

St Molios Church Magazine



AUTUMN – October 2022

When Her Majesty Came to the Coffee Morning!

A happy day to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee



Dress code perhaps not quite up to scratch!

Janet, Jeanette and Joan enjoyed HM's company



Thanks to Evelyn and her team and all who made the morning a huge success.

From Our Interim Moderator, Rev. Tom Macintyre

Safely Gathered In!



Wow! What an amazing Harvest

What a buzz – with folks from all the congregations singing their praise and enjoying real warm fellowship at lunch!

I just love harvest and since I am a grower of

Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Corrie Church on Sunday 2nd October!

vegetables, I love to see the garden produce on the communion table. What really caught my eye was a lovely basket of apples!

At the community allotments in Ardrossan, where I grow my vegetables, there is a long apple hedge...and we were permitted to take the windfall apples. The grower of the hedge said: 'They're only windfalls. But do the best you can with them'

They didn't look up to much, if truth be told - an ill-assorted collection – some battered and bruised with discoloured skins; some worm-eaten or pecked by the birds; some shrivelled and mostly pips and core – or so we thought!

Then, feeling guilty at having rejected some of them, Marian set to work. Peeled and trimmed, the bruised bits removed, sliced and sugared and gently simmered, they took on a new appearance. The kitchen was soon filled with the fragrant smell of cooking fruit.... and I began to have visions of golden-crustured apple tarts, apple sauce, Eve's puddings, and crumbles.

There are lots of ‘human windfalls’ in our world today – people who are bruised or broken by the winds of change, by lack of money or jobs, or shaken by natural disaster or tragedy. It is all too easy for us to reject or ignore them. Marginalised, ignored, even rejected by our society, the ‘human windfalls’ are often ‘written out’ of the series, or consigned to the sidelines of life.

It was the same in Bible times. The lepers, the beggars, the mentally ill, the refugees and even the tax collectors were outcasts.

Then came Jesus to restore them to their rightful place in the community. Jesus, who recognised the potential behind the outwardly damaged facades. For in God’s sight, there are no rejects or second-class citizens. All have a unique contribution to make in the building of his kingdom.

So...take a basket of ‘windfalls’ and, with love and care, use them to make a feast! What does that mean? In our churches we have constantly to look out for the people who need our love, care and compassion. They are all around us. It is only then that the Harvest will be safely gathered in and complete.

Wow! Wouldn’t that be great!

Tom Macintyre

As you can see the considerable amount of food donated to the foodbank and the offering going to the fuel bank came to over £574.08. If you know of any individual or families struggling to pay bills this winter please put them in touch with Catherine Jenks at 870245 when all communications will be treated with absolute confidentiality.

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Hello folks,

The long days and evenings when it was daylight until near midnight are gone once again. It’s time to “batten down the hatches” and prepare for winter as this year of 2022 draws to a close. It most certainly has been an eventful year so far, exposing us to war, natural disasters and man-made disasters but,

every now and again, giving us some good news to give us a lift – to keep us going.

This last quarter of the year is a busy time in the Christian calendar. We have just had an incredibly successful all-Arran Harvest Thanksgiving: an uplifting service with incredible singing and much fellowship and a lovely lunch shared after the service. In case you didn't hear, all the food donations went to the foodbank and the collection of £574 (and 8p) was given to the fuel fund. Both these facilities will, I suspect, be in much demand over the winter.

The next significant date in the N. Arran Parish calendar is the joint Communion service in Lochranza on 6 Nov, led by our Interim Moderator, Rev Tom Macintyre.

This is followed by Remembrance Sunday on 13 Nov. Rev Dr Ian Macleod will conduct the services at the war memorials and churches in Brodick and Corrie. I will be at war memorials and services in Pirnmill and Shiskine. This is always an emotive time since most of us of a "certain age" have family stories of war or were involved directly in some way. For me, it is heartening that many of our younger people in this country have no experience whatsoever of war or conflict of any kind. However, this time of remembrance is an opportunity to alert them to the consequences of armed conflict, both on individuals and countries.

This year the 27 Nov is the first Sunday in Advent. The four Sundays before Christmas take us slowly through the Bible story and remind us of how we got into this pickle we have come to call life and how God's plan to join us in it and raise us out of it came to pass. In Advent the prophets call us to a new way of living in preparation for the coming of our Saviour, the kind of living worthy of what Jesus called the Kingdom of heaven, a living that will transform us into active assets for bringing in that Kingdom, full of the life of Christ himself with the promise that he will be with us every step of the way. So, four Sundays, four themes and sets of readings, four candles to light to speak of justice, peace, faith, and love.

