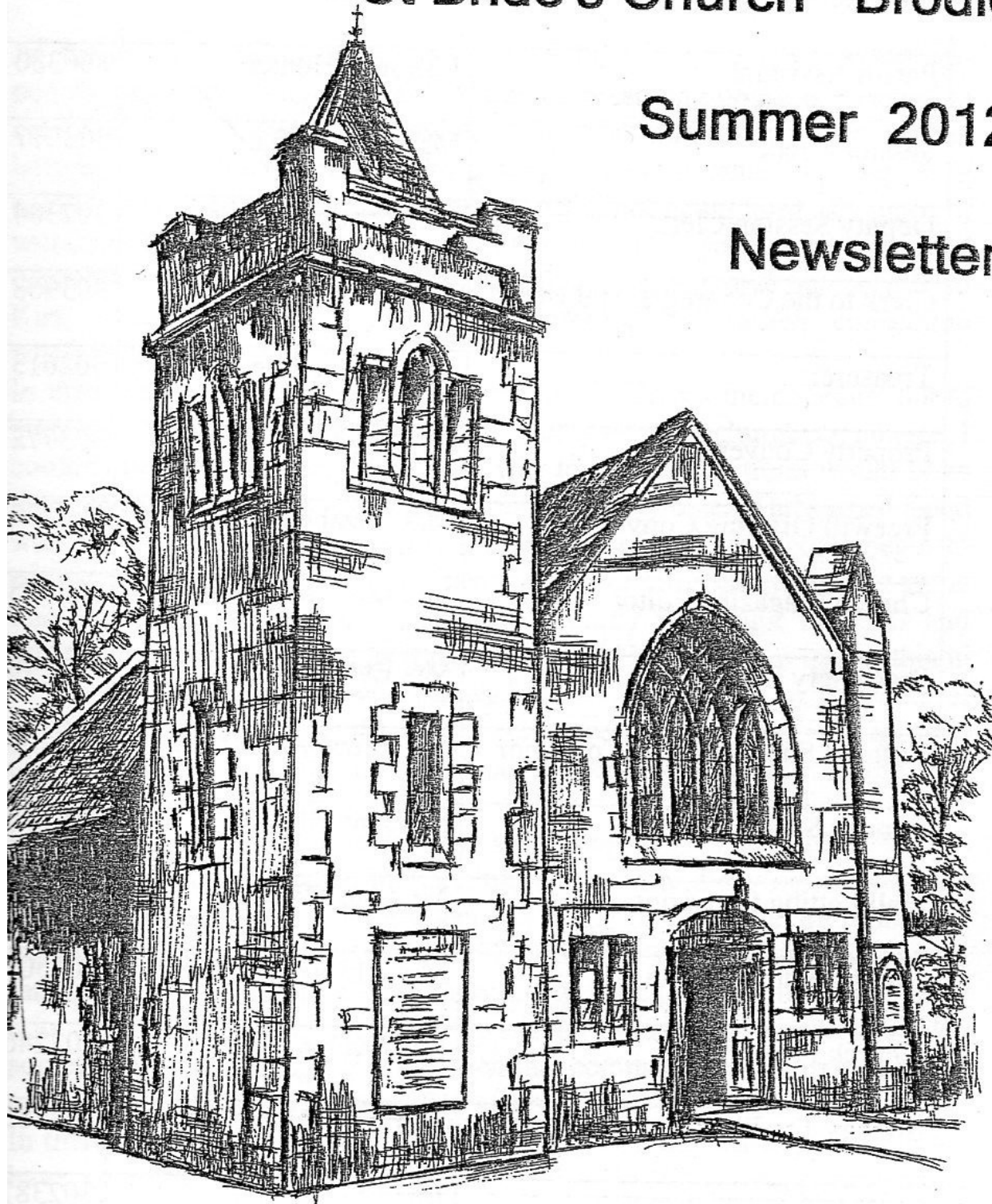


# St Bride's Church Brodick

Summer 2012

Newsletter



## 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 Mary McNicol	302335
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

Brodick Manse  
July 2012

At the end of June on a swelteringly hot Pentecost Sunday, around 150 people gathered within the walls of the old preaching house at Clachan to celebrate the restoration and saving of this historic building. Just 5 years before, due to having fallen into a very dangerous state of disrepair, it came very close to being demolished. Despite not being used as a place of worship by the Shiskine congregation for 117 years, the proposed demolition caused an outcry in the local community and not only from Kirk folk, but from people who professed no church connection whatsoever.

