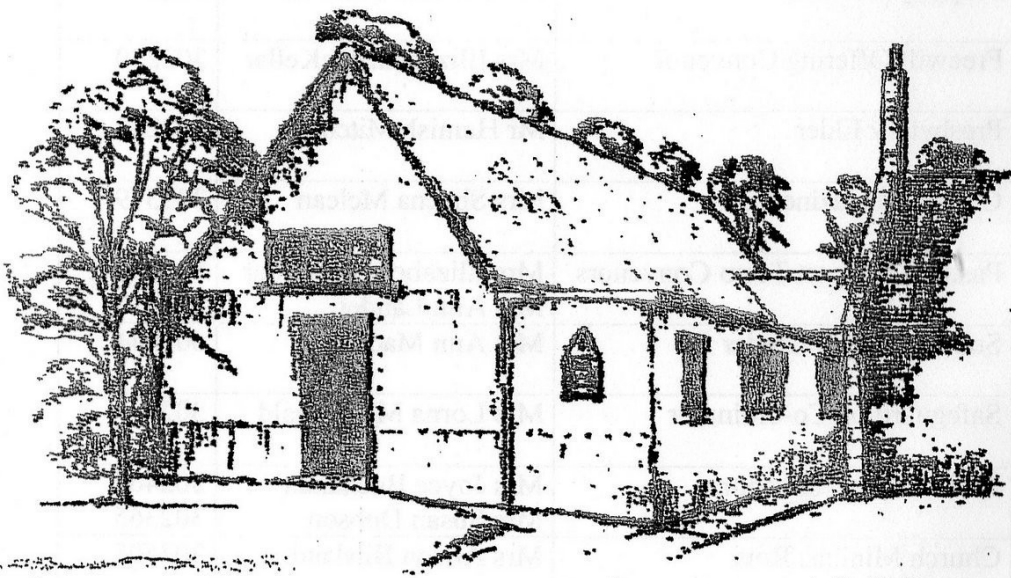
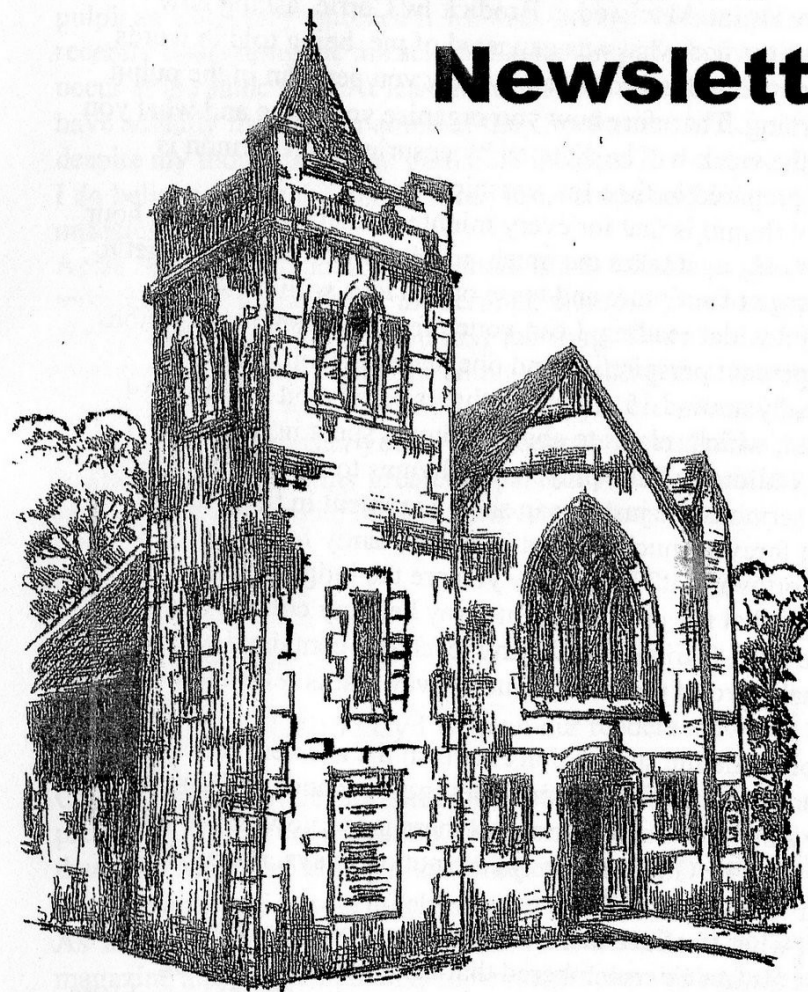