And then, finally, after the anticipation, the build-up, comes Christmas day – which falls on a Sunday this year. I hope you manage the secular side of the Christmas preparations and arrive at the day feeling full of genuine Christmas spirit.

Every blessing for this coming season. May it truly be a peaceful, joyful celebration of the birth of our friend and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*Liz*

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### **Ardrossan Presbytery to – News from Presbytery of the South West**

On Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, Ardrossan Presbytery was united with the Presbyteries of Annandale & Eskdale, Ayr, Dumfries & Kirkcudbright, Irvine & Kilmarnock and Wigtown & Stranraer to make a Presbytery of the South West of Scotland. A service of union was held in St Marnock's Church, Kilmarnock and was attended by Ministers, Deacons, Elders, Corresponding members and others from all of the six Presbyteries which extends from Largs in the North to Annan and beyond in the south west, a very wide area. At that service, Rev Brian Hendrie, a minister from Ayr was installed as Moderator for the new SWP and Mrs Kirsty Murray, former Session Clerk of Mauchline Parish Church, was installed as Presbytery Clerk. With the new Clerk responsible for the whole of the new Presbytery of the South West, I am now retired from the role of Presbytery Clerk of Ardrossan. For the most I have enjoyed the role of Clerk for the last six years, however it has been very challenging at times and I am now a bit relieved to have been released from serving in that capacity.

After the service, the Business of the new South West Presbytery began. There was then a break for lunch across the road in the Howard Centre for folk to meet up and enjoy fellowship with one another. After lunch the new Conveners of the Committees gave a presentation. It was a very friendly meeting and much positivity for the way ahead which is quite encouraging for working together, going forward to carry out the work of Christ's kingdom.

After years of consultations and planning with much apprehension the day had gone well and bodes well for the future. The plan is to have two in-person meetings a year and two online meetings with a lot of the committee meetings being online. The new Presbytery has begun and will evolve over the months and years ahead, trusting in the Lord and listening for His guidance.

Although Ardrossan Presbytery has now ceased to exist, some of its work has still to be completed. The Presbytery Mission Plan that I have explained about in previous Newsletters is still ongoing. Ardrossan Presbytery at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> August received an Extract Minute from Faith Nurture Forum that they had agreed to the Approved Ardrossan Presbytery Mission Plan (PMP) that was submitted to them. However, this triggered the process of a Request by Kirk Sessions to seek a Review (Appeal) of the decision of the Presbytery or Faith Nurture Forum for their congregations and they had fourteen days to do that. The Requests for Review are now with the Review Panel appointed at this Year's General Assembly for such purpose. We now await the Review Panel's decision before the Ardrossan Presbytery Mission Plan can be implemented.

For our congregation and Arran as a whole, we have to wait until the PMP can be implemented before we can move forward with a union of the congregations and eventually get to call a minister and a Ministries Development Staff worker for Arran.

However, we here in St Molios and on Arran, in the meantime are well served by those who minister to us. We 'Look Forward in Faith' – as the Guild theme tells us.

Every Blessing,

Jean Hunter, Presbytery Elder

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## Guild News

As ever, although smaller this year, our annual **congregational and community BBQ**, was an enjoyable get together on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August. The weather was fine and Alan and John K greatly assisted by keeping the supply of burgers and bangers coming, John Clarke again tickled the ivories for us with music

Our thank to them and to all who helped erect and take down gazebos and provide all the food and drinks. The sum raised was £385.00 for Guild funds.

Our first meeting, following the guild rededication service on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September, was two days later when we had a most engaging speaker from The Vine Trust talking about the Guild supported project in Kazunzu village, Tanzania, supporting families especially children infected/affected by HIV AIDS.

On 18 October we will meet as usual at 2p.m. and hear about the work of Release International – who support Christians, their families and communities suffering persecution and imprisonment and often those forced to flee their homes. It is good to be informed of the work of the church universal in such situations especially when we have such freedom of choice to worship and practise our faith.

At Our November meeting (15<sup>th</sup>), Rev. Andrew Clark, The new part-time minister in Arran Baptist Church and also part-time manager of Sannox Christian Centre, will speak to us.

In Dec. we will host a Christmas party on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. – to which you are all invited for a fun evening. Watch this space.

Our Guild is open to both men and women and we'd love to see you. We meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month throughout the year. Please contact Alison Burnett 860724 or Helen Kerr 860498.

Helen Kerr



**Linkage Discussion Group** meets every other week and from now to Christmas we hope to meet. Currently we are a small group and new members would be very welcome. Discussion can be wide ranging, topical and sometimes controversial. Our topic will be 'Towards Advent' Contact John Kerr 860498 for further details.

