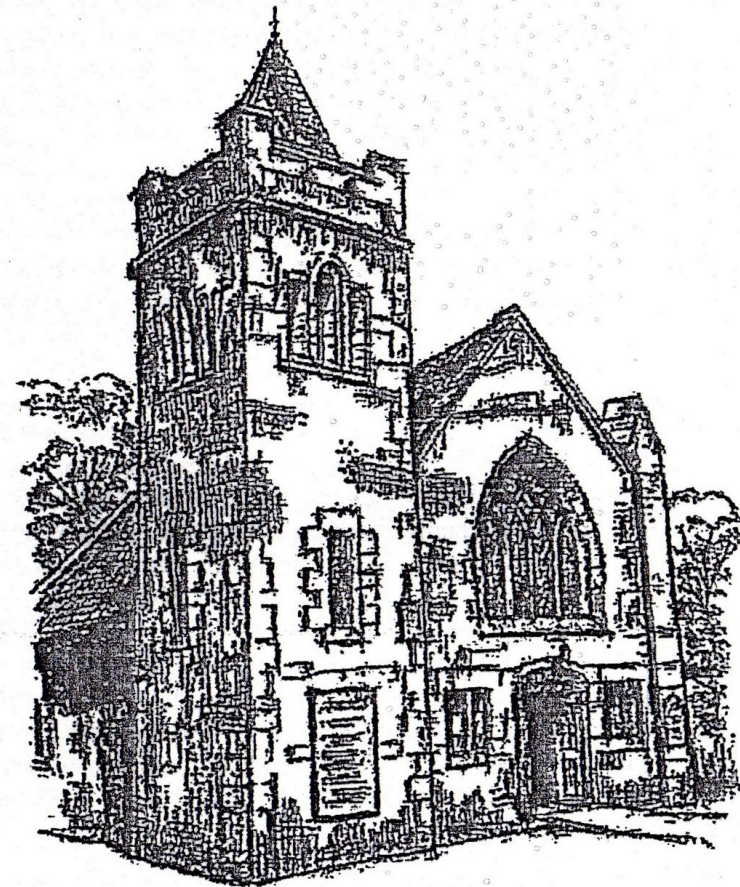


WHO'S WHO AT BRODICK CHURCH

Minister	Rev. Angus Adamson	302334
Parish Assistant	Mrs Jean Hunter	860380
Session Clerk	Mrs Elizabeth Lawrie	302782
Deputy Session Clerk	Mr Alan Milligan	303968
Clerk to the Congregational Board	Mrs Shona Hume	302625
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
Sunday School Leader	Mrs Ann MacKay	600944
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Mrs Lorna MacDonald	302499
Hall Letting Conveners	Mrs Joyce Buchanan Mrs Susan Dobson	600308 302365
Church Minibus Convener	Mrs Alison Bilsland	303505
Coffee Morning Convener	Mrs Margaret Bryce	302117
Sunday Tea Convener	Mrs Anne Mitchell	302285
Church Flower Convener	Mrs Ann Lauder	303517
"Life and Work" Convener	Mrs Elise White	302387

St Bride's Church Brodick

Newsletter



Summer 2017

Brodick Manse
August 2017

This time last year I went over to Holy Isle for the day. I have, over the years been several times before, including being present at the big dedication service back in the 1990's when the island was acquired by the Buddhist community. Each time I go I am always struck by the other-worldly sense of peace and calm that exists there and how time almost seems to slow down from normal 'Arran' time, each minute seemingly lasting at least five and each hour at least two. That inevitably comes from the fact that this is a very spiritual place and has been for centuries, certainly since the time of the Irish saint Laisren, or to give him his more common name Molaise, who spent some years in the late fifth, or early sixth century, living in retreat in the cave on the island.

Because of its associations with this holy man of God, Holy Isle was a place of pilgrimage for centuries until the time of the Reformation in the 1560's, when such practices were discouraged by the Kirk. Once again, however, even in the Church of Scotland, the benefits of making a pilgrimage to holy places is coming back into fashion and it is hoped that one day, in the not too distant future, the old pilgrim route to Holy Isle from the Clachan Glen in Shiskine, over the hills to Lamlash will once more be re-established. Certainly, since the Buddhist Monastery and retreat centre opened, many, many thousands make the trip to Holy Isle every year to what has become a sacred place to both Buddhists and Christians alike.

On my particular day pilgrimage last summer, for the first time, apart from visiting the saint's cave and drinking from the holy well, I climbed over the twin peaks of Mullach Mor and Mullach Beag. Walking from south to north, the views looking back onto Arran, especially of the Arran peaks were absolutely stunning.

