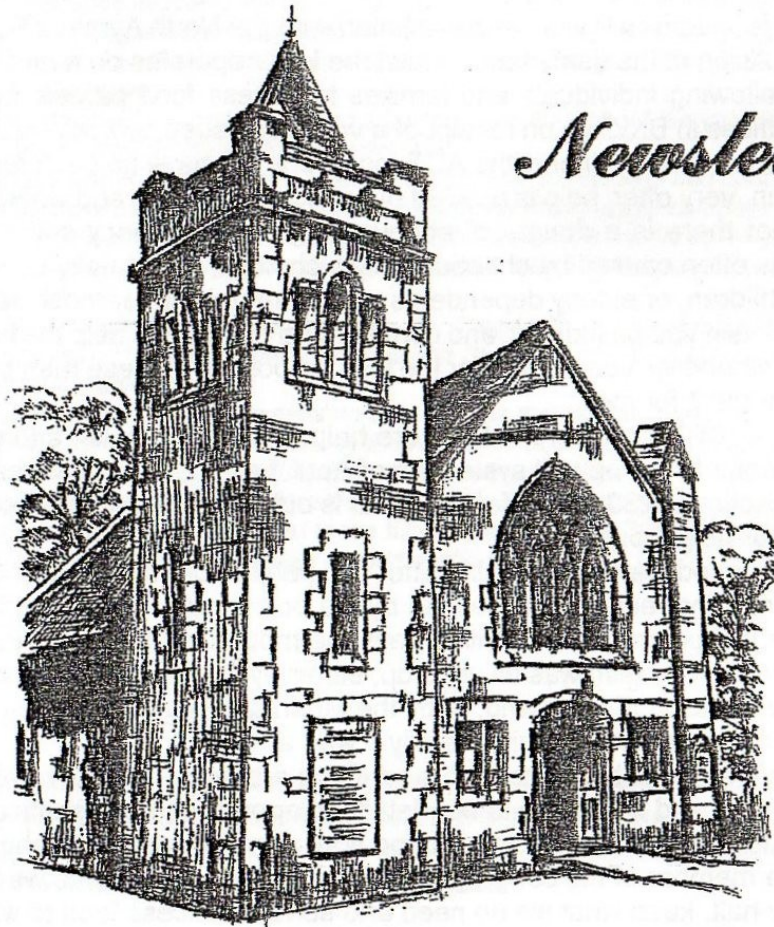


*St Bride's Church
Brodict*

Spring 2013

Newsletter



Brodick Manse

April 2013

Food Bank Update

As you may be aware I was horrified to learn that on this island over the Christmas period, there were people, including young children, going hungry. The reason, changes to benefit laws, made worse by the recession leading to increased unemployment. Often through no fault of their own, families have found themselves in dire straits. To ensure this situation never happened again, an appeal went out through Arran Churches Together for donations of long shelf life food in order to set up a local food bank. Within a few weeks, a mountain of appropriate food had been collected at church and delivered to our donated lock-up garage at Thornlea, Lamlash. A team of volunteers covering all areas of the island was then established to distribute emergency 3 to 5 day food parcels where most needed.

This ACT food bank will work in conjunction with the North Ayrshire Food Bank, set up on Arran at the same time. Whilst the latter operates on a means-tested scheme, allowing individuals and families to access food parcels from Arran Homes Offices in Brodick, on receipt of a voucher issued by social services, up to a maximum of three times, the ACT food bank will have no such restrictions. The reason, very often help is needed over a longer period, and whilst it can be argued that there is a danger of encouraging a dependency culture, or that hardship is often caused by chaotic lifestyle choices, it is usually the innocent, such as children, or elderly dependents who ultimately suffer most. Jesus said, 'Judge not, lest you be judged', and commenting on how we help the hungry, he also said 'whenever you did this for the least important of these members of my family, you did it for me!'.
Last year 130,000 people in the UK were helped by food banks, and with even more changes to the benefit system as of April 1st, it is estimated that this will rise to in excess of 230,000 before the year is out. Some of those affected might well be your neighbours.

I know how good we are at looking after our neighbours on this island, as was shown during the recent crisis caused by the power cuts and blizzard conditions just before Easter. Within days the mountain of food stored in the ACT lock-up in Lamlash was all used up, either by the various emergency food centres set up around the island, or by the Mountain Rescue, delivering food to those cut off by the snow. Quite literally it was a "Godsend".

