

**Transference of Membership to St Bride's**

Mrs Elizabeth Paterson Troon

**Removal of Membership**

Mrs Lesley Murray Australia

Mrs Anne Mitchell Westhill

Mrs Susan Adamson Lochranza and Pirmill

Rev Angus Adamson Lochranza and Pirmill

Dave Tapson Moved to the mainland

**Deaths**

Alan Bleakley Brodick 1<sup>st</sup> November

Elsie White Brodick 29<sup>th</sup> December

**Church Finances**

In 2020 the total Income was £41,513 with total expenditure of £48,695 resulting in expenditure over income of £7,182. Our share of the new manse build costs were £13,625 bringing the total deficit for the year to £20,807.

In the coming months the balance of the cost of the new manse will be due and this amounts to around £90,000.

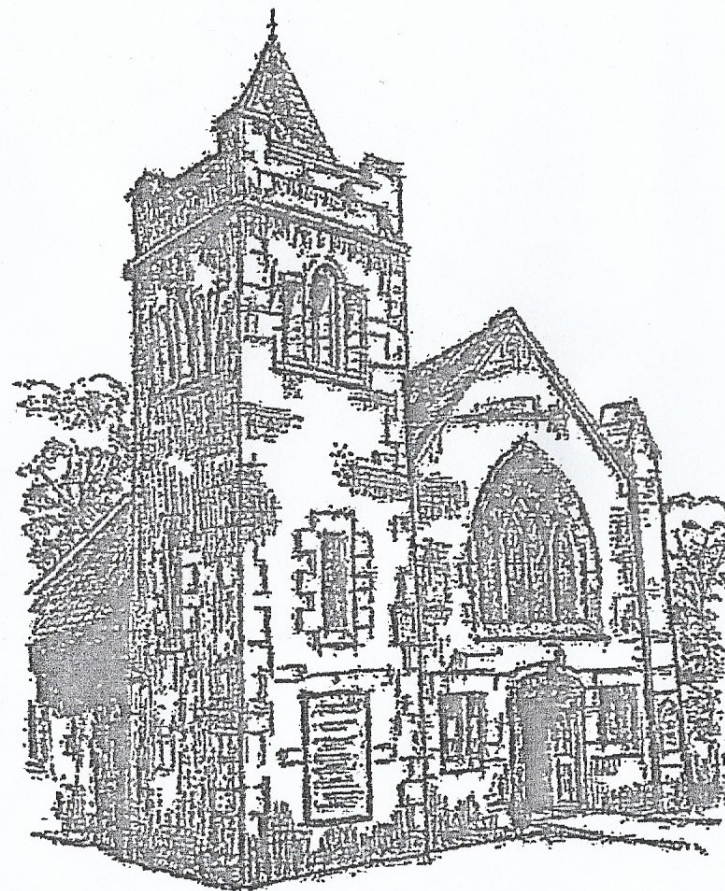
With the uncertainty of when the Church will be fully open, when we will be able to once again generate income from the War Memorial Hall and when we will be able to run fundraisers, without all of these I would predict that by the end of 2021 our funds will be stretched to their limits which means we need to look at other ways of fundraising. With this in mind we have started a North Parish Manse Building Fund and details of this will be delivered with this magazine.

Copies of the full accounts for 2020 will, as usual, be available in March.

Sylvia Alison  
Congregational Treasurer

**St Bride's Church Brodick**

**February Newsletter**



**Winter 2021**



Dear friends,

A happy, if slightly belated, New Year to all of you.

Current restrictions mean that getting across to Arran to meet with you will have to wait so, in the meantime, maybe just a brief introduction as the only way to see each other is on Zoom. I've been the minister at Ardeer linked with Livingstone Churches in Stevenston since 2017. I completed 30 years' service with Tayside Police in Dundee in 2010 and moved from Auxiliary Ministry to full time ministry completing my BD at St. Andrew's University and then a probationary period in Glasgow and then a charge in Dumfries before coming to Stevenston.

I came to faith in 1993 and felt a call to part-time ministry shortly afterwards. I trained as an Auxiliary Minister from 1997 and was ordained in 2001. I have a call to a ministry of health and healing and over 2020 I completed a course in pioneer ministry. Beyond that though, I believe that we need to look at how we are as a church today and what that means for us, especially as the church nationally is now focusing on the Radical Action Plan. The pandemic has further stretched the church.

