

# St Molios Church Magazine



SUMMER – July 2022



***Some words of wisdom to think about.***

*Notice when you drive home today, you have got a big windscreen on the front of your car. And you've got a little tiny rear-view mirror. The reason the windscreen is so large and the rear-view mirror is so small is because what happened in your past is not nearly as important as what's in your future.*



## **From our Interim Moderator**

### **Thoughts for the Church's way ahead in Arran**

Marian and I have just celebrated our Golden Wedding. At our celebration we had a slide show of all the events and experiences throughout our time together. It is astonishing how much has changed during that time. Our youngest son Struan illustrated this by listing all the things that had happened or were happening on that day 50 years ago.

I don't think the action-packed celebration would have happened so smoothly if hadn't been for our daughter-in-law Jo who is one of those people who makes things happen so effortlessly. In her professional life she is a 'change management specialist' and it is this subject I want to talk to you about.

Nothing is quite so good the second time it's done. For instance, so often we return to a holiday destination, only to find that it is not quite so appealing the second time around. In the Church too, we may feel inclined to repeat an initiative within our congregations, and often it doesn't live up to our first attempt. We say "We did this a few years back, and it worked fine then, so let's do it again". But does it ever work as well a second time? I put it to you....if we try to repeat a success, it can mean that we are living in the past.

Many a congregation has had a great ministry, and it spends an awful lot of time talking about that great ministry, and trying to repeat it, instead of getting on with the new ministry and the business of sharing the Good News.

As you may have heard the Presbytery of Ardrrossan has agreed its Mission Plan, which means (pending on approval that all the congregations in Arran will be united in a single parish with one unitary Kirk Session, served by a minister of Word and Sacrament and a Ministry Development Staff worker. It is hoped that readers may join this team to provide additional support across the parish. There will be four centres of worship. This will inevitably mean change in the way we worship and work. Until a ministry team is appointed, it is my job with the other interim moderators and readers to help manage this change.

Harnack, the German Lutheran Theologian, once said that the danger of all great institutions is that they begin to **worship their own past**. But you cannot go back; you must either go forward.....or perish!

Of course we **can** use the past for inspiration.....as the writer of the book of Isaiah often points out,  
“Look to the rock from which you were hewn!” He points to their history....how all the great events were enacted in difficult times and it is going to be like that again, he says. And we **can** use the past for guidance, learn from our mistakes, but we can seldom or never use the past as a pattern for the present.

So our question **shouldn't** be “What succeeded a generation or two ago?” BUT “What does the present generation or situation demand?” The logical conclusion of this is that, **if there is one thing the Church should never fear, it is CHANGE!** Remember the words in the visionary book of Revelation 21.5 ‘**Look! I am making all things new**’.

God give us, not the defeatism which accepts things as they are, but the vision which, in the life and strength of our Saviour Jesus Christ, will battle to change things,

So we are on the move, always in transition, willing to be transformed ..... We are followers of Christ after all ..... WE CAN NEVER GO BACK .....WE MUST LOOK FORWARD IN FAITH!

My best wishes for your summer activities,

Tom Macintyre



**Have you marked it in your diary?** Church and community in the church garden at 6 p.m. on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August funds raised for the Guild. We look forward to seeing you there. Come one come all. Last year we aged from one year to 95 years. Something for everyone.

## Mr Nobody

It may well be the case that something gets misplaced in your house from time to time. You know fine well where the object was last sitting but when you go to retrieve it, quite simply it has gone. Of course, when the investigation takes place everyone, but everyone who's questioned, hotly denies any knowledge of having seen the object let alone having moved it somewhere else, leading to cries of "it wisnae me – I never touched it".

Maybe it is reminiscent of the children's poem **Mr Nobody**.

I know a funny little man, as quiet as a mouse,  
who does the mischief that is done in everybody's house!  
There's no one ever sees his face,  
and yet we all agree that every plate we break  
was cracked by Mr. Nobody.  
'Tis he who always tears our books,  
who leaves the door ajar,  
he pulls the buttons from our shirts,  
and scatters pins afar;  
that squeaking door will always squeak,  
for, prithee, don't you see,  
we leave the oiling to be done by Mr. Nobody.  
He puts damp wood upon the fire,  
that kettles cannot boil;  
his are the feet that bring in mud,  
and all the carpets soiled.  
The papers always are mislaid,  
who had them last but he?  
There's no one tosses them about but Mr. Nobody.  
The finger marks upon the door  
by none of us are made;  
we never leave the blinds unclosed,  
to let the curtains fade.  
The ink we never spill;  
the boots that lying round you see are  
not our boots -- they all belong to Mr. Nobody.

