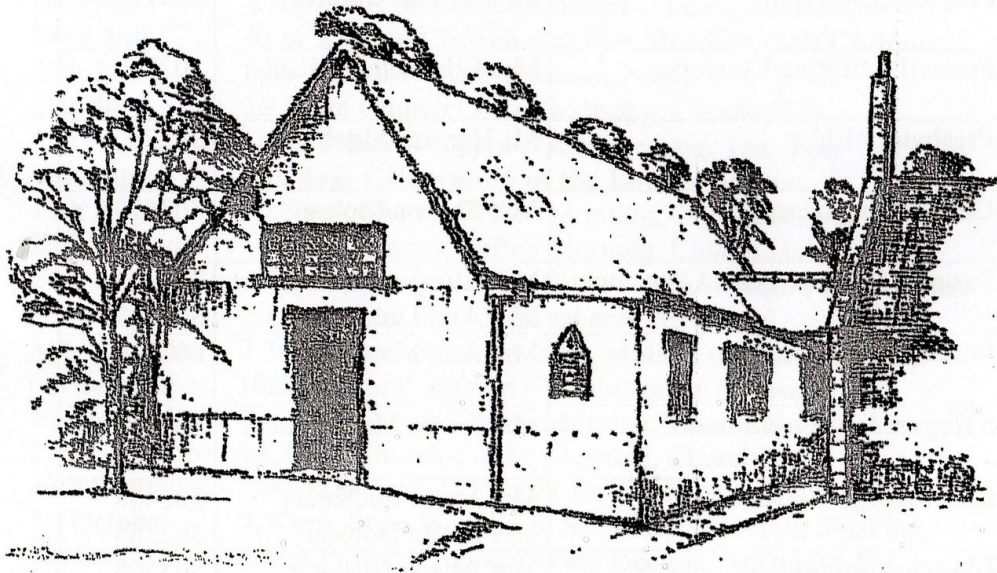
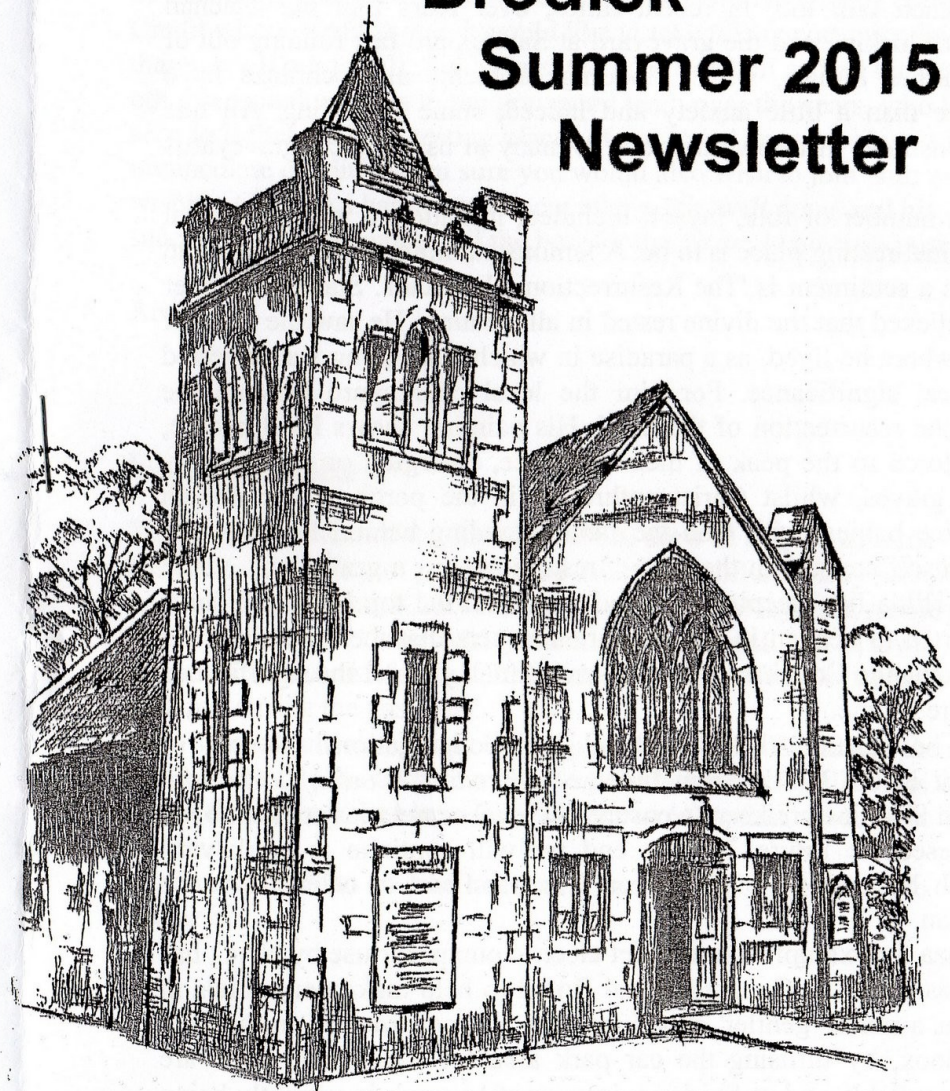


