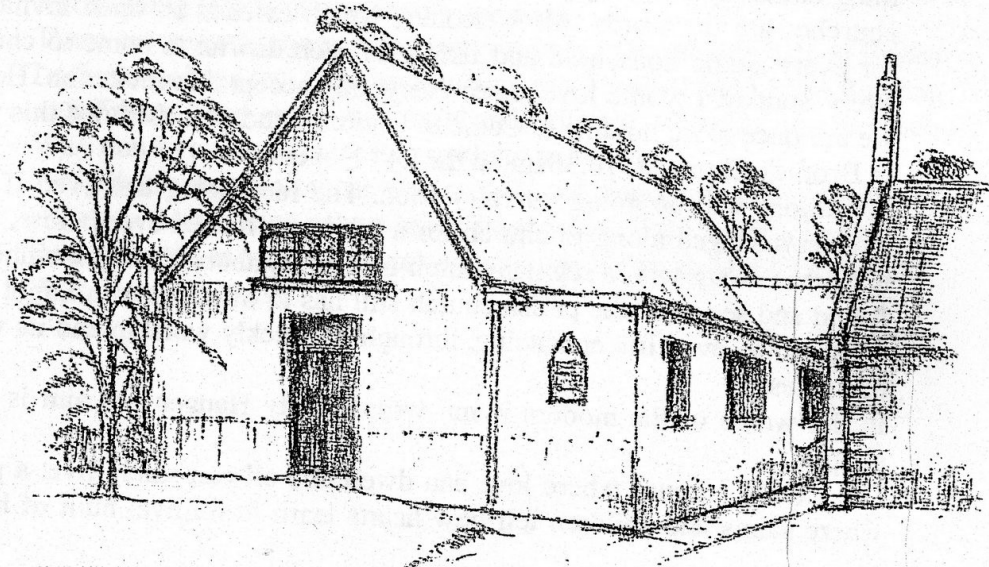
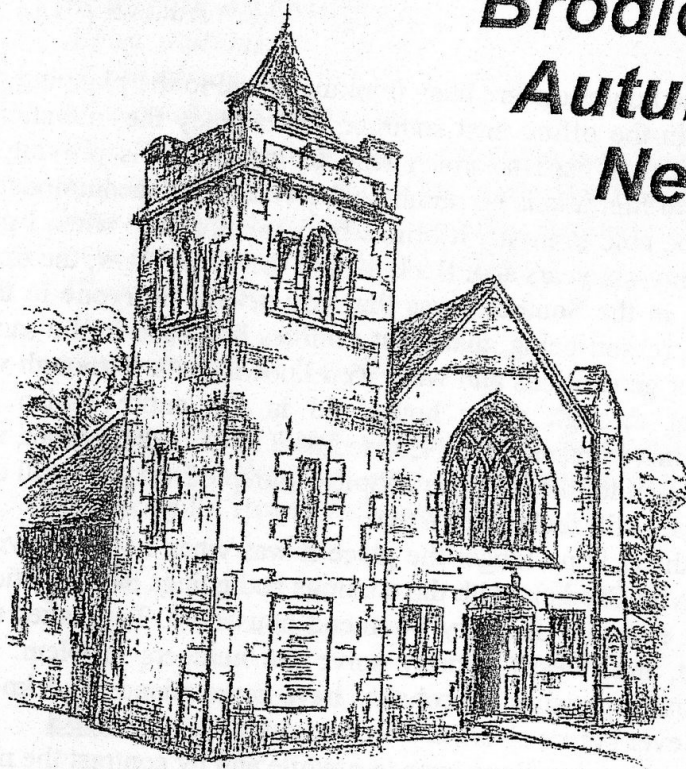


**St Bride's Church
Brodict
Autumn 2013
Newsletter**



Brodick Manse
Autumn 2013

Currently the manse household are busy thinking ahead to the planning of a family wedding in the offing next summer, and already the invitations are posing a problem. It isn't so much who to invite that is proving a headache, but due to limitations on numbers the venue can accommodate, those we will not be able to invite. It brings back memories to when I got married, some twenty-six years ago. Back then in the 'olden days', the time honoured tradition in the Southend was that you invited everyone in the entire district. The reason being, that most families had been in the same farms or houses for generations and were well known to us. Although we painstakingly went through every household in the entire Parish of Kilmory and a bit more besides, from Corriecravie to Craigdhu corner, we inadvertently managed to miss out one couple. A couple I was and still am particularly fond of. I still feel regret at that.

