

Brodick Manse
August 2016



Dear Folks,

Recently I took advantage of one of my free Monday's and enjoyed a trip up to Oban and back. I am particularly fond of that part of the world, for besides its stunning scenery, it has a fascinating history and has many historic buildings and places of interest to visit. Much of that history is extremely violent and not without good reason has Argyll been described as the 'land of blood and beauty'.

On the return journey that day, with time to spare for the boat, we stopped at the head of Kilmartin Glen to visit Carnasserie Castle. In its history it too has seen its fair share of bloodshed and destruction. Now a ruin it was set on fire by the MacLeans of Mull in 1685, the keeper murdered and its once grand renaissance interior burnt to ashes. Known locally as the 'The Bishop's Castle', it was built shortly after the Protestant Reformation of 1560 by John Carswell, parson of Kilmartin and first Church of Scotland Superintendent of the diocese of Argyll and the Isles, of which Arran formed a part. The fact he needed a castle for a manse, an indication of how, if need be, the west highlands were to be won for the Reformed cause. However, besides being a man of action, Carswell was also a noted Gaelic scholar and the fact the Protestant faith eventually triumphed in Argyll and Arran is in no small measure due to a very historic book. For at Carnasserie John Carswell translated into Gaelic John Knox's *Book of Common Order*, the great reformer's definitive guide to Presbyterian worship and liturgy. Carswell's *Foirm nan-Urrnuideadh* or 'The form of prayers' was the first book ever to be printed in the Gaelic language and its influence not only had a huge impact on the Scottish Gaidhealtachd, but in Ireland too, then sharing much more closely a common language with the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

Arran too was also once a Gaelic speaking place and the significance that in all probability my Church of Scotland ministry predecessors

would have used Carswell's translation here in the Arran pulpits is not lost on me. Hence, my visit to Carnasserie was almost a sort of pilgrimage.

Alas the 'tongue of Eden' is no longer heard in Arran churches, although its demise was more recent than many might imagine. J. Kennedy Cameron notes in his excellent ecclesiastical history *The Church in Arran* that the ordination of James Kennedy at Lamlash in 1897 'was the first occasion on which a Free Church congregation on the island dispensed with public worship in the Gaelic language.' In Lochranza worship was still expected to be conducted in Gaelic as late as the 1920's.

In more recent times, thanks to Shelia Blane and her weekly classes in the Argyll Campus at the High School, Gaelic is now making a comeback. Once again too, the Gaelic language is occasionally used during public worship. Twice a year, at the annual service at the Preaching Cave at Kilpatrick on Pentecost Sunday and at the September weekend Sunday out-door service at the Clachan Glen, Shiskine, there are prayers, readings and praise in both Gaelic and English.

Arran too, like Argyll has its fair share of very historic buildings and the latter venue, the Old Preaching House at the Clachan Glen dating from 1805, now recently beautifully restored, is well worth a visit. Indeed the Clachan Glen is believed to have once been a Druid's grove and a site of one of Arran's earliest Christian churches circa the seventh century, a medieval chapel and an even older preaching house dating to the 18th century. There, in the old graveyard adjacent to the Preaching House under a sandstone grave-slab and its protective perspex cover, lie the remains of local Shiskine saint Molios, thought to have been a medieval abbot of Saddell Abbey in Kintyre, not to be confused with the saint of the same name associated with Holy Isle. Thus the Clachan is a very ancient sacred place with an incredible atmosphere all of its own. The service held there each year in Gaelic

and English is ecumenical and reflects a shared Roman Catholic and Reformed worship heritage stretching back at least a thousand years. This year's Clachan service is on Sunday 25th September at 3.30 p.m. Why not come along and judge for yourself and take part in a very special service in a very special place?



Look forward to seeing you there.

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ST. MOLIOS GUILD



### Guild News

Summer season is upon us and started with **Ardrossan Presbyterian Rally** in June when three of us attended St Columba church in Largs when we had an excellent speaker from World Mission who gave us a very broad address on the many aspects of the Church of Scotland's work overseas. The meeting made me think of how Guild members keep more abreast of the work of the church at home and abroad than most of our brothers and sisters in the church. It affords us opportunities that I would not like to miss. Of course we needed sustenance during the trip and we hived off to Nardini's for lunch before the meeting and found it filled lots of women who were all heading in the same direction.

**The Guild BBQ** was hailed by many who attended as 'the best ever'. This may be for several reasons – the sun shone but not too much, it did not rain, the midges did not show up before 9p.m. AND Jenny Harper's birthday landing on the same day (or should that be the other way round?), she felt constrained to offer to make for us lots



of varied and delicious desserts. Thank you Jenny and I hope everyone doesn't expect such a BBQ luxury every year. We'll remember the 24<sup>th</sup> June next Year! Our grateful thanks to all 36 who attended, prepared salads and bit and pieces and to the two Johns for the musical entertainment and taking charge of the barbecuing. We are happy to announce the biggest amount raised for many years £238.00.

