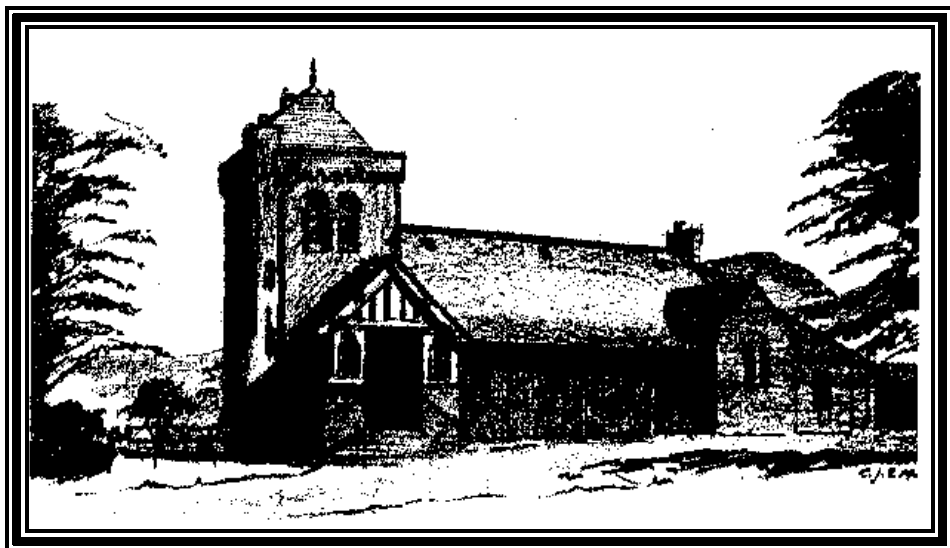


ST MOLIOS CHURCH



MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2016



WHAT EASTER MEANS TO ME

A FRESH START

A CLEAN HEART

FORGIVEN PASTS

TRUE LOVE THAT LASTS

A HOLY EMBRACE

A FACE TO FACE

MAN'S PEACE RESTORED

FOR EVERMORE

Love far and wide

His church his bride

The Saviour Divine

Forever mine

No longer blind, now Christ I see

That's what Easter means to me

Written by Jennifer Walker 2003



‘My saving power will rise on you like the sun’ Malachi 4:2



Brodick Manse
February 2016

Dear Folks,

Recently I had to send a letter verifying the church attendance whilst on Arran of the children of regular visitors, to help ensure that they would be eligible to be enrolled at a Church of England school in London. For that to be possible, worship every Sunday was a mandatory requirement. With competition for places at a good school in many areas south of the border at a premium, by providing great education, the Church of England can use this carrot and stick approach to ensure their Sunday School rolls in such places are kept at a healthy level, whether or not parents are particularly church minded or not.

I'm sure there are good theological arguments to justify this approach, as no doubt there are good theological arguments for having denominational schools, be that Roman Catholic, Church of England, Quaker or otherwise, where Christian principles and ethos are part of the everyday curriculum. Despite some calls for the Church of Scotland to do likewise cropping up periodically at the General Assembly, the Kirk has quite doggedly declined to follow suit. It isn't that we couldn't do with a boost to falling Sunday School rolls – for we certainly could – it is rather down to a different approach to mission and outreach.

At the heart of that is our parish system, which seeks to ensure a territorial ministry for every parish in the land. Admittedly some parishes like ours at Shiskine share a minister and Parish Assistant with Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza and Pirnmill, and others often also a place of worship, but still the aim is to provide a Church of Scotland presence and witness at the heart of every community in the land, not just to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, but in imitation of their Lord, to serve all who live within the bounds of every parish, church and non-church alike.

Therefore, it is felt that educating Church of Scotland children in a distinct denominational school would undermine that whole principle. Instead of being involved in the everyday life of a community through the local school or schools in the area, we would be encouraging our children to be separate from it. After all, just as Jesus ensured he got alongside people where they

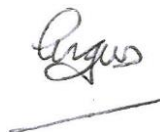
were, so He calls Christians to witness in the real world, to engage with it, not separate themselves from it.