Now the cupboard is bare once more so if you are not already involved in donating food, and would like to be, details of appropriate foodstuffs are listed on the church notice board. Simply bring your donations along to church, or speak to a member of the congregation. If we get too much food, we will call a temporary halt, keep what we do need and send off excess food to where it is needed on the mainland. Charity might begin at home, but Jesus our Lord never intended that it should end there.

Angus

Stated Annual Meeting

Rev Angus Adamson and Parish Assistant Jean Hunter attended the S.A.M. in the War Memorial Church hall on Thursday 11th. March at 7.00pm. 34 members also attended.

After a welcome from Angus the business of the evening was commenced by a report of our annual accounts from Sylvia Alison our Treasurer. Sylvia displayed and explained all the expenditure, contributions for the year and the Budget for 2013. Whilst highlighting the positives of our accounts, Sylvia reminded us of the dangers of increasing costs of power, maintenance and insurance, areas which should be closely monitored. At the conclusion of her report Sylvia was given warm applause for her efforts during the year.

John Lauder, Session Clerk gave detailed account of our membership, the number on the Communicants roll at 1/1/2012 being 146. All the retiring members of the Congregational board wished to be re-elected and they were. 3 new members Janet Ramage, Ann Green and Colin McKenzie were nominated, seconded and welcomed onto the board.

John thanked everyone who had supported him throughout the year and Angus thanked John for his work during the year.

Angus also wished to thank all those behind the scenes who had contributed to the success of all the Christmas occasions and the Stewardship campaign.

The continuing success of the Arran Youth Foundation and its connection with us was highlighted by Angus and Jean continued with that theme when she spoke of the Kidz Club.

The summer programmes were also mentioned with a proposed open Garden day at Lady Jean Ffordes Strabane planned, the St. Brides annual church fete and auction and the Harvest lunch.

Before Angus closed the meeting John Lauder rose to pay tribute to Angus and Jean for the tremendous work done by them for the Parish throughout the year with Funerals, Weddings and Baptisms being only a small part of their support to the communities on Arran. John also thanked Liz Clarke and Sharon McLeod for their efforts and wished them well in the future, John then led the assembled members in giving Angus and Jean a well earned ovation.

A.J.N.M.

Arran Churches Together

Considering the disruption caused by the previous weekend's blizzard and subsequent power cut, a surprising number of people took part in the annual Walk of Witness from the Church of the Holy Cross to St. Bride's, Brodick, where the walk ended with a short service in the Church Hall, followed by tea and coffee.

The 'Songs of Praise' service in the Sports Field, Blackwaterfoot is scheduled for 6.30pm on 23rd June.

Many folk from Arran have had the privilege of travelling to India with the Rev John Webster, and I have been one of them.

The three week holiday starts off at Kolkata. I spent three days there mesmerised by the vibrant colours of the city, from the women in beautiful saris, to the hundreds of yellow taxis. There is an open air market, extremely colourful too, flowers, fruit and vegetables of all sorts. Also a sail on the Hooghly River, a tributary of the Ganges, very polluted, yet adults and children have their daily routine of washing and bathing there. For me the highlight of Kolkata is a visit to the home of the nuns of the Missionaries of Charity which was founded by Mother Teresa and is now the location of her tomb. It is a very peaceful and indeed very spiritual place.

From Kolkata we move to Kathmandu. Another extremely busy and buzzing city, so after a couple of days there, it is nice that we have the choice to trek or go on safari. I chose to trek. This was four days spent walking in beautiful warm sunshine with spectacular views of the Annapurna range of the Himalayan Mountains.

On the move again we head to Darjeeling and stay in the very up market Windermere Hotel where the bedrooms have fireplaces which are lit every evening. It gets very cold in the foothills of India, so the fires are more than welcome when bedtime comes around. I had time to go on the famous Toy Train. I loved every minute of my journey on it.

From Darjeeling it is a drive through the Tea plantations and on up the hill to Kalimpong, home to Dr Graham's Homes, a school for Anglo-Indian children from deprived areas of Kolkata.

