

St Molios Church Magazine



February 2019



*From a Guide: Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants - Welcoming the Stranger.
Published by Churches together Merseyside Region*

I was hungry and you formed a working group and discussed my hunger

I was imprisoned and you crept off quietly to your chapel and prayed for my release

I was naked and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance

I was sick and you knelt and thanked God for your health

I was homeless and you preached to me of the spiritual shelter of the love, of God

I was lonely and you left me alone to pray for me

You seem so holy, so close to God but I'm still very hungry and lonely and cold.



23 mila uonni.

Mora Hauli Tervo maaliskuuta 2014
J. H. H.

Brodick Manse

February 2019



Dear Folks

As a result of continued falling Kirk membership, on the 9th February in West Kilbride Church there will be a conference to begin the process of once again making fairly drastic cuts in the national church. Every

Presbytery in Scotland is going to have to reduce its number of charges by a fifth. This will inevitably mean the linking or uniting of congregations and the closure of more church buildings. At least this time around, by inviting proposals from congregations themselves as to finding a plan for the future, the process will start from the bottom up, not something imposed from above by the powers that be.

Naturally our first instinct will be to ask, what will that mean for us here on Arran and at Brodick linked with Corrie lw Lochranza and Pirnmill lw Shiskine? The simple answer, we don't know. That said, having discussed this at Kirk Session level in preparation for the beginning of this process, we feel we have a good case to remain pretty much as we are. As a linkage with our motto 'independent but working together' we are still self-financing and paying our way. Equally importantly, we are managing to keep our buildings in good repair and open for worship. However, should we allow any of our churches to require huge sums of money to be spent on them, or fail to meet our ministry and mission allocations, then that would inevitably mean otherwise and even the closure of much-loved buildings.

And all of our churches are much-loved, not just by the individual congregations concerned but by your minister. I am often asked which of the five is my favourite. The simple answer, the one I am conducting worship in at the time. Although I subscribe to the old west-highland understanding that the church is not a building of bricks and mortar – or in the case of Pirnmill of tin and wood – but 'wherever the people gather around the minister and word of God, then there is the church', I still feel that currently all of the five is vital to our Christian witness, each perfectly placed at the heart of each of our vibrant communities.

And there is more to our church buildings than merely providing a dry, comfortable and hopefully warm places to worship, enabling people to gather around the minister to hear the Word of God proclaimed.

One of my favourite hymns based on 1 Chronicles 16:29 advocates that we 'Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness' (CH4 No 201). For me it is vitally important our churches are also places of beauty, be that with simple, plain, unfussy Presbyterian interiors as at Pirnmill, St Molios and Brodick St Bride's, or at the other end of the scale the ornate Scoto-Catholic Arts and Crafts interior of Corrie, its design based on a French cathedral, with choir stalls, and Communion Table placed in the chancel almost like a high altar, or the three-hundred-year-old Lochranza St Bride's somewhere in between those extremes. High church or low, all churches are sanctuaries where we are enabled to be drawn out of the everyday mundane towards the sacred. Holy places where it is easy to feel in the presence of the holiness and otherness of God.

We are constantly told as never before the modern generation are being drawn to the spiritual dimension to life, yet often I feel the fact we already have wonderful buildings designed to allow for that to happen, is completely overlooked.

Not only that, for many Christians, faith began in church and not just because they were taken there to Sunday School to learn about Jesus, but because once there, they felt and understood the presence and the nearness of Almighty God. I am one of those people. Church buildings and their beauty are very important to me, they help nourish and sustain my faith.

That doesn't mean that they should forever remain unchanged and not be allowed to evolve to meet modern day requirements. Currently at St Molios the deacons' court is contemplating doing away with the old dilapidated church hall and placing it inside the church. This is to be achieved by taking out the pews creating hall space within the church building, but by keeping the chancel of the sanctuary as it is, hopefully the building will still retain its architectural integrity and breath-taking beauty. Hence, from being used once a week, it will be used much

more frequently. A new eco-friendly heating system will also be part of the plan.

Having hall-type churches is of course not a modern idea. John James Burnett the same architect who designed St Molios also designed Corrie Church, which has always had a hall-type sanctuary with no fixed pews and moveable seating, whilst the congregation at Lochranza have already taken out some of the fixed rear pews to make a social area for coffee after the service. And if I may advocate something even more radical, maybe there is scope to explore the idea of taking out the fixed seating to make the Pirnmill church building a possible replacement for the village hall, now well past its best. A church also used as a hall, nothing new there either. The current tin church hall at Brodick, which is used every day for a whole host of purposes was once the Bennecarrigan United Free Church and sat near the end of the Ross Road, until it was dismantled in 1949 and reassembled in its current location.

