



St Bride's Church Brodick



Spring 2015 Newsletter

Brodick Manse
April 2015

The holiday season is well upon us once more and over the summer months to come the island will welcome tens of thousands of visitors. Among them will be friends, either coming to visit us for the first time, or returning for their annual pilgrimage. No doubt therefore, we will all at some point do the 'grand tour' and take a trip around the island with them to show them the sights. Being extremely proud of Arran's beauty I want them to see Arran at its best, preferably of course on a sunny day and also to show them a little of its culture and heritage. In the latter regard a visit to Brodick Castle and the Heritage Museum will be essential. Truth be told, I like playing the tourist myself for a day. We don't always appreciate what is on our door step and it is nice to look with fresh eyes at all our island home has to offer.

Being a minister I will also proudly show visitors inside the churches in the North Arran linkage at Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine. Up until fairly recently, due to insurance requirement for our buildings to remain locked, that would have been possible for only a few like me who had a key. I always felt that was a great pity, especially when it seemed I was always able to go into churches elsewhere when I was on holiday myself.

I confess I hadn't got around to doing anything to rectify the situation, until someone told me that they had, in a moment of utter despair felt the urge to go to Brodick Church and pray, but had been stunned to find it locked.

Churches are places of sanctuary and as such should always be open and available to everyone and not just for one hour on a Sunday morning. So after consultation with all the relevant Kirk Sessions, Brodick Church is now open daily from Easter until the end of September from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., whilst Lochranza, Pirnmill and St Molios are left open all year round. Corrie Church alone remains locked, but at least contact details of how to obtain the key are pinned on the door to allow access at all times should it be required.

So, on your trip round the island with your summer visitors go into our churches and have a look round. There is much to see. Lochranza St Bride's boasts three hundred years of history and beautiful stained glass

panels, a nautically themed port-hole window, as well as a recently installed sky-light window commissioned for its tercentenary. Brodick St Bride's too has had a stunning new stained glass window installed in memory of the late Evelyn Sillars, complimenting the magnificent centenary wall hanging, which took two years of painstaking stitching by the ladies of the congregation to create. Pirnmill Church might stand in the middle of a field but is a 'tardis' of a building inside, which never fails to delight visitors, whilst Grade 'A' listed Corrie Church and St Molios, Shiskine are among the finest examples of the work of renowned architect John James Burnet's work.

You won't be disappointed and please don't forget to sign the visitor's book to let us know you have been.

Wishing you all a good summer season.

Angus

Editor's Remarks

It was cold, the wind was howling, the rain was falling, we even had huge hailstones and then the rain stopped, the temperature shot up, the sun came out just in time for the Easter weekend. With the advent of RET fares on the ferry, as well as the beautiful weather, the visitors flocked to the island. It is to be hoped that this is a taste of things to come over the next few months and we can look forward to a busy and enjoyable summer in our church as well as our island.

My thanks, as always to all those who contributed to this newsletter, with a special thanks to Alex Lawrie for his photograph of our new stained glass window which is incorporated into the bright and colourful cover.

Save The Children

The week beginning 26th April is Save the Children Week. All across the country there will be events taking place to raise awareness, as well as funds, for this well known charity. Here in Brodick there will be a Soup and Sandwich lunch in St Bride's church hall on Monday 27th April from 10.30am to 12 noon. Your support would be much appreciated. Look out for other event being held around the island during that week.

Friends of Montrose House Association Spring 2015

The advent of the new Montrose House building is undoubtedly the most significant item of interest in recent weeks with the transfer of residents which took place, eventually, on 19th April 2015. '0 day' was carefully planned as a one day operation but it could equally be called 'The Longest Day' as numerous unforeseen technical problems had to be overcome in the preceding weeks. The official wording states, 'Whilst not without its challenges, our residents are now in their new home and seem to be settling in fine,' but it has to be said that the Manager and staff are to be congratulated on their exemplary devotion to duty during the greatly extended transition period. We have now been advised that the official opening date is fixed for 15th June 2015. Alas, we as a group are greatly disappointed that many of the points we raised at the numerous 'consultation' meetings along the way have clearly not been addressed despite positive assurances. We continue to lobby NAC management on such items as external water taps and outdoor power points for servicing equipment, external signage, invasive noise, light and CCTV intrusion on adjacent properties, and the woefully inadequate site parking provision.

