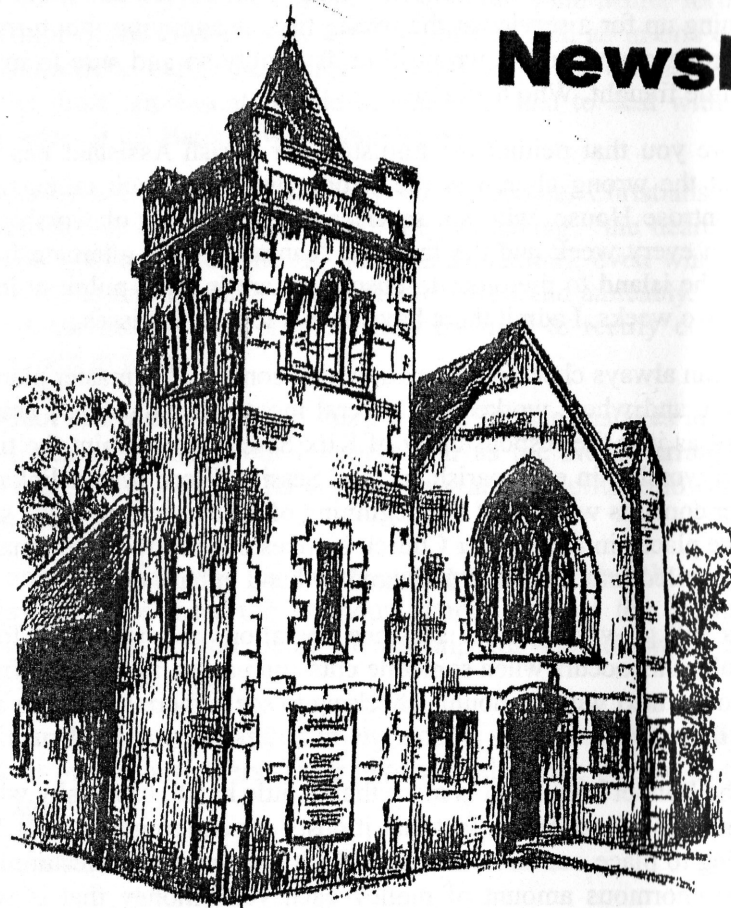


St Bride's Church

Brodick

Winter 2014

Newsletter



Brodick Manse
February 2014

It seems that over my eight years of ministry few things have caused as much annoyance in church circles as misinformation in the Arran Banner, especially concerning times of worship. Brodick, Corrie and Shiskine always worship at the same time every Sunday, 10.30 and 12 noon respectively, with the odd exception for special services, such as during Holy Week, at Christmas, or for extra evening services. Although Lochranza and Pirnmill worship at 9.30 and 10.45 during British summer time, in the winter months they alternate worship on a week about basis at 10.15. Turning up for a service at the wrong time is annoying, but turning up at the wrong church at the wrong time is doubly so and sure to make tempers a little fraught. Who to blame ?

Well I assure you that neither the minister, nor Parish Assistant has yet turned up at the wrong church at the wrong time. Although taking into account Montrose House, with six services and six places of worship to contend with every week and the fact that Jean and I also alternate from one side of the island to the other to ensure we are in each pulpit at least once every two weeks, I admit there have been a few near misses.

We at least can always check our diaries, which contains the master plan of who is where and when, worked out several months in advance. I assure you too, that as it is the responsibility of Kirk Session to appoint the time and place of worship in each parish, as lead Session Clerk for the linkage, John Lauder consults with me at the beginning of each month to make sure the advert he places in the Banner Church Notices page is accurate. That is then both e-mailed into them and delivered by hand in hard copy.

Alas things still go wrong, more so since operations are controlled from Oban. Usually this occurs when someone cuts and pastes information from one week to the next without double checking to see if there have been any changes to the norm.

So blame the Banner? Well that is more than a little harsh, especially when you take into consideration the fact that it costs our congregations not one brass farthing to place our church notices. That is a wonderful gesture and saves us an enormous amount of money each year, money that is well spent on other very important causes, not least keeping a water-tight roof

over our heads. Just how much was illustrated recently when Corrie Church's bill for advertising two fund raising concerts, in a double add over two editions, ran to almost £400. That meant that over and above the cost of heating a church in December for two nights, before we even started to run at a profit, at least 50 people had to come through the doors before we broke even.

