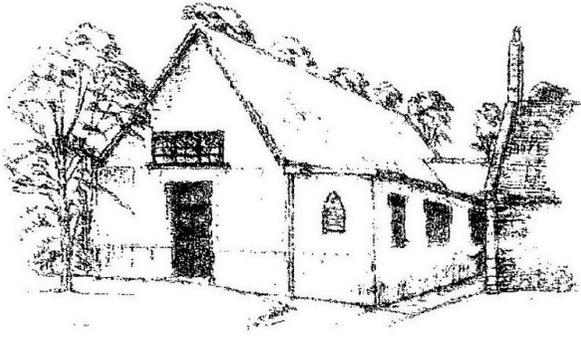
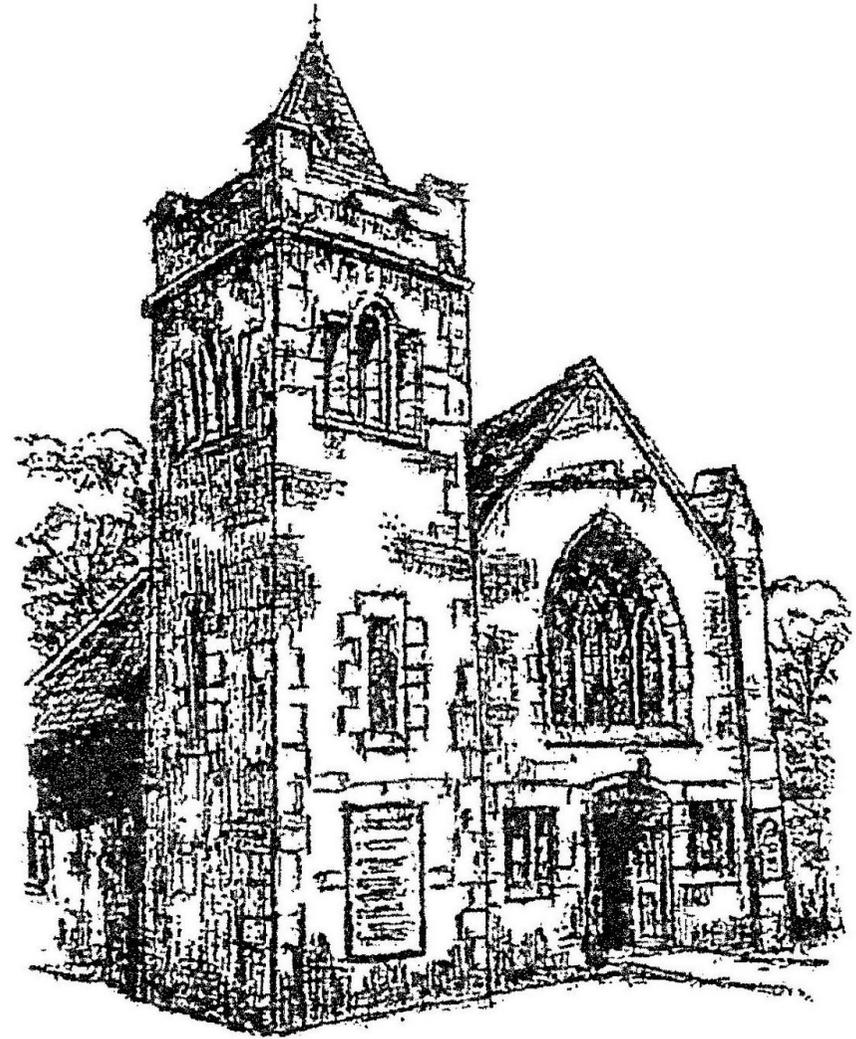


# St Bride's Church Brodick

## May Newsletter



*Brodick Church War Memorial Hall*



**Spring 2023**

## **A small miracle....**

Who said, 'The age of miracles is dead'? Sorting out the garden shed, I discovered an old packet of 'Miracle Gro' – ready-to-use plant food which promised to stimulate luxurious growth while adding health and vitality to all our plants. If only it were that easy!