2021 has not quite started as we would all have hoped or prayed for with further restrictions in place to manage the pandemic. As we adjust our life to these restrictions, we also need to have some patience as the vaccine programme rolls out.

But we are not alone in all this and in all circumstances, we turn to our God. Jesus told His disciples "I will be with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). We keep our focus on Jesus and take the time and space to ask what He is saying to us and what that means for us. It's a process we need to go through, a process which constantly reminds us that we are not alone in all.

Speaking about not being on our own, I'd like to invite you to Coffee & Company on Wednesday mornings on Zoom at 10.30am. We spend some time in worship and prayer and then use the breakout rooms to chat. You need to bring your own tea or coffee, biscuit or cake though.

I look forward to meeting with you at some point soon.

May God bless you and watch over you. May He make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. May He smile on you and give you peace.

With every blessing

Dave

## Shoebox Appeal 2020

In over the 20 plus years that St Bride's Brodick has been involved with the Blythswood Christmas Shoebox appeal there never has been a more challenging year than 2020. We had lockdown, store closures, and having to maintain social distancing so the heavy lifting fell to a small team of dedicated ladies who, with the help of all the many donations of items for the boxes, filled boxes and monetary contributions managed to fill and send off to the mainland 118 shoeboxes along with £813. A huge thank you goes to Susan, Ann, Heather, Catriona and Lorna for their hard work and to Alastair who helped with transporting the boxes to the mainland. Blythswood Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2020 sent 75,218 to places in Eastern Europe for distribution to people who have so little. These gifts bring so much joy and laughter to those who receive them so thank you to everyone who donated in any way to make this happen.

It is never too early to start thinking of the 2021 appeal and to start collecting items for your box. We were a bit short of hand knitted hats, gloves, and scarves in particular last year so if there are any knitters out there who are looking for a project over the winter months why not start knitting now.

All donations will be most gratefully received.

Thank you all, once again.

## Property Report

Other than a leak in the roof of one of the toilets there is nothing to report regarding the church or hall.

There was a meeting of the Manse Committee with Stewart Hamilton, the surveyor overseeing the project, on the Thursday before Christmas. He was satisfied with the progress made and the committee selected a finish for parts of the building and units for the kitchen.

Neil Young was predicting that the building would be finished by late Spring but the present lockdown may now have put that further back.

The members of the committee who attended the meeting were very pleased with the progress made and the quality of workmanship so far.

Colin MacKenzie



Hello folks,

It just seems like yesterday that I was training to be a Reader under the watchful eyes of Angus and Jean, and yet here I am, appointed to be your Locum until we have a new minister. It is an honour and a privilege to serve the North Arran Parishes – I hope I will do your faith in me justice. My email address and phone numbers are at the end of this wee homily. Somehow it seems that January is considered by so many to be a rather bleak and dreich month. And perhaps this year with us back in lockdown, it seems even worse. Yet if this pandemic has taught us anything, it has shown us that we should never take people or things for granted. For in the blink of an eye things can change.

I am sure that we are all looking forward to the moment when we can be safely reunited with family and with friends:

To that time when we can go out and meet over a meal.

To go to a show, a concert or some sporting event.

To get back to Church.

All simple, ordinary everyday things which have been suddenly taken away from us.

The sense of looking forward to something plays an important part in faith as we find throughout the pages of Scripture. Noah looked forward to the end of the flood and being back on dry land, Joseph looked forward to being reunited with his brothers, the Israelites looked forward to being free from captivity in the land God had promised them.

And in Luke's Gospel we find two individuals who had looked forward for so long until at last their hopes were realised. Simeon, a righteous and devout man who had been promised, by the Holy Spirit, that he would not die until he had seen the Saviour for himself.

So it was that he came to the temple and taking Jesus in his arms declared "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

In that instant, in that one encounter, Simeon found that his hope in God had not been disappointed. He had looked forward, he had trusted and he was not being left disappointed.

In the same passage there was also Anna, a prophetess and a widow, who worshipped at the temple night and day, believing that she too would see the promised messiah and she was not disappointed for her deepest hopes were fulfilled.

For these two individuals however, there must have been some dark days along the way. They constantly looked forward, they waited, they hoped, they believed that they would see God's promised messiah.

But as time marched on I wonder if they felt just as confident as they first had to begin with. There would be moments, I suspect, when they doubted and seriously wondered if their hopes would ever be fulfilled. And yet somehow, they never gave up.

