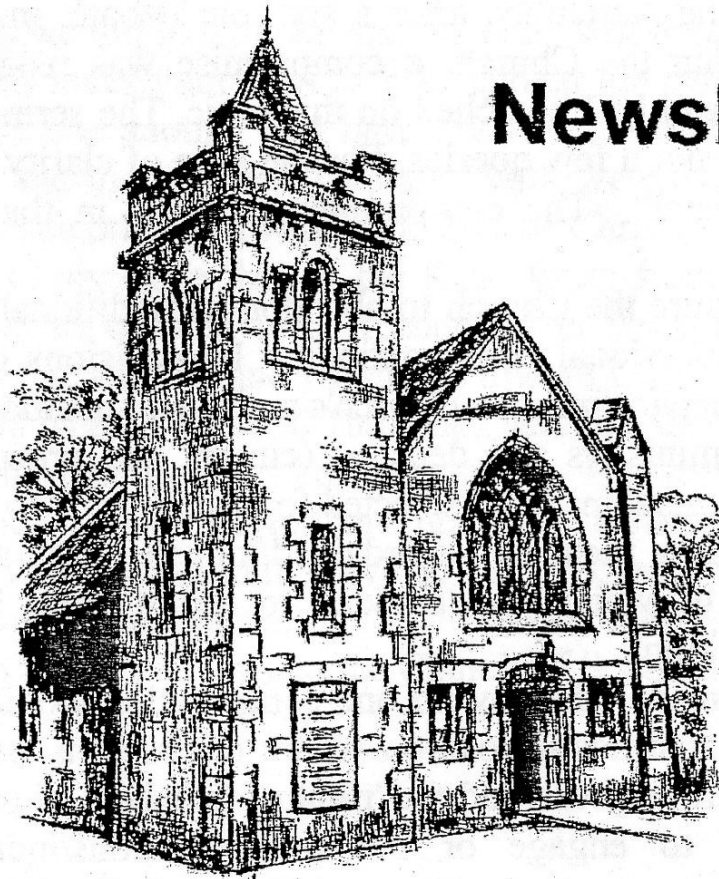


# **St Bride's Church Brodict**

## **Summer 2013**

### **Newsletter**



Brodict Manse  
July 2013

The almost all consuming issue within the Church of Scotland over these past three years has been whether or not to allow the ordination and induction of ministers actively engaged in same sex relationships. It is an issue which has split the Kirk in two. Perhaps the majority of the membership would be more sympathetic towards a Traditionalist position, which says no. However there is a significantly large and increasing minority who are sympathetic to the Revisionist position and who would be minded to say yes, provided this was within the bounds of a civil partnership.

At this year's General Assembly, after a six hour debate, in the name of retaining unity within the Church, a compromise was reached. On my return from the Assembly, I preached on this topic. The sermon generated much comment and not a few queries. For the sake of clarity I outline the decision in more detail. The compromise proposal in the form of an Assembly overture:

1. Would not require the Church to abandon its traditional position but would allow individual congregations – by decisions of their Kirk Sessions – to depart from the Church's traditional position.
2. Would allow ministers and deacons (current and prospective) who are in civil partnerships to be selected for training and to be trained.
3. Would also allow them to be ordained/inducted into a Charge the Kirk Session of which had decided to depart from the Church's traditional position.

Provision was also made whereby no one congregation would be enabled 'to depart from the traditional position where others in a linkage do not wish to do so'. It further preserved the 'right of members of presbyteries – whatever views – to engage or not in ordinations/inductions' and importantly, whilst preserving 'liberty of opinion and responsible expression, would not permit harassing or bullying.'

This overture will now be sent down for the 39 presbyteries to consider and if passed by a two third majority, will return to seek approval to become church law at next year's Assembly of 2014.

I for one hope that it does and will be voting accordingly at Presbytery. I come to this position after much soul searching and having modified my stance a little on this issue

At my own ordination I made a solemn promise to uphold and maintain

the peace and unity of the Church. I believe that this compromise allows that to happen and both Traditionalists and Revisionists to differ over this issue, yet still work together for the greater good of the Kirk.

A true story told by a minister at the Assembly sums up my gut instinct on this.

