

# St Molios Church Magazine



August 2017



## Orchids Extraordinaire

Perhaps Darwin might find these difficult to explain!

(Caleana Major)

'Flying Duck'



(Anguloa Uniflora)

'Swaddled Babies'



(Dracula Simia)

'Monkey Face Orchid'



What an amazing world we live in!

~~~~~But for understanding and faith about what *grace* means we need the Holy Spirit working in our lives.

*Here is one definition*

What is **GRACE**?

**G**od's

**R**iches

**A**t

**C**hrist's

**E**xpense



Brodick Manse

Summer 2017

Dear Folks,

This time last year I went over to Holy Isle for the day. I have over the years been several times before, including being present at the big dedication service back in the 1990's when the island was acquired by the Buddhist community. Each time I go, I am always struck at the other-worldly sense of peace and calm that exists there and how time almost seems to slow down from normal 'Arran' time, each minute seemingly lasting at least five and each hour at least two. That inevitably comes from the fact that this is a very spiritual place and has been for centuries, certainly since the time of the Irish saint Laisren, or to give him his more common name Molaise, who spent some years in the late fifth, or early sixth century, living in retreat in the cave on the island.

Because of its associations with this holy man of God, Holy Isle was a place of pilgrimage for centuries until the time of the Reformation in the 1560's, when such practices were discouraged by the Kirk. Once again, however, even in the Church of Scotland, the benefits of making a pilgrimage to holy places is coming back into fashion and it is hoped that one day in the not too distant future, the old pilgrim route to Holy Isle from the Clachan Glen in Shiskine, over the hills to Lamblash will once more be re-established. Certainly, since the Buddhist Monastery and retreat centre opened, many, many thousands make the trip to Holy Isle every year to what has become a sacred place to both Buddhists and Christians alike.

On my particular day pilgrimage last summer, for the first time, apart from visiting the saint's cave and drinking from the holy well, I climbed over the twin peaks of Mullach Mor and Mullach Beag. Walking from south to north, the views looking back onto Arran, especially of the Arran peaks were absolutely stunning.

Besides enjoying the views, I spent a welcome day recharging my batteries, both physical and spiritual, soaking up the special atmosphere of a special place and felt all the better for it. That led me to ponder over the value of spending time away from the world in retreat, attempting to draw nearer to

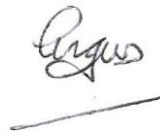
God, as Molaise of old did, or to find spiritual fulfilment as do many who currently come for a period of Buddhist retreat lasting months or even years.

I came to the conclusion that wouldn't be for me. Having a low boredom threshold, not only would I find it hard to do, I would find it hard to justify such self-indulgence, find it too inward looking and not really in keeping with what I feel God calls Christians to do, which for me is to be involved in the world, attempting to lead good lives to the good of others around them. Although, Jesus spent his forty days and nights in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry – the reason the early church fathers were also drawn to their 'white martyrdom', their time of retreat and testing in order to become closer to discerning the presence and purpose of God in their lives – it was only forty days, not many months or years. For me the whole point of believing in a God Incarnate is that God in Christ chose not to separate Himself from human kind but to become one of us, to share with us in our human experience and to become very much involved in the life of the world.

Suddenly, as if to affirm that thought, I became aware of a phenomenon, I hadn't ever noticed before on Holy Isle, the noise of all the sounds from Arran as people went about their daily business echoing across Lamlash Bay and

acutely amplified on the shoreline of Holy Island. It seemed to say, you might be able to escape and leave your daily thoughts behind you on Holy Isle, but not the the sounds of everyday life, life going on just a mile away across the loch, a life to which you must return and of which you are a part.

So if you haven't ever been, or haven't been for a while, I thoroughly recommend a trip over to Holy Isle. There is much to see and enjoy and if you do, as a well as relaxing in a very special and peaceful place, listen out for that phenomenon of the travelling sound.

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

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## Though I feel afraid

At a recent service for Sea Sunday our thoughts were on words from Psalm 107 vs 29-30 *'He stilled the storm to a whisper, the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven.'*

We were thinking of the seafarers that live and work on ships on the oceans of the world. What they long for is a desired haven. We all need a desired haven though. There is something in our hearts that just longs for that security, that peace that comes from the sure knowledge of God's power and His presence in our lives.