Events in which we have been involved since the move to the new site include the traditional Burns Supper with the Clarke family and other young people providing the entertainment, the Easter Baskets competition organised by Ellie Jones, and the formal dedication of the new building by the Chaplain, Rev Angus Adamson at the first in-house service of worship after the move. Also the dedication of the Stained Glass Window in Brodick Church in memory of Evelyn Sillars was recognised at the Easter in-house Sunday service since several residents and their visitors had contributed to the appeal fund and had connections with Evelyn who opened the original building in 1974. We have arranged for a dog carving by Marvin Elliott, in memory of Stella Macrae, to be placed at the end of a corridor in-house and several new bird tables and nesting boxes to be placed in the grounds outside in view of residents from their rooms. Several new tubs have been purchased and planted with colourful spring plants with the help of members of the Arran Youth Foundation and placed outside the patio doors of each of the residents' rooms. We have also provided new brightly patterned oilskin tablecloths for daily use in colours complementing the decor of each dining room.

Plans for future events include the annual Summer Fete, the date of which is fixed for Wednesday 1st July 2015.

It is with sadness that we have to report the deaths of residents Agnes Boa, Elma Kerr, Isobel Pointer and Christina Hamilton. Memorial services were held as appropriate.

Daffodil Cross

The vestibule of the church was decorated for the Easter Celebration services with the iconic daffodil cross which was introduced by the late Mrs Evelyn Sillars in her capacity as Flower Convenor. Mrs Ann Lauder and Mrs Liz Lawrie, assisted by family here for the Easter holiday, undertook the construction, collecting 'a host of golden daffodils' from the gardens of Lady Jean Fforde, the derelict garden of the old Montrose House and others. The moveable date of Easter coupled with the vagaries of the weather make it difficult to obtain sufficient numbers of suitable blooms of a constant colour but the resultant work of floral art was a magnificent achievement and greatly enhanced the entrance of the church. Indeed, such was the abundance of material available that the theme was repeated on the internal window ledges and the master arrangement at the front of the organ. Sadly the blooms have very limited life but when the cross was dismantled the number of flowers was meticulously counted and may form the subject of a 'Guess the number of daffodils' feature at a future Church Fete!

St Bride's Ladies

The second half of the session got off to a good start in January with a very interesting talk on "Old Brodick" from John Sillars.

This was followed by our annual Scot's Night which was almost a disaster due to an electricity failure about 40 minutes before commencement. Thankfully, after much concern, this was eventually resolved and the evening proceeded as normal. After the usual haggis supper, we had some delightful entertainment from several very talented High School pupils.

At our next meeting we were transported to America by Graham Chappell. Accompanied by slides, Graham gave a very interesting talk about his favourite holiday resort- Palm Springs.

On 23rd February we heard about Beith furniture from Allan Richardson. Few of us, while perhaps possessing some items in our homes, were aware of the extent of their work which included the fitting out of some of the well known luxury liners. This talk was illustrated by slides of some beautiful examples of Beith furniture. Our session ended with the A.G.M. on 16th March when office bearers and committee were re-elected.

Jean Hunter then spoke about her journey from the start of her studies through to becoming a Parish Assistant. We were all greatly impressed by Jean's dedication, commitment and heavy workload.

The Easter Fayre, in spite of the weather and conflicting events, raised the worthwhile sum of £585.00.

We now 'look forward' to the Highland Games when, as usual, we would appreciate assistance from out with the committee for catering and serving on the day. Lists will appear in due course.

