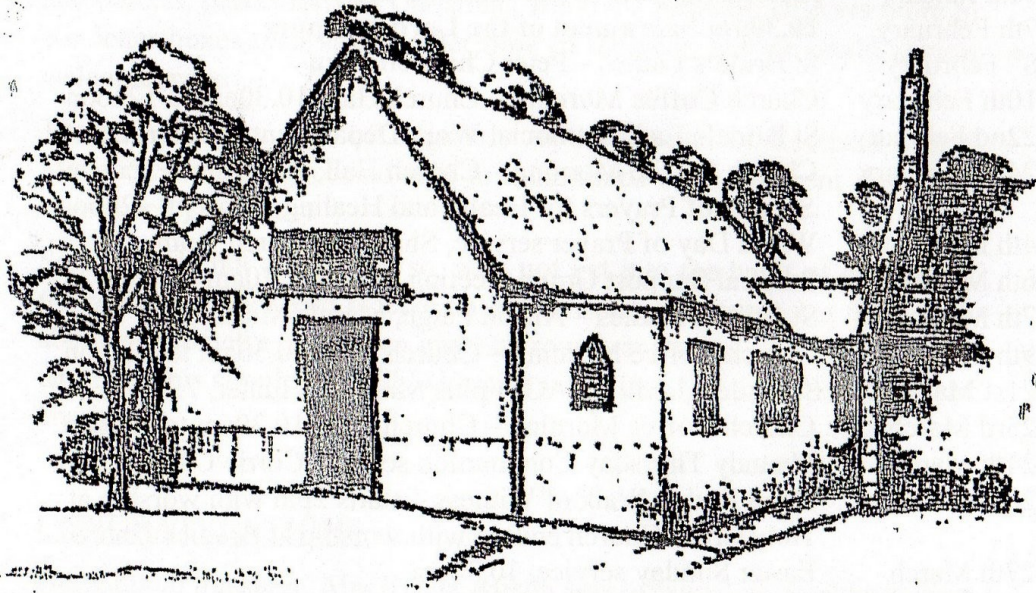


**St Bride's Church
Brodict
Winter 2016
Newsletter**



Brodict Church War Memorial Hall



Scottish Charity No SCO12017 www.brodictchurch.org

Brodick Manse
February 2016

Recently I had to send a letter verifying the church attendance, whilst on Arran, of the children of regular visitors, to help ensure that they would be eligible to be enrolled at a Church of England school in London. For that to be possible, worship every Sunday was a mandatory requirement. With competition for places at a good school in many areas south of the border at a premium, by providing great education, the Church of England can use this carrot and stick approach to ensure their Sunday School rolls in such places are kept at a healthy level, whether or not parents are particularly church minded or not.

I'm sure there are good theological arguments to justify this approach, as no doubt there are good theological arguments for having denominational schools, be they Roman Catholic, Church of England, Quaker or otherwise, where Christian principles and ethos are part of the everyday curriculum. Despite some calls for the Church of Scotland to do likewise cropping up periodically at the General Assembly, the Kirk has quite doggedly declined to follow suit. It isn't that we couldn't do with a boost to falling Sunday School rolls – for we certainly could – it is rather down to a different approach to mission and outreach.

At the heart of that is our parish system, which seeks to ensure a territorial ministry for every parish in the land. Admittedly some parishes like ours at Brodick share a minister and parish Assistant with Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine, and others often also a place of worship, but still the aim is to provide a Church of Scotland presence and witness at the heart of every community in the land, not just to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, but in imitation of their Lord, to serve all who live within the bounds of every parish, church and non-church alike.

Therefore, it is felt that educating Church of Scotland children in a distinct denominational school would undermine that whole principle. Instead of being involved in the everyday life of a community through the local school or schools in the area, we would be encouraging our children to be separate from it. After all, just as Jesus ensured he got alongside people where they were, so He calls Christians to witness in the real world, to engage with it, not separate themselves from it.

It isn't that in the Kirk we don't take Christian education of children and young people as of paramount importance, for we most certainly do, but we would never seek to compel anyone to accept Christ. Jesus never entered anyone's life by force, but waits to be invited, as the famous painting the 'Light of the World' by Holman Hunt illustrates so poignantly, 'Behold I stand at the door and knock, and if anyone should hear my voice and open the door I will come in'.

