

**Isle of Arran Church of Scotland
In
St. Molios Shiskine**



November 2023

A Very Blessed and Happy Advent and Christmas Season

Christmas is coming, the day is soon here,
lift up your glass to wish goodness and cheer.
Think of the ones who are struggling and say:
we pray God be with you today.

We pray good news will meet you,
joy will surround you,
hope will light up your way.
And we ask God to bless you,
send his grace for you,
we pray God be with you today.

Whether with family or maybe alone,
out with a friend or you're tucked up at home,
walking the streets or you're working away,
we pray God be with you today.

We pray good news will meet you,
joy will surround you,
hope will light up your way.
And we ask God to bless you,
send his grace for you,
we pray God be with you today.

From Our Interim Moderator

In the right place at the right time?

So much of life's positive outcomes seem to depend on being in the right place at the right time. We've all experienced this, even in small ways. On a recent visit to Cornwall, we enjoyed lovely sunny days, but one day, in Padstow, there was a shower - and suddenly a brilliant rainbow appeared arching over the seaside harbour. We were in the right place.....

Someone whom we know, who had just moved to a new town, told us about an occasion when she lost her way simply by coming out of the station in time to catch a bus, but on the wrong side of the road. The bus took her in the opposite direction to where she wanted to go, resulting in a long tour round the neighbourhood before she realised her mistake. Right time but wrong place!

I suppose many of you may be wondering if we are 'in the right place at the right time' just now and perhaps you would rather be somewhere else!

With all that's happening just now in the Arran churches, there is a great deal of uncertainty and perhaps anxiety. We may well ask ourselves, as I have, are we in the right place at the right time? Recently I have found it difficult, being remote from the scene, to second-guess what's going on in folks' minds regarding the changes taking place. Liz Clarke and myself are fielding questions and correcting misinformation on a daily basis.

We have been going through a process of change which not everyone understands. I expect your elder has been trying to keep you up to date on what is happening.

So where do we stand right now? Having been through the stages of the Presbytery Mission Plan and agreed the Basis of Union, we have marked our newly formed Union at the service on the 1st October. I think most people would agree that it was an important milestone on our journey forward. We must continue to pray for and encourage our fellow members those buildings are closing.

The new Kirk Session has met twice and is involved in forming working teams – Mission and Discipleship, Young People and Families, Pastoral Care, Safeguarding, Finance and Property – which will carry out the essential tasks along with the new minister and support worker. This is a work in progress and will take time to develop. With the unitary constitution of the Kirk Session, former Board members and Deacons, as well as members, are invited to join one of these teams to help the future mission of the congregation and parish. That could be you! With the gifts and talents that God has given you – your church needs you!

Are you in the right place at the right time?

At this time, the Kirk Session as a body is seeking to ensure that your name is on the electoral roll of the new congregation. Once this is authenticated by the Presbytery then a Nominating Committee will be elected by you, the members of the congregation. This committee will then seek for a minister on your behalf. That person will, God willing, be in the right place, at the right time.

Whether we are thinking of helping in a team, looking for new opportunities in our Christian life or waiting to meet someone special, it is important to be in the right place at the right time. Perhaps we sometimes envy the friends of Jesus born in his time and place, but one of the wonders of our God is that his love spans time and space. So, we can be sure that in his presence the right place is where we are, and the right time is now.

Wishing you many blessings.

Tom Macintyre – Interim Moderator

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**Harvest Thanksgiving** On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October we all enjoyed celebrating in song and word the abundance of God's gifts. The gifts of money and in kind went to the Arran Churches Together foodbank. – see photo on the front page.

## Treasurer's Update

On the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023, when the union of Isle of Arran Church of Scotland came into effect, the finances of all the churches in the union were combined. We were also required to open a new bank account and over the next few months all bank accounts held in the names of Brodick, Corrie, Kilmory, Lamlash, Lochranza & Pirnmill, Shiskine and Whiting Bay Churches will be closed. A new bank account with the Co-operative Bank is now operating. Can I therefore ask those who make their offerings directly into any of the bank accounts that are due to close to change their instructions with their own banks with the following details.

Account name: Isle of Arran Church of Scotland

Sort code: 08-92-99

Account number: 67313455

For those who give by cheque would you please now make these out to - 'Isle of Arran Church of Scotland'

I have been appointed by the Kirk Session as Treasurer and a Finance Team has been formed consisting of myself, Eric Borland, Alison Burnett, Robert McLean, Fiona Henderson and Mairi Farquhar.

As it will take some time to bring the accounts together and I am unable to give you a financial update at the moment, so if you have any questions regarding the finances of the Church, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the finance team.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support.

