

St Molios Church Magazine



August 2018



Pause for Thought

From 'Reflection for Raggamuffins' by Brennan Manning.

Jesus remains Lord by being a servant. The beloved disciple, John provides a mind-bending image of God, blowing away all previous conception of who the Messiah is and what discipleship is all about. What a scandalous reversal of the world's values! To prefer to be a servant rather than Lord of the household is the path of downward mobility in an upward mobile culture. To taunt the idols of prestige, honour and recognition, to refuse to take oneself seriously or to take seriously others who take themselves too seriously, and to freely embrace the servant lifestyle – these are the attitudes that bear the stamp of authentic discipleship.

*The stark realism of John's portrait of Christ leaves no room for romanticised idealism or sloppy sentimentality. Servanthood is not an emotion or mood or feeling; it is everything to do with what we **do** – humble service. To listen obediently to Jesus – “If I then your Lord and Master have washed your feet you should wash each other's feet” – is to hear the Rabbi John knew and loved.*

When being is divorced from doing pious thought becomes an adequate substitute for washing dirty feet.



Brodick Manse

May 2018



Dear Folks

Over many years growing up in Corriecravie I watched the once grand imposing farm house that stood on the skyline at other side of the village at Kilbrannan, crumble and fall down. It always seemed to me so sad and such a waste, all that hard work and time and effort, not to mention expense come to nothing but a pile of rubble. The reason apparently for its demise, the builders had used lime mortar instead of cement with brick. Now after only 25 years since it was built, it seems the same shocking fate awaits the Brodick manse.

And the decision to demolish and rebuild the manse has of course come as a terrible shock to the congregations and to all who hear about it, but not least to me and my family. That decision has not come about quickly nor without consultation at length with professionals, Presbytery property representatives and with the General Trustees in Edinburgh who are ultimately responsible for all decisions concerning church property. Nor has it come about due to negligence on the part of extremely diligent and hard-working property conveners and fantastically supportive congregational boards to see it was properly maintained.

The severe problems with damp which first manifested themselves with an infestation of woodlice when we moved in in 2006 to the more recent infestation of slugs has been a long-standing one.

Despite almost constant repairs and remedial works being carried out over the past twelve years at no insignificant cost running into tens of thousands of pounds, the building is now so damp and facing hugely costly solutions to overcome certain design faults that it is now not

deemed worth spending any more money on. Therefore, the most practicable solution is to cut our losses and rebuild on the same site.

The task of overseeing this enormous venture and of raising the necessary funds has been placed in the hands of a sub-committee made up of all the treasurers, clerks and property conveners of the five congregations of Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine, who will of course report back to all the relevant Congregational Boards and Deacons' Court before any action is taken.

So far, all this has raised some questions and led to a few misconceptions, therefore it seemed a good idea to put the answers in writing to clear up any misunderstanding about the situation we find ourselves in.

The first most frequently asked question is, where am I going to live in the meantime? Fortunately come the end of September I hope to be able to return to Corriecravie and live in my own home. The alternative was to have the congregations rent suitable accommodation for me and my family elsewhere in Brodick. The cost of that, at a time when the congregations are faced with raising monies in excess of £100 000, would not be good stewardship of resources and at least we have the good fortune that I have somewhere else to live in and from which I can work, as I did when previously I was probationer minister at Brodick and Corrie from 2004 to 2006.

Why then do we need to build a new manse at all? For the simple reason that I will not always be minister of North Arran and in order for the congregations to be allowed to call my successor a manse must be provided for whoever that might be.

If a manse must be built, why such a large sum of money? The reason being that the legislation states that a manse must be of a certain size with four bedrooms, three public rooms and a garage. Not so that

ministers can live in style, but so that there is a bedroom for the minister and his or her spouse, one bedroom for a male and one for a female child (the nuclear family) and one guest bedroom for visitors, which are frequent in any manse. Downstairs the extra room is the room from which the minister is expected to work, the study acting also as a room where it is possible to meet people in private away from the other members of the manse family.

Where is this money to come from? The answer: it must be provided by the congregations, although financial assistance has already been offered by the Presbytery. This would if accepted, be in the form of a low-interest loan repaid over time.

How long will the process take? The answer – as long as it takes to raise sufficient monies, gain relevant statutory permissions to demolish and rebuild, not to mention go through all the stages of seeking the blessing of the church courts.

All this coming at a time when the congregation at Shiskine are embarking on an ambitious project to demolish their current church hall and build a new one fit for purpose for the next century and more, I have also been asked if having to build a new manse in Brodick will affect this decision. The answer in a word, no. Both projects are essential and will hopefully happen.

