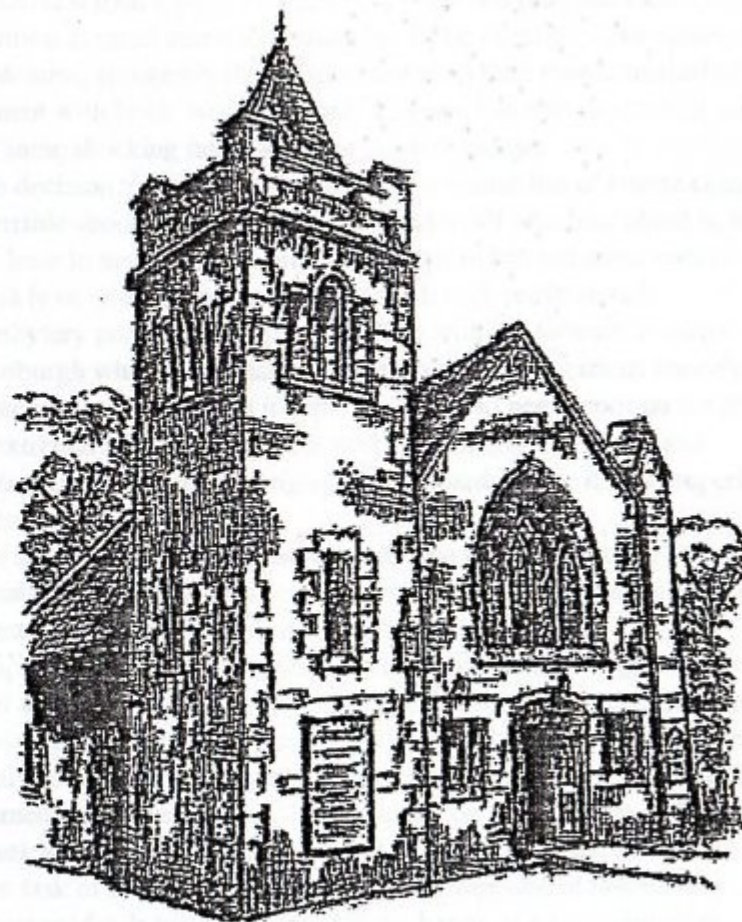


St Bride's Church Brodick

Newsletter



Brodick Church War Memorial Hall



Summer 2018

Scottish Charity No. SC012017 www.brodickchurch.org

Over many years growing up in Corriecravie I watched the once grand imposing farm house that stood on the skyline at the other side of the village at Kilbrannan, crumble and fall down. It always seemed to me so sad and such a waste, all that hard work and time and effort, not to mention expense come to nothing but a pile of rubble. The reason for its demise, apparently the builders had used lime mortar instead of cement with brick. Now after only 25 years since it was built, it seems the same shocking fate awaits the Brodick manse.

The decision to demolish and rebuild the manse has of course come as a terrible shock to the congregations and to all who hear about it, but not least to me and my family. That decision has not come about quickly or without consultation at length with professionals, Presbytery property representatives and with the General Trustees in Edinburgh who are ultimately responsible for all decisions concerning church property. Nor has it come about due to negligence on the part of extremely diligent and hard-working property conveners and fantastically supportive congregational boards to see it was properly maintained.

The severe problem with damp which first manifested itself with an infestation of woodlice when we moved in in 2006 to the more recent infestation of slugs has been a long-standing one.

Despite almost constant repairs and remedial works being carried out over the past twelve years, at no insignificant cost, running into tens of thousands of pounds, the building is now so damp and facing hugely costly solutions to overcome certain design faults that it is now not deemed worth spending any more money on it. Therefore, the most practical solution is to cut our losses and rebuild on the same site.

The task of overseeing this enormous venture and of raising the necessary funds has been placed in the hands of a sub-committee made up of all the treasurers, clerks and property conveners of the five congregations of Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine, who will of course report back to all the relevant Congregational Boards and Deacons' Court before any action is taken.

So far, all this has raised some questions and led to a few misconceptions, therefore it seemed a good idea to put the answers in writing to clear up any misunderstanding about the situation we find ourselves in.

The first most frequently asked question is, where am I going to live in the meantime? Fortunately, by the end of September, I hope to be able to return to Corriecravie and live in my own home. The alternative was to have the congregations rent suitable accommodation for me and my family elsewhere in Brodick. The cost of that, at a time when the congregations are faced with raising monies in excess of £100,000, would not be good stewardship of resources and at least we have the good fortune of having somewhere else to live and from where I can work, as I did when previously I was probationer minister at Brodick and Corrie from 2004 to 2006.

Why then do we need to build a new manse at all? For the simple reason that I will not always be minister of North Arran and in order for the congregations to be allowed to call my successor a manse must be provided for whoever that might be.