However the Southend is no longer the place it was when I was growing up and living today in Brodick, with the comings and goings in population, I no longer know everyone in every Southend household. That takes the pressure off a bit, but doesn't entirely solve the numbers problem. As minister of five other parishes, I probably have more friends and know more people than ever before elsewhere on the island.

Family weddings only come along once in a while and by contrast the nice thing about my everyday job, is that on the notice boards of all five of my churches are the words 'All Welcome', which extends an open invitation for every single household and family in each district to come to church every Sunday. I would love to see everybody accept that invitation. Hence we are once more holding a 'Come to Church Sunday', scheduled this year in Brodick Church at 10.30am on the 24th November.

Invitations will be going out very soon. The idea being that even if you haven't managed along to church for a while, or indeed ever before, why not come along with a regular church-going neighbour, family member or friend and see what the parish church still has to offer that you might find worthwhile, even life enhancing, through its weekly worship and its work of witness.

In the words of the modern hymn writer Marty Haugen our aim is very simple:

To'...build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive; built of hopes

and dreams and visions rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome,

all are welcome,

all are welcome in this place.

To '... build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.

Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;

let us bring an end to fear and danger:

All are welcome,

all are welcome,

all are welcome in this place.

And please don't worry. I assure you the venue will be big enough to accommodate everyone, and I mean everyone in the parish, from Merkland to Corriegills. Hope to see you there.

Angus

Editor's remarks

Now that our lovely summer is just a memory we can look forward to the forthcoming events on the church calendar.

There are several groups who meet regularly in the church hall, St Brides Ladies on a Monday, Country Dancing on a Tuesday and Ladies Bowling on a Friday. They are always ready and willing to welcome new members. Why don't you see if there is something to suit you?

A big thank you to all those who contributed in any way to the success of our main fund raising events held during the summer, especially Janet Ramage and her team who work so hard organising and running the fete.

Well done to you all.

Brodick Church Fete/Auction

On Saturday the 20th of July Brodick Church held its annual summer fete. The glorious weather brought the crowds for another very successful year. The bagpipes were played by Frances Corbett who opened the fete. There were many stalls to choose from including delicious home baking, bottle stall where every ticket won a prize, treasure hunt and a lovely cool church to peruse the incredible choice of books on sale. A variety of games to entertain everyone was in the garden and a wonderful marquee in the grounds to shade people while enjoying their cup of tea.

The prize winners were:

Treasure Hunt: Ann Cameron Garden planter: Ian Grant

Knitted dolls: Conner Reid Quiz: Betty McKay

Answers for quiz

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Humbug | 11. Smarties |
| 2. Picnic | 12. Jelly Babies |
| 3. Bounty | 13. Edinburgh Rock |
| 4. Galaxy | 14. Double Decker |
| 5. Whisper | 15. Fruit Gums |
| 6. Chocolate Buttons | 16. Mini Egg |
| 7. Turkish Delight | 17. Snicker |
| 8. Milky Way | 18. Maltesers |
| 9. Quality Street | 19. Starburst |
| 10. Bon Bons | 20. Topic |

On Thursday after the fete the auction was held in Brodick Golf Club a great evening was had by all with nearly 100 lots auctioned the choices ranging from a fish supper to garden furniture, something to suit everyone.

The grand total for both events was the magnificent sum of £5116.63.

These events would not have been possible without the dedicated help of too many people to mention and the generosity of local businesses so I will say a simple but very large thank you.

If anyone would like to help in the organisation of the fete next year I would be very grateful.

