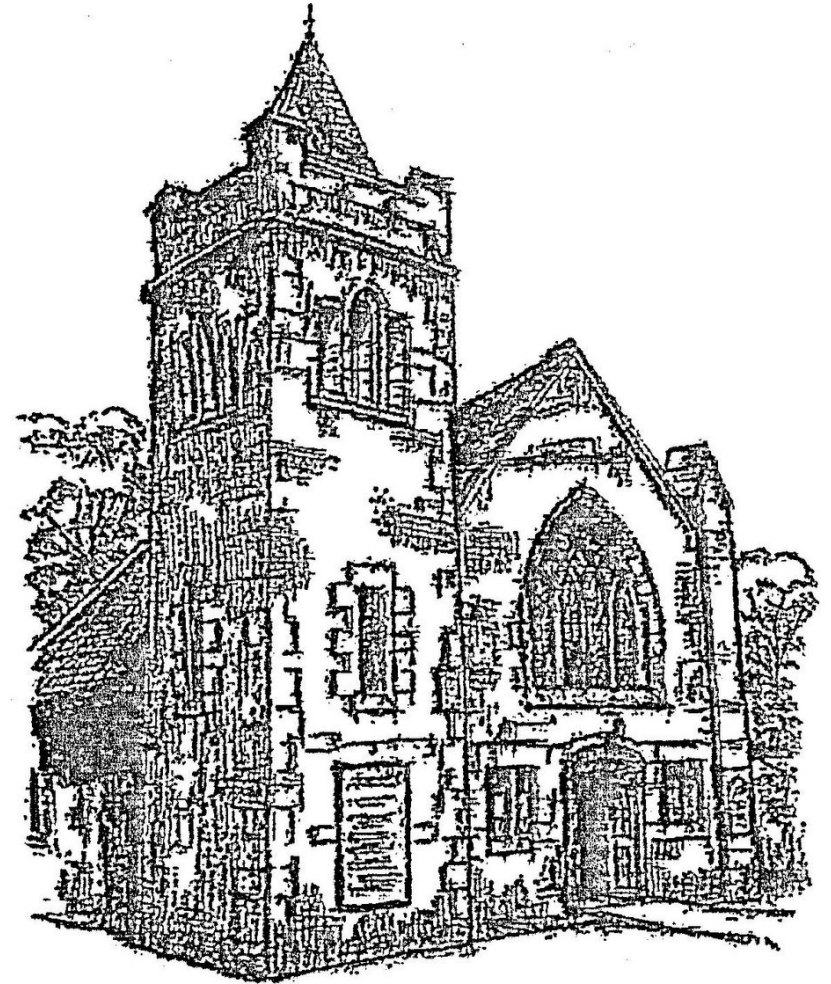


WHO'S WHO AT BRODICK CHURCH

Minister	Rev. Angus Adamson	302334
Parish Assistant	Mrs Jean Hunter	860380
Session Clerk	Mrs Elizabeth Lawrie	302782
Deputy Session Clerk	Mr Alan Milligan	303968
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	Mrs Lorna MacDonald	302499
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 Convener	Mrs Susan Dobson	302365
Church Minibus Convener	Mrs Alison Bilsland	303505
Coffee Morning Convener	Mrs Margaret Bryce	302117
Sunday Tea Convener	Mrs Susan Dobson	302365
Church Flower Convener	Mrs Ann Lauder	303517
"Life and Work" Convener	Mrs Elise White	302387

St Bride's Church Brodick

Newsletter



Winter 2019

Brodick Church Manse
February 2019

As a result of continued falling Kirk membership, on the 9th February in West Kilbride Church there will be a conference to begin the process of once again making fairly drastic cuts in the national church. Every Presbytery in Scotland is going to have to reduce its number of ministers by a fifth. This will inevitably mean the linking or uniting of congregations and the closure of more church buildings. At least this time around, by inviting proposals from congregations themselves as to finding a plan for the future, the process will start from the bottom up, not something imposed from above by the powers that be.

Naturally our first instinct will be to ask, what will that mean for us here on Arran and at Brodick lw Corrie lw Lochranza & Pirnmill lw Shiskine? The simple answer is, we don't know. That said, having discussed this at Kirk Session level in preparation for the beginning of this process, we feel we have a good case to remain pretty much as we are. As a linkage with our motto 'independent but working together' we are still self-financing and paying our way. Equally importantly, we are managing to keep our buildings in good repair and open for worship. However, should we allow any of our churches to require huge sums of money to be spent on them, or fail to meet our ministry and mission allocations, then that would inevitably mean otherwise and even the closure of much-loved buildings.