**St Bride' s Church
Brodict
Summer 2015
Newsletter**



Brodict Church War Memorial Hall



Scottish Charity No SCO12017 www.brodictchurch.org

Brodick Manse
July 2015

Recently in the Banner there was quite a furore over NAC labels appearing on unsafe gravestones, which caused much upset to many local families. Now a great deal of upset has been caused due to Lamlash Graveyard being closed to further interments until more land can be acquired. There has been much talk too, in recent times, over fears that the Clachan Cemetery at Shiskine and the graveyard at Sannox are fast running out of land for further burials, whilst flooding problems at Lochranza have caused more than a little anxiety and indeed, some ill-feeling. All this however, illustrates just how important to many of us our local graveyards are.

For a great number of folk, myself included, it matters a very great deal where our final resting place is to be. A famous painting which to my mind echoes such a sentiment is 'The Resurrection, Cookham'. Stanley Spencer the artist believed that the divine rested in all creation. He saw the town of Cookham, where he lived, as a paradise in which everything was invested with mystical significance. For him the local churchyard became the setting for the resurrection of the dead. His painting shows local people, "bodily restored to the peak of their existence, emerging on the last day from their graves, whilst Christ enthroned in the porch of the church cradling three babies, with God the father standing behind looking on". Spencer himself appears in the centre, resting against a gravestone, while his fiancée Hilda lies sleeping in a bed of ivy. At the top left, risen souls are transported to heaven in the pleasure steamers that then ploughed the Thames. Exchange Cookham for Arran and I think you get the significance of the picture for me.

Therefore, be assured that I and all the Congregational Boards of management in the North Arran linkage at Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine are keen to ensure our local cemeteries are kept open for the foreseeable future. To that end we will continue to work very closely with NAC and Local Officer Gus MacLeod to offer assistance where we can.

At Lochranza for example a new quiet electric pump, for use by NAC, has been purchased by the Congregational Board to help make committals in wet weather a much 'gentler' experience for all concerned. I am assured that at Sannox, by utilising the car park area for interments, there are layers still available and at Shiskine, investigation work is currently being

carried out by NAC on a piece of ground to find a solution there. For many Brodick folk whose families have for generations been buried in the old Kilbride Kirkyard at Lamlash, there is hope that a new extension to the existing burial ground will be consecrated in the near future.

Having said all this, to my mind something of great importance has been overlooked and not given the credit it is very much due – the beautiful condition in which all our burial grounds are constantly kept. Just go south of the border and see there the sad overgrown churchyards by comparison. Credit where credit is due, I would like to take this opportunity, in print, to thank on all our behalf, Sid Sillars, Geordie Mitchell and all the many other seasonal workers in the graveyard team over the years, who have seen to it that the final resting places of our loved ones are always kept in immaculate condition. I'm sure you would also wish to join with me in wishing Geordie a happy retirement after a job 'well done' and his successor Andy Thomson all the best for the future in his new post.

Angus

Editor's Remarks

The current session of the Sunday School drew to a close with the customary awarding of prizes to the following children. Lily Keir, Grace and Jack Popplewell, Kirsty Hume, Cameron MacKay, Isla, Annie and Andrew McKelvie. Many congratulations to them all and as always our thanks to Mrs. Ann MacKay for her dedication and hard work with the children during the past year.

With summer events already taking place across the island and the church fete and the Highland Games soon to be held here in Brodick it is to be hoped that we will be blessed with better weather than we have so far endured.

My thanks again to all who have contributed to this edition of the magazine.

