

St Molios Church Magazine



May 2019



Sheep and Lambs
1931)

by *Katharine Tynan Hinkson* (1861-

*All in the April evening
April airs were abroad
The sheep with their little lambs
Passed me by on the road*

*The sheep with their little lambs
Passed me by on the road
All in the April evening
I thought of the lamb of God.*

*The labs were weary and crying
With a weak, human cry.
I thought of the Lamb of God
Going meekly to die.*

*Up in the blue, blue mountains
Dewy pastures are sweet;
Rest for the little bodies,
Rest for the little feet.*

*But for the Lamb of God
Up on the hilltop green,
Only a cross of shame
To stark crosses between.*

*All in an April evening,
April airs were abroad
I saw the sheep with their lambs
And I thought of the Lamb of God*



Brodick Manse
May 2019



Dear Folks,

When news broke of the state of the Brodick manse last summer, I received this wonderful and witty ditty from my dear friend, former Brodick Church organist Rod Smith, now living on Mull. It raised a smile and cheered me up. I felt it more than worth sharing as we contemplate the demolition and re-building of Brodick manse with all the challenges that will entail, not least for the manse sub-committee who have already put in such sterling work to date.

‘Manse Sana In Corpore Sand’
The Brodick manse, it’s been agreed,
No longer meets the church’s need,
And I am certain you will know
It cannot cope with H2O!

A manse’s ceilings, walls and roof
Must vitally be waterproof –
And Brodick’s manse can no efface
The fact that this is not the case;
For from the ceilings and the walls
A steady stream of water falls
And moisture oozes more and more
As Rising Damp pervades the floor.
Oh, such a state would madden ones
Less patient than the Adamsons -
Whose minds and bodies bear the clamps
Enduring three-dimensional Damp
Surveyors and the architect
Brought their tape-measures to inspect,
And solemnly declared the Manse
Had hardly any future chance
O fever drying – and advised,
(And did not seem at all surprised)

The only cure for its condition
Had to be Total Demolition
No other way would they decry
To find a means to make it dry.
What might replace it? Noah's Ark
Would not look right in Alma Park!

So let's recall, because we oughter,
That only One Man walked on water-
Could clear the floors that Angus trod,
No temple for Jerusalem,
But a house that's more of user to them.

May those who moan at this decision
As lacking time and full revision,
Too final and too Absolute,
At least Remember King Canute-
Who on his beach stayed Firm and Set,
And got his Metatarsals wet!

No need to ask the Reason Why-
We want our minister and family DRY!

(Not to speak of dog !)

Rod mentions an ark instead of a manse, but others have jokingly mentioned— or was that meant half fun, half in earnest – a big mobile home would be better suited and a much cheaper option to cover the 5 parishes, presently six, as I am also currently interim Moderator at Kilmory. Certainly, commuting at the moment from Corriecravie, my mileage exceeds 600 miles a month on our problematic island roads, and therefore I am glad that eventually there will be bricks and mortar provided in Brodick from which to work from and a warm, comfortable and dry home to live in, not just for me, but more importantly whoever may be my successor in years to come.

Angus

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Nearly 80 people joined the second act of worship at the end of this year's **Good Friday Walk of Witness**. Most had started in Holy

Cross Church at 2p.m. with a few joining for the last part of the walk. This year 50 flyers were distributed to passers-by the real reason of Easter. It was good to be together on such a day.

**Songs of Praise on Arran** will be the next ACT event held on the Lamlash foreshore at 3p.m. on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July. A good Big Sing with friends from other Arran Churches and some holiday makers too.

Helen Kerr ACT Rep.

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### **Strangers are Just Friends We Haven't Yet Met**

There was much excitement on the 0945 ferry from Ardrossan on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April when 33 Syrian adults and 41 children started on a family day out to Arran. They came with two translators and three NAC staff at the invitation from St Molios Church, Shiskine.

