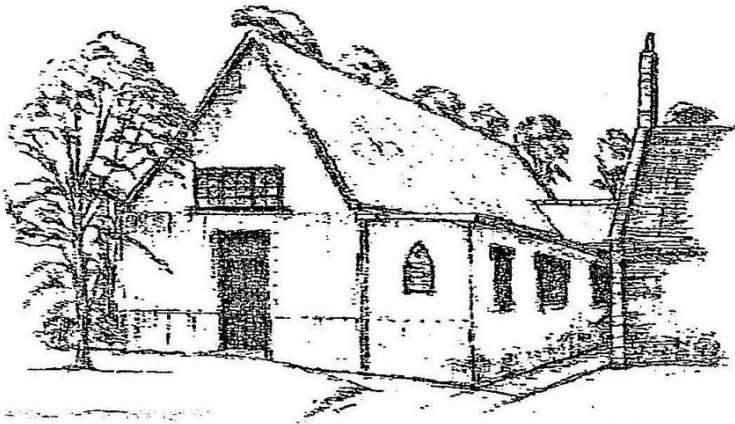
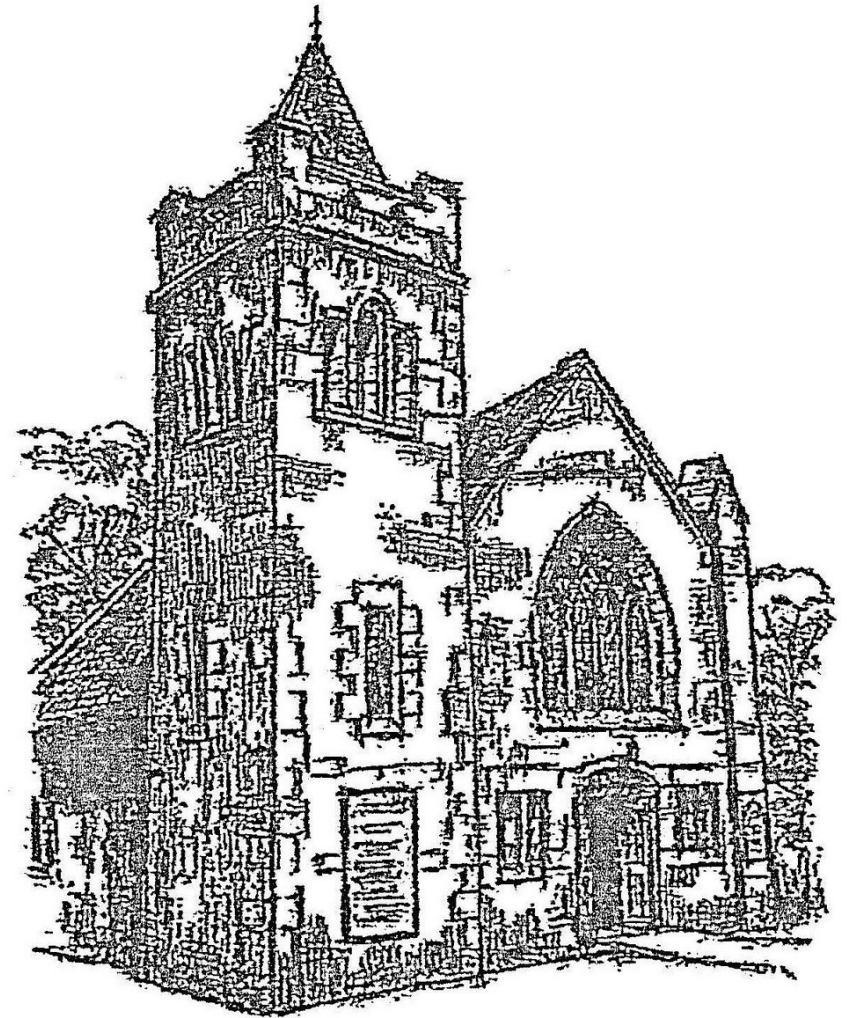


# St Bride's Church Brodick

## August Newsletter



*Brodick Church War Memorial Hall*



**Summer 2022**

## Thoughts for the Church's way ahead in Arran

Marian and I have just celebrated our Golden Wedding. At our celebration we had a slide show of all the events and experiences throughout our time together. It is astonishing how much has changed during that time. Our youngest son Struan illustrated this by listing all the things that had happened or were happening on that day 50 years ago.