I remember once I witnessed a small miracle. I had offered to help a neighbour sort out her garden. My task was to clear the patio and I spent an enjoyable afternoon emptying and cleaning what seemed like a hundred flowerpots containing dried up plants, rainwater, mud, stones and then sweeping away last autumn's leaf mould and garden rubbish.

Then I witnessed an amazing sight. In the middle of a new mono-block path which had been laid along the edge of the lawn, one of the blocks had risen, and now stood at least one inch above all the others. And the reason? A blue hyacinth had forced its way up through the hard ground and had lifted the block as it grew towards the light. You and I would have found it difficult, if not impossible, to raise that block which was so well embedded in the path, and yet the force within that delicate flower had done just that – a miracle indeed!

It reminded me of the rolling away of the stone which sealed Jesus' tomb, and I recognised afresh the power of God's love in action.

Two thousand years after the first Easter our world is still full of oppression, suffering and pain. On TV newscasts we are constantly confronted with people's cruelty to one another, and sometimes we are weighed down by it and cannot envisage any hope for the future.

It is then that we need to remind ourselves that love, which seems so fragile, is still the most powerful force in our world, and that, in the darkest places and in life's darkest times, God can work miracles beyond our understanding. We also need to remember, that with God's help, we can be agents of God's love.... creating small miracles!

Give it a go!

Tom Macintyre

## **Editor's Remarks**

What a wonderful start we have had to spring this year with many beautiful sunny days and temperatures that we would be glad to have in July. The island is taking on its seasonal mantle of bright green leaves on the trees and nodding daffodils in gardens and hedgerows. We have even been blessed with the return of the Caledonian Isles after its long layoff of three and a half months. Things are on the up and we look forward to the coming seasons with optimism and hope.

As always, my thanks to all those who have contributed to this magazine, with a special thanks to Sylvia for very kindly printing it off. If you would like to contribute to this magazine I can be contacted on 01770303579 or [jean@caledonianisles.com](mailto:jean@caledonianisles.com)

## **St. Bride's Ladies**

Once again we have had an enjoyable winter session with interesting guest speakers. During the first half of the syllabus we also had a St. Andrew's afternoon tea, a successful Christmas Fair and Christmas lunch at the Wineport. New Year began with a Scots afternoon tea. After a few more enjoyable meetings the session culminated in the Spring Fair. Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of these events.

Although the session is over, there are a few up and coming events. As usual, we will be catering at the Highland Games. Although organised by St Bride's Ladies, this is really a Church responsibility and we depend on volunteers to help with the catering and assisting on the day. This is preceded by the Church Fete in which the ladies are once again heavily involved.

Many thanks in anticipation and, following the summer activities, we look forward to seeing you next session.

Jean Robertson

### **Session Clerk's Report**

The Annual Stated Meeting took place in the Church after the Service on Sunday 26th March.

There were 28 members present

The Treasurers report stated that at the end of 2022 funds were held at £34,966.

Property report. It has been decided that the newly built manse will be the one used by the new minister, when called.

### **Statistics**

At the end of 2022 the membership roll stood at 111

Removal by death 5

By restoration or resolution 0

Supplementary roll stood at 24

Adherents roll stood at 18

Baptisms in the parish 0

Weddings in the parish 0

Number of elders 13

Number on the congregational board 9

### **Treasurers Report**

The accounts for 2022 have been approved by Presbytery and accepted by the Scottish Charity Regulator. Copies of the accounts can be found in the church vestibule.

Income in the first three months of 2023 was, Offerings £5,687, Donations £1,607, Gift Aid refund for the period July to December 2022 £3,218, giving a total income of £10,512. Expenses were £8,388.

We have reserves as follows

General Fund: £32,972

Fabric Fund: £242

Organ Fund: £2,068

Flower Fund: £459

Our next fundraiser will be the Summer Fete to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Donations of books and items for the Tombola and Bric-a-Brac would be gratefully received.