Sylvia Alison Tel: 302613

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Christian Aid Award We were all delighted in St Molios, to see Joan Stewart receiving a long service award for over 30 years as Christian Aid Coordinator for Shiskine Valley both for the house-to-house collection in May each year and for supporting various Christian Aid fundraising events over the



years. Well done, Joan!

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### **Guild News**



In October we had an opportunity to think about where we are, or should be as a guild and also to discuss about our hopes and concerns about the church of the future. In November on 21<sup>st</sup> we look forward to hearing from Angela Cassels and Evelyn Hamilton as new members of the international organisation Association of Country Women World Wide. All are welcome. Come and bring a friend. The

guild is open to both men and women.

In December the Guild invites friends to join us for an evening of fun, fellowship and food at our Christmas party.

**Guild Together North Ayrshire (GTNA)** will hold a pre-Advent and Christmas celebration on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 2p.m. in Mansefield Church, Kilwinning. We hope members will consider gathering with sisters and brothers. Please talk to Alison Burnett, Sylvia Alision in Brodick or Helen Kerr.

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Arran Churches Together

The Foodbank demand is rising and as we all know the cost of living is soaring. The substantial funds are falling – as are food donations to the bank in the Coop. There are sufficient funds at the present rate of use but there will be an increased demand on the fuel fund as winter kicks in.

Donations of money are much appreciated as this allows the foodbank volunteers to buy the food items in short supply.

Our treasurer, Kate Jenks has moved to Wales but still keeps the accounts on line. This is of course not ideal and impossible for management of the fuel bank. We are therefore looking for someone from our church community to act as Coordinator and be the contact person for those needing assistance. There is also a need for one person in each village willing to replenish electricity keys at the nearest sub post office when the need arises. We already have someone for Shiskine Valley and for Pirmill.

As we go to print we have just heard of the death of Kate's much loved husband Robin, after a long and very taxing illness. Our prayers go up for her and family members at this time.

ACT Dates for your diary in December and January

Christmas Music Concert-Cambridge Students in Brodick Church at 7p.m. on Wednesday 6th December. No Tickets – donations for the Foodbank.

Carols at the Coop 11.00 – 12.00 on Saturday 9th December. Come and lend your voice singing Christmas carols to all the customers when we give them Season's Greetings and news of all our times of worship over the festive season.

Service of Christian Unity in Shiskine Free Church Torbeg at 12 noon on Sunday 21st January. There will be no services in any of the four church of Scotland worship places that Sunday.

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thank you

From John and Helen

We want to give our sincere thanks to all our family members and friends who made our golden wedding celebrations so happy and memorable. Thank you for all the cards, telephone calls, Facebook, greetings, and time! – to come to Arran for two days instead of one (thanks to Calmac breaking down!) For a lovely big cake for the occasion, enjoyed at our family gathering and, at the harvest lunch on the 15<sup>th</sup> October and two days later at the Guild meeting – how to spread the event over 10days! Thanks to the folk in St, Molios for presenting us with a beautiful planter after church on 15<sup>th</sup> October.



**Deaths**

**'Jesus said' I am the resurrection and the life'**

5<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Sandra Brown Muir

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Message from Sally Foster-Fulton – Moderator of the Church of Scotland

"Friends,

I reach out to you all as we reach out to grapple with the shattering violence unfolding in Israel and Gaza and ask for your prayers and your action.

"Across Scotland our Jewish friends, neighbours and colleagues grieve the loss of loved ones following the devastating terrorist attacks we witnessed, worry for friends and family who have been kidnapped and fear the possibility of increased antisemitism in their own neighbourhoods as tensions rise across the world.

"In Scotland our friends with family in Gaza mourn the loss of loved ones, worry for those unable to find safety or a place of refuge and fear an even more uncertain future.

"Together we agonise , yet again, over peace gone to pieces. We desperately try to fathom how we can be any comfort to the members of our global family trapped in the middle of such a barrage of violence and fear. We are appalled by the horrifying brutality and the inhumanity of mass murder scenes which were broadcast across our screens in horrifying gut-wrenching detail.

"We call for calm and active consideration for the innocent civilians who are suffering in Israel and Gaza. Peace in our world can never come through violence. Peace in our spirits can never come through revenge.

"So, what can we do in the face of war?

"If you pray, pray from your guts, not your lips – offer a prayer that moves in you – one that calls you to reach out to a fearful neighbour, to speak up for peace and calm and the unity of humanity,

"Pray for all those many injured and those mourning the loss of loved ones and those living in abject fear who await news of family members missing.

“Wherever you are check in on your Jewish neighbours, friends and colleagues. Wherever you are check in on your neighbours, friend and colleagues who have family in Gaza.

Wherever you are be mindful of your words. Tarring with a broad brush adds more fuel to the fire, so be kind to one another wherever you find each other.

