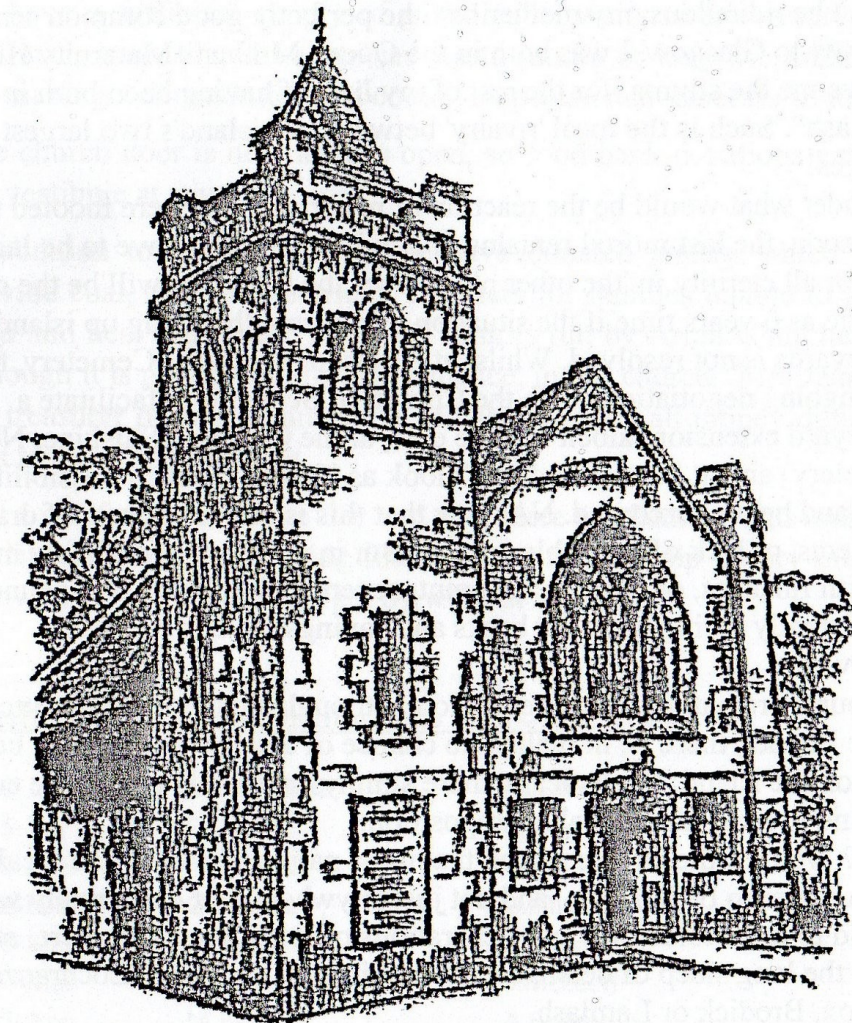


WHO'S WHO AT BRODICK CHURCH

Minister	Rev. Angus Adamson	302334
Parish Assistant	Mrs Jean Hunter	860380
Session Clerk	Mr John Lauder	303517
Clerk to the Congregational Board	Mrs Shona Hume	302625
Treasurer	Mrs Sylvia Alison	302613
Property Convener	Mr Colin MacKenzie	302329
Freewill Offering Convener	Mrs Elizabeth McKellar	302230
Presbytery Elder	Mr Hamish Mitchell	302285
Church Magazine Editor	Mrs Sheena McLean	303579
Pastoral Support Team Conveners	Mrs Elizabeth McKellar Mrs Ann Lauder	302230 303517
Sunday School Leader	Mrs Ann MacKay	600944
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Mrs Lorna MacDonald	302499
Hall Letting Conveners	Mrs Joyce Buchanan Mrs Susan Dobson	600308 302365
Church Minibus Convener	Mrs Alison Bilsland	303505
Coffee Morning Convener	Mrs Margaret Bryce	302117
Sunday Tea Convener	Mrs Anne Mitchell	302285
Church Flower Convener	Mrs Ann Lauder	303517
"Life and Work" Convener	Mrs Elise White	302387

St Bride's Church Brodick

Newsletter



Winter 2017

One of the most humorous stories I have heard since moving to Brodick was when I was in the company of a good friend who was born into an old established Brodick family. On this occasion, asked by a visitor if we were locals and born on the island at the AWMH, my companion looked at the poor lady questioner as if she had suddenly grown horns and replied: "Don't be ridiculous, my mother had the perfectly good common sense to go away to Glasgow. I was born in the Queen Mother's Maternity Hospital, to save me the stigma, for the rest of my life, of having been born in Lamlash". Such is the local 'rivalry' between our island's two largest villages!