Invitation to be allowed access to religious education of children in schools here too is at the discretion of the Head Teacher. Jean and I are immensely grateful to be allowed to be involved with all our primary schools at Corrie, Pirnmill and Shiskine as well as at Brodick and to have the wonderful opportunity to get to know the children and to tell them something of the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ, thus enabling them to make their own minds up about Him.

As to their wider knowledge, there is never any fear here, that our children receive anything other than a fabulous education. Besides excellent and dedicated teachers that is partly because our schools are not too big and each part of our island has its own school, which in a rural area like ours is also of immense importance for a well balanced and healthy community life of which the Kirk strives so hard to be a part.

The threat of the closure of Corrie School was for a time a real prospect, now thankfully averted, although there are always fears for the future of smaller schools like Corrie and Pirnmill, as indeed there are for smaller congregations like those at Corrie and Pirnmill churches. It is interesting to note that just as the parishes of Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza and Pirnmill share one minister, they now also share one Head Teacher responsible for Brodick, Corrie and Pirnmill Schools: for the present a good solution to a pressing problem. I hope it is an enduring solution and thus may both our schools and our churches remain open for the foreseeable future.

Angus

Editor's Remarks

As this is the start of 2016 may I wish all our readers a Blessed and a Peaceful New Year.

I once again want to thank all those who have contributed to this edition of the church magazine with a special word of thanks to Norman who is stepping down from his post as Property Convener. I am extremely grateful for all his many detailed and informative property reports submitted to this magazine. He has served this congregation diligently for many years so I am sure you would all like to join me in thanking him for the cheerful and conscientious way in which he carried out his duties. Thank you Norman, you are certainly entitled to a well earned rest.

BLYTHSWOOD CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL 2015

I should like to thank most sincerely the members and many friends of all the North Arran Churches together with our friends in the other Arran Churches for such a magnificent response to the above appeal. In total 189 shoe boxes have been sent on their way to the less fortunate people of Eastern Europe and Northern India, together with £750.50 in donations.

A big thank you to Ann Lauder, Sheena McLean, Lynn McVicar and Anne Mitchell for checking and packing the boxes for dispatch, an onerous task done with care and much laughter. Our thanks also to Mary MacKenzie and the ladies at Lamlash Church for their help in preparing boxes for dispatch.

I am indebted to Tony Morrow and his Staff at Arran Deliveries for the carriage of the boxes to Glasgow, a big thank you for your contribution to the success of this appeal.

Finally, to all those who helped in any way, you have brought joy and laughter this Christmas to many people less fortunate than ourselves and belief that there are those who care for them in this world.

H G Mitchell

St. Bride's Ladies

The first half of our session ended with a very successful Christmas Fayre on 5th December followed by the Christmas party on 14th December. By the time you read this we will have had our first meeting of the New Year. On January 11th we were treated to a most amusing and enjoyable talk by the Rev. Lily McKinnon who is the new minister at Lamlash. We will definitely be hoping to hear her again sometime in the future. The Scots Afternoon takes place on Monday 25th January at 2.00pm. This is in place of the Scots Night which was becoming less well supported. We then look forward to another interesting talk from Graham Chappell on 8th February and a member of the Social Work Department will be our speaker on 22nd February. On 7th March 'Mary's Meals' will be the subject of Alison Paige's talk which should be of interest as we have an ongoing collection for this charity. This brings us to the A.G.M. on the 21st March followed by another interesting slideshow from Jean Hunter on her visit to the Holy Land and Jordon. The session finishes with our Spring Fayre on Saturday 2nd April.

Please remember our meetings are open to everyone and men are especially welcome.

Church Charities

During 2015 the congregation made the following generous donations to our chosen charities.

Poppy Scotland £102, Syrian Refugee Appeal £256, Mary's Meals £171
Our donation to Mary's Meals in December qualified for government match funding of £87.

It costs £12.50 to feed a child for a whole school year, so please remember the bottle is always in the vestibule waiting for your small change.

Alison Paige will be giving a presentation on the work of Mary's Meals at the St Bride's Ladies meeting on the 7th March at 2pm. The meeting is open to all, so why not come along to learn more about the work of this worthy charity.

SA

Friends of Montrose House Association

Winter 2016 Report

As the old year passes and the New Year begins we take the opportunity to cast a backward eye on the past year's events and look forward to the future with eager anticipation.