Ianet Ramage

Friends of Montrose House Association
Autumn 2013 Report

Yet again the main topic of interest recently has been the New-Build project with the long awaited "cutting of the first sod" ceremony heralding the start of work on site, bringing reality at last to the project. Resident Ian McLellan and Stronach client Betty Lennox were selected to assist the North Ayrshire Provost Joan Sturgeon and Cllr. Anthea Dickson, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in the ceremony. A speech was also made by Evelyn Sillars. Unfortunately the weather on the day was unpleasant but a good meal was enjoyed afterwards and we can be thankful that things are now beginning to happen. Site huts have arrived and the road has been widened, if only on a makeshift basis, to accommodate a fleet of construction vehicles passing up and down the road.

Meanwhile it is "business as usual" in-house with events taking place as planned. The visit of the Corrie Church "Young Generation" did not take place but we were delighted to have an impromptu performance by some of the traditional "Summer Serenaders"; Jean Bowden, John Forgie and David Inglis, which was very much enjoyed.

Plans are afoot to hold a Harvest Festival event in-house, along with the traditional Halloween and Bonfire Night celebrations and advance arrangements are being made for, yes, the Christmas Party!

Our plea for additional support for the "Garden Gang" has produced one new member and the Lamlash Cub Group have also provided much valued help on two evenings.

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Evelyn Sillars. Evelyn was instrumental in the formation of our Association and served as chairperson from its inception in Sept. 2000 until 2003. She was also deeply involved in establishing the need for a home for the elderly on the island and performed the opening ceremony of Montrose House in 1974. She will be greatly missed by all.

Ensuring a Safe Church for All

The Church of Scotland has a deep concern for the wholeness and well being of each individual. Through its congregations, working together with the Safeguarding Service and statutory agencies, the Church seeks to safeguard the welfare of all people who come into contact with the Church and its services.

The Gospel proclaims that it is the responsibility of everyone within the fellowship of the Church to prevent harm, be it physical, sexual or emotional, and we will always seek to reduce risk.

The Church's commitment to safeguarding reminds us that "God cares passionately about the welfare and well-being of all people."

(Safeguarding Policy Statement 2010)

The Church of Scotland requires all Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to implement the church's safeguarding policy. All Kirk Sessions must appoint one or more safeguarding coordinators to act on their behalf to ensure that the instructions, recommendations and legislation relating to safeguarding practice are implemented. Safeguarding means protecting children and adults at risk of harm or abuseAnd this is where I come in. I'm Valerie Cross and in February I was appointed Safeguarding Coordinator for Brodick and Corrie Churches. Since then Lorna McDonald, Susan Dobson and Catriona Smith have all volunteered to form a safeguarding team to share the work load.

Amongst other things the safeguarding coordinator:

- is the recognised person for receiving reports of any witnessed, suspected or reported harm or abuse of children or adults at risk.
- maintains a register of all volunteers who work with vulnerable groups and manages the process for volunteers to become members of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme.
- promotes training opportunities for elders and volunteers.
- liaises with the hall letting convenor and property convenor on safeguarding issues.

- reports to every meeting of the Kirk Session on safeguarding issues.

I know that many of you feel that safeguarding is not necessary, especially on Arran.

Nevertheless, it is mandatory and if you see one of us coming with a form or a leaflet

– please don't shoot the messenger!!

St Brides Ladies

The 2013- 2014 winter session of St Brides Ladies is about to begin; not that the ladies have been idle over the summer! In August, we catered for the Highland Games once again. It was a tiring but an enjoyable day and many thanks are due to all who provided sandwiches and baking or contributed in any other way to its success. The committee have also been meeting to compile what we hope will be an interesting syllabus.

After the Harvest Lunch on Sunday 27th October, our first meeting takes place the following evening, Monday 28th, when we have Calum McNicol giving us an account of his ocean voyage. Two weeks later, Alan Milligan has been invited to tell us about "Life in the Navy". On Monday 25th November, Cathy Steed will be sharing her knowledge of flowers.

In December our Christmas Fayre and Christmas Party bring the first half of the session to a close.