St Bride's Church Brodick Winter 2015 Newsletter



Brodick Church War Memorial Hall



Brodick Manse
January 2015

In our Presbyterian tradition a huge amount of focus on worship is put on preaching. Although nowadays, by and large shorter than in bygone years, the sermon is still seen as the main event of every service and it is an unusual, out of the ordinary service, that doesn't have one.

I will remember on my first day, in a placement as a student in training for ministry with Rev Dr Ian MacLeod at Brodick l/w Corrie, asking how I should spend my time and what was expected of me, being told in words to the effect "here you will stand or fall by how you perform in the pulpit on a Sunday morning. Therefore how you organise your time and what you do in the rest of the week will be dictated by ensuring your sermon is always properly prepared in time for worship."

The rough rule of thumb is that for every minute preached, it takes an hour in preparation. If only... it takes me much, much longer than that to get to grips with a passage of scripture and tease out an idea with the aid of commentaries and wider reading. I can vouch for the truism that 'sermons are ninety-nine percent perspiration and one percent inspiration.' My efforts are normally around 15 minutes – that is 5 and a bit pages of A4 paper in a 14 font, which relates to about 20 hours spent in the study. And still there is the Children's Talk, prayers and hymns to sort out.

Yet for all that, sermons are just a snap shot, a moment in time, heard and then mostly lost forever, much of what is said instantly forgotten.

So is all that effort worth it? Ultimately you are the judge of that, but it is my constant hope that my efforts in some way help my congregations engage with the great Christian truths and teachings contained within the Bible, the eternal word of God and in such a way that is relevant to modern day life.

Despite years of academic study I don't have all the answers concerning God's revelation to humankind. As prof George Newlands of Trinity College wisely said, "the day we know all there is to know about God is the day he ceases to be God". 'His ways are not our ways, nor are his thoughts as our thoughts'.

Anyway it isn't what I believe that is of great consequence, but what you believe. It must always be remembered that the greatest underlying principle of the Reformation was to give everyone the gift of being able to hear the Word of God preached in their own language, that they might

understand its message and be able to read the bible for themselves. Long gone are the days when the pulpit stood ten feet above contradiction. I can have faith only for myself. My sermons are only my own personal opinion, albeit an opinion hammered out through much academic study and theological training, an opinion that avoids heresy and allowed to be given publicly only under licence from Presbytery, to whom I am answerable. Therefore my sermons are just a starting point, an aid to help you engage with what the Bible says and to come to your own understanding of faith. I am equally delighted when people strongly disagree with what I say in the pulpit as when they embrace it wholeheartedly. Sometimes, as happened recently concerning the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, both occur at the same time. At least it means folk haven't fallen asleep and have actually listened for some of the 15 minutes! And for the record, despite my thoughts on that particular incident in the ministry of our Lord, I do believe that as the Son of God, Jesus could and did perform many miracles.

Apart from at Lochranza, where there is a 5- 10 minute discussion session with the congregation after the sermon, there isn't time to receive feedback about what I have said on a Sunday morning. There is though usually a moment or two over coffee for comment. Failing that, theological discussion is ever welcome and I can always be contacted by telephone or e-mail. As your minister your faith matters a great deal to me. But when all is said and done, it is my greater hope, that your faith matters more to you, enough at least to come to your own conclusions.

Angus

Editor's Remarks.

At this the start of 2015 may I wish all our readers a blessed and peaceful New Year.