A man came to him in despair. His son was gay and in an active relationship with another man. As a committed Christian, the father tried at all times to follow biblical teaching, teaching that said he should stone such as his son. He had therefore driven his son out of the family home and refused to have anything to do with him. Yet it was eating him up. What should he do? The minister asked "do you believe Jesus loves you?" "Yes of course", replied the man. "And remembering Jesus taught that although we might hate the sin, we must still love the sinner, do you think that Jesus loves your son?" "Yes" agreed the man. "Well then, Jesus also said 'love one another as I have loved you'". Although the man remained straight and the son remained gay, both were reconciled in the love they had for each other and within the love of Christ.

Thus it is my hope that in the Kirk, those from both sides of this great divide be so enabled to be reconciled in the Christian love they should have for one another and within the love of Christ.

One final word, Desmond Tutu once said that there were far greater sins in the world than the ones concerning who is sleeping with who ... poverty, debt, injustice, hunger, to name but a few. As a national church I hope too, that we can now begin to move on from the issue of same sex relationships and ministry and concentrate more of our energies instead, on these more pressing issues and thus be the Church of Scotland God is calling us to be.

Angus

### Editorial Comment

During the morning service on 30<sup>th</sup> June the following children were presented with their Sunday School prizes. Andrew McKelvie, Annie McKelvie, Isla McKelvie, Lily Keir, Cameron MacKay and Ross Dobson. Congratulations to them.

The congregation are once again indebted to Mrs Ann MacKay and her assistants for their dedication and hard work over the past year.

We welcome Anne Green who has kindly agreed to join us on the

Magazine Committee and we look forward to working with her. My thanks to Alan for his help throughout the past year and a special thanks to John Lauder for his unfailing cheerful support and assistance without which we would have struggled to produce the Newsletter.

Thanks also to all who have contributed to this and other editions of the Newsletter.

### ST BRIDES LADIES

Once again St Brides Church has been invited to cater at the Highland Games. This is happening on August 10th so please make your plans now and start getting in necessary supplies. There will be lists in the hall to add your name for donations and also for assistance on the day. The more helpers we get on the day the shorter each stint will be!

The programme for 2013/2014 is almost complete. As the afternoon times proved popular, we will again have several meetings at that time. The Harvest Supper will again be replaced by the Harvest Lunch on Sunday 27th October when soup and sandwiches will be served.

The first meeting of the new season will be on the following day, Monday 28th, when Calum McNicol will entertain us with his Ocean Adventure. A cordial invitation is extended to all ladies and gentlemen to attend this meeting and all future meetings.

These will be held on November 11th and 25th, January 13th, February 10th and 24th and March 10th and 24th. Special events are as follows - Xmas Fayre 7th December, Xmas Party 9th December, Scots Night 27th January and the Easter Fayre on 5th April.

### Arran Churches Together

The annual Songs of Praise service was moved to Shiskine for this year, and was to have taken place in the Sports field near Blackwaterfoot harbour. However, in view of the uncertainty of the weather, it was held in St Molio's Church, which was well filled for the occasion. The offering was in aid of the Seamen's Mission.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> August we are again planning to have a QUIZ in Brodick Church hall at 7.30pm. This is usually a fun evening and we hope for a very good turnout.

Sheila Selkirk

### NEW READERS.

At a very moving service conducted by Ardrossan Presbytery, in our church on Friday 28th June, Mrs Liz Clark and Mrs Sharon McLeod were set aside to the office of reader in the Church of Scotland. Liz is an elder at St. Molio's Church, Shiskine, while Sharon holds the same office at Whiting Bay Church.

These two ladies have made their mark already in our church, while on attachment to our minister over recent years as part of their training, and are now able to provide pulpit supply and other non-ordained functions when the occasion demands in any of our island churches, or elsewhere.

It was great to see a very full church that evening, with such a good representation from all the island's churches, and thanks are due to those who provided and helped with the refreshments afterwards in a packed hall which completed the happy occasion.

### STRABANE OPEN GARDENS.

Lady Jean Fforde has always been very generous in allowing island groups to fund-raise through opening her lovely grounds to the public. (Incidentally, she has been rather unwell recently, so we send her our very best wishes for a speedy recovery.)

