

St Molios Church Magazine



August 2020



Ponder on Prayer from 'Contact with God' by Anthony de Mello

.... “Those who have once experienced that prayer is power will never again abandon prayer for the rest of their lives.

Mahatma Gandhi put it well: “I am telling you my own experience,” he said, “and that of my colleagues: we could go for days on end without food; we could not live a single minute without prayer.” Or as he said another time, “Given the type of life I am leading, if I had ceased to pray I should go mad!”

If we ask God for so little it may well be because we feel the need for him so little. We have to ask, are we leading complacent, secure, well-protected, mediocre lives? We are not living dangerously enough; we are not living the way Jesus wanted us to live when he proclaimed the good news.

The less we pray the less we are likely to live the risky, challenging life that the Gospels urge us to; the less of a challenge there is in our life and the less we are likely to pray.”



Dear All,

August 2020

The big question, at the moment is when are we going to be able to get back to church? The simple answer is not until after 16th August, as decreed by Presbytery. Even then it will not be until certain measures are put in place, such as social distancing,

currently still two meters apart, which restricts how many people we can allow into our buildings. This alone will require a certain amount of policing by our office-bearers, once trained in coping with the new rules. Face coverings will have to be worn, although not by the person conducting worship. No singing or communal prayer, no pipe-organ music either.

Deep cleaning of buildings and cleaning between services must be rigorously adhered to, which will also involve much extra work for our church cleaners and possibly office bearers too. Then of course there are official forms to fill in and not only must each Kirk Session and Presbytery be satisfied that all is in order for worship to commence, but so too must each minister be satisfied that it is safe and practicable to do so.

In my case I feel as a linkage, with 5 places of worship, it is very important we all move together and open at the same time. Our motto after all is, 'independent but working together'. I also feel it would be better if Lamlash, Kilmory and Whiting Bay did likewise and commenced services on the same Sunday. My two Church of Scotland colleagues on Arran, Rev. Elizabeth Watson and Rev. Lily McKinnon currently both feel the same and agree that as an island wide denomination, representing the national church, it is important we all act in a united joined up manner, not piece meal.

I realise all this said, I still haven't answered the question, when will we open our buildings for worship? Well after a meeting of our principle office bearers from each of our five congregations held recently, the hope is on the first Sunday of October. Why that date? Well it will give each congregation plenty of time to call Kirk Session meetings and to put in place all the necessary

measures to comply with regulations and also to receive Presbytery approval to do so.

By October, although still with October school breaks, there will be fewer holidaymakers around, hopefully making it easier to accommodate the number of worshippers allowed per building. We don't want to be in the position of having to turn away regular worshippers just because that Sunday, a huge number of visitors happen to turn up, or indeed vice versa, turn away visitors to accommodate locals. Whilst we delight to have lots of visitors swell church numbers and we pride ourselves in being welcoming towards them, in these strange times, having lots of strangers in our midst while many over 70 are feeling nervous about the spread of the virus, isn't conducive to tempting our own folk back to regular worship. By October too, regulations may have eased considerably and perhaps even the two-meter rule will have been dropped to one meter, making things much more manageable. Circumstances change so quickly, almost daily and indeed you may even be reading this and already some things have been relaxed further. Another sound reason to adopt a slightly more cautious wait and see policy in planning ahead.

There is a hope that by October communion will be able to be celebrated, and that is long overdue. To date we still await Scottish Government guidance on this.

Meantime, Jean and I feel that what we offer at present with our on-line services is far better than would be the case in church and that it has the guaranteed ability to reach everyone who wants to worship, visitors and locals alike.

At present too, funerals are much easier to hold out of doors at the graveside, allowing considerably more mourners to be present and still maintain safe social distancing. It would be impossible to police large numbers of people turning up for a big local church funeral, placing an intolerable burden on office bearers on duty at the door that day who were trying to do so. On Arran there is never any guarantee of good weather, but hopefully up until October, more chance of it not being too cold and miserable to continue with the practice of graveside only funerals.