So for the record, I am extremely grateful to the Editor, management and staff at the Arran Banner for continuing to publish our Church Notices free gratis.

Yet I know not everyone is always so grateful. John Miller former owner and editor of the Banner once told me, in fact said so in one of his final farewell articles before he retired and sold out to the Oban Times Group, that the most unpleasant people he had ever had to deal with in all his many years at the Banner, were church people.

That really and truly is scandalous. Of all people, Christians should act graciously, but instead rather prove the old saying, "the nearer the Kirk, the further from grace". Being polite and gracious, even when annoyed, costs nothing and usually resolves matters well and amicably. Indeed it is, perhaps the best way to ensure others try hard to rectify errors and get things right in future.

No doubt due to human error, there will be further mistakes in the Banner over times of worship, but I hope as far as the North Arran linkage is concerned, these will still be borne with grace as befits followers of Jesus Christ.

The only sure-fire way to ensure you get to the church on time each Sunday, is to be there the previous Sunday to hear the intimations for yourself. The time and place of worship for the following Sunday is always given first hand.

But if unable to do so, and if in any doubt, simply telephone our Session Clerk or one of our elders. Their phone numbers are printed in the rear of the magazine.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Angus

Editor's remarks

Here we are at the start of yet another year in the life of our church. As always it will be a busy one with all the forthcoming events in the church calendar. It is also going to be an eventful year nationally with the Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup coming to Scotland. It is hoped that our church as well as our nation has a happy, healthy and successful 2014.

Regretfully Alan Milligan has resigned from the magazine committee. We are sorry to lose you Alan. Many thanks for all your hard work and support during your time on the committee.

Treasurer's Report.

As I begin the task of finalising the Church accounts for 2013 I thought this would be a good time to thank all who contribute to the Church funds, members for their regular offerings, organisations donating for the use of the War Memorial Hall and everyone who comes along to our fund raising events. St Bride's has the same financial problems as we, as individuals have, income dropping year on year and struggling to keep expenses down in the face of rising costs. The final accounts will not be published until May; these are some of the larger income and expenses, which may give you an idea of how we raise money and how it is spent.

Members Offerings £32,000 - Fundraising Events £6,000 - Organisations £5,000 - Donations £3,000 - Gift Aid reclaimed from HMRC £7,000.

Our contribution to the Church of Scotland £32,000 - Upkeep of Property £17,000 - Other expenses including contributions to other organisations £3,000.

Not included in these figures is a bequest from the late Miss Stella McCrae which was used to install much needed extra heaters in the Church.

Sylvia Alison, Congregational Treasurer.

Property Report

A Good New Year to one and all.

Manse

The Annual Inspection was carried out by Mr. John Kerr of Corrie and myself on the 21 st January 2014. You will be glad to know that the inspection went well with only a few minor items needing attention. The main entrance hall and upper corridor walls are due for decoration this year. In addition the flooring to the vestibule requires varnishing. The Manse is in excellent shape.

Hall

A new time clock has been fitted by Scottish Power in the kitchen. Rainwater traps have been cleaned to allow rainwater to pass freely. The water heater in the kitchen is overflowing and needs attention. Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors have been checked and batteries replaced,

Church

The additional heaters are in place, all functioning and are ready for use when the need arises. During the wiring of the wall heaters a crack was discovered between the North wall and the gallery, together with various minor cracks at the head of the church windows. These were checked out by Hugh Brown, Chartered Civil Engineer, and were found to be of a historic nature and should not give cause for alarm. The cracks will be filled in with a weak concrete mix. The programmer for the central heating has developed a fault and will be replaced shortly. Smoke detectors have been checked out and batteries replaced. Rainwater traps have been cleaned to allow free flow of water.

If and when the weather improves I am hoping the team who varnished the hall walls will be available to paint the railings at the front of the church .Thanks again to Brian.

NC

St Bride's Ladies

Since the last magazine, we have completed the first half of our session.

After a successful Harvest Lunch on Sunday 27th October, our first meeting on Monday 28th took us on a roller-coaster voyage across the Atlantic. Calum McNicol had us enthralled with his illustrated talk on his epic journey rowing across the ocean.