And all of our churches are much-loved, not just by the individual congregations concerned but by your minister. I am often asked which of the five is my favourite. The simple answer, the one I am conducting worship in at the time. Although I subscribe to the old west-highland understanding that the church is not a building of bricks and mortar – or in the case of Pirnmill of tin and wood – but 'wherever the people gather around the minister and word of God, then there is the church', I still feel that currently all of the five is vital to our Christian witness, each perfectly placed at the heart of each of our vibrant communities. And there is more to our church buildings than merely providing a dry, comfortable and hopefully warm places to worship, enabling people to gather around the minister to hear the Word of God proclaimed.

One of my favourite hymns based on 1 Chronicles 16:29 advocates that we 'Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness' (CH4 No 201). For me it is vitally important our churches are also places of beauty, be that with simple, plain, unfussy Presbyterian interiors as at Pirnmill, St Molios and Brodick St Bride's, or at the other end of the scale the ornate Scoto-Catholic Arts and Crafts interior of Corrie, its design based on a French cathedral, with choir stalls, and Communion Table placed in the chancel almost like a high altar, or the three-hundred-year-old Lochranza St Bride's somewhere in between those extremes. High church or low, all churches are sanctuaries where we are enabled to be drawn out of the everyday mundane towards the sacred. Holy places where it is easy to feel in the presence of the holiness and otherness of God.

We are constantly told, as never before, the modern generation are being drawn to the spiritual dimension to life, yet often I feel the fact we already have wonderful buildings designed to allow for that to happen, is completely overlooked.

Not only that, for many Christians, faith began in church and not just because they were taken there to Sunday School to learn about Jesus, but because once there, they felt and understood the presence and the nearness of Almighty God. I am one of those people. Church buildings and their beauty are very important to me, they help nourish and sustain my faith.

That doesn't mean that they should forever remain unchanged and not be allowed to evolve to meet modern day requirements. Currently at St Molios the congregation are contemplating doing away with the old dilapidated church hall and placing it inside the church. This is to be achieved by taking out the rear pews to make hall space, but by keeping the front of the sanctuary as it is, hopefully the building will still retain its architectural integrity and breath-taking beauty. Hence, from being used once a week, it will be used much more frequently. A new eco-friendly heating system will also be part of the plan.

Having hall-type churches is of course not a modern idea. John James Burnett the same architect who designed St Molios also designed Corrie Church, which has always had a hall-type sanctuary with no fixed pews and moveable seating, whilst the congregation at Lochranza have already

taken out some of the fixed rear pews to make a social area for coffee after the service. And if I may advocate something even more radical, maybe there is scope to explore the idea of taking out the fixed seating to make the Pirnmill church building a possible replacement for the village hall, now well past its best. A church also used as a hall, nothing new there either. The current tin church hall at Brodick, which is used every day for a whole host of purposes was once the Bennecarrigan United Free Church and sat near the end of the Ross Road, until it was dismantled in 1949 and reassembled in its current location.

Whatever happens, hopefully all of our buildings in the joint linkage will remain useful and important to our work of mission, outreach and Christian service. And next time in church pause and think about your surroundings. Perhaps in doing so you too will find a renewed appreciation of them for your own spiritual life.

Angus

Editor's Remarks

At this the start of 2019 may I wish all our readers a Happy and Healthy New Year.

On the Sunday 23rd December the highlight of the service was the nativity story told and performed by the Sunday School. It was much appreciated by the congregation and the children of the Sunday School are to be congratulated on another fine performance. Our thanks, once again, go to Mrs. Ann MacKay and Cameron for all their hard work.

As always, my thanks to all those who have contributed to this magazine.

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

Friends of Montrose House Association Winter 2019

The winter events for the residents started with a busy and fun Halloween Party on 31st October, many of the residents enjoying the "trick or "treating" from the visiting children who dooked for apples, sang and told jokes and were rewarded with sweets and chocolate apples.

On 22nd November, Kerry Renney, who has been in Montrose House as temporary deputy manager for the last 2 years, marked her departure by holding an "Oscars" night to say farewell and to celebrate Montrose House winning a prestigious North Ayrshire award for good management. Several staff were also honoured for their dedicated service, most notably Minnie Bell and regular volunteer Marjorie Bannatyne for all their work in the garden. The evening was fronted by a suitably dramatic John Sillars who as well as helping Kerry and Morven with their presentation has been very involved in acquiring more funding from North Ayrshire Parks Department.

