

# St Molios Church Magazine



November 2017





## *CHRISTMAS TEN COMMANDMENTS*

*(Some advice to look after ourselves and not get overwrought over the  
Advent and Christmas season)*

*Thou shalt not be perfect or even try to be.*

*Thou shalt not try to be all things to all people.*

*Thou shalt leave some things undone which ought to be done.*

*Thou shalt not spread thyself too thin.*

*Thou shalt learn to say, 'NO'.*

*Thou shalt schedule time for thyself, friends and family.*

*Thou shalt switch off and do nothing regularly.*

*Thou shalt be boring, untidy, inelegant and inattentive at times.*

*Thou shalt not feel guilty.*

*Thou shalt not be thine own worst enemy but thy very own best friend.*





Brodick Manse  
Autumn 2017

Dear Folks,

This July I enjoyed a week on South Uist at the Ceolas Festival, a wonderful celebration of Gaelic culture, music and heritage. Like our McLellan Festival here on Arran, which each September celebrates the work of Poet and Playwright Robert McLellan as well as the Scots language and the arts, there is a church service in connection with the festival. In fact, the Ceolas week begins with worship in St Peter's Church in Daliburgh followed by registration for participants in the church hall, which is also used for many of the week's ceilidhs, including the legendary Piper's Ceilidh on the Tuesday evening.

Besides being one of the true heart lands of the Gaelic language and piping tradition, South Uist is of course predominantly Roman Catholic. Indeed, it has been argued that it is largely thanks to the Roman Catholic Church and its priests that piping heritage survived there intact, compared to many other parts of the western isles, where after the Reformation, so many Protestant ministers put an end to what they perceived as frivolous pass-times such as music making. It is said that in Skye the local ministers made bonfires of fiddles and pipes and any other vain instruments of pleasure.

On South Uist there is also a small Church of Scotland congregation of around sixty people and during the course of my week I met with their treasurer. She explained that over the past few years they have had to close two of their buildings and now maintain only churches at Howmore and Daliburgh, with at present Sunday services alternating between them. However, as of last year they no longer have a resident minister on the island, South Uist now being linked with Barra, where the minister lives. There is uncertainty as to how they are going to continue during the winter months when due to curtailed sailings between Barra and Eriskay, it will be impossible for the minister to get

over and back in order to preach on both islands on a Sunday, as she currently does in the summer months.

At this point those with a good geographical knowledge of that part of the world will be wondering why not link South Uist to either of its immediately northern neighbouring islands of Benbecula or North Uist, connected by a causeway and very much largely Protestant islands, with existing vibrant Church of Scotland congregations. The simple answer is differing theology. Whilst the Kirk folk of South Uist are fairly liberal and happy to call a female minister, North Uist is very conservative, so much so, that the Rev Dr Lindsay Schluter would not be welcome in any of the pulpits there. In fact, due to this anomaly, South and North Uist are now in different Presbyteries, South Uist having in recent years disjoined itself from the Presbytery of Uist and is now in the Presbytery of Argyll.

It was nice to hear one of the main organisers of Ceolas say that, although she herself was Roman Catholic, she hoped the Church of Scotland on the island would survive to maintain its presence. Despite that sentiment, one shared by many others I spoke to, still there lingers an underlying tension along denominational lines, especially when local couples marry across the so-called religious divide. Mixed marriage between Protestants and Roman Catholics doesn't make life any easier for those who find themselves in that situation, as I found out when I spoke to the local barman, himself a Protestant married to a Roman Catholic.

All that made me feel saddened and a little despairing, that despite the wonderful teachings of Jesus about love of neighbour, Christians, even those on such a wonderfully welcoming and friendly island as South Uist had problems in getting along with each other. Surely nothing puts people off organised religion more than such as this.

It made me very glad that here on Arran, another island renowned for its warm welcome of strangers and the friendliness of its inhabitants, we have a wonderful organisation called Arran Churches Together, in which Christians from the Roman Catholic, Church of Scotland, Baptist,

Scottish Episcopal and now Free Church congregations are not only happy to meet together, but to worship together several times a year as we do on Christian Unity Sunday each January, on Good Friday each Easter, at the summer songs of praise service in July and at the end of November each year, usually for a Christingle service. The fact that this year the last Thursday in November coincides with St Andrew's Day has prompted a change for 2017, and once again after a break of several years we will have a St Andrew's night service in Brodick Church, a short half an hour service, followed by a ceilidh in the church hall.

Neither are exclusively just for church people and anyone church or non-church would be most welcome to come along on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30 p.m. to help us celebrate our common heritage on our national saints' day.

*Angus*

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#### ST. MOLIOS GUILD



#### WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT 2 PM ON THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH?