So, I hope this helps to answer the big question in everyone's mind. The date we are aiming for a return to church is 4th October and rest assured we will keep you informed as to how things are indeed proceeding. As the bard said so well 'the best laid schemes o' mice and men gangs aft agley'. That said, in proceeding cautiously and in a calculated, practical and common-sense manner, it is also very much hoped ultimately, they won't 'lea'e us nought but grief and pain for promis'd joy.

Take care and please stay safe.

Angus

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### **Many the gifts, many the people**

*"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts: and though all its parts are many they form one body. So it is with Christ."*

*Corinthians 12:12*

The Church doors may be closed for now but the church is still at work. Many of you have been helping others in many ways. Elders and others have been keeping in touch with the members in their districts by phone, E-mail or now over the garden wall. Cards are still being sent out from the congregation by the Pastoral Team through Eileen. Afternoon Teas have been organised by Alison and a team of ladies baked and made sandwiches for these. A wee card with a message made by Morag was included. They were delivered to older members of our congregation and some living on their own. (I was thankful for one delivered to me as well.) A virtual Coffee Afternoon and a virtual Coffee morning was held and it was good to meet up with one another albeit on Zoom. I am sure there have been other things done as well. There has also been the streaming of a weekly service. In St Molios we are one body made up of many parts working together for Christ.

I came across the letter below. It wasn't written to a specific person but as a general letter and thought I would share it with you. It was written to encourage pastors during this time.

## The Letter

Dear Pastors,

We have now hit the halfway mark in this year like no other. Maybe you came into 2020 excited for what was to come. Maybe you were limping along in ministry, battered by conflict or worry about church finances. Whatever your outlook was in January, no one has escaped untouched by the global crisis we're experiencing.

In the past three months you have remained faithful to the gospel and your call, learning how to produce livestream worship, preach to webcams and empty sanctuaries, reach new places via online platforms, offer pastoral care and spiritual formation from a distance and manage virtual meetings. You have lost sleep over when and how to re-gather physically as church. You have responded to the disparate calls to reopen immediately and to keep the doors closed until the rate of infection trends downward, the divide between these groups matching up awfully closely with the boundaries of the political camps in our already charged civic life. You have absorbed "feedback" from well-meaning church members who don't fully know how to operate their own devices or think your work space is too cluttered or don't like how your complexion or clothing show up on camera or don't think you're working enough. You have wondered how to be church to those who don't have computers or smartphones. Your head is nearly exploded from all the Zoom gatherings you have attended.

You had given up visions for a blow-out Easter Sunday service. Your summer looks nothing like you expected, whether its full of camps or mission trips. You've seen sabbaticals slip through your fingers. You've cancelled plans, one detail at a time, for that conference or holiday that you were eagerly anticipating. You have been unable to get or give hugs to those who've ministered alongside you or shake hands. Your congregations meet you through a screen.

You've done all this either living alone and missing real human connection or while never getting a moment to yourself, surrounded as you are by family

and home schooling. You've done all this while shopping and cooking more than you ever have in your life. While of necessity, discovering or inventing new outlets for self-care. While your primary systems of moral and professional support – other clergy – have been as distracted and weighed down as you are.

You initially thought this would all be inconvenient for a few weeks, then you would get back to normal. But then it became clear that the virus was accelerating and you had to shift from a sprint to a marathon mindset. And you did, tough as it was. Then you had to recognize what else was happening in the world and address it, violence and racism.

Do you recognize how you have led during this time? Still you are understandably weary. It is ok – holy even - to rest. You are wondering if you are enough. Yes. God equips and empowers us each to maneuver our part of Christ's body.

Thank you for who you are as a person and pastor. Thank you for what you do. God delights in your faithfulness, your innovation, your tenacity, even as God invites you to tag out for self-care and sabbath.

Blessings be upon you,  
(Laura Stephens-Reed.)

Every blessing to you all, Jean Hunter

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Media and Websites for Sunday worship:

Radio Scotland 730 am

Radio 4 8.10a.m.

St Molios Church website; 11.00

www.Sanctuary First:

West Kilbride Parish Church and many church website Facebook sites.