The words of a song by Ian White came to mind when I was thinking about Sea Sunday but I didn't use the song on that day. I want to share that with you here; it is by singer/songwriter Ian White.....

Though I feel afraid of territory unknown,  
I know that I can say that I do not stand alone,  
For Jesus you have promised your presence in my heart;  
I cannot see the ending, but it's here that I must start.

*And all I know is you have called me,*

*and that I will follow is all I can say,  
I will go where you will send me  
and your fire lights my way.*

What lies across the waves may cause my heart to fear,  
Will I survive the day, must I leave what's known and dear?  
A ship that's in the harbour is still and safe from harm  
But it was not built to be there, it was made for wind  
and storm.

*And all I know is you have called me,  
and that I will follow is all I can say,  
I will go where you will send me,  
and your fire lights my way.*

(Ian White 1996 – 'Little Misty Music/Kingsway Music')

## ST. MOLIOS GUILD



Our summer BBQ – a social occasion for church and community was attended by 38 people on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. We were happy to have two of our Link Guild from Bridgeton join us on a rain free, wind free midge free evening! The amount raised for Guild funds was £281.00. We would like to thank all who supported us and all who worked

hard to make it a success, especially John Clarke for his musical entertainment and John Kerr as ‘master chef’ for the evening.

### Future dates:

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August six of us will be joining our link guild for the day in Bridgeton.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September four of us will be in Dundee for the Guild National Gathering when c.2500 women and men enjoy the experience of being part on such a vibrant and active organisation within the church.

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September the Guild dedication will take place at morning service and our first meeting of the new session will follow on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> when the speaker will be Rev. James McNay from West Kilbride Parish Church. We are always very happy to welcome new members in the Guild.

In October we have two meetings one in Pirnmill where we are invited to lead the meeting and share together after a soup and sandwich lunch. That takes place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> at 12.30p.m. Our own meeting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a speaker from the Guild supported project ‘Caring for Mother Earth’ - a Christian Aid project using solar ovens in Bolivia.

Recently I was asked to give my five words to describe the Guild. They were *NURTURE, GROWTH, FAITHSHARE, SERVICE, FRIENDSHIP.*

Why not come and join us on the third Tuesday of each month.

Helen Kerr, Secretary

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**Did You Know?** This year's WM popular report will focus on Women in the World Church Look out for it in our church! As part of this there will be a one day event in New College Edinburgh on 16<sup>th</sup> September '17 10.30a.m.– 3.30p.m. Find out more or email [wmoutreach@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:wmoutreach@churchofscotland.org.uk)



On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July ACT held **the Songs of Praise on Arran**, in Lamlash church with singing led by Arran Brass. Perhaps because we were already into the summer break when people are very busy on Arran there was a disappointingly small attendance. When the weather is kind to us we like to hold this time out on the foreshore green however once again we had a dull day with wind and the threat of rain.

As the day was designated Sea Sunday the offering of £246.45 went to the Sailors Society, a Christian charity set up nearly 200 years ago and still very much in demand. There a 1.6 million merchant seamen and women who suffer great isolation and loneliness. Raging storms lead to an average of nine ships a month being lost and the Sailors Society helps care for bereaved families. Many ships are often in danger of modern piracy and hijacking. Even when in port many sailors are unable to leave the ships as they have not been paid and will never be paid if they go ashore. Imprisonment in foreign countries is also a real threat due to ships being seized by customs or police and entire crews arrested.

The sailors Society offers sailors and their families support at home, in port and at sea and have 100 chaplains in 27 countries. Last year 400,000 families were helped. A worthy cause for the Arran Churches to support. If you would like to read more about the work of the Sailors Society it can be found a [www.sailors-society.org](http://www.sailors-society.org)

Coming up on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August is ACT **the Quiz and Social Evening** to be held in Brodick church hall at 7p.m. This is a fun evening with a finger food supper. The quiz is held in teams and is open to everyone including holiday makers. Why not form a Shiskine Valley team(s).

Helen Kerr ACT Representative

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### **A Call for Volunteers**

