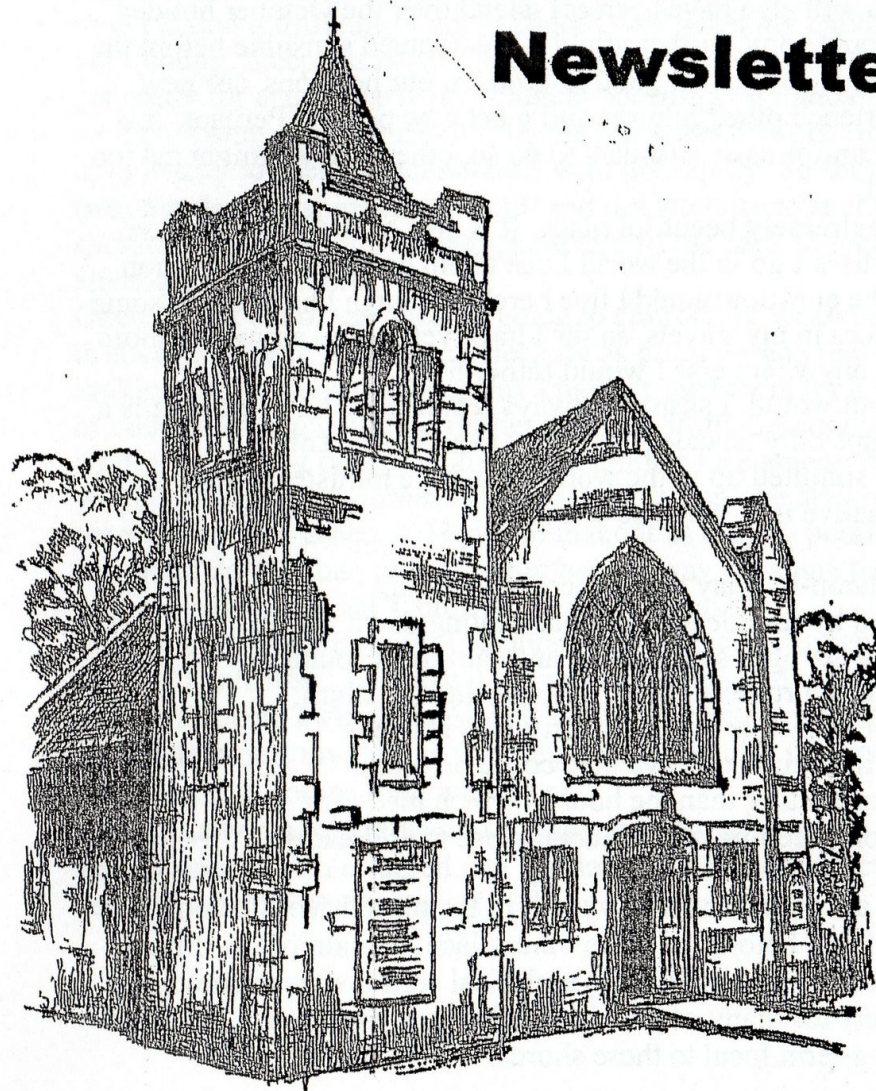


St Bride's Church

Brodick

Autumn 2014

Newsletter



Scottish Charity No SCO12017 www.brodickchurch.org

Brodick Manse
Autumn 2014

For many Arran folk, despite our own tourist season being much extended nowadays, October is still traditionally the time they take their annual holiday. I too have just returned from a two week break exploring among other places the Pembroke coast.

Many of you will also have been off island over the October holiday period, no doubt some further afield to guaranteed sunshine before the winter sets in. It does us all good to broaden our horizons, see new places, experience other cultures and meet new people. Perhaps, it is more important for us as islanders to do so, otherwise we might get too island bound.

Arran is an extremely beautiful place. It is also a hard place to leave. No matter where I go in the world I can't help comparing it to Arran and asking the question: could I live here? Although I have found some stunning places in my travels, so far I have yet to find anywhere more beautiful, or anywhere else I would rather live.

Leaving Arran would, I suspect, always feel like living in exile. It is a feeling perhaps only islanders can truly experience. This is wonderfully summed up in the words of a Skye minister writing about leaving his native isle, when he wrote:

A lamp-lit quay that glitters in the rain,
And by its side a steamboat waiting dawn.
The daylight strengthens, and the sirens sound;
The last rope splashes, and the engines churn;
The quayside fades. O misty isle, it seems
as if no time to leave thee could be found
More fitting than the hour in which men turn
From sleeping, and, reluctant lose their dreams.

