

*St Bride's*

*Church*

*Bradick*



*Winter*

*2012*

*Newsletter*

Brodick Manse  
January 2012

Since my last letter in the magazine, the outlook for the future of the North Arran linkage looks much brighter. The Presbytery committee set up to deal with the reduction of ministry posts by 6, has recommended that we remain as we are, with provision for a full time minister of Word and sacrament, assisted by a 0.7 part-time Associate minister/ Parish Assistant. In short, although nothing is absolutely set in stone, for the mean-time at least, both Jean and I can look forward to remaining as we are.

This comes as a huge relief to me, primarily of course because Jean will not now be in danger of losing her job. Truth be told, besides losing the help of a dear friend and hugely valued colleague, I just couldn't possibly envisage how I could possibly manage on my own. My biggest fear was not how I would provide Sunday worship to 5 congregations, but how to maintain any kind of adequate pastoral ministry over such a large geographic area.

Although totally committed to being a good pastor, as it is, I never feel that in this regard I succeed as I would like. Despite the support of committed Elders and tremendous back up from our pastoral support groups, I know we could do better. Currently our Elders will be visiting with the Communion cards and distributing the magazines. Hence you are reading this article. And it might come as a surprise to some, that this is not just an exercise in notifying the membership of the forthcoming celebration of the Lord's Supper. Each Elder has a pastoral responsibility for all those in their particular district. It is a means of ensuring, that even if the minister or Associate minister is not able to visit every household in the congregation, then at least 4 times a year, an Elder will. Any news of pastoral concern can then be relayed back to myself and Jean to follow up as a matter of urgency. We also rely on you our members, to inform the Elders of any concerns you might have for your neighbours too. That doesn't just mean church-going neighbours, but also non-church folk. For remember St Bride's is the parish church of Brodick and exists to serve everyone, not just its own membership.

Of particular importance, we need to know of all those who may be hospitalized. Jean and I visit the hospital in Lamlash every week, one of us

usually at the week's beginning and one towards the end, so that we don't miss anyone. Alas, gone are the days when the hospital chaplain, in our case Rev. Elizabeth Watson, could phone to say so and so is in Lamlash and could do with a visit. Confidentiality laws now mean that this is out of the question. So please if you know of a neighbour in hospital, let us know, either by contacting us directly, or your elder, or someone in our pastoral support teams. Just pick up the phone, or let them know on a Sunday morning. Of even more importance, let us know of anyone in hospital on the mainland and of vital importance the ward they are in. We do go to the mainland hospitals when we can. Again confidentiality means we can no longer merely check a list at the information desk and at a glance see who is there from Arran. Nowadays, unless the patient ticks a box on their admission form to say that they would like a visit from a minister, their name won't appear. Sometimes this means that when folk are transferred from Lamlash, we lose touch of their whereabouts.

Of course there is an excellent chaplains' service on the mainland, with a dedicated team of hospital chaplains, indeed Rev. Sheila Mitchell from Brodick is the lead chaplain for Ayrshire. The hospital chaplains too will visit on request. To that end included in the magazine you will find the contact details for the chaplaincy service.

We talk of being a 'priesthood of all believers', meaning each of us must play our part in ministering to our congregations and those in the communities we seek to serve in Christ's name. Sometimes all that takes is a phone call or sharing of information.

Besides this, at St Bride's we try hard to be a welcoming congregation and of course that isn't just at the church door on a Sunday. We also rely on you our membership to tell us of any new people who have come to live in the village, in order that we can make them aware of what we have to offer the new resident in the way of worship, as well as all that goes on in the life of the church – that St Bride's is THEIR church too, should they wish to be part of it. So at the beginning of 2012, let's resolve to do even better in OUR pastoral ministry.

Angus

## **Editor's Remarks**

Another year has passed and with it its highs and lows.

The success of the Centenary Year was only achieved by the hard work of many dedicated people and the support of the congregation and friends from far and near.

We wish Lochranza Church every success in their Tricentenary Year.

Another highlight was the very different presentation of the Nativity story by the combined Sunday Schools of Brodick and Corrie. This entailed the singing of carols from round the world telling the Nativity Story, in many cases, in the original language of a particular country. The songs ranged from a toe tapping calypso carol from the Caribbean to the simplicity of the beautiful Austrian carol 'Stille Nacht,'

The singers added to their performance by accompanying themselves on percussion instruments.

Many thanks to Ann McKay, her assistants and the children for a Nativity performance which embraced the world.

Sadly the lows were the deaths of several members of the congregation who will be sadly missed by us all.