On the Sunday before Christmas the children of the Sunday school presented, for the congregation, their version of the Nativity story. Our thanks to Mrs. Ann Mackay, the children and all her helpers for a performance which was much enjoyed by all.

As always my thanks to all those who contribute so faithfully to this magazine and a special thanks to Ann and John whose help is invaluable in compiling the magazine.

Arran Churches Together

The Christingle Service on Thursday 27th November was held in Lamlash Church, but I don't think it was as well attended as in the past, which is a pity. Nonetheless, the singing and the readings created a lovely atmosphere in the run up to Christmas. The offering went to Christian Aid for children in the Middle East and Syria.

On Saturday 13th December around 20 of us sang carols in the Co-op from 11-12, ably accompanied by Carol Harwood on keyboard. Appreciative customers donated generously to the Co-op's Defibrillator Fund.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to the Service of Christian Unity, to be held this year in Brodick Church on Sunday 18th January, with tea and coffee being served from 11.15am before the service starts at 12 noon. The offering will go to Shelter Box, a South Ayrshire Disaster Relief project.

Forthcoming events are the World Day of Prayer on Friday 6th March in Lochranza Church and the Good Friday Walk of Witness from Holy Cross to St. Brides on Friday 3rd April.

St. Brides's Ladies

The first half of our winter session ended with our Christmas Fayre, followed two days later by our Christmas party. In spite of the inclement weather, our Christmas Fayre was very successful. Thanks to all who contributed and supported it in any way.

We now look forward to our first meeting of the New Year when John Sillars will speak about Old Brodick.

Our popular Scots Night takes place on Monday 26th January and we hope you will support this enjoyable event. Tickets will be available in the hall after Church on Sunday mornings or from committee members.

Following that, we have some interesting speakers for the remainder of the session. Meetings are on alternate Monday afternoons at 2.00pm and are open to everyone. You will be made most welcome.

Friends of Montrose House Association Winter 2015 Report.

As the old year passes and the New Year begins it seems an appropriate analogy for the present situation at Montrose House with the long awaited move from the old building to the new-build establishment in Glen Cloy.

The transfer of residents, their belongings and equipment is now imminent and will take place in a carefully planned and efficiently managed operation. A group of Friends will be on hand on to provide assistance and additional support to staff in an effort to minimize the trauma of this major upheaval in their lives.

We have yet to be advised of the date but have been assured that an official event will be arranged in due course to commemorate the opening of the new building. An in-house service of dedication is planned for Sunday 1st February. Meanwhile we have been advised that, at our request, the original wooden plaque in the foyer of the present building, commemorating its opening by Mrs. Evelyn Sillars in 1974, will be placed in the Relatives Lounge of the new establishment and it is proposed that it will be informally named as 'The Sillars Suite' in her memory.

Events leading up to the end of the year went ahead successfully albeit with some uncertainty of the venue as 'D' Day was postponed several times. The Christmas Party was planned for a Saturday to fit in with available facilities at the new site but this proved difficult as staff levels at weekends are minimal. This, coupled with a high level of absence due to sickness, necessitated a substantial input from Friends and others to set up, supervise and clear up after the event. However, all went well on the day.

Plans for future events are well in hand with the traditional Burns Supper at the end of January once again in the capable hands of the Clarke family. An Easter Baskets/Bonnets competition is planned for April as usual.

Property Report

May I take this opportunity of wishing all friends and members of the congregation, a GOOD NEW YEAR, health and happiness.

Manse

Following on from the damage caused by the leaking pipe from the dishwasher, the new kitchen units, together with associated works, will be reinstated shortly. The cost of the work involved will be approximately £5,000. The insurance claim will fall short of the total cost of reinstatement since only the damaged parts of the works are relevant to the claim. As the units date from 1991 it is impossible to match them with the undamaged units so they will also have to be replaced. The insurers have agreed, eventually, to make a small contribution towards the undamaged section of the works of £500. A new cable to the dishwasher with isolator is also required. Wall tiling will also have to be replaced.