I was privileged to attend this year's assembly as a commissioner representing Brodiek Church, an honour which comes to one elder from each church every five years or so. My lasting memory of the week was the friendliness – every session as I sat down, either in the hall or the tearoom, my neighbour would shake hands and introduce themselves and we would have a conversation, amazingly often sharing memories of a common friend or place.

We tend to be very parochial in our congregations, and anyone attending the assembly cannot fail to be impressed by the breadth and scope of the work of the Church of Scotland, involving hundreds of willing committee members and thousands of staff in a variety of jobs, never mind all the ministers and members in parishes throughout the country and beyond.

Every day began with devotions – hymns and psalms, prayers, readings, and a mini sermon, all conducted by the Moderator. Additionally on the Monday morning we also celebrated communion – it took almost 20 minutes to serve the elements to the 800 or so congregation. A wonderful experience.

Three things from the week will last forever in my memory. Firstly we had delegates from Presbyterian and reformed churches around the world taking their part in the debates. A Nepalese minister, very movingly, described his first hand account of the dreadful earthquakes which had so recently hit his country. Syrian, South Sudanese, and Palestinian delegates spoke of the misery of armed conflicts in their countries and thanked the Church of Scotland for all that we have done, and still do, for their countries.

Next was seeing over 30 chaplains to the forces in their uniforms. Working with the army, the navy and the air force, they do a remarkable job for our service men and women around the world. The Chaplain General of the army is currently from the Church of Scotland. The colonel-in-chief of the Royal Regiment of Scotland spoke very movingly of the work of chaplains which he had witnessed in a long military career.

Finally, throughout the assembly, a team of sign language interpreters sat facing a deaf lady minister and her husband, relaying every word spoken during each day. Working in pairs they had to concentrate on and sign everything that was said. Our deaf minister was accompanied throughout by her 'deaf dog' which was trained to support her in every way, similar to a guide dog for the blind.

So what about the business of the assembly? There was just too much to be described in detail, so I will confine my remarks to five subject areas.

1. Same sex relationships yet again dominated proceedings, and there were two debates. The first day's major debate was on civil partnerships, and after a very long session the assembly voted overwhelmingly to agree that the church recognises the right of churches to call a minister in a civil partnership, but allow any congregation who, after consultation and voting by the membership, agree not to follow that path.

On the second last day another debate on the acceptability of ministers in a same sex marriage took place. This was forced on the church by recent Scottish legislation to permit same sex marriage. We were *not* discussing the church recognising this kind of marriage as a sacrament to be conducted, but to rationalise the legal standing of those presenting themselves for ministry. By a majority of only eight votes in favour the assembly then passed this back to presbyteries for a wider view, to be reported upon again at next year's assembly.

2. The church needs to increase the number of people training for the ministry, and during the "Heart and Soul" event in Princes Street Gardens the 'Decade of Ministry' was launched. Over the next ten years the church aims to recruit at least thirty people each year to train as ministers.

3. Much emphasis was made in several debates on the need for local talent to be maximised - the church's mission cannot be left to ministers alone. The use of trained lay members to act as interim moderators in vacancies, to take funerals, to lead the way in local youth and social work, etc, is essential in sharing the load in a caring church.

4. The Social Care Committee, the umbrella organisation under which Crossreach operates, is also concerned with promoting and supporting local initiatives across the country. We heard of dementia support groups, disability support groups, and other excellent Christian care being run in local congregations, and they have launched a web site so that local groups can list there the kind of work they are doing, which might give other churches the inspiration to try something similar.

5. The final subject is the use of modern technology. Web sites, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, e-mails, are all being used by our neighbours, and the younger generation in particular. Such devices as computers, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, etc. are the tools of modern communication, and many speakers during the week emphasised that if we want to seem relevant in this modern age we need to adopt these means of spreading our message.

I was able to attend each session, but anyone can attend the assembly sitting in the public gallery, as many people did each day. Alternatively the whole proceedings of the assembly are streamed on the Church of Scotland's own internet site live each day. That way YOU can soak up the atmosphere, hear all the debates, and have a better understanding of what our great church is doing in the 21st century.

John Lauder.

St Bride's Ladies

As we have no meetings during the summer months, there is not much to report. The syllabus for next session is now complete and we hope it will be of interest to you. As usual, the ladies will be involved in the Summer Fayre. However, the main event for St Bride's Ladies is the Highland Games on 8th August. As usual, we appeal for extra help on the day and contributions of cakes and sandwiches. Lists for names will be put up in the hall nearer the time.