It isn't that in the Kirk we don't take Christian education of children and young people as of paramount importance, for we most certainly do, but we would never seek to compel anyone to accept Christ. Jesus never entered anyone's life by force, but waits to be invited, as the famous painting the 'Light of the World' by Holman Hunt illustrates so poignantly, 'Behold I stand at the door and knock, and if anyone should hear my voice and open the door I will come in.'

Invitation to be allowed access to religious education of children in schools here too is at the discretion of the Head Teacher. Jean and I are immensely grateful to be allowed to be involved with all our primary schools at Brodick, Corrie and Pirnmill as well as at Shiskine and to have the wonderful opportunity to get to know the children and to tell them something of the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ, thus enabling them to make their own minds up about Him.

As to their wider knowledge, there is never any fear here, that our children receive anything other than a fabulous education. Besides excellent and dedicated teachers that is partly because our schools are not too big and each part of our island has its own school, which in a rural area like ours is also of immense importance for a well-balanced and healthy community life of which the Kirk strives so hard to be a part.

The threat of the closure of Corrie School was for a time a real prospect, now thankfully averted, although there are always fears for the future of smaller schools like Corrie and Pirnmill, as indeed there are for smaller congregations like those at Corrie and Pirnmill churches. It is interesting to note that just as the parishes of Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza and Pirnmill and Shiskine share one minister and Parish Assistant, one Head Teacher with assistance is responsible for Brodick, Corrie and Pirnmill Schools, whilst Shiskine and Kilmory have a similar arrangement. The most recent development is that there might be only one Head teacher for the whole island with Deputy Heads responsible for even bigger clusters. For the present a good solution to a pressing problem. I hope it is an enduring solution and thus may both our schools and our churches remain open for the foreseeable future.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Angus', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Guild News

ST. MOLIOS GUILD



The third week of November each year is designated **Guild Week** and members are asked to promote the Guild by making our work better known to church members and the community at large. Each year we invite others to join us for our meeting which is usually a joint meeting of the three guilds on the island. Last November we

were all invited to Lamlash where we enjoyed a delicious lunch and cuppa followed by the video of the 2015 national gathering in Dundee.

Unfortunately only Guild members attended and we hope this year that others will join us during that week.

The Christmas Special went down a treat and quite a group met together and had an enjoyable time with carols and Christmas tea.

In January we were delighted to have five members from **Pirnmill Guild** join us and lead our meeting. Together we explored the theme of **Peace** and what led to peace and what did not, the theme for this year – Go in Peace. We finished up with our craft skills of some of us being tested to their limits as we each made a dove from a paper plate. Below you can see our efforts!



With apologies to the Sunday Club children who could have made a much better job of making doves!

On Tuesday 16th February at 2p.m.our speaker will be coming from **Street Pastors** and we look forward to having friends from other churches and any visitors who would like to join us. The Ascension Trust which works with the Street Pastors is one of the organisations the Guild is supporting over the next three years as the pastors walk the streets, usually from 10p.m. to 3 a.m. befriending people on the streets of our towns and cities, especially those who have got themselves into difficulties – in other words representing Jesus to all with whom they make contact, walking alongside them, passing no judgement on them. Do think about joining us on 16th Feb.

Who do you think the first 'street pastor' in the New Testament was? Have a look at Luke ch.24 v.15

On Tuesday 15th March we look forward to Jean Hunter's presentation on her travels to **the Middle East**.

Helen Kerr Secretary



Christian Unity Service in 2016 was held in St Molios Church on Sunday 17th January at 12noon. It was a thrilling

service of worship to be part of with all the churches coming together at one time. The service was led by Rev Lily McKinnon of Lamlash Church who was welcomed by Rev. Vince Jennings, chairperson of Arran Churches Together. The church was full – upstairs downstairs and under the balcony apologies that we ran out of hymnbooks and orders of service so many had to share and perhaps some had no hymn book. The singing, led by a quartet from Arran brass, was heart-warming and we trust acceptable to our Lord. About 165 attended and the offering for Christian Aid came to £904.38. Our thanks to all but especially to the Arran Brass and to Lily for her clear message on unity and Jesus prayer that we may be one.

