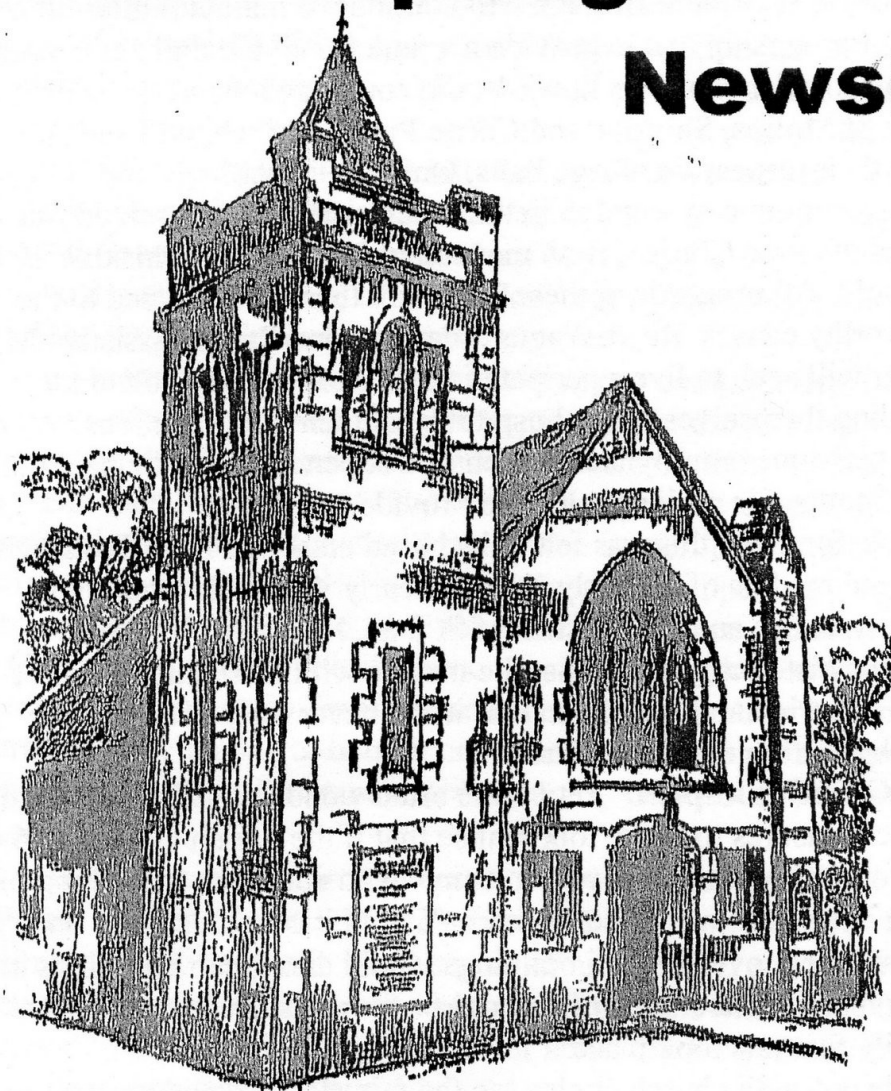


St Bride's Church

Brodick

Spring 2014

Newsletter



Brodick Manse
April 2014

BREAKING NEWS. Faced with ever growing apathy towards the Church, the five congregations of the North Arran linkage have, after a long and painful debate, decided to take drastic action in a last ditch effort to maintain their witness. In Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza and Shiskine, the ancient church buildings, which are costly to maintain and heat, used primarily only for an hour on a Sunday, are to be put on the open market for conversion to private dwellings or for redevelopment. The congregation of St Bride's, Brodick will continue to maintain their little tin church hall for worship and to provide a venue for all the daily community and church activities run from it, whilst the congregations of St Bride's, Lochranza, St Molios, Shiskine and Corrie Parish Church, will seek to worship in their respective village halls. Only in Pirnmill will the congregation continue to worship in the tin church, which is rented free of charge from the Free Church. Both manses, at Brodick and Shiskine are also to be sold. All proceeds of these sales will then be disbursed to the poor and worthy causes. Revd. Angus Adamson and Parish Assistant Mrs Jean Hunter will seek to live a peripatetic existence moving round the island availing themselves of the hospitality of their congregations, as well as seeking part-time employment in lieu of a stipend, which the bankrupt Church of Scotland is no longer able to provide.

The rationale for all of this was felt to be based on sound New Testament principles and models of the early church clearly illustrated both in the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles of St Paul. It was felt by those present at this historic meeting, that the trouble with Christianity wasn't that it has been tried and failed, but that it has never truly been tried as advocated by its founder Jesus Christ.

