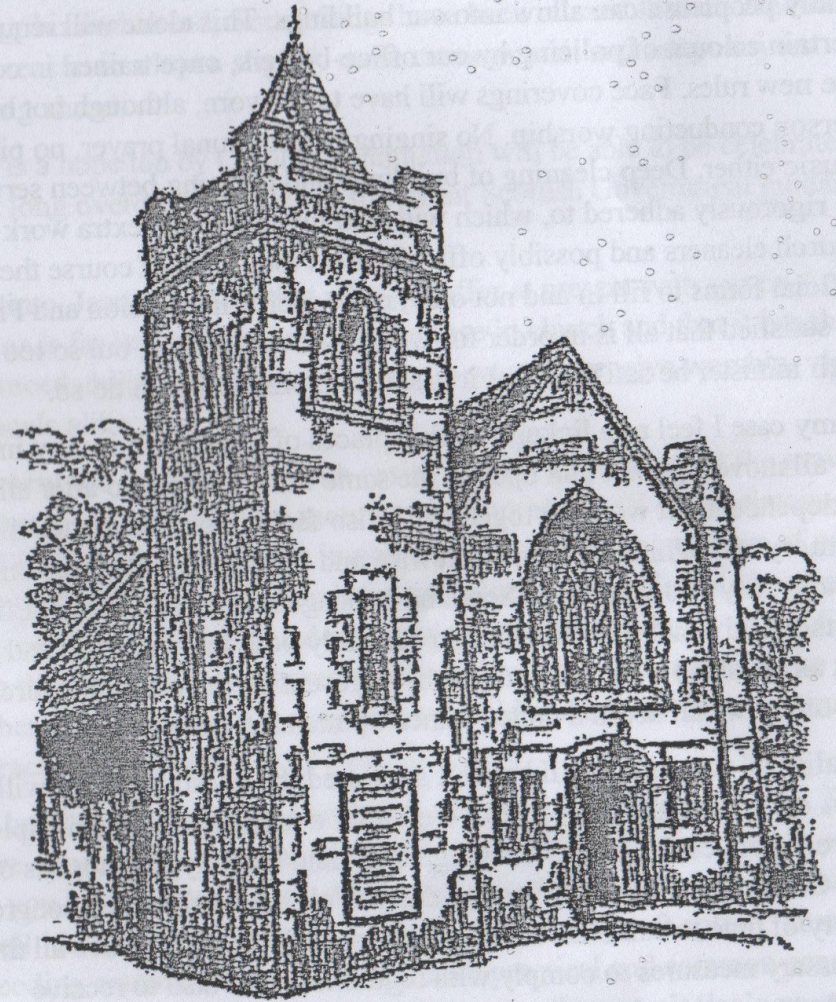
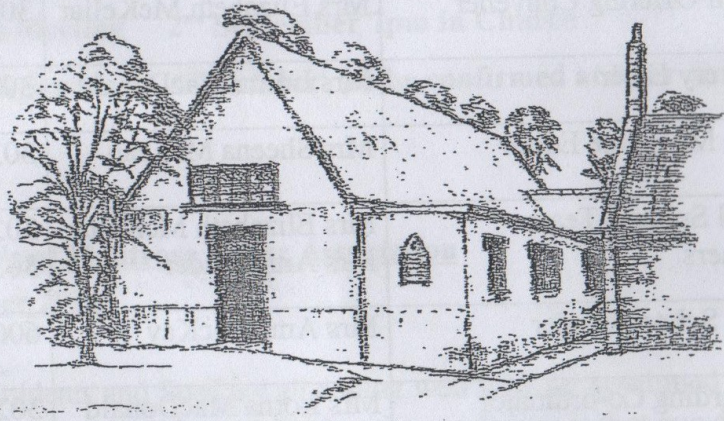


# St Bride's Church Brodick

## August Newsletter



Summer 2020



*Brodick Church War Memorial Hall*

Corriecravie  
August 2020

The big question, at the moment, is when are we going to be able to get back to church? The simple answer is not until after 16<sup>th</sup> August, as decreed by Presbytery. Even then it will not be until certain measures are put in place, such as social distancing, currently still 2 meters apart, which restricts how many people we can allow into our buildings. This alone will require a certain amount of policing by our office-bearers, once trained in coping with the new rules. Face coverings will have to be worn, although not by the person conducting worship. No singing or communal prayer, no pipe-organ music either. Deep cleaning of buildings and cleaning between services must be rigorously adhered to, which will also involve much extra work for our church cleaners and possibly office bearers too. Then of course there are official forms to fill in and not only, must each Kirk Session and Presbytery be satisfied that all is in order for worship to commence, but so too must each minister be satisfied that it is safe and practicable to do so.