So I for one am glad to be home again to the place I feel I belong to, will always feel I belong, as to no other place. It is almost as if I am bound to Arran by some invisible umbilical cord that ever draws me back. I suspect for many of you this is also your experience, whether native or long-term local to these shores.

The only other cord I feel as strongly is the one that draws me to church, to worship my Maker, the Creator of heaven and earth, and this beautiful place I call home, and feel at home. I feel at home in church too. I long for it when I am absent from it. Why that should be the case, perhaps simply down to the habit of a life-time. Once a habit forms it is difficult to break. Yet I suspect, were I to be absent from it for a time, it might be difficult to return. Indeed I know it to be the case. The only time I found it difficult to get to church was when my children were very young. Sleepless nights, wee ones that took a lot of organizing to get ready for church early on a Sunday morning - a Sunday morning which was the only day freed from the pressures of work when I got an opportunity to spend precious time with my family. So for a year or two, Sunday worship was difficult and my attendance at church was sporadic. It took a very strong desire to pull me back to regular attendance once more.

Once we get out of the habit of going to church, for whatever reason, it is always difficult to return, especially as often we can feel others looking and perhaps thinking "my I haven't seen them for a while". Yet of course nothing could be further from the truth. I guarantee there would be nothing but rejoicing to see another face among the regular worshipers and the warmest of welcomes for anyone drawn back to worship after an absence. Hence to make it as easy as possible for people to do just that, perhaps after being away for some time, once a year we have a special 'Come to Church Sunday'.

This year at Brodick we will celebrate our 'Come to Church Sunday' on the 23rd November. To make it even easier to respond to this and so that there will be no awkwardness in having to step across the kirk threshold alone, invitations will be given by family, friends, or neighbours to come along with them.

I hope many reading this will take the opportunity to come to church and reconnect with a sacred and special place in their affections. Rest assured a warm 'homecoming' welcome is ever waiting.

Angus

Property Report

Manse

The main hallway and upper corridor decoration work, the main entrance flooring, and the fascia to the garage remain outstanding. Hopefully all items will be completed by the end of the month.

Hall

A new pin board has been fitted for the use of the Sunday School in the small hall. Light bulbs and smoke detector batteries have been replaced where necessary. The curtains covering the sliding doors have been repaired. Thanks are due to Nancy Macleod for her needle work. The hall floor has had its annual varnish. The kitchen cupboard has been secured with a new padlock. Quotations are awaited for replacement doors to the chair store, and the toy cupboard. These have to be solid core doors. A single replacement door in the small hall is also required. There has been evidence of vermin in the hall. Please be aware that all perishable goods should be in a sealed container or jar if being left in a cupboard. I have cancelled the quotation for the sound system for the hall and am at present seeking an alternative quotation.

Church

Glazing repairs were completed to the church prior to the fitting of the perspex. A start has been made to fit the perspex to the tower openings. Regrettably a large number of sheets were damaged on arrival on the site and have to be replaced. The door to the electrical box in the tower has been secured. During August bats were found to be nesting in the loft. They are a protected species and on the advice of Mr Smythe, the vermin controller, they were left alone. He advised that during October they would depart for warmer climes. Nevertheless he will vacuum the loft area to remove droppings which have been there for years. The bats will return next year. The floor adjacent to the pulpit has been checked and there was no evidence of rot. The back boards in two of the pews need attention as the feathers in the wood having split. Quotations are awaited to reinstate the pulpit handrail and to establish a method of replacing light bulbs in the chandeliers, without going up into the loft. A Fire Risk Assessment has been requested by Presbytery and will be made available to all who use the premises.

External Works

A thank you is extended to the AYF for painting the railings to the front elevation; a splendid job. New covers and shoes have been replaced at the foot of two rain water pipes.

A new frost cover has been replaced on the outside tap.

A new hut for the use of the AYF is now in position at the rear of the Church building. The paving slabs to the huts require a power wash to remove the algae.

Editor's Remarks

What a wonderful summer we have had. We now have a busy winter of activities ahead of us and to ensure their success we, as always, are asking for your continued support.

