

# St Molios Church Magazine



JANUARY - 2023



**Note: Thank you Robin Bell for reminding us all of Christmas**

The photo on the cover page is of The Bells' at Bridge End's beautiful wooden carved large figures of the nativity of Jesus. Taken on a wet day through the heavy plastic protective covering makes it look rather mysterious with lighting making me think we were almost intruding.

It reminds me of two visits when my work took me to the Philippines at Christmas time when all the shops and streets were festooned with large tableaux of Christmas nativity scenes-the birth, the shepherds the wise men, reminding us all of the real meaning of Christmas Joy.

I have no idea if it is still so in Manila or like most countries, we have succumbed to our modern cultural decorations of Christmas imported from USA and Germany. I have nothing against snowmen and Rudolf the red nosed reindeer but it was a delight for me to take young Helen up to Bridge End to see this beautiful scene.

Thank you, Robin. I know it was not easy for you this year and we are glad you did put it up again.

Helen Kerr



## Letter from Elizabeth Clarke Our Locum Minister

Hello folks,

Happy New Year!

Aye, its 2023 already and we can be forgiven for looking at it with some trepidation. Having just come through the Covid lockdown we are now faced with global issues – conflict, warming, gas and electricity supplies – to name but a few. And then there are our “local” issues – cost of living, strikes, NHS and so on. And there are issues for each of us as individuals to grapple with.

I think I’m rather a “glass half full” person -quite positive - but it is difficult to remain so in the current circumstances.

In any time or sort of trouble there is an answer to be found in a book, actually THE book, God’s Word, the bible. When Fiona was leaving the island, she was given a New Testament from the church which had a section right at the front offering passages to read under different circumstances – loneliness, fear etc. I know she used them a lot as she began to make her own way in the world.

In Romans 5; 2b-4 it says,” And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

So, we can always depend on God’s help even as we struggle to make sense of the events in our lives. And while it may be a challenge, there are always positive things to think of to encourage the build up of Hope. There are times when just waking up to a new day gives hope.

While writing this, a hymn came to mind. Its not one we have sung often – but it will be! Have a look at the words for CH4 237 which begins with “Look forward in faith...”

Let us all do our best this 2023 to look forward in faith, focusing on the positive things in our lives, remembering that our “cup runneth over”.

### **Drinking from My Saucer**

**by John Paul Moore**



I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now.  
But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.  
And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.  
I don't have a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough.  
But I've got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.  
I thank God for his blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.  
I remember times when things went wrong, and my faith wore  
somewhat thin.  
But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through  
again.  
So God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I've hoed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage when the way grows steep  
and rough.

I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads.

Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has  
overflowed.

*Every blessing,*

*Liz*

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### **An Allegory Describing Belief and Disbelief in God**

submitted by E Clarke

“In a mother’s womb were two babies. One asked the other: “Do you believe in life after delivery?” The other replied, “Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later.”

“Nonsense,” said the first. “There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?” The second said, “I don’t know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can’t understand now.”

The first replied, “That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded.” The second insisted, “Well I think there is something and maybe it’s different than it is here. Maybe we won’t need this physical cord anymore.”

The first replied, “Nonsense. And moreover, if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery, there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere.” “Well, I don’t know,” said the second, “but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us.”

The first replied “Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That’s laughable. If Mother exists then where is she now?” The second said, “She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of her. It is in her that we live. Without her, this world would not and could not exist.”

Said the first: “Well I don’t see her, so it is only logical that she doesn’t exist.” To which the second replied, “Sometimes, when you’re in silence and you focus and listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can hear her loving voice, calling down from above.”

Maybe this was one of the best explanations of belief in GOD.

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**ST. MOLIOS GUILD**



**Guild News**

In November unfortunately our speaker got Covid. However, we showed several video clips from the organisation ‘Voice’, telling of the persecution of Christian communities in Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan, making us more aware that many do not

have the freedom to worship but remain faithful in spite of being the victims of violence.

Glacial conditions in the church forecourt made it prudent to call off our Christmas party which was a pity after all the preparations but the idea of such slippery surfaces and elderly folks it seemed the right thing to do.

In January we were delighted to have Rev. Andrew Clark of Arran Baptist Church give us a most interesting talk on his Journey of faith finally bringing him and his family to Arran, using our theme 'Wee Seed, Big Trees'.

On Tuesday 21 February Tuesday 21 at 2p.m. we shall meet when Sylvia Alison and Jean Hunter will give an illustrated talk on their visit to the Passion at Oberammergau. All are welcome to join us.