This summer the Arran Youth Foundation, who have been using our church hall more and more recently as their numbers increase, had their open gardens day on Saturday 6th July. After several showery days that week, the weather held and they had a very successful event.

Our church had also arranged to have another open gardens event at Strabane, as it turned out only a few days after the AYF on Thursday 11th July, but as this magazine went to press before the event, we cannot report on its success. We were, however, very conscious of the help promised to us for our own event by the youngsters of AYF and their parents in helping to put up tents and provide baking.

## Pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Israel and Palestine

Setting out early from Edinburgh we arrived at Heathrow to discover the airline had a strike the previous day and with the backlog of passengers only nine of our party had seats on the afternoon flight. This left six including Jean and I to follow on the overnight flight. At seven in the morning we arrived at our hotel in Jerusalem, where we would stay for six nights. Undaunted we met the rest of our party for breakfast had a quick brush up and were off on the first day of what was to be a wonderful journey.

Our first stop was the Mount of Olives with its wonderful views over the Old City of Jerusalem to the Dome of the Rock and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. On most sites associated with Jesus there is a Church and I will not name them all in this article suffice to say that in 8 days we visited 25 Churches. Wending our way down the Mount of Olives through narrow winding streets we entered the Garden of Gethsemane with its ancient olive trees and saw the 'Rock of Agony' which is said to be the very rock where Jesus prayed in agony on the night of his betrayal. By the Pool of Bethesda one of our party read from the Bible the story of Jesus healing the paralysed man at this very place. At the Church of the Nativity, down a narrow stone stairway there is a cave where a Silver Star marks the spot of Jesus' birth (The Star of Bethlehem).

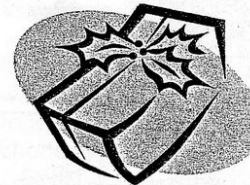
Our third day was an optional free day but we all headed off to the Dead Sea where some of us ventured in to have a 'float' with hilarious results as getting out was not as easy as going in. Next day in Old Jerusalem we walked the Via Dolorosa following the Stations of the Cross ending at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. I find it difficult to describe this place, with people jostling one another to try and touch the Alters and Shrines devoted to the Crucifixion and death of Jesus and queuing for a glimpse inside the Empty Tomb the air was heavy with incense. I found it very oppressive and was glad to get out into the fresh air. The Garden Tomb is where many Protestants believe Jesus was buried, with its tranquil gardens and first century tomb, outside which you can see the groove where the stone would be rolled over the entrance. This is the place I will remember every Easter. We finished our day by sharing Communion together in this peaceful place.

On Sunday we attended morning service at St Andrews Scots Memorial Church where Jean read the lesson. With the afternoon free Jean and I decided to walk the walls of Old Jerusalem even though the temperature was in the high thirties, well we may never have the opportunity again. We then wandered through the Christian Quarter with its little shops opening directly onto the narrow streets, taking in the sights and sounds and of course doing a bit of shopping. On our way to the Sea of Galilee, where we would spend the next three nights, we visited the Church of Scotland run Tabeetha School, founded some 150 years ago by Jane Walker-Arnott, a Scot. Today it has pupils from over thirty nations and many beliefs. We began the next day at Mount

Tabor the traditional site of the Transfiguration then in Nazareth we spent some time at a recreation of a Galilean village of 2,000 years ago where you could imagine what life would have been like for Jesus living here as a boy. The largest Christian Church in the Middle East, a two storey building of very modern in design, The Church of the Annunciation is built over what is traditionally believed to be where the Archangel Gabriel told Mary she would be the mother of the Son of God. On our last day we travelled to Capernaum where extensive excavations give you some idea of how it would have been when it was the centre of Jesus' Ministry. Next stop Tabgha, the traditional site of the feeding of the 5,000. Here at Tabgha we celebrated Communion together on the banks of the Galilee, something I will never forget, then on to the Mount of Beatitudes where Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount.