Why am I so confident of this? Because I believe both are undertaken in a great act of faith that the mission of the Church of Scotland on this island is important for the foreseeable future. If that is so and it is God's will then it will happen. If not, still my trust is in Him who will provide, not for what we want but for what we need. As the psalmist says: 'Unless the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it' (Psalm 127:1). Come what may Amen to that, Amen so let it be.

Angus

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I like to sing this action song with the children and the words are these:

*My God is so big, so strong and so mighty  
there's nothing that He cannot do.  
The mountains are His, the rivers are His,  
the stars are His handiwork too.  
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty  
there's nothing that He cannot do.*

When my granddaughter Abbie and I were on holiday in Australia this year in March/April we saw the majestic mountains, wide rivers and the stars at night.

As I reported in the last issue of the Magazine we were visiting my friend in Richmond which is situated in the Hawkesbury region of New South Wales, on the banks of the Hawkebury River about an hour and twenty minutes by train, west of Sydney.

The history of the region goes back way beyond that of the European immigrants and convicts that were transported there to the colonies in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

For at least 30,000 years, Aboriginal people have occupied parts of Western Sydney. The Darug people are the traditional custodians of the land on the south bank of the Hakesbury River and their neighbours are the Darkinjung whose boundaries are from the Colo River and Wisemans Ferry. The Wiradjun people also have boundaries in the north-west of the region.

The Hawkesbury river was originally known as the Deerubbin (or Venrubbin) and it was vital to the survival of the local Aboriginal people being a source of food, a means of transport and trading route. The first European settlers arrived in the late 1700s and renamed it the Hawkesbury. The fertile plains fed a starving colony and served as a main transport route to Sydney in colonial times.

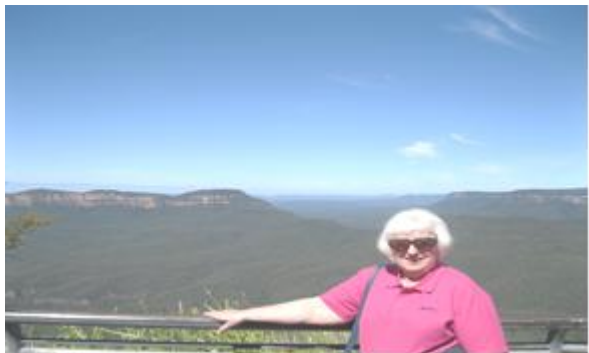
The writings of the European settlers around the late 1770s and early 1800s, tell that the local Indigenous groups usually contained up to about 30 people, several clans coming together to hunt kangaroo and for special occasions. They hunted for only as much as they needed, using mainly clubs and spears.

When we travelled along beside the Hawkesbury river we passed through many places that still bare the Aboriginal names such as Yarramundi at Hawkesbury Heights. It is here where the name 'Hawkesbury' changes to 'Nepean'.

It was in June 1789 that Governor Arthur Phillip and a small party made the first European exploration of the Hawkesbury River and Phillip named the river after British statesman, Lord Hawkesbury. The Hawkesbury-Nepean river system flows west to the Blue Mountains.

Why are the Blue Mountains blue? The Guide book told us that the distinctive blue haze which has earned the Blue Mountains their name is quite different and of a deeper hue than that found in any other part of the world. Although constantly varying in intensity, the haze is always present.

The phenomenon is known as "Rayleigh Scattering" after Lord Rayleigh who first investigated the phenomenon. It is caused by scattering rays of light coming into contact with fine dust particles and droplets of oil dispersed from the eucalypyus trees in the valley and there are a lot of trees stretching for many miles in the present day. The first official use of the name "Blue Mountains" is attributed to Captain William Paterson of the New south Wales Corp, in his dispatch describing his attempt at crossing the mountains through the Grose River Valley in 1793.





When were we up the Blue mountains and looking from the viewing platform, there certainly was a blue haze over them, an amazing sight.

At Katoomba there are rocks called the three sisters. There is an Aboriginal Legend about them that goes like this: According to

Gundungurra dreaming, three beautiful sisters named 'Meehni', 'Wimlah' and 'Gunnedoo' once lived with the Gundungurra people in the Jamison Valley. The maidens were in love with three brothers from the neighbouring nation of the Darug people, but marriage was forbidden by tribal law.

The brothers were warriors and decided to take the maidens by force. Tribal war forced the Kuradjuri (clever man) of the Gundunjarra people to turn the sisters into stone. He intended to restore them after the danger had passed and the war had ended.

Unfortunately, the Kuradjuri (clever man) was killed in battle and to this day nobody has been able to break the spell to turn the Three Sisters back to their normal form.

Legend and history - the Blue Mountains are a wonderful part of Gods creation and a magnificent sight to behold as with the valleys and places along the Hawkesbury River.