Undoubtedly 2015 was the most traumatic in the 15 year existence of our organisation with the closing of the old building and the transfer to a new establishment further up the glen. Never was the official NAC corporate term 'CHALLENGE' more appropriate!

As noted in previous reports we as a group were hugely disappointed that many of the points we raised at the numerous 'consultation' meetings along the way had clearly not been addressed and we have had to resort to persistent lobbying of NAC management, with little effect to date, as many issues remain unresolved - not least of which is the appointment of a full time manager, preferably island based. The opening ceremony in June was very much a corporate affair organised by North Ayrshire Council in conjunction with the Joint Board of North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership. There was remarkably little local involvement with invitations strictly limited.

In complete contrast the Annual Summer Fete, organised by ourselves, in close conjunction with Montrose House and Stronach Daycare staff, was a truly 'Open Day' with members of the public invited to come along and view the magnificent new building and contribute to our main fundraising event of the year.

Undoubtedly a most significant occurrence during the past year was the recognition of the need for and the establishment of a new organisation entitled 'Montrose House Residents Support Group', MHRSG. The Mission Purpose states 'To directly represent the interests and needs of the residents and to enhance communication for residents, relatives, and all relevant agencies involved with Montrose House'. This is entirely complementary to our organisation and we have already benefitted greatly from liaising with them in matters of common interest.

We look forward eagerly to the coming year and proving that 'Together We Make a Difference'.

The traditional events of Hallowe'en and Christmas Parties have taken place and proved a great success despite many difficulties experienced due to the changes in venue and senior staff who were previously involved. The new location certainly presents a huge challenge to artistes in projecting their voice over a span of 180 degrees!

At the time of writing plans are well advanced for the next event on the calendar, the Burns Supper in January, although we will greatly miss the contribution of the Clarke family for the entertainment this year.

Re-planting of external tubs with bulbs has proceeded despite the awful weather, with help from daycare. Looking to the year ahead there is much uncertainty surrounding the future role of Montrose House as indications are that consideration is being given to the appointment of additional nursing staff, thus changing the whole ethos of the establishment from Care Home to Nursing Home, reflecting the changing needs of residents. We await developments with keen interest,

Property Report

A Good New Year, Health and Happiness.

The Manse.

The reinstatement of the kitchen is now complete as is the varnish work to the hall floor.

On lifting the linoleum adjacent to the back door it was discovered that the flooring was black where water had penetrated over a period. As new plywood was being laid on the existing flooring I decided to acquire two quotations to replace the wooden back door. Quotes not submitted as yet. Due to exceptionally bad weather the external woodwork has not been painted to date.

I have now instructed the joiner to proceed with the insulation to the back wall of the garage. This will possibly be done in February.

I have asked the electrician to replace the fan in the downstairs toilet, and to check the ring circuits for power and lighting. There is now a fire extinguisher for use in the kitchen.

The Church Hall.

There has been a further blockage in the drain from the ladies toilet. Please take notice of the instruction on the wall regarding the toilet usage. Smoke detector batteries have been changed. Fluorescent tubes with starters have been replaced. Kitchen cutlery drawer is requiring attention.

The Church.

The spot bulbs on the Cross have been changed to LED bright lights. The bulbs in the transept have also been changed where necessary. A damp patch has appeared on the floor of the bell tower which needs addressing. This item will require further investigation. I would hope to have the organ tuned in April/ May.

This news letter will possibly be my last before retiring from the Board, and as Property Convener.

I have agreed to cover for my successor, until he returns from holiday at the end of February. It has been a period of 10 years since taking over from Michael Reeve, and I now feel the time has come for a younger person to follow on.

I feel I leave the properties in a sound condition, knowing that there will always be maintenance of some nature to be fulfilled. I thank you for your continued support over the years, and I am confident, you will give the same commitment to him, as has been given to me.

Arran Churches Together

The Christingle Service was held in Whiting Bay Church on 26th November, and the offering went to Christian Aid.

On December 12th about 16 of us gathered in the Co-op to sing carols in aid of the Co-op's own group of charities. As usual, we were ably accompanied by Carol Harwood on keyboard. We sang a selection of well-known carols for about an hour, and the atmosphere in the store was very festive.

By the time this goes to print, we shall have had the ever popular Service of Christian Unity, to be held on Sunday January 17th in St. Molio's, Shiskine at 12 noon.

