

# St Molios Church Magazine



FEBRUARY 2017



These 'commandments' were used by Jean in Church  
on New Year's Day: 2017

### **TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR 2017**

- 1. Speak to people – there is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.**
- 2. Smile at people – it takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to smile.**
- 3. Call people by name – the sweetest music to anyone's ear is the sound of their name – it means it is known by you and important to you.**
- 4. Be friendly and helpful – if you want to have friends, be friendly.**
- 5. Be cordial – speak and act as if everything you do is a genuine pleasure.**
- 6. Be genuinely interested in people – you can love everyone if you really try.**
- 7. Be generous with praise and cautious with criticism.**
- 8. Be considerate of the feelings of others – it will be appreciated.**
- 9. Be thoughtful of the opinions of others – there are three sides to every controversy; yours, the other person's and the right one.**
- 10. Be alert to give service – what counts most in the life is what we do for others.**

*From Jean Hunter*



Brodick Manse

January 2017

Dear Folks,

One of the most humorous stories I heard since moving to Brodick was when in company of a good friend who was born into an old established Brodick family. On this occasion, asked by a visitor if we were locals, and born on the island at the AWMH, my companion looked at the poor lady questioner as if she had suddenly grown horns and replied: "Don't be ridiculous, my mother had the perfectly good common sense to go away to Glasgow. I was born in the Queen Mother's Maternity Hospital, to save me the stigma for the rest of my life of having been born in Lamlash". Such is the local 'rivalry' between our island's two largest villages!

I wonder what would be the reaction of my friend if it were mooted that very soon, the last mortal remains of Brodick folk will have to be laid to rest for all eternity in 'the other place' over the hill. That will be the case in as little as 6 years-time if the situation of our rapidly filling up island grave yards is not resolved. Whilst at Kilbride (Lamlash) Cemetery, there are ongoing negotiations with the Church of Scotland to facilitate a grave yard extension, albeit at huge cost, at the Clachan (Shiskine, New Cemetery) and at Sannox it doesn't look as if there is much possibility of new land being purchased. NAC say that this is either because of drainage problems, or lack of available ground. But in reality, it is probably more to do with finances, or more to the point, severe lack of them. All councils are currently facing huge cut backs and savings have to be made somewhere.

Of course, cremation is another option, although again, despite mutterings in the Banner, there is in reality no chance of a crematorium ever being built on the island. Realistically there simply isn't likely ever to be enough demand to make that a viable proposition.

Why? Well for the simple reason that most native islanders and locals much prefer to be buried – and not just anywhere, but desperately want to be laid to rest beside previous generations of loved ones and there, at peace, sleep the long sleep of death, be that at Kilmory, Shiskine, Lochranza, Sannox, Brodick or Lamlash.

Many, even devout Christians, will argue that that is daft. Surely the soul of the righteous only, remains after death and will be instantaneously transported to God's nearer presence in heaven? That may be so, but it depends on where you think heaven is. For me it is very near. Doesn't the Psalmist remind us that 'there is nowhere we can flee from God's presence in the heights or depths, even were we to take the wings of the morning or dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, there his hand shall lead us ... and holds us fast.'

God's love surrounds us at all times and in all places. It stands to reason therefore, so too must our loved ones who have gone before us into God's nearer presence also be surrounding us at all times, wherever we go. Heaven is merely somewhere close by, wherever we are. We are bound to our loved ones and they to us by the bonds of love. Love, the only thing that death cannot whither or perish or destroy. I feel that most of all here in Arran, my native island home, my family home for generations. And for me as I have oft repeated, Arran is a 'thin place' where heaven and earth do touch.

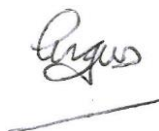
Many feel the deepest comfort in grief is found in visiting family graves. There, through that unbreakable bond of love, they feel closest to their loved ones departed, who's mortal remains lie beneath their feet – their gravestones almost literally 'touching places' between mortality and immortality. For such people there can only be one place to be laid to rest themselves, and that must be beside those dear family members who have gone before.

To that end in the past many people purchased family lairs to ensure there was no problem in being able to facilitate such a wish. However, once again financial constraints have put paid the possibility of this. It stands to reason a

plot bought 30 years ago for as little as £100 isn't going to be as lucrative as one bought today at £1800. The ongoing ever increasing cost of up-keeping the graveyards rightly demands expediency.