Do you have a gift for arranging flowers? Gerry Arthur, who coordinates the flower arrangers in the church on a monthly basis, would like to hear from one or two others in the congregation who are willing to give of their time and talents to arranging the flowers. Please contact Gerry on 860435.

## A Special Occasion



The now renowned **Molios Saxophone Quartet** will perform at various venues round the island including in St Molios Church on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30p.m. This is always a most looked forward to performance which we know will be well attended. However, should you be unable to attend that evening the quartet will also perform in Lochranza on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September and in Corrie on

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>.

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Note from the editor: *The following story was submitted by Jim Williamson for the November magazine in 2011! Murdina Currie was so touched by the story that she had kept the magazine. Recently she found it again and thought it should be shared with everyone. Eunice said it was a good idea and agreed it should be printed once more. Since both Jim and Murdina have recently passed away we thought it appropriate to include it here.*

### Three Yellow Roses

I walked into the grocer's store not particularly interested in buying anything. I wasn't hungry. The pain of losing my husband of 57 years was still raw. And the grocer's held so many sweet memories.

He often came with me and almost every time he'd pretend to go off and look for something special. I knew what he was up to. I'd always spot him walking down the aisle with three yellow roses in his hand. I knew he loved yellow roses. With a heart full of grief, I only wanted to buy my few things and leave but even grocery shopping was different since he passed on. Shopping for one took time, a little more time than it did for two. Standing by the meat I searched for the perfect small steak and remembered how he loved his steak.

Suddenly a woman came along side me. She was a blonde, slim and lovely in a soft green outfit. I watched as she picked up a large packet of T-bones and dropped them into her basket ..... hesitated and then put them back. She turned to go and once more reached for the packet of steaks. She saw me watching her and smiled. "My husband loves T-bones but honestly, at these prices I don't know." "My husband passed away eight days ago," I told her. Glancing at the package in her hand I fought to control the tremble in my voice, "Buy him the steaks and treasure every moment you are together."

She shook her head and I saw the emotion in her eyes as she placed the package in her basket and went off. I turned and pushed my trolley across the length of the store to the dairy products. There I stood trying to decide which size of milk carton I should buy. Two pints I decided and moved on to the ice cream. If nothing else I could always lick a cone! I placed the ice cream in my trolley and looked down the aisle to the front. I saw first the green suit, then the pretty lady coming towards me. In her arms she carried a package. On her face was the brightest smile I had ever seen. I could swear I saw a soft halo encircle her blonde hair as she kept walking towards me, her eyes holding mine.

As she drew nearer I saw what she held and tears began misting my eyes. "These are for you," she said and placed three long stemmed yellow roses in my arms. "When you go through the checkout they will know they are paid for." She leaned over and placed a gentle kiss on my cheek then smiled again. I wanted to tell her what she had done, what the roses meant but still unable to speak I watched her as she walked away as tears clouded my vision.

I looked down at the beautiful roses nestled in the green tissue paper and found it almost unreal. How did she know? Suddenly the answer seemed so clear .... I wasn't alone! "Oh, you haven't forgotten me, have you?" I whispered with tears. He was still with me at that moment and she was his angel."

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## A Recipe for Success

*Church of Scotland monthly magazine **Life and Work's** much-loved columnist, the Very Rev Dr James Simpson, has chosen some of his favourite pieces from over 10 years of meditations. In his second selection, from February 2007, he offers checklists for church failure and success. Below is the section on 'How to keep the Church open'.*

... One could however draw up another list of duties and responsibilities, and entitle it HOW TO KEEP THE CHURCH OPEN.