May I take this opportunity to wish all readers a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

## **Church Coffee Rota**

We are always looking for Ladies and Gentlemen to help with the teas and coffees after the Sunday service. If you are willing to help, please enter your name on the sheet in the hall or contact Anne Mitchell. Your help is essential if we are to continue with this valuable part of the Sunday Fellowship.

Anne Mitchell

## **Property Report**

### **The Manse**

Despite the dreadful weather conditions the roughcast work to the manse has been completed as has the velux window replacement. The kitchen and utility floors have been laid with new linoleum following the burst pipe.

The heating to the kitchen and utility rooms has been resolved and the new bathroom suite is pending.

The manse's annual inspection will take place in January 2012.

### **Church**

The lighting circuit for the spotlights to the Cross overlooking the communion table has been replaced to prevent any more 'tripping' of the circuits. Long Life bulbs have been replaced at high level. The trapdoor to the bell tower blew off in the high winds and rainwater penetrated the stair well. The door to the meter box within the tower also blew off and broke its hinges. A temporary repair has been carried out.

Apologies for a cold church on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the year. There had been a power cut of which I was unaware and this affected the time clock. The power cut seemed only to affect the Knowe Road.

### **Hall**

A damp patch has appeared on the ceiling of the chair cupboard which will need attention.

May I thank everybody who helped to keep our properties wind and watertight in 2011 and I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

N C

## St BRIDE'S LADIES.

As the doors open on to a New Year, we can't help feeling glad to see the last of the old one, especially the latter half which seemed to bring howling gales, lashing rain, and the loss of old friends. The intrepid Ladies of St Bride's soldier on, however, and look forward to meeting again and enjoying each others' company in 2012.

To recap on what's gone before, Stuart Gough got us off to a good start with a fascinating talk and slide show: 'Arran Buildings Then and Now'. Margaret Beaton on November 7th told us about Bridgeton House, an escape for young people from a very rough Glasgow district. On 21st November, the ARCO musical group being unable to come, Julian and Sue Davidson, at very short notice, showed slides of Albania, the home country of their protégé Valdete (this made us count our blessings!). 12th December brought our Christmas party and a good time was had by all. A special mention must be made of Liz Lawrie (standing in for our president who was seriously ill in hospital). She took charge of the evening, and, with the help of the committee, entertained and amused us right royally. A well-known pot plant must surely be named after her – the Busy Lizzie!

At our first meeting of 2012, on 9th January, Sandra Kemp described her work in Ethiopia, followed on the 23rd by the very popular Scots Night, although both of these will be over by the time you read this.

5th February finds us visiting the Lifeboat Station but not, we hope, to have a trip round the bay. 27th February sounds nice – soup, sandwiches and entertainment. Monday 12th March is the church Stated Annual Meeting, but Cams Campbell of Brodick Post Office will be visiting us for our own meeting immediately afterwards. Our own AGM is on 26th March with a post-business slide show by Jean Hunter (always popular).

The Christmas Fayre was held on Saturday 3rd December and raised a sum in excess of £600. Our thanks to all concerned. The hampers were won by Jan Attkins and Grace Dickson, and the big bunny by Pat Wooden. Please note that the Easter Fayre is on Saturday 31st March.

To end on a sad note, we were all grieved by the death of our president, Morag Watson, on 13th December. Morag was a tower of strength in St Bride's Ladies for many years, as she was in so many other areas of the work of the congregation. Her sudden final illness has deprived us of a real stalwart of St Bride's.

## TREASURER'S NOTES.

In March, our Stated Annual Meeting will have the annual accounts reported upon in detail. Before then, the following are one or two of the highlights of the 2011 financial year.

Being our centenary year, the figures are different from the norm, and we received a number of substantial donations from former members and friends of the congregation. This led to an increase of almost £3000 in offerings and donations for the same period in 2010.

We were therefore able to send church headquarters in Edinburgh an additional £4000 towards the cost of ministry and mission (as we also managed to do in 2010). Ministry stipends are paid by headquarters, and all churches are assessed, based on their past income, as to how much they are asked to pay towards that cost and the other central expenses of the church. The shortfall in payments by the 70% of smaller congregations is offset by larger payments made by the remaining 30% of larger churches, and from reserves. We have felt it important that we should shoulder as much as possible of our ministry and mission costs as possible by making these additional payments.

We decided last year to support the charity Mary's Meals, and many of you have been saving your small change (mainly coppers). We collected £200 in this way by the end of last year, and together with the £465 raised from Christmas Eve retiring collections, we sent a £665 cheque to that charity just before new year. St Bride's Ladies filled eight backpacks with much needed clothes and other useful items and these went off to the same body in the autumn.

Thanks to the success of the many centenary events, we ended up with a small surplus over expenditure on the overall celebrations.



## chaplaincy service

here for all, here for you.

