

# St Molios Church Magazine



FEBRUARY 2018



**Recently quoted in The National Press this extract from President Dwight D. Eisenhower's speech was made on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1953 to the American Society of Newspaper Editors,**

While Government agencies celebrate the expansion of arms firms in our biggest city, it's worth recalling the words of former military-man, President Eisenhower, in his famous. (*press comment*)

### **"Chance for Peace" Speech**

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.

This world in arms is not spending *money* alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children.

The cost of one modern heavy bomber is this: a modern brick school in more than 30 cities. It is two electric power plants, each serving a town of 60,000 population. It is two fine, fully equipped hospitals. It is some fifty miles of concrete pavement. We pay for a single fighter with a half-million bushels of wheat. We pay for a single destroyer with new homes that could have housed more than 8,000 people. . . . This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron."

*Although costing and comparisons of the above may have changed over the years these words may give us pause for thought!*



Dear Folks,

The article I wrote last spring about our little rescue terrier Dougie generated a great deal of interest and almost a year on I continue to be asked frequently how he is doing. The answer is very well. He is learning to be more trusting of people and is now much better at meeting strangers when out and about, although due to his past abuse, he still has one or two issues we are working hard to resolve. In particular, he is not good with other dogs. When he encounters them, he just wants them to go away and goes completely berserk, barking very loudly and making quite a commotion. We think this is due to having been mauled as a pup.

Recently we decided to get help from Maxwell Muir an expert in helping owners overcome problems with their dog's behaviour. His input was very helpful and most encouraging. He was also reassuring, explaining that there will be some days when Dougie will seem to have improved and others when he has taken a backward step, but that given time and patience, with the right strategies in place to help him cope with fearful situations, things will get better. He also warned that in the process, when your dog is not at his best, people will look at you as if you are the worst dog owner in the world and make scathing, even insulting comments to you about its' behaviour. His advice – ignore them, they haven't got a clue what your poor dog has suffered in the past and what mental scars and trauma you are helping it to overcome.

This has made me more tolerant too of others and made me realise if having a dog with problems is sometimes a difficult challenge, it can be nothing like as daunting as having to cope with a child, who because of conditions such as autism, are also given to tantrums in public. No matter what strategies their parents put in place to help overcome the things that cause stress and a reaction in their child, there are bound to be moments when a tantrum will occur. The trigger might be something as simple as bright colours, excessive noise, or lighting. Few people have a clue what is going on in the lives of those, who because of circumstances out with their control, face huge daily challenges and for whom so-called normality is impossible. The recent TV drama 'The A Word' about a little lad called Joe who has autism has perhaps

helped to educate some and certainly I found it an eye opener. But there is still much ignorance around and it makes people react badly, very badly at times.

I heard the mother of an autistic child speak on the radio describing the nightmare of coping with her child having a tantrum in a supermarket, throwing tins around and causing mayhem, whilst shoppers either stared disapprovingly, or criticised. What she said would make all the difference in that situation would be a simple offer of help. Help to pick up the tins and thus enable her to make a quicker exit in order to be able to calm down her child in the peace and security of the car.

We can all at times take the high moral ground and judge others, very often without having a clue of their true circumstances.

J. P. Struthers once said when speaking of the Christian religion, 'It would do the church more good than anything else if Christians would sometimes "do a bonny thing."' Christians or not, it would do much good if we all learned now and again to "do a bonny thing". Simple acts of kindness never go amiss.

*Angus*

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### **A Thought for a New Year – 'Take Time' (Writer Anonymous) from Jean Hunter**

Take time in 2018 to think;  
it is the source of power.

Take time in 2018 to love and be loved;  
It is God's greatest gift.

Take time in 2018 to read;  
It is the foundation of wisdom.

Take time in 2018 to laugh;  
It is music of the soul.

Take time in 2018 to play;  
It is the secret of staying young.

Take time in 2018 to be friendly;  
It is the road to happiness

Take time in 2018 to be quiet;  
It is the opportunity to seek God.

Take time in 2018 to dream;  
It is what the future is made of.

Take time in 2018 to be aware;  
It is the opportunity to help others.

Take time in 2018 to pray;  
It is the greatest power on earth

## ST. MOLIOS GUILD



Thirteen Guild members and friends joined our annual Christmas party on the 19th of December. Starting by singing 'Love came down at Christma' folk chose their favourite carols, readings and poems and a shared Christmas memories. Then followed pass the parcel to the reading of the Christmas story before we sat down to a special festive tea.

In January with atrocious weather the meeting had to be called off. This was disappointing as Pirnmil Guild was to lead us in our annual exchange and it is always a fun and lively meeting but we have plans to have them with us in April.

On 20th of February at 2p.m. we hope to have Ms Rachel Newman talking to us on the Guild project Prospects - 'All Friends Together'. A project on inclusiveness in the church of those with learning disabilities.

Then on the third Tuesday of March – 20th we have a speaker from the project Care for the family 'Lets Stick Together'.