Whatever happens, hopefully all of our buildings in the joint linkage will remain useful and important to our work of mission, outreach and Christian service. And next time in church pause and think about your surroundings. Perhaps in doing so you too will find a renewed appreciation of them for your own spiritual life.

Angus



Mary's Meals [Not long to respond now] have just informed its donors that from now until 1st March 2019, donations to their Double the Love Appeal is having its donations doubled by the Government up to £2 million.

I would encourage those that are regular givers to Mary's Meals through the Church and any other interested congregation to donate to this very worthwhile Scottish charity and have their donation doubled by the Government and it has nothing to do with BREXIT!

From Mary's Meals - '***What a wonderful opportunity to fill even more empty tummies and to share a world of learning and possibility with vulnerable children across Zambia.***'

Monies can be put in the bottle at the entrance to the church, cheques can be to Mary's Meals or to Shiskine Church of Scotland and I will send them on to Mary's Meals.

Thank you,
Alison Burnett



Guild News The Guild meets on the third Tuesday of each month except for the summer months. All are welcome to join: women, men, church members and non-members and anyone with an interest in the theme for a meeting.

In November we had a soup and sandwich lunch followed by a showing of the DVD of the annual gathering. We invited other organisations on the island and, as you can see from the photo, many accepted our invitation.



It was interesting to watch the DVD but, more importantly, there was much live humour and fellowship around our lunch table.

On Tuesday 19 Feb Prof June Andrews will come over from the mainland to speak about Dementia - A One Step Guide. This meeting at 2p.m. will be open to anyone on the island who would like to attend. The venue is yet to be booked so look out for more information shortly.

On Tuesday 19th March in St Molios Church Hall there will be the opportunity to hear about one of the currently supported Guild Projects in Zambia working with teenage pregnant girls whose education has been cut short. All Guild meetings are open to women and men and you will be made most welcome.



Christingle Service took place this year in Corrie Church on Thursday 29th November The young people did very well and

the two young boys who led us in prayers were an inspiration.

Service for Christian Unity 2019 was held in Brodick Church at 12 noon on Sunday 20th January 2019 when all the churches on Arran worshipped together. It is always good to be together.

The World Day of Prayer this year will be on Friday 1st March at 2 p.m. in St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church, Whiting Bay. This year the service has been prepared by the women of Slovenia and it is hoped that as many as possible will attend to join in these prayers which continue round the world on that day.

The Good Friday Walk of Witness will start in Holy Cross Roman Catholic church Brodick at 2p.m. with a short act of worship prior to the silent walk along the Brodick front to Brodick Parish Church in

order to remember what the day represents and to remind folks met along the way what Easter is really about. Some people who are less mobile just either take transport from one location to the other or simply go to Brodick church direct. Easter is a celebration of one of the most important Christian events it would be great to make it a memorable witness. Let's make an effort to participate.

St Molios ACT rep

Some Thoughts from a Retired Minister

An extract from the former editor of the (Canadian) Presbyterian Record

"I have begun to wonder if we in the church have not in some measure been the author of our own demise! Not because we have been unfaithful or foolish, although we too often are, but because of those things we love and treasure about our church. Let me give a couple of examples.

We pride ourselves in doing things 'decently and in order'. Those who do things outside the box are looked on with suspicion. To be a Presbyterian one must be prepared to operate decently and in order. Add to this the insistence that nothing should be done unless it is written in black and white in the Book of Forms. But where does this leave the role of Holy Spirit who always seems to be initiating surprises and calling us to walk in new ways and paths? In our denomination [of the universal church] the Holy Spirit would seem to be the forgotten and neglected person of the Trinity. Even more importantly, we have exchanged "faith" for "belief". Simple faith in Jesus Christ and a desire to be a disciple and follower Jesus has been exchanged for a list of required beliefs, whether contained in one of the ancient creeds or confessions or in modern social norms regarding things such as sexual orientation. In doing so we become like Esau in the Old Testament exchanging our birth right for a mess of pottage.

Or are we like [some of] the early Christians in Jerusalem who maintained that to be an 'authentic' Christian one must not only have faith in Jesus but also be circumcised. Paul roundly condemned these folk declaring that faith alone in Jesus was sufficient to be considered an 'authentic' Christian. Have we, perhaps unknowingly become like them in our generation? Have we placed too much emphasis and invested too much energy in getting it right and believing certain things and failed to nurture the spirituality that modern people often feel, have difficulty expressing but do not find in the church?

Editor: Some questions for us to reflect on.

To be continued next quarterly magazine.

.....