I wonder what would be the reaction of my friend if it were mooted that very soon, the last mortal remains of Brodick folk will have to be laid to rest for all eternity in 'the other place' over the hill. That will be the case in as little as 6 years time if the situation of our rapidly filling up island graveyards is not resolved. Whilst at Kilbride (Lamlash) Cemetery, there are ongoing negotiations with the Church of Scotland to facilitate a graveyard extension, albeit at huge cost, at the Clachan (Shiskine, New Cemetery) and at Sannox it doesn't look as if there is much possibility of new land being purchased. NAC say that this is either because of drainage problems, or lack of available ground. But in reality, it is probably more to do with finances, or more to the point, severe lack of them. All councils are currently facing huge cut backs and savings have to be made somewhere.

Of course cremation is another option, although again, despite mutterings in the Banner, there is, in reality, no chance of a crematorium ever being built on the island. Realistically there simply isn't likely ever to be enough demand to make that a viable proposition.

Why? Well for the simple reason that most native islanders and locals much prefer to be buried – and not just anywhere, but desperately want to be laid to rest beside previous generations of loved ones and there, at peace sleep the long sleep of death, be that at Kilmory, Shiskine, Lochranza, Sannox, Brodick or Lamlash.

Many, even devout Christians, will argue that that is daft. Surely it is only the soul of the righteous that remains after death and it will be instantaneously transported to God's nearer presence in heaven? That may be so, but it depends on where you think heaven is. For me it is very near. Doesn't the Psalmist remind us that 'there is nowhere we can flee from

Food Bank.

Since the autumn we have experienced a surge in donations, and at one time we thought we had too much. However, just before Christmas 25 bags of food, with a turkey dinner in each, were distributed to families who had been identified as most in need of support.

Stocks of food have gone down since then as the winter progresses and while we have a sufficient supply of pasta items, we have few reserves of meat products, soup, tinned vegetables, pasta sauces or long life milk. So if you are making a donation of food could you please remember these items.

The church door is now always open, so food bank donations can be left in the vestibule at any time.

In addition to food, some people have donated money which is used to provide coal, logs, or electricity vouchers for families unable to afford both food and heat and light. The food bank is run by Arran Churches Together although it is now based, for convenience, in our church. Mrs Jean Hunter is the treasurer of that organisation and she receives all money donations, and sees to their disbursement.

It is a sad fact that, in this day and age, there are families and individuals on the island who are struggling financially and your help is very much needed – how else would such folk get by without it?

Wednesday Coffee Morning Rota Jan-June. 2017

11-Jan	M.MacKinlay	M.Cameron
25-Jan	E.Lawrie	I.Doig
08-Feb	N.Mcleod	V.Sim
22-Feb	G.Bleakley	G.Sillars
08-Mar	M.Bryce	A.Bilsland
22-Mar	J.Robertson	S.McLean
05-Apr	M.Boal	A.Green
19-Apr	L.Hendry	S.Allison
03-May	I.Rollo	E.McKellar
17-May	A.Lauder	G.Dickson
31-May	A.Mitchell	E.Lawrie
14-Jun	M.MacKinlay	M.Cameron
28-Jun	M.Boal	M.Bryce

FLOWER ROTA.

The new rota is on the church hall noticeboard, and if you can help please add your name to the list on the week(s) that you would like. If you want to donate, but would like someone else to arrange the flowers for you, that can be done by having a word with Ann Lauder. Donations to the flower fund can be given, at any time, to our church treasurer Sylvia Alison, or to Ann.

THANKS.