Why not come and join the members of St Molios Guild who meet then for Friendship and Fellowship (and Food!). Please don't think it is only for older people because men are also very welcome and there is no age barrier! The Guild welcomes ladies and gents of any faith or none.

The Guild theme for 2016-2018 is Be Bold, Be Strong and under this banner we have looked at Go in Peace, Go in Joy and now we are looking at Go in Love which binds Joy and Peace together.

The Guild's full title is the Church of Scotland Guild and as the Guild they are very involved in funding projects and over the triennium 6 projects, (3 from abroad and 3 in Scotland), will be supported by all the Guilds in Scotland. In 2016 and 2017 over £500,000 was raised for these projects. Each year our Guild supports 2 projects. The Harvest Lunch

held on 29 October and the BBQ in June are our main ways we raise our funds for the projects.

The monthly meeting starts at 2 pm and finishes with afternoon tea about 3.30 pm. We were very happy to have 4 new members join us in the last two years and one more this year already. We look forward to seeing you this year. If you want more information or need a lift to the meeting, please phone either Helen Kerr (860498) or Alison Burnett (860472).

Alison Burnett

On the first Saturday of September four of us from St Molios Guild headed for the annual gathering of the Guild in Dundee. What a day that was, Inspiring, amusing, with excellent speakers, uplifting singing, and all to launch out year of 'Go in Love'. There was fun and laughter as well as emotional and thought provoking times. Sylvia Alison from our Guild was asked to write a report as a first time attendee and she put it much more eloquently. So if you want a copy of her report just ask me. It has gone out to all 800 Guild branches.

Meetings for this Quarter:

The third week in November we celebrate Guild Week along with the 20,000 plus sister and brother members of the Guild throughout Scotland. On the island the three Guilds and friends join in Lamlash church on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> for a lunch and video of this year's National Gathering in Dundee. It is a good time to get together and encourage each other. Then on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> the three Presbyterial Councils of the Guild hold a big sing in the New Laigh Kirk Kilmarnock, just three minutes' walk from Kilmarnock bus station (no 11bus all the way). On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> there is a national big sing in Inverness. If anyone would like to go to either or both of these events please contact Helen Kerr, especially if you fancy going to Inverness because tickets sell out quickly.

In December we have a Guild's Own Christmas special in St Molios. Always a fun time.

In January too. Our joint meeting with Pirnmill leading us, is always most enjoyable. All our meetings are open and if all you want to do is dip your toe in the water and have a taster why not come for one of these meetings. We are sure you will enjoy it.

Helen Kerr

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As Winter approaches we know that more families on Arran will feel the pinch as winter unemployment and

the bills for food and fuel mount with fewer resources to pay for them. This is when we have to call on members and friends of the church to support the ACT food bank generously. Once again this year our Harvest Thanksgiving gifts will go to the food bank and any monetary gifts to the fuel fund and quite a number of families find themselves having to choose between buying food, paying the rent or keeping themselves warm. The Food bank now works out of Brodick church and people can discretely go and select from what is provided.

**The Social Quiz Night** was held on Brodick church hall on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Although the 20 of us had a very enjoyable time and a very nice supper It was rather a disappointing turn our coming from all the island churches. Many thanks to all who contributed the food and especially to Liz Lawrie and those who helped set up and saw to the teas/coffees and the clearing up. Thanks too to John Roberts who spent much time making up the questions.

**St Andrews Night Worship and Ceilidh evening** will be held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November again in Brodick Church with a short service at 6:30p.m. (See Angus' Letter on page one.)

**The Service for Christian Unity** on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018 will be held in Kildonan and Whitingbay Church at 1200 Hopefully as many as possible will join together from all congregations as we worship as one the one Lord and Saviour of us all.

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**Did You Know?** This coming year's World Mission popular report will focus on Women in the World Church. Look out for it in our church! As part of the launching there was a one-day event in New College Edinburgh on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> a 'round table preconference' event was held in Edinburgh. I felt honoured and humbled to be invited to give a ten-minute address on 'My Story' – at least we were advised to choose only one aspect of our lives! After more than seven and a half decades on the planet I found it rather a daunting task being the second eldest of the 14 speakers who came from Bangladesh, Egypt, Jamaica and Tobago, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria, Scotland and two Scots who had worked for many years in Cambodia, India, Malawi and Uganda.

I chickened out of the 'My Story' title and focussed on the extraordinary people in the three countries in which I had worked – people who just by who they were had formed and developed who I had become. But that is another story.

It was an amazing day catching just a glimpse of the lives of the unique stories yet with so many similarities as many had struggled to fulfil their calling to the ministry in their church and to leadership roles in their countries. Social 'norms' dictated that education of girls was a waste of time and that they should be married and bear children for their husbands! Often the men were not the obstacles to change but the older women. And that also applied to some of the stories from Scotland.