Two Dates to look forward to on 4th March, again in St Molios at 2p.m. on **Friday 4th March will be the World Day of Prayer**. The service this year is prepared by women in Cuba. Although the World Day of Prayer is often prepared by women in countries where their voice can often go unheard the WWP is celebrated all over the world by both men and women. Do come and pray in solidarity with the women in Cuba.

On Good Friday there will be once more **the Walk of Witness in Brodick at**

2p.m. on Friday 24th March, starting at Holy Cross Catholic Church – standing room only unless you are infirm or disabled. After a short act of worship all who are able walk through the village quietly and join in a further short act of worship in Brodick Church. It never fails to remind ourselves and people walking along the front or driving, of the real meaning of Easter.

Helen Kerr ACT Representative

A Letter from a Fellow Worshipper

*To the congregation of St. Molios Church, Shiskine
Thank you for sending a Christmas card to us. We
attended St Molios for a couple of Sundays last July
during our lovely week of holiday. We did enjoy sharing
the service with you and appreciated your friendly
welcome.*



*It was all so good and we plan to return this summer for two weeks in July.
We stay in a lovely cottage at the south end of Machrie. Many years ago, my
husband tells me, it was once a post office!
We look forward to sharing in the worship of St Molios again
With best wishes to you all,*

Eileen Law

*Perhaps some of us are not aware that among the many acts of service that
Eileen Johnston carries out one of them is to check our visitors book each
December and send Christmas greetings on our behalf to all those who
weren't too shy to record their home address in the book.*

The Flower Fellowship

*As we begin 2016 the flower rota is being compiled by Joyce Scott once more.
We are grateful to those ladies who faithfully see that we have the beauty of
God's creation to admire in church week by week. It would be very
encouraging to Joyce and her team if it were to be enlarged. Please consider if
you are able to serve in this way by buying and arranging the flowers for a
month or for two weeks. Please contact Joyce if this is something you can do.
Tel 860235 or see her at the coffee morning on a Thursday.*

Flower Fellowship



February
March
April

Evelyn Hamilton
Eileen Johnston
Gerry Arthur

Thanks to those who make our church even more beautiful.

Music Matters

*On Thursday 28th January a new initiative started in Lamblash Church Hall. Under the umbrella of **Alzheimer Scotland – Action on Dementia**. This event will take place on the last Thursday of each month from 2-3p.m. with drop in advice from 3 – 4p.m. An invitation is extended to anybody with a dementia type illness and their families and friends **‘Join us for a fun filled afternoon of songs and music from all eras’** As I was writing this a friend who attended the first meeting said it was ‘absolutely fabulous’ and more than 40 people attended.*



IT Problems? Liz Clarke can help.

**Tuition – learn a specific skill – eg: mail merge, buying on-line, email
Order a task – eg: a letter, CV, flyer, business cards (MS Word),
bookkeeping (MS Excel), presentation (MS PowerPoint).**

NO JOB IS TOO SMALL!

Contact: lizahclarke@gmail.com

Landline: 01770 860219

Mobile: 07833 251486

Travels in South-East Asia

I'm sure we have all experienced the feeling – we go on holiday tired and looking forward to rest and recreation. We step on the CalMac boat – (relieved that it is going as your flight is the next day). As you leave Brodick there is a great feeling of all pressures of the routines of life are left behind.

Not everyone enjoys the long haul flights, the waiting around airports, the seemingly never ending security checks with all your wee 100ml bottles in their plastic bag (One time I lost a jar of delicious Arran chutney because I didn't think it was 'fluid'.) John and I have been doing long haul flights for nearly 50 years but now find the tedium of outgoing flights are well compensated by the anticipation of the good times that await us in Asia.

