

Some Useful Contact

In St. Molios Church in the parish of North Arran

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Articles for the next magazine should be handed to Helen Kerr or sent to

Her at [kerrjh@btinternet.com](mailto:kerrjh@btinternet.com) by Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

# St Molios Church Magazine



MAY 2017



## An Easter Prayer

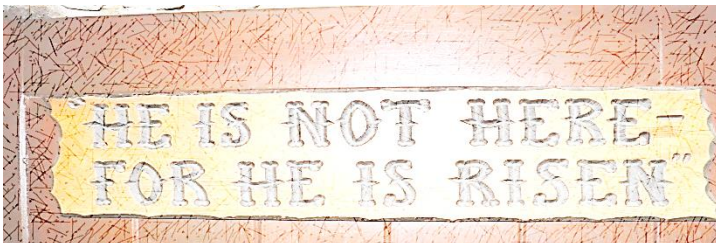
When our faith  
stands at the grave,  
grieving for a stone that's rolled away,  
forgive us.

When our faith  
is short of understanding  
though the truth is there to see,  
forgive us.

When our faith, beset by doubt,  
sees no further  
than an empty tomb today,  
forgive us.

Bring to mind  
the cry of Mary,  
'I have seen the Lord!'  
and grant us faith to believe.

From Guild News April '17



Spring 2017



Dear Folks,

Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, all wild animals on land, and everything that creeps on the earth' (Genesis 1: 26). Literally translated, that means we have a God-given power of life and death over all living creatures and recently I have had cause to think a lot about that teaching from the very first page of the bible. Back in August of last year after almost 13 years of life, we had to have our much adored little Parson Jack Russell terrier 'Archie' put down.

I well remember T.V. Garden presenter Monty Don – another person like myself who is daft about dogs – saying on the One Show last year, accompanied at the time on screen by his faithful canine companion, a beautiful Golden Retriever, that due to their short span of years in comparison to ours, what people don't realise when they take on a dog, is that they will not only be responsible for its life, but also its death. With no prospect of betterment and certainly a terrible end if we hadn't intervened, having Archie put to sleep was the best we could do for him.

You can never ever replace a much loved pet, but being 'dog-less' for me is like having an arm missing. So in January, after a very vigorous vetting process by the staff at the Dog's Trust Centre in West Calder, we became the owners of a black and tan cross terrier called 'Kubo', now re-named by the family 'Hugo'.

The reason for that rigorous vetting process was to ensure not only were we going to be good responsible and caring owners of a little 5 month old pup that had been previously brutalised and cruelly mis-treated beyond belief, but capable also of being able to provide the right environment to try to help him recover.

Hugo had come from a stable, where as a very young pup, it is thought he had firstly been set upon and mauled by other dogs, then to disguise the fact he was not as advertised a Jack Russell/Chihuahua cross, taken from his mother at only a few weeks old, way too early to have developed many of the norms of dog behaviour and then sold to a couple with very young children, who got more than they bargained for. To cope they kept him shut in a cage, where he must have been tormented by the young children of the household and most certainly mistreated by the mother, for unlike most badly treated dogs, it is not men, but young women he is most terrified of. If he hears the sound of children playing he freaks. The only plus that can be said for his previous owners, is that rather than have him destroyed, at least they gave him up to the Dogs Trust, who never have any dog in their care put down other than for medical reasons.

When he arrived with them at West Calder, 'Kubo' as he was then, was utterly traumatised. Having been constantly shut in a cage he was agoraphobic and could not be coaxed to go outside, a fear-aggressive dog who was very wary of people, whom he assumed were going to hammer him into obedient submission and so terrified of other dogs that he could not be put in the kennel compound with the other 40 or so dogs housed there.