****World Mission of the Church of Scotland requests prayer for the catastrophic situation in **Lebanon**. *Please see comment on page 15.*
On Church of Scotland World Mission Facebook page there is a prayer guide'.

Some elders have found out who, in their district have no Wi-Fi and would like to receive a transcript of the services from St Molios each week.

PLEASE NOTE: It has been decided that worship in Church of Scotland buildings on Arran will not take place before the first Sunday in October.

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**If you know of anyone who collects their news papers everyday and would like a copy of this magazine please let them know they are available in the Harbour Shop. Please just ask for/take one.**

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Afternoon Teas



A huge 'thank you' to everyone who prepared and delivered the surprise teas on Sunday afternoon from time to time, during lockdown. It was a lovely gesture, which has been much appreciated by all the recipients. Anonymous.

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### Views from the Pews

Our thanks, to you all the video team, for your very welcome online service of worship. We join you on each Sunday and benefit, enjoy the singing, but glad no one can hear us.

We wish you well, and glad Arran is clear. Soon we hope to visit and thank you in person. And bless you, *Sue and Hamish Biggar*

### Do You Know About This Cross?

Victor Uitz got a surprise one day when he discovered this cross very near his home along the narrow path between his house and the old cottages at Blackwaterfoot front. He placed this picture in the Banner asking if anyone knew about its history as it has obviously been used as a gate post. Angus was able to tell him that there was a write up about it in 'The Glasgow Society Book of Archiilology of Arran' 1910 – the location of this medieval cross. There is no other write up but Angus surmises that it was probably pilfered from the old graveyard at Kilpatrick at a time when all crosses and 'such images' were denigrated at the Reformation in Scotland. If anyone has any further information about the cross' origins Victor would like to hear from you.

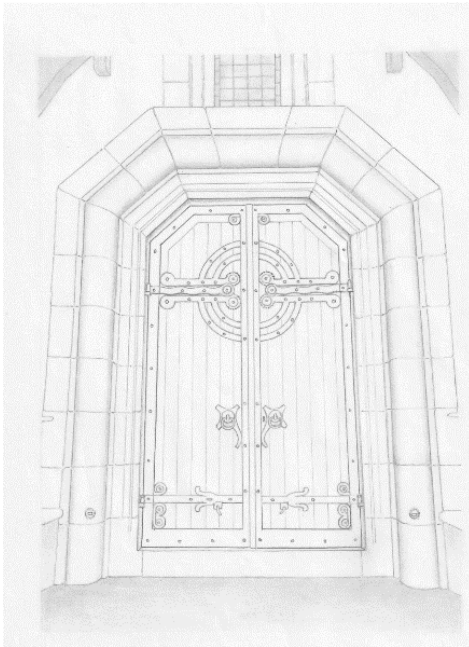




*Editor's note: Before Lockdown Dorothy Allan asked the Kirk Session if she could access the church in order to draw/sketch, paint or do any other art work in St. Molios. She has become very interested in the architect of our church and below is her first drawing of the church - the entrance - which we don't often see in detail as the doors are wide open - and her first article on Sir J. James Burnet' (not to be confused with his father John Burnet).*

**Sir J. James Burnet** 31 March 1857 - 2 July 1938      Author Dorothy Allan

When I made several short trips from Glasgow to Blackwaterfoot between



2015 and 2017, I soon became aware of the church that stood on the edge of Shiskine, with a wonderful view to the sea in the west. I had come to Blackwaterfoot for a holiday at the suggestion of Jamie Crawford whom I had met at New Victoria Gardens allotment site in Southside Glasgow. After my second visit he asked if I had been to the Red Church yet. I hadn't but rectified that on 25 June 2017 when I walked from The Kinloch up to the church for Sunday Service. The exterior was basically plain but with a very interesting entrance. I liked its colours and proportions, and the way it fitted perfectly into the rural surroundings. It did not prepare me

for the interior, for the harmony of wood and stone, the glorious windows, sculptural details, and a wealth of design in a small space. I learned that the architect was a Glaswegian, Sir James Burnet. With a strong interest in art and architecture, I already knew the work of two very famous Glasgow architects - Alexander 'Greek' Thomson and Charles Rennie Mackintosh - but who was James Burnet? He must be important to be 'Sir', so I started a study of his life and work, and this is the first chapter, birth till 1882.