Over the darker winter months the meetings will take place in the afternoon. The syllabus, with further details, is available in the Church vestibule if you haven't already got one.

This year we have decided to make all our meetings "open meetings". We hope to welcome more men as we think some of the topics would be of interest.

Please come along as all are welcome.

Dear Friends

Are you someone who likes to know the end of a story? If you are reading a book for example, are you the type of person who looks at the last page before you begin at the first chapter to see how the story will end. Or if you are a fan of the Soaps do you get the T.V. magazine and find out what is going to happen before you watch all the episodes for that week? Are you the type of person that before you watch a movie on television or DVD you like to know how it will end? Do you ask someone who has already watched the film to tell you about the story and how it finishes?

When it comes to our Christian lives and the church does the same sort of thing apply. We want to know what God is doing and how things will be especially in the event of an illness or a time of anxiety and trouble or in this time of vacancy. This reminds me of a poem that I would like to share with you, it is called:

“The Divine Weaver”.

My life is but a weaving between the Lord and me;
I cannot choose the colours he worketh steadily.
Oftentimes he weaveth sorrow and I in foolish pride,
Forget that he seeth the upper, and I the underside.
Not 'till the loom is silent and the shuttles cease to fly,
Shall God unroll the canvas and explain the reason why.
The dark threads are as needful in the weaver's skilful hand
As the threads of gold and silver in the pattern he has planned.

As much as we would want to know what lies ahead for us we know that this is impossible. We thank God that he knows though, for He is the one who holds our future, our God who loves and cares for us and calls us to trust in Him.

In His service

Jean Hunter

Thanks

Thank you for the cards, thoughts and prayers through my recent bereavement with the loss of my mother, your kindness and support was much appreciated.

Jean

Evelyn Sillars M.B.E.

Our church was shocked on 13th September to hear that one of our most prominent and active members, Evelyn Sillars, had passed away after a relatively brief illness in her 90th year.

Evelyn was a member of our church for 55 years. Thirty years ago she was ordained as an elder and almost immediately thereafter served as our representative elder on Presbytery for the rest of her life.

Always a doughty supporter of Arran and any deserving cause, she gave of herself liberally to serve on many committees both on the island and on the mainland. She was awarded the M.B.E in 1980 for services to the community.

We shall remember Evelyn for many things, but particularly as one of our gracious elders, always willing to take to the pulpit when circumstances demanded, and involving herself in many other church commitments such as convenor of our flower fund, and the originator and convenor of our fortnightly coffee mornings.

We give thanks for a life well lived.

Congratulations

Ordained as elders at the same time thirty years ago, as Evelyn Sillars, were Mrs Fiona Brown and Mrs Sheila Selkirk. Long service certificates will be presented to them at a forthcoming morning service.

Our newest elder, Mrs Ann Mackay, was ordained on Sunday 15th September. Ann has been our Sunday School teacher for a number of years, and we are extremely grateful to her for her willingness to be involved in this vital part of the church's work.

Brodick Church Christmas Cards.

Once again we have our own Christmas Card which this year features the very popular Centenary Wall Hanging. This depicts St Bride leading a group of people into the red sandstone Church building with the outline of Goatfell and the Castle in the background. Surrounding the central panel is a variety of emblems representing significant aspects of island life with, of course, the Burning Bush emblem of the Church of Scotland and the Celtic Trefoil symbolising the blessed Trinity. The biblical quote inside the card reads "*Let us go to the house of the Lord. Psalm 122*"

The card is available to purchase in packs of 10 for £3.50 or individually at 35p each at the Church Vestibule on Sundays, the Church Hall and at coffee mornings in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

We also intend to repeat the facility of having a Communal Christmas Card Collage on a notice board in the Church Hall. This is to enable members of the congregation to send Christmas greetings to Church friends and to nominate a charity of their choice to receive a small donation. We hope that as many as possible will take advantage of this facility.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2013

By the time you read this, the 2013 Appeal will be drawing to a close. Again, we have been the packing and sorting station for the Isle of Arran. This means that all boxes, from any source, are channeled through our Church.