I am quite sure we all recognise the scenarios painted by that particular poem. And it is all too easy to try and be Mr Nobody when things seem to be going wrong. Yet perhaps we should be proud instead to be Mr Somebody, no matter what. For as we look through the pages of the Bible we find importance attributed even to the very humblest of individuals.

For instance, who would ever have thought that Jeremiah but a youth would become a great and mighty prophet; or David the young shepherd boy would defeat the mighty giant Goliath.

And these are only a couple of examples for on just about every page you find individuals valued by God and entrusted to carry out some task in his name. Even individuals who failed him and let him down were still considered of importance.

We are God's helpers today in making known his love, his kingdom, his hope. By the example we show to the world in the things we say, in the way we act, we can make a difference to life and be a somebody. That is the life God calls us to and it is the life we should be only too willing to live, even if it is a way that does not lead to glory and power, but instead to a stable and a cross.

From the very act of creation, we are told "The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'" (Genesis 2:18) And so begins a pattern that no individual in life is alone, a nobody. For we all exist side by side, family, friends, strangers, black and white, rich and poor, young and old, the fellowship of God's church here on earth, and together we can reach out and help one another, so making the world a better and a more peaceful place in which to live.

We have all needed help in life from time to time, be it in practical terms like getting a lift somewhere, or changing a flat tyre, or moving a heavy object, or else emotionally, needing a listening ear or a shoulder to cry on. And hopefully we too have been able to offer help when it has been most needed.

Just look at Jesus – "he went up on a mountain and sat down there and great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the

dumb, and many others and they put them at his feet and he healed them". No-one was beyond his help, his care.

His compassion reached out even further for he saw that the crowd were hungry and so from meagre resources of bread and of fish he made a great feast so that all ate and had enough. His help knew no bounds but gave time and again, without counting the cost.

When Jesus offered his help it was often to the poorest, weakest members of society, those regarded as nobodies, but nevertheless seen as somebody through the eyes of Christ.

We should all be somebody for God, ready to reach out with his love, his compassion, his help, trusting that through us he can do great things.

Every blessing,

*Liz*



### Ardrossan Presbytery News

The Draft Presbytery Mission Plan for Ardrossan Presbytery was presented to Presbytery in May for noting. This Draft Plan was sent down to Kirk Sessions for comments and it detailed ministry numbers given to each area and also which buildings had to be retained for the Presbytery's Mission and which had to close.

After comments were received from Kirk Sessions, the Appraisal Committee met and after the Draft Presbytery Mission Plan had been tweaked after listening to Kirk sessions, it was presented for approval at the Presbytery meeting on 14th June. Each congregation was cited to send up to three representatives to the Presbytery meeting for their interest. One representative from those congregations present was invited to speak but for no more than three minutes each to ask a question or make a comment. It was as well there was a time limit as eighteen representatives spoke and a

few members of Presbytery as well. The Appraisal Convener did well to answer the questions and comments and he again explained the situation. Quite a few of them that had spoken, it was because their buildings were proposed for closure. The convener kept repeating that the church was the people and not the buildings. It was a long evening as you can imagine as we had begun the evening celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper together.

There was a ballot vote taken to approve the Presbytery Mission Plan and presbyters voted -

After months of work by the committee and in consultations with Kirk Sessions all those months, the Presbytery Mission Plan was approved with 29 votes for and 10 against.

What that means for Arran is that the congregations will be united, with one Kirk Session instead of seven Kirk Sessions and four church buildings open for worship. For the ministry and mission on Arran there is to be two full time ministry posts, that is 1 Minister of Word and Sacrament and 1 Ministries Development Staff worker, working in a team ministry.

It is sad that some churches have to close but with less people attending church or supporting financially that is the reality we live in these days.

The plan is for one united Church of Scotland on Arran working together, sharing resources, finances and people resources for the church and mission on Arran.

There is also an Appeals process for those congregations in Presbytery who feel they need to go down that route because of the proposed closure of church buildings. Thankfully it will not be Presbytery that will deal with appeals, it will be a Review Panel appointed at this year's General Assembly. The Presbytery meeting on the 14th June was the last ordinary meeting of Ardrossan Presbytery. However, we will have to have an extra meeting to receive the information from Faith Nurture Forum if they have concurred with the approved Ardrossan Prebytery Mission Plan as it was set out.

Presbytery of the South West of Scotland



The 14th June was the last ordinary meeting of Ardrossan Presbytery because they are uniting with another five presbyteries to form a Presbytery of the South West of Scotland. The other presbyteries are, Annandale & Eskdale, Ayr, Dumfries & Kirkcudbright, Irvine & Kilmarnock and Wigtown and Stranraer. Some years ago the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland agreed to a reduction of the number of presbyteries to around twelve, at that time there were about forty seven.