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September Alison and Helen will attend the National Guild Gathering in Dundee when over 2000 men and women will gather in Dundee always an inspiring meeting and this year we look forward to key speaker Sally Magnussen. There will be an opportunity to hear her in November during Guild Week when we meet to watch the video of the Gathering

Our meetings are open to all and following the Guild dedication at morning worship on 11<sup>th</sup> September our first meeting will be at 2p.m. in the hall on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September when the theme for the year is 'Go in Joy' and the opening speaker will be the Rev. Benjamin van Rensberg from Shiskine Free Church. Why not come along?

Finally watch out for Christian Aid Quiz to be held in October – an evening of fun and hilarity in a good cause. DTBA.

Helen Kerr, Secretary

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South American Adventure (Part 2)

'The Mighty One, God, the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from The rising of the sun to the place where it sets'. (Psalm 50 vs 1)

In Part 1 of this story I told you of my travels on board a cruise ship with Elizabeth Watson. We sailed from Buenos Aires, Argentina stopping at Montevideo, Uruguay then on to the Falkland Islands. To continue the story, we left the islands at night time on the 27th

February. We sailed through the night to the Straits of Magellan a natural passage between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans arriving at the port of Punta Arenas the next morning. We had booked a tour to go and see the Magdalena Penguin Reserve. To go there we had to get on to a ferry which was like the Lochranza one only bigger. We sailed back up the Magellan Straits towards Magdalena Island where the Reserve was. We were told that we might see some whales on the way, and we did. Well I saw the fin of one on top of the waves and that is all, they must have been hiding from us or keeping out of our way.

We sailed across the same waters as Sir Francis Drake and Charles Darwin, so the itinerary told us. It also told us to wrap up warm and wear sturdy comfortable shoes as we would have about a thirty minute walk to get to the penguins and enjoy the experience of seeing them. After an hour and a half we arrived at the island and got off the ferry via a ramp laid on a stony beach. I was glad I had wrapped up warm and had my hat on because there was a strong cold wind blowing. However, one good thing is that we didn't have to walk far to see the penguins because a lot of them were close by when we got onto the beach. I had been looking forward to this trip and I wasn't disappointed. We were able to get close to the penguins and have photos taken with them behind us. To see the penguins in the wild like that was a great experience and the highlight of the holiday for both of us.

Jean Hunter

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**Songs of Praise** on 3<sup>rd</sup> July was attended by around 120 attended the Arran Churches Together annual event. Once more the rain

drove us inside – a pity really as often we are joined by passers-by. Rather late we were joined by two German holiday makers who heard

the singing and came in. Arran Brass again led the singing and we enjoyed the teas and coffees afterwards.

The next ACT event is the annual **Quiz and Social** evening in Brodick church hall on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 7p.m. This is an evening for all, church folk, community at large and holiday makers. A 'finger-food supper is served midway. We hope for a good turn out this year with folk from across the island.

Helen Kerr ACT Representative



### Flower Fellowship

|      |              |
|------|--------------|
| Aug  | M. Liddell   |
| Sept | Jean Lammie  |
| Oct  | Jan Crawford |

**Thank you for making our church even more beautiful**

I'm sure we all want to say a big **thank you** to Joyce Scott who for many years has coordinated the flower fellowship and very often seen to the arranging for those of us who do not feel it to be one of our talents. Now she feels the need to hand over the reins and these are being taken up by Gerry Arthur. Please contact Gerry on 860435 if you have any questions.



## Note re the Talent Sheets at the Back of the Magazine

The Deacons' Court would like to hear from every one where their talents lie and how they feel able to offer them to the church. Thank you to those who have offered plants for the church surrounds and these are much appreciated. However shared tasks are tasks halved. Even if you are currently serving in some way please fill it in on the forms, Tear out the page and return them to the church.

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FROM OUR TREASURER - Alison Burnett

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE APR-JUNE 2016

	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
AMOUNTS PAID DIRECTLY INTO BANK	752	477	477
FREEWILL ENVELOPES	248	318	243
GIFT AID ENVELOPES	70	65	1220
PLATE COLLECTION	717	823	714
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	1787	1683	2654
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2893	2229	2229

The above figs show the main income and expenditure for each month. As will be noted on a month to month basis we do not always pay our way.

However, the **annual** income is greatly helped by the coffee morning money and gift aid reclaimed. I thank everyone who has signed up for gift aid it is a huge benefit to church finances with £4,200 (approx.) being reclaimed each year.

Without any cost to yourself you can help boost our income by allowing gift aid to be collected on your collection if you are a UK tax

payer. For the non UK taxpayer coming to the coffee morning held every Thursday will also help boost the churches finances!

If you have not signed a gift aid form or want more info please contact me on 01770 860742. Forms can also be found in the vestry and can be returned to the elder on door duty on a Sunday or to me.

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## **Why Going to Church Once a Week May Save Your Life!**

By Robert Kellaway

Going to church is good for your health and can slash the risk of dying early by a third. Attending just once a week is linked to lower rates of heart disease and cancer according to a study.

The researchers cannot say exactly why but it is thought a higher level of optimism and stronger sense of community among church goers combats poor lifestyles and stresses associated with diseases.