The small team of helpers set about checking every box for items that are not accepted by the authorities in the recipient countries, adding missing items from the essential list, and, if space is available, adding a little piece extra to the box.

The boxes are then sealed and packed into cartons, 11 shoeboxes per carton. These are then sealed and labeled ready to be delivered to the Blythswood Depot in Glasgow by Arran Deliveries. All monies are banked and returns made to Head Office in Evanton.

My thanks to you for filling the shoeboxes and the team for sorting; full details of the result will appear later.

Hamish Mitchell

Property Report

I have to report that the the walls of the church vestibule have been freshly decorated together with the stairway leading to the gallery.

Following the last board meeting it was agreed to proceed with the installation of 6. new ceramic wall heaters as a back up to the existing heating. These heaters would only be used when it was felt necessary i.e. particularly when there was an east wind and when it was felt the existing heating was not coping with the cold. An additional heater was proposed for the chancel, behind the communion table with an additional heater positioned in the pulpit.

New holderbatts have been fitted to the tubular heaters in the vestibule.

The windows to the church and hall have been cleaned both inside and out. The slates to the church roof have been checked over and replacements and repairs carried out as necessary. Gutters will be cleaned and checked following the leaf fall.

Externally the front railings to the church are badly in need of a coat of paint. I would hope that appealing for volunteers for this work, the response will equal that of the church hall painting.

Again thank you all for your support.

NC

Church Open.

The church is very grateful to those members of the Congregational Board and the Kirk Session who added to their other commitments this summer to ensure that the church was opened from 10am and closed at 4pm every day.

This was an experiment in making the sanctuary available to anyone wishing to have a period of private prayer, or simply to have a look at what the church looked like inside. Many of us have no doubt looked round other churches while on holiday, and until now visitors to Brodick were denied that opportunity to see inside our beautiful church.

It is impossible to say how many people availed themselves of this opportunity as the church was left unmanned, but from the entries in the visitors book and from reports by our own members who were around the church at various times, a fair number of people did visit. The Board and Session will discuss this over the winter and decide on our policy for the future.

CHURCH NOTICES – Autumn 2013

Marriages: 26th July Emma Donald to John Parker
25th August Susannah Parker to Iain Ross
21st September Victoria Mullen to David McGill

Disjunctions: Isla Blair (formerly Strabane) to The Creek, Glenshee,
Perthshire.

Deaths: Evelyn Sillars. Lichfield, Mid Mayish 13th September

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

27th October 10.30am **Harvest Thanksgiving Service**
12noon Harvest Soup and Sandwich Lunch
Final day for shoeboxes to be brought to church

28th October 7.30pm St. Bride's Ladies (Calum McNicol, Ocean Adventure)

30th October 10.30am Church Coffee Morning

31st October 12noon Health and Healing Service, Shiskine Church

2nd November 7pm Linkage Board and Session Meeting, Kinloch Hotel,
followed by Linkage Social (open to all members)

3rd November 11am **Linkage Communion Service** in Corrie Church
7pm **Thanksgiving Service**, Shiskine Church

6th November 7pm Christian Aid Road Show, Whiting Bay Church

7th November 7.30pm Taize Worship Service, Shiskine Church

10th November 10am **Remembrance at Brodick War Memorial**
10.30am **Remembrance Day Service**

11th November 2.30pm St. Bride's Ladies (Alan Milligan, Life in the Navy)

13th November 10.30am Church Coffee Morning

24th November 10.30am **Come To Church Sunday**

25th November 2.30pm St. Bride's Ladies (Cathie Stead – Flowers)

27th November 10.30am Church Coffee Morning
12noon Health and Healing Service in the transept

28th November 7pm Christingle Service, Shiskine Church

7th December 2pm St Brides's Ladies Christmas Fayre

9th December 7.30pm St. Bride's Ladies Christmas Party

11th December 10.30am Church Coffee Morning

14th December 11am Carol singing at Brodick Coop

24th December 11.30pm **Christmas Eve Watchnight Service**