If a manse must be built, why such a large sum of money? The reason being that the legislation states that a manse must be of a certain size with four bedrooms, three public rooms and a garage. Not so that ministers can live in style, but so that there is a bedroom for the minister and his or her spouse, one bedroom for a male and one for a female child (the nuclear family) and one guest bedroom for visitors, which are frequent in any manse. Downstairs the extra room is the room from which the minister is expected to work, the study acting also as a room where it is possible to meet people in private away from the other members of the manse family. Where is this money to come from? The answer: it must be provided by the congregations, although financial assistance has already been offered by the Presbytery. This would, if accepted, be in the form of a low-interest loan repaid over time.

How long will the process take? The answer – as long as it takes to raise sufficient monies, gain relevant statutory permissions to demolish and rebuild, not to mention go through all the stages of seeking the blessing of the church courts.

All this coming at a time when the congregation at Shiskine are embarking on an ambitious project to demolish their current church hall and build a new one fit for purpose for the next century. Furthermore I have also been asked if having to build a new manse in Brodick will affect this decision. The answer in a word is- no. Both projects are essential and will hopefully happen.

Why am I so confident of this? Because I believe both are undertaken in a great act of faith that the mission of the Church of Scotland on this island is important for the foreseeable future. If that is so and it is God's will then it will happen. If not, still my trust is in Him who will provide, not for what we want but for what we need. As the psalmist says: 'Unless the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it' (Psalm 127:1). Come what may Amen to that, Amen so let it be.

Angus

Editor's Remarks

The summer is once again upon us and what a summer it has turned out to be so far with clear blue skies and long hot, dry day to go out and enjoy this beautiful island of ours. July is a busy month for St Bride's as we hold our major fund raising events during this time. The Church Fete is on July 21st at 2pm and the Auction the following Thursday evening July 26th at 8pm in Brodick Golf Club. All donations and help on these days will be very much appreciated. The Sunday School has again had a very busy year and it is heartening to see so many youngsters coming along to join with the congregation on a Sunday morning. Our thanks to Ann MacKay and Cameron for doing such a great job with the children.

My thanks, as always, to all those who have contributed to this magazine. If you would like to contribute to the magazine I can be contacted on 01770303579 or sheenamcl4@gmail.com

Sunday School

Sunday School has just broken up for the summer with a trip to the castle and our prize-giving held on Sunday 24th June. We welcomed Eva who joined us for "Come to Church Sunday" and has regularly attended Sunday School ever since.

We have just finished our stories from the Old Testament and when we return we will be looking at the stories from the New Testament. Sunday School will be restarting in late August and we will be happy to welcome any new children who care to join us.

Ann MacKay



Friends of Montrose House Association Summer 2018

Montrose House has two part time posts vacant, one in the Home and one in Stronach Day Care and as usual has full occupancy. The recent great weather has given the residents the chance to enjoy sitting in the garden for tea and chat. Some of them like to go to the gentle exercise classes in Stronach and there is some talk of starting a group in MH in an attempt to work off the fabulous baking which appears daily from the kitchen! Minnie Bell and her small team have made great inroads into the gardens outside the residents' rooms, weeding and planting, but the large areas are still awaiting some input from the Council. More volunteers are always welcome.

The Friends have donated a large sum for garden improvements which has been used for bulbs, plants, shrubs, and equipment. A shed has also been purchased and it is hoped also to improve the garden seating.

Inside decorating is continuing with the finished Sillars Suite looking fresh and bright. The next plan is to soften the clinical look of the corridors by using retro style decor. The residents have chosen their personalised designs for their doors; hopefully it will not be long until they are fitted. The Friends have realised that the needs of the residents have changed over the years and few are interested or able to participate in organised games and activities, but visits for chats, accompanying garden walks, possibly a sing-along are appreciated. We hope to organise more musical entertainment in the next few months.

The Summer Fete on Wednesday 4th July was a great event, benefiting again from the summer weather. It was enjoyed by many residents, Day Care users, families and friends. Mike Bailey was "diverted" from his regular monthly slot at Glen Estate to entertain and nobly sang in the warm sun all afternoon. Our thanks to him and also the MH staff who again produced their renowned strawberry teas.

Family and friends were generous in their donations to the baking, books and tombola stalls. The magnificent sum of £647.85 was raised; this will help to provide more comforts for Montrose House and the residents. Thank you to all who gave so much time and effort in making this day successful.

We are sad to report that Isobel Burns and Alan Easdale passed away in recent weeks.

A.Keir

Blue Mountains NSW, Australia 2018

I like to sing the action song with the children and the words are these:

*My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
there's nothing that He cannot do.*

*The mountains are His, the rivers are His,
the stars are His handiwork too.*

*My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
there's nothing that He cannot do.*

When my granddaughter Abbie and I were on holiday in Australia this year in March/April we saw the majestic mountains, wide rivers and the stars at night.