The experience of the fantastic places we visited and the history of the region we will hopefully long remember.



## ST. MOLIOS GUILD



Although the Guild regular meetings ended in April with the Annual Business Meeting we have not all gone for summer rest!. In June our Presbyterial Council Summer Rally was held on Cumbrae and four of us had a lovely sunny day away – with four sails,



lunch at the Garrison Cafe and attended the rally along with more than 60 folk. There was an interesting presentation from Walter Dunlop about the origins of the Society of Friends of St Andrews Jerusalem. We in St Molios as a congregation, are life members of the Society as is the Ardrossan Presbyterial Council. If there is one thing Guildsfolk enjoy it is a good ding and these meetings are really good to be part of, coming from a relatively small guild.

On Friday 22 June we were blessed with warm, sunny, midge-free weather (well, at least until it was nearly time to go home) for our annual BBQ. Well attended and enjoyed by all including friends from our link Guild St Francis in the East Bridgeton. After expenses Guild funds are the better of over £300.00. Many thanks who all supported the event.

Now we look forward to the National Gathering in Dundee on Saturday 1st September. Always a thrilling occasion and more so this year as we start a new triennium and six new projects to support in prayer and financially. The strategy for the next three years is 'One Journey Many Roads' and year one theme is 'Seeking the Way'. We will be hearing about each of the new projects.

PLEASE NOTE: You do not need to be a Guild member to attend the Gathering. If you are interested in going there are still two tickets available and you wouldn't be on your own as there are seven going from here. For more information speak to Helen Kerr 860498.

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Songs of Praise on Arran was held outside on a sunny calm Sunday. 24th June at 3p.m. on the foreshore of Lamlash.

Unfortunately Arran Brass were unable to accompany the singing this

year; however we were very ably led by Graeme McKinnon on the keyboard and almost 60 had a great afternoon singing and hearing readings, including a moving poem written by a WWI Irish soldier as this year marks 100 year since the end of the 'Great War'. The offering went to The Erskine Homes. We all enjoyed a welcome cuppa in Lamlash church hall afterwards.

Social Quiz Night will be later this year on Thursday evening 13th September starting at 7p.m. so that it is not too late a night. The committee decided this year to steer clear of any prize givings at the High School or other events at the end of August. This quiz night with a finger food supper is open to all in Arran Churches Together – that is church families, men women and children, members of the community at large and holiday makers. It is a team quiz and a fun evening. Why not mark it in your diary. See you there!

Helen Kerr, St Molios ACT Rep.

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From World Mission

### **WM Stamp Appeal 2018**

This year the stamp appeal is raising money for The Hungarian Reformed Church (HRC) in Transcarpathia, Ukraine which gives valuable support to children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. They help to run a number of day-care centres which provide education, emotional and physical support for children and young people with disabilities, allowing them to live life in all its fullness and to enjoy participating in society and family life.

Up until 2013 there were no day care centres for children and teenagers with disabilities in the region. If the children weren't living in residential care they stayed at home all day, many of them doing very little except watching TV. As a consequence many were left

feeling isolated from others of their own age and didn't have any opportunities to learn and develop their potential. Since then the HRC has opened three day-care rehabilitation centres, allowing dozens of children and teenagers to flourish....

Sadly, there is little support for people living with disabilities in the Ukraine. We are pleased to be able to support this important work of the Hungarian Reformed Church with the money raised from this year's stamp appeal.

*Ed. Note Please leave your stamps in the plastic bag attached to the notice board in the church hall. There will be someone present at the Guild Gathering in Dundee on 1<sup>st</sup> of September and any stamps collected so far will be transported there and handed over to World Mission personnel.*

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Prayer Focus

'..... in as much as you did it to me'.



Lord Jesus

When we seek to serve you yet fail to see the need of the neighbour in our midst, forgive us.

When we seek to love you yet fail to hear the cry of a stranger at our door forgive us.

When we seek to receive you but fail to open our hearts to the refugee at our border, forgive us.

Gentle, consuming, powerful, and unpredictable, help us to be open to you in the whole of life, in all whom we meet and in all that we experience.

Father, grant that we, your children, may demonstrate your love for all humanity and in so doing, commend the gospel of you Son, our Lord and Saviour.

AMEN



ARRAN YOUTH FOUNDATIONS

Arran Youth Foundations News

One of the donors that currently supports salaries for AYF's two youth workers is the Church of Scotland's Go For It (GFI) Fund. GFI has been invited by the Scottish Parliament to showcase the work they support throughout Scotland. They have chosen Arran Youth Foundations as one of two of their current projects. On Tuesday 25th September Graeme Johnston and a few of our young people will be setting off to Edinburgh to highlight the range of activities the young people take part in throughout the year and how over the years the organisation has expanded and developed.