Our annual business meeting will be in April when we hope to have friends from Pirmill join us.

You would be most welcome at any or all of our meetings as we consider our topic for the year 'Go in Love'.

Helen Kerr, Secretary

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On November 30<sup>th</sup> some 40+ men women and children joined in worship in Brodick church on St. Andrew's Night followed by a

most enjoyable ceilidh and supper. From five year old to those in their eighties joined in the dances (well some of the older ones enjoyed watching), listening to the band, and the young fiddlers.

The service for Christian Unity was held in Kildonan and Whiting Bay church on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January when in spite of the bad weather more than 130 attended. For the first time I was unable to be there as I was 'under the

weather' but from all accounts it was an uplifting time with joyful singing and being together was inspiring. The preacher was Rev. Benjamin van Rensburg who with his long experience of ministering in Unity church in Turkey was well equipped to engage the congregation. The offering which will go to Tearfund support to refugees came to almost £700.

Now we look forward to two annual events during Lent. On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 2p.m. there will be the World Day of Prayer. This year the service has been prepared by the women in Suriname and together we can be informed of the challenges they encounter in their lives and pray with and for them. All are welcome. The venue is still to be fixed so please see church weekly notices.

Good Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> March this year there is the traditional Walk of Witness in Brodick when church members gather at Holy Cross church for a short act of worship and then walk silently through Brodick behind the cross to Brodick church where there is a further act of worship. This is an opportunity to remind others of the meaning of Easter and the sacrifice made on our behalf. We are all members of Arran Churches Together. Why not come and join in.

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### **Baptisms**

***'Let the little children come to me for of such is the kingdom of heaven'***

5<sup>th</sup> November Jack Crawford Picken baby son of Jamie and Kirsten  
17<sup>th</sup> December Harris George Tod baby son of David and Catriona

### **Wedding**

***'Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.'***

22<sup>nd</sup> September William John Morrison Hunter and Fiona Michelle McLeod

### **Funerals**

***Jesus said, 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'***

|                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 19 <sup>th</sup> October  | Iain McKelvie            |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> November | Steven Gibbs of Dougerie |

**Prayer Focus** – from Life and Work Church of Scotland Magazine January '18



God of the poor and dispossessed, as I walked home something moved in a shop doorway, catching my eye.

And suddenly I stopped, for the something was a someone stretched out on a cardboard mattress, sleeping bag pulled up tight trying to keep warm.

The sunken eyes; the well live-in face. This is someone's child, someone's brother, father, friend.

Is there any change in my pocket? Can I get you some tea?

And then I walk on and walked away, for like the priest and the Levite on the Jericho road I too anxious of what it would mean to tarry longer.

Yet the face stays with me and so does the hurt the hurt of not knowing what to do and feeling so inadequate.

What has gone so wrong in someone's life that they have ended up sleeping rough?

What has gone so wrong in society that so many people are homeless, living in hostels or temporary accommodation without a place to call home?

Surely it doesn't need to be like this?

So hear my prayer for those who following Christ's way of costly love refuse to walk past on the other side of human need

For the Street Pastors and those who run the night shelters offering care, kindness and something to eat. For all who support people who are homeless helping them though their difficulties to make a fresh start in life.

Amen.

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## What's in a Name?

The congregation sent a Christmas Card to the Chum family (Savy, Aun, Chea and young Helen) in Cambodia. They very much appreciated that you remembered them especially Chea who has been another three times since the family visit in 2011. Helen and I spent a lot of time with them recently including a short holiday in country to one of the more remote provinces.

Their home in Phnom Penh, like most of the working class is very compact even for a small family of four, so shelf space is extremely limited and there are no windowsills or mantelpiece. So it was very noticeable when looking through the various family snaps and school certificates pinned to the wall that your congregational Christmas card was among them but it was the names that were displayed rather than the pretty picture on the other side. For they have memories of the people whose names are there and recall faces and the warm welcome St Molios folk gave them.

John Kerr

Below are a couple of photos from our holiday together with them.



*Last night of our upcountry holiday when we all enjoyed a meal at a Cambodia open air restaurant. Please note 'Grandma' needed to get a chair, unable to sit a la Cambodian style!*





*We visited a most beautiful site; beautiful river with broad stepped waterfalls and a final huge drop. John, Aun and I are so glad to have visited Bousra Falls in the nineteen nineties. Although they still look very spectacular the site is spoiled with big numbers of tourists and their local followers who don't take their rubbish home. We preferred when it was wild and isolated!*

*Helen Kerr*

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**Common Ground** an extract from World Mission newsletter Dec/Jan.

### Young People Speak Out

*Seoras Orr and Luna Issa recently visited Rwanda as part of a Youth Leaders Programme organised by the Church of Scotland and interfaith Scotland. Five Christians and five Muslims took part in this programme, where they learnt how faiths groups there are working together for peace in Rwanda.*

Seoras Orr, a probationary minister in the Church of Scotland, currently working with Barclay Viewforth congregation Edinburgh writes the following: "This trip was a new kind of interfaith experience for me. In a way we could have had all our conversations about life and faith across a table in a room somewhere in a Scottish city, however, I know for a fact it would not have been nearly as rich a dialogue as we had in Rwanda.