Accompanying them on the boat were Alan, Evelyn, Helen and Graeme (AYF). The excitement was running high, especially with the children.

'Back at the ranch' – Shiskine Community Hall, a busy team were preparing to receive them for a lunch of soup, sandwiches and home bakes coffee, teas and juice. With Gerry at the helm ably assisted by Jan, Liz F., John and Chea the hall was set up, soups prepared; folks were coming and going with sandwiches and ladies from WI provided a lovely variety of home baking, a play area was made ready for the little ones (and the not so little ones). A children's video set in motion and Graeme with a good-sized group of young people set up activities in case the rain stopped outside play!

Our friends all sat down and were joined by one or two others from Shiskine. We noticed lots of big plastic bags came with the visitors and before long we were all having to try their local foods.

It was a happy gathering with plenty of noise. Then we noticed the sun was out and out to stay. By 1p.m. all were back on the buses with one bus going

up to Bellvue farm to see new lambs, stroke the pony and donkeys, view the very large cows and gaze in amazement at the strutting turkey cock who was quite vocal. Great excitement.

The second bus went off to the playpark and sports field at Blackwaterfoot where local young folk and the youth workers organised some activities.

It was a happy day for everyone, some of the visitors had been in Scotland (Garnock Valley and Irvine) for two years and this was their first 'day away' while others had only been here for two or three weeks.

Each family received a small goody bag with Arran foods and a map and we hope bridges of understanding were built on both sides. However, the day didn't just happen and there are many people to thank for their generosity:

The Auchrannie for providing picnic boxes for all the children, Island Cheese company, Wooleys for oatcakes, Arran Provisions for chutneys, Carol Kane for Arran Tablet, Ailsa and Donald for farm visits, the ladies of WI for home bakes, Members of St Molios for soup and sandwiches and Peter and Garry our Stagecoach drivers for the day. Also The Hall Committee for the free use of the Shiskine Community Hall and Shiskine Valley Improvements for the free use of the sports field at Blackwater foot.

To everyone who in anyway, engaged with this project and gave of their time and talents a massive THANK YOU.

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Pause and Smile

Some Church Signs

Wireless communication is nothing new. The church has been praying for centuries!

DON'T WAIT for six strong men to take you to church!

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**Food Bank Monthly Totals – for January and February 2019**

**Food Bank Monthly Totals – January – February 2019**

| <b>Item/Month</b>          | <b>January</b> | <b>February</b> | <b>March</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Pasta</b>               | <b>21</b>      | <b>51</b>       |              |              |
| <b>Rice/Noodles</b>        | <b>46</b>      | <b>24</b>       |              |              |
| <b>Pasta/Rice Sauce</b>    | <b>52</b>      | <b>37</b>       |              |              |
| <b>Beans/Spaghetti</b>     | <b>50</b>      | <b>63</b>       |              |              |
| <b>Soup</b>                | <b>105</b>     | <b>71</b>       |              |              |
| <b>Tinned Fish</b>         | <b>78</b>      | <b>70</b>       |              |              |
| <b>Tinned Meat</b>         | <b>159</b>     | <b>127</b>      |              |              |
| <b>Tinned Vegetables</b>   | <b>98</b>      | <b>141</b>      |              |              |
| <b>Tinned Fruit</b>        | <b>65</b>      | <b>38</b>       |              |              |
| <b>Custard/Rice</b>        | <b>53</b>      | <b>55</b>       |              |              |
| <b>Cereals</b>             | <b>17</b>      | <b>24</b>       |              |              |
| <b>Tea</b>                 | <b>36</b>      | <b>22</b>       |              |              |
| <b>Coffee</b>              | <b>8</b>       | <b>14</b>       |              |              |
| <b>Long Life Milk</b>      | <b>25</b>      | <b>36</b>       |              |              |
| <b>Juice</b>               | <b>25</b>      | <b>4</b>        |              |              |
| <b>Sugar</b>               | <b>0</b>       | <b>1</b>        |              |              |
| <b>Biscuits/Treats</b>     | <b>199</b>     | <b>60</b>       |              |              |
| <b>Jam</b>                 | <b>11</b>      | <b>26</b>       |              |              |
| <b>Toiletries</b>          | <b>80</b>      | <b>110</b>      |              |              |
| <b>Condiments</b>          | <b>66</b>      | <b>45</b>       |              |              |
| <b>Sanitary Products</b>   | <b>4</b>       | <b>4</b>        |              |              |
| <b>Baby (Nappies/Milk)</b> | <b>4</b>       | <b>1</b>        |              |              |
| <b>Household Cleaning</b>  | <b>3</b>       | <b>29</b>       |              |              |
| <b>Toilet Rolls</b>        | <b>49</b>      | <b>57</b>       |              |              |
| <b>Bread/Rolls</b>         | <b>11</b>      | <b>0</b>        |              |              |
| <b>Dog/Cat Food</b>        | <b>40</b>      | <b>32</b>       |              |              |
| <b>Totals</b>              | <b>1305</b>    | <b>1142</b>     |              |              |