This year we started off with a five day holiday in Thailand with Savy, Aun, Chea(17) and Helen(10). We arrived in Bangkok Int. airport at 18.00 – 24 hours after leaving Shiskine. The Chum family had an equally long time travelling from Cambodia by road and had been waiting for us for four hours! All tired we went straight to bed in our hotel. The highlights of the five days for me (apart from all the patter with the family – it was nearly two years since we had met- was a visit to the 'Old Railway Hotel and Museum' at Hua Hin. The visit to Hua Hin was supposed to be for us to enjoy the beach but Savy thought it was too full of tourists; quite forgetting that he was one himself. John and Chea took themselves off elsewhere but four of invited ourselves into the grounds of this lovely up market hotel with gardens full of amazing topiary. It was only 08.00 and I presume the guests were having breakfast or a long lie in. Part of the hotel is an open area filled with memorabilia from the hotel's beginnings at the turn of the 20th century and in true Asian style Savy's and Aun's cameras were clicking away. The walk through the back garden to the hotel beach suited Savy's delusions of grandeur as to the style of living that he might warm to! In your dreams friend!

For the boys the highlight of the holiday was a train journey to the bridge over the River Kwai at 05.00. (Chea is very interested in history and has been studying WW11.) The three girls had a much more leisurely time rising in time for the chaps return journey.

The four weeks in Cambodia were very relaxing meeting many international friends who still work there, enjoying most lunchtime and afternoons in the company of the Chum family and celebrating the Christmas season. We met our imperturbable Belgium friend, Leike, at 83 years young! Is still working full time in managing district development water supply project Another two worthy of our admiration is a couple of American girls who, 17 years ago started a Christian shelter for girls and women rescued from prostitution by

International Justice Mission (IJM Cambodia was a project supported by the Guild some years back). Debbie and Sherry started 'White Lotus' with next to resources and have helped a good number of young women to health, literacy, self-worth and a different way to live. Someone else I would mention is Dr. Sister Luise of the Maryknoll Catholic order, who at 78 and after 22 years is still Administrator of Phnom Penh University. Having had a complex rather than a compound fracture of her elbow some years ago she continues to run the gauntlet of Phnom Penh crazy traffic on her motor bike. Her sense of humour never fails to entertain us and the latest story of Cambodian word for word dictionary translation into English is 'You eat my house. I cook my wife!' The mind boggles.

Christmas Season is celebrated differently in Cambodia. With only 2% Christian population Christmas day is a normal working day for the general population with market and stores all open and enough eateries to make Glasgow seem quite lacking!!



Take the tape off we use the Christmas paper again

After Christmas Day Worship and spoilt for choice we asked the family which included Aun's niece Vanna and her little girl Grace where they would like to eat. Well, they thought Brooklyn- a franchise from USA. So we tucked into Pizza and wraps and spicy chicken wings!

The day was saved for us by the Catholic sisters' invitation to dinner on Christmas night when 40 of us met together for a traditional turkey and trimmings although no Christmas pudding – weather too hot 34 oC.

Back home refreshed and among friends it is lovely to have so many good memories and for us to look forward to a 17 year old boy joining us here on Arran and the end of June

From the returned wanderers

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## **CHRISTIAN AID**

Lent starts on Wednesday 10th February this year. It is not a season that the Church of Scotland has observed in the past but in recent years it has come more to the fore. Christian Aid encourages us to use the time reflection and thankfulness in the run up to the celebration of the Passion of our Lord and Easter. In their new letter they ask us to DAILY COUNT OUR BLESSING. 'This lent, reflect each day on the blessings in your life and join us in giving thanks.' Christian Aid has many anecdotes about their work worldwide here is one. 'Joynal used to live and work in Dhaka as a labourer breaking bricks by hand to earn £1.66 for 16 hours work. (Yes £1.66 for 16 hours). Now with our partner's support he now works with his wife Feroza on their own land. Together they have created a thriving livelihood and a safer more resilient home. Joynal has recently been able to replace the bamboo walls of their home with corrugated iron to protect against the rain.

With our thankfulness comes the opportunity to gratefully give to help those oppressed, caught up in conflict, abused and hopeless. There are several opportunities presenting themselves to us.

**Firstly** from now until Easter a competition on famous films! Sheets cost £1.00 and they are available in the church hall and the church vestibule.

**Secondly** In May there will be the annual house-to-house collection in Shiskine Valley when we can all give generously.