We in Ardrossan had been in consultation with Ayr and Irvine & Kilmarnock prebyteries from 2017 to form a new united presbytery. However, as that was not going to be viable, and leaving a smaller united presbytery in the South West, the six presbyteries began consultations to unite. The Basis of Union of the six presbyteries to form the united presbytery was passed at the General Assembly of 2021. The first meeting of the new United Presbytery of the South West of Scotland will meet in Kilmarnock on Saturday 1st October for the service of Union, the installation of the Moderator elect and thereafter the conduct of ordinary business.

With the new presbytery, the number of meetings will be reduced -there will be two in person meetings and two meetings on zoom per year. There will also be employed staff including a Presbytery Clerk, I will get to retire as Presbytery Clerk of Ardrossan after six years in that part time post.

With the new presbytery many congregations will probably not notice any difference, only that the information they receive will come from different people. With the unions of congregations throughout the six Presbyteries, there will be a reduction in the number of representative Elders, ministers and Deacons as well serving on that court of the church.

We continue to pray for presbyteries and congregations through all of these changes ahead.

Every Blessing

Jean Hunter,

Presbytery Elder and Presbytery Clerk of Ardrossan

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## Guild News



Sadly, our gathering with a few of our friends from our link Guild in Bridgeton Glasgow didn't happen in June, due to train drivers striking and Calmac having a wobbly! However nine of us went to the Kinloch for lunch anyway and had an enjoyable time together.

On 26<sup>th</sup> August we will have our annual church BBQ run by the Guild and friends in aid of Guild funds. At that time we hope to combine having friends from Glasgow for the evening and be able to have a visit to Bellevue Farm Tours at the same time. WE hope the barbecue will be as big a success this year as it was last year. Tickets will be on sale from mid August.

September is a special month for the Guild. The national Gathering will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> with four of us going from St Molios to the Assemble Halls on the Mound in Edinburgh. This will launch **Guild Week** culminating in the annual dedication service on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> when the service will be conducted by Guild members. We are called to make this year special as by then most of our guild branches will have started up post pandemic and we hope to have at least one special event during the well (watch this space).

Our first meeting will be on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 2p.m. and the speaker will be Mr Alexander from The Vine Trust – one of our six guild projects. Three of us heard his most challenging talk when attending the gathering of members of the three Ayrshire Guilds Together in Kilmarnock in May – very special occasion. Our meetings are open to men and women members and non-members. Why not come along for a taster (there's always a great tea to finish with!)

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**The Church Sale** held on 6<sup>th</sup> July was a really good social event and we are thankful to all in the community who supported it. Thank you to all who donated time, energy and items for sale. A special thanks to Evelyn, Joan and Alison for organising it. The funds raised were over £1000 – a truly happy time.

**Linkage Discussion Group** meets every other week and will recommence in September. Currently we are a small group and new members would be very welcome. Discussion can be wide ranging, topical and sometimes controversial. New members are always welcome. Contact John Kerr 860498 for further details

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**Song of Praise on  
Arran On Sunday 26  
June 45 of us joined in  
song gathered**

together at the front on Lamlash Church. Unfortunately, it had been a very wet night and the ground was soft and wet, the clouds were heavy and so we had to meet inside. A pity as passers-by often join us or some just sit on nearby benches listening. However it was a joyful service with the theme of 'Praise and Thanksgiving'. Thank you to all who took part and especially those who chose hymns and spoke about their choice. It is always good when we get together as parts of the church universal. Many thanks to Lamlash for their hospitality and the very welcome cuppa after the service.

In September it was decided that the ACT annual social event would once more be a quiz night in Brodick church hall at 7p.m on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> of September. Why not get together and form a team of six. The evening is open to all the churches and friends and holiday makers. Light refreshments will help recover from the brainpower drain!

We are still looking for a second representative from St Molios. If you see this as something you could be please contact John Kerr who will bring it to the kirk session. Meeting are 4-5 times a year with five events in the year. The next meeting is on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August in Brodick church hall at 3p.m.

Helen Kerr

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## From Our Treasure

### St Molios Accounts 2021 – Summary

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
FREE WILL ENVEL'S	1465	795	STIPEND ECT.	21542	13814
GIFT AID ENVELOPES	885	1816	ELECTRICITY	1348	2204
OPEN PLATE	2180	4030	INSURANCE	<u>2276</u>	<u>2324</u>
D/D S/O etc.	10734	12554		25166	18342
INVEST. INTEREST	1972	2067			
GIFT AID REFUND	<u>3756</u>	<u>4100</u> *est.	TRAVEL	1005	456
	21036	25362	CHURCH	1790	11099
			MANSE	838	936
COFFEE MORNINGS		391	COUNCIL TAX	<u>1081</u>	<u>70</u>
CHURCH SALE				4714	12561
USE OF HALL	432	24			
WEDDING/FINERAL	<u>1540</u>	<u>          </u>			
	<u>1972</u>	<u>          </u>			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>23008</u></b>	<b><u>25777</u></b>		<b><u>29880</u></b>	<b><u>30903</u></b>

### Notes on the figures above

1 The figures above show the main income and expenditure that must be covered each year. Two thousand and 2021 were hit by the Covid pandemic. I am pleased that we have kept our income up by more people giving their offerings through the bank.