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Worship at the Clachan Slightly over 30 of us gathered at the Clachan on 25th September for our annual service which to our delight and inspiration was led by Angus Adamson. The weather almost managed to hold off raining, the singing was uplifting, and friends joined us from most of the island churches. Thanks to all who assisted with carting chairs and those assisting in leading.

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ACT Quiz and Social Evening saw 26 of us gathering in Brodick Church Hall on 1st Sept.

making five teams to stretch the little grey cells and enjoy being together for an evening. The team coming out on top was the Corrie/Holy Cross team. Well done them!

The next event will be **St Andrew's Celebration and Ceilidh** in Brodick Church and Hall on Wednesday 30th November starting with a short service at 6.30 p.m. followed by a ceilidh in the hall with entertainment. Do come and ask friends of all ages in the community to join us.

In December we will be asking the Coop if we may have our **Carol Singing** in the Shop from 11.00- 12 noon and giving customers our card of Christmas greetings with an invitation to come to the various services and celebrations in all our island churches.

The Service or Christian Unity – celebrated throughout the nation takes place on Sunday 15th January when all our churches worship together.

Please see below notes on our **food and fuel bank** with the number of those using the services is expected to rise during the winter all donations are greatly received.

Please note Each congregation has two voting representatives on Arran Churches Together Committee who are responsible for arranging and supporting the regular annual events of working and witnessing together as the Christian community on Arran. Everyone in the churches is a member of ACT and are encouraged to be involved in ACT events. All the churches contribute financially to ACT and give financially to the work of Arran Youth Foundations. Many individuals contribute to the support for the food and fuel banks – a vital support for any household on Arran who find it a struggle to make ends meet.

Currently Shiskine congregation has only one representative on ACT committee and if I am unable to attend any committee meeting or event we are not represented nor do we play our part. Please consider if you would be able to volunteer as the second representative from Shiskine. It involves a maximum of five meetings a year. And the fellowship is great! Talk to me for more information.

Helen Kerr
ACT Rep. and Convener

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**Pause for Thought** The American, John Bogle, founder of the Vanguard Group (credited with creating the first index investment fund) who passed away in 2019, once told a story about money that highlights something we don't think about enough:

At a party given by a billionaire on Shelter Island, Kurt Vonnegut (author) informs his pal, Joseph Heller (author), that their host, a hedge fund manager, had made more money in a single day than Heller had earned from his widely popular novel, Catch-22, over its whole history. Heller responds, "Yes, but I have something he will never have ..... enough."

*Enough.* I was stunned by the simple eloquence of that word – stunned for two reasons: first, because I have been given so much on my own life and, second, because Joseph Heller couldn't have been more accurate.

For a critical element of our society, including many of the wealthiest and most powerful among us, there seems to be no limit today on what *enough* entails.

**A Special Person and a Special Birthday**



We were delighted to help Elspeth celebrate her big 80 at the coffee morning of 13<sup>th</sup> October when she received cards, a balloon, a birthday cake and a bonnie planter with plants and flowers in it.

**Deaths**

*Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life"*

9<sup>th</sup> May            John Lammie, of Moniquil, Senior elder in St Molios

19<sup>th</sup> August       Christine Bell of Bridge End Campsite, Shiskine



# SHISKINE FOOD SHARE



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**EVERY SUNDAY AT THE ST.  
MOLIOS CHURCH HALL,  
SHISKINE AT 9PM**

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THE FOOD SHARE IS OPEN TO ALL ON  
ARRAN, COME ALONG AND HELP US  
PREVENT SHORT LIFE FOOD FROM  
GOING IN THE BIN!

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**OF FOOD ALREADY DIVERTED FROM  
INCINERATION & USED BY ARRAN LOCALS!**

**Eco Savvy** holds a **Zero Waste Café** every other Wednesday in the church hall (on blue bin days!) from 11a.m. to 1p.m. For a donation, enjoy soup of the day or salad tea/coffee and a goody. Cereals are available for a modest price (bring your own container) Canned goods and some vegetable also available.

### **Arran Churches Together Arran Churches Together Foodbank**

Another year has passed since our last annual report and unfortunately, as seen by the number of items used, there is still a great need for the continuation of the Foodbank.

In recent months the number of items taken has gradually increased with over 1400 items in September. With the cost of living crisis, this was not unexpected and is only likely to get worse. The total annual figure of 13,129 items is less than the previous two years when we had the pandemic, but more than pre-pandemic totals in 2018-2019.

Frozen foods are available at the Co-op so we no longer supply them and, whilst we bought toilet rolls during the pandemic, we now purely rely on donations.