WARNING This is a spoof. Yet I have often wondered if it might take such drastic measures to make folk realise that if the Parish Church and the provision for parish ministers were to come to an end, then something of importance and worth would be no more. Would it cause a stir, an outcry perhaps that much loved church buildings would disappear. Buildings in which over many generations local people were christened, married and where family funerals took place.

Most people out-with church circles see the minister as someone who only works an hour a week on a Sunday, someone to trot out to at times of hatch, match and dispatch. Although nowadays with fewer baptisms

and an increase in weddings conducted by the Registrar, many ministers, faced with ever increasing linkages and bigger and bigger charges, say they feel that their only worth in the eyes of their communities is as a burier of the town dead. A fact borne out by statistics which calculate the Church of Scotland was responsible for conducting a funeral every 20 minutes last year. I confess that I sometimes feel nothing more than a handy person who will sign the passport or shotgun licence application form - free of charge of course.

We have long since given up believing that we are making any impact on church decline. Fewer and fewer people are coming to church. The latest figures published at the end of last year show membership of the Kirk standing at around 400,000, a huge drop from a million just 20 years ago. Yet still 1,718,000 people ticked the box and claimed, on the most recent census, to 'belong' to the Church of Scotland. By my way of thinking if those 1,318,000 people, not officially communicant members, who clearly still think of the Kirk as their national church, would at least help to support it financially, then we would not be facing the current crisis. If you don't use it, you will lose it, or if you don't use it, then at least support it and all the good works and services it provides.

At the moment the few, usually the oldest in our communities, often OAP's are subsidising everyone else to provide for the services of a minister and the maintenance of the local Parish Church, so dear to so many. But then it isn't what I think that will ultimately matter. It is what the general public thinks that will decide the matter. I am still hopeful of a positive outcome. Otherwise, what I outlined in my opening paragraphs might not be so far removed from the truth of things to come.

The Church at any one time since the very beginning has only ever been but one generation away from extinction. All it would take is for one generation to be unable to hand it on to the next. It has never happened ...yet. Neither will it, for somehow despite us, 'God's truth', his word 'endures forever'.

And you can rest assured in the meantime, come what may, at St Bride's, the Parish Church of Brodick, we will continue to work towards building the kingdom of God in our small corner of his creation and to serving all in our community, whether churched or non-churched, whether of faith or none, and to do so to the very best of our abilities, using all the resources we still have left at our disposal.

Angus

Editor's remarks

What a joy it was to see such a full church on Easter Sunday and to be greeted at the door by the beautiful daffodil cross. Thanks go to all those involved in the continuing of this tradition.

The fact that the electricity went off just as the service was about to start did not detract in the least from the celebration, in praise and prayer, of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God.

St Bride's Ladies

At the first meeting of 20 14 we welcomed Carol Burge who gave an inspirational talk on the origins and work of "Save the Children" as reported in the last magazine. At the end of January we had our annual "Scots Night" with traditional haggis supper. This was well attended and much enjoyed by all.

In February we welcomed Jack Paterson and John Potter who gave amusing accounts of developing their gardens from scratch with many tips along the way.

Helen Knight was our guest speaker at the second February meeting. She delighted everyone with her amusing anecdotes of her time in Shetland during her husband's ministry.

Dave Tapson was unable to come to the following meeting but Liz Lawrie stepped in and provided some enjoyable entertainment.

The AGM took place at our last meeting. Liz Lawrie retired as President and Lavinia Hendry was elected as her successor with Sylvia Alison as Vice President. Val Cross has stepped down and Grace Sillars and Grace Bleakley were welcomed on to the committee.

Following the AGM Jean Hunter gave a very interesting illustrated presentation of her visit to the Holy Land.

Our Session ended with a successful Easter Fayre raising £734.00. We now "look forward" to catering at the Highland Games in August. This is our busiest event of the year and we would appreciate some extra help on this occasion. Lists will be available in due course. Please help if you can.

Friends of Montrose House Association - Spring 2014 Report

Once again Spring has sprung, heralded as usual with a magnificent display by a host of golden daffodils tossing their heads in sprightly d(*efi*)ance of the pending demise of their home on the present site. As the process of identifying and selecting flora to be transferred to the new site proceeds they seem to be pleading, 'Me too please!'