In my case I feel as a linkage, with 5 places of worship, it is very important we all move together and open at the same time. Our motto after all is, 'independent but working together'. I also feel it would be better if Lamlash, Kilmory and Whiting Bay did likewise and commenced services on the same Sunday. My two Church of Scotland colleagues on Arran, Revd. Elizabeth Watson and Revd. Lily McKinnon currently both feel the same and agree that as an island wide denomination, representing the national church, it is important we all act in a united joined up manner, not piecemeal.

I realise all this said, I still haven't answered the question, when will we open our buildings for worship? Well after a meeting of our principle office bearers from each of our 5 congregations held recently, the hope is on the first Sunday of October. Why that date? Well it will give each congregation plenty of time to call Kirk Session meetings and to put in place all the necessary measures to comply with regulations and also to receive Presbytery approval to do so.

By October, although still with October school breaks, there will be fewer holiday-makers around, hopefully making it easier to accommodate the number of worshippers allowed per building. We don't want to be in the position of having to turn away regular worshippers just because that Sunday, a huge number of visitors happen to turn up, or indeed vice versa,

turn away visitors to accommodate locals. Whilst we delight in having lots of visitors swell church numbers and we pride ourselves in being welcoming towards them, in these strange times, having lots of strangers in our midst while many over 70 are feeling nervous about the spread of the virus, isn't conducive to tempting our own folk back to regular worship. By October too, regulations may have eased considerably and perhaps even the 2-meter rule will have been dropped to 1 meter, making things much more manageable. Circumstances change so quickly, almost daily and indeed you may even be reading this and already some things have been relaxed further. Another sound reason to adopt a slightly more cautious wait and see policy in planning ahead.

There is a hope too by October communion will be able to be celebrated, and that is long overdue. To date we still await Scottish Government guidance on this.

Meantime, Jean and I feel that what we offer at present with our on-line services is far better than would be the case in church and that it has the guaranteed ability to reach everyone who wants to receive worship, visitors and locals alike.

At present too funerals are much easier to hold out of doors at the graveside, allowing considerably more mourners to be present and still maintain safe social distancing. It would be impossible to police large numbers of people turning up for a big local church funeral, placing an intolerable burden on office bearers on duty at the door that day who were trying to do so. On Arran there is never any guarantee of good weather, but hopefully up until October, more chance of it not being too cold and miserable to continue with the practice of graveside only funerals.

So, I hope this helps to answer the big question in everyone's mind. The date we are aiming for a return to church is October 4th and rest assured we will keep you informed as to how things are indeed proceeding. As the bard said so well 'the best laid schemes o' mice and men gangs aft agley'. That said, in proceeding cautiously and in a calculated, practical and common-sense manner, it is also very much hoped ultimately, they won't 'lea'e us nought but grief and pain for promis'd joy.

Take care and please stay safe.

Angus

## Arran Churches Together Foodbank

It's been a very busy time for the foodbank over the last few months and as usual we've been overwhelmed by the support received from the Arran community.

We've had many one-off and regular monetary donations including one of £1,000 from pupils at Arran High School who completed a sponsored activity. We've also benefited from two grants which boosted our funds. Foodbank money is managed by our treasurer, Mrs Jean Hunter, and is used by the foodbank volunteers who shop several times a week keeping supplies topped up. The volunteers collect the food donations left in the Coop collection basket on a daily basis and use supplies to keep the vestibule shelves stocked.

Over the last four months we have continued with deliveries to people who requested them, but the majority of our customers collect what they require from the foodbank in Brodick Church vestibule. The delivery service will cease at the end of July in line with the end of shielding. Figures compared with the same period last year indicate that foodbank usage has increased by 300%.

Members of the public only have access to the church vestibule. Each day one of our volunteers cleans the vestibule and transept including high touch points such as light switches and handles. There is hand sanitiser available in the vestibule with a notice asking people to use it before and after using the foodbank and a notice on the front door reminding people to respect social distancing.