I have been lucky to visit the school four times. It is always a joy for me to spend time with them there. They so enjoy having visitors to see and hear what they are doing. They are so motivated.

Alas all too soon I am heading back to Kolkata on the overnight train, the start of the homeward journey. I have taken home a lot of marvellous memories, made new friends and have been extremely humbled by the extraordinary grace and dignity of the Indian and Nepalese people I met.

Shona

ST BRIDES LADIES

Since the last church magazine St Brides Ladies session has come to an end. Once again we had a successful year with interesting speakers.

On 11th Feb. David Shaw, from Mission Aviation Fellowship, told us of its work with various charities transporting lifesaving goods to some of the remotest parts of the world. David's talk was illustrated with an interesting video presentation.

We were very privileged on 25th Feb to have Sir Kenneth and Lady Calman as our guests. Sir Kenneth and his wife Anne entertained us with readings and anecdotes of poems about Glasgow from the beginning of the 19th century up to the present day illustrating the history of the city.

On 11th March we welcomed Helen Kerr and her husband who gave us a video presentation of their interesting and sometimes hazardous Trans Siberian journey---very courageous!!

Due to the electricity failure, our A.G.M. had to be postponed. This eventually took place prior to our Easter Fayre on 6th April. President, Liz Lawrie, gave a brief resume of the year's events and thanked the committee for their continued support. Office bearers and committee remain the same for the following year.

In spite of the recession our Easter Fayre was very successful. The winners of the hampers were Sheila Selkirk and Shona Hume.

We now "look forward?" to our next event---The Highland Games, when it will be all hands on deck again. Meantime the committee are busy arranging next session's syllabus and would welcome any suggestions.

The Manse Shiskine

Modern communication is a great thing, when it works that is. During the recent bout of bad weather, with blizzards on this side, like many others I realised how much we depend on electricity, phones and computers. Being snowed in with no power no phone and no way of communicating with family and for pastoral issues was a very strange and frustrating situation for me to be in. When I eventually got dug out of the manse, and found out what was really going on it was like being in a disaster movie. It was so unreal yet it was actually happening. However, a good thing to come out of a bad situation was the community spirit and people helping one another. I was grateful to the folk who helped me as well, the Mountain Rescue who delivered milk and bread to me, neighbours who came to see how I was, the folk that dug my car out and dug a channel down to the road to get my car out, those who gave me a warm place to sit at the Kinloch Hotel and the Medical Centre and warm food to eat and so on. It was good to hear that the same thing was happening all over the valley with people helping and being helped by others. Food from the Foodbank was distributed to those who needed it too and of course the professionals worked very hard to resolve the situation to restore power and communications.

There are many tales that folk, no doubt will be telling for a long time to come. We have to remember too the farmers who lost sheep and lambs in the storm. I finally got the power on a whole week later and it was eleven days before my phone line was fixed and I could communicate with the outside world. The result of all this was that Holy Week this year seemed to have been cancelled in Shiskine.

I was speaking about modern communication. We have come through another Easter season that reminds us all of the greatest act of communication there ever was and that was of God communicating His love for the world through the cross. One of the most favourite of Easter hymns, a Good Friday hymn, has to be '*When I survey the wondrous cross*'. Here are a few words on this hymn and the writer of it Isaac Watts.

When teenager Isaac Watts complained to his father about the monotonous way Christians in England sang the Old Testament Psalms, his father, a leading deacon, snapped back 'All right young man, you give us something better.'

To Isaac Watts, the singing of God's praise was the form of worship nearest to Heaven and went on to argue; 'It's performance among us is the worst on earth.' Young Isaac accepted his father's challenge and eventually wrote a total of more than 600 hymns, earning him the title of 'The Father of English hymnody.'

Even as a child Isaac had shown a passion for poetry, rhyming and such mundane things as everyday conversation. His serious-minded father, after several warnings, decided to spank the rhyming nonsense out of his son (he wouldn't get away with that in these days). However, the tearful Isaac replied

*'Oh father do some pity take,
And I will no more verses make'*

However, choirs, congregations and individual Christians rejoice to this day that the young lad did not keep his impromptu promise. If he had, none of us would have the

thrill of singing such all-time favourites as
Oh God our help in ages past - or Joy to the World.