I don't think the action-packed celebration would have happened so smoothly if it hadn't been for our daughter-in-law Jo who is one of those people who makes things happen so effortlessly. In her professional life she is a 'change management specialist' and it is this subject I want to talk to you about.

Nothing is quite so good the second time it's done. For instance, so often we return to a holiday destination, only to find that it is not quite so appealing the second time around. In the Church too, we may feel inclined to repeat an initiative within our congregations, and often it doesn't live up to our first attempt. We say "We did this a few years back, and it worked fine then, so let's do it again". But does it ever work as well a second time? I put it to you....if we try to repeat a success, it can mean that we are living in the past.

Many a congregation has had a great ministry, and it spends an awful lot of time talking about that great ministry, and trying to repeat it, instead of getting on with the new ministry and the business of sharing the Good News

As you may have heard the Presbytery of Ardrossan has agreed its Mission Plan, which means that all the congregations in Arran will be united in a single parish with one unitary Kirk Session, served by a minister of Word and Sacrament and a Ministry Development Staff worker. It is hoped that readers may join this team to provide additional support across the parish. There will be four centres of worship. This will inevitably mean change in the way we worship and work. Until a

ministry team is appointed, it is my job with the other interim moderators and readers to help manage this change.

Harnack, the German Lutheran Theologian, once said that the danger of all great institutions is that they begin to **worship their own past**. But you cannot go back; you must either go forward.....or perish!

Of course we can use the past for inspiration.....as the writer of the book of Isaiah often points out,

"Look to the rock from which you were hewn!" He points to their history....how all the great events were enacted in difficult times and it is going to be like that again, he says. And we can use the past for guidance, learn from our mistakes, but we can seldom or never use the past as a pattern for the present.

So our question **shouldn't** be "What succeeded a generation or two ago?" BUT "What does the present generation or situation demand?"

The logical conclusion of this is that, **if there is one thing the Church should never fear, it is CHANGE!** Remember the words in the visionary book of Revelation 21.5 '**Look! I am making all things new**'. God give us, not the defeatism which accepts things as they are, but the vision which, in the life and strength of our Saviour Jesus Christ, will battle to change things.

So we are on the move, always in transition, willing to be transformed.....we are followers of Jesus Christ after all.....WE CAN NEVER GO BACK.....WE MUST LOOK FORWARD IN FAITH!

My best wishes for your summer activities.

Tom Macintyre

## Mr Nobody

It may well be the case that something gets misplaced in your house from time to time. You know fine well where the object was last sitting but when you go to retrieve it, quite simply, it has gone. Of course, when the investigation takes place everyone, but everyone who's questioned, hotly denies any knowledge of having seen the object let alone having moved it somewhere else, leading to cries of "it wisnae me – I never touched it".

Maybe it is reminiscent of the children's poem Mr Nobody.

I know a funny little man, as quiet as a mouse,  
who does the mischief that is done in everybody's house!  
There's no one ever sees his face,  
and yet we all agree that every plate we break  
was cracked by Mr. Nobody.  
'Tis he who always tears our books,  
who leaves the door ajar,  
he pulls the buttons from our shirts,  
and scatters pins afar;  
that squeaking door will always squeak,  
for, prithee, don't you see,  
we leave the oiling to be done by Mr. Nobody.  
He puts damp wood upon the fire,  
that kettles cannot boil;  
his are the feet that bring in mud,  
and all the carpets soiled.  
The papers always are mislaid,  
who had them last but he?  
There's no one tosses them about but Mr. Nobody.  
The finger marks upon the door  
by none of us are made;  
we never leave the blinds unclosed,  
to let the curtains fade.  
The ink we never spill;  
the boots that lying round you see  
are not our boots – they all belong to Mr. Nobody.

I am quite sure we all recognise the scenarios painted by that particular poem.  
And it is all too easy to try and be Mr Nobody when things seem to be going wrong.

Yet perhaps we should be proud instead to be Mr Somebody, no matter what.  
For as we look through the pages of the Bible we find importance attributed even to the very humblest of individuals.

For instance, who would ever have thought that Jeremiah, but a youth, would become a great and mighty prophet; or David the young shepherd boy would defeat the mighty giant Goliath.