A twenty-four hours a day,  
seven days a week support  
service for

patients, staff, relatives,  
carers and service-users.

For more information pick up a  
leaflet or telephone 01 292 513023  
extension 13023.

Chaplaincy has a long history, going all the way back to around the year 336 AD in Pannonia, which is roughly modern Hungary.

In that year a boy was born who was called Martin. Though both his parents weren't Christians, Martin, at the age of ten, wished to become a Christian and to follow the life of a hermit.

But his father, a military tribune, insisted on Martin following in his footsteps and join the army.

This was in accordance with an imperial decree that sons of veterans must also serve in the army.

And so, at the age of fifteen, Martin was carried in chains to the recruiting office and compelled to take the oath of enlistment. In some ways he was the first recorded conscientious objector.

Despite this rather difficult beginning to his new career Martin quickly rose from the ranks to become a cavalry officer, and through his excellence in patrol service he gained the confidence of his superiors.

When he was eighteen Martin was in winter quarters at Amiens and the winter was one of intense severity, during which Martin had freely given of his goods to help feed the poor. One day in January 354 he was passing through the gate of the city when he saw a poor man half-naked in the bitter cold. Martin was unable to give him any alms for he had already parted with all his money. But he was warmly clad. On his head was the gilded iron helmet with its red plume, and over his short tunic a military cape was fastened by a brooch and flowed over his shoulders.

Martin didn't hesitate. Drawing his short sword, he cut his cloak in half. He gave half to the shivering figure and was content to wrap the other half round himself.

Tradition has it that the same half-cape, or capella, was preserved and the place of worship in which it rested became known as the chapel and those who care for it became known as the chaplains.

Martin became known, of course, as St. Martin and is regarded as the patron saint of chaplains. We remember him still in Scotland, calling one of our quarter days - Martinmass after him, and the church at Kilmartin likewise.

It was also thought that St. Maurs was originally St. Martin and therefore Kilmaurs might have been Kilmartin as well.

So you see, the word chapel derives from the word capella or cape and those who cared for it were the cape-men or chaplains.

### After School Club (Kids' Club)

The Kids' Club continues to meet on Fridays from 4.00pm to 5.30pm. There has been an average of twenty kids from P3 to P7 meeting weekly during term times. It is thanks to the willing volunteer leaders on a rota basis that the club can meet regularly. We have also been able to recruit more parents to help. The football seems to still be the most popular sport with the girls as well as the boys. There are also various crafts for the young folk to be involved in. Before Christmas, Susan Dobson arranged a Film Night for the group with popcorn and sweets which proved to be popular. They also had a Christmas party. We are now moving into our new Session which takes us up to Easter. We stop for the year at the end of May. If you would like to help in anyway, even on a one off basis, please speak to us.

Jean Hunter, Janet Ramage and Susan Dobson.

### The Value of Old Age

Remember - old folks are worth a fortune - with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a little older since I saw you last and changes have come into my life. I am quite a frivolous old girl!!! I am seeing five gentlemen each day.

As soon as I wake up, Will Power helps me out of bed and then I go to see John. Next, it's time for Mr Quaker who gives me my oats. They leave and Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day. He doesn't stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day I am ready for bed with Johnny Walker. What a life! The vicar came the other day and said that at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him.

"Oh, I do. No matter where I am, if I am in the kitchen or upstairs or in the bedroom, I ask myself- Now what am I here after?"

(This is an extract from a ditty picked up at the Speyside Heather Centre -author unknown.)

This reminds us that as a church, the whole family of God is precious and valuable to Him and to each other. Whether it be the children in the Sunday School or Kids' Club, our youth and twenties to sixties or our older members, all are important. We are all part of the body of Christ in this place. Praise be to God for that.

### Coffee Morning Rota

JAN.	11th	E Lawrie	E Sillars	G Dickson
	25th	J Robertson	M McNicol	E Cooper
FEB.	8th	M Boal	F Brown	M Cuthbert
	22nd	A Lauder	G Bleakley	M McKay
MAR.	7th	I Rollo	D Cross	L Hendry
	21st	M Bryce	J Cameron	N Macleod
APR.	4th	E Lawrie	G Dickson	V Sim
	18th	J Robertson	M McNicol	M Boal
MAY	2nd	F Brown	A Lauder	M McRorie
	16th	E Sillars	M Cuthbert	L Hendry
	30th	N Macleod	V Sim	S Alison
JUNE	13th	I Rollo	M McKay	M Bryce

### Arran Churches Together

Our biennial Christingle Service was held in Whiting Bay Church on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December. A gratifying number of children were there to process into the church carrying their Christingles - with real candles this year in place of the less attractive Glo-Sticks - but in the interests of safety, they were not lit until the Christingles had been placed in the front of the church.