In these times of seemingly terminal decline in church membership, not to mention a growing general nationwide apathy towards church attendance, I couldn't help but wonder, if the only way to reverse the trend would be to threaten to close and knock down all our parish churches. Only when faced with the loss of something so often taken for granted, do people begin to realize what may actually be of great value after all. Admittedly that value may be largely sentimental, the place of family weddings, baptisms and inevitably funerals. Be that as it may, we would be foolish to ignore this in our vital work of mission and outreach. If we don't begin to get better at reaching out to people in the communities we serve in North Arran, then the trend of decline will only continue, the writing is already on the wall and the end will become inevitable.

It's not that we don't believe we have something wonderful to offer. We do, the greatest gift of God to humankind, the good and saving news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The problem lies in the fact that we are rubbish at telling other people about it. It is a bit like a company that may have a fantastic product, but if it can't market that product well, then no matter how much people may be missing out on something wonderful, even something of life changing value, then that company is ultimately doomed to failure, or at least to see growth stagnate.

In this regard we are failing to recognize the best advertising resource we have, our much loved church buildings. They do still connect with people in our communities and with people who have family connections to them going back generations. This was proved last year, when in response to an invitation sent out to all who had been baptised in Brodick Church, a great many people travelled from distant places to celebrate its centenary. It also

saw an increase in baptism of local children, from just 2 in the previous 5 years, to 13 in one year. I sincerely hope that this initiative will be equally successful in the Northend, as Lochranza Church now prepare for their big day of tercentenary celebration at the end of September.

These initiatives though, are one off events that come along only every century. We can't wait another 100 years to plan the next one, it may be too late by then. That is why we have 'Back to Church Sunday' every year, when we invite our friends, families and neighbours to come back to church on a specially designated Sunday. The people we ask all have some church connection with their local parish church, even if nowadays that is only through attending weddings and funerals. And I feel certain deep down, that if their local parish church were to be threatened with closure, they would feel a sense of loss and perhaps be up in arms about it.

This year 'Back to Church Sunday' is planned for October 28<sup>th</sup>. Not only is it the Sunday when we will celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving, a service which resonates with most people, even those with little current church connection, but a Sunday apparently designated 'mother-in-law's day'. So please pick up an invitation and personally invite someone along, be that son, daughter, brother, sister, cousin, mum, dad, friend, neighbour, or even mother-in-law, or indeed any other in-law.

Oh I know it isn't easy to ask, it can feel awkward, we aren't very good at doing it. But remember, if you believe the product we have to offer, the good news of the gospel, is something of life changing value – and I certainly hope that you think so – then you have nothing to be afraid, or ashamed of.

As St. Paul says in Romans chapter 10: 'how can they believe if they have not heard the message? And how can they hear if the message is not proclaimed? And how can the message be proclaimed if the messengers are not sent out? As the scripture says, "How wonderful is the coming of messengers who bring good news!" ... So then, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through preaching Christ.'

Places like the old preaching house at Clachan – perhaps the oldest site of Christian worship on the island, dating back to the times of the first missionary saints from Ireland in the 6<sup>th</sup> century – prove that a church building has always been central to the witness and missionary activities of the Church of Jesus Christ. I still believe that is the case today.

Jean and I will do our very best to do our job to proclaim the good news in the pulpit and preach Christ to any who will listen, but we need you to bring people who might at least be offered the opportunity to hear. On

'Back to Church Sunday' that is your challenge.

I wish you well in the great task. You won't need to be wished luck, that is mere superstition, only the courage of your Christian convictions. What is the worst that can happen? That people say no. Well then nothing lost. But they might just say yes, even if they said no last time. And in saying yes, they might well find that they have everything to gain.

*Angus.*

### **Editor's Remarks**

The Sunday School year ended a few weeks ago when several children received their prizes from Mrs Jean Hunter.

A special thanks to Mrs Ann McKay and her assistants for their dedication throughout the year.

Despite the dreadful weather on the Arran Youth Foundation's open day at Strabane, by courtesy of the Lady Jean Fforde, the youngsters and their helpers raised the excellent sum of £500.

The youngsters had worked hard both before and on the day: liaising with Lady Jean, drawing and distributing posters, collecting raffle prizes, and manning the stalls and tea tent.

Congratulations to all concerned on a magnificent effort.

What a contrast to the Open Day at Strabane on 12<sup>th</sup> July, in aid of church funds, when we were actually able to wander round the beautiful gardens in bright sunshine and have our tea and coffee without their being diluted by the raindrops!

The day was further enhanced by the playing of ARCO, an instrumental group, who entertained the visitors with a medley of tunes.

On the day roughly the sum of £580 was raised, and our thanks are due again to Lady Jean for her generosity in opening her gardens to the public. My thanks again to all who have contributed to this edition of the magazine.