**Make it a priority to worship regularly.** A full church and enthusiastic congregational singing make worship more inspiring. Numbers do attract numbers.

**Make time to welcome incomers to the parish.** Tell them about your church. If they express an interest, offer to accompany them the first time.

**Encourage your minister and office-bearers.** What a refreshing effect a word of encouragement can have. Mark Twain said he could live for two months on a compliment.

**"Love your neighbours."** Remember that the whole world is our neighbourhood, and all who dwell therein – black and white, the clever and the not so clever, the overfed and underfed, the rich and poor, insiders and outsiders, the godly and ungodly. People are more likely to be attracted to a church if the members reflect the caring spirit of Christ.

**Challenge the prevailing secular culture rather than mirror it.** Too many who pray ‘Thy kingdom come’ on Sunday effectively bar its coming on Monday. More important than group discussion about compassion and forgiveness, is actually caring for and forgiving others. The activist is not the person who points out that much more needs to be done for the poor and the disadvantaged, the young and the elderly. The real activist is the person who enters the fray on their behalf.

**Be open to change.** Don’t make what was done yesterday the norm for church life today. Heed the Psalmist’s injunction to ‘sing a new song to the Lord’. Though the words of some modern hymns are banal, others are very meaningful. How I wish CH4 had been available earlier in my ministry.

**Involve young people in as many aspects of the church’s life and worship as possible.** Don’t expect them just to sit and listen.

**Remember that the Church’s greatest need is not for more committees, but more commitment.** What a debt the Church owes those who, in Shakespeare’s phrase, ‘hold it a vice in their goodness, not to do more than is requested’!

**Never forget that what the Church at its finest stands for – faith, hope, love, justice and peace – our world needs more than anything else.**

Pericles once made a great plea on behalf of the city of Athens. “Think what Athens may become and be worthy of her.” I would make a similar plea on behalf of Christ’s Church.’

## Thoughts on The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland 2017

John and I were privileged to attend the General Assembly in May; I as a commissioner from St Molios and John as a spectator in the public gallery.

The only other time I have attended the General Assembly was back in 1963 when along with seven other women and two men we were ‘presented’ to the moderator as we all prepared to set forth to Africa, Asia or the Carribean. It was awesome (in the old fashioned sense of the word) and a great encouragement to be addressed by the then Moderator the Right Rev. Dr. James Stewart. But in 2017 it was a very different experience.

Here are some lasting impressions: the thrill being part of this body of some 850 commissioners – ministers, elders and members of the diaconate also visiting dignitaries; the pomp, dignity and formality of the opening where HRH Princes Royal came as High Commissioner – (her address so informed and yet notes seldom referred to); and especially imprinted in my memory are the daily opening worship times, the unaccompanied singing the daily message from the moderator setting the tone for each day and the prayers – all inspirational and giving much thought for reflection. Other key events that stand out were

- ‘Heart and Soul’ on the Sunday afternoon, held in Princes Street Gardens was a showcase of the Church of Scotland’s work in Scotland and in the world. Thousands of people came throughout the afternoon and the event ended with a time of openair worship;
- on Tuesday evening in the Assembly Halls nearly 1000 voices joined in ‘The Big Sing’ organised by the Guild;
- on Friday afternoon/evening there was the reception for new commissioners hosted by Princess Anne at Hollyrood Palace.

But what of the business of each day? We were all kept very busy and bedtime reading consisted of the reports for the following day. There were engaging reports and lively debates and yes I did find it tiring. John of course could pick and choose which sessions he attended but I have to admit he came to most.

Owing to hitches in the process of applying for one visa and the refusal of another visa for two invited overseas guests - the former the first female ordained minister in the evangelical church in Syria and the latter a minister from the church in South Sudan – two seats in the front row of the hall, each with their country's flag were left vacant throughout the Assembly.

There was a considerable amount of humour and laughter, there was controversy, passion, sadness and at times heated debate as points were made for and against parts of the many reports. There were motions and countermotions, voting and abstaining; there was plenty opportunity to speak and some were seen to be at the microphone frequently! However each was limited to a strict time slot and occasionally the bell sounded to say 'Time to cut it short and sit down'!

I was particularly impressed by one young female minister who spoke at an especially fraught time during the very robust debate on same sex marriage and the church: she said, "I have here a very good friend here with whom I trained for the ministry. We have very opposing views about this subject, very opposing views, but we remain good friends." Her plea was that we could and should continue the debate in love. It is very unlikely that there will ever be consensus on this topic but I came away feeling that the church needs to address such issues with much more compassion and the love of Christ at her heart.