To say that the staff at the Dog's Trust were utterly amazing with him would be an understatement. To save him from the stress of being too near other dogs, he was housed in the visitor centre, where to get him socialised with people, he lived behind the reception desk, gradually getting to trust that not all human beings were violent and learning vital welcoming skills, such as wagging his tail. Eventually he was coaxed out into the world, but by the time we got him still wouldn't even piddle outside if he as much as heard another dog in the distance, at the sight of another dog he would go apoplectic. Away from other dogs, he was well-trained, obedient to recall, would even drop the ball he loved to chase with the simple command of 'off'.

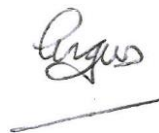
The reason for our rigorous vetting was that 'Kubo' would need to go somewhere rural, where he could be taken on to the next stage of recovery and to owners who could handle extremely 'problematic' terriers. He had previously been given to another family, who quickly brought him back due to not being able to cope with him. Simply, we were 'Kubo's last hope of any kind of normal life. The fear was he would end up back at West Calder to live out his

days there as a permanent inmate, well and lovingly looked after for sure, but in many ways a half-life leading a far from normal canine existence.

To see him now running free and wild, leaping springbok-like among the heather in the Arran hills, welcoming, tail wagging, any visitor into the house with his ball, or for the first time in his young life, simply 'chilling out' snoozing in the sun on his favourite chair, is a joy to behold. Around us and the rest of the family Hugo is laid back, adoring, loving and giving.

However, he is still terrified of other dogs and wary of any strangers he meets out in public, when the ingrained fear flicks a switch inside his head and he will often seem an aggressive lunatic. We still have a way to go with Hugo yet, but hopefully one day he will overcome any remaining fears he has. At still just 7 months old he has a chance. So if you meet Hugo out and about, please be understanding. At home if you met him he would be a different dog. Maybe one day too, he will be able to regularly attend church at Brodick with Susan and become an honorary 'adherent' of the congregation as Archie was.

And the point of my telling you about Hugo? Well it is that, make no mistake, we have been given by God the wonderful privilege of having 'dominion' over all living creatures, but with that comes huge responsibility and rest assured we will be judged as to how we have treated them during our lives shared with them. God loves us for sure, each and every one of us as if there was only one of us to love, but for sure he loves also all his creatures, both great and small, wild and domestic.

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

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Syrian Families and Arran Have a Day Together

Monday 3rd April dawned as an 'ordinary' day with a rather wet and windy outlook. By the end of the afternoon the mood had changed to one of admiration and a feeling of humbleness. The reason for this – the visit to the island of a group of 13 Syrian refugee families from the Three Towns. The conditions they endured to get to this part of our country is just beyond our comprehension.

It makes one realise how lucky we are to live in a place such as Arran. One family left the city of Homs and headed for Jordan where their baby son Mohamad was born. Then with their three other children and the new baby they made their way to Saltcoats where they now live. They are happy there and have found the local people very kind. It was a humbling experience talking with them – no bitterness whatsoever, just a feeling of gratitude.

There were other similar stories but judging from the laughter, chatter and comradery in the Kinloch Hotel the day was appreciate all round and made "the locals" glad to have had a hand in welcoming these amazing families to Arran.

Anon. from one of our participating members

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## More News About Our Syrian Friends and How They Came to Arran

"Are WE Doing OUR Bit?"

an account from Evelyn Hamilton

This was a question raised by a member of our session in relation to the Syrian Refugee Crisis and in particular the families who have come to live in the Three Towns. Sadly the answer was "**NO**" - but not for long as from that

discussion wheels were put in motion and a visit to Arran was planned. Phone calls were made; hurdles were jumped, people were approached; buses were booked; venue was booked; offer from Arran Youth Foundations (AYF) to host lunch for the young people in the cabins at the High School; the date was set! Not sure whether our guest would take up the offer after all they have only been in Ayrshire less than six months ..... how wrong we were! **ALL** thirteen families (61 people) welcomed our invitation and along with two of their support workers and two interpreters they journeyed to Arran on Monday 3rd April.