### **Out of the mouth of babes:**

The Sunday School Teacher asks, "Now Johnny tell me frankly. Do you say prayers before eating?" "No sir," little Johnny replies, "I don't have to. My Mum is a good cook."

## St. BRIDE'S LADIES.

The GAMES are coming to Arran! Oh no! I didn't mean those ones. We only have five gold rings at Christmastime and torches when there's a power cut.

I was of course referring to our own, more important, Highland Games where athletes and pipe bands from far-off lands such as Maybole and Ardrossan come to Ormidale Park to compete for silverware.

Naturally they have to be fed and watered, and that is the responsibility of the St. Bride's Catering Company – ladies who stand and deliver sandwiches and cakes washed down with tea or coffee.

I don't wish to be a nag ladies, but all this is happening on Saturday 4th August, just a few weeks away, so please make your plans now and start getting in necessary supplies. Also add your names to the lists of helpers and donors in the church hall.

The ladies have been busy as usual compiling the programme for 2012-2013, and it is now almost complete with just some dates to be confirmed. Normally the first date on the new syllabus would be that of the Harvest Supper, usually held in September, but this year it has been replaced by a soup and sandwich lunch after the Harvest Thanksgiving Service and Come to Church Sunday on 28th October. Please make a note of this change. This will be followed by the first meeting of the season on Monday 29th October to which all ladies are cordially invited.

## SONGS OF PRAISE

Sunday 30th September is the tercentenary service for Lochranza Church, and both Mr Adamson and Mrs Hunter will be involved with that very important occasion.

The service on that Sunday will therefore be taken by the Brodick Church Worship Group, and will take the form of a praise service. Members are invited to nominate their favourite hymn for use in the service, and if possible give a reason why it means so much to them.

This is YOUR chance to determine the content of the service, so please do not be shy – put your suggestion on the sheets in the church vestibule, and we will all look forward to a morning of wonderful inspiring singing.

## Arran Churches Together

The annual 'Songs of Praise' service took place this year on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June in Lamlash Church. The singing was accompanied by Mr. Douglas Hamilton on the organ. Arran Brass were unable to attend this year. The offering on this occasion went to the Bible Society.

I have been asked to intimate that the Taizé Services are now being held in St. Molio's Church, Shiskine, on the first Thursday of every month.

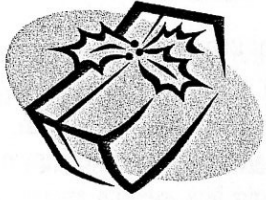
The Baptist Church have a new minister, the Rev. Vince Jennings, who has already joined us as a welcome new member of Arran Churches Together, and will, I am sure, be a great asset in all our activities.

Following on last year's success, we are planning another Quiz Night on Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30p.m. in Brodick Church Hall. This was a really good fun night last year, so I suggest you all put the date in your diaries and don't miss out.

It has been decided to hold a Christingle Service every year from now on, not alternate years as formerly, this being a beautiful service and well attended by children.

Finally, I'd like to make an appeal for a volunteer to join me as a second representative for St. Bride's in Arran Churches Together. The other congregations have two representatives each, but I have been on my own since Kitty Milne left, and, although it is not an onerous task, I am away quite often with family commitments or travel, and another member would be useful. Would anyone willing to join me please contact Angus, Jean or myself.

Sheila Selkirk



## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2012

Time is fast approaching for the Shoe Box appeal for 2012. In past years the response has been magnificent and our thanks for that. However the need still exists and there are many families who have little or nothing to call their own.

We have an opportunity to show that as Christians we care and show this care by donating a shoebox filled with necessities such as hat, scarf and gloves, toothbrush and toothpaste. Other items such as toiletries, clothes, toys, books, pens, pencils and notebooks help to complete the box.

Times are hard for everybody so start collecting the items for your box now. Make this year the best ever and bring happiness to those who will receive the boxes. Letters giving details of this years appeal will be sent out at the end of August.

Please show you care. **Fill** a shoebox.

Hamish Mitchell

## Friends of Montrose House Association Summer 2012 Report

The recent Annual General Meeting of the Association heralds our 11th year of existence with the 'Old' committee being re-elected en-bloc yet again! It is a matter of concern to us that no new members have joined during the year and membership has actually dropped with just the odd expression of interest in our work. On a slightly more positive note our ex-local councillor, Margie Currie, who has been an ex-officio member of committee for several years has agreed to join us as a bona-fide member to help us meet our commitment to the establishment and to monitor the Council's plans for future development.

The New Build Montrose House continues to be the centre of interest and indeed speculation. We await the disclosure of positive plans with great interest. It is hoped that the new layout of the grounds will be 'Maintenance Free' and that adequate provision will be made to cover much of the onerous work currently undertaken by FOMHA, with adequate staffing levels and contracts placed for such items as weed control and general site maintenance. Meanwhile it has to be 'business as usual' for our organisation.