As a child, Isaac Watts was sickly and unattractive, yet, even by today's standards he was clever beyond his years. He began the study of Latin at the age of four, and added Greek when he was nine, French at eleven and Hebrew at thirteen.

At fifteen the young poet turned his talents to the service of the church and the great career in hymn-writing began.

In his hymns Isaac Watts takes the Word of God, of which he must have been a diligent student, and distils it so that all its wisdom, beauty and comfort are set before us with plainness and power. No wonder then, that C.H. Spurgeon's grandfather, himself a great preacher, and in the line of the Puritans, would have nothing else but the hymns of Isaac Watts sung in his services.

Isaac Watts greatest composition must surely be *When I survey the wondrous cross*. It has been called 'The very best hymn in the English language' and in it Watts, using only 16 lines, paints a soul-stirring picture of the Saviour's death on the cross coupled with the whole-hearted response of the believer to such amazing love.

Someone said of Watts 'It seems as if he wrote this text as if he were standing at the foot of the cross.'

How blessed to reflect on the finished work of Christ Jesus, as summed up in those lines;

*See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

And how enriching to be able to voice our reconsecration to the Lord's service in the world;

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

(Isaac Watts 1674-1748)



Jean Hunter

Easter Celebrations

In accordance with tradition the vestibule of the Church was decorated on Easter Sunday with a magnificent Daffodil Cross. Thanks are due to Mrs Evelyn Sillars and her team of helpers and to Lady Jean Fforde and to Montrose House whose gardens provided most of the flowers despite the most atrocious weather conditions.

Church Fete


Dates for your Diary



Summer is fast approaching and it's time to start thinking about our Summer Fete. This year it will be on Saturday 20 July at 2pm in the church grounds. The usual stalls will be present. Now is the time to start collecting tinned goods, bric-a-brac, tom bola items, books and thinking about delicious home baking. Norman has made an extra wish for donations of plants for his stall this year.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with stalls on the day; if you are available we would be most appreciative.

look out for the quiz if you do not already have one they are on sale in Bilslands the Museum or at church coffee mornings. This year the theme is sweets .



Alison Bilsland is appealing for adult volunteers to sell duck eggs the week prior to the fete It would only be for one hour either morning or afternoon This is a large part of the fundraising for the fete and all help would be very much appreciated If you are able to assist please pop into Bilslands or phone Alison on 303505 or any number below.



The annual auction will be on Thursday 25th July, held in Brodick Golf Club at 8pm. Please start to look out any items suitable for selling.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Susan Dobson for all her help during the last 3 years.

Any questions, comments or suggestions would be most welcome.

Please contact Fete Convenors:

Frances Corbett – 07890997652

Fiona McKenzie – 302329

Janet Ramage – 600641

Friends of Montrose House Association - Spring 2013 Report.

The advent of British Summer Time coupled with the worst winter weather in living memory has served to produce an amazing contrast of events, the like of which could only happen on the Island of Arran! Heavy falls of snow leading to extensive power cuts isolated much of the island for several days. Fortunately Montrose House has its own emergency generator but it transpired that it does not supply the in-house heating system so residents were assembled in the small lounge with temporary heating appliances. Staff were unable to travel to work and we recieved an urgent call for FOMHA volunteers to help serve in the dining room and give assistance to those who needed it. Meals were provided for residents from the sheltered housing complex across the road and indeed any local person in need. We also received a call to provide volunteers to steward the Brodick village hall where a mobile canteen was providing hot meals for the emergency power workers and again anyone else who was in need. Our organisation has now been officially included in emergency plans for future occurrences.

It is pleasing to note that FOMHA have subsequently received a letter of thanks from the office of the NAC Corporate Director (Social Services & Health Dept) *'for the unstinting support and assistance given to the residents and staff of Montrose House during the recent adverse weather.'*

Easter was once again celebrated in-house with the now traditional Easter Baskets competition organised by Ellie Jones and Friends. Entries were judged by Elma Murray, chief executive of NAC and the winners were Joey Bell and Joyce Orr who received prizes of Easter Eggs. All other competitors received a small pot of primroses in memory of Bettie Wilkie, one of last year's winners, who sadly passed away recently.

It is also with sadness that we record the death of resident Dennis(Den) Goldsbrough. A memorial service was held in-house by Rev Elizabeth Watson.