Progress on the new build continues well, despite persistent adverse weather conditions and is claimed to be up to schedule for September completion. An 'engagement' meeting has been held with the architect David Watts and the Senior Site Manager Ian Boyd at which progress was reviewed and samples of colour schemes, fabrics and flooring were available for perusal and comment. Firm confirmation was given that the name of the new building will be Montrose House with the daycare facility remaining as Stronach Day Services. The tower crane has now been dismantled and removed from site and scaffolding has been constructed surrounding the building to facilitate access to the extensive roof areas, proceeding towards achieving the 'building wind and watertight' landmark stage of the project.

Recent events have included the traditional Easter Baskets competition organised one again thanks to Ellie Jones. Winners were Joyce Orr and Louise Stachniewska of Montrose House and Sheila Roberts and Sadie Ritchie of Stronach who received Easter Eggs, with Mini Eggs being presented to all participants.

The next events on our calendar are the A.G.M. on Monday 13th May and the Annual Summer Fete on Wednesday 2nd July, by which time we hope that summer weather will have arrived!

Finally, it is with sadness that we record the death of resident Ena Nelson.

Annual Stated Meeting

Mrs Jean Hunter Parish Assistant chaired the Annual Stated Meeting in the War Memorial Church Hall on Thursday 23rd March at 7.00pm. 31 members were also present.

Jean welcomed everyone and then read Psalm 133.

Our treasurer, Sylvia Alison, then explained the incomings and outgoings contained in the accounts for 2013. Sylvia also gave the budget for 2014. Sylvia has two sets of accounts to do every year, one for the church and the other for OSCR the charities accounts system. Jean thanked Sylvia for her hard work throughout the year.

John Lauder, Session Clerk then gave his statistician report. There are at present 140 on the Membership Roll.

There were four people due to step down from the Congregational Board and they all wished to be re-elected. Sylvia Alison, Joyce Buchanan, Lavina Hendry, and Lesley Murray were then voted on collectively and welcomed back to the Board.

The Arran Youth Foundation continues to run and have a very healthy number. They are helping at the Fete at Strabane in June & the Fete in July

The Harvest Supper was changed to lunch time and this has worked, so it will continue this way. Jean thanked the St Bride's Ladies for all their help throughout the year with all the fund raising they do and she also thanked Janet Ramage for all the behind the scene work she does towards the success of the Summer Fete.

At the close of the meeting John Lauder rose to give his thanks on behalf of the Kirk session and congregation for the work and support in the Parish that Angus and Jean do throughout the year. The members thanked them in the usual manner.

Extract from The Brodick Church Bulletin May 1950

The Stated Annual Meeting

Tuesday 21st February, 7.30 pm. in the Church. This year the attendance was about a 400 % increase on some of the former meetings, since thirty members of the congregation came to hear the reports of the office-bearers on the work done throughout 1949. The Minister in his remarks expressed his personal indebtedness to Mr Simpson, Treasurer, Mr Brown, Session Clerk, and Mr Robertson, Clerk to the Board of Management, for their able and willing co-operation with him during the past year. Also on behalf of the thirty members present and the two hundred and seventy absent, he accorded them the thanks of the congregation.

Even with the stupendous 400 % increase in attendance from six to thirty, it still is a most inadequate expression of the congregation's appreciation of the work the office bearers carry out so faithfully each year. The Treasurer's labour is becoming more and more heavy, bordering at times on the burdensome, if only his good nature would not restrain him from admitting it, while the Clerks both have many duties to do. This annual meeting is not your gathering to listen to cold statistics and monotonous reports as some imagine; it is rather an opportunity for you to learn how wide a field of work this congregation is tackling, and to show the office-bearers that they are interested representatives of interested and appreciative people.

Fortunately our Treasurer and Clerks and other office-bearers are not upset by the ingratitude of most members, but they would enjoy more widespread enthusiasm. It ought not to be too ambitious to expect the same rate of increase on this year's attendance next year, as this year's was on last.

NB. The minister at the time was Rev. Thomas Lithgow M.A.

Strabane Open Garden

Once again Lady Jean Fforde has kindly offered us the facility of hosting an open day in her lovely garden at Strabane in aid of church funds. This year, on Saturday 7th June, it will be a joint venture between the church and Arran Youth Foundations.

We are delighted to hear that ARCO will be playing for a while in the afternoon, and refreshments will be dispensed by joint teams of AYP members and church folk. The grounds will be open from 11am until 4pm. All that we need, in addition to assistance with setting up, manning the gate and refreshments tent, and dismantling, is a good turnout of visitors, and of course a lovely sunny day to see the gardens at their very best.

If you can assist in making the day a success – either by publicising the event, volunteering, or visiting - your support will be appreciated.