And these are only a couple of examples for on just about every page you find individuals valued by God and entrusted to carry out some task in his name. Even individuals who failed him and let him down were still considered of importance. We are God's helpers today in making known his love, his kingdom, his hope. By the example we show to the world in the things we say, in the way we act, we can make a difference to life and be a somebody.

That is the life God calls us to and it is the life we should be only too willing to live, even if it is a way that does not lead to glory and power, but instead to a stable and a cross.

From the very act of creation, we are told "The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'" (Genesis 2:18) And so begins a pattern that no individual in life is alone, a nobody. For we all exist side by side, family, friends, strangers, black and white, rich and poor, young and old, the fellowship of God's church here on earth, and together we can reach out and help one another, so making the world a better and a more peaceful place in which to live.

We have all needed help in life from time to time, be it in practical terms like getting a lift somewhere, or changing a flat tyre, or moving a heavy object, or else emotionally, needing a listening ear or a shoulder to cry on. And hopefully we too have been able to offer help when it has been most needed.

Just look at Jesus – "he went up on a mountain and sat down there and great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the dumb, and many others and they put them at his feet and he healed them". No-one was beyond his help, his care.

His compassion reached out even further for he saw that the crowd was hungry and so from meagre resources of bread and of fish he made a great feast so that all ate and had enough. His help knew no bounds but gave time and again, without counting the cost.

When Jesus offered his help it was often to the poorest, weakest members of society, those regarded as nobodies, but nevertheless seen as somebody through the eyes of Christ.

We should all be somebody for God, ready to reach out with his love, his compassion, his help, trusting that through us he can do great things.

Every blessing

Liz



## Ardrossan Presbytery News

The Draft Presbytery Mission Plan for Ardrossan Presbytery was presented to Presbytery in May for noting. This Draft Plan was sent down to Kirk Sessions for comments and it detailed ministry numbers given to each area and also which buildings had to be retained for the Presbytery's Mission and which had to close. After comments were received from Kirk Sessions, the Appraisal Committee met and after the Draft Presbytery Mission Plan had been tweaked, after listening to Kirk sessions, it was presented for approval at the Presbytery meeting on 14th June. Each congregation was cited to send up to three representatives to the Presbytery meeting for their interest. One representative from those congregations present was invited to speak but for no more than three minutes, each to ask a question or make a comment. It was as well there was a time limit as eighteen representatives spoke and a few members of Presbytery as well. The Appraisal Convener did well to answer the questions and comments and he again explained the situation. Quite a few of those who spoke were from congregations whose buildings were proposed for closure. The convener kept repeating that the church was the people and not the buildings. It was a long evening, as you can imagine, as we had begun the evening celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper together.

There was a ballot vote taken to approve the Presbytery Mission Plan and presbyters voted.

After months of work by the committee and in consultations with Kirk Sessions all those months, the Presbytery Mission Plan was approved with 29 votes for and 10 against.

What that means for Arran is that the congregations will be united, with one Kirk Session instead of seven and four church buildings open for worship. For the ministry and mission on Arran there is to be two full time ministry posts, working in a team ministry, that is 1 Minister of Word and Sacrament and 1 Ministries Development Staff worker,

It is sad that some churches have to close but with less people attending church or supporting financially that is the reality we live in these days.

The plan is for one united Church of Scotland on Arran working together, sharing resources, finances and people resources for the church and mission on Arran.

There is also an Appeals process for those congregations in Presbytery who feel they need to go down that route because of the proposed closure of their church buildings. Thankfully it will not be Presbytery that will deal with appeals, it will be a Review Panel appointed at this year's General Assembly.

The Presbytery meeting on the 14th June was the last ordinary meeting of Ardrossan Presbytery. However, we will have to have an extra meeting to receive the information from Faith Nurture Forum if they have concurred with the approved Ardrossan Prebytery Mission Plan as it was set out.

## Presbytery of the South West of Scotland

The 14th June was the last ordinary meeting of Ardrossan Presbytery because they are uniting with another five presbyteries to form a Presbytery of the South West of Scotland. The other presbyteries are, Annandale & Eskdale, Ayr, Dumfries & Kirkcudbright, Irvine & Kilmarnock and Wigtown and Stranraer. Some years ago the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland agreed to a reduction of the number of presbyteries to around twelve, at that time there were about forty seven.