Professor Tyler Vander Weele of Harvard University, Boston, US said; "Our results suggest that there may be something important about religious service attendance beyond solitary spirituality.

"Part of the benefit seems to be that attending religious services increases social support, discourages smoking, decreases depression and helps people develop a more optimistic or hopeful outlook on life."

Extract from a research article. Submitted by Alison Burnett

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The Molios Saxophone Quartet

"The boys are back in town!!"

Once again we are to be treated to a concert from the quartet. This year they will perform at Brodick church on Wednesday 7 September and then at Shiskine



church on Thursday 8 September, both events start at 7.30pm and tickets can be bought at the door.

They will follow these concerts with a third at Greenbank church in Clarkston and will play at Perth Concert Hall on 10 September where Iain will also play piano.

A wee update on their status:

Richard has just finished second year at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS) in Glasgow where his principal study is saxophone. He plays organ at Greenbank church.

Rory has just finished second year at RCS where his principal study is saxophone. He has also taken an “elective” subject – organ playing.

Aidan has just finished second year at RCS where his principal study is composition with saxophone as his second study. Recently he had one of his compositions played at a concert in RCS.

Iain has just completed first year at RCS. His principal study is piano with saxophone as his second study. Iain also plays clarinet with the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland and the Glasgow Philharmonia. In case you are wondering how three out of four play organ – all four have Distinction in Grade 8 piano.

Don't forget to put the dates in your diary!

Elizabeth Clarke

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## Who is My Neighbour?

At our recent deacons court meeting we were discussing the needs of Middle Eastern refugees and our response as a Christian community. We have prayed as a community in church on a Sunday and no doubt many of us have prayed individually but what value is prayer if it does not go hand and hand with action? At home recently we read in our devotions a commentary on the



Parable of the Good Samaritan which Jesus related to the scholar who asked the question, "Who is my Neighbour?" - Part of which follows.

In Jesus's parable those capable and obligated to help (the priest and the Levites) pass by the helpless victim. The Samaritan, a foreigner, who is not obliged to give assistance, does. The point of the encounter in Jesus' parable is the difference between knowing what is required and acting. Knowing the law is one thing, actually living it is another. The compassion of the Samaritan is not rooted in the law or social conventions, it is simply an act of human decency that responds to the situation from the heart. Perhaps the priest and Levite were paralyzed by trying to rationalize the situation - mentally looking for a loophole in the law to exempt themselves (they might be ritually unclean!). The Samaritan, by contrast, had an inner source for his action. Jesus connects it with the love of God found in the commandment quoted by the scholar, the love already in the outcast Samaritan's heart. Jesus redistributes the weight of the law, emphasizing love over knowledge. A modern-day paraphrase might be that the love of God and love of neighbour is our spiritual DNA. It's what defines us as disciples. The scholar receives an answer to this question (Go and do likewise). We don't know what the scholar did after that. We do know what we must do.

AT HOME WITH THE WORD® 2016

As the deacons' court explores the possibilities of how to respond to the needs of our neighbours please continue to pray for the refugee situation and if you have practical suggestions please share them with any of the deacons or elders.

John Kerr, Session Clerk

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Church Sale Thanks to all who contributed and assisted, lifted and laid, brought and bought and helped us raise funds. The amount raised will be recorded next magazine. Working together should always be fun!

ST. MOLIOS HAS TALENTS – MANY TALENTS

Please give this appeal your earnest consideration. Fill in the form below and tear out and return it to church. Even if you are already offering some of the mentioned talents and skills service, register them here. We all have gifts to offer.

‘There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service.’ 1 Corinthians vs 4-6

Name _____ Please tick as appropriate.

Areas of Service	Talents/Gifts/Skills to Offer	Yes I will
Sunday Worship	Reading the Bible at Sunday worship	
	Be part of the worship group	
	Sometimes lead in prayer	
	Be a children’s Sunday club leader	
	Contribute to the music in the church	
	Provide and /or arrange the Flowers	
	Help decorate the church at special festivals –Christmas, Easter, Harvest	
Pastoral Care	Join the small Pastoral Group reporting to Coordinator or Ministers names of people who are sick or in trouble	

Areas of Service	Talents/Gifts/Skills to Offer	Yes I will
	Make home visits to sick or housebound	
	Give regular or occasional lifts to church for those without a car	
Spiritual Growth	Be part of a Bible study or prayer group	
The Guild	Participate in Guild Activities	
Hospitality	Bake regularly for the Thursday coffee morning	
	Help setting up for the coffee morning	
	Enlist for preparing teas/coffees after Sunday worship	
Calligraphy!	Write up the cradle roll	
Administration Computing	Prepare Oder of Service (even at times)	
	Receive / edit /format quarterly magazine	
	Type up occasional documents	
Money Matters	Assist the church treasurer	
Maintenance	Assist the property convener with repairs and care	
	Do some gardening around the church and manse garden	

‘Giving need not be confined to money or material things but I would like more people to give their hands to serve and their hearts to love....’ Mother Theresa.