Brodick Coop continue to offer fantastic support, from making space available for the collection basket to adding items to the basket on behalf of customers who continue to use the home delivery service to saving items which are almost at their date and can be frozen.

On behalf of everyone who benefits from and is involved in Arran Churches Together Foodbank, a huge debt of thanks is owed to each and every one of you who has helped in any way.

The Foodbank Team

## Report on Church Finances

As anticipated the churches finances have suffered considerably during the lockdown. Here is a brief summary of our present financial situation, comparing January to mid-July this year, to the same period in 2019.

Income from Freewill Envelopes, Gift Aid Envelopes and the Open Plate has fallen by £4,327.

Donations and income from the War Memorial Hall users has fallen by £2,252.

With no Coffee Mornings for 4 months we already have a shortfall of £200 in our funding to World Vision. This will increase by £50 each month until we are able to resume our monthly fundraising.

We have also lost the funding from this year's cancelled fete and auction from which we would have expected to raise between £4,000 and £5,000.

Against this the cost of upkeep of the Church has only fallen by £1,000.

At the end of June, the accounts were showing a deficit of £10,500, and this will continue to grow until we can open our buildings again.

At present our only income is from those members who have set up a regular bank standing order payment and those who have dropped their freewill envelopes through my door. Many thanks.

I am therefore appealing for donations to help alleviate our present financial situation. These can be either sent direct to me at 7 Brathwic Terrace, Brodick, KA27 8BW or paid into the bank. Cheques should be made payable to Church of Scotland Brodick Congregation. I am also happy to accept cash.

Bank details: Bank of Scotland, Account Number: 00234770, Sort Code: 80-05-84. Please use reference 'donation'.

Sylvia Alison, Congregational Treasurer.

## Many the gifts, many the people

*"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ."*

*(1 Corinthians 12:12)*

The Church doors may be closed for now but the church is still at work. Many of you have been helping others in many ways. Elders and others have been keeping in touch with the members in their districts by phone, email or now over the garden wall. Cards are still being sent out from the congregation by the Pastoral Team. The principal Office Bearers had a meeting on Zoom. The Foodbank Team have been doing a great job keeping that stocked. I am sure there have been other things done as well and of course there is the Newsletter editor and her team.

There has also been the streaming of a weekly service.

In Brodick Church we are one body made up of many parts working together for Christ.

### **Letter**

I came across the letter below. It wasn't written to a specific person but as a general letter and thought I would share it with you. It was written to encourage pastors during this time.

### **Dear pastors,**

We have now hit the halfway mark in this year like no other. Maybe you came into 2020 excited for what was to come. Maybe you were limping along in ministry, battered by conflict or worry about church finances. Whatever your outlook was in January, no one has escaped untouched by the global crisis we're experiencing.

In the past three months you have remained faithful to the gospel and your call, learning how to produce live stream worship, preach to webcams and empty sanctuaries, reach new places via online platforms, offer pastoral care and spiritual formation from a distance and manage virtual meetings. You have lost sleep over when and how to regather physically at church. You have responded to the disparate calls to reopen immediately and to keep the doors closed until the rate of infection trends downward. The divide between these groups matching up awfully closely with the boundaries of the political camps in our already charged civic life.

You have absorbed "feedback" from well-meaning church members who don't fully know how to operate their own devices or think your work space is too cluttered or don't like how your complexion or clothing shows up on camera or don't think you're working enough. You have wondered how to be church to those who don't have computers or smartphones. Your head is nearly exploded from all the Zoom gatherings you have attended.

You had given up visions for a blow-out Easter Sunday service. Your summer looks nothing like you expected, whether it's full of camps or mission trips. You've seen sabbaticals slip through your fingers. You've cancelled plans, one detail at a time, for that conference or holiday that you were eagerly anticipating. You have been unable to get or give hugs to those who've ministered alongside you or shake hands. Your congregations meet you through a screen.

You've done all this either living alone and missing real human connection or while never getting a moment to yourself, surrounded as you are by family and home schooling. You've done all this while shopping and cooking more than you ever have in your life. While of necessity, discovering or inventing new outlets for self-care. While your primary systems of moral and professional support – other clergy – have been as distracted and weighed down as you are.

You initially thought this would all be inconvenient for a few weeks, then you would get back to normal, but then it became clear that the virus was accelerating and you had to shift from a sprint to a marathon mindset. And you did, tough as it was. Then you had to recognize what else was happening in the world and address it, violence and racism.