Parents, adults and under 5yrs enjoyed a trip round the North End with a guided tour by Ian Hendry and a comfortable journey with Garry at the wheel. The deer on the Lochranza hills were out in full force! They were interested in the history of the island, the agriculture and tourism. We stopped briefly to stretch legs and have a wee snack, each family had packed a variety of flat breads and chicken along with tomatoes and yogurt with flasks of sweet tea.....all of which they were keen for us to try.



Onward to our destination Kinloch Hotel and warm welcome from some 15 members of our congregation. We all sat to lunch and enjoyed getting to know one another with little difficulty being understood as they are all working hard learning English and having children at school is an obvious bonus. There was a lovely little girl called Nora (4yrs) who already has a strong Ayrshire accent and was a character, I found her very useful to help me translate.

Some of the parents and children visited Bellview Farm to see the lambs and one little boy had the thrill of a ride on the tractor. Others stayed behind and had fun in the swimming pool.

It was clear that this group of people had not all met up before so we were not the only strangers however by the end of the day the warmth and smiles in the room spoke volumes.



Graeme and Hollie, our AYF youth workers, Moira the sessional worker and AYF young folk treated the over 5yrs and teenagers to a day of dance, games, instrument playing and lunch that Arran Youth prepared and cooked for their guests - who clearly had a great time and were all still buzzing when we met up at the pier at the end of the day!

Each family went off with a Visit Arran bag with Arran goodies donated from Wooleys Bakery & Patterson Arran, colouring crayons and paper from the Book and Card Shop and James Bannatyne kindly bought sweets for the children (perhaps the adults had some too!)

This was a day when people from very different backgrounds in a situation not of their choosing came to visit Arran and shared a very special time with us. Perhaps now we will look at the news through different eyes.

Thank you Lord for planting that seed that grew into a day in which we learned more about the love you taught us for one another. Amen.

Note: A big thank you to the 15 people in our congregation who were involved in organising this day and being with our Syrian friends on the boat, the bus and at the Kinloch. This is our first step in seeking how we can do a small thing to welcome the strangers seeking hope and safety in our country. Our special thanks to Alan Burnett who was our lead organiser.



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ST. MOLIOS GUILD



Our Guild branch is part of Ardrossan Presbyterial Council, which has a number of gatherings each year to which any number of us may attend. This June, at 2.15p.m. on Tuesday 6th we will be the hosts for the June rally and as such, will be receiving between 50 and 70 Guild members from Arran and across the

water. The speaker on this occasion is Mrs Karen Gillon, the Guild's assistant secretary in Edinburgh. Karen has recently joined the Guild office from World Mission and is a great asset.

Our link Guild in Glasgow – St Francis in the East is very keen to maintain strong connections next session and we hope to have a day away to a place of interest and to share with each other - at least one meeting during the year on Arran and one in Glasgow.

In March Mrs Ailsa Henderson spoke to us about the education programme working in Northern Kenya to end the horrific practice of female genital mutilation(FGM) which causes young girls and women untold suffering and in some cases death. The Guild has never been a shrinking violet when it comes to difficult issues, being the first to draw to the Church of Scotland's attention to the need to speak out against and advocate for the end to sex trafficking and modern day slavery both in UK and the world at large.

Following our ABM on 19th April we were able to disburse £755.00

Care for the Family 'Let's Stick Together Project	£200
Christian Aid 'Care for Mother Earth' Solar Ovens	£200
Fellowship of the Least Coin	£ 55
St Molios	£100
Arran Youth Foundations	£100
Playlist for Life (Sally Magnussen)	£100.

We are grateful to the congregation and to the community at large for their support at the June BBQ (this year to be held on Friday 23rd June,) Harvest Lunch in October and Guild Week celebrations in November.