Every year our church is beautifully decorated at Christmas time by a dedicated group of volunteers. Christmas just past was certainly no exception with each window, the vestibule, and the Christmas tree covered with tasteful decorations. So thank you to Elise, Elaine, Elbie, Alison, Iain, and Bert. Your work was very much appreciated.

USED STAMPS.

Many thanks again to so many of you who make a point of clipping round any postage stamps which you receive and leaving them in the box in the vestibule. Please continue to help by trimming about a centimetre (or quarter of an inch in 'old money') from around the stamp – as we have to trim any excess before they are forwarded to the Church of Scotland Stamp Bureau.

Each year a different overseas project is supported by the funds raised from selling the stamps, and this year it is the centre run by the Church of South India who teach about climate change and the need to conserve the earth which God has given us.

If you have not as yet developed the habit of saving the used stamps from letters and cards you receive, why not give it a go?

ST. BRIDE'S LADIES.

The first half of our session was very successful.

On 24th October the speaker gave an illustrated talk about Street Pastors. Few of us knew anything about them and were amazed at the work done by these volunteers mainly during the night in the city streets.

In November, Graham Johnston, Leader of Arran Youth Foundation (AYF), spoke with enthusiasm of his work with the group. It was encouraging to hear that about 130 youngsters were members enjoying a wide range of activities both indoors and outdoors.

Our speaker on 28th Nov. was Douglas Johnston who gave an interesting talk on wood. His work had taken him to many different countries sourcing various kinds of wood, each with its own special qualities. Because of its endless uses, we soon realised that wood was an almost indispensable commodity which we couldn't do without.

The Christmas Fayre in December was once again successful with a steady stream of visitors enjoying the stalls etc.

We rounded off the year with a delicious Christmas Lunch provided by Trish at Brodick Golf Club---an occasion definitely to be repeated next December.

We have already had our January meeting when Dr Elizabeth White spoke of her work all over the world as an epidemiologist. Her talk was illustrated with some amusing anecdotes.

We now look forward to our Scot's afternoon on 23rd January.

On 13th February we have Jim Cassels talking about New Zealand and Lucy Kerr giving a demonstration of flower arranging on 27th February. Our speaker on 13th March is from Epilepsy Scotland followed by the AGM on March 27th with Jean Hunter telling us about her recent travels. Our session ends with the Spring Fayre on 8th April.

As usual everyone is welcome at our meetings.

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR 2017

This was used by me in a Service on New Year's Day:

1. Speak to people – there is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. Smile at people – it takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to smile.
3. Call people by name – the sweetest music to anyone's ear is the sound of their name – it means it is known by you and important to you.
4. Be friendly and helpful – if you want to have friends, be friendly.
5. Be cordial – speak and act as if everything you do is a genuine pleasure.
6. Be genuinely interested in people – you can love everyone if you really try.
7. Be generous with praise and cautious with criticism.
8. Be considerate of the feelings of others – it will be appreciated.
9. Be thoughtful of the opinions of others – there are three sides to every controversy; yours, the other person's and the right one.
10. Be alert to give service – what counts most in the life is what we do for others.

Jesus said 'Love the Lord your God' (and) 'love your neighbour as yourself'.

(words from Mark 12: 30-31)

Blessings to you all in 2017

Jean Hunter

Friends of Montrose House Association

Winter 2017

Since the last report, there has been a visit by the Care Commission who has upgraded the score for management in Montrose House but other categories still require improvement. Until this happens the third wing will not come into use.

The gardens still require a vast amount of work but hopefully this will be completed gradually over the coming months. If anyone would care to take over a small corner this would be much appreciated. The daffodils are now beginning to appear in the tubs and the strip at the car park. There is still no outside tap and the bird camera also awaits installation. Inside Wi-Fi has been installed and a tablet will be purchased so that, with assistance from staff, residents may communicate with family and friends using Skype.