This was followed on Monday 11th November by an equally interesting and amusing account by Alan Milligan of his life in the Navy.

On 25th November we welcomed Cathy Steed who gave us a demonstration, interspersed by humorous anecdotes, of several floral arrangements using mainly greenery.

We had a successful Christmas Fayre in December raising just under £600 and ended the year with our Christmas party.

Already we have had our first meeting of the New Year. On Monday 13th January Carol Burge, chairperson of the Arran branch of Save the Children, gave an inspirational talk on the work of the charity.

Beginning with a brief history since its inception to its multinational status to-day, Carol's enthusiasm and commitment were obvious in her illustrated presentation of the work of the charity at home and abroad.

The annual income of Save the Children is £333m of which 89p in the £1 goes directly to its work in the field.

We now look forward to our Scots Night on 27th January.

Unfortunately, we have an alteration to our February 10th meeting due the sad and sudden passing of Evelyn Sillars. On that date John Potter and Jack Paterson have kindly agreed to come and give us a talk on gardening.

Once again a warm welcome is extended to all, including men, at our meetings.

Friends of Montrose House Association - Winter 2014 Report

Once again as the old year ends and a new year commences we cast our minds back over the events of the past year, and what a year of contrasts it has been, with the heaviest snowfall in living memory, followed by the longest spell of warm sunshine and absence of rain, then the highest wind and tide combination on record resulting in the inevitable ferry disruption and uncertainty of travel arrangements. Dare we hope that 2014 will be any better?

Fortunately most of our activities went ahead as planned with the Halloween and Christmas parties much enjoyed by residents and participants. January is traditionally Burns month and plans are in hand for the in-house Burns Supper, arranged on our behalf by Liz Clarke with pupils from the High School providing the entertainment.

The New Build Montrose House continues to progress well despite appalling weather conditions and our latest understanding is that the project was actually a week ahead of schedule at the end of the year. A meeting has been held with the NAC project team including the Senior Site Manager and the Architect showing photographs to keep us informed of progress and give us the opportunity to comment. A seemingly massive tower crane has been erected on the site providing a notable landmark which, thankfully, withstood the recent high winds intact. A landscaping consultant has visited the site to view the existing gardens and we have been asked to assist in identifying trees and shrubs etc. which are significant and may be transplanted to the new site in due course.

It is with sadness that we have to record the deaths of George Watson, Helenor Forrest, Sandy Knox and Ian Campbell. In-house Memorial / Farewell services were held as appropriate.

We note with interest that the embargo on all admissions enforced throughout most of 2013 has now been rescinded. We look forward with confidence to a challenging year ahead supporting the welfare of residents and day-care visitors to Montrose House.

The Reader

It was a great day last June when Liz Clarke and Sharon MacLeod had their service of 'Setting Apart' to the Office of Reader in the Church of Scotland. Since then they have been well used in taking services in the churches around the island. In its long history the roll of Reader has been continually developing over the years. At the Reformation in the 16th century, with the shortage of ministers, men used to read the sermon of other ministers. Some men eventually trained to take services and write sermons themselves and whereas at one time that is all Readers were allowed to do, today it is a different story.

Someone asked me to explain the difference between my role as a Reader and that of Liz and Sharon. As I said the roll of Reader has developed and changed over the years.

I trained to be a reader and was set apart in 1996. I became an Attached Reader with my home congregation in New Cumnock. That role involved working with the minister for 10 hours a week, unpaid, and that included one Sunday a month. The other three Sundays I could go and take pulpit supply in other churches in the Presbytery.

In 1998 I began my theology degree at Glasgow University and as I was a mature student it was to be a three year course. I still did quite a bit of pulpit supply while studying. Nearing the end of 2000 a friend, namely Angus, told me they were looking for a Locum for Lochranza & Pirnmill and Shiskine. I had completed my degree in two and a half years but I was doing two extra courses and couldn't graduate until July 2001.

At that time Kilmory and Lamlash were also looking for a Locum and were interviewing a Reader from up north for the post. I applied for the Locum post at Lochranza & Pirnmill and Shiskine, came to Shiskine to be interviewed by the elders and was offered the post. The Interim Moderator at the time said it would only be for four to six months. That was thirteen years ago.