The main fundraising event of the year, the Annual Summer Fete has just taken place and the total sum of £875 was raised. This to be shared between Montrose House, Stronach Daycare and FOMHA. This is somewhat less than last year but considering the prevailing economic climate and the indifferent weather on the day we are pleased with the overall outcome. More recently the Church Open Garden event at Strabane was attended by several clients from Stronach Daycare accompanied by members of staff. On this occasion the sun did shine and a most pleasant afternoon was enjoyed with musical entertainment provided by ARCO instrumental group.

Forthcoming outside events to which we are available to escort residents, if they so wish, include the Brodick Church Summer Fete, the Brodick Highland Games and, of course, the revamped Corrie Church Summer Serenade.

## Corrie Church News

Suddenly hedgerows have burgeoned and the sun and rain have encouraged more weeds, but we shall clear the decks for our summer activities and hope you will all give us hearty support at all the events.

Our early summer has given way to much rain, but again we are spared the floods of elsewhere, and it does swell the fruit and vegetables which are always welcome additions to the coffee morning sales table.

The break-in at the village hall brought home the misery of loss and damage whilst the astounding greed of some city financiers forcefully emphasised the enormous gulf in priorities within our communities. How can we help to solve this dichotomy?

We were represented at the World Day of Prayer, welcomed family and friends to our Easter services, joined in the Songs of Praise at Lamlash, sang "Messiah" at Lochranza, and have enjoyed services with Liz. Clarke and the Brodick Worship Team, and always those of Angus and Jean who work so tirelessly for not only us, but all the north Arran churches. It was also so good to be part of the worshippers at the thanksgiving service for restoration of Clachan church.

### Finance

Thanks to Robert McLean, who keeps our books in good order, we hope to have finances stable again over the summer, albeit increasing costs mean we may have a further deficit.

### Property

Our windows, thanks to Richard Le Clerc, and roof are again watertight, and the annual spring clean helps our monthly workers to keep the church and grounds so attractive. Donations for the flower arranging likewise are much appreciated.

Deaths Archie Hunter 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012.

### Diary Dates

17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. July Young Summer Serenade.

5<sup>th</sup>. August Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Coffee Mornings : 27<sup>th</sup>. July, 31<sup>st</sup> August, 28<sup>th</sup>. September, 26<sup>th</sup>. October, 30<sup>th</sup>. November, with grateful thanks to those who offer to help.

## BRODICK CHURCH NOTICES – SUMMER 2012

**Bereavements:** 19th April Philip Hirschfield, Strathwhillan House,  
25th June Mary Wales, Sarnia Cottage,

**Weddings:** 10th March Angela Curry to Richard Common, at  
Auchrannie, Brodick,  
12th May William Hetherston to Gillian Foster at  
Auchrannie, Brodick,  
19th May Russell Hendry to Helena Niittyniemi  
in Brodick Church,  
20th June Lyn McNally to Scott Arnott, at the Big  
Wooden House, Brodick,

**New Members:** 19th April Eric and Bessie Sillars, 6 Glen Estate,  
Brodick, from Corrie Church.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES.

17th & 18th July Summer Serenade at 8pm in Corrie Church  
18th July Lochranza Church fete at 2pm in the village hall.  
19th July Congregational Board and Kirk Session at 7pm  
21st July Annual Church fete, from 2pm in the church grounds  
25th July Coffee Morning from 10.30am in the church hall  
26th July Church Auction at 8pm in Brodick Golf Clubhouse  
2nd August Taize service at 7.30pm in St Molio's Church, Shiskine  
5th August Communion and Ordination of new elders at 10.30am  
8th August Coffee Morning from 10.30am in the church hall  
22nd August Coffee Morning from 10.30am in the church hall  
5th September Coffee Morning from 10.30am in the church hall  
6th September Taize service at 7.30pm in St. Molio's Church, Shiskine  
19th September Coffee Morning from 10.30am in the church hall  
27th September Service of Prayers for Health and Healing at 12 noon in St  
Molio's Church, Shiskine  
30th September 11am Tercentenary Service of St. Bride's Church, Lochranza  
3rd October Coffee Morning from 10.30am in the church hall  
4th October Taize service at 7.30pm in St. Molio's Church, Shiskine  
17th October Coffee Morning from 10.30am in the church hall  
28th October Harvest Thanksgiving Service and Come to Church Sunday,  
followed by a soup and sandwich lunch in the church hall.  
29th October St. Bride's Ladies first meeting of the new session.  
31st October Coffee Morning from 10.30am in the church hall  
31st October Service of Prayers for Health and Healing at 12 noon in the  
transept