We started our journey back to Arran on the Friday afternoon. I was glad to have been at the Assembly. I learned a tremendous amount about the workings of the Church of Scotland and a great sense that although representing a small congregation in a rural community we are all part of a large vibrant church. Should any of my colleagues in the kirk session get the opportunity to be a commissioner to the General Assembly in the future my advice is, "Take it". The experience will be challenging and give much pause for thought.

Helen Kerr

## ***Marriage***

***“Those whom God has joined together let no one put apart”***

***On 20<sup>th</sup> July***

*Kimberly Stewart to Thomas Richard Beasley*

## ***Deaths***

***Jesus said, “I am the Resurrection”***

***On 30<sup>th</sup> April***

*Christine Carol Uitz of Harbour House Blackwaterfoot*

***On 7<sup>th</sup> June***

*James Irvine Williamson of the Lakin*

***On 11<sup>th</sup> July***

*Murdina Currie of Kinloch Court, Blackwaterfoot*

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Father, we pray for your church throughout the world. A church that always seeks new ways of making the gospel known, revealing you to men and women everywhere, and reconciling them to you and to one another, with a renewed sense of being one in Christ.

Father, we pray for a church that thrives in diversity, for a deeper sense of our belonging together and to each other regardless of our different hopes, fears, visions and dreams. Help us to discover a new joy in being the people of God and give us a fresh delight in each other's fellowship, worship and praise.

Father, we pray that Christians everywhere may love their neighbours as you love and cherish us for who we are. Give us a new ability to stamp out any prejudiced positions, and break down the walls that divide.

And may the grace and love of Christ bind us to stand together as one forever.

Amen.

NAME THE ANIMALS IN NOAH’S ARK For the young at heart

(There is one bird and one reptile)

An across puzzle

After you have filled in all the animals take the letters in the square with a diagonal line, juggle them around to get the names of two books in the Bible.

|    |  |  |  |  |  |
|----|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 8  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 |  |  |  |  |  |



- 1 Striped furry and dangerous
- 2 Small furry -tamed by Shakespeare
- 3 Cowboy’s friend
- 4 Duck’s mate
- 5 He’s got the hump
- 6 Edinburgh has two of these
- 7 Another name for a badger
- 8 Wild ox
- 9 Young mare
- 10 Hundreds +++ of these on Arran
- 11 Women are often afraid of these!
- 12 Slithering, long and often disliked

The Books in the Bible    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (OT)    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (NT)

Answer: Don't look now! **leinad and snamor** Ooops try the other way round!

From Margaret Godfrey

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

- Sun. 13<sup>th</sup> Aug. Holy Communion at 12 noon.  
Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. Guild dedication at morning during worship.  
Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> Sept Annual Service at the Clachan at 3.30p.m.  
Sun. 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. Harvest Thanksgiving.  
Sun. 5<sup>th</sup> Nov Joint Linkage Communion Service and Social in St Molios.
- Tues. 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. The Guild meets at 2p.m. Speaker Rev. James McNay of West Kilbride Parish  
Mon. 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. Visit to Pirnmill Guild soup and sandwich lunch.  
Tues. 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. Speaker Ms Mary Mulligan Christian Aid Project - solar ovens.
- Last Wed Sept.  
and Nov.. Prayers for Health and Healing 12noon in Brodick Church.  
Last Thur. Oct. Prayers for Health and Healing 12noon in St. Molios Church
- Twice Monthly Linkage study group afternoons. Ask John Kerr for information.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs Taize style worship at 5,30p.m. held in Holy Cross Church  
each month Brodick at 5.30p.m. All welcome.

### **Flower Fellowship**



|           |                              |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| August    | Jan Crawford                 |
| September | Evelyn Hamilton/Gerry Arthur |
| October   | Morag Liddell                |
| November  | Pat Adamson                  |

***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 |
|                                           | 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>Clerk to the Deacons' Court</i></b> |                         |        |
|                                           | Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke   | 860219 |
| <b><i>Organist</i></b>                    | Mr. John Clarke         | 860219 |
| <b><i>Pastoral Support Team</i></b>       |                         |        |
| <b><i>Convener</i></b>                    | Mrs. Eileen Johnston    | 860227 |
| <b><i>Church Magazine</i></b>             |                         |        |
| <b><i>Editor</i></b>                      | Mrs. Helen Kerr         | 860498 |
|                                           | ~~~~~                   |        |

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<sup>th</sup> October 2017.