The improvement on the garden is already marked. Low lying damp areas have been drained, borders dug and planting begun. There have been some generous donations of shrubs and plants but the Friends will continue to help with funding.

Family joined the residents for the annual Christmas Party on the 5th December which followed the popular format of good food provided by the kitchen, an abundant bar and great music from the Montrose House Ceilidh Band, Yvonne Brothers, Mark Harwood and a jovial Santa.

The Scots night will be held in the dining room on Thursday 24th Jan and again the Montrose House Ceilidh band will play during the meal. Yvonne Brothers continues to play monthly and Ain't Misbehaving entertained in December. A new exercise class run by KA Leisure has just started and seems to be popular.

Sadly there are three recent deaths to report: Ken Riley in October, Forrest Auld in December and Isabella Fullerton in January.

A.Keir

And when you pray.... (Matthew 6:7a)

“How do you eat yours?” That was the question in a certain egg-shaped confectionery advert. The implication being that there is no right way to do it, but rather it’s about how you best experience the egg.

How do you pray?

Perhaps you haven’t really thought about it too much. Perhaps it’s now hard to concentrate because you’re thinking about chocolate, but regardless of appetite, past experiences, how we wrap it up or try to explain it, prayer can be rather confusing. It can often be a mystery. It can at times seem like a chore. It can even be a blessed relief.

So then, how *do* you pray?

Are you a morning person? Do you greet the sunrise with thanks and praise to our God? Do you utter hopeful words and try and live them throughout the day to come? Are you more spontaneous? Do you respond to life with a ‘breath prayer’, off the cuff, as life makes you dance to its tune and in each moment you seek the steadying hand of our Creator and Sustainer?

Perhaps you find yourself needing space. Like a free-diver coming up for air after plumbing the depths. Maybe you carve out some time in your day to be still and know the presence of God. You may prefer to reflect on your day in the presence of God, as was the practice of Ignatius of Loyola, who gave us the daily examen – a way of praying that helps us recognise God’s presence in the midst of the day just lived.

The practice of prayer is part of the lifeblood of our faith. We may find ourselves in the darkest of circumstances, when prayer is the only thing that we can turn to for comfort. We might see prayer as that thing we do together on a Sunday, or as the words said on our behalf by a minister or worship leader. Maybe it is the one thing that keeps us going, those times when we can just let God know how we are feeling. It might even be that thing that happens by accident or that we’re unaware of until, looking back on a time of quiet, perhaps with a cup of tea or watching the world go by from our living room window, we realise that in the stillness, God was there the whole time.

Whatever your habit or preference may not really matter. What is important is that we are having the conversation, that we are opening ourselves up to God in whatever moment we can manage, that in some way prayer is part of our life. Prayer may be a constant companion on the journey, or a friend that visits once in a while, to bring comfort and solace. It may be something deeper, more mysterious that is largely left unspoken, something felt, yearned for, grieved over or something long-forgotten brought to mind.

How we pray then, is not the most important thing, but rather that the experience of prayer and the encounter with God is recognised. That our faith is tended and our relationship with God is nurtured, in precious moments. No fancy wrapping is needed and it may not always taste sweet but, in the midst of life, listening for and opening our hearts to God is indeed food for the soul.

Resourcing Worship Team, Mission & Discipleship Council

Shoebbox Appeal 2018

Once again, I would like to thank everyone involved in filling boxes for all their hard work. As you all know it was very, very successful. We sent off 220 boxes and almost £600! Blythswood were delighted that we did so well and I received a very nice letter of thanks from them.

Blythswood Care, in this their 25 year of operation, collected 121,474 boxes which were sent to over six different countries in Eastern Europe.

It is rewarding to know that Blythswood is such a good cause and brings joy and laughter to so many, especially at Christmas.

Thank you all, once again.

Anne Mitchell

St. Bride's Ladies

Following several interesting meetings, we concluded the first half of our session with two popular events. On 8th Dec. we held our annual Christmas Fayre which was very successful in spite of a poorer number of visitors. This was followed on Mon. 10th Dec. by a very enjoyable Christmas lunch in the Golf Club. This has proved to be a very popular event and is now a fixed date on our syllabus.

The new session has already started with a fascinating talk on 14th Jan. from Fiona Henderson on her visit to Myanmar (Burma).

Our next meeting on 28th Jan. will be our Scots Afternoon when we are hoping for a good turnout of members and friends.