I have been asked to include the following items in this edition and it is to be hoped that it will generate some interest from some of our readers.

Josephine Breton is currently working as a volunteer teacher in Lilongwe, Malawi. One of her contacts is Victor Zgambo who works in the media business. Victor is about 40 years old and speaks excellent English. His request is to have an email correspondent 'any age, male or female, but a Christian'. Victor's email address is viczgambo@gmail.com

Josephine can also be contacted on j.breton397@btinternet.com

Host

After 27 years with HOST, I have few illusions: I know only one person in 50 will give this item a second thought. But perhaps you are that rare person! HOST is looking for kind, friendly, hospitable people in Scotland whose imaginations are caught by the idea of welcoming an international student at university here, far from his or her own family, to their home. This could be for a day, a weekend or Christmas, and you don't need to live near a university, as students will travel for the privilege of meeting you, learning about real life in this country, and sharing their own culture. HOST is a voluntary activity which makes ambassadors for international goodwill of us all. Please see www.hostk.org or call regional organiser Anne-Marie Nicol on 01738 621633. Thank you. Margaret Stevens BEM, on behalf of HOST

Brodick Church Fete

On Saturday the 19th of July just as the fete was about to open the rains came down, as predicted, but fortunately the crowds came in. Ross Dobson rang the church bells to announce the opening of the annual fete. The majority of the stalls with a squash and a squeeze fitted inside the church and hall. Grace was making her famous pancakes inside the church drawing everyone inside with their fantastic smell. Inside the church there was bric-a-brac and books as well as a raffle for a handmade garden ornament. Inside the hall there were teas and coffees as well as home-baking and tombola. There were also plants and children's games outside. Every stall was busy throughout the afternoon; the weather did not dampen anyone's spirits.

Prize Winners

Treasure Hunt- Alfie Gilmore

Garden Raffle- Kirsty Duncan

Quiz- Lavinia Hendry

Sweeties in a Jar- Maureen Cuthbert

The answers to the quiz which was very kindly compiled by Margaret Anderson were

1.Portpatrick 2.Achnasheen 3.Blackness 4.Sanday 5.Slackhead
6.Macmerry 7.Penifiler 8.Mossblown 9.Olgrinmore 10.Cardross
11.Kilnave 12.Applecross 13.Kingseat 14.Tomintoul 15.Tarbert
16.Busby 17.Kintour 18.Stafin 19.Newtonmore 20.Abernethy

Church Auction

The annual auction was held on the Thursday after the fete in Brodick Golf Club where a large variety of items were auctioned by two very

able auctioneers Ian Macleod and Bert Ramage. Every item was sold and a fun evening was enjoyed by everyone who came along.

The grand total from both events raised the wonderful sum of £3975.40

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with both of these events. It is very much team work from businesses and each individual's contributions which makes it such a success.

I have decided after 5 years to stand down from helping organise these events and would appeal for somebody to take on this interesting role. Please either contact me or Angus if you would like more information.

Many thanks

Janet Ramage

Arran Churches Together

Our Quiz Night, held this year on 21st August, was well attended and as usual great fun. Helen Kerr was an able and humorous quizmaster and we enjoyed a selection of tasty refreshments. This is a popular night with members of churches on the island as well as some holidaymakers.

The next event in the calendar is the Christingle Service to be held in Lamash on 27th November. The service will be at 7pm but participating children should be there at 6.30pm to prepare their Christingles.

On 13th December we hope for a good turnout for Carol Singing in the Co-op to get shoppers into the Christmas Spirit.

Friends of Montrose House Association

Autumn 2014 Report

With the passing of the glorious summer sunshine and the resumption of heavy rain showers and the inevitable ferry delays and cancellations, it is clearly evident that autumn has arrived. The leaves are turning golden brown and falling to the ground providing endless work for our gardeners.

The pending move to the new building is naturally the main topic of interest as 'D'(Decampment) Day rapidly approaches. Despite the recent rather optimistic report in the Arran Banner it is not yet certain -at the time of writing- when the move will actually take place as Staff Training and resolution of various last minute building problems are completed. The Care Commission will visit on 5th November when it is hoped that final approval will be given.