It is interesting to note that the service of worship held in Montrose House on 24th March, Palm Sunday, was the only service in the North Arran Linkage which survived the adverse weather on that day.

STRABANE OPEN GARDENS

Once again Lady Jean Fforde has kindly offered the church the opportunity to raise funds for the church by welcoming visitors to view her beautiful gardens.

This will take place on Thursday 11th July from 11am to 4pm. Refreshments will be served, and the youngsters from the Arran Youth Foundation who use our church hall for their winter meetings have offered to help out on the day. Volunteers will also be needed from the congregation on a shift basis throughout the day, and names will be sought nearer the time.

Coffee Rota 2013

July	10th	S Dobson	K Smith	
	24th	G Sillars	G Dickson	E Cooper
Aug	7th	M Boal	F Brown	M Cuthbert
	21st	I Rollo	E McKellar	E Sillars
Sept	4th	E Lawrie	J Robertson	M MacKinley
	18th	L Hendry	M Bryce	J Cameron
Oct	2nd	N MacLeod	V Sim	D Cross
	16th	M McRorie	F Brown	M Boal
	30th	S Alison	G Sillars	M Cuthbert
Nov	13th	E McKellar	I Rollo	E Sillars
	27th	M McKay	A Lauder	L Hendry
Dec	11th	G Bleakley	D Cross	J Cameron

CHURCH NOTICES – Spring 2013

Marriages: Patrick Shilcock to Nichola Frampton in the Big Wooden House on 9th February

New Members: Mrs Irene McLellan, 13 Glen Estate (ex Corrie Church)

<u>Funerals:</u>	Colin Douglas, Corriegills	6th January
	Stella McCrea, Montrose House	26th January
	Dennis Goldsborough, Montrose House	3rd March
	Betty Wilkie, Cooriedoon	9th March
	Eric Sillars, Glen Estate	12th March
	Campbell Armit, Hillview Place	30th March

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1st May	10.30am Church Coffee Morning in the Church Hall
2nd May	7.30pm Taize Worship Service in Shiskine Church
12th May	10.30am Quarterly COMMUNION Service 7pm Communion THANKSGIVING Service
15th May	10.30am Church Coffee Morning in the Church Hall
29th May	10.30am Church Coffee Morning in the Church Hall 12noon Health and Healing Service in the Transept
6th June	7.30pm Taize Worship Service in Shiskine Church
12th June	10.30am Church Coffee Morning in the Church Hall
23rd June	Gordon Waddell* Art Show in the Church hall during the after-service tea and coffee get-together
26th June	10.30am Church Coffee Morning in the Church Hall
27th June	12noon Health and Healing Service in Shiskine Church
10th July	10.30am Church Coffee Morning in the Church Hall
11th July	11am – 4pm Strabane Open Gardens for church funds
20th July	2pm Annual Church Fete in the church grounds
24th July	10.30am Church Coffee Morning in the Church Hall
25th July	8pm Annual Church Auction in the Golf Clubhouse

*Gordon Waddell is the artist who gave us the lovely sketch of the church which we now use for our church magazine cover. He will be showing a selection of his many Arran sketches.

WHO'S WHO AT BRODICK CHURCH

Minister	Rev. Angus Adamson	302334
Parish Assistant	Mrs Jean Hunter	860380
Session Clerk	Mr John Lauder	303517
Deputy Session Clerk	Mr Stewart Lambie	302304
Clerk to the Congregational Board	Mr. Alan Milligan	303968
Treasurer	Mrs Sylvia Alison	302613
Property Convenor	Mr Norman Cuthbert	303772
Freewill Offering Convenor	Mrs Elizabeth McKellar	302230
Church Magazine Editor	Mrs Sheena Mclean	303579
Presbytery Elder	Mrs Evelyn Sillars	302246
Pastoral Support Team Convenor	Mrs Elizabeth McKellar	302230
Sunday School Leader	Mrs Ann MacKay	600040
Hall Letting Convenor	Mr Alan Milligan	303968
Church Minibus Rota	Mrs Alison Bilsland	303505
Church Flower Rota	Mrs Evelyn Sillars	302246
Sunday Tea Rota	Mrs Anne Mitchell	302285
"Life and Work" Convenor	Mrs Elise White	302387