Next year our Church of Scotland will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of women. It brought back memories for me when one of the speakers who had been at St. Colm's College with me, Rev. Margaret Forester, one of the earlier women to be ordained in the Church of Scotland, told us of the years of persistent knocking at the door of the General Assembly – not aggressively but insistently that they had a calling to ordained ministry.

I was reminded of Rev. Lily McKinnon telling us about her calling to ministry when as a young girl she announced to her parents, or perhaps it was a school master that she was going to be a minister and was informed that that was impossible. 'There are no women ministers in the Church of Scotland.' She replied, "Maybe God knows something they don't"!

Back to the meeting on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September I was impressed by the absence of militant feminism. The atmosphere was a mixture of joy of being recognised and a call that while fighting for justice in the world at large the church should not neglect to combat injustice within the church.

Among the ordained women there was a longing for a time when they were known simply as 'ministers' and not 'lady ministers'. What has their gender got to do with it?

The Church of Scotland on Arran is away ahead of many places in Scotland as far as ministry with a small 'm' goes – we have two ordained ministers, one parish assistant, three readers all the same gender and then there is Angus! With tongue in cheek I write, I am sure he is in no way intimidated for he has male companions in the other churches on the island! But then what has gender to do with it.

Helen Kerr

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## Life and Work – The Church of Scotland Monthly Magazine

It is time for me to put in our order for 2018 Life and Work magazine. As a congregation we can get a discount for bulk ordering but over the past 10 years the numbers in the congregation taking it and keeping in touch with the life of the church at home and overseas has dropped by 50%.

Apart from being informed of the life of the church nationally there are also many and varied articles, opinions, letters, adverts, book reviews and a crossword. If you would like to receive this magazine at a mere £27.36 for the year, (a 'saving' of £2.64) please talk to me soon so that I can submit the order.

John Kerr

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**Skinnymalinks** run by Alison Page with some other volunteers, has raised £2000 for Mary's Meals over the past two years. Nearly every church on the island has people who took part as well as the community at large! A great contribution to a very worth charity.

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### Prayer Focus - from World Mission Oct/Nov 2017

God who is Love, thank you for those people who inspire us by the way in which they make your love real for others.

May our worship always be authentic and our love always be sincere. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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## The Clachan Service 24<sup>th</sup> September

On a rather dull day more than 60 people met at the clachan to worship and give thanks for our heritage and history of the church in Shiskine Valley. A bilingual multid denominational service conducted by clergy from the Free Church, Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church and Aileen Brookens, reader.



Particular mention was made of Murdina Currie who so enjoyed worship in the Gaelic language and often read the scripture in Gaelic at this service. Music on the clarsach and the singing of the an Cearcan reminded all, of the traditions and

language used by our ancestors when worshipping in this ancient place.



A special prayer of thanks was given for the life of Jack Murchie who gave so much of his time and energy to saving the ruined prayer house from total destruction and to overseeing the restoration of such an historical site. See the pictures below.

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## Pause for Thought



When the Master invited the Governor to practice meditation and the Governor said he was too busy, this is the reply he got: "You put me in mind of a man walking blindfolded into the jungle and being too busy to take the blindfold off."

When the Governor pleaded lack of time, the Master said, "It is a mistake to think that meditation cannot be practiced for lack of time. The real reason is agitation of the mind."

From Taking Flight by Anthony de Mello

**Volunteers Needed**

Readers: The list of scripture readers for Sunday worship has got shorter due to retirements and other reasons. And we really are in need of a few more names of people willing to read the Bible. If you feel you are able to do this please contact John Kerr.

Flower Arranging: If you have a gift for arranging flowers please do get in touch with Gerry Arthur our flower fellowship co-ordinator on tel. 860435 as soon as possible. You may notice on the inside cover there is no volunteer for the month of January.

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**Weddings**

‘Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.’

19<sup>th</sup> August    Lyndsay Stewart to Steven Teague

**Funerals**

Jesus said, ‘I am the Resurrection and the Life’

4<sup>th</sup> August    Alan Johnston Blackwaterfoot and Brodick  
22<sup>nd</sup> August    Mary Kirkwood Blackwaterfoot  
7<sup>th</sup> Sept.    Moira Barclay

## For the Young at Heart

Find 21 Christian names of people you see in church. Their family names are below in alphabetical order; happy searching.

|   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |    |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|----|
| T | Y | R | A | M | AL | I | S | ON |
| B | R | U | R | U | T  | H | N | T  |
| X | R | E | Z | R | J  | G | I | A  |
| D | E | I | B | R | O  | N | L | P  |
| H | J | L | P | A | H  | A | I | E  |
| E | V | E | L | Y | N  | E | Z | T  |
| L | O | E | C | Y | O  | J | Z | E  |
| E | A | N | G | U | S  | U | I | R  |
| N | A | O | J | Y | N  | N | E | J  |

Look for the first names of:

Adamson, Arthur, Burnett, Clarke, Currie, Green, Hamilton, Harper, Hunter, Johnston, Kerr, King, Lammie, McCarthy, Scott, Smith, Stewart, Whiteside.

