

CHURCH NOTICES – Winter 2023

Deaths

Heather Donaldson	Brodick	15 th November 2022
Hamish McCrae	Brodick	28 th November 2022
Jean Peacock	Montrose House	8 th December 2022
Ruth Thompson	Lamlash	9 th December 2022
George Boal	Brodick	22 nd December 2022

Dates for your Diary

Sacrament of Holy Communion Sunday 5th February 2023

Please let your elder know if you require transport.

World Vision The money from the Sunday/Tea Coffee mornings on January 29th February, 26th March, 26th and April, 30th

will be donated to World Vision.

Services of Prayers for Health and Healing: Dates and venues to be arranged.

St Bride's Ladies 23rd January (Scot's afternoon)

6th February, (Mary's Meals)

20th February (speaker)

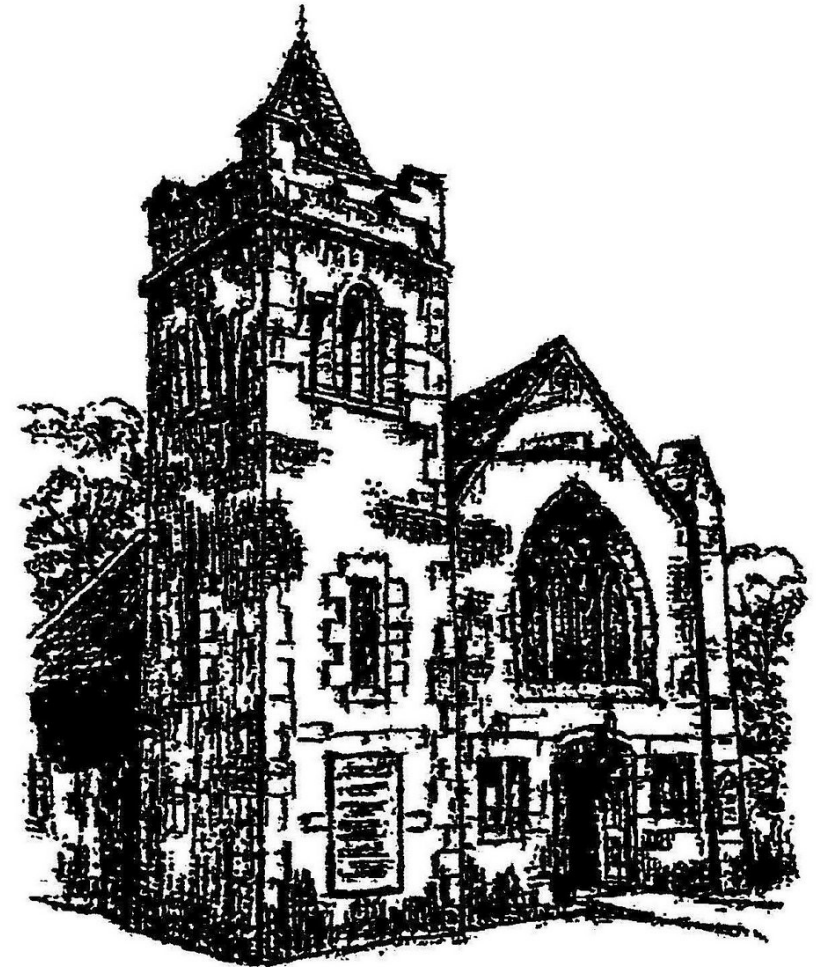
6th March (speaker) AGM

All are welcome at every meeting.

Spring Fayre Saturday, 1st April

St Bride's Church Brodick

February Newsletter



Winter 2023

Hello folks,

Happy New Year!

Aye, its 2023 already and we can be forgiven for looking at it with some trepidation. Having just come through the Covid lockdown we are now faced with global issues – conflict, warming, gas and electricity supplies – to name but a few. And then there are our “local” issues – cost of living, strikes, the NHS and so on. And there are issues for each of us as individuals to grapple with.

I think I’m rather a “glass half full” person ie quite positive – but it is difficult to remain so in the current circumstances.