The offering was in aid of 'Children First' and raised the sum of £159.64.

On 17<sup>th</sup> December a group of A.C.T. committee members and friends sang Christmas carols outside the Co-op. This was a great success and the money raised went to support the Co-op's own charity fund-raising efforts.

### Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Despite the economic down turn and gloom, the Christmas Shoebox Appeal was very successful once again with a total of 179 boxes together with £537 being sent from the island. My grateful thanks to all who contributed to the success of this appeal in any way, to our friends in the other Churches on the Island who contributed to the total, to Anne Mitchell and Elspeth Lang who helped with the sorting and packing of the boxes. Sadly the death of Morag Watson leaves a huge hole in our team. She was one of the original members when we first started supporting this appeal.

In order to minimise cost, please start collecting bits and pieces for your shoebox every month, ready for the appeal in October so that once more we can bring a smile to people in need.

Hamish Mitchell

### Even God Laughs

Dear God,  
I bet it is  
very hard  
for you to  
love all of  
every body in the  
whole world.  
There are only  
4 people in our  
family and I  
can never do it.  
  
Nan

Dear God,  
I think about  
you sometimes even  
when I'm not praying  
  
Elliott

Dear God,  
Thank you for  
the baby brother  
but what I prayed  
for was a puppy  
  
Joyce

Dear -God- if -  
we -come- back  
as -some-thing-  
please -don't-  
let -me- be  
Jennifer -Horton  
because -I- hate  
her.  
  
Denise

## Corrie Church News

Sitting eventually on the 'Lord of the Isles,' after a three day journey to reach home, other travellers and I vowed that next year there would be no more seasonal travelling.

Yet, spending Christmas with family and grandchildren brings into focus the true joy of the Christmas season

A bonus for me was sharing with a crowded congregation, the Nine Lessons and Carols' Service in a local farmer's barn, surrounded by bleating Friesian/Dorset ewes, lowing Aberdeen Angus cattle and Red Poll stirks. We were led in the singing by a local musical group all of which truly evoked the birth of Jesus.

Many parishioners attended our services of Remembrance.

At the beginning of December we participated in the annual Carol Service in Lamlash Church, led by the Revd. Gillian MacLean.

Our monthly coffee mornings continue to be popular.

The villages' first Christmas fair, and the lighting up of the Christmas tree at the hall, with the arrival of a beautifully carved sleigh and reindeer, bearing Father Christmas on a low loader, was a delight and brought crowds from all over the island to the various stalls.

Peter Wilson's concert, with Crawford Logan and four students from the Northern College of Music in Manchester, was a great success, bringing some lesser known carols to a wider audience and interspersed with a mixture of readings so brilliantly delivered by Crawford Logan.

Hot mince pies and tea led into a secular second half of laughter and audience participation, all generating warmth and fellowship for the weeks ahead.

Several readers took part in our Christmas Day Service and our usual Sunday Service was celebrated on New Year's day.

Our thanks are extended once again to Robbie and Marilyn Brown for another beautifully decorated tree.

## Finance.

We shall have a full report at our Stated Annual Meeting in March. Major outlay on repairs is anticipated.

## Property.

The main work to be undertaken is on the stained glass window gap. Scaffolding will be erected and intensive work will be necessary to replace the missing pieces. This will commence when the better weather comes.

## Deaths.

18<sup>th</sup> October 2011          Neil Thomson

## Diary Dates.

30<sup>th</sup> January      Board and Session Meeting

12<sup>th</sup> February    Sacrament of The Lord's Supper.

11<sup>th</sup> March        Stated Annual General Meeting

8<sup>th</sup> April         Easter Day

## Coffee Mornings (Rota on inner door)

27<sup>th</sup>      January

24<sup>th</sup>      February

30<sup>th</sup>      March

27<sup>th</sup>      April



**Brodick Church Notices Winter 2012**

**Baptisms :**

Finn Russell Popplewell	24. 12. 11
Harry Robert Popplewell	24. 12. 11
Reece Christopher Popplewell	24. 12. 11
Niamh Ellen Lalor	24. 12. 11
Shannon Jane Galbraith	24. 12. 11
Archie Lachlan Galbraith	24. 12. 11

**Bereavement:**

Morag Watson 20, Brathwic Place, Brodick 13. 12. 11

**Transfer out:**

Mrs C. McCluskey 14, Glen Court Brodick 02. 11. 11

**Communion:**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated in Brodick Church on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am**. We welcome to the Lord's Table any who are members of any branch of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Dates for your diaries:**

Stated Annual Meeting and Stewardship Gathering  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**Coffee Mornings: 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> January 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

**7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> March 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> April**