Arran Churches Together

The Service of Christian Unity was held in St. Bride's, Brodick on 18th January, a bright but very icy day. There were some very slippery patches near the church which able-bodied folk kindly helped those less able to negotiate. The service was ably conducted by a lady minister from London, and afterwards members of churches from around the island were able to chat over tea or coffee in the Memorial Hall

This year's World Day of Prayer was held in the lovely little church in Lochranza on Friday 6th March - a day of sunshine and showers and strong wind. It was a thought provoking and well constructed service, devised by the women of the Bahamas and promoting unconditional love and service. The offering, amounting to £242.40, was for the World Day of Prayer projects in the Bahamas.

Around 50 people participated in The Annual Walk of Witness on Good Friday, 3rd April. After a short address by Father Noel Colford at Holy Cross Church, the worshippers processed slowly and solemnly, behind the wooden cross, to St. Brides, where the Rev. Angus Adamson delivered another short address, and the story of the Crucifixion was read, with great drama and poignancy, by the Rev.

Alan Thompson. Afterwards, we adjourned to the Memorial Hall for tea, biscuits and a chance to chat with members of other denominations.

Stained Glass Memorial Window

A stained glass window in memory of Evelyn Sillars was formally dedicated at the end of the Easter Sunday church service on 6th April. The church was well filled with visitors and members of the congregation for the traditional service of Easter hymns, bible readings and prayers with a mezzo soprano solo introit and voluntary sung by Mrs. Helen Cruddis, a visitor from Shetland and daughter of Geoff and Margaret Collins of Brodick.

The final item in the Order of Service was the dedication of the stained glass window. A full size model of the window, placed on an easel in front of the pulpit, was unveiled and Lady Jean Fforde gave a brief outline of Evelyn's life of service to the community and the church. She made reference to the fact that they had both served at Bletchley Park during service in the second World War, Lady Jean in the Red Cross and Evelyn in the WAAF. However, such was the high level of security that they didn't discover this till later!

In the afternoon the model was taken to Montrose House and displayed at the weekly in-house Service of Worship, for the benefit of residents and their visitors, some of whom had contributed to the appeal fund and had connections with Evelyn who opened the original building in 1974. It is of significance to note that it was largely due to her influence that the need for a residential care home on the island was established in her capacity as Scotland's first woman County Convenor on Bute County Council.

Many thanks are due to all who contributed to the project and to Richard Leclerc for creating such a beautiful design which greatly enhances the church.

CHURCH FETE

This year's church Fete will be held on **Saturday 18th July** at 2pm, which we hope will be as successful as in recent years.

During the week leading up to the Fete youngsters and adult minders will be parading Shore Road seeking to sell entries for the Duck Derby. Alison Bilsland (303505) would be very grateful to hear from any small volunteers to wear the duck costume and others to accompany them.

We hope that all the usual stands will be there so please start collecting now for the bakery, plants, books, bric-a-brac, bottles and tins, and tombola tables.

CHURCH AUCTION

This year's auction will be held as usual in Brodick Golf Club at 8pm on **Thursday 23rd July**. To ensure its usual success we need a sizeable number of donations of saleable item, (no furniture please) and only electrical items which are working, brought to the church hall on Monday and Tuesday 20th & 21st between 10am and 1pm.

This is always an enjoyable social evening, and the more people who come along for the fun, the better will be the final total on the night.

CHURCH OPENING

From the beginning of April to the end of September the church will be open every day from 10am until 4pm. This allows visitors to see inside our splendid building. If you are in the vicinity of the church and have time to spare, why not have a look around it yourself, and if visitors do come in while you are there a friendly word will make them feel welcome.

Others will find the church a place of quietness in a busy world where they may wish to pray or meditate in the stillness of the sanctuary – a facility not so easily found among today's hectic lifestyles.

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

More help is needed to ensure that we have flowers in church each Sunday. The rota is pinned up on the church hall noticeboard. If you feel you could help, please add your name in the week or weeks of your choice.