We ended our trip with a sail in a replica of a 1<sup>st</sup> century fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee. As we set sail the crew raised the St Andrews flag and played Scotland the Brave, much to our delight. During our journey we read stories from the Bible at the places they happened, we sang many joyful hymns and gave thanks that we were able to explore this land and share the experience with good companions. You may ask were the paths we walked the very ones Jesus trod, the answer is, it did not matter it was enough to be there.

Sylvia



### CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2013

We are coming to that time of year when we invite you to join in the Blytheswood Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Last year along with all Arran Churches, we made a magnificent donation to the Appeal, with over 100 adults and children received their gifts and realized that, through God, people cared for them.

It is amazing that a box containing simple items of toiletries and clothes bring such happiness to those who have nothing in this world. So now is the time to start to collect the toothpaste and brush, soap and shampoo (no bigger than 250ml), hats, scarves and gloves and other small gifts to put in your box and save the last minute rush.

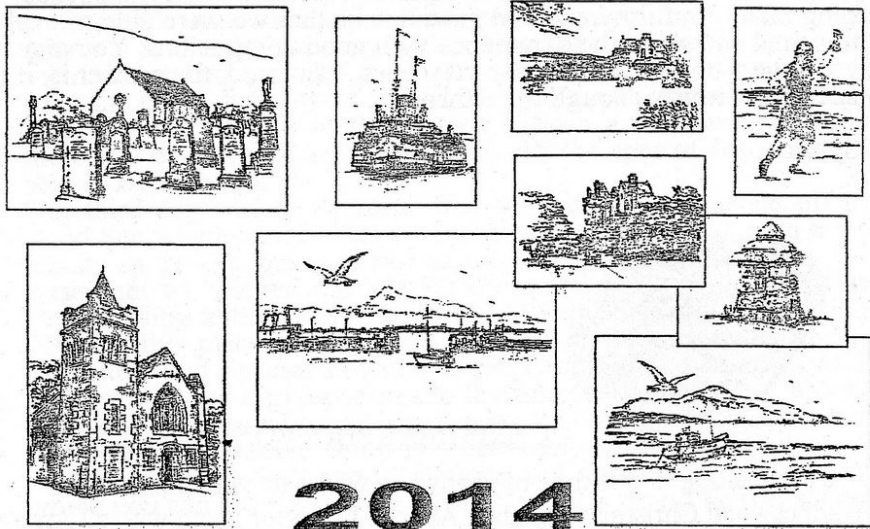
Letters giving full details will be with you by the beginning of September with final date at the end of October.

Please accept the invitation and bring happiness in a shoebox to somebody who has nothing in this world.

SHOW THE WORLD THAT YOU CARE!

Hamish Mitchell

### Gordon Waddell Calendar



Gordon Waddell the artist who donated the drawing of our church which features on the front cover of this Newsletter attended morning service on Sunday 23rd June. After the service he hosted a display of his work in the church hall entitled The Arran Collection which was much admired. This included a Calendar for 2014, a replica of which is illustrated above. Copies may be obtained from Gordon Waddell Fine Art.

### Friends of Montrose House Association - Summer 2013

Once again the main topic of interest in-house over the last few months centres round the 'New Build' project and the quest for information on progress. Our understanding is that the start date has been put back to August (2013) as the seemingly endemic problem with projects of this nature is for the Preferred Contractor, having secured the contract, then attempting to negotiate increases in cost. Where have we heard this before? Let us hope that the project gets going along the right lines soon! N A C intend to hold a high profile ceremonial event to celebrate the cutting of the first sod of turf but alas no firm date has been established.

Meanwhile the by-word is Business as Usual and we continue to follow the traditional sequence of 'summer' events.

Our A G M took place in May with the office bearers and committee once again re-elected en-bloc as no new members show interest. Fortunately our finances are in good shape, enabling us to sustain our activities albeit with some slight change of emphasis. Whereas we used to organise Day Out excursions in the Minibus, the increasing frailty of residents with many requiring one-to-one and sometimes two-to-one attendance with qualified staff (statutory), means that we are now asked to provide financial support for trips out for a meal with residents making a nominal contribution towards the cost.