Besides enjoying the views, I spent a welcome day recharging my batteries, both physical and spiritual, soaking up the special atmosphere of a special place and felt all the better for it. That led me to ponder over the value of spending time away from the world in retreat, attempting to draw nearer to God, as Molaise of old did, or to find spiritual fulfilment as do

many who currently come for a period of Buddhist retreat lasting months or even years.

I came to the conclusion that it wouldn't be for me. Having a low boredom threshold, not only would I find it hard to do, I would find it hard to justify such self-indulgence, find it too inward looking and not really in keeping with what I feel God calls Christians to do, which for me is to be involved in the world, attempting to lead good lives for the good of others around them. Although, Jesus spent his forty days and nights in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry – the reason the early church fathers were also drawn to their 'white martyrdom', their time of retreat and testing in order to become closer to discerning the presence and purpose of God in their lives – it was only forty days, not many months or years. For me the whole point of believing in a God Incarnate is that God in Christ chose not to separate Himself from human kind but to become one of us, to share with us in our human experience and to become very much involved in the life of the world.

Suddenly, as if to affirm that thought, I became aware of a phenomenon, I hadn't ever noticed before on Holy Isle, the noise of all the sounds from Arran as people went about their daily business echoing across Lamlash Bay and acutely amplified on the shoreline of Holy Island. It seemed to say, you might be able to escape and leave your daily thoughts behind you on Holy Isle, but not the sounds of everyday life, life going on just a mile away across the loch, a life to which you must return and of which you are a part.

So if you haven't ever been, or haven't been for a while, I thoroughly recommend a trip over to Holy Isle. There is much to see and enjoy and if you do, as well as relaxing in a very special and peaceful place, listen out for that phenomenon of the travelling sound.

Angus

Editor's Remarks

The summer is upon us and there are already several events taking place around the island. July is a busy month for St Bride's as we hold our major fund raising events during this time. The Church Fete is on July 22nd at 2pm and the Auction the following Thursday evening July 27th at 8pm in Brodick Golf Club. All donations and help on these days will be very much appreciated.

The Sunday School have had a very busy year and it is heartening to see so many youngsters coming along to join with the congregation on a Sunday morning. Our thanks to Ann MacKay and Cameron for doing such a great job with the children.

My thanks, as always, to all those who have contributed to this magazine. If you would like to contribute to the magazine I can be contacted on 01770303579 or sheenamc14@gmail.com

Property Report

Since I last reported we have had a number of jobs completed at both the church and the manse.

The Church

The roof behind the chancel, where we were experiencing water ingress, has had a lead flashing installed and we hope this will solve the problems we have had. The organ has been tuned and the annual fire inspection has been completed.

The Manse

At the manse the chimney has been re-rendered and new lead flashing put around the chimney. A new cap has also been put on the chimney and we hope this will cure at last the damp in the manse master bedroom.

Colin MacKenzie

Sunday School

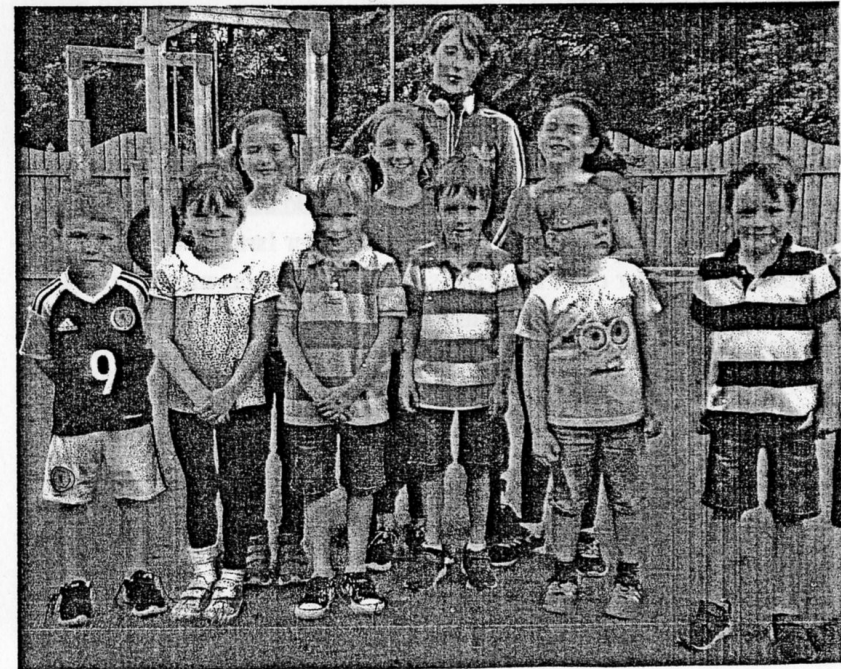
We have kept a regular ten plus kids this session and all new children are most welcome. With the help of Cameron we started going through the bible beginning with the book of Genesis. Our sessions usually begin with a bible story and then an art activity and end with some games.

