of the members, some of who had been with the group since the beginning, made this decision inevitable.

The remaining funds have been divided between Montrose House who received £1000 for the Sunshine Fund, and the lesser amount was donated to Brodick Church in recognition of the church's long involvement with the home.

## Ardrossan Presbytery News

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland convenes next month. For the last two years we have all been living in unusual times and because of lockdown and restrictions the General Assembly had to meet on line. This year is slightly better, however it will be a hybrid GA, which means that some commissioners will meet in person in Edinburgh while the other commissioners will be on line. This is so that the numbers meeting in person can be reduced for the safety of all involved because the Covid virus is still around. As a commissioner from Ardrossan Presbytery I have chosen to be on line. One of your Elders, Mr Colin McKenzie is also a commissioner this year.

At the General Assembly last year, the decision was taken to instruct all presbyteries to prepare and implement a new Presbytery Mission Plan. The Presbytery Mission Plan Act offered a framework for understanding mission under the Five Marks of Mission.

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers;
3. To respond to human need by loving service;
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation;
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

To enable presbyteries to prepare and implement their new Presbytery Mission Plans, a suspension on vacant churches having the right to call a minister was put in place until 31st December 2022. That has meant that in this year none of the vacant churches in our presbytery have been allowed to call a minister.

I have explained before that with quite a number of ministers of Word and Sacrament retiring in the next five years and not enough candidates coming forward for ministry the ministry allocation for each presbytery was to be reduced.

Ardrossan Presbytery were given an allocation of 13.5 FTE (Full time equivalent) ministries for the whole presbytery. This was to be a reduction from 23.1 (FTE). The 13.5 FTE could be a mix of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministries Development Staff. I was employed as an MDS

before my retirement last year. To get to an allocation of 13.5 FTE was a very difficult task.

The Appraisal Committee of Ardrossan Presbytery have been busy though since last summer preparing the Presbytery Mission Plan with their allocation of posts in mind. Representatives of the Appraisal Committee have had consultations with each of the 27 Kirk Sessions including Brodick, to listen to what they had to say and to hear their thoughts on the way forward. Having listened to the Kirk Sessions, Reports were written up and discussed by the committee. They have also had meetings with individual ministers in charge, Interim Moderators and MDS staff.

The Appraisal Committee have had advisors from the Faith Nurture Forum as well helping them through the process.

At the 1st March Presbytery meeting a Draft Ardrossan Presbytery Mission Plan was presented and noted (minus the buildings). The Draft Plan was then circulated to Kirk Sessions for comment and comments to be returned by 8th April.

At present on Arran there are seven congregations and seven Kirk Sessions. The part of the Draft Plan for Arran is to unite all the congregations under one Kirk Session with 2 FTE posts in a team ministry. Working together will help share resources, office bearers and finances. This should help the churches on Arran focus on.

There are the church buildings to be considered though within the Presbytery Mission Plan.

Each church had to complete an Asset Management Building Audit (AMBA). Once completed these were sent to the General Trustees and Faith Nurture Forum. Each church building has been given a percentage mark, which in turn will help determine what church buildings have to be retained within the presbytery and here on Arran.

Ardrossan's Presbytery Mission Plan, including the buildings that have to be retained for the Presbytery's mission will be presented to the 3rd May Presbytery meeting.

Every blessing  
Jean Hunter

## The Trouble Tree

I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and after he had just finished a rough first day on the job: a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit, and his ancient one-ton truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door, he underwent an amazing transformation.. His face was wreathed in smiles, and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree, and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier. 'Oh, that's my trouble tree,' he replied 'I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children.

So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again. Funny thing is,' he smiled,' when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before”.

Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as well dance.

We all need a Tree!

## CHURCH NOTICES – Spring 2022

Deaths Pat Nichols Cooriedoon February 2022

### DATES for your DIARY

**Sacrament of Holy Communion** 1st May

**World Vision** Coffee mornings will be held last Wednesday of the month from 10.30am to support our two children.  
27<sup>th</sup> April, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 29<sup>th</sup> June and 31<sup>st</sup> August.

**Services of Prayers for Health and Healing** will be held in the Transept at 12noon.

27<sup>th</sup> April, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 29<sup>th</sup> June.

### Session Clerk's Report

The Annual Stated meeting took place in the Church after the Service on Sunday 3rd April. There were 25 members of the Church present.

The Treasurer's report, stated that 2021 was a challenging year and that at the end of 2021 funds held were £41,091.

The new Manse was our biggest outlay during the year, and our share within the North Linkage was £84,972.

The Manse now has its completion certificate, although the grounds around the Manse have still to be landscaped.

At the end of 2021 the church full membership stood at 111 and supplementary at 51.

During 2020 & 2021 there were 13 deaths, 2 weddings and 2 Baptisms in the Parish.

### Jonathan Veira

Jonathan Veira is appearing in concert at Lamlash High School on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7pm.

Tickets are available at The Shore(Whiting Bay), The Book and Card(Brodick) or online at [www.arranbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.arranbaptistchurch.org.uk)

Jonathan is a baritone singer who has appeared all over the world and is known for performing in many genres including opera, light entertainment and religious music. He has been performing on line all through lockdown from the Steinway Room. He can be seen on YouTube live every Sunday night at 8pm as well as on Facebook.

### Church Finances

Copies of the 2021 accounts are available in the church vestibule.  
Income and expenditure from January to March was as follows  
Offerings £7,085 – Gift Aid £1,082 – Donations etc. £1,150 – Total £9,317.  
Expenditure £8,000.

World Vision: last year our contributions to support two children amounted to £562. This is funded by the monthly coffee mornings, which were severely curtailed last year, resulting in income of only £373. The deficit was drawn from the flower fund which had built up a small surplus over the previous few years. The coffee mornings have now recommenced and I hope that you will come along and support this worthy cause, held on the last Wednesday of each month. Thank you to everyone for your financial support over the past two very difficult years. The majority of the congregation now give their offerings by Bank Standing Order and this gives us a very stable income base.

If you would like to change to this method of giving, the bank details are.

Bank of Scotland

Account: Church of Scotland Brodick Congregation.

Sort Code: 80-05-84

Account No: 00234770

Sylvia Alison

Congregational Treasurer

### St Bride's Ladies

St Bride's Ladies Club held their last meeting of the session in the form of a lunch at the Wineport. There were eighteen in the company and a very pleasant afternoon it was. At the end of the meal, we held our AGM which covered three years as the previous two were cancelled due to the Covid restrictions.

All being well, it is intended to start the 2022-23 session in October. Meetings are held every two weeks on a Monday at 2pm, please come along you will be made very welcome.

If you know of anyone you think would be willing to come and speak at one of our meetings between October and March, please let me know.

Sylvia Alison  
President

### WHO'S WHO AT BRODICK CHURCH

Interim Moderator	Rev. Tom MacIntyre	07464 788678
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	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