Instead of having academic 'discussions' in a comfortable setting we were pushed to engage in a more real way. The trip was full of little challenges, new experiences and emotional visits, which meant that the group came together and gelled really well.

After only a few days of journeying around that beautiful country alongside my Muslim and Christian friends I felt that I was able to share my faith in a much more personal way than I would have done in a classroom setting back home. I felt more comfortable asking difficult or challenging questions and felt that I received genuine answers. I not only learned a great deal about Islam and the perspectives of my Christian colleagues but also felt listened to.

I learned how important it is to make the effort to learn about the world view and the background of others."

Also from one of Seoras' fellow travellers Luna Issa. She is a student of English Literature at the University of Dundee:

"Meeting the Light Group which comprised of both victims and perpetrators of the genocide in Rwanda was truly inspiring and eye-opening. The way that people in the group spoke about forgiveness and how their faith allowed them to move on had me in awe.

The genocide in Rwanda was not about religion but the way that the country united against all forms of systemic discrimination is something which could be implemented in different contexts. Conflict falsely, in the name of religion occurs daily which is an injustice. It is so important for all people to be educated to realise that no religion preaches hate and violence.

It was refreshing to hear both Muslim and Christian leaders speaking about the importance of communication between both faith communities. Interaction takes away this idea that it is enough to simply tolerate each other. The Light Group celebrated each other; the graduations, their weddings, their funerals. I think that being present with each other in a meaningful way allows people to realise how much common ground is shared and that we all want to make the world a better place.

*Visit Church of Scotland YouTube channel to watch a short video about the trip to Rwanda.*

### *Dates for the Diary*

- Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> Feb      Holy Communion at 12 noon
- Fri. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar      World Day of Prayer at 2p.m; venue yet to be decided see weekly notices. Men and women are invited to join in solidarity with the women of Suriname.
- Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Mar.    Holy Week labyrinth St. Molios any time from 10am – 8p.m. and from 10am to 1p.m. on Thursday. Spend a quiet time reflecting as you walk round the church.
- Thur 29<sup>th</sup> Mar.    Maundy Thursday joint Holy Communion 7p.m. in Corrie church
- Fri. 30<sup>th</sup> Mar      Arran Churches Together Good Friday Walk of Witness at 2pm at Holy Cross church. And thereafter walking to Brodick Church for a further short time of worship
- Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Apr.      Easter Day all age service at 12 noon.
- Tues. 20<sup>th</sup> Feb    The Guild meets at 2p.m. speaker Rachel Newman on the Guild Project 'All Friends Together' inclusiveness and on
- Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Mar    at 2p.m. a speaker on 'Lets Stick Together– another of the Guild supported projects. All are welcome.
- Tues. 17<sup>th</sup> Apr.    Guild AGM at 2p.m.
- Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb    Prayers for Health and Healing 12noon in Brodick church
- Thur 29<sup>th</sup> Mar    Prayers for Health and Healing 12noon in Shiskine church.
- Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Apr    Prayers for Health and Healing 12 noon in Shiskine church.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs each month    Taize style worship at 5.30p.m. In Holy Cross church near the Douglas. All welcome.

## *Some Useful Contact*

### *In St. Molios Church in the parish of North Arran*

Telephone no.

|                                    |                        |        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| <b>The Minister</b>                | Rev. Angus Adamson     | 302334 |
| <b>Parish Assistant</b>            | Mrs. Jean Hunter       | 860380 |
| <b>Elders</b>                      | Dr. Alan Burnett       | 860742 |
|                                    | Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke  | 860219 |
|                                    | Mr. John Clarke        | 860219 |
|                                    | Mrs. Evelyn Hamilton   | 860233 |
|                                    | Mrs. Jean Hunter       | 860380 |
|                                    | Mrs. Helen Kerr        | 860498 |
| <b>Session Clerk</b>               | Mr. John Kerr          | 860498 |
|                                    | Mr. John Lammie        | 860418 |
|                                    | Mrs Elizabeth McCarthy | 860727 |
|                                    | Mr. John McCarthy      | 860727 |
|                                    | Mr. Murray Stewart     | 860479 |
| <b>Clerk to the Deacon's Court</b> |                        |        |
|                                    | Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke  | 860219 |
| <b>Organist</b>                    | Mr. John Clarke        | 860219 |
| <b>Pastoral Support Team</b>       |                        |        |
| <b>Convener</b>                    | Mrs. Eileen Johnston   | 860227 |
| <b>Church Magazine</b>             |                        |        |
| <b>Editor</b>                      | Mrs. Helen Kerr        | 860498 |

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Articles for the next magazine should be handed to Helen Kerr or sent to

Helen Kerr [kerrjh@btinternet.com](mailto:kerrjh@btinternet.com) by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

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