As I reported in the last issue of the Newsletter we were visiting my friend in Richmond which is situated in the Hawkesbury region of New South Wales, on the banks of the Hawkesbury River about an hour and twenty minutes by train, west of Sydney.

The history of the region goes back way beyond that of the European immigrants and convicts that were transported there to the colonies in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

For at least 30,000 years, Aboriginal people have occupied parts of Western Sydney. The Darug people are the traditional custodians of the land on the south bank of the Hawkesbury River and their neighbours are the Darkinjung whose boundaries are from the Colo River and Wisemans Ferry. The Wiradjun people also have boundaries in the north-west of the region.

The Hawkesbury river was originally known as the Deerubbin (or Venrubbin) and it was vital to the survival of the local Aboriginal people being a source of food, a means of transport and trading route. The first European settlers arrived in the late 1700s and renamed it the Hawkesbury. The fertile plains fed a starving colony and served as a main transport route to Sydney in colonial times.

The writings of the European settlers around the late 1770s and early 1800s, tell that the local indigenous groups usually contained up to about 30 people, several clans coming together to hunt kangaroo and for special occasions. They hunted for only as much as they needed, using mainly clubs and spears.

When we travelled along beside the Hawkesbury river we passed through many places that still bear the Aboriginal names such as Yarramundi at Hawkesbury Heights. It is here where the name 'Hawkesbury' changes to 'Nepean'.

It was in June 1789 that Governor Arthur Phillip and a small party made the first European exploration of the Hawkesbury River and Phillip named the river after British statesman, Lord Hawkesbury.

The Hawkesbury-Nepean river system flows west to the Blue Mountains. Why are the Blue Mountains blue? The Guide book told us that the distinctive blue haze which has earned the Blue Mountains their name is quite different and of a deeper hue than that found in any other part of the world. Although constantly varying in intensity, the haze is always present.

The phenomenon is known as "Rayleigh Scattering" after Lord Rayleigh who first investigated the phenomenon. It is caused by scattering rays of light coming into contact with fine dust particles and droplets of oil dispersed from the eucalyptus trees in the valley and to the present day there are still a lot of trees stretching for many miles.

The first official use of the name "Blue Mountains" is attributed to Captain William Paterson of the New South Wales Corp, in his dispatch describing his attempt at crossing the mountains through the Grose River Valley in 1793.

When we were up in the Blue mountains and looking from the viewing platform, there certainly was a blue haze over them, an amazing sight.

At Katoomba there are rocks called the Three Sisters. There is an Aboriginal Legend about them that goes like this: According to Gundungurra dreaming, three beautiful sisters named 'Meehni', 'Wimlah' and 'Gunnedoo' once lived with the Gundungurra people in the Jamison Valley. The maidens were in love with three brothers from the neighbouring nation of the Darug people, but marriage was forbidden by tribal law.

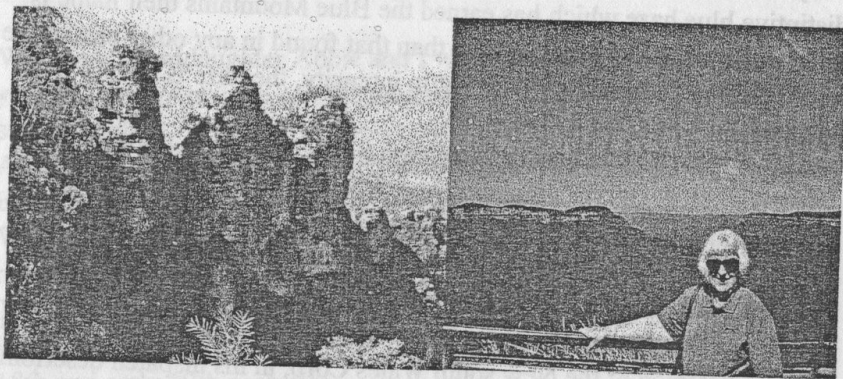
The brothers were warriors and decided to take the maidens by force. Tribal war forced the Kuradjuri (clever man) of the Gundunjarra people to turn the sisters into stone. He intended to restore them after the danger had passed and the war had ended.

Many thanks for your continued support of the Food Bank.

Unfortunately, the Kuradjuri (clever man) was killed in battle and to this day nobody has been able to break the spell to turn the Three Sisters back to their normal form.

Legend and history - the Blue Mountains are a wonderful part of Gods creation and a magnificent sight to behold as with the valleys and places along the Hawkesbury River.

The experience of the fantastic places we visited and the history of the region we will hopefully long remember.