John James Burnet was born in Blythswood Hill, a prestigious residential area in Glasgow. He was the youngest of three sons born to the architect, John Burnet, and his wife, Elizabeth Hay Bennet. They were a Congregationalist family. John James was educated in Glasgow at the Collegiate School in Garnethill (which became part of St Aloysius) and the Western Academy, and in Polmont at the esteemed Blair Lodge Academy (purchased by HMP Polmont in 1911).

After two years training at his father's architectural offices in St Vincent Street, and against his parent's initial misgivings, he went to Paris in 1872 to study at Ecole des Beaux Arts. In 1876 he gained his Diplome du Gouvernement in architecture and engineering, then toured France and Italy before returning to Glasgow at the end of the year, now aged 19.

To begin with, he assisted his father, notably on the completion of the facade of the Union Bank of Scotland building in Ingram Street (now the Corinthian Club); then in 1878, he won a competition to design the Fine Art Institute's own premises at 175 Sauchiehall Street in Glasgow, his first truly independent work.

In 1881 he was admitted as an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and made a second tour of Italy. Also in 1881, as Junior Partner, he designed Denny UP Church, and the following year his father took him into full partnership to form 'John Burnet and Son'. In 1882, James was sole architect for the Clyde Navigation Trust Building in the Broomielaw on a corner site with Robertson St. It has been described as ". . . one of the city's architectural gems" and ". . . the most spectacular historical landmark along the Broomielaw". Crossing the George V Bridge in the bus going to Central Station and beyond, I have noticed this impressive domed building countless times. I now know of many 'gems' that James Burnet designed in Glasgow. So, how did he come to be the architect for St Molios and other buildings on the Isle of Arran? I found some answers when I looked into his father's life.

John Burnet (1814 - 1901) was essentially a self-taught architect. After being apprenticed as a carpenter, he moved into architecture through his experience as clerk of works with a Mr John Smith, architect and builder, who hailed from Alloa before moving to Glasgow in 1826. John Burnet commenced practice on his own in 1843 with three Free Churches at Shandan, Alloa & Clackmannan. By the mid-1850s he had risen to prominence

with Elgin Place Congregational Church, Greek Temple style, on the corner of Bath Street and Pitt Street ( this became a nightclub in 1982, severely damaged by fire in 2004 and demolished). He continued with commissions for large baronial houses for merchants and shipowners as well as notable churches and public buildings. By the time James joined his father's business, the firm had a very good established reputation in Glasgow and beyond, with regular work in Argyll, including Islay and Campbeltown. The Isle of Arran was a short step away.

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Moments for Pause, Smile and Reflection

Hello Jesus, it's me Jimmy!

A long-term street person used to enter a church everyday, sit in one of the pews for a very short time, then leave. After this had gone on day after day for a long time, curiosity got the better of the minister so he asked him, 'Why do you come here everyday for such a short time?'

The reply was, 'I come in to pray'.

'For such a short time?' enquired the minister.

I just say, 'Jesus, it's me Jimmy'.

And so he continued to do this undisturbed each day. After a considerable passage of time Jimmy became ill and landed up in hospital and turned out to be the life and soul of the ward. Everyone commented on how he cheered them up all the time.

The ward sister asked him one day, 'How is it you are so happy and make everyone else so cheery when no one ever comes to visit you?'

'Oh but I do have a visitor every day. He smiles and stands at the foot of my bed and says, 'Hello Jimmy, it's me, Jesus'.

An Obituary printed in the London Times.....Absolutely Dead Brilliant!!