2 In 2021 we paid out of our bank account £47,242 towards our share of the Brodick manse. In 2022 we have completed the payment for our share.

3 Not having our annual church sale or coffee morning income was a blow, but in 2022 the summer sale brought in almost £1000 and the coffee morning is also picking up again. However we are down in the number of visitors attending Sunday services in 2022.

4 I am pleased to say that we have managed to pay all our expenses out of our bank account and not gone into our investment immediately.

5 We have received a very generous legacy from the late Joyce Scott of £20,000 which will go towards the 'New Hall' if or when the plans are ever passed.

Any questions I will be happy to answer if you contact me.

Alison Burnett.

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### **News from Cambodia**

Dear Everyone,

It saddens me not to be able to meet all of you in person, but let's hope I can meet you all soon – may be at Christmas break.

During the past year, I have been busy with school. I finished my junior year this year and am moving on to being a senior next year. This is exciting seeing as I am about to lose my mind because of high school, but it's also intimidating as I am going to be moving on to study at university. I am planning to go abroad for university and am not sure where to go as of yet; at the moment I am considering going to the UK, Singapore or Australia. As of right now, I plan to just apply to schools in all three countries and see which ones have accepted me, from there I'll choose where to go. But this plan is not set as of yet.

What is set though, is I plan on studying Psychology. Before this, I was interested in hospitality and management, but I have taken an interest in psychology. It was something I researched for fun when I had the time and now I think I would like to work in this field. But for right now, I think I would just focus on researching universities and getting through my senior year.

This year my school was able to organize our prom. It was a little rushed and many things happened along the way, but it happened. The days leading up to the night were fun worrying about dresses and such, but in the end, it all came together and I could not be happier with the night and the memories that I made. Everyone had dressed to impress that night and the venue for the prom was even more so.

Since the student council had chosen the theme to be 'A Night In Paris' everyone tried their best to match the theme. The venue was decorated so it would match as well as the food was European cuisine. I very much favoured the deserts and the fruit salads.

This summer break I am just at home. I was hoping to be able to meet all of you, but we would have to wait just a little longer. I am spending most of my time reading both books and manga as well as playing games. I also have Khmer maths tutor on weekends. I hope to get a chance to talk to you all in person soon, but other than that I am keeping myself busy here in Cambodia.



With lots of love,

Helen (Chum)

### ***Dates for Our Diary***

- Sunday 14 August **Holy Communion** for North Arran Linkage in Brodick Church at 10.30.
- Sunday 2 October **Harvest Thanksgiving** Venue TBA
- Friday 16 August **Church and Community BBQ** hosted by the Guild in aid of Guild funds, starting at 18.30.
- Every second week **The linkage discussion Group** will recommence in September – 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.  
28 Sept. 26 Oct. 30 Nov.
- Every Thursday **St Molios Coffee Morning** 10.30 – noon. All welcome.
- First Thurs each month **Taize service** in Holy Cross church Brodick at 3p.m. All are welcome.
- Thurs.1<sup>st</sup> Sept. **Arran Churches Together** Quiz night and Social in Brodick Church Hall at 19.00.
- Every other Wed' day **Zero Waste Café** 11.00-13.00 in the church hall on July 27 Aug 10, 24. Sept 7, 15, 29.

## ***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  |
| <b><i>Elders</i></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><i>Session Clerk</i></b>         | Mr. John Kerr                     | 860498        |
|                                     | Mrs Elizabeth McCarthy            | 860727        |
| <b><i>Deacons' Court Clerk</i></b>  | Mr. John McCarthy mob.07870643011 | 860727        |
| <b><i>Organist</i></b>              | Mr. John Clarke                   | 860219        |
| <b><i>Pastoral Support Team</i></b> |                                   |               |
| <b>Coordinator</b>                  | Mrs. Helen Kerr (temporary)       | 860498        |
| <b><i>Magazine Editor</i></b>       | Mrs. Helen Kerr                   | 860498        |

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Articles for the next magazine should be handed to Helen Kerr or sent to Helen Kerr [kerrjh@btinternet.com](mailto:kerrjh@btinternet.com) by Sunday 25 September 2022.