We now look forward to the World Day of Prayer on Friday 4th March, and the Good Friday Walk of Witness on March 25th

Wednesday Coffee Morning Rota January- June 2016

13-Jan	M MacKinlay	M.Cameron
27-Jan	E.Lawrie	G.Dickson
10-Feb	N.Mcleod	V.Sim
24-Feb	G.Bleakley	G.Sillars
09-Mar	A.Mitchell	E.McKellar
23-Mar	I.Rollo	A.Green
06-Apr	M.Bryce	L.Murray
20-Apr	J.Robertson	A.Lauder
04-May	M.Boal	L.Hendry
18-May	S.Allison	F.Brown
01-Jun	M MacKinlay	M.Cameron
15-Jun	E.Lawrie	G.Bleakley
29-Jun	G.Sillars	G.Dickson

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 admired and appreciated.

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 on the church hall noticeboard, and if you can help please add your name to the list. Donations to the flower fund would also be appreciated and can be given to either Ann Lauder or Sylvia Alison.

USED STAMPS

The used postage stamp container in the church vestibule has been well filled by those who make a point of keeping the stamps from their letters and parcels, particularly at Christmas when the postman delivers more to our letter boxes than at any other time of the year, but we could always welcome more.

These stamps are sent off regularly to the Church of Scotland World Mission Stamp Project and sold to raise funds for a different deserving cause each year.

So if you do not already do so, why not get into the habit of cutting off the postage stamps you receive on letters or parcels, trimming them with about a centimetre (or half an inch) all round, and bring your collection to church. This simple act will help raise vital funds for deserving overseas charities.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our Church treasurer, Mrs Sylvia Alison was ordained as an elder during morning service on Sunday 10th January. Sylvia has been an active member of the church for a number of years, and has not only proved to be a very competent treasurer but is involved in many aspects of church and community life in Brodick and beyond.

CHURCH NOTICES – Winter 2016

New Member: Mrs Susan Adamson, The Manse, Brodick, from Kilmory.

Deaths:

Robert Liddy, Auchendar Cottage, Brodick	12 th October
Sandy Russell, Cooriedoon, Whiting Bay	14 th October
Bill Bowden, 29 Ben Lister Road, Lamlash	7 th November
Peggy Currie, Cooriedoon, Whiting Bay	8 th November
Iain Johnston, Homestead, Brodick	10 th December
Roger Peacock, 3 Glen Avenue, Brodick	18 th December
John Bason, Cooriedoon, Whiting Bay	6 th January

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

25 th January	St Bride's Ladies – Scots Afternoon, 2pm
27 th January	Church Coffee Morning – Church Hall, 10.30am to 12noon
28 th January	Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Shiskine, 12noon
31st January	Pastoral Support Group meeting, transept, 10am
7th February	10.30am Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
8 th February	St Bride's Ladies – Peter Chappell, 2pm
10th February	Church Coffee Morning – Church Hall, 10.30am to 12noon
22nd February	St Bride's Ladies – Social Work Department speaker, 2pm
24th February	Church Coffee Morning – Church Hall, 10.30am to 12noon
	Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, transept, 12noon
4th March	World Day of Prayer service, Shiskine Church, 2pm
6th March	Pastoral Support Group meeting, transept, 10am
7th March	St Bride's Ladies – Alison Paige, Mary's Meals, 2pm
9th March	Church Coffee Morning – Church Hall, 10.30am to 12noon
21st March	St Bride's Ladies – AGM plus Mrs Jean Hunter, 7.30pm
23rd March	Church Coffee Morning – Church Hall, 10.30am to 12noon
24th March	Maundy Thursday Communion service, Corrie Church, 7pm
25th March	Good Friday Walk of Witness – starts 2pm with worship at Holy Cross Church ending with worship at Brodick Church
27th March	Easter Sunday service, 10.30am
31st March	Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Shiskine, 12noon
2nd April	St Bride's Ladies Spring Fayre, 2pm
3rd April	Pastoral Support Group meeting, transept, 10am
6th April	Church Coffee Morning – Church Hall, 10.30am to 12noon
20th April	Church Coffee Morning – Church Hall, 10.30am to 12noon
27th April	Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, transept, 12noon
<u>1st May</u>	10.30am Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
	Thanksgiving service, Brodick, 7pm