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- And maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death,-by his parents, Truth and Trust,
-by his wife, Discretion,
-by his daughter, Responsibility,
-and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 5 stepbrothers;

- I Know My Rights
- I Want It Now

- Someone Else Is to Blame
- I'm Victim
- Pay me for Doing Nothing

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

Thanks to Liz Clarke for this article

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**Coffee Mornings** “Companions on the Road” is the Guild strategy 2019 -2021 As most folk in Shiskine know St Molios normally has a very successful coffee



morning every Thursday run by various folk in the church and in the community at large. Many of us have missed the companionship of this local opportunity to meet friends and catch up with folk. As yet we don't know when we shall be able to meet again and when we do things will not be exactly the same as they were, come 'the new norm'. However we are grateful to Alison Burnett for (so far) having arranged three virtual coffee

mornings/afternoons.

At the first time nine of us 'met up' coming from Pirnmill, Brodick and even from the marshalling yard at Ardrossan pier! We had- long ranging conversations from – when would you feel comfortable and safe to return to church to how's you hair doing! But the most hilarious and instructive conversation came from Ailsa Currie when we asked about one of their new additions to their family – the little black and not really expected alpaca seen here.

We had the additional education, hearing about alpaca romance when boy meets girl and he 'sings' to his lady friend who happens to let him know if she

is not interested by doing what displeased cameloids do!! We heard that Donald Junior was not in the best of position when this took place!

Watch this place as we hope to have another Zoom coffee morning or afternoon when Alison returns from a week's break away, later in August

### **Greetings from our Link Guild in Glasgow**

From your friends in St Francis in the East Guild; we are sorry we were unable to meet up in June, but we hope you are all keeping well and safe from the virus. We are all well and hopefully we will be able to meet up in the near future. Take care and God bless you all.

From Betty Ardbuckle

**Guild News** Those of us who are online have been getting a weekly email of Guild News. On Sat.8<sup>th</sup> Aug. the Guild is organising a virtual afternoon Tea. The idea is that groups (socially distanced) could meet in a garden, bringing their own tea with them having a chat seeing others and remembering the Guild Projects who continue to need our support. Any donations made could be sent into Guild office and divided between the six projects. Our 'tea date' will be later, during stage four of 'unlockdown'.

Date for the diary. The virtual **Annual Gathering**, will take place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 11a.m. It will be a worthwhile time to hear and see and keep in touch – details for connecting will follow.

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Chea has been receiving the transcript of some of our church services during lockdown. Here is his new and comment on the service of 2nd August. Yes I have received this weeks service and it was splendid. I loved every bit of it. I must apologise as well. I have been so caught up with college work on line I haven't had time to write that letter for the magazine, - entirely my fault. Everything is fine of right now in Phnom Penh. How is everyone there on Arran?

Greetings from Chea



PLEASE READ SLOWLY

If you have food in your fridge, clothes on your body,
A roof over your head and a place to sleep,
You're richer than 75% of the entire world

If you have money in your wallet, a little change,
And can go anywhere you want, you are
Among 18% of the world's wealthiest people.

If you are alive today with more health than illness,
You are more blessed than the million people
Who will not survive this week and die.

If you can actually "READ" this message and understand it,
You are more fortunate than the three billion people
In the world who cannot see, cannot read or suffer
mental retardation.

Life is not about complaining pain and sorrows.
It's about a thousand other reasons to be grateful and happy.



Yet Another Urgent Prayer Request - This time for Lebanon

The church of Scotland WM has asked us all to take time to pray for the people caught up in the catastrophe that has hit the small country of Lebanon – hosting 500,000 refugees mainly from Syria and Afghanistan and has the largest number of refugees per head of population in the world. Its economy has collapsed, like the rest of the world it struggles with Covid 19 and now the tragedy of an explosion which has caused in excess of 137 deaths, 5,000 injured, 300,000 homeless and the food and drug supply chain broken because of a destroyed port.

Some Useful Contacts

In St. Molios Church in the Parish of North Arran

Telephone no.

<i>The Minister</i>	Rev. Angus Adamson	870228
<i>Parish Assis. & Elder</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. 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>Deacons' Court Clerk</i>	Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke	860219
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mrs. Alison Burnett	860742
<i>Organist</i>	Mr. John Clarke	860219
<i>Pastoral Support Team</i>		
<i>Coordinator</i>	Mrs. Eileen Johnston	860227
<i>Magazine 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 11 October 2020.

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