**Please Note:**

- 1. Numbers in NON Bold are where we ran out of the item during the month so more would have been used if the item was in stock.**
- 2. Numbers are for the stock removed from the transept into the Food Bank in the vestibule. Some donations have been put straight into the Food Bank so will not have been recorded.**
- 3. Spare food from the Co-op was used on a weekly basis to restock the freezer. (No numbers for this)**

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The Way – the second installment of the Rev John Congram, a Canadian retired minister who reflects on where we as Presbyterians may be going wrong.

Your may remember in February Magazine He finished by challenging us that we are too inclined to confuse 'belief' with 'faithfulness'. He continues

I appreciate Brian McLaren's comment in his book 'A New Kind of Christianity' "... the challenge of modernity was to rove that we're right and they are wrong. But I think we have a different challenge in post modernity. The question isn't so much whether we're right but wether we 're goodAnd it strikes me that goodness , not just right-ness, was what Jesus said was the real issue you know, good fruit, that sort of energy in pursuing and doing good, somehow I think more people would believe we are right"

I was recently asked to conduct the wedding of one of my nieces. In the course of our initial conversation she offered the following, "My fiance and I are not religious but but we are spiritual." In the paast I ave ben sceptical of such assertions, realising that to be spiritual tody can mean almost anything. But I have begun to wonder if \i have been wrong. Perhaps I have underestimated the activity of the Holy Spirit who, we claim is abroad inthe world working with believers and unbelievers. Instead of discounting claims about being spiritual I should instead see them as the promptings of the Spirit, I should take them more seriously as both a challenge and an opportunity to help such folk to enhance and nourish their promptings to be spiritual. I think Henri Nouwen put his finger on it when he said, "I am afraid

that in a few decades the church will be accused of failing in its most basic task to offer people creative ways to communicate with the source of life.”

It is true that to be considered spiritual can mean almost anything but at a minimum it should be seen as a form of protest against how people see much of what passes for Christian faith in the church today. It is also an expression of something that many feel is essential to human life and the desire to express their faith in a variety of ways and still be considered an authentic Christian.