**Thirdly** We can give our time. In April Joan Stewart our Christian Aid representative will be looking for collectors once more. The more people who offer to do a small area of house-to-house collection the smaller the number of houses each will have to go to. She will be asking us earlier this year as she wants to organise all the work before she goes off the island in May while the collection will be going on.

## **For the Young at Heart Jokes made by Children!**

1. Do you know why the Christians' alphabet has only 24 letters?

2. What dog can jump higher than a building?
3. What has four legs but can't walk?
4. Why is a horse like a wedding?
5. What's the difference between a teacher and a train?

The answers can be found on page 12

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PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Articles by Gina Dalfonzo *Grace, Love, and Great Expectations* 13 December

If you ever doubt that C. S. Lewis was gifted with a prophetic voice, you need look no further for correction than *Prince Caspian*.

In the story, you may remember, Narnia is in a desperate situation. The Telmarines have taken over, and the citizens of Narnia have been persecuted, silenced, and driven into hiding. When Prince Caspian—a Telmarine himself, but one who sympathizes with the Narnian cause—joins forces with them, this leads to a fresh round of attacks from the other Telmarines and their king, Miraz. The Narnians try to summon help by using Queen Susan's horn—and they are successful, though not all of them realize it right away.

Drawn to Narnia by the call of the horn, Peter and Edmund and their guide, the dwarf Trumpkin, come upon a handful of Narnians meeting with Prince Caspian. Nikabrik, another dwarf, is angry that apparently no help has come from Aslan or the old kings and queens of Narnia. While others argue that "help will come" if they can wait patiently, Nikabrik contends that there is no time to wait: They are running out of food and reinforcements.

If Aslan won't help, Nikabrik adds, perhaps another power will:

"The stories tell of other powers besides the ancient Kings and Queens. How if we could call *them* up?" . "Who do you mean?" said Caspian at last. "I mean a power so much greater than Aslan's that it held Narnia spellbound for years and years, if the stories are true."

"The White Witch!" cried three voices all at once. . . .

This, of course, is the same Witch who killed Aslan in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Nikabrik has already gone so far as to recruit a sorceress to raise the Witch from the dead. But the others are horrified—so horrified that a

battle ensues, joined by the Pevensies and Trumpkin. By the time it's over, Nikabrik and his allies are dead themselves.

How could one of the good guys in this story become corrupt enough to seek help from someone whose greed, brutality, and lust for power were legendary? As Lewis well knew, it can happen more easily and quickly than one might think. It's been happening throughout history, ever since the first time the Israelites turned to a godless nation for help instead of trusting God to save them. One can make a case that it's happening right now within the conservative movement in the United States.

Which brings us back to the subject of prophetic voices. Did C. S. Lewis foresee the rise of Donald Trump? Not specifically, I'm sure. But Lewis had a remarkable understanding of human nature. He knew what it was like to feel that all hope was lost. And he knew that fear and despair can drive decent people to look for someone, anyone, who projects an appearance of strength.

Through the character of Nikabrik, Lewis explored the depths to which we can fall through fear. The first time Caspian meets Nikabrik, he is waking up after an accident and hears the dwarf's voice near him, saying, "Kill it. . . . We can't let it live. It would betray us." There is absolutely no room in Nikabrik's mind for the idea that a Telmarine could be good. And at first we can sympathize; his people have suffered greatly under the Telmarines, and he is fiercely loyal to his people—a good quality. But as Lewis frequently warned us, good qualities can be twisted and used for evil purposes.

Nikabrik's fears are legitimate. His enemies are real and powerful and committed to the annihilation of his entire race. He is right to recognize the need for help. He is wrong to decide that help must come from a force equally merciless—wrong when he tells Caspian, "I'll believe in anyone or anything . . . that'll batter these cursed Telmarine barbarians to pieces or drive them out of Narnia. Anyone or anything, Aslan *or* the White Witch, do you understand?"

When his friend Trufflehunter reminds him that the Witch "was a worse enemy than Miraz and all his race," Nikabrik's retort is telling: "Not to Dwarfs, she wasn't." His own people and their safety are all that matter to him now. Instead of being an important priority, this has become his *only* priority—and any attempt to remind him that other considerations exist brings only his contempt and anger.