Locums at that time were normally retired ministers so myself and the lady who got the post at Kilmory and Lamlash were the first Readers in Scotland to become Locums. I moved into Shiskine manse at the beginning of February 2001 and began the work, three services on a Sunday and all the pastoral work. I was employed for a Sunday and two

days a week and I did that staying in Shiskine and travelling over to Glasgow to do two days at University until I graduated in July 2001 with a Bachelor of Divinity degree. The role of Reader had developed into Readers being allowed to do what retired ministers were doing. In August 2002, Rev Barry Knight was called to be the minister of the new linked charge of Lamlash lw Lochranza & Pirnmill lw Shiskine. I then got the post as Attached Reader to the charge and moved over to Lamlash Manse. It was still paid employment and as a Reader, a different role from that which I had at New Cumnock. However I was on a month to month contract, and if I wasn't needed anymore the contract could have been ended. I then worked with Barry until he had to retire through ill health.

In 2006, as you know Angus was called to be your minister in the new linked charge of Brodick lw Corrie lw Lochranza & Pirnmill lw Shiskine and he was to have an assistant. A Parish Assistant is another ministry in the Church of Scotland and usually folk had to train for three years for that role. I was offered the post of Parish Assistant for the linked charge and because I was a Reader and had a BD I was able to transfer across. I accepted the post to work in a ministry team with Angus and in doing so became the first Reader in Scotland to become a Parish Assistant. I have been employed in this role since May 2006, on a permanent contract with the Ministries Council. On their staff I was a PPW (a Presbytery and Parish Worker) but after all the reviews and changes last year I am now known as an MDS (Ministries Development Staff). I am still a Reader and a Parish Assistant though. Whatever branch of ministry there is in the church it is God who calls and sustains that ministry and this has been my experience all these years.

The role of the Reader has very much developed over the years and is still developing. I hope I have explained a bit about the difference between my role as a Reader and that of Liz and Sharon's at the moment. I hope too that God will continue to bless all our ministries as He uses us in His service.

Jean Hunter

Welcome.

Judging by comments received from visitors to our church services, we are pretty good at speaking to visitors who have made the effort to come, by making them feel welcome and extending an invitation to come round to the church hall for coffee after the service.

How good are we, however, at welcoming newcomers to the village and inviting them to come to church? Not everyone finds that easy, but it is our duty as church members to try to do just that.

To make it easier we have a leaflet about the church containing a letter of welcome from our minister and details of church activities. Copies of this are on the vestibule table for you to take at any time.

So, if you see someone arriving to stay in the village, please help them and us by taking them a leaflet. It would also help our minister if you could tell him that you have done this so that he can follow it up.

Used Stamps.

Thanks to all of you who save your stamps and put them in the box under the vestibule table. If you have not yet developed the habit it is never too late to start. You can even encourage friends and neighbours, or even local businesses, to give you theirs.

All it takes is, each time you receive a stamped envelope or parcel, cut round the stamp leaving about a centimetre (or 1/4") from the edge, and pop it into a container to bring along once you have collected a quantity. They are then sent away to a Church of Scotland organiser who sells them to make money for an overseas mission charity.

Food Bank.

During the last year we have collected a substantial quantity of goods for the food bank, and it has been put to very good purpose. A list of suitable items is on the notice boards in the vestibule and the church hall, and there is a container for donations in the church vestibule.

All the island churches participate and distribution is only made to needful cases by those in a position to know that help of this kind is very much required. The demand for help is growing, unfortunately, so your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Ardeer Stevenston Faith and Community Together(ASFaCT)

In addition to local distribution on the island, excess items donated to the Food Bank have been sent to ASFaCT for distribution on the mainland. The following is a letter recently received from them.

On behalf of ASFaCT, I would like to take this opportunity to thank both yourself and your congregation for the regular contribution of food since November 2013.

This has had a significant impact on the type of support we can offer the families we work with.

Currently we are supporting 25 families on a regular basis as well as offering support to many other families on an ad hoc basis.

We have supported many more families particularly in the run up to Christmas.

We are issuing on average 7-8 food parcels per week.

We have people from all walks of life accessing this service from elderly people, families with young children, people who are ill, to name but a few.