With stalwart effort from the committee of F.O.M.H.A. the Xmas decorations were in place in time for the Xmas Party at the beginning of December. This gave the home a delightfully festive air. The party was held in Stronach. Stuart Gough, Yvonne Brothers, Mike Bailey, talented youngsters from the High school supported by their teacher James O'Neill and also the colourful Belly Dancing Group provided splendid entertainment. The kitchen staff provided a superb finger buffet which was enjoyed by all. Four of the residents appreciated their outing to the pantomime Beauty and the Beast which was held in the High School. As I write we look forward to the Burns Supper which will take place on 25th January. Residents who are able, also enjoy visits to Music Matters in Lamlash Church Hall on the last Thursday of each month.

John Sillars has very kindly taken over the position of Chairman of the residents' meetings which take place once a month. Topics such as gardens, menus, in-house newsletters, curtains for the winter garden room and the possibility of acquiring a vehicle with wheelchair access for outings are discussed. Photographs of residents' key workers will be placed in their rooms but they are also advised to speak to any member of staff if there is any problem with their room.

Finally it is with sadness I report the death of resident Joey Bell and night staff carer Liz McKinnie.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2016

Thank you for the wonderful support to the annual Shoebox Appeal. 207 shoeboxes was an excellent response and will have brought happiness to those who have nothing, no friends or presents to share. Thank you for the donation of £732 towards the cost of transport.

Thanks are also due to Sheena Maclean, Anne Lauder, Liz McKellar, Lynne McVicar and Anne Mitchell for all their work in preparing the boxes for dispatch. Thanks also to Mary Mackenzie and the team of ladies at Lamlash Church for their help. A big thank you to Arran Deliveries for providing the transport.

Now is the time to look forward to the 2017 Appeal. Shoeboxes will be in short supply due to retailers having to sell shoes with their boxes to enable returns if necessary. Start collecting items for your box and if you knit, hats scarves and gloves would be most welcome.

Thank you for bringing hope and a smile back to those in need.

Hamish Mitchell

Reflections of a Reader

As I reflect on my time spent with Angus in the North linkage churches as a Reader in Training, I would firstly like to thank everyone for their support, encouragement and love shown right from the beginning of my placement. I felt truly welcomed in each of the parishes.

It has been a time where I have been challenged and stretched, both in my faith and in my abilities, but one where I feel I have grown in both. I've enjoyed all aspects of the training, in particular, the opportunities to get to know the congregations and my involvement with the children in church and school assemblies. Of course the many social events I've attended were an added bonus.

My thanks also go to Angus for his continued support, encouragement and patience with me as an often, 'slow learner.' And finally, I give thanks to God for His calling to the Readership as without that, I wouldn't have started.

I can now look forward to a second six-month placement in Lamlash and Kilmory and no doubt to even more challenging experiences!

Aileen Brookens

God's presence in the heights or depths, even were we to take the wings of the morning or dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, there his hand shall lead us ... and holds us fast.'

God's love surrounds us at all times and in all places. It stands to reason therefore, so too must our loved ones who have gone before us into God's nearer presence also be surrounding us at all times, wherever we go. Heaven is merely somewhere close by, wherever we are. We are bound to our loved ones and them to us by the bonds of love. Love is the only thing that death cannot whither or perish or destroy. I feel that most of all here in Arran, my native island home, my family home for generations. And for me as I have oft repeated, Arran is a 'thin place' where heaven and earth do touch.

Many feel the deepest comfort in grief is found in visiting family graves. There, through that unbreakable bond of love, they feel closest to their departed loved ones, who's mortal remains lie beneath their feet – their gravestones almost literally 'touching places' between mortality and immortality. For such people there can only be one place to be laid to rest themselves, and that must be beside those dear family members who have gone before.

To that end in the past many people purchased family lairs to ensure there was no problem in being able to facilitate such a wish. However, once again financial constraints have put paid to the possibility of this. It stands to reason a plot bought 30 years ago for as little as £100 isn't going to be as lucrative as one bought today at £1800. The ongoing, ever increasing, cost of up-keeping the graveyards rightly demands expediency.

Thus to have such a thing as a choice of being buried beside loved ones denied by the current NAC proposals, would be for many folks, myself included, a truly terrible blow. It isn't a matter of life and death; it is in many ways much more important. It is a matter of life after death. So when the time comes for the consultation on our graveyards promised by NAC to begin, please go and have your say. No one really wants to think of their death, or the death of a loved one. Yet it is the one thing that is utterly inevitable. Please don't wait until then to face the disappointment and pain of not being able to lie where you know instinctively you want to be, or your loved one to be, as has happened all too often in the past. Do something now to prevent what will be an irreversible decision being made, not just for us, but for future generations of Arran folk to come.