Church Open During Summer

After the success of last year's experiment in leaving the church open between the hours of 10am and 4pm daily, the Congregational Board and Kirk Session have agreed that from 1st April to 30th September we should again open the church this year for visitors to be able to see inside the sanctuary, and to provide a quiet place for personal prayer.

Office bearers will again take it in turns to open and close the church, but if members would like, at any time, to spend a short time either in the church itself, or in the grounds, so that they could offer a word of welcome and perhaps a brief chat with any visitors who happened to come along, that would surely add to visitors' experience of their visit to Brodick Church.

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

19th 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, tombola items, books and thinking about delicious home baking.

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

Look out for the quiz. If you do not already have one they are on sale in Bilslands or at church coffee mornings. This year the theme is Scottish towns, villages and islands. Many thanks to Margaret Anderson for compiling the quiz.

The annual auction will be on Thursday 24th July, held in Brodick Golf Club at 8pm. Please start to look out any items suitable for selling.

Duck Derby



Alison Bilsland is looking for willing and not so willing volunteers to help sell duck eggs. It would only be for one hour. This contributes significantly to the total raised at our summer fete so all help would be greatly appreciated. Please pop into Bilslands or phone her on 303505.

Any questions, comments or suggestions would be most welcome.

Please contact Fiona Mackenzie 302329 or Janet Ramage 600641

Arran Churches Together

This year the World Day of Prayer, prepared by the Christian women of Egypt, was held in Corrie Church on the 7th March, the theme being "Streams in the Desert". Over 70 people attended, including several men, and the offering, amounting to £208, was sent to the World Day of Prayer Committee.

About 50 people took part in the annual Walk of Witness on Good Friday in glorious sunshine. They assembled in the Church of the Holy Cross for a short and poignant address by Father Noel, and the singing of two well-loved hymns, before walking slowly and silently with the cross carried in front to St. Bride's Church for another short service conducted by Mrs. Jean Hunter. This was followed by tea or coffee and further fellowship in the Church Hall.

The next event will be the Songs of Praise service on Sunday 29th June, back at its usual venue, Lamdash Green, and we also hope to have another Quiz / Social Night in Brodick Church Hall on Thursday 28th August. All these events have proved to be very enjoyable in the past. Please come and join us.

Wednesday Coffee Morning Rota 2014

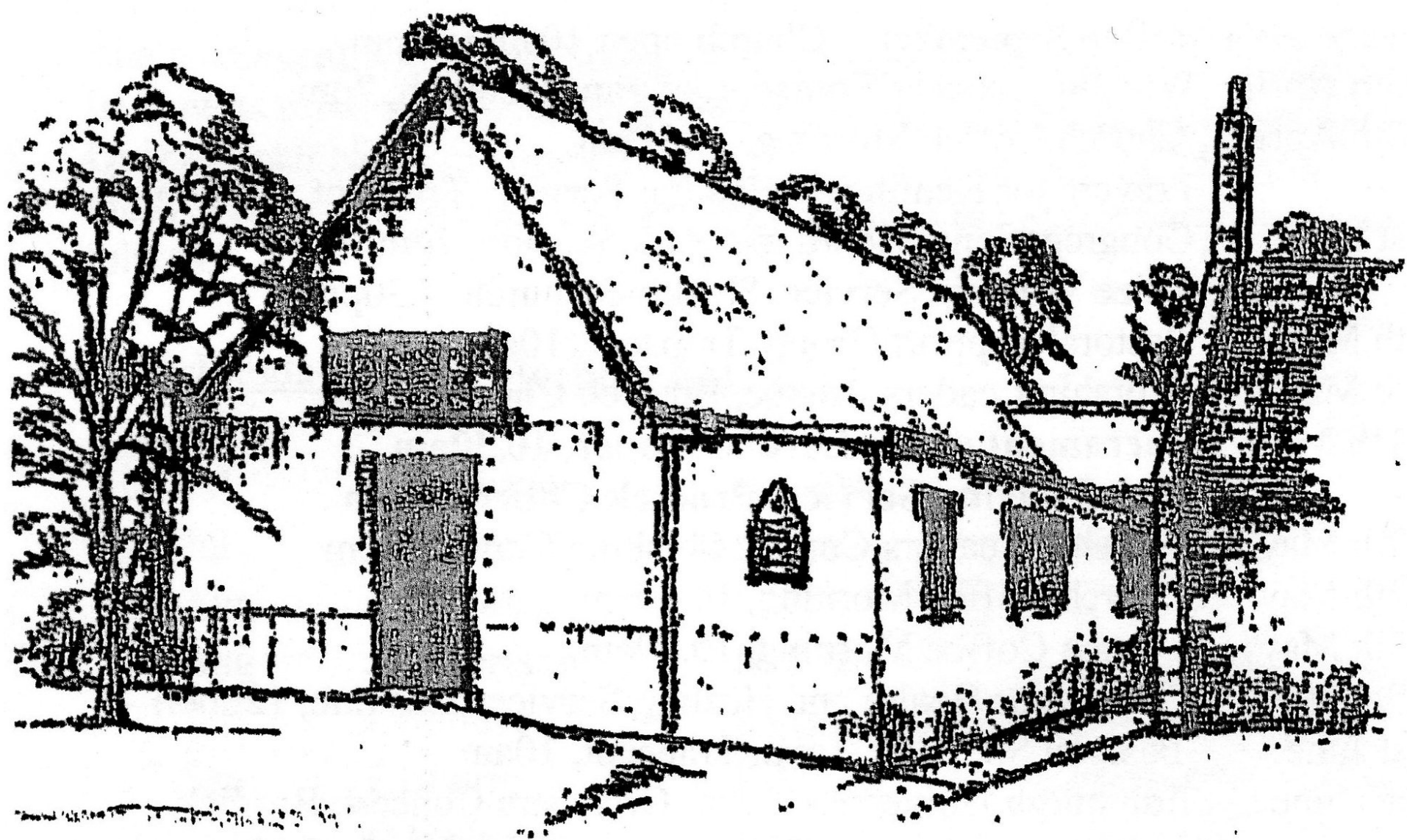
09-Jul	S. Dobson	C.Smith	
23-Jul	N.Mcleod	V.Sim	M.Cuthbert
06-Aug	E.McKellar	I.Rollo	A.Lauder
20-Aug	J.Robertson	M.Boal	L.Murray
03-Sep	L.Hendry	E.Cooper	V.Cross
17-Sep	E.Lawrie	F.Brown	M.Bryce
01-Oct	N.Mcleod	V.Sim	M.Cuthbert
15-Oct	G.Sillars	S.Allison	M.McInlay
29-Oct	E.McKellar	F.Brown	M.McRorie
12-Nov	A.Lauder	G.Bleakley	I.Rollo
26-Nov	J.Robertson	L.Murray	G.Dickson
03-Dec	M.Boal	M.Bryce	
17-Dec	V.Cross	A.Green	N.Metaryd