In any time or sort of trouble there is an answer to be found in a book, actually THE book, God’s Word, the bible. When Fiona was leaving the island, she was given a New Testament from the church which had a section right at the front offering passages to read under different circumstances – loneliness, fear etc. I know she used them a lot as she began to make her own way in the world.

In Romans 5. 2b - 4 it says, “And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope”.

So, we can always depend on God’s help even as we struggle to make sense of the events in our lives. And while it may be a challenge, there are always positive things to think of to encourage the build up of hope. There are times when just wakening up to a new day gives hope.

While writing this, a hymn came to mind. Its not one we have sung often – but it will be! Have a look at the words for CH4 237 which begins with “Look forward in faith...”

Let us all do our best this 2023 to look forward in faith, focusing on the positive things in our lives, remembering that our “cup runneth over”.



Drinking from My Saucer.
by John Paul Moore

I’ve never made a fortune and it’s probably too late now,
But I don’t worry about that much, I’m happy anyhow.
And as I go along life’s way, I’m reaping better than I sowed.
I’m drinking from my saucer, ‘cause my cup has overflowed.
I don’t have a lot of riches, and sometimes the going’s tough.
But I’ve got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.
I thank God for his blessings, and the mercies He’s bestowed,
I’m drinking from my saucer, ‘cause my cup has overflowed.
I remember times when things went wrong, and my faith wore
somewhat thin
But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.
So God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I’ve hoed.
I’m drinking from my saucer, ‘cause my cup has overflowed.
If God gives me strength and courage when the way grows steep and
rough,
I’ll not ask for other blessings, I’m already blessed enough
And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads
Then I’ll keep drinking from my saucer, ‘cause my cup has overflowed.
Every blessing,

Liz

Editor’s Remarks

A Good New Year to you all and it is to be hoped that it will be a better year than we have had of late
The dreaded Covid is still with us but as predicted last year we have learned to live with it.

As we go forward into 2023 our hope is that things can only get better and we can look forward to a time when we can call a new minister and, who knows, we may even have the long awaited new ferry.

As always, my thanks to all those who have contributed to this magazine with special thanks to Sylvia who has very kindly printed it off.

I can be contacted on 01770 303579 or sheename4a@gmail.com

Arran Churches Together (ACT)

Sylvia Alison and Susan Dobson are the Brodick Church reps. on the ACT committee. Our next meeting is Thursday 9th February 2023, Shiskine Church at 3pm.

ACT Recent events:

Our St Andrew's Evening took place on Wednesday 30th November; Service at 6.30pm in Brodick Church, taken by Father Noel followed by entertainment in the church hall.

Carols at the Co-op took place on Saturday 10th December from 11am – 12 noon at Brodick Big Co.

Service for Christian Unity took place in Lamlash Church, Sunday 15th January 2023 at 12 noon.

Taize Worship - There will be no meetings over winter months. This will restart in February in the Holy Cross Church.

Whiting Bay Church Warm Space

Whiting Bay Church Hall is open on Mondays and Fridays from 10am – 3pm providing a warm space for people to meet. Wi-Fi is provided and refreshments are available. The hall is set out with comfortable seating. All are welcome.

Arran Churches Together Household Fuel Support

If you, or someone you know is struggling with household fuel payments, Arran Churches Together can help. Contact Catherine Jenks on 07760289700, to discuss what help can be given. All calls will be treated in strictest confidence.

Bequest funds administered by Arran CVS

- ACVS have managed the **Dr Robert Jamieson Bequest Fund** since 1966.
The fund is for Arran residents aged **over 66 years** who are in financial difficulty or experiencing poor health.
Grants may be given for such things as a household item, emergency financial assistance including heating/food costs in winter months, and additional aids that may enhance mobility or well-being support. The amount of funding available will be up to £200 per applicant.
- The McMurdo family have asked ACVS to manage the **Nan McMurdo Memorial Fund** on their behalf. This fund aims to make a

difference to the lives of **children & young people** struggling and living in poverty. Examples of items that awards may be made for are holidays, trips, outings, specialist clothing or equipment for sports and other activities, to support payment of fees, household items, and to relieve poverty. We envisage the average payment to be £100, but payments may be higher where this will make a difference.