Thus, to have such a thing as a choice of being buried beside loved ones denied by the current NAC proposals, would be for many folks, myself included, a truly terrible blow. It isn't a matter of life and death, it is in many ways much more important. It is a matter of life after death.

So when the time comes for the consultation on our graveyards promised by NAC to begin, please go and have your say. No one really wants to think of their death, or the death of a loved one. Yet it is the one thing that is utterly inevitable. Please don't wait until then to face the disappointment and pain of not being able to lie where you know instinctively you want to be, or your loved one to be, as has happened all too often in the past. Do something now to prevent what will be an irreversible decision being made, not just for us, but for future generations of Arran folk to come.

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

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### **From our Reader in Training**

As I reflect on my time spent with Angus in the north linkage churches as a Reader in Training, I would firstly like to thank everyone for their support, encouragement and love shown right from the beginning of my placement. I felt truly welcomed in each of the parishes.

It has been a time where I have been challenged and stretched, both in my

faith and in my abilities, but one where I feel I have grown in both. I've enjoyed all aspects of the training, in particular, the opportunities to get to know the congregations and my involvement with the children in church and school assemblies. Of course, the many social events I've attended were added bonuses.

My thanks also go to Angus for his continued support, encouragement and patience with me as an often, 'slow learner'. And finally, I give thanks to God for His calling to the Readership as without that, I wouldn't have started.

I can now look forward to a second six-month placement in Lamlash and Kilmory and no doubt to even more challenging experiences!

Aileen Brookens

#### ST. MOLIOS GUILD



**Guild Week** and members are asked to promote the Guild by making our work better known to church members and the community at large. This year, on the third week in November, it was Shiskine's turn to hold the annual lunch and video showing of the National Guild Gathering in Dundee in September.

We were delighted to have 32 attend from Lamlash, Pirnmill, Brodick and of course Shiskine when we had several visitors from the congregation and the community. The theme this year is 'Go in Joy' and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland The Right Rev. Dr. Russell Barr set the scene with some hilarious anecdotes about his ministry but also pointed us away from ourselves, emphasising the joy we can bring to others through our serving rather than focussing on we ourselves going in joy.

We were thrilled to hear Sally Magnussen the BBC broadcaster, speak of her mother's and her family's positive but difficult journey with Alzheimer's. She

went on to introduce us to her charity 'Playlist for Life' which is having such great results in connecting through music, with many living with dementia.

Nationally, part of Guild week celebrations was the Big Sing held in Greenock this year when about 1000 voices joined together. Below we have an amusing account from Jenny about the event and those of us who attended from Arran!

### **Guild Mystery Trip**

It may not have been planned as a mystery trip, but at the end of the day the only mystery was how we got there at all!

On Friday November 18th three intrepid members of the Guild (Helen, Alison and Jenny) set off for the Big Sing in Greenock. We left Ardrossan for Greenock with Alison at the wheel and Jenny deputed as map reader. In my defence would say that it was only when we were in the car that I discovered the inadequacy of the map.

Down the A78, Largs, Wemyss Bay and on to Greenock, and this is where the map failed to live up to somewhat less than its limited promise. We did a tour of many of the back streets and discovered that a great many of the locals didn't know where Homebase (our pre-arranged parking spot) is. By now the time is beginning to press, and after help from a gentleman we suddenly came upon Homebase almost by chance, but having parked the car our troubles were still not over, as we managed to take a wrong turning on the short walk to Westburn Parish church!

Finally in our seats by 1.50 we met up with our friends from St Frances in the East Guild, Bridgeton.

The singing in the service was magnificent and we were delighted to hear the raised voices of our male friends in the Hymn 'Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing'. It was wonderful to join with so many members from all over Scotland in praising the Lord.

Unfortunately, because of the huge number of members present it was not possible to have refreshments and fellowship at the church, but fortunately there was a coffee shop almost opposite the church, so we headed there with our friends from Glasgow. We Arranites were glad of a drink since we had had no lunch.

The return journey to the ferry was a total anticlimax , but all in all it was a fabulous afternoon and I was grateful for the opportunity to attend and represent the members in Arran.

Jenny Harper.

In January members of Pirnmill Guild led our meeting which had plenty of fun and laughter looking at the theme 'Go in Joy'. We then had a study on 'The Road to Emmaus' which made us look at a familiar passage and ponder on the emotions.