As a fault has been discovered in the lighting circuit, the annual test on the power, lighting and appliances in the Manse will be put in hand.

Following on instruction from Presbytery AN ENERGY CERTIFICATE is now in place for the Manse. The report suggested it would be worthwhile strapping the inside walls of the garage which were back to back with the entrance hallway and bedroom 4, applying breather membrane to outer face with 20mm gap from wall, 10mm plywood finish to garage side with 50mm Kingspan IW55 insulation fitted between the studs. The painter work to the hallway is now complete apart from the floor varnishing, which will be carried out following the kitchen reinstatement. The leak in the master bedroom ceiling is still being monitored.

The contents insurance cover for the manse from 2015 now covers white goods together with floor coverings i.e. carpets, linoleum etc. The Annual Manse inspection jointly with John Kerr of Corrie Church is due shortly.

Hall

Guards for the loud speakers are in place. A coat of varnish will complete the work. The new doors for the hall are under manufacture. The microphone system is now in use and is believed to be beneficial to all.

The vermin question has been tackled with the appropriate poison being laid as a deterrent.

The carbon monoxide and smoke detectors have had their annual service. I thank Michael Grant for his assistance.

Again Presbytery has asked that Fire Risk Assessments are in place for the Annual Report and Attestation. This Assessment will be

carried out on 15th January. 2015

Church

The perspex for the windows has now been replaced, and the sheets have been cut to size. Weather permitting the perspex will be fitted and work completed week beginning 12th January 2015. Light bulbs which shine on the stain glass windows externally have been replaced. Smoke detectors have all been serviced. I hope to be able to give you an update on the chandeliers and lighting down both sides of the church on the next report. The paving slabs have been power washed. The downpipes at the side door and the corner of the tower appear to be blocked.

The Chancellor announced in his last Autumn Statement that for all church buildings a temporary repair fund had been set up for church roofs of between £10,000 and £100,000 to meet urgent repairs. This window of opportunity would close on 30th January 2015. To qualify for this grant, the need for it would have to have been reported in the last quinquennial report. As our church roof is maintained annually and the odd slate replaced when necessary, we obviously do not require to make use of this grant.

For the record I have been asked to sign The Data Protection Act.

NC

Brodict Church Christmas Cards

This year we welcomed the return of the Church Christmas Card featuring the Church building with the adjacent Holly Tree in bloom and a sprig of holly to complete the festive scene. Cards were available in time for the Church Christmas Fayre and thereafter from the vestibule, the War Memorial Hall, and at the Coffee Mornings in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

We also repeated the facility of having a Christmas Card Collage on a specially decorated notice board in the Hall. This enabled members of the congregation to send Christmas greetings to Church friends and to nominate a charity of their choice to receive a small donation. A total of 17 cards were posted.

Parish Assistant's Letter

Just before Christmas, as part of the role of Moderator of Ardrossan Presbytery, I had to write a Christmas message that would go out to every Congregation in the Presbytery. The message and greeting was intended to go into Church Newsletters. However as I only learned I had to do that at the end of November the message was too late to be included in the last issue of this Newsletter. As the Christmas season has passed for another year please accept this as a belated greeting. The letter ended in this way 'May 2015 be a Good and Fulfilling Year for you and those whom you Love.'

When I was asked to be Moderator for the year beginning in September last year, it seemed quite a daunting task. However, so far I have enjoyed most of the tasks the role has entailed. The tasks I have had to do have been to chair and lead the worship at the monthly meetings. On the 8th of October I inducted a minister into the charge of Clark Memorial Church in Largs. Then on the 28th of October at Ardrossan and Saltcoats Kirkgate Church, I 'Set Apart' Mr Andrew Bruce as a Reader in the Church of Scotland. These tasks have been a privilege for me to undertake. I have another Induction to conduct on the 28th of January at Kilbirnie Auld Church in Kilbirnie. I have had others meetings to attend and other matters to handle and I know there will be other challenges I will face.