Jean Hunter

St Bride's Ladies --Help Wanted

St. Bride's Ladies will once again be providing the tearoom at the Highland Game on Saturday 4th August. As well as donations of sandwiches and home baking we are looking for volunteers to help on the day. So if you can spare an hour or so between 10am and 4pm please speak to me or add your name to the list which can be found on the church hall notice board. Your help would be gratefully received by the stalwart band of ladies who turn up every year.

Sylvia Alison

Food Bank – Urgent Appeal

The island wide Christmas Appeal for Food Box items was very successful with huge supplies of both staples and Christmas treats which were much appreciated by families in need. Due to the generosity of Arran residents, it is only now, six months later, that the last of the staples are being used up.

However, Christmas isn't the only time that we need to think about others in need and now that the summer holidays have started, families who have relied on school lunches during term time are now in even more need of the Food Bank.

There is now very little in reserve for the Food Bank and it is completely out of various items. The Food Bank would be extremely grateful for donations of the following items:

Tins of: Soup
 Meat
 Fish
 Fruit
 Custard
 Rice Pudding

Also: Long Life Milk
 Cereal
 Jam
 Rice
 Pasta
 Pasta Sauces
 Curry Sauces
 Condiments
 Toiletries (There are sufficient sanitary products at present)
 Toilet Rolls
 Biscuits/Treats

Donations can be placed either in the vestibule of the Church or in the Food Bank box at the Co-op which is now on the front window wall after the check-outs. Monetary donations can be given to either Angus or Jean.

Many thanks for your continued support of the Food Bank.

Blythswood Care
Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2018

This year seems to have passed very quickly, and yes, it's time to think about launching our Shoebox Appeal once again!

Last year's appeal was very successful with 181 boxes being sent from the island along with £653 in gift aid and donations.

This year there are three ways in which you may wish to participate:

- 1) To fill a shoebox with a selection of the contents listed on the information leaflet
- 2) To donate 'loose' items which can be added to shoeboxes either here or on the mainland
- 3) To make a monetary contribution of any sum

As such, there is a shortage of shoeboxes available this year from shoe shops on the mainland, and although we expect to have a limited supply available, we would urge you to source one for yourselves. In addition this year, we will provide a collection box in the vestibule of the church to receive any loose donations of goods.

This is a very worthwhile cause and every donation - large or small - is gratefully received.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Anne B Mitchell

Wednesday Coffee Morning Rota July-Dec 2018

04-July	J.Robertson	M.Bryce
18-July	S.Dobson	C Smith
01-Aug	G.Sillars	G. Bleakley
15-Aug	L.Hendry	S.Allison
29-Aug	M.MacKinlay	M.Cameron
12-Sept	A.Green	L.Lawrie
26-Sept	M.Boal	M.Bryce
10-Oct	E.McKellar	I.Rollo
24-Oct	S.Dobson	L.MacDonald
07-Nov	A.Lauder	I.Davie
21-Nov	S.McLean	A.Mitchell
05-Dec	M.Bryce	J.Robertson

Property Report

The Manse

A committee has been set up to oversee the demolition and rebuilding of Brodick Manse.

The Church

We are still awaiting repair to the organ but have been informed this may require the whole unit to be taken apart.

Information has been sent to the company that will carry out the Heating Survey and they will, in due course, survey the Hall and Church.

However all this may have to be put on hold until we get final estimates for the Manse replacement.

C.MacKenzie

Thanks

I would like to thank the Rev Angus Adamson, Session Clerk Elizabeth Lawrie and the congregation of St Bride's Brodick for giving me the opportunity to display some of my portraits and photographs held on Sunday 1st July 2018. I hope you enjoyed viewing them as much as I have in putting them together. Much appreciated and thank you also for the lovely welcome received on the day.

With every blessing.

Gordon Waddell

CHURCH NOTICES-Summer 2018

Deaths Stewart Lambie Brodick 16th April
 William Innes Brodick 4th June

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4th Aug Tearoom at Highland Games
 5th Aug **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 10.30am**
 12th Aug Pastoral Support Group meets in the Transept at 10am
 15th Aug Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am
 29th Aug Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am
 02th Sept Pastoral Support Group meets in the Transept at 10am
 12th Sept Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am
 26th Sept Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am
 26th Sept Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Brodick at 12noon
 27th Sept Corrie Harvest Supper 6.30pm
 30th Sept Open-air Service at the Clachan Church Shiskine at 3pm
 10th Oct Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am
 24th Oct Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am
 24th Oct Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Brodick at 12noon
 28th Oct Pastoral Support Group meets in the Transept at 10am
 29th Oct St Bride's Ladies in Church Hall at 2pm
 4th Nov **North Arran Joint Communion in Corrie Church at 11am**
 4th Nov Service of Thanksgiving in Corrie Church at 7pm
 7th Nov Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am
 21st Nov Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am
 21st Nov Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Brodick at 12noon
 05th Dec Coffee Morning in Church Hall from 10.30am

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 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