### What's coming up?

On February 21<sup>st</sup> March the speaker at the Guild will be Rev. Lily McKinnon

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March the world day of prayer service will be held in Holy Cross church in Brodick at 14:00. This year it is prepared by the women in the Philippines.



On 21<sup>st</sup> February the speaker will be Mrs Ailsa Henderson on FGM – female genital mutilation one of the Guild projects in Kenya against this abusive practice

Helen Kerr

Guild Secretary



**The Christingle Service** held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 was held in Shiskine Free Church and conducted by Rev. Benjamin

van Rensburg. There was a good turnout of children and adult friends and family from across the island. The children and adults appreciated the interactive worship service

**Christian Unity Service** in 2017 was held in Lamlash Church on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 12noon. Over 200 gathered to worship together when the service was led by Rev. Leslie Edge, Chaplain to the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice and the singing led by the brass band quartet and Douglas Hamilton on the organ. It was good to worship all together. The offering which amounted to £843.10 went towards the building of a new hospice which will include wings for teenagers and children as well as adults.

Two Dates to look forward to. **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March will be the World Day of Prayer.** The service will be held in Holy Cross Church Brodick and is prepared by women in the Philippines. 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 the Philippines.

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

2p.m. on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 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 quietly through the village 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



**Flower Fellowship**

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| <i>February</i> | <i>Evelyn Hamilton</i> |
| <i>March</i>    | <i>Eileen Johnston</i> |
| <i>April</i>    | <i>Gerry Arthur</i>    |

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

***The Linkage Study Group*** has started up again and meets on the second and fourth week every month. We are starting a study on Philip Yancey’s book ‘What’s so amazing about Grace?’ New members are always welcome. Ask John Kerr for further Information.

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## **What is Our Church of Scotland and Other Churches in Scotland Doing to be Christ to the World?**

**Meet David Bradwell** He is the Refugee Co-ordinator for Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees. He is a New Scot, having been born in Manchester, brought up in Derbyshire and studied and worked in London before moving to Scotland in 2010. He has previously served as Secretary of the Churches Refugee Network, as Scottish Churches Parliamentary Officer and as Associate Secretary of the Church and Society Council of the Church of Scotland. He is a member of the Methodist Church and sits on the British Methodist-Catholic Dialogue Commission. David is part of the Joint Public Issues Team. He lives in East Lothian. He is our contact person, with regard to support to refugees coming to Scotland. Scottish Faiths in Action is supported by Church of Scotland World Mission Council

### **World Mission (WMC) – Connecting the World Church**

In Greece our Presbyterian partner, the Evangelical Church in Greece is seeking to live out the injunction to serve our neighbours in need as we obey the very heart of the Gospel “to love your God and your neighbour as yourself”.

Hundreds of refugees and immigrants in special needs (for example minority groups or pregnant women), are staying in various areas of Greece.

The objective is for such folk to feel at home in places where they can have their own personal space, access to basic health care, education for their children and daily social interaction with the local community.

Local churches host guests in church housing and/or in church members' houses. The church programme provides help in buying food, medical care, legal services and educational services for refugees and their children as well as some church property upgrading to facilitate the daily needs of refugee families. ACT NOW... Have a look at Scottish Faiths Action For Refugees website [www.SFAR.org.uk](http://www.SFAR.org.uk)

## **What are Churches in Other Countries Doing to be Christ in the World?**

In Italy the Federation of Italian Protestant Churches is working together with the Roman Catholic Lay community of Sant'Edigio on the Mediterranean Hope programme to offer refugees and asylum seekers, in situations of vulnerability, the opportunity of getting a proper visa and being flown direct to Italy without having to risk the dangerous conditions of travelling overland and sea to reach Italy. Working with the Italian authorities, people are helped to get an humanitarian visa while in Lebanon to enter Italy and then flown directly there. The protocol provides for 1000 visas and the Italian authorities have already released 300. Once in Italy the churches source the practical, social and emotional help the newly arrived individuals and families need.

Mediterranean Hope has staff and volunteers on Lampedusa island to offer a human welcome to people being processed on the island ( up to 500 at any one time, and who are supposed to pass through in two days and be moved on to other centres).

Volunteers offer a smile, some juice, a snack, some clothes to those being processed through an impersonal military and government machine. There is a desire to treat those passing through humanely – to try to change the outside views which either demonise them or make them saintly victims. Migrant people, like all people are a mix of all things and it is not helpful to make them saints or sinners but to accept them for who they are.