At Christmas we did an unconventional nativity based on putting on a school nativity with all the dramas that involves which we very much enjoyed and hopefully so did the congregation. We went to the Playbarn for our Sunday School outing then finished our session, before the summer break, with our Prize-giving.

Mrs Jean Hunter presented the following children with their books. Kirsty Hume, Lucy Blair, Lily Keir, Hector MacArthur, Jenny Hume, Max Keir, Lachlan McKinnon, Finn Popplewell, Reece Popplewell, and Harry Popplewell.

We will be returning on Sunday 27th August. Have a great summer.

Ann MacKay



The General Assembly

On the first day of the Assembly I heard the woman sitting behind me saying she was uncomfortable with all the formalities. She was referring to the arrival of the Lord High Commissioner, Princess Anne, and the ceremony of the opening of the Assembly. I did think at one point that it was a lot of pomp for Presbyterians but unlike the woman behind me I liked it.

However we were soon down to the serious business of the Assembly under the control of the new Moderator the Rt. Rev. Dr. Derek Browning who kept procedures moving along often using his good sense of humour to do so. There were so many reports over the week, ranging from the only one the media seemed interested in i.e. the Theological Forum's report which debated same sex marriage, to ones like the report from the Hymnary Trustees where the weight of CH4 was a "weighty" matter but it did make me think about how hymns are an important part of the service. The Church of Scotland web site has the minutes of each day; also a very good summary of the week is in the July issue of the Life and Work.

The debate I found particularly interesting was how to commemorate the centenary of the Balfour Report. Balfour was a Church of Scotland elder who supported the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. The testaments of the commissioners who had witnessed the harsh treatment of the Palestinians and wanted economic sanctions for Israel were very moving but the minister of St Andrew's in Jerusalem was more pragmatic and did not want to put our organisations in Israel at risk.

Another reminder that matters political and spiritual are almost impossible to separate was the keeping of two empty chairs for the Syrian and South Sudan delegates who were both refused visas to enter the U.K. Indeed the retiring Moderator may have incurred the displeasure of our First Minister by, in her presence, blaming the lack of political will to put an end to homelessness.

Tuesday's proceedings were overshadowed by the terrible news from Manchester. I took some comfort from hearing the Moderator's and other

assembly members' sincere thoughts and prayers. The theme for the Church and Society Council Conveners address for that day was meeting people with an open hand or a clenched fist. What happened in Manchester was the result of the raised fist but he hoped society would react with the open hand of care, support and love. On Friday we had more bad news about the murder of 29 Koptic Christians. Fellow Christians killed for their faith.

It wasn't all listening to debates and voting on reports and Arran did get a mention in one of the debates when Helen Kerr told the Assembly about the Arran Youth Foundation. Highlights for me were the service in St Giles, Heart and Soul a very happy event and again I recommend the Life and Work report. Communion on Monday morning was impressive. I enjoyed the meal organized by Jean which gave me a chance to meet other people from the Ardrossan Presbytery and Beating the Retreat at Holyrood House was lovely.

It was an interesting and an illuminating week. A big thank you to Jean for looking after me and explaining the ways of the Assembly.

Lorna MacDonald

Arran Churches Together

On Sunday 9th July the annual Songs of Praise service, once again, had to be held in Lamrash Church due to the inclement weather. It was a pity that it could not be held on the village green but it was well attended by representatives from all churches on the island.

Sunday 9th July was Sea Sunday so the collection was sent to the Sailors' Society to help with their work with seafarers.

The next event in the calendar is the Fun Quiz, to take place in the Brodick Church War Memorial Hall on Thursday 31st August and we look forward to a good turnout on that evening.

Though I Feel Afraid

At a recent service for Sea Sunday our thoughts were on words from Psalm 107 vs 29-30 *'He stilled the storm to a whisper, the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven.'*

We were thinking of the seafarers that live and work on ships on the oceans of the world. What they long for is a desired haven. We all need a desired haven though. There is something in our hearts that just longs for that security, that peace that comes from the sure knowledge of God's power and His presence in our lives.

The words of a song by Ian White came to mind when I was thinking about Sea Sunday but I didn't use the song on that day. I want to share that with you here; it is by singer/songwriter Ian White.....