If you are Able to attend please mark this date in your diary -Tuesday 2nd April 2019

Two years ago the Deacons' Court was of a mind to have an event to help build bridges with those who had come from war torn Syria often using ALL their resources to leave and make the journey to the relative safety of camps. Then in North Ayrshire the first group of 60+ men women and children started a new life in a strange country, culture and language.

Now it is time to host a second event for the almost 50 new Syrians now trying to settle in Garnock Valley and Irvine areas. **On 2nd April** they will come to our shores for a day away when all the school children will spend the day having fun and games with Arran young folks at Arran Youth Foundations in Lamlash, while their parents will have a bus trip across the island to have lunch together then those who would like may take a trip to Donald and Ailsa Currie's farm to see new lambs, donkeys and pony and whatever else they have in store for us.

This is where we'd invite you to come and just be with the mums, dads and tots for lunch and sit among them and have lunch and simply chat and get to know your neighbour a little. Some volunteers will be needed to travel on the bus as well.

If you have any questions please contact Helen Kerr 860498

Food Bank Monthly Totals – October – December 2018

ITEM	October	November	December	Total	Christmas items
Pasta	13	19		44	2
Rice/Noodles	14	8	17	39	1
Pasta/Rice Sauce	9	16	32	57	3
Beans/Spaghetti	30	20	77	127	4
Soup	35	12	60	107	4
Tinned Fish	76	46	74	196	2
Tinned Meat	109	97	162	368	2
Tinned Vegetables	52	36	29	117	2
Tinned Fruit	47	38	39	124	2
Custard/Rice	53	51	58	162	4
Cereals	17	24	29	70	1
Tea	21	11	19	51	1
Coffee	17	13	30	60	1
Long Life Milk	14	23	19	56	0
Juice	18	2	46	66	1
Sugar	5	8	4	17	0
Biscuits/Treats	98	66	195	359	See Note 3
Jam	17	12	54	83	1
Toiletries	120	64	99	283	3/4
Condiments	36	22	40	98	0
Sanitary Products	17	4	11	32	1
Baby (Nappies/Milk)	7	1	5	13	0
Household Cleaning	5	9	6	20	0
Toilet Rolls	26	38	75	139	2
Bread/Rolls	15	2	22	39	0
Dog/Cat Food	15	18	19	52	0
Totals	886	660	1233	2779	

Please Note:

1. October records didn't start until 6th October.
2. Numbers in Red are where we ran out of the item during the month so more would have been used if the item was in stock.
3. Numbers are for the stock removed from the transept into the Food Bank in the entrance. Some donations have been put straight into the Food Bank so will not have been recorded.
4. Over 50 Christmas Boxes of treats (Cake, Shortbread, Fancy Biscuits, Selection Boxes, Sweets, Savouries etc.) were donated in the Christmas Appeal. Many of these and bags of staples as listed above were given out to those in need before Christmas by the Social Work Department with the remaining items added to the food bank store.
5. Spare food from the Co-op was used on a weekly basis to restock the freezer. (No numbers for this)

ACT Rep. Thanks to all who continue to support the food bank under the auspices of Arran Churches Together and faithfully run out of Brodick Church by volunteers. Anyone in need can go to the church and select for their needs at any time.

ACT also has a fuel account from which assistance is available for coal, electricity logs etc.

The bank is particularly needed at this time of cold weather.

~~~~~

## **Ardrossan Presbytery News**

Presbytery Conference; You will have read Angus's letter that the Presbytery are having a Conference on 9th February. There are around 110 people signed up to attend that from the 27 congregations in the Presbytery and that is a goodly number of representatives. It is being held so that the Ministers, Elders and members of congregations within the bounds of Presbytery can come together and share their views and ideas for the church.

The speaker at the conference is Rev Jim Teasdale, former minister of Dalry St Margarets and is now the Convener of the Ministries Council Presbytery Planning Task Group. It has been arranged to hopefully have positive discussions.. No decisions will come out of the conference about presbytery planning because it is the Presbytery Appraisal Committee that has the responsibility to make plans for any readjustments for congregations and put those proposals before the whole Presbytery for their approval or not. The Appraisal Committee are working on the current 10 year Presbytery Plan which came into force in January 2013.

Although there has to be a reduction in 20% of ordained ministers across the church there are other ministries to be considered as well. I am a Ministries Development Staff (MDS) worker. MDS are paid employees, employed in various work accross the church as Parish Assistants, as I am. There are others who work as Associate Ministers, Family and Outreach Workers, Youth Workers, Mission Development Workers, Community Workers and many other such like posts.

There are posts for 130 MDS staff employed most of them in part time posts like myself. The posts that are in place in the plans at the moment should remain, although the cut will be in that no more MDS posts will be implemented. At the moment across the Presbyteries 30% of MDS posts are not filled that is partly because they are part time Posts. MDS posts in our Presbytery are being filled though which is quite encouraging. Another encouragement with the induction of a new minister in the Presbytery soon it will leave only three vacant charges to be filled only three vacant charges to be filled out of twenty charges.

Jean Hunter, Presbytery Elder and Presbytery Clerk

**World Day Of Prayer** on Arran is at 2p.m. on Friday 1st March in St. Margaret's Scorrish Episcopal Church in Whiting Bay. Why not come along and pray with Christians throughout the world and aslo learn and pray for the needs of Slovakia

## **Pause and Smile**

### Bulletin Bloomers

1 While the minister is on holiday messages can be given to the church secretary

2 For those who have children and don't know it, we have a creche.

3 Don't be suprised to fond mistakes in the church notices. We print something for everyone and some people love finding mistakes!