The ever popular Jim Cassells will be giving us an illustrated talk on 11th Feb. A regular guest, he always has something very interesting to talk about.

On 25th Feb. Graham Chappell returns with an illustrated talk—subject as yet unknown.

Island Porcelain will be the subject of Tracy Gibson's visit on 11th Mar.

The AGM will take place on 25th Mar. followed by a presentation from Sylvia Alison. We now have a date for our Spring Fayre which will take place on Sat. 6th April. As usual we are hoping for a good turnout.

A warm welcome awaits you at all our meetings. Please come and join us.

Property Report

The Church

There is very little to report apart from a pew that has been repaired and some other small joinery work carried out. There has also been a leak in the Bell Tower which was the result of a blocked internal gutter. This has been repaired.

The Hall

There was a leak in the hall which has also been repaired.

The Manse

The Manse Committee will meet again at the end of this month.

C. MacKenzie

Arran Food Bank

Arran Food bank is run by Arran Churches Together. Donations can be left in the Food Bank basket at the big Coop in Brodick or in the vestibule of Brodick Church. Other island churches also collect donations and deliver them to Brodick Church. The donations are stored in the transept of Brodick Church and are used, by a team of volunteers, to regularly stock up the food available in the vestibule. The vestibule is open 24/7, allowing access for people to collect food as it is needed. The facility is also used by the Social Work Department who delivers food to some of the people they work with. The food bank is used differently by different people – for some it is a short-term solution until they get back on their feet, for others it is used more regularly. The support of the people of Arran is overwhelming, particularly when an appeal is put out. The appeals are usually done via ACVS social media but churches also make announcements. All food donated to the Arran Food Bank is used by Arran residents.

Our most recent appeal was our Christmas box appeal. The response to this was fantastic and allowed many boxes of food staples and Christmas goodies to be made up for Arran residents needing a bit of extra help. The Social Work department were fantastic partners in this venture and delivered many boxes. The Coop are always very supportive of the Food Bank and at Christmas time made up meat and veg boxes to be delivered to about 20 families across the island.

Thank you for any support you give.

Items we are short of at the moment are:

Tinned meat	Shower Gel
Tinned fruit	Deodorant
Coffee	Shampoo
Long life milk	Toothbrushes
Tinned carrots, peas, potatoes	Toilet Paper
Tinned puddings	Household cleaning products
Jams	

THANKS

Once again our church was beautifully decorated for Christmas by a dedicated group of ladies. This is a huge task, so a big thank you to them. Your work was very much appreciated.

Throughout the year three of our members have taken it upon themselves to look after the Food Bank. This means every other day one of them calling in at church to remove deliveries from the vestibule to the transept, and topping up the stock of food and other items there from the overstock in the transept. In the run up to Christmas this work was increased substantially by the volume of deliveries from ACVS and other churches so that food boxes could be made up and delivered to needy families round the island. Unsung heroines indeed.

FLOWER ROTA

The new flower rota will soon be put up on the church hall noticeboard. If you can help, please put your name on the list indicating which week(s) you would like. If you want to donate, but would like someone to arrange the flowers for you, please contact me.

Donations to the Flower Fund can be made any time to either me or our church treasurer Sylvia Alison.

Ann Lauder

Wednesday Coffee Morning Rota Jan-June. 2019

30-Jan	L.Hendry	S.Allison
27-Feb	M.MacKinlay	M.Cameron
27-Mar	J.Robertson	M. Bryce
24-Apr	M.Boal	A.Lauder
29-May	S. Dobson	L. MacDonald
26-Jun	E.McKellar	I.Rollo

CHURCH NOTICES-Winter 2019

Deaths	Alan Dinwoodie	Brodick	6 th October
	Kerr Robertson	Brodick	14 th November
	Forrest Auld	Montrose House	5 th December
	William Welsh	Brodick	13 th December
	Ian McNicol	Cooriedoon	17 th December
	Jane Murray	Brodick	28 th December

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3rd Feb **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 10.30am**

Informal Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 10.30am

3rd March, 7th April,

Service of Prayers for Health and Healing in Transept at 12noon

30th January, 27th February, 27th March, 24th April

St Bride's Ladies in Church Hall at 2pm

28th January, 11th February, 25th February, 11th March, 25th March

Spring Fayre, Saturday 6th April, 2pm in Church Hall

Pastoral Support Group meets in the Transept at 10am

10th February, 3rd March, 7th April, 5th May