My single plea as we move into the future and attempt to engage the present generation is that we rely more in the guidance of the Holy Spirit and less on past traditions and practices. Presbyterian practice often seems to concentrate not on the Trinity of God but only on the Father and the Son and neglect the Holy Spirit. Often we are suspicious and even fearful of those we feel rely too much on the Holy Spirit, including those who speak in tongues! As a result the experimental in our faith is down played in favour of the historical and doctrinal. We sometimes decry fundamentalism, but we are all fundamentalists in one sense or another. We hold certain beliefs we could not compromise on. Ones we consider fundamental to who we are. My view would be that we be fundamentalists in as few areas as possible. I would like to take the position of the early Christians who in their great variety were held together by their faith in Jesus as Lord, or as one person put it – we should be committed to Christ and for all else be uncommitted, By emphasising what people must believe to be a Christian rather than simple faith in Jesus and commitment to follow him, we limit people’s freedom to express what following Jesus mean to them, while severely limiting any role for the Spirit. In fact it is basically this that we require of new members, - faith in Jesus and a determination to be his follower. Perhaps this approach should be extended to office bearers in the church. This would not limit the debates we would have in the church, including the role of gay people in the church but it would help to put the discussions in their proper perspective. The discussions would be seen as issues about which Christians might not agree but all the faithful would still be recognised as full participants and followers of Jesus. WH Auden put it this way: “He is the way. Follow him through the land of unlikeness; you will see rare beasts and have unique adventures.” I wonder if our approach to the faith limits our ability to see the rare beast and

have unique adventures.

If anyone has comments or questions please send them to the editor at kerrjh@btinternet.com

Special Coffee Morning Machrie ladies will host the Thursday coffee morning on 16th May when cards for all occasions will be on sale. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

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**Pentecost at the Preaching Cave** will be celebrated on Sunday 9th June at 3.30p.m. The celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit is a special time in the Christian Calendar and we are joined by folks from many other churches on the island and visitors too.

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Editorial Note: You may note that this magazine is a bit 'thin' due to the fact that not many articles have been received this quarter. It would be good to hear about how our children are doing or any events that people have found interesting - holiday experiences or adventures! While the editor retains the right to edit it does not call for the editor to write the magazine HK

Dates for the Diary

- Sun. 5th May Sacraments of infant and adult **Baptisms** and **Holy Communion**
- Sun 9th June **Pentecost at the Preaching Cave** at 3.30 p.m.
- Each month **The Guild** will meet on 30th April AGM speaker Elaine
Clinton a social time on 21st May
Trip to West Kilbride on 5th June meet with our link
Guild.
- Wednesday **Prayers for Health and Healing** 29th May and, 26th
June at 12p.m. in Brodick Church. Coffee/Tea in the hall
from 10.30
- Sun 7th July **Arran Churches Together Songs of Praise** on Lamlash
foreshore at 3.30 p.m.
- Wed 17th **Church Sale** in the village Hall at 7 p.m.
- 1st Thursday **Taize worship** at 5.30 p.m. in Holy Cross Catholic
Church
- Each Month

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### **Flower Fellowship**



|             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| <i>May</i>  | <i>Gerry Arthur</i>  |
| <i>June</i> | <i>Gerry Arthur</i>  |
| <i>July</i> | <i>Laura Murchie</i> |

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

*If you would like to help with the church flowers please contact  
Gerry Arthur on 860435. She would really appreciate the  
assistance*

## *Some Useful Contacts*

### *In St. Molios Church in the Parish of North Arran*

|                                        |                        | Telephone no. |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| <b><i>The Minister</i></b>             | Rev. Angus Adamson     | 870228        |
| <b><i>Parish Assis &amp; elder</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        |
|                                        | Mrs. Helen Kerr        |               |
| 860498                                 |                        |               |
| <b><i>Session Clerk</i></b>            | Mr. John Kerr          | 860498        |
|                                        | Mr. John Lammie        | 860418        |
|                                        | Mrs Elizabeth McCarthy |               |
| 860727                                 |                        |               |
|                                        | Mr. John McCarthy      | 860727        |
|                                        | Mr. Murray Stewart     | 860479        |
| <b><i>Deacons' Court Clerk</i></b>     | Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke  | 860219        |
| <b><i>Organist</i></b>                 | Mr. John Clarke        | 860219        |
| <b><i>Pastoral Support Team</i></b>    |                        |               |
| <b><i>Coordinator</i></b>              | Mrs. Eileen Johnston   | 860227        |
| <b><i>Magazine 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 Helen Kerr kerrjh@btinternet.com by Sunday 13th July 2019.