Helen Kerr, Guild Secretary

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**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March was the World Day of Prayer.** Fifty five attended the service in Holy Cross Church Brodick, which was prepared by women in the Philippines. This year we enjoyed the presence of a group of *Filipinas* who all work at Cooriedoon. They came in their traditional costumes and not only told us about some of the less fortunate women in their country but sang a song to us at the end of the service.

**The Good Friday Walk of Witness** in Brodick started at 2p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church – 65 were there - standing room only except for those who were infirm or disabled. After a short act of worship all who were able walked in silence through the village and were joined by another 16 who were not fit to do the walk, when we had a further 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 Holy Week and the Passion followed by Easter Joy on the Sunday.

Helen Kerr ACT Representative



### **Charlotte, aged 15 writes on behalf of Tearfund Scotland**

My name is Charlotte, I'm 15 years old and I live in the West of Scotland. I have never been, nor do I expect to be any time soon - married.

Why would I even be thinking of marriage at my age? Most teenagers in the western world have freedom unimagined. We don't go about our daily business thinking, "Wow, I am so blessed to be here today," but we should, because we are.

**I recently got involved in Tearfund Scotland's hard-hitting photography exhibition about child marriage for International Women's Day.**

This is where I learned about Gertrude, who is 14 and lives in rural Malawi, where they have a child marriage rate of 46 per cent. She was sold by her uncle to a 41 year old man for the equivalent of £3, which is how much it costs to buy a chicken where she lives.

I find it absolutely appalling and truly saddening that this has happened to a young girl who could have easily been me. I cannot imagine the panic she must have felt. But thanks to Tearfund's church partners, the story didn't end there. Gertrude was rescued and returned to school only 6 days after she was taken.

A lot of the time it can seem like what we do here in Scotland has no

effect on what is happening around the world. But through the power of prayer, God uses us to speak into people's situations, no matter how far away they are. I would like to thank all supporters for the generous way in which you give, it is your contributions that help make Tearfund's work possible.  
Yours,

Charlotte, aged 15, on behalf of Tearfund Scotland.

### **Letter of Appreciation from NAC**

Morning Alan,

I just returned from annual leave last week and managed to squeeze in visits to a couple of families on Thursday.

These families spoke very highly of the trip and really enjoyed the day out. (The kids loved it). I will look to gather feedback from the others, but I am sure that their responses will be exactly the same.

Can I pass on a big thank you again from all the 13 families (and staff) for the lovely gesture and the very warm welcome they received from everybody involved (especially to you and Graeme for facilitating the trip/activities). I hope that you also enjoyed meeting the families and I'm looking forward to seeing the pictures....

Thanks and Regards

Steven Caddis

Team Manager - Refugee Support

Housing Services, NAC

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Christian Aid has supported refugees since the organisation was established in 1945. Today around the world 65 million people don't have a safe place to call home. We won't stop now.

This year's CAW will focus on supporting displaced people. Each of these people has a story to tell. Nejebar fled Afghanistan with her family after the Taliban threatened to kill her husband, Noor, who was a teacher.

When the family arrived at the refugee camp in Greece, they thought they would only stay for 10 days. But they've been there six months. They live in a tent and there's no school for their children. Nejebar holds them together throughout this uncertainty. She has welcomed Faraidoon and Farzad into the family, two brothers who don't know where their parents are.

We still have some hope for our children's future says Nejebar. We only want a Peaceful life. We want our children to go to school. The most important thing is our children.

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*Editor: Christian Aid week house-to-house collection starts on 14<sup>th</sup> May. Please give generously. Volunteer collectors please contact Joan Stewart 860479.*

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When We are Short of Time Keeping in Touch



For some reason, we can struggle these days to make time to read our Bible. I have found tuning into Premier Christian Radio can help me be in touch with our Lord's teaching on a daily basis. Premier Christian Radio, Praise and Premier Gospel are three UK-based radio stations, part of Premier (a Christian communications organisation) dedicated to bringing you the best inspirational programming and music.