Do you recognize how you have led during this time?

Still you are understandably weary. It is OK – holy even to rest.

You are wondering if you are enough. Yes. God equips and empowers us each to maneuver our part of Christ's body.

Thank you for who you are as a person and pastor. Thank you for what you do. God delights in your faithfulness, your innovation, your tenacity, even as God invites you to tag out for self-care and sabbath.

Blessings be upon you  
(Laura Stephens-Reed.)

Every blessing to you all  
(Jean Hunter)

## Property Report

There have been no issues in either of the church buildings although the kitchen in the hall is still to be finished with worktops and a few spaces to be filled in. I wish to thank Sylvia for taking on this task and for sorting out the electricity supply for the manse site.

The old manse is no more and the foundations for the new manse are in place. Neil Young should be able to start building the kit as soon as the concrete is poured. A first payment has been made to cover all work completed to date. A meeting of some members of the Manse Committee, Neil Young and Stewart Hamilton (Allied Surveyors) was held at the site where Stewart Hamilton was very satisfied with the work and progress to date. There was also some discussion regarding suppliers for the kitchen and sanitary ware which Neil will forward to the committee for consideration. It was also decided, by those present, that certain trees and hedging which have become very overgrown be cut back and Neil would organise this. Neil has also agreed to give us an estimate of completion dates for each stage of the build.

C. MacKenzie

## St Bride's Ladies

Last year St Bride's Ladies decided that instead of making their annual donation to the Church they would use their funds to refurbish the War Memorial Hall kitchen. As the kitchen in the Brodick Manse was in excellent condition it was deemed prudent to have this removed before the Manse was demolished and installed in the hall. This was held back because of the lockdown but is now progressing and we should have a nice fully functioning kitchen when we can at last open. The Easter Fayre was cancelled along with the tearoom at the Highland Games and we will have to await developments to see whether we can hold the Christmas Fayre but as things stand, it is very unlikely we will be able to make a donation to the Church this year.

As for our fortnightly meetings, which would normally begin in October, well again we will have to await developments as to when it is deemed safe to resume. Maybe by the time the next magazine is printed we will have a better idea of when we can all meet up again.

In the meantime, stay safe and well.

Sylvia Alison  
President

## Blythswood Care

### Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2020

The Arran Shoebox Appeal team have had word from Blythswood Care that they will shortly be launching the 2020 Christmas Shoebox appeal. Brodick church will, as usual, be acting as the collection point for filled shoeboxes.

Last year's appeal was very successful with 140 boxes being sent from the island along with £515 in gift aid and donations.

This year 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 (which should be with you by September)
- 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

In addition, this year we will provide a collection box in the vestibule of the church to receive any loose donations of goods.

### Calling all Knitters

The team would be grateful for any knitted hats, scarves and gloves for children or adults which can be used to make up extra boxes.

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

There were 110,926 filled shoeboxes sent from this country last year. These made a huge impact on the recipients, with many living in such dire poverty that this gift, from an unknown person, not only brings smiles, but impacts their lives.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

The Shoebox Team

## CHURCH NOTICES-Summer 2020

<u>Deaths</u>	Jim Douglas	Corriegills	1 <sup>st</sup> June
	Margaret Bunyan	Brodick	28 <sup>th</sup> June
	David Langlands	Brodick	June
	Greta Watt	Brodick	3 <sup>rd</sup> July
	Derek Smith	Brodick	10 <sup>th</sup> July
	Henry McNicol	Brodick	11 <sup>th</sup> July

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Session Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> September 7pm in Church

Church Service 4<sup>th</sup> October (to be confirmed at later date)

### Friends of Montrose House Association

#### Summer 2020

The Residents and Staff are all coping well with the continued restrictions of visitors and outside agencies but the good news is that one designated visitor per week is now permitted as long as they meet in the garden and are fully protected.

New staff have been recruited who are all from the island so the only care workers that still travel from the mainland have worked in the home for sometime and often stay in to avoid too much travelling.

Care workers are spending time keeping the residents busy with various activities, gentle exercise and music and make use of Skype and Face Time help to keep families and friends in touch.

Unfortunately the Friends only fund raising event, the popular Summer Fete planned for the beginning of July had to be cancelled.

A.Keir

## WHO'S WHO AT BRODICK CHURCH

Minister	Rev. Angus Adamson	870228
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 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
"Life and Work" Convener	Mrs Elise White	302387