Most folk work in pairs and the flowers last for two Sundays. These don't need to be elaborate arrangements, and indeed a plant or small vase of flowers is all that is needed in the vestibule.

If you feel that you cannot arrange flowers yourself, but would still like to provide them, a donation to the flower fund would be gratefully received, and I would get someone to arrange them for you. Thank you.

Ann Lauder (tel: 303517).

Wednesday Coffee Morning Rota July-Dec. 2015

01-Jul	A.Lauder	F.Brown
15-Jul	S. Dobson	C.Smith
29-Jul	E.Lawrie	A.Mitchell
12-Aug	G.Bleakley	M.Bryce
26-Aug	G.Dickson	M.MacKinlay
09-Sep	M.Boal	I.Rollo
23-Sep	E.McKellar	L.Murray
07-Oct	G.Sillars	M.Cuthbert
21-Oct	N.Mcleod	V.Sim
04-Nov	A.Green	N.Metyard
18-Nov	J.Robertson	S.Allison
02-Dec	L.Hendry	M.Bryce
16-Dec	A.Lauder	M.Boal

CHURCH NOTICES – May 2015

Deaths:

James Kirk, 2 Altbeg Cottages, Corriegills	24th January
Agnes Hart, 9 Alma Park, Brodick	7th February
Isobel Pointer, Montrose House, Brodick	10th February
Michael Meteyard, Glenn House, Brodick	16th February
Christine Hamilton, Montrose House, Brodick	24th February
Alexander MacLaren, Tigh-Ure, Brodick	24th March
Elma Kerr, Montrose House, Brodick	24th March
Isobel Kay, Ellerslie, Auchrannie Road, Brodick	4th April

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

22nd April	10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.
26th Apr - 2nd May	Sannox Christian Centre Faith Mission week.
28th April	7.30pm Classical Guitar Concert in church.
30th April	12noon Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Shiskine.
3rd May	10.30am Celebration of the Lord's Supper.
6th May	10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall. 12noon Worship Group meets in Church Hall.
7th May	7.30pm Service of Taize Worship, Shiskine Church.
10th May	10am Pastoral Support Team meeting, Transept.
16th – 22nd May	General Assembly meets in Edinburgh.
20th May	10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.
27th May	12noon Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Transept.
3rd June	10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.
4th June	7.30pm Service of Taize Worship, Shiskine Church.
7th June	10am Pastoral Support Team meeting, Transept.
17th June	10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.
25th June	12noon Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, Shiskine.
28th June	6.30pm Songs of Praise, Lamlash Green.
1st July	10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.
5th July	10am Pastoral Support Team meeting, Transept.
15th July	10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.
18th July	2pm Annual Church Fete.
23rd July	8pm Annual Church Auction, Brodick Golf Clubhouse.
25th July	2pm Shiskine Church Garden Party.
29th July	10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.
2nd August	10am Pastoral Support Team meeting, Transept.
9th August	10.30am Celebration of the Lord's Supper.
12th August	10.30am Church Coffee Morning, Church Hall.

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	Mrs Shona Hume	302625
Treasurer	Mrs Sylvia Alison	302613
Property Convenor	Mr Norman Cuthbert	303772
Freewill Offering Convenor	Mrs Elizabeth McKellar	302230
Presbytery Elder	Mr Hamish Mitchell	302285
Church Magazine Editor	Mrs Sheena Mclean	303579
Pastoral Support Team Convenors	Mrs Elizabeth McKellar Mrs Ann Lauder	302230 303517
Sunday School Leader	Mrs Ann MacKay	600944
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Mrs Lorna MacDonald	302499
Hall Letting Convenors	Mrs Joyce Buchanan Mrs Susan Dobson	302468 302365
Church Minibus Rota	Mrs Alison Bilsland	303505
Coffee Morning Convenor	Mrs Margaret Bryce	302117
Sunday Tea Rota	Mrs Anne Mitchell	302285
Church Flower Convenor	Mrs Ann Lauder	303517
"Life and Work" Convenor	Mrs Elise White	302387