Our main fund raising event, the Summer Fayre, took place recently with the creditable sum of £840 being raised. An in-house 'Summer Sparkle' was held in June with musical entertainment provided by a group of young musicians from the High School. They have also agreed to return with a shortened version of the Corrie Church 'Young Generation' event in July.

Sadly our much depleted 'Garden Gang' has struggled with the back-breaking task of clearing the spring bulbs from the decorative beds in readiness for Steve Bunyan's 'Council Gang' to plant their summer display. Battling against the elements with one minute, blazing hot sunshine, the next a deluge of rain with gusting winds snatching implements from our grasp, coupled with the onset of maturity, one wonders just how long we can keep this up. We desperately need more help - it only involves a couple of hours on Monday mornings with a cup of coffee and a chat at half time!

Any offers?

## Property Report.

### The Church.

The organ has had its annual service. It should be noted that the thin leathers within the organ dry out, and stick to the metal plates, when the church is exceptionally warm, and may give cause for an audible whine to be heard under certain conditions.

The door to the vestry from the church, has had a slip bolt fitted to the door, with a replacement lock, to prevent access to the vestry, while the church is open to the public. Additional shelves have been fitted to the unit in the transept to relieve the vestry of stationary etc.

New metal holderbatts have been ordered to hold the heating tubes at the pulpit and organ respectively.

Fire extinguishers have all been serviced.

A quotation is still awaited for 4 additional wall heaters to boost the temperature for a short time on Sunday mornings, and on occasions, when necessary over the winter period when it is exceptionally cold.

Following the inventory of the contents of the church and the estimated value, and in discussions with Iain Todd, it was agreed to increase the insurance cover.

Following the purchase of a new marquee, to be stored in the boiler house, new keys will be issued shortly.

### Hall.

Fire extinguishers serviced and new plywood panels fitted to the hall doors. The metal roof is complete having had 2cts bitumastic paint applied to the roof sheeting facing up the Knowe Road.

The hall will be closed this year from Monday 12th August, Saturday 17th August 2013 for the varnishing of both the floor and walls of the main hall. The increase to the insurance cover of contents also applies to the hall.

### Church Grounds.

The grass cutting continues fortnightly and last week the boundary bushes and hedges were given their annual cut back, in time for the annual fete.

A few overhanging branches have still to be cut back for the new marquee should it be necessary to erect it on the day of the fete.

## CHURCH OPEN.

As an experiment, the Congregational Board and Kirk Session decided at their April meeting (too late for inclusion in the Spring edition of the church magazine) to leave the church open every day from 10am to 4pm for visitors to view its interior outwith services, and for private prayer.

Board members and elders have been taking it in turns to open and close the church, and report that there have been a number of visitors, and those seeking the solitude of the sanctuary, in the first three months of this experiment. Whether or not to continue this facility during the winter months will be decided at the July Board and Session meeting.

## CHURCH NOTICES – Summer 2013

**New Member:** Isobel Kay, Auchrannie Road (from Pirnmill Church)

<b><u>Funerals:</u></b>	Sheena Rutherford, Alma Road	22nd April
	Margaret Strath, Corriegills	19th May
	Jean Collie, Corriegills	17th June

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

20th July	2pm Annual Church Fete
24th July	10.30am Church Coffee Morning 7.30pm Corrie Church Summer Concert
25th July	8pm Annual Church Auction in the Golf Clubhouse
4th August	10.30am sacrament of COMMUNION
7th August	10.30am Church Coffee Morning
21st August	10.30am Church Coffee Morning
4th September	10.30am Church Coffee Morning
5th September	7.30pm Taize Worship service, Shiskine Church
18th September	10.30am Church Coffee Morning, followed by 12noon Health and Healing service, Brodick Church
29th September	3pm Open Air Service, Clachan Church, Shiskine
2nd October	10.30am Church Coffee Morning
3rd October	7.30pm Taize Worship service, Shiskine Church
16th October	10.30am Church Coffee Morning
27th October	10.30am Harvest Thanksgiving service followed by Harvest Lunch in the church hall.
30th October	10.30am Church Coffee Morning
31st October	12noon Health and Healing Service, Shiskine Church
3rd November	11am Linkage Communion Service, Corrie Church 7pm Thanksgiving Service, Shiskine Church

## 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