Through all I do though I trust in God and serve Him in His Ways. I have quoted to you before these verses from Proverbs:

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight'. (Proverbs Ch3 vs 5-6)

Whether as a Presbytery, a congregation or as individuals we go forward in the Lord's way and in His strength in this 2015. I have a few words of a poem that I would like to share with you;

It's called 'Stepping Stones' by *Barbara Whittles-Preston*

When you're weary, and your courage is in retreat,

When the bank across the river seems far and out of reach.

When waters still and clear and deep lose their peace below,

When you're tired and worn in Spirit stop pushing against the flow.

When stepping stones are needed there's guidance ever near,

Be trusting in your God His wisdom and His care.

In His service Jean Hunter

THANKS.

Once again the church was beautifully decorated for Christmas, and our thanks must go to Alison Bilsland, Elaine Duncan, Elise White and her helpers for all their hard work. It was greatly appreciated, and much admired.

We should also thank those who volunteer to provide and arrange the flowers in church each week. The flower rota for this year is pinned up on the hall noticeboard, and if you can help please add your name to the list.

REQUEST FROM ALISON.

Please keep your Pringles containers over the coming year and give them to Alison. She has plans for their use next Christmas!

WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNINGS ROTA.

January 14th	Lavinia Hendry and Sylvia Alison
January 28th	Liz Lawrie and Fiona Brown
February 11th	Ann Lauder and Jean Robertson
February 25th	Grace Bleakley and Mary McKinlay
March 11th	Grace Dickson and Margaret Bryce
March 25th	Myrna Boal and Lesley Murray
April 8th	Liz McKellar and Irene Rollo
April 22nd	Grace Sillars and Maureen Cuthbert
May 6th	Nancy McLeod and Val Sim
May 20th	Anne Green and Nan Meteyard
June 3rd	Jean Robertson and Margaret Bryce
June 17th	Lavinia Hendry and Sylvia Alison

CHURCH NOTICES – Winter 2015

Baptisms: Iona Mary Kennedy 23rd November
 Rose Alexandra Ferguson 24th December
 Penny Eve Ferguson 24th December

Deaths: Brian Boal, East Knowe Lodge, Brodick 2nd November
 Colin Strang, Sheean View, Brodick 29th December
 Hazel Macleod, Cooriedoon, Whiting Bay 3rd January
 Archie Hamilton, Tigh Beag, Brodick 4th January
 Barbara Currie, ex-Sheean Drive, Brodick 10th January
 Agnes Boa, Montrose House, Brodick 16th January

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

28th January 10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall,
 29th January 12noon Service of Prayers for Health and Healing,
 Shiskine Church,
 5th February 7.30pm Service of Taize Worship, Shiskine Church,
8th February 10.30am Sacrament of the Lord's Supper,
 9th February 2pm St Bride's Ladies, Church Hall – Peter Chappell,
 11th February 10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall,
 23rd February 2pm St Bride's Ladies, Church Hall – Allan Richardson,
 25th February 10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall,
 12noon Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Transept,
 2nd March 2pm St Bride's Ladies, Church Hall – Speaker from Social
 Work Dept.,
 5th March 7.30pm Service of Taize Worship, Shiskine Church,
 6th March 2pm World Day of Prayer Service, Lochranza Church,
 11th March 10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall,
 16th March 7.30pm St Bride's Ladies AGM, Church Hall – Jean Hunter
 25th March 10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall,
 26th March 12noon Service of Prayers for Health and Healing,
 Shiskine Church,
 28th March 2pm St Bride's Ladies Easter Fayre, Church Hall,
 29th March 10.30am Palm Sunday Service,
 2nd April 7pm Maundy Thursday Service, Lochranza Church,
 3rd April 2pm Walk of Witness from Holy Cross Church to Brodick
 Church,
 5th April 10.30am Easter Day Service,
 8th April 10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall,
 22nd April 10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall,
 29th April 12noon Service of 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	600944
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Mrs Lorna MacDonald	302499
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