Find this at premierpraise.com with a choice 3 stations to listen to. Oddly I can get this channel on my car DAB radio but not DAB radios in the house, any suggestions would be welcomed.

Happy listening, it can make a difference to your day.

from Evelyn Hamilton

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### ***Pause for Thought during Easter Season***

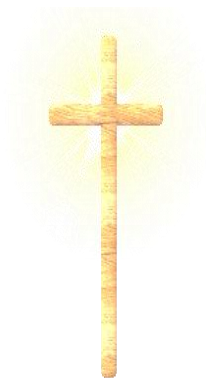
Adam and Eve - The first people not to read  
the Apple Terms and Conditions!

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1 cross

+3 nails

=4 given



‘Before the war, life was good: I worked as an assistant in a law office in Damascus, I had a good life,’ remembers Maya*, a mother of four from Syria.

As the war in Syria rages on, these memories of life before the conflict are slowly slipping away – happy children, family dinners and safe neighbourhoods have all become a thing of the past.

Maya never wanted to leave her home, but life in Damascus became increasingly difficult and dangerous. Eventually she was faced with an agonising decision: ‘I had to leave it all behind and flee – this war is destruction.’

Maya’s husband Tarek* was in Germany and waiting for them. Maya planned to cross the Syrian border into Turkey by foot, with her children, before making her way through Greece to finally be reunited with Tarek, where they would stay until the war ended.

PERBORDER CROSSING

With little more than some cash and precious jewelry – which had been a gift from her parents-in-law – Maya and her young children left everything they knew and began the long, perilous journey to Europe.

They met some other women and children who were also crossing into Turkey with the help of some smugglers. Maya felt safe in the company of the women and their helpers, but things soon went wrong.

‘After crossing the border into Turkey, the smugglers took our bags and some of our money and important papers,’ explains Maya. In spite of this setback, Maya and the others soldiered on.

‘I walked for three days with my youngest daughter on my back so we wouldn’t cause any delays,’ she recalls. ‘But once we crossed over into

Turkey, we were walking in the mountains, and were attacked by a group of men.

‘We were ordered to take off our clothes and they took the remaining cash and jewelry we had hidden in our clothes. They threw our clothes back at us, leaving us with nothing else.’

NO GIVING UP

Humiliated and destitute, Maya mustered her strength to continue the long journey for the sake of her children. The odds were against them, but Maya wasn’t ready to give up their flight to freedom. With nothing but the clothes on their backs and a steadfast resolve, Maya and her young children made their way through Turkey. Once in Greece they passed through Chios, Athens and Idomeni before finally arriving, exhausted, at a refugee camp in Katerini.

Although the camp provided some support, unaccompanied women like Maya are often vulnerable to sexual violence. In fact, the Greek Evangelical Church of Katerini, with support from Tearfund’s partner, Dorcas, identified a clear need to provide a safe space for the most vulnerable refugees.

A SAFE SPACE

In response they set up safe houses – places where vulnerable families could be moved whilst awaiting resettlement. The families also receive access to health services, hygiene and sanitation facilities, and protection services including psycho-social and legal support working urgently for the reunification of families. Realising the trauma Maya’s family had experienced both in Damascus and on their journey to Europe, Dorcas identified them as eligible for the safe house programme.

After years of war, and months of travelling, the family were finally able to take refuge in a safe and comfortable place. As they left the camp, and saw their flat for the first time they hugged and kissed each other – overwhelmed. Maya exclaimed, ‘You have taken us in – we have a house with a door that locks, a key!’

BEING A FAMILY

With the help of local church members, who give donations of food and clothes to those in the safe houses, Maya and her children finally had food to eat, and clean clothes to wear. It's a faint glimpse of what their old family life used to look like.

'You have given us provisions, food, we can cook and have meals like a family – you treat us with dignity. We have a life again! You found us in this state and you gave us a home to live in – to live like a real family,' Maya shares.