Many thanks to everyone who donated food and money (£574.08) for the Foodbank at the Harvest Thanksgiving service at Corrie. What a great response!

Presently, we have a lot of tinned tomatoes, tinned chickpeas/kidney beans and long- life milk. Donations of any of the other listed items would be much appreciated.

In December, Social Work will let us know how many of their clients in need should be given a Christmas Bag of essentials and treats. We would really appreciate donations of food and Christmas treats in order to fill these bags. Donations of money to the Foodbank not only buys food but is also used to supply fuel to those in fuel poverty. Catherine Jenks, Treasurer of Arran Churches Together, is now in charge of supporting those in need.

Once again, the Foodbank Team wish to thank all of you who have supported the Foodbank over the past year and who have given so generously.

Items Always Needed: Tins of meats, vegetables and fruit (but no Tomatoes.)

## News from Cambodia

I hope everyone is doing well.

It's been a while, hasn't it? Apologies, procrastinating should be declared as an epidemic as it seems to happen to a lot of us lately. Right, where should I start first? Okay...my internship with Bloom Architecture ended on the 1 of July, it's such a great experience and I hope I will get the opportunity to work with them again in the near future but first I really need to get my bachelor's degree in order to work with them as a member and not just an intern.



Speaking of advancing my education, I've been asking the organisation that's been helping me find universities in UK to broadening their search to include the Republic of Ireland as well since most of the universities in the UK are absurdly expensive, hopefully they can help me out, I've completed my IELTS(International English Language Test) last month which I got a band score of seven - nothing to write home about really but at least I'm progressing, my friends are onward to study in the UK with one my friend Tey studying in Portsmouth and the other studying in Coventry for two years each respectively.

I've missed all of you and Arran so much and I hope I get to be there again in the near future.

As for Helen, we're still waiting to set up her Schengen Visa for her visit the Netherlands as she's already acquired her British one. I'm ecstatic that all of you are going to finally get to meet her soon. I hope everything goes as planned with the European Embassy with no delays and pushovers.

God Bless,

Chea

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Dates for Our Diary

- Saturday 5 Nov. Linkage joint **kirk sessions and boards/deacons' court** at 2p.m.
- Sunday 6 Nov. **Holy Communion** for North Arran Linkage in **Lochranza Church** at 11.00 a.m.
- Sunday 13 Nov. **Remembrance Sunday** will be commemorated first at the Shiskine War Memorial at 12 noon followed by worship in St Molios at 12.15 p.m.
- Every second week **The Linkage Discussion Group** will recommence in Oct. Contact John Kerr 860498 for details of date and venue.
- Last Wed. each month **Prayers for Health and Healing** in Brodick Church transept at 12 noon, following Brodick St Bride's Ladies coffee morning from 10.30. Tea/Coffee.
. 30 Nov. Jan.
- Every Thursday **St Molios Coffee Morning** 10.30 – noon. All welcome.
- First Thurs Nov. **Taize service** in Holy Cross church Brodick at 3p.m. All are welcome. No Taize service in December and January
- Wednesday 30 Nov **Arran Churches Together** St. Andrew's Night worship 6.30 followed by a Ceilidh in Brodick church hall
- Saturday 11th Dec **Carols at the Co-op** 11a.m. – noon
- Sunday 15th Jan **Christian Unity Service** Venue TBA
- Every other Wed' day **Zero Waste Café** 11.00-13.00 in the church hall on Wed. every 2ns week (same day as we put the blue bin out)
- Every Sunday at 9p.m. **Eco Savvy Food Share** in the church hall Food to take!

Useful Contacts

St. Molios Church in the Parish of North Arran

		Telephone no.
Interim Moderator	Rev. Tom Macintyre	01294 788678
Locum Minister	Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke	01770 860219
Elders	Dr. Alan Burnett	860742
	Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke	860219
	Mr. John Clarke	860219
	Mrs. Evelyn Hamilton	860233
Presbytery Elder	Mrs. Jean Hunter	810218
	Mrs. Helen Kerr	860498
Session Clerk	Mr. John Kerr	860498
	Mrs Elizabeth McCarthy	860727
Deacons' Court Clerk	Mr. John McCarthy mob.07870643011	860727
Organist	Mr. John Clarke	860219
<i>Pastoral Support Team</i>		
Coordinator	Mrs. Helen Kerr (temporary)	860498
Magazine Editor	Mrs. Helen Kerr	860498

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**Church Flowers** Thank you to all the ladies who provide beautiful flower arrangements in church: Oct. Morag Liddell; Nov. Pat Adamson; Dec. Team work and in Jan. Gerry Arthur.

**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 January 2023.