~~~~~

News from World Mission

An Extract from WM magazine Feb/Mar 2019 - You can read the whole thought provoking article there – Pick one up at the Thursday coffee morning or on Sunday at coffee after the service.

The Ethics of Aid

by Carol Finlay

Recently I watched a short videa request on a specific donation site. The person making the request and the place being highlighted was well known to me. The short 60 second pleafor people to give money for what I know is a very good cause made me feel very uneasy. The vocabulary and the tone of voice gave the impression that the situation was grave and if listeners did not empty their purses then it would lead to many deaths and particularly those of children.

Was the film made with the intention of tugging at heartstrings and making people give because they either would feel guilty if they did not give or indeed feel good if they did? Either way, is this the correct motive for giving? It is very easy to give... we have all done it, a pound in a collecting can or envelope or more than likely a click of a button these days can allow us to feel we have done our bit. Do we sometimes ask where the money is going; will it be used for its intended purposes?

Having the power to improve the lives of others is, for us all, a privilege and one that comes with its own obligation. Acting on these powerful

feelings of responsibility is one way to feel like we are living in a way that is true to our own ethical beliefs. So think before you click the donation button, do not send the half pencils, the old clothes or other things which you would not use for yourselves to your overseas partners. Talk with them, seek out what will be of greatest benefit and will enable change and [then] act on that.



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 25 February – 10th March DON'T FORGET!

Prayer Focus

Almighty God, whose glory is beyond the clouds; far above the highest mountain top yet surrounds us every day, everywhere, we praise you for the wonderful world you have created, in which you have set us. Teach us to care for one another and for all creation responsibly and lovingly.

Teach us to live in your righteousness that all the earth and its people may flourish. Let us be agents of your great transformation, being and becoming your faithful people, as we follow Christ our Lord. AMEN

Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me"

16th December '18 Baptism of Willis Paton Dundas baby
son of Calum and Diana Dundas

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection."

25th January '19 Funeral of Mary Hamilton of Shiskine



Please note Angus, our minister's new telephone number is 870228

Dates for the Diary

Fri 1 st March	World Day of Prayer at 2 p.m. in St. Margaret's Church Whiting Bay
Thurs 7 th Mar	Joint Kirk Sessions Boards & Deacons' Court 7 p.m. Brodick Church
Sat 9 th Mar	Presbytery Conference 11.30-1p.m. coffee/teas from 10.30. in Brodick Church Hall. Open to all who owing to bad weather and no sails, failed to attend the conference in February and any others who would like to represent their church. Please inform Jean Hunter.
3 rd week	The Guild meets on <u>19th March</u> – Zambia Project lunch 1p.m.
Each month	and <u>16th April</u> Annual Business Meeting and Guild's own
Wednesday	Prayers for Health and Healing 27 th February, 27 th March & 24 th April at 12p.m. in Brodick Church. Coffee/Tea in the hall from 10.30
Weekly	During Lent Linkage Study Group , meets weekly in different locations. All welcome contact John Kerr 860498 for information
Tue 2 nd April	A Visit from our Syrian Neighbours A day out with lunch in the Village Hall. Volunteers needed for company at lunch.
Wed/Thurs 17/18 April	Holy Week Labyrinth 10.30a.m. – 8.30p.m. Wed & 10a.m.-1p.m. Thur. A time for individual quiet reflection
Thurs 18 th April	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at 7p.m. in Lochranza Church
Fri 19 th April	Good Friday Walk of Witness 2p.m. at Holy Cross Church
1 st Thursday Each Month	Taize worship at 5.30 p.m. in Holy Cross Catholic Church



~~~~~ **Flower Fellowship**

March Eileen Johnston

April Joan Stewart

May Gerry Arthur

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

~~~~~

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 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019.