Though I feel afraid of territory unknown,
I know that I can say that I do not stand alone,
For Jesus you have promised your presence in my heart;
I cannot see the ending, but it's here that I must start.

*And all I know is you have called me,
and that I will follow is all I can say,
I will go where you will send me
and your fire lights my way.*

What lies across the waves may cause my heart to fear,
Will I survive the day, must I leave what's known and dear?
A ship that's in the harbour is still and safe from harm
But it was not built to be there, it was made for wind
and storm.

*And all I know is you have called me,
and that I will follow is all I can say,
I will go where you will send me,
and your fire lights my way.*

(Ian White 1996 – 'Little Misty Music/Kingsway Music')

Blythswood Care

Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2017

This year seems to have passed very quickly, and yes, it's time to think about launching our Shoebox Appeal once again! The appeal launches officially at the beginning of September when the information leaflets for 2017 will be available.

This year, however, there are three ways in which you may wish to participate:

- 1) To fill a shoebox with a selection of the contents listed on the information leaflet
- 2) To donate 'loose' items which can be added to shoeboxes either here or on the mainland
- 3) To make a monetary contribution of any sum

As such, there is a shortage of shoeboxes available this year from shoe shops on the mainland, and although we expect to have a limited supply available, we would urge you to source one for yourselves. In addition this year, we will provide a collection box in the vestibule of the church to receive any loose donations of goods.

This is a very worthwhile cause and every donation - large or small - is gratefully received.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Anne B Mitchell

Friends of Montrose House Association

Summer 2017

At the A.G.M. in May, Alison Keir very kindly took over from Liz Lawrie as Chairperson. She will be greatly supported by Lesley Woods, minute secretary for the past year, and the rest of the committee. Many thanks, Alison

As more of the staff has passed the test to allow them to drive N.A.C. vehicles, there will be more opportunities for outings. There have been continued outings to Music Matters on the last Thursday of each month. Thanks to a generous donation of fifty percussion instruments from the Coop the last meeting was particularly lively.

In house, curtains have been ordered for the winter garden room to make it cosier in the winter and more shaded in the summer. Thanks to Graham Chappell, the walls are looking much brighter with a selection of his photographs placed around the previously blank walls. Thanks to Jim Arnold, there is a monitor at the front entrance showing old photographs matched immediately with the same up-to-date view. This is accompanied by appropriate background music- fascinating to watch.

Thanks to Minnie Bell, each resident now has a tub by their window of flowering Cosmos which she grew from seed and planted in her spare time. Tom, the handyman, has been weeding the beds outside each room. Two outside taps are available, although at some distance from the raised beds. All in all there is a more homely feel to Montrose House.

Thanks to the purchase of a tablet and speaker by the Friends, residents are now able to Skype their families with assistance from staff and as music is available using this equipment, residents can request favourite tunes.

Some residents have been encouraged to participate in the exercise class which takes place daily in Stronach. This also means that they have the opportunity to meet with the Daycare clients socially.

Our Summer Fete took place on July 5th, when visitors were greeted by James Reid on bagpipes and Cameron McKay on drum. The kitchen staff provided a superb afternoon tea with delicious strawberry tarts or scones with cream and jam. The stalls did well and we made a grand total of £411 (including the tea money) while Daycare raised over £300 with their raffle. Thanks are due to all who helped in any way whatsoever.

CHURCH NOTICES-Summer 2017

<u>Deaths</u>			
	Elizabeth Cover	Glen Estate	4 th April
	Rose Armit	Brodick	27 th April
	Hamish Mitchell	Alma Terrace	28 th April
	Linda Armit	Corrie	4 th May
	Williamina Pirie	Glen Estate	11 th June
	Margaret Anderson	Rosedene Brodick	14 th June
	Jean Cameron	Alma Terrace	8 th July

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

22 nd July	Church Fete at 2pm
26 th July	Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30 to 12 noon
27 th July	Church Auction in Brodick Golf Club at 8 pm
06 th August	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 10.30am
13 th August	Pastoral Support Group meets in the Transept at 10am
23 rd August	Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30 to 12noon
03 rd Sept	Pastoral Support Group meets in the Transept at 10am Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Soc. lead praise.
06 th Sept.	Coffee morning in Church Hall from 10.30 to 12noon
20 th Sept.	Coffee morning in Church Hall from 10.30 to 12noon
27 th Sept	Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Brodick at 12noon
01 st Oct	Pastoral Support Group meets in transept at 10am
04 th Oct	Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30 to 12noon
18 th Oct	Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30 to 12noon
26 th Oct	Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Shiskine at 12noon
01 st Nov	Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30 to 12noon
05 th Nov	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at St Molios at 12 noon