Property Report

The Manse

I am pleased to report that the reinstatement of the manse kitchen is nearing completion.

The main bedroom ceiling is still showing signs of dampness. Bill McNicol has been advised to thoroughly check the roof tiles to resolve this ongoing problem.

Following the completion of the foregoing items the painter will return to complete the varnishing of the main entrance hall floor, and will emulsion and touch up the area of ceiling in the bedroom.

The Church Hall

I am anticipating closing the hall this year from Monday the 10th August until Saturday 15th August inclusive, for the preparation and varnishing of the main floor area. It is noticeable that a kicking plate is necessary on the new chair store door! It is possible that the legs of the chairs, on returning to the cupboard, are causing the damage. Please take note.

The Church

The Perspex sheets to the windows and bell tower openings are now complete. I believe this has been a worthwhile exercise for the benefit and comfort of the congregation.

Church Grounds

The grasses will have an additional cut prior to the fete together with hedges and bushes.

I have responded to a letter from the Church of Scotland General Trustees regarding the issue of Health and Safety, in changing times, and how we, as a congregation are dealing with it.

The Trustees are hoping to develop a Health and Safety Tool Kit which will be supported by training seminars for those involved.

NC

The Manse
Shiskine

Ardrossan Presbytery

My role as the Moderator of Ardrossan Presbytery will soon be over. It has been a quick year and a busy but enjoyable one. I was installed as Moderator at the September meeting last year and as well as giving the devotions and chairing the presbytery meetings I have, to date, conducted four Induction services and a Setting Apart of a Reader. The Inductions were of the Rev David Watson into the pastoral charge of Largs Clark Memorial Church, Rev David Whiteman into the charge of Kilbirnie Auld Kirk, Rev Lily McKinnon into the charge of Kilmory linked with Lamlash and Rev Chris Vermulen into the charge of Fairlie linked with Largs St Columbas Church. All of these occasions were special for the ministers and congregations concerned and for me as well.

It was a special privilege for me to induct Lily McKinnon into her charge as at the time I was Interim Moderator of Kilmory lw Lamlash.

At a service in Ardrossan and Saltcoats Kirkgate Church, I set Apart Mr Andrew Bruce as a Reader in the Church of Scotland, again a special occasion as I recalled my own service when I was Set Apart as a Reader in Ayr Presbytery. With all the inductions this past year, the number of vacancies in the Presbytery have been reduced which can only be good a thing. During my term I had to take the greetings of presbytery to five congregations within the bounds of presbytery and I have now completed these visits.

The visits involved me in taking the service on a Sunday at Ardeer lw Stevenston, Kilwinning Old Church, Largs Clarke Memorial Church, Saltcoats North Parish Church and Kilbirnie Auld Kirk. I thank the folk who took the services here to allow me to undertake these visits on behalf of presbytery.

Something else I had to undertake in my role as Moderator was community visits. On the 7th May I was picked up in Ardrossan, when I got off the boat, by Rev James McNay, who will be the next Moderator of the Presbytery and was taken firstly to Stevenston to visit the Centrestage Communities. This is the organisation that has taken over the running of the Food Bank in the communities of Ardeer and Stevenston. Carol Boyd who is the Project Manager at Centrestage Communities showed us the storage area where the Food Bank is run from and told us how the food was distributed. It was interesting to hear what was being done to help those in need. Carol said they were very grateful for the contributions of food and money given from

you folk here on Arran. Carol told us that Centrestage Communities were also involved in running many community groups for all ages including cooking classes for young mums.

The next place we went to visit was a Lunch Club run by Kilbirnie Old Church. It is a weekly event which provides a reasonably priced lunch for those in the community and a good meeting place for those who go to that. It is run by the church members who are providing a great service for the community. Of course, we were treated to a lovely lunch there as well. Our final visit of the day was to South Beach House, the Crossreach Residential Care Home in Ardrossan. Crossreach is the Social arm of the Church of Scotland. The manager Margaret Cassidy, who is also a presbytery elder, gave us a guided tour of the Home and we spoke to some of the residents. The residents seem to be well catered for in many ways. One of the staff leads a short service for the residents and staff each morning and a team of the local ministers, readers and others have a longer service on a Sunday. We had a good day as all of these visits were interesting and demonstrated different spheres of community service.