We all look forward in life, but sometimes, when we find ourselves up against it, there is a tendency to look back, to look back perhaps at brighter days, at better times and to wish somehow we were there again. And no more so than in very recent times. Yet while life can often be understood backwards, it can only be lived forwards.

We can all look forward in life. For in the journey of faith we have a God who remains unchanging amidst all the changing scenes of life, the God who is the same, yesterday, today and forever, who calls each of us to follow him. When the first disciples accepted that call they looked forward to a different way of life, a way of love and compassion, of challenge and sacrifice. And so must we.

In so many ways God touches our lives by his love and his strength, leading us in paths we never thought possible, fulfilling our hopes beyond our deepest imaginings and releasing our full potential. We can look forward with real hope in our everyday for the God who loved us from the beginning, loves us to the end. And boy do we have an awful lot to look forward to once the pandemic is under control! As the song puts it – "walk on, walk on with hope in your hearts and you'll never walk alone."

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### Editor's Remarks

Here we are at the start of another year with 2020 consigned to history, a year like no other in living memory, one we would prefer to forget but whose effects we are still having to live with. There is, as they say, light at the end of the tunnel with many of us already having had our first vaccination against the dreaded Corona virus so let us all look forward to the future when we will all be able to return to some sort of normal way of life.

We were able to open up the church for Sunday services from October through to Christmas which was lovely but as we are now again in lockdown the doors had to be closed once again. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Liz Clarke who has taken up the post of Locum minister and we look forward to seeing her in the pulpit of St. Bride's in the not too distant future. Meanwhile, until that day comes, she is carrying on the good work of online services.

We bid a fond farewell to Mrs Jean Hunter who retires from her post as Parish Assistant. She will be greatly missed; we thank her for her many years of service and dedication and wish her well and a happy and healthy retirement.

As always, my thanks to all those who have contributed to this magazine with special thanks to John who is an invaluable help to me in producing the magazine.

I can be contacted on 01770 303579 or sheenamcl4@gmail.com

### Thanks

Before we were able to return to worship in church in October after lockdown, a lot of work had to be done to conform with government regulations during the Covid19 pandemic. Our grateful thanks are due to those who worked so hard to ensure that this was done.

We are not allowed pipe organ music at present, but Ruth Thompson has used a keyboard instead and we thank her for her contributions to the services.

Fortunately we were allowed to have a Christmas tree as usual thanks to Janet and Bert Ramage. It was beautifully decorated. Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan could not decorate the church windowsills as they usually do, but a lovely Christmas arrangement was provided together with little lights to cheer us.

The volunteers who run the much-needed Food Bank must be commended for their sterling work as ever over the festive period ensuring that those in greatest need were able to celebrate with a nice selection of treats as well as the staples.

Despite the difficulty of shopping in recent months our volunteers were still able to despatch 118 shoeboxes, from the Arran Churches, to Blythswood Care for distribution to those in need in countries in Eastern Europe. Thanks go to all who contributed and those who organised the appeal.

Finally thanks to our ministry team who have been providing the weekly online services which are so much appreciated by those who are unable to attend the church services. This involves a lot of additional work added to their already busy lives.

### All Change.

As was noted in the last church magazine Rev. Angus Adamson left the North Arran Linkage in September after 15 years as our minister. Just before Christmas he received a presentation on behalf of all five churches of a pipe tune composed by the renowned piper Fred Morrison and a cheque. We wish him well in his retirement.

Angus's parish assistant, Mrs Jean Hunter, retired at the end of January after 20 years on Arran, firstly as a Reader attached to Lamash Church, then 15 years with the North Arran Linkage. Jean has the distinction of being the first Parish Assistant appointed by the Church of Scotland, and although not an ordained minister has shared most ministerial duties with Angus, was elected Moderator of Ardrossan Presbytery, and is currently Ardrossan Presbytery Clerk which she will continue to do for the next year. Jean will be moving home to Corrie, and we wish her a long and happy retirement. This of course would have left the Linkage without any ministry team, but Mrs Liz Clarke was appointed as part-time Locum from 1st January, and will deal with pastoral work in the linkage as well as taking services with the added assistance of others doing pulpit supply. Liz is a well-kent face already due to her having taken services in all the churches since becoming a Reader a few years ago, and she and Jean have conducted the online services during recent months. We are very grateful to Liz for taking on this responsibility.



## ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER FOODBANK

No-one should experience food or fuel poverty, however there are more than 2,000 foodbanks across the UK supporting those in need. Our foodbank on Arran provides emergency food for local people who require additional support. The Arran foodbank is independent and requires no referral. It can be accessed in the vestibule of Brodick Church which is open 24/7.

The foodbank continues to be well used and is very well supported by people from all corners of Arran who donate food items and money. The volunteers who manage the foodbank continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity of local people, without this support there would be no foodbank on Arran. Emergency support for household fuel has also been provided to several households.

Not surprisingly, food bank usage has increased during 2020. In December '19 we delivered around 20 Christmas food bags, in December '20 we delivered around 45 bags. The total number of items used from the vestibule shelves in December '19 was 1,465, in December '20 it was 1,947.

The Christmas bags delivered this year were delivered to people who made direct contact with us and to those known to Social Services. The deliveries were made by the Social Services team and food bank volunteers. We included some sweet treats and fresh produce in the Christmas bags.

Thank you for all of the support given to the food bank.

### Friends of Montrose House Association Winter 2021

There are no changes to visiting restrictions at Montrose House so unfortunately the Friends could not provide the usual winter entertainments of the Halloween and Christmas parties and the Scots Night.

Ann and John Lauder organised the distribution of James Chocolates which are kindly donated every year and usually handed out by Santa at the Christmas party.

Everyone also received a gift of a beautiful hand-crafted heart which had been donated to The Friends to be given to the residents of Montrose House and Cooriedoon Nursing Home.

The staff are working hard to maintain some normality and report no problems.

A.Keir



I have been deeply touched by all the lovely sentiments expressed in cards and emails received since my retirement from ministry back in September. The generosity and kindness shown towards me since then has been overwhelming, summed up in quite simply the most perfect gift of being presented with a pipe tune composed for me by Fred Morrison to mark the occasion. To all who contributed to that in any way, please accept my deepest heart-felt thanks.

*Angus*



13:8) "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8)

Dear Friends

At the time of writing this I have only a few weeks to work before my retirement on 19<sup>th</sup> February as Parish Assistant for the North Arran Linkage. When I first came to Arran twenty years ago, I came to be Locum for Lochranza & Pirmill and Shiskine for 4-6 months. I never imagined being here for so long. When I came I was welcomed into the family of the Church, into the community and into homes for which I am very grateful.

In 2006 the North Arran linkage was formed and I was employed to work with Angus as a Parish Assistant. Again I was welcomed into Brodick & Corrie churches and into homes.

It is a great honour and privilege that is given to women and men to serve God's people in the ministry of the gospel. On the one hand to be entrusted by God with the preaching of His word and on the other to be entrusted by God's people with their joys and sorrows, their hopes and fears – the business of life. I am conscious of having been blessed in this privilege during these past years.

How true it is that we don't know tomorrow. When I arrived in Arran in February 2001 there was freedom, no restrictions and at that time no signs of foot and mouth disease that was affecting the country. Then about two months later, virtually overnight that changed and this crisis affected the whole Island albeit indirectly. The fears of the farmers, shops, those involved in the tourism industry and other businesses were all affected in some way. The restrictions at that time proved to have been a necessary precaution. We were all praying for the situation and continued to pray until the crisis was over.

Here I am twenty years later and there are other restrictions this time because of the Corona Virus. We have been living with restrictions since last March and we are in lockdown once again.

I had planned to take my closing services on 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January in the churches but now that will not be possible so they will be recorded on line.

We make our plans but we don't know what tomorrow will bring, but however, by grace we can know Him who holds all our tomorrows.

There is no substitute for knowing God in Christ Jesus - knowing His grace, His mercy, and His love today and beyond. Many things may change in our lives, in the Church on the Island but He is the one who changes not.

Whatever our fears and hopes are for tomorrow we will trust Him who knows the way ahead – for He is:

*"The way and the truth and the life"* (John 14: 6a)

I leave you with this – surely a prayer for us all:

*Lord grant me the gift of contentment  
Wherever my lot may be cast,  
And keep me from always bemoaning  
The joys that I found in the past.  
Today is so truly important  
For tomorrow may never be mine,  
So subdue all my own inclinations  
Help me say "Not my will but Thine".  
And Lord help me cherish my neighbours  
Wherever I happen to be,  
So the world may see from this moment  
Just a spark of your image in me.*

Yours in His service

Jean Hunter