It is 10 years since AYF became a registered charity with the aim to reach out to young people - 11-18 year-olds, offering them a safe place to meet and to invite them to identify the ways in which they would like to go. There was a real struggle at the start with one small portacabin and a small rota of volunteers. If eight young people came to the cabin on a Saturday or Friday night it was considered a good night. At that time all the volunteers came from various churches on the island and it became apparent that there needed to be someone who was a constant, someone that the young people got to know on a regular basis and with whom they could build up a trust relationship.

Funds needed to be found to employ a full-time youth worker. It was the Church of Scotland Parish Development Fund that had faith in what AYF's vision was and in 2009 granted £27000 'seed funding' which allowed for sourcing further matching funds so that the process

of employing a youth worker could begin. The following year Graeme Johnston took up his post, walking the streets of Brodick, talking to young people, making contact with the school, the police, social workers, business people and today well over 150 young people are currently registered, many of whom take part in two or three of more than fifteen sessions on offer each week in term time.

In the 2017 Graeme was recognised with the award of Youth Worker of the Year from Youthlink Scotland and his colleague Hollie Watkins as Part-time Youth worker of the Year. This year AYF was proud through their work to receive the Health and Wellbeing award. Well done Graeme and Hollie and all those who work with them.

Almost all the churches on Arran donate monthly to this thriving organisation for the youth on Arran. Although the visit in September to the Scottish Parliament is to highlight the work that Go For It funds we know that AYF young people will have the confidence to tell the politicians and civil servants they meet how they value the work of their youth organisation.

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Baptisms

Jesus said, 'Suffer the little children to come unto me.'

27th May Findlay Arthur, Son of Jonathan and Harriet Powell

Deaths

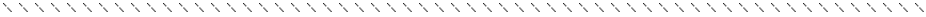
Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.'

27th May Moira Dick of Kinloch Court

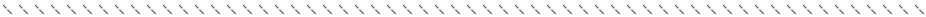
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**The Unmissable!** Put it in your diary now

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September in St Molios Church there will be another great recital of music to entertain and inspire. Ian Clarke (Piano) will be back with Ms Helen Matthews (Oboe). Watch out for further notice.



Could you be writing  
an interesting  
article for your  
magazine?



### ***Dates for the Diary***

- Sun. 12<sup>th</sup> Aug. **Holy Communion** at 12 noon
- Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. **Guild dedication** during worship
- Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Harvest Thanksgiving** and lunch hosted by the Guild.
- Sun 30<sup>th</sup> Sept The annual open-air service at the **Clachan Kirk** Shiskine at 3p.m.
- Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Nov Arran North Parish Linkage **joint Holy Communion Service** in Corrie Church at 11a.m. and **Thanksgiving Service** 7p.m. also in Corrie Church.
- Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Sept. Lochranza Church **musical evening** to raise funds for the church. Admission by donation at the church at 7.30 p.m.
- Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. **Musical recital** at 7.30p.m. in St Molios church - gifted musicians including Iain Clarke an unmissable event.
- Wednesday monthly Sept 26<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>  
**Prayers for Health and Healing** at 12noon in Brodick church
- Thursday monthly the Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> .  
**Taize style worship** at 5.30p.m. In Holy Cross church near Douglas. All welcome.

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Flower Fellowship



August Janess Crawford

September Evelyn Hamilton/Gerry Arthur

October Morag Liddell

Thanks to those who make our church even more beautiful.

If you would like to participate in the flower rota or donate for flowers please contact Gerry Arthur on tel. no. 860435.

Some Useful Contact

In St. Molios Church in the parish of North Arran

Telephone no.

<i>The Minister</i>	Rev. Angus Adamson	302334
<i>Parish Assistant</i>	Mrs. Jean Hunter	860380
<i>Elders</i>	Dr. Alan Burnett	860742
	Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke	860219
	Mr. John Clarke	860219
	Mrs. Evelyn Hamilton	860233
	Mrs. Jean Hunter	860380
	Mrs. Helen Kerr	860498
<i>Session Clerk</i>	Mr. John Kerr	860498
	Mr. John Lammie	860418
	Mrs Elizabeth McCarthy	860727
	Mr. John McCarthy	860727
	Mr. Murray Stewart	860479
<i>Clerk to the Deacon's Court</i>		
	Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke	860219
<i>Organist</i>	Mr. John Clarke	860219
<i>Pastoral Support Team</i>		
<i>Convener</i>	Mrs. Eileen Johnston	860227
<i>Church Magazine</i>		
<i>Editor</i>	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 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018.