Meanwhile plans are well advanced for the traditional Hallowe'en, Bonfire Night and Christmas celebrations to take place in whichever location is appropriate. The idea of having several smaller 'homely' lounges in-house means that the only location large enough to hold such events is in the Daycare part of the building which is only available at weekends. Hence the Christmas Party will be held on a Saturday instead of the traditional weekday.

It had been anticipated that certain significant plants and trees would be earmarked for transfer to the new gardens but we have been informed that this will not now take place. The suggestion is that we hold a 'Closing Down Sale' and anyone will be welcome to take such items as they wish and make a small donation to funds. This will be advertised in due course if approved.

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the death of Louise Stachniewska. A memorial service was held in-house with several members of her family and friends paying tribute.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2014

There is just enough time to hand in your filled boxes if you have not already done so. The final date is Sunday 2nd November.

St Bride's Ladies

Once again, at the Highland Games in August, St Bride's Ladies provided the catering in the Ormidale Pavilion which was very successful and much appreciated. Thanks are due to the ladies of the committee who planned and organised this event and to everyone who helped on the day and/or provided the sandwiches and baking.

Our first meeting is on Monday 27th October following the Church Harvest Lunch the previous day. Our speaker is Angela Cassels whose subject is "Deserted Settlements"

This is followed on 10th November by a talk from Arran Police. Have your questions ready!!

On the 24th November, Ian McChlery will be our guest and his subject will be-----CHOCOLATE!!!

Please note these meetings are in the afternoon at 2p.m.

The Christmas Fayre is on 6th December and the first half of our session finishes with our Christmas party on 8th December.

Our meetings are open to all, men and women, and you can be sure of a warm welcome on arrival from Myrna!!!!

Copies of the syllabus are available from members of the committee.

Evelyn Sillars Memorial Window

Work on the stained glass window in memory of the late Evelyn Sillars is well underway and should be installed in the Church by the end of the year. To date £1,000 has been donated towards the approximate cost of £4,000. If you would like to make a donation in memory of Evelyn you can give this to me, at Church any Sunday, or send it to 7 Brathwic Terrace, Brodick, KA278BE.

Sylvia Alison, Congregational Treasure

GRATEFUL THANKS

It seems a long time ago now, but our **Summer Fete** on 19th July and the subsequent **Auction** on 24th July were again a great success. The Fete raised £3,254 and the Auction £721 making a total of £3,975 for church funds. Many people devoted a lot of their time on each day without which the events would not have succeeded, so to them and to Janet Ramage and her committee, who planned and executed the whole thing so efficiently, our grateful thanks.

Janet would like to step down after several years at the helm, so a successor is needed to take over. If you would like to volunteer to take her place, please speak to Janet without delay.

The members of St. Bride's Ladies once again excelled themselves in Ormidale Pavilion when they provided the **Tearoom for Brodick Highland Games** in August. They undertake this mammoth task willingly every year, but it is a very demanding commitment considering that on the day and beforehand they are baking and making sandwiches as well as setting up and clearing away, so well done again Ladies!!

Now that summer is over, we must thank all **those who opened and closed the church** each day during the summer months. We don't know how many people availed themselves of the opportunity to come in and have a look at our lovely church, and perhaps have a word of prayer, as it was left unattended, but certainly a fair number of people we know did come. So thank you again to all those who gave up a little of their time to make this facility available.

Finally, but just as sincerely, the congregation's grateful thanks go to those who provide the tea and coffee in the church hall Sunday by Sunday. Please add your names to the **Sunday Tea Rota** on the hall noticeboard if you can help. And of course every two weeks throughout the year a **Church Coffee Morning** takes place in the church hall, and we thank those volunteers who so willingly provide this convivial meeting place, which at the same time raises funds for the overseas education charity World Vision and the Flower Fund.