Angus

Editor's Remarks

At this the start of 2017 may I wish all our readers a Happy and Healthy New Year.

On the Sunday before Christmas the congregation were delighted by the Sunday school's rendition of the story of the nativity. It was delivered with much gusto and humour by the fourteen children of the Sunday school and was much enjoyed by all. We give our thanks to them and Mrs. Ann MacKay for all their hard work.

As always, my thanks to all those who have contributed to this magazine and a special thanks to Anne and John whose help is invaluable.

If you would like to contribute to this magazine I can be contacted on 01770303579 or sheenamcl4@gmail.com

Arran Churches Together

The popular Service of Christian Unity, which provides an opportunity for the various denominations on the island to come together in worship, was held this year in Lamlash church on Sunday 15th January and was very well attended.

The preacher was Leslie Edge who is the chaplain to the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice in Glasgow. He preached on the theme of "The Widow's Mite," and encouraged us in active and vocal congregational participation. Texts were beautifully read by members of the different denominations. We now look forward to the World Day of Prayer on Friday 3rd March and the Good Friday Walk of Witness on April 14th.

Property Report

There is very little to report this quarter.

The Manse

The insulation work between the garage and the bedroom has been completed.

The Church

The pointing has been repaired between the slates and the wall at the back of the chancel. At present we are awaiting estimates and approval for the shelving for the food bank.

I am also awaiting estimates to replace the time clock in the heating systems.

Colin S MacKenzie

CHURCH NOTICES – Winter 2017

Baptism:	Louis Dirk Botha, Wellington, New Zealand	24th December
Deaths:	Margaret McKay, 7 Sheean Drive, Brodick	10th November
	Chris Smith, 3 Glen Road, Brodick	17th November
	Karina Amdor, Fen Place, Whiting Bay	27th November
	Joey Bell, Montrose House, Brodick	2nd January

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5th February -	Pastoral Support Group meet in the transept at 10am.
8th February -	Coffee Morning in the church hall from 10.30am to 12noon.
12th February-	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 10.30am.
13th February -	St Bride's Ladies – Jim Cassells on New Zealand at 2pm.
22nd February -	Coffee Morning in the church hall from 10.30am to 12noon.
23rd February -	Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Shiskine at 12noon.
25th February -	Presbytery visit re Brodick Church Life, church hall at 11am.
27th February -	St Bride's Ladies – Lucy Kerr on Flower Arranging at 2pm.
3rd March -	World Day of Prayer Service – Holy Cross Church at 2pm.
5th March -	Pastoral Support Group meet in the transept at 10am.
8th March -	Coffee Morning in the church hall from 10.30am to 12noon.
12th March -	Stated Annual meeting after curtailed 10.30am morning service.
13th March -	St Bride's Ladies – Speaker from Epilepsy Scotland at 2pm.
22nd March -	Coffee Morning in the church hall from 10.30am to 12noon.
27th March -	St Bride's Ladies – AGM plus talk by Mrs Jean Hunter at 2pm.
29th March -	Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Brodick at 12noon.
2nd April -	Pastoral Support Group meet in the transept at 10am.
5th April -	Coffee Morning in the church hall from 10.30am to 12noon.
8th April -	St. Bride's Ladies Easter Fayre in the church hall at 2pm.
13th April -	Maundy Thursday communion service in Brodick Church at 7pm.
14th April -	Good Friday Walk of Witness starts at Holy Cross Church at 2pm.
16th April -	Easter Sunday service at 10.30am.
19th April -	Coffee Morning in the church hall from 10.30am to 12noon.
26th April -	Congregational Board and Kirk Session at 7pm in the church.
27th April -	Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Shiskine at 12noon.
3rd May -	Coffee Morning in the church hall from 10.30am to 12noon.
7th May -	Pastoral Support Group meet in the transept at 10am.
14th May -	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 10.30am.