Maya's husband Tarek was able to rejoin his wife and family from Germany for a short time. Although he soon had to return to Germany, he left feeling assured that his wife and children were in safe hands.

'I am going back to Germany, but I am leaving my wife and children with my new brothers – you,' he told our partners.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have been able to help many families like Maya's to be a family again, and to give them a place to call home, whilst they wait to be resettled.

***Names have been changed to protect identities.**

PLEASE PRAY

- We praise God that Maya and her children are now safe in Greece, and we pray that their family might be reunited permanently soon.
- We give thanks for the church in Greece, who are practically serving refugees like Maya with great love and commitment.
- We pray for peace in Syria, so that families like Maya's can one-day return to their homes

This edition of our magazine has many articles about Syria and the Syrian People. Some come from our Church of Scotland bimonthly World Mission magazine. We have seen many horrendous scenes of the war in Syria but now our news has moved on to local elections and a general election but the plight of people caught up in war in Syria and elsewhere, goes on and they still need

our prayers. Pray that we will not grow weary of remembering them even when the media move on to other matters.

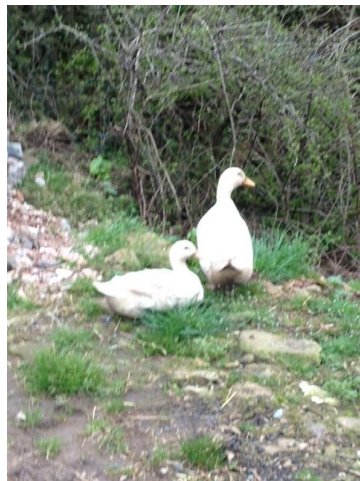
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**No Room for Complacency!** but as a fund raiser it is quite remarkable that of all the Charities in the UK the Church of Scotland is number 29<sup>th</sup> highest - in the whole of the UK. Yes!

*From the Church of Scotland's Communications Department –  
Information from a survey by charities' regulation*

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Some photos down on the farm with the Syrians





What a pity we cannot see the huge grin on five year old Kareem's wee face
when Donald took him for a ride in the tractor.

It was such a joy to see the pleasure the visit gave our visitors.

Thanks Janess for the pictures.

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### ***Baptism***

***'Suffer the Little Children to Come unto Me'***

***On 19<sup>th</sup> February***

*Sebastian Mackintosh baby son of*

*Callum William and Diana Margaret Dundas of Lenzie*

## ***Funerals***

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

***On 9<sup>th</sup> March***

*George Tod of Balgowan Farm*

***On 28<sup>th</sup> April***

*John Chalmers of Kinloch Court*

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Dates for the Diary

- Sun. 7th May Holy Communion at 12 noon
- Sun 14–21 May Christian Aid house-to-house collection Joan Stewart is looking for volunteers collectors. Please give generously.
- Tues 6th Jun The Ardrossan Presbyterial Council Guild Rally meets in St Molios church at 2.15p.m. speaker Ms Karen Gillon Guild Associate Secretary.
- Frid. 23rd Jun The Guild annual BBQ in the church grounds (weather permitting) at 7p.m.
- Sun. 4th Jun Pentecost at the Preaching Cave Kilpatrick shore at 3.30pm.
- Wed 12th July Church Sale in Shiskine Public Hall at 7.30pm.
- Sat 15th July Brodick summer Fayre time TBA.
- Sat 29th July Shiskine Garden Party 2-4pm.
- Last Wed May. Prayers for Health and Healing 12noon in Brodick church.
- Last Thur. Jun Prayers for Health and Healing 12noon in Shiskine.
- 1st Thurs Taize style worship at 3.30 or 7.00pm (see notice in the
each month Banner), held in St Molios church. All welcome.

Flower Fellowship



May Gerry Arthur

June

July Laura Murchie

August Jan Crawford

Thanks to those who make our church even more beautiful.