With thanks and appreciation for your on-going support.

Carol Boyd

Project Development Worker

Cover Design

Following the visit of the artist Gordon Waddell to our Church in June of last year he was asked to produce a sketch of our Church Hall as a companion to the Church itself which has recently appeared on the front cover of our church newsletter. This sketch forms the back cover design on the current newsletter and acknowledges the importance of the hall in the overall work of the Church community.

The hall was first built and served as a Church at Benecarrigan in the south of the island and became affectionately known as "The Tin Tabernacle" before being dismantled and transported to its present site in 1954. It was designated "Broddick Church War Memorial Hall" at a ceremony on Sunday 11th November 2012. It is a Grade 'B' Listed Building.

Arran Churches Together

The Christingle Service was held on 28th November in Shiskine Church. The service was well attended with over fifty young people and as many adults from all over the island. The offering went to the Scottish charity "Children First."

A goodly number of people, from different denominations, came to the Co-op on 14th December to sing Carols, accompanied by Carol Harwood on the piano, and a collection was made in support of the Co-op's own charities. Several people stopped to listen, and I'm sure it made their shopping a pleasanter experience and helped to get them into the Christmas Spirit.

On 19th January, the Service of Christian Unity took place this year in Whiting Bay Church, and was, as usual, very well attended. The very creditable sum of £406 was raised in aid of the Evangelical Alliance. The service was led by the visiting speaker Mr Kieran Turner of the Evangelical Alliance and music was led by Arran Brass Band.

We can look forward now to the World Day of Prayer on 7th March, and the Good Friday Walk of Witness on 18th April

Sheila Selkirk

Out of the mouths of babes

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No" replied Johnny "How could he, with only two worms."

Thanks

Once again the church was beautifully decorated for Christmas and our thanks must go to Alison, Elaine and Elise for all their hard work. It was greatly appreciated.

We should also thank those who volunteer to provide and arrange the flowers each Sunday.

The Flower Rota for this year is pinned up in the hall, and if you can help please add your name to the list.

Ann Lauder

Wednesday Coffee Morning Rota 2014

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|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 5th February | E. Lawrie, M. McKinlay, D. Cross, |
| 19th February | N. MacLeod, V. Sim, M. Cuthbert, |
| 5th March | G. Sillars, S. Alison, G. Dickson, |
| 19th March | E. McKellar, I. Rollo, L. Murray, |
| 2nd April | G. Bleakley, L. Hendry, A. Lauder, |
| 16th April | J. Robertson, M. Boal, M. Bryce, |
| 30th April | V. Cross, A. Green, N. Meteyard. |