The Guild Rally this year was held in Brodick Church and I was asked to be their speaker. As well as the rally, this year they decided to have the Guild's Communion service there, at which as Moderator I am supposed to preside. However, as an elder Moderator, as you know I am not allowed to administer communion. I asked Rev Lily McKinnon to do that and she let me share in the communion with her.

When I was asked last year to be the Moderator of the Presbytery for the year 2014/2015 I thought that it was going to be a daunting task. Has it been that way? During my time in the role I have met a lot of people, some serving God in many different ways and some of no faith but doing good work. I have led God's people in worship in different places and in presbytery meetings and gatherings. I had to write a Christmas letter that went out to all congregations within the bounds of presbytery and also a letter that was published in the Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald. I have had to moderate the presbytery meetings, which was not always an easy task, and attend other meetings and events. However, although I have found the role of moderator daunting at times, it has also been a privilege to serve God in this way. After all He is the one we all 'Seek to Serve' and whom we strive to please.

'Whatever we do whether in word or deed we do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him'. (Colossians 3:17)

In His service Jean Hunter

Friends of Montrose House Association

Summer 2015

The new Montrose House building was finally officially declared open on Monday, 15th June 2015, by Shona Robison MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport. It was very much a corporate affair organised by North Ayrshire Council in conjunction with the Joint Board of North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership. There was remarkably little local involvement and invitations were very strictly limited. After lunch, the filling of a Time Capsule set in the gardens was completed by Provost Sturgeon of North Ayrshire Council, prompted by May Fenton (resident), Ian McNicol (day service user), and Liz Lawrie (FOMHA).

In complete contrast the Annual Montrose House Summer Fete took place on Wednesday, 5th July. Organised jointly by Montrose House, Stronach Daycare and Friends of Montrose House Association, and opened by the Chaplain, the Rev. Angus Adamson, it was truly an 'Open Day' when members of the public were invited to come along and view the magnificent new building and contribute to our main (indeed our only) fundraising event of the year. In what was the warmest day of the year, Ian Clarke played the bagpipes outside, while Ruth Thomson played the keyboard inside. There were the customary Raffle, Tombola, Baking, Bric-a-brac and Plant Stalls and children's games in the grounds outside. Delicious Cream Teas were provided by the catering staff in-house and the magnificent sum of £1173.10 was raised on the day, to be shared between the three organizations.

Whilst maintenance of the gardens is technically the responsibility of the Main Contractor until September, we have, as previously reported, supplied some 30 portable tubs which were re-planted with summer plants with the enthusiastic support of members of the Arran Youth Foundation and placed around the exterior of the building and outside the patio doors of each resident's room. We persistently continue to lobby NAC with regard to provision of suitable outside taps to service these tubs to alleviate the chore of carrying countless watering cans from the sluice room.

On the positive side, we are particularly pleased to be able to confirm that the 'Sillars Suite' is now functional with the commemorative opening plaque from the old building in place along with the model of the new stained glass window in the church and the photograph of Evelyn with her iconic daffodil cross on the wall in the Residents Visitors Lounge. Appropriately we use this room for our meetings. Looking forward to participation in the traditional summer events it is seemingly unlikely that any will take place this year but we are continually looking at the possibility of arranging some suitable in-house activities.

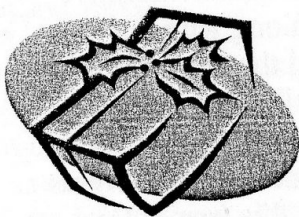
It is with sadness that we have to record the recent death of resident Verner Small.

Arran Churches Together

The Songs of Praise Service on Sunday 28th June was held in Lamlash Church this year, no doubt because of the fickle weather. It was well attended but nevertheless it is a shame when the weather or midges conspire to prevent us from holding it on the village green, as it attracts passers-by and creates a very special atmosphere. Over £300 was collected for Mary's Meals.

The next event in the calendar is the Fun Quiz, to take place in Brodick Church War Memorial Hall on Thursday 27th August, and we look forward to a good turnout for what promises to be a light-hearted fun night with refreshments.

S.M.S.



CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2015

We are approaching the time of year when we begin the preparation for our annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal on behalf of Blythswood Care. Last year the Island Churches sent the magnificent total of 206 boxes which were distributed to children and adults in need.

It is amazing that a box containing simple items of toiletries and clothes bring such happiness to those who have nothing in this world. So now is the time to start to collect the toothpaste and brush, soap and shampoo (no bigger than 250ml), hats, scarves and gloves and other small gifts to put in your box and save the last minute rush.