Applications for both funds are to come by referral from Health and Social Care, Education, Youth, Community & Church groups. All enquiries will be dealt with confidentially & the applicant's name will not be disclosed to the decision-making body.

Arran Churches Together Foodbank

Thanks to everyone who kindly donated money, food and Christmas treats to the Arran Churches Together Foodbank. Our gratitude also goes to many local businesses for their generous contributions.

As in recent years, we shopped for, and filled several large bags of food and Christmas goodies to distribute to individuals and families known to Social Services.

Foodbank usage remains fairly constant with around 1600 items going out each month.

We would like to thank Ann Mackay for the years in which she gave her time to help with the foodbank and we wish her well in the future.

We are very grateful to all who continue to support families in need through the Arran Churches Together Foodbank.

Thanks

Once again we are indebted to Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan for the lovely windowsill decorations and floral arrangements in the Church over the Christmas season. The beautiful Christmas tree was erected and decorated by Bert and Janet Ramage. As always we have had our crib scene set out to remind us what Christmas is all about. To all these people we give our sincere thanks.

We also thank Liz Clarke who continues as our Locum minister ably assisted by Rev Dr Ian MacLeod. We are also fortunate in having a dedicated group of people who keep the church running smoothly from week to week. To all those people we give our thanks. Finally, we are very grateful to the team of ladies who continue to ensure that the foodbank is kept well stocked and to all of you who donate to this vital piece of community service.

St Bride's Ladies

We have had a varied program from October 2022 which commenced with an afternoon tea. At the next two meetings we welcomed guest speakers then on the 28th November there was a St Andrew's Afternoon where we were entertained by the Montrose House Ceilidh Group. In December we held a very successful Christmas Fayre and also had a Christmas Lunch which was enjoyed by everyone. Our first meeting of 2023 was a Scot's Afternoon at which we were entertained by John Sillars along with the Montrose House Ceilidh Group and the ladies on the committee provided a sumptuous afternoon tea. The next meetings will be held at 2pm in the Church Hall on 6th February, 20th February, 6th March and 20th March.

Our final event will be the Spring Fayre on the 1st April.

We welcome both Ladies and Gentlemen so please come along. There will be a speaker at each of the above meetings and of course a wee cup of tea.

Sylvia Alison, President

World Vision

The funding we provide for two children through World Vision was raised by holding Coffee Mornings.

In the past these were held every two weeks but due to lack of support this was changed to once a month.

Although there was no lack of volunteers to run and provide the beautiful home baking each month, with so few coming along to support their endeavours, it was decided that the December Coffee Morning would be the last.

From January, on the last Sunday of each month the After Church Tea Fellowship donations will be designated to World Vision.

If we are unable to raise the £45 required each month a decision will have to be made as to whether we can continue with our support of two children.

Sylvia Alison, Treasurer

Financial Report for 2022

Total income for the year £43,289. Total Expenditure for the year £49,636. Expenditure over Income £6,347.

A full report on the accounts will be available in March.

Sylvia Alison, Treasurer.

Blythswood Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2022

Blythswood Care's 2022 Shoebox Appeal produced nearly 89,000 gift-filled boxes, with boxes being donated from Shetland to Cornwall and from Northern Ireland to Kent.

Here on Arran we sent 97 filled shoeboxes along with £549 in donations to help with the transport costs. A huge thank you to everyone who helped this year, from the ladies who knitted, to those who collected and wrapped boxes, checked full boxes or filled boxes with the many individual items donated by our supporters. Special thanks go to the ladies of the shoebox team and to Susan and Alastair Dobson who kindly transported all the boxes to the mainland.

The filled shoeboxes have been distributed in schools, hospitals, orphanages and care homes, and to households in very low income communities in countries in Eastern Europe. Many have gone to people affected by the war in Ukraine.

Overall the boxes received nationally were seven percent up on last year. The extra boxes received made it possible to send three lorry-loads instead of two to Ukraine, around 16,000 boxes.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Property Report

It has been very quiet since the last report. I am still awaiting estimates regarding the upgrading or replacement of the heating system in the hall.

I have agreed that the electrical inspection of the church and hall should be carried out and any faults rectified.

Colin Mackenzie