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### Something to smile about or look a bit deeper!

1 Adam and Eve - The first people not to read the Apple Terms and Conditions!

2 Lost? Try a different GPS - God's Plan of Salvation

## WATER!

*Obviously not written for Scotland especially this summer!*

We have a water shortage  
Of that there is no doubt,  
Every day we are reminded  
Of the effects of drought.

The rivulet that dries up,  
The fish and birds it kills,  
No sparkling streams come tumbling  
Our mountains and our hills. [down

But how to conserve water  
Ah, ladies, that's the rub  
And I have got the answer  
Bring back the old tin tub.

Before the electronic age  
Made gadgetry galore,  
How did we wash & clean ourselves?  
Well, I'll tell you the score.

We had a bath just once a week  
Beside the kitchen fire  
And on a cold and frosty night  
'Twas all you could desire.

Then on Monday morning  
With laundry to be done,  
Once more the tub came off the hook  
And wash day had begun

Today machines do all the work  
We only press the nobs  
Our bodies, clothes and dishes too  
And other bits and bobs.

The scarce and precious water  
Pours in gallons down the drain,  
That heavens above do not replace  
With ever needed rain.

So spare a thought for Nature's way  
Join her in harmony  
Conserve the bounty she provides  
In peaceful company.

Of course, we can't turn back the  
Nor would we wish to do so [clock  
We love this world of modern man  
Not living like Caruso.

For those of us who do recall  
Those far off happy days  
Those old tin baths, the blazing  
The tenor of our ways. [fire

Perhaps we weren't as clean as you  
Our clothes so sparkling white  
But we've survived into old age  
Still ready for the fight.

Anonymous  
From Alison Burnett



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

Sun. 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. Harvest Thanksgiving. All Age Service. Contributions will go to the ACT food bank. Lunch hosted by the Guild in the hall after the service.

Sun. 5<sup>th</sup> Nov Joint Linkage Communion Service in St Molios at 11a.m. Linkage thanksgiving service in Corrie at 7p.m.

Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. Come to Church Sunday – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent Invite a friend

Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. Watchnight Service 11.30p.m. come and rejoice and give thanks.

Last Wed Nov. Prayers for Health and Healing 12noon in Brodick Church.

Last Thur. Jan Prayers for Health and Healing 12noon in St. Molios Church.

Wed. 1<sup>st</sup> Nov Linkage study group 2p.m. In Catacol. Ask John Kerr for information. Topic ‘Can We Build a Better World?’

Thur. 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. Taize style worship at 5.30p.m. held in Holy Cross Church Brodick at 5.30p.m. All welcome.  
No Taize in December and January.

Thur. 30<sup>th</sup> Nov Arran Churches Together(ACT) will hold a St Andrew’s Ceilidh at 6.30p.m. in Brodick Church Hall

Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. ACT Carols at the Coop 11-12noon. See you there!

Sun. 21<sup>st</sup> Jan. Service of Christian Unity at 12noon in Kildonan and Whitingbay Church.



### **Flower Fellowship**

November	Pat Adamson
December	Flower Fellowship
January	????? See call for volunteers

***Thanks to those who make our church even more beautiful.***

### ***Some Useful Contacts***

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

Telephone no.

<b><i>The Minister</i></b>	Rev. Angus Adamson	302334
<b><i>Parish Assistant</i></b>	Mrs. Jean Hunter	860380

<b><i>Elders</i></b>	Dr. Alan Burnett	860742
	Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke	860219
	Mr. John Clarke	860219
	Mrs. Evelyn Hamilton	860233
	Mrs. Jean Hunter	860380
<b><i>Session Clerk</i></b>	Mrs. Helen Kerr	860498
	Mr. John Kerr	860498
	Mr. John Lammie	860418
	Mrs. Elizabeth McCarthy	860727
	Mr. John McCarthy	860727
	Mr. Murray Stewart	860479

<b><i>Clerk to the Deacons' Court</i></b>		
	Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke	860219

<b><i>Organist</i></b>	Mr. John Clarke	
860219		

***Pastoral Support Team***

<b><i>Convener</i></b>	Mrs. Eileen Johnston	860227
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***Church Magazine***

<b><i>Editor</i></b>	Mrs. Helen Kerr	
860498		

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Articles for the next magazine should be handed to Helen Kerr or sent to her at [kerrjh@btinternet.com](mailto:kerrjh@btinternet.com) by Sunday 15 January 2018.

CCL No. 89037

SCO 05323