This is how good people with strong, ingrained values—people who have invested time and money in the sanctity of life, religious liberty, and similarly

noble causes—can come to support a man who changes his convictions more often than his shirts. This is how people concerned about the dignity of the office of President end up flocking to a reality-show star who spends his days on Twitter calling people “dumb” and “loser.” This is how some who have professed faith in Jesus Christ are lured by a man who openly puts all his faith in power and money, the very things Christ warned us against prizing too highly. As one wag on Twitter **pointed out**, “If elected, Donald Trump will be the first US president to own a strip club,” and yet he has the support of Christians who fervently believe that this country needs to clean up its morals.

As Joseph Loconte **has observed**, the Narnia stories offer us “a view of the world that is both tragic and hopeful. The tragedy lies in the corruption caused by the desire for power, often disguised by appeals to religion and morals.” How dangerously easy it is for the desire for power to take on that disguise—and how easily we Christians fall for it.

Tired of waiting for Aslan—who may be nearer than we think—we turn elsewhere. It doesn’t matter if our candidate hates, bullies, and exploits other people, the reasoning goes, just as long as he’s good to us and gives us what we want. Hatred is a perfectly acceptable weapon, as long as it’s “on our side.”
!

So said Nikabrik as he prepared to unleash a great evil on the land of Narnia.

C. S. Lewis may have lived well before Donald Trump’s time, but he was prescient about the situation. The only fate that awaits a group that turns against its own core values for the sake of security and power is the fate of Nikabrik.

.....

- Answers for page 10 1. There is No-ah and No-el 2. Any dog- buildings can’t jump
3. A chair 4. They both need a groom 5. When you chew gum the teacher says ‘get rid of
that’ and the train says ‘chew, chew, chew!’

Dates for the Diary

Sun. 14th Feb. **Holy Communion** at 12 noon

Prayers for Health and Healing

Wed, 24th Feb. St Brides Church at 12 noon

Thurs. 31st Mar. St Molios Church at 12 noon

Wed 27th April St Bride's Church at 12 noon

Guild

Mon 8th Feb. Invited to hear Rev, Ben van Rensburg, Pirnmill

Tues. 1st Feb, St. Molios 2pm speaker Mr Chris Jewell from
Street Pastors

Tues 15th Mar. 2p.m. speaker Mrs Jean Hunter "Visit to Jordan".

Tues 19th April Annual Business Meeting speaker Mrs Jean
Hunter "Visit to Jordan".

Arran Churches Together

Fri. 4th Mar. World Day of Prayer in St Molios Church at 2pm

Fri. 25th Mar. Good Friday Walk of Witness Brodick Holy cross
2p.m. Brodick Church 2.45p.m.

1st Thur. ea. month Taize worship 7.30 in St Molios Church

Other Holy Week Celebrations

Wed/Thur. 23rd 24th Holy Week Labyrinth st Molios 10am-8p.m.

Mar. Thursday 11.45 – 3p.m.

Thurs. 24th Mar Maundy Thursday Service in Corrie Church
7p.m.

Sun. 27th Mar Easter Sunday All Age Service



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 & Presbytery Elder | 860380 |

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| <i>Elders</i> | Dr. Alan Burnett | 860742 |
| | Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke | 860219 |
| | Mr John Clarke | 860219 |
| | Mrs. Evelyn Hamilton | 860233 |
| | Mrs. Helen Ker | 860498 |

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Session Clerk | Mr. John Kerr | 860498 |
| | Mr. John Lammie | 860418 |
| | Mrs. Elizabeth McCarthy | 860727 |
| | Mr. John McCarthy | 860727 |
| | Mr. Murray Stewart | 860479 |
| | Mr. D. G. Weir | 860232 |

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| <i>Clerk to the Deacon's Court</i> | | |
| | Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke | 860219 |

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| <i>Organist</i> | Mr. John Clarke | 860219 |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------|

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| <i>Pastoral Support Team</i> | | |
| Convener | Mrs. Eileen Johnston | 860227 |

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| <i>Church Magazine</i> | | |
| Editor | 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 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016.