Sylvia Alison

Treasurer

### **Presbytery South West of Scotland**

Folk have been asking why it is taking a while to move forward in the vacancy. The following is in part an explanation:

The former Ardrossan Presbytery, as you know, was united with five other Presbyteries on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to form the Presbytery of the South West. This covers a vast area from Largs in the north, down to Stranraer in the south, to Annan in the East and all places in between.

However, all of the former Presbytery Mission Plans were not completed before the Union so each of the former Presbyteries including Ardrossan's had to be finalized before implementation.

Ardrossan's Presbytery Mission Plan was completed in June 2022 and then the PMP was given approval by the Church of Scotland's Faith Nurture Forum. However, congregations were given a time when they could ask for a Review of the process of decision making taken by the Presbytery and the Faith Nurture Forum. There were 8 congregations who asked for a Review with most of them appealing against their church building's proposed closure. The Review Panel for this purpose had been formed at the General Assembly of 2022. They began their work with the Ardrossan PMP and this was completed at the end of February 2023. The Review Panel's conclusion was that due process had been followed and that the Ardrossan Presbytery Mission Plan should be implemented in full.

The seven Church of Scotland congregations on Arran will be united as in the PMP. The seven Kirk Sessions will be united and become one Kirk Session. The church buildings of Corrie, Kilmory and Lamash and Hall have a closing date of by the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. The worship places for the United Charge of Arran will be in Brodick, Lochranza, Shiskine and Whiting Bay.

The seven Kirk Sessions have met together with their Interim Moderators to draw up a Draft Basis of Union. As this was a Draft, a few details have still to be agreed on. A committee from Presbytery will come to meet with the Kirk Sessions to draw up the Basis of Union and at a further date the congregations will formally be United into one Charge.

After that the Vacancy business for the united charge of Arran can go forward. The United charge has been allocated two posts – 1 Full Time Minister of Word and Sacrament and 1 Full Time Ministries Development Staff worker.

Your Interim Moderator will keep you informed.

Jean Hunter (Shiskine Presbytery Elder)

## CHURCH NOTICES- Spring 2023

### Deaths

Fiona Brown      Montrose House      6<sup>th</sup> February

### Dates for your Diary

**Concert** Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> May, at 1.30pm the RESOL string quartet will hold a concert in Brodick Church. Entry will be by donation.

**Sacrament of Holy Communion** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Please let your elder know if you require transport.

**World Vision** The money from the Sunday/Tea Coffee mornings on May 28<sup>th</sup>, June 25<sup>th</sup>, July 30<sup>th</sup> will be donated to World Vision.

**Services of Prayers for Health and Healing** May 31<sup>st</sup>, June 28<sup>th</sup> to be held in the transept of Brodick Church at 1.30pm. New members welcome.

**Taize Service** This will be held in the Holy Church at 3pm Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May, all welcome.

**Summer Fayre** Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

**Highland Games** Tearoom, Ormidale Park, Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> August. Donations of sandwiches, baking and help in the tearoom for short spells during the day would be much appreciated.

### PROPERTY REPORT

As the manse is unoccupied, I have arranged for the garden to be maintained until we get a minister. I have asked for weedkiller to be put down on the paths at the church. I hope that the electrical testing at the church and hall will take place soon.

Colin MacKenzie

### Arran Churches Together Household Fuel Support

If you, or someone you know is struggling with household fuel payments, Arran Churches Together can help. Contact Catherine Jenks on 07760289700, to discuss what help can be given. All calls will be treated in strictest confidence.

## 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
Church Magazine Editor	Mrs Sheena McLean	303579
Pastoral Support Team Convener	Mrs Ann Lauder	303517
Church Organists	Mrs Carol Harwood Ms Alice Maxwell	850877 600329
Hall Letting Convener	Mrs Susan Dobson	302365
Sunday Tea Convener	Mrs Susan Dobson	302365
Church Flower Convener	Mrs Ann Lauder	303517