“ The Zulu phrase ‘Ubunthu’, is the theme of my year as Moderator and its challenging truth resonates powerfully today, ‘I am because you are’ We are one global family. When we look into the face of another human being , God looks out from the window of their soul. Today, love God by loving each other.”

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**An important step in moving toward calling a minister.** All members are invited to propose individual registered members or adherents who have the suitable skills and discernment to be elected to the nomination committee tasked with seeking out a suitable minister to take us forward as a congregation. A person must agree to being proposed and must be prepared to travel. There needs to be people with a variety of gifts Please think carefully about this. Names of proposed nominations and seconder should be sent to Session Clerk Mrs. Sharon Macleod ([macleodsharon@hotmail.com](mailto:macleodsharon@hotmail.com)) on later than **26<sup>th</sup> November** Proposer and seconder must be present on 3<sup>rd</sup> December but the nominee may be proposed even if unable to be present that day. For further information contact John Kerr.

### **Important Dates to Remember**

For all kirk session members Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 14.00 in Brodick church hall there will be a **Kirk Session meeting.**

**To all in Isle of Arran Church of Scotland** On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 11.00 morning worship will be **in Whiting Bay St. Donan’s Church.** Following the service there will be a ballot for the nominating committee in which all members should take part. There will be no service in St. Molios Church that morning.

## Newsletter from Chea (Magarit) in Cambodia ....

Dear Family/Friends,

It's been quite sometime since my last letter. Let me start off by asking...how is everyone doing? Hope you are all well, I am currently doing okay at the moment.



Following my last letter, I believe I mentioned I had applied for and got accepted into Griffith College Dublin in the Republic of Ireland. I just needed to wait for the visa process...well fast forward to now I've finally got an answer to that visa deliberation; they've rejected my visa application. It would be an understatement if I say...I'm not devastated by the decision of the Irish Immigration Service. I was looking forward to advancing my education in one of Europe's leading design institutions. I was ready to learn and 'bask in the Irish culture and way of life'. I guess that's just me being naïve, thinking we're providing them with ample documents and more and my purpose of being there is purely to strengthen my education and knowledge but that still isn't enough for them to offer me a visa. I can't deny I grew bitter once I received my passport back (from the Embassy in Hanoi). In my mind I blamed it on me being from a disadvantaged (Global South) country of Cambodia, trying to seek education within one of Europe richest countries is just absurd I know that it's not clear cut and I understand it. It's just I have dedicated all of my time and energy into this just to get blocked on the finish line is just disheartening.

Sorry for ranting, I'm just wanting to let it all out because I've been bottling it up and about to burst along the seams. I want to thank both my grandparents (John and Helen) for their steadfast support in my time of need and encouragement to not give up and keep on pushing through.

Sincerely,

Chea

..... And from his sister Helen



Dear Everyone,

I hope you are doing well.

It's been a little while since you've heard from me, but I am doing quite alright. A little stressed but overall I've been getting enough sleep now and am able to have more free time. In other news; I've graduated! It happened on

June 2nd and I've finally turned 18 (I'm a legal adult now, woo).

Even though I have graduated, I don't feel any different because I'm still at my previous school, East-West, working as an intern. I enjoy being able to help out, but I don't enjoy running around the school so much again that is part of my job so I don't really have much to complain about. Everyone here has been treating me well and being able to work my first official job in a familiar place is less stressful.

While working, I have also been working on things I would need to be able to get into University next summer. I hope to be able to attend a University in Ireland, but I am looking into other options as well. Hopefully, I'll be able to attend the University I am hoping for.

Other than that, my life has been uneventful, but I am enjoying my current job and hopefully, I'll be able to visit you when I get the chance.

With lots of love,  
Helen.

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Useful Contacts in our New Isle of Arran Church of Scotland

| | Name | Telephone number |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| Interim Moderator | Rev. Tom Macintyre | |
| Locum Minister | Elizabeth Clarke | 860219 |
| Session Clerk | Sharon Macleod | 01770 700353 |
| Roll Keeper and Shiskine Contact | John Kerr | 860498 |
| Property matters | Alan Burnett | 860742 |
| Financial matters and Guild matters | Alison Burnett | 860742 |
| Prayers for Health and Healing and Church Magazine | Helen Kerr | 860498 |
| Organist | John Clarke | 860219 |
| Pastoral Care Coordinator | Helen Kerr | 860498 |
| More Elders | Evelyn Hamilton | 860233 |
| | Jean Hunter | 810218 |
| | Elizabeth McCarthy | 860727 |
| | John McCarthy | 07870643011 |

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Articles for the next magazine should be sent to Helen Kerr [jmghmk498@gmail.com](mailto:jmghmk498@gmail.com) by 15 January 2024. The format of the magazine is likely to change during next year as the kirk session decides the way forward but meantime it will follow this format. Thanks to all who contribute to it.