Letters giving full details will be with you by the beginning of September with final date at the end of October.

Please accept the invitation and bring happiness in a shoebox to somebody who has nothing in this world.

SHOW THE WORLD THAT YOU CARE!

Hamish Mitchell

VISITING CARDS

In recent weeks visitors from other churches have left cards in the vestibule bearing greetings from their own congregations. This seems an excellent way of marking a visit to another church while away from home, so a supply of cards bearing our greetings is available in the vestibule for you to take with you, and leave when visiting or worshipping in another church.

DATA PROTECTION

Every Church of Scotland congregation keeps some basic records of its members and adherents. Under Data Protection legislation we have to have your permission to store and use such information such as mentioning names in this magazine, or on notices etc.

At this time your elder will bring a letter explaining this, and a form for you to fill in and return. This is basically a formality, but we do need your co-operation authorising us to hold this information securely. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

ELECTING THE MODERATOR

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland is chosen each year by a committee acting on recommendations. This year the committee wants to invite all members of the church to be able to be part of that process.

Time is of the essence, however, as the final date for proposals is 31st July. You can do this by going on to the Church of Scotland website, www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news, and follow the links to 'recent', and 'recommendations'.

FOOD BANK

In past months some of our donations have been going to help out in North Ayrshire, but unhappily that situation has now changed. Demand for support on the island has risen so much that virtually all we receive is immediately going out to families in need. Please help by giving this your support. The need is particularly acute during the school holidays when youngsters are not receiving school meals.

WHO'S WHO AT BRODICK CHURCH**CHURCH NOTICES – August 2015**

New Members: Dr. Michael Grant, Fellview, Shore Road, Brodick.
Mr Ross and Mrs Catriona Dickson, Alma Cottage, Brodick.

Deaths: Kathleen Dagleish, Strathyre, King's Cross 6th April
Geoffrey Collins, Dunrona, Brodick 10th June
Verner Small, Montrose House, Brodick 16th June

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18th July 2pm Annual Church Fete.
20th July 7.30pm Corrie Church Concert – Young Generation.
23rd July 8pm Annual Church Auction, Brodick Golf Clubhouse.
25th July 2pm Shiskine Church Garden Party.
29th July 10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.
2nd August 10am Pastoral Support Team meeting, Transept.
9th August 10.30am Celebration of the Lord's Supper.
12th August 10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.
26th August 10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.
27th August 7.30pm Arran Churches Together Quiz Night, Church Hall.
30th August 10.30am McLellan Festival service.
3rd September 7.30pm Taize Worship in St. Molio's Church, Shiskine.
6th September 10am Pastoral Support Team meeting, Transept.
9th September 10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.
23rd September 10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.
30th September 12noon Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Transept.
1st October 7.30pm Taize Worship in St. Molio's Church, Shiskine.
4th October 10am Pastoral Support Team meeting, Transept.
7th October 10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.
21st October 10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.
25th October 10.30am Harvest Thanksgiving service.
29th October 12noon Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Shiskine.
1st November 11am Linkage Communion service, Shiskine Church.
7pm Thanksgiving praise service, Corrie Church.

Minister	Rev. Angus Adamson	302334
Parish Assistant	Mrs Jean Hunter	860380
Session Clerk	Mr John Lauder	303517
Deputy Session Clerk	Mr Stewart Lambie	302304
Clerk to the Congregational Board	Mrs Shona Hume	302625
Treasurer	Mrs Sylvia Alison	302613
Property Convenor	Mr Norman Cuthbert	303772
Freewill Offering Convenor	Mrs Elizabeth McKellar	302230
Presbytery Elder	Mr Hamish Mitchell	302285
Church Magazine Editor	Mrs Sheena Mclean	303579
Pastoral Support Team Convenors	Mrs Elizabeth McKellar Mrs Ann Lauder	302230 303517
Sunday School Leader	Mrs Ann MacKay	600944
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Mrs Lorna MacDonald	302499
Hall Letting Convenors	Mrs Joyce Buchanan Mrs Susan Dobson	302468 302365
Church Minibus Rota	Mrs Alison Bilsland	303505
Coffee Morning Convenor	Mrs Margaret Bryce	302117
Sunday Tea Rota	Mrs Anne Mitchell	302285
Church Flower Convenor	Mrs Ann Lauder	303517
"Life and Work" Convenor	Mrs Elise White	302387