CHURCH NOTICES – Spring 2014

- Baptisms:** Hollie Elizabeth McEachern, 13 Hillview Place, 27th April
 Lucie Karen Evans, 13 Hillview Place, 27th April
- Wedding:** Gillian Hart to Trevor McGrath, at Glenconner, Brodick, 12th April
- Deaths:** Ian Harvie, Leaside, Strathwillan 30th January
 Nancy Bell, Cooriedoon, Whiting Bay 11th February
 William Wallace, Rosalyn, Brodick 22nd February
 John Dick, Ennismor Cottage, Brodick 12th March
 Georgina Nelson, Montrose House 11th April
 Helen Boyd, Easdale, Brodick 24th April

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Every day (April to September) Church open 10am to 4pm
- 28th April Worship Leaders Course, Lochranza Church, 7pm
- 30th April Church Coffee Morning, 10.30am
 Prayers for Health and Healing Service, Transept, 12noon
- 1st May Congregational Board and Kirk Session, 7pm
 Taize Worship Service, Shiskine Church, 7.30pm
- 4th May Pastoral Support Group, Transept, 10am
- 5th May Worship Leaders Course, Brodick Church, 7pm
- 11th May **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10.30am**
Thanksgiving Service, Brodick Church, 7pm
- 12th May Worship Leaders Course, Shiskine Church, 7pm
- 14th May Church Coffee Morning, 10.30am
- 28th May Church Coffee Morning, 10.30am
- 29th May Prayers for Health and Healing Service, Shiskine, 12noon
- 1st June Pastoral Support Group, Transept, 10am
- 2nd June Edinburgh University String Orchestra Concert, Brodick Church, 7.30pm
- 5th June Taize Worship Service, Shiskine Church, 7.30pm
- 7th June Strabane Gardens Open Day, jointly with AYF, 11am to 4pm
- 11th June Church Coffee Morning, 10.30am
- 25th June Church Coffee Morning, 10.30am
 Prayers for Health and Healing Service, Transept, 12noon
- 6th July Pastoral Support Group, Transept, 10am
- 19th July Annual Summer Fete, 2pm
- 24th July Annual Church Auction, Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 8pm
- 10th August Shiskine Church 125th Anniversary Service, 12noon



Brodick Church War Memorial Hall