Casa delle Culture (house of culture) in Sicily in Southern Sicily is a home for unaccompanied under 18yr olds, some who may be pregnant, some who have been abused. Mediterranean Hope offers services to help those minors

as well as care for them and take an interest in what they want to do and where they would like to go next. There is an opportunity for volunteers to spend time there.

*You can read more about the work our church supports in the bimonthly WM magazine on the noticeboard in the church hall.*

## **Mary Jones and the First Major Worldwide Bible Society**

Mary Jones was born 16<sup>th</sup> December 1784 in the Welsh village of Llanfihangel-y-Pennant. From an early age, Mary longed to have a Bible in her own language that she could read. Mary's dilemma was that it was well-nigh impossible for a Welsh child from a poor family to afford a Bible. Bibles were expensive in 18th century Wales. Nevertheless, over the years Mary scrimped and saved enough money to buy a Bible from doing odd chores for neighbours. Mary was now around 16 years old.

### Mary's Odyssey

She heard that a minister named Thomas Charles in the town of Bala had some Welsh Bibles for sale. Bala was some 25 miles (40 kms.) from her home. She gathered her savings and trudged across the hills to Bala to find the minister. He gave Mary some bad news. Every copy of the Bible he had was already sold. He was moved by the diligence Mary had shown in seeking a Bible and handed her his last copy, which he had put away for another buyer.

Mary's goal of obtaining her own Bible and her meeting with Charles set in motion the creation of a truly international Bible society. Charles presented the need for more copies of the Scriptures in Welsh at a meeting of the Religious Tract Society in December 1802. Though the Tract Society was sympathetic about the need, they were not in a position to meet the demand. But one member, Joseph Hughes, suggested that "a society might be formed

for the purpose of distributing Bibles —and if for Wales, why not for the United Kingdom; why not for the whole world?”

On March 7, 1804, a meeting was conducted at the London Tavern in Bishopsgate, at which the British and Foreign Bible Society (BFBS) was formed. Some 300 citizens from several denominations formed the society.

### The Scottish Bible Society



*Bible 'shop' workers at Edinburgh's Bible House, late 19th century*

Since 1809, we have sought, under God, to put the Bible into people's hands and hearts. We work so that all people can have the Bible in a language they understand, a form they can access and at an affordable price, to aid genuine encounters with God. We are a fully independent charity, registered in Scotland, and a founder member of the [United Bible Societies](#) – 146 Bible Societies at work in some 200 countries worldwide.

We distribute Bibles, New Testaments and other Scripture-based materials, in a range of media, in Scotland and throughout the world. Our volunteer network includes [Action Groups](#), [local Church Representatives](#) and [speakers](#), all helping to spread the Word of God and finance the distribution of the Scriptures at home and overseas.

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### ***Deaths***

***Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection'***

*On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016 Donald Campbell of Balmichael*

*On 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016 Robert Whiteside of Torbeg*