We in Ardrossan had been in consultation with Ayr and Irvine & Kilmarnock prebyteries from 2017 to form a new united presbytery. However, as that was not going to be viable, and leaving a smaller united presbytery in the South West, the six presbyteries began consultations to unite. The Basis of Union of the six presbyteries to form the united presbytery was passed at the General Assembly of 2021. The first meeting of the new United Presbytery of the South West of Scotland will meet in Kilmarnock on Saturday 1st October for the service of Union, the installation of the Moderator elect and thereafter the conduct of ordinary business.

With the new presbytery, the number of meetings will be reduced -there will be two in person meetings and two meetings on zoom per year. There will also be employed staff, including a Presbytery Clerk, which means I will get to retire as Presbytery Clerk of Ardrossan after six years in that part time post.

With the new presbytery many congregations will probably not notice any difference, only that the information they receive will come from different people. With the union of congregations throughout the six Presbyteries, there will be a reduction in the number of representative Elders, Ministers and Deacons as well serving on that court of the church.

We continue to pray for presbyteries and congregations through all of these changes ahead.

Every Blessing  
Jean Hunter,  
Presbytery Clerk of Ardrossan

### Arran Churches Together Foodbank

The Foodbank is open 24/7 and is available for anyone who finds themselves needing a bit of extra support, to help themselves.

The Foodbank is being well used with more than 1000 items being taken each month for the past four months. Thanks to your generous donations of both food items and money, we have been able to keep the Foodbank well stocked with some of the money being used to buy items of which we are short.

The Foodbank Team

### 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.

### Property Report

#### The Church

We have had a major overhaul of the church organ completed so we hope all the problems are eradicated. I have received estimates to decorate the church and hall interiors and will present this to the Board for approval.

#### The Manse

The manse has been completed, apart from the grounds which have still to be done and I have still to meet with Neil Young to have the heating system etc explained.

I have also agreed with an electrical engineer to have the electric wiring and appliances in the church and hall inspected to comply with church regulations and hope to have this completed soon.

Colin MacKenzie

### Blythswood Care

### Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2022

The Arran Shoebox Appeal team have had word from Blythswood Care that they will shortly be launching the 2022 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 122 boxes being sent from the island along with £739 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.

Last year there were 82,952 filled shoeboxes and bags sent off to Eastern Europe from this country. These made a huge impact on the recipients, many of whom live in such dire poverty that this gift, from an unknown person, not only brings smiles, but greatly improves their lives.

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

Further information on this appeal can be found at [blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal](http://blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal)

### 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.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

The Shoebox Team

## CHURCH NOTICES-Summer 2022

**Deaths** Kay Boal Brodick 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022

### DATES for your Diary

#### **Sacrament of Holy Communion 14<sup>th</sup> August**

**World Vision** Coffee mornings will be held last Wednesday of the month from 10.30am to support our two children.  
31<sup>st</sup> August, 28<sup>th</sup> September, 26<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **Services of Prayers for Health and Healing**

will be held in the Transept at 12 noon.  
28<sup>th</sup> September, 26<sup>th</sup> October.

**St Bride's Ladies** Committee Meeting, Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August, 11am.  
Meetings will start in October.

**Mary's Meals** Lamlash Church Hall 10<sup>th</sup> August 10.15 -12noon.

#### Finance report January to June 2022

Income £21,454      Expenditure £22,146

Thanks to all who braved the weather and attended the fete which raised £2,417

A special thanks to our dedicated band of helpers for your hard work both before and on the day.

Our next fundraiser will be the tearoom at the Highland Games on the 6<sup>th</sup> August. We would be grateful to received donations of sandwiches and baking which should be delivered to the Ormidale Pavilion on the Saturday morning or give me a call and we can arrange to collect from you on the Friday.

Also looking to staff the tearoom so if you can give an hour or two of your time, please contact me and I will add you to the rota.

Sylvia Alison  
Tel: 302613

## WHO'S WHO AT BRODICK CHURCH

|                                       |  |                  |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Interim Moderator                     | Rev. Tom MacIntyre                       | 07464<br>788678  |
| Locum Minister                        | Mrs Liz Clarke                           | 860219           |
| Session Clerk<br>Deputy Session Clerk | Mrs Shona Hume<br>Mrs Elizabeth Lawrie   | 302625<br>302782 |
| Clerk to the Congregational Board     | Mrs Frances Corbett                      | 07890<br>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<br>Conveners    | Mrs Elizabeth McKellar<br>Mrs Ann Lauder | 302230<br>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           |
|                                       |  |                  |