On March 21 a speaker from the Beat Project will pay us a visit. Beat works with people suffering from eating disorders and their families. Again, all are welcome to attend at 2p.m. on the day.

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Our Autumn meeting saw us arranging St Andrew's Evening worship and ceilidh in

Brodrick, Carols at the Coop, and preparing for the service of Christian Unity in January. We reviewed our social quiz evening in early September when 22 of us – all from churches on Arran enjoyed a fun evening, with Corrie and Holy Cross folks winning by a fair margin! However, I past such evenings we have enjoyed the company of visitors to the island and a few from the community at large and we still need to think what event we should hold at that time.

One disappointment we had at our meeting was not having Rev. Andrew Clark joining us and being company for Fr. Noel who has been our only 'in harness' ordained cleric on the island since Vince Jennings retired. Unfortunately, Andrew had fallen victim to the 'big C'.

**St. Andrews Night** The worship was led by Fr. Noel and 20+ went on to the church hall to enjoy an evening song, music with the Montrose Ceilidh Band, recitations and storytelling. - much laughter and fun.

**Carols a the Coop** For an hour a small group of us sang our hearts out and gave our greetings cards with info about all our Christmas services. Our thanks to Alice Maxwell for bringing along and playing her keyboard for us.

**Christian Unity Service** on 15 January in Lamlash Church was a joyous occasion with great hymns and good singing when over 100 from the different churches on Arran gathered together to worship. We were delighted to welcome Rev, Andrew Clark of Arran Baptist Church to lead the worship. The offering came to £481.70. It will be distributed to an agreed Christian charity(ies) at the next ACT meeting which will be held in Shiskine at 3p.m. on Thursday 9 February. At this meeting office bearers are due to stand down except the treasurer, Catherine Jenks.



**A CONUNDRUM!**

What is greater than God, More evil than the devil, The poor have it,  
The rich don't need it, And if you eat it, you'll die?

Answer on the next page



**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.



Many of those who pay a visit to our **Holy Week Labyrinth** on the Wednesday and Thursday (See dates for the Diary) come from other parts of the island. Why not set aside a time to reflect on the events of Holy Week this year 10 minute 20 minutes or even 30 minutes your choice.





# SHISKINE FOOD SHARE



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

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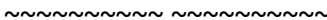
THE FOOD SHARE IS OPEN TO ALL ON  
ARRAN, COME ALONG AND HELP US  
PREVENT SHORT LIFE FOOD FROM  
GOING IN THE BIN!

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

**Any Food not taken up on Sunday evening will be stored in the  
freezer in the hall for anyone to take.**



Answer: Nothing!

Dear Everyone,

I hope you are doing well.

It has been more than a little hectic here back in Cambodia, but I'm coping well with everything and have already finished all of my mock exams, yay! But I do miss the three weeks that I spent back in the UK and the eight days that I spent on Arran.



As you might have already heard, my journey getting there was more than tumultuous with delays and cancellations; but even with all of these setbacks I have found that I enjoyed it a lot. Although I did love the time when I was able to just sit down and relax a little, having time to be able to study for my exams.

Time in Oxford allowed me to relax a little from my travels and let me walk around, seeing some of the architecture and history. I loved my time in London where I was able to see my first musical in person, instead of in front of a screen. I enjoyed the story of Les Miserable and all the performers were amazing. Time in Inverness allowed me to relive some memories of mine when I visited back in 2011 and be able to connect with people whom I haven't seen in a while. Then we visited Margaret (Grandpa's sister) and Walter who were very welcoming to grandma and me, but I wasn't able to talk with them much since I was too tired and went straight to sleep not long after I arrived at their house.

Then finally we arrived on Arran the next day. I was able to meet some of you at the coffee morning and spend a little time talking and getting to know you. I thoroughly enjoyed being able to have those conversations even though at the time I was still trying to remember some names, but it was nice. I was also able to remember the church, which was pleasant.

Time on Arran was mostly spent in rain and dark clouds, but I did love being able to sit a little. During my time on Arran, I consumed a large amount of tea although I did thoroughly enjoy the tea and hot chocolate, I'm not too sure the hot chocolate was a good idea for my health; I digress. I got to meet most of you and was able to take walks around the



**Useful Contacts**  
**St. Molios Church in the Parish of North Arran**

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



**Church Flowers** A big Thank you to Gerry Arthur and her team of gifted helpers for the lovely decorations in the church over Advent and Christmas

**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 26 March 2023.