CHURCH NOTICES – Winter 2014

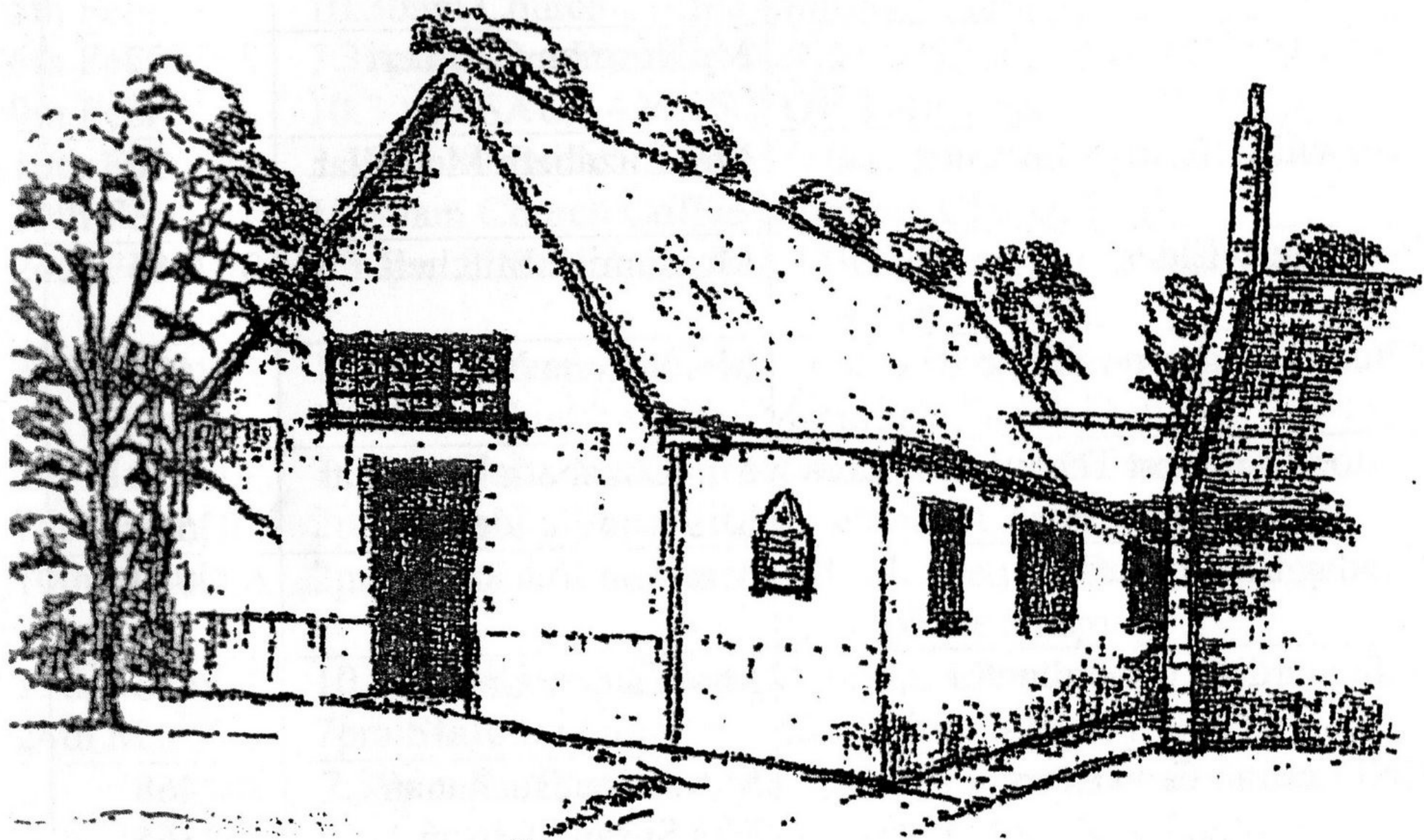
<u>New Member:</u>	Isabel Doig, Mandella, Brathic	24th December
<u>Baptisms:</u>	Corey Kevin Bunyan	24th December
	Herbert Christopher Helliwell	24th December
	Mavis Barbara Helliwell	24th December
<u>Deaths:</u>	George Watson, Montrose House	17th October
	Sandy Mutch, Gushetneuk,	27th October
	Ian Millar, 2 Brathwic Terrace,	9th November
	Sandy Knox, Montrose House,	12th November
	Helenor Forrest, Montrose House	27th November
	Ian Campbell, Montrose House,	11th December

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5th February	10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall,
6th February	7.30pm Taize Worship service, Shiskine Church,
9th February	10.30am SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER,
10th February	2.30pm St Bride's Ladies – Jack Paterson & John Potter,
19th February	10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall,
24th February	2.30pm St Bride's Ladies – Helen Knight (Laughter and a Few Tears)
26th February	12noon Prayers for Health and Healing, Transept,
5th March	10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall,
6th March	7.30pm Taize Worship service, Shiskine Church,
7th March	2pm World Day of Prayer service, Corrie Church,
10th March	2pm St Bride's Ladies AGM followed by Dave Tapson on Beekeeping,
19th March	10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall,
24th March	7pm Stated Annual Meeting , Church Hall, followed by 7.30pm St Bride's Ladies – Jean Hunter talks about her visit to the Holy Land,
27th March	12noon Prayers for Health and Healing, Shiskine Church,
2nd April	10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall,
3rd April	7.30pm Taize Worship service, Shiskine Church,
5th April	2pm St Bride's Ladies Easter Fayre, Church Hall,
16th April	10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall,
18th April	2pm Good Friday Walk of Witness through Brodick,
20th April	Easter Sunday,
30th April	10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall, 12noon Prayers for Health and Healing, Transept.

WHO'S WHO AT BRODICK 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	600040
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Mrs Valerie Cross	302615
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



Brodick Church War Memorial Hall