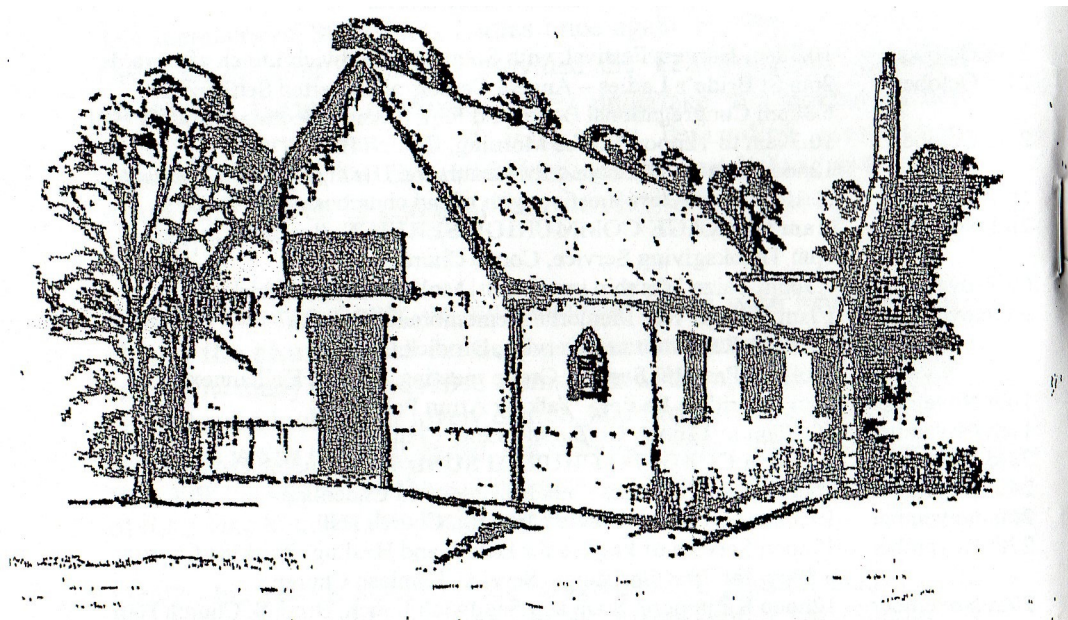
CHURCH NOTICES – AUTUMN 2014

Weddings: Kirsty Pitman and Martin Murphy in Brodick Church 6th September
Arlene MacFarlane and Matthew Chinn in Brodick Church 4th October

Deaths: Peter Lee, 8 Cora Linn Court, Brodick 21st July
Ella McKechnie, Glen Estate, Brodick 30th July
Margaret Pearman, Glen Estate, Brodick 4th August
Elsbeth MacRae, 11 Alma Park, Brodick 8th August
Aubrey Farrar, West Mayish Road, Brodick 8th August
Kathryn De Courcy, The Barn, Glencloy, Brodick 11th August
Louise Stachniewska, Montrose House, Brodick 3rd September
Joe Miller, Lamlash, 6th September
Tom Cooke, 13 Springbank Terrace, Brodick 27th September
Ian McCulloch, 9 Cora Linn Court, Brodick 10th October

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

26th October 10.30am Harvest Festival, with Soup and Sandwich Lunch afterwards
27th October 2pm St Bride's Ladies – Angela Cassels on Deserted Settlements
6.30pm Congregational Board and Kirk Session meetings, Church Hall
29th October 10.30am to 12noon Coffee Morning, Church Hall
12noon Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Church Transept
1st November 11.15am Presbytery meeting with island churches office-bearers
2nd November **11am LINKAGE COMMUNION SERVICE, Brodick Church**
7pm Thanksgiving Service, Corrie Church
6th November 7.30pm Taize Worship service, St. Molio's Church, Shiskine
9th November 10am Village War Memorial Remembrance Service
10.30am Remembrance Service, Brodick Church
11.45am Pastoral Support Group meeting, Church Hall annexe
10th November 2pm St Bride's Ladies – Talk by Arran Police
12th November 10.30am to 12noon Coffee Morning, Church Hall
23rd November **10.30am COME TO CHURCH SUNDAY**, including Baptism
24th November 2pm St Bride's Ladies – Ian McChlery on Chocolate
26th November 10.30am to 12noon Coffee Morning, Church Hall
27th November 12noon Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Shiskine Church
6.30pm for 7pm Christingle Service, Lamlash Church
29th November 12noon Kalimpong Soup and Sandwich Lunch, Brodick Church Hall
6th December 2pm St Bride's Ladies Christmas Fayre
7th December 10am Pastoral Support Group Meeting, Church Hall
8th December 7.30pm St Bride's Ladies Christmas Party
10th December 10.30am to 12noon Coffee Morning, Church Hall
21st December 10.30am Family Service for Christmas with ARCO string group
24th December 5pm Christmas Eve Family Service with Sacrament of Baptism
11.30pm Christmas Eve Watchnight Service



Brodick Church War Memorial Hall