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### **A Prayer**

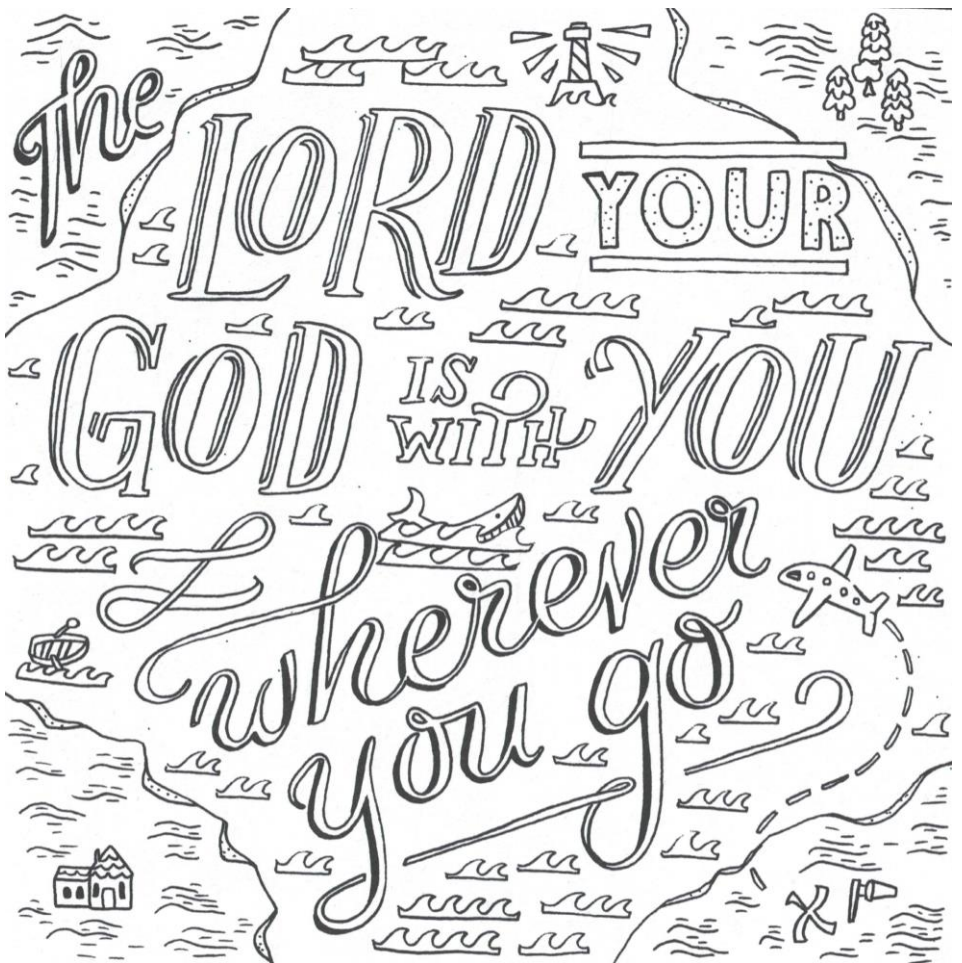
Heavenly Father, let our eyes be open to those who need that extra special word of welcome or encouragement,  
Let our hands reach out to those who need our love and support,  
Let our hearts be open to remember those both far and near who need our prayers at this time.

AMEN



## Some Colouring in for Young People or Adults

(They say it is good therapy for stress!)





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

- Sun. 5<sup>th</sup> Feb      Holy Communion at 12 noon
- Fri. 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar      World Day of Prayer in Holy Cross church by Brodick Pier at 2p.m men and women are invited to join in solidarity with the people of the Philippines.
- Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Apr.    Holy Week labyrinth St. Molios any time from 10am – 8p.m. Spend a quiet time reflecting as you walk round the church.
- Thur.13<sup>th</sup> Apr.    Maundy Thursday joint Holy Communion 7p.m. venue to be announced.
- Fri. 14<sup>th</sup> Apr.    Arran Churches Together Good Friday Walk of Witness at 2pm at Holy Cross church.
- Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Apr.    Easter Day all age service at 12 noon.
- Tues.21<sup>st</sup>Feb      The Guild meets at 2p.m. speaker Rev Lily McKinnon
- Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Mar      The Guild meets 2p.m. speaker Ms Ailsa Henderson on Female Genital Mutilation – one of the Guild supported projects.
- Tues. 18<sup>th</sup> Apr.    Guild AGM at 2p.m.
- Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Jan.    Prayers for Health and Healing 12noon in Brodick church.
- Thur 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb    Prayers for Health and Healing 12noon in Shiskine.
- Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Mar    Prayers for Health and Healing 12noon in Brodick church.
- Thur 25<sup>th</sup> Apr    Prayers for Health and Healing 12 noon in Shiskine church.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs each month    Taize style worship at 7.30p.m. In St. Molios church. All welcome.

## *Some Useful Contacts*

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

Telephone no.

<b>The Minister</b>	Rev. Angus Adamson	302334
<b>Parish Assistant</b>	Mrs. Jean Hunter	860380
<b>Elders</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>Session Clerk</b>	Mr. John Kerr	860498
	Mr. John Lammie	860418
	Mrs. Elizabeth MacCarthy	860727
	Mr. John McCarthy	860727
	Mr. Murray Stewart	860479
<b>Clerk to the Deacon's Court</b>		
	Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke	860219
<b>Organist</b>	Mr. John Clarke	860219
<b>Pastoral Support Team</b>		
Convener	Mrs. Eileen Johnston	860227
<b>Church Magazine</b>		
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 [kerrih@btinternet.com](mailto:kerrih@btinternet.com) by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2017.