

# St Molios Church Magazine



SUMMER 2023

## **How Different!**

How different our lives would be made  
If some of our views could be altered.

The woman whose washing got wet in the rain  
Would see that her garden was watered

The man feeling cross that the car in his drive  
Was showing the first signs of rust  
Would feel more instead for the man in the street,  
Who was waiting in vain for a bus.

Positives? Negatives? Which one are you?  
Optimist? Pessimist? – Who?

Do you look down at the dirt on the ground  
Or up at the sky that is blue?

There's always an option on which path to take,  
The choice is right there in your head  
Next time you hear thunder, don't hide from the storm  
Go out and chase rainbows instead!

by Marian Clark from a Methodist Church Magazine

## From our Locum Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke

Dear Everyone,

Its summertime! It is only mid-June but already we have seen an influx of visitors to our beautiful island, helped by the spell of hot, dry, and sunny weather. I occasionally had to pinch myself to remind me that I was on Arran!

What an amazing number of events take place at this time of the year, some organised specifically for our visitors but there are those events which are locally driven, like the Farmer's Show and Brodick Highland Games.

Apart from the livestock, one of the main attractions at the Farmer's Show is the vintage tractor section, which has grown and grown over the years. The variety of smells attached to the different sections of the show underlined where you were standing, from the sheep to the cattle to the horses to the dogs – each with their distinctive aroma. And then the tractors with their completely different but equally obvious smell.

And then there is the highland games. For the Clarke family there were two events of importance. The highland dancing competition and the massed pipe bands. The sound of the Scottish music being both distinctive and evocative.

Each and both of these events were soon over, but the memories last.

I used to be a part of the British Legion contingent here on Arran. We would hear our members individual memories of the war which were amazing and fascinating but I would also hear the person's spouse mutter something like "Not again," having heard it all many times before.

Memory is a funny thing. As we get older it is easier to remember things from the past than what we did yesterday. So it is good to help refresh the memory with a note in a diary.

God has a phenomenal memory and remembers everything about each and every one of us. Psalm 139 (hymn CH4 97), which begins with “You have searched me, LORD, and you know me...”, extols God’s complete knowledge and care for each of us.

At Jesus last meal, before He was crucified, He gave His disciples bread and wine in remembrance of Him. The bread and wine being symbols of His body and blood. This remembrance has come down through the centuries to us. It has never been forgotten and is unchanging. God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is remembered by us as He remembers us. How fortunate we are.

May God be with you always and in all ways.

*Liz*



### **Southwest Presbytery News**

The seven Kirk Sessions of the congregations on Arran met together, along with Rev. Dr. Graham McWilliams and Rev. James McNay representatives of the Vacancy Procedure Committee of Presbytery, on Saturday morning of 27<sup>th</sup> May in Brodick. The one purpose was to agree a Basis of Union for what would become the Isle of Arran Church of Scotland. All the kirk sessions agreed to the Basis of Union.

In the afternoon that same day, members of the seven Arran congregations were invited to attend a meeting to vote on the Basis of Union. The folk that did attend the meeting voted and the Basis of Union was agreed, after which the follow up process was explained.

Going forward this agreed Basis of Union for Arran, along with eight other congregations, went up to Presbytery which met at the Howard Centre in Kilmarnock on the 10<sup>th</sup> June when all were approved. This triggered the 42

day period before the congregations on Arran can be united and the date would be set for that union

The report by the Presbytery Mission Committee was an interesting and thought provoking one and took up a lot of the morning session. Presbytery wishes to be mission-minded, prioritising Mission wherever we can. Presbytery recognises the scale and scope of the task as outlined in the Five Marks of Mission: Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure.

Presbytery wishes to support congregations in Mission. However, the Church of Scotland is in significant decline and radical action had been called for by the General Assembly to seek to address this with special emphasis on church planting and the development of fresh expressions of the church. Identifying such opportunities is not an easy task. It requires prayer, thorough research into the needs of the community and the willing freeing up of local resources and church members for the task.

In recent years the former Irvine and Kilmarnock Presbytery undertook a process called "Mission Mapping" and has successfully launched six expressions of church. The Mission Committee believes this is an approach for our Presbytery now to pursue across the whole area. "Mission Mapping" is a process to identify possible missional projects that could with the right resources develop into a fresh expression of church or church plant. (Planting a new church community in the right place). A grant under "Seeds for Growth" is possible to help congregations with "Mission Mapping".

"Seeds for Growth" is the new Church of Scotland fund for Mission Projects set up as part of the Church's Radical Action Plan. The intention is that the Seeds for Growth Fund could help congregations and /or presbyteries to fulfil their dreams of growth.

There is a shortage of Interim Moderators within the whole S.W Presbytery at the moment. Rev Kenneth Elliot, the former Presbytery Clerk of Ayr agreed to provide Interim Moderator Training and Presbytery commends this to Kirk Sessions. Anyone within a Kirk Session can apply to be an Interim Moderator if that is a way they feel they can serve. Elder Interim Moderator Training

before was provided nationally by the Principal Clerk or Depute Clerk. Now this can be provided by Rev Elliot within his own Presbytery of the South West.

The Safeguarding Committee reported that they were looking for people to become Safeguarding Trainers in an effort to alleviate the current shortage and enable Presbytery to meet the requirements of the Safeguarding ACT. Safeguarding is an important aspect of the life of a congregation.

The next meeting of the Presbytery of the South West will be on the 2nd September 2023, an in person meeting in the Howard Centre, Kilmarnock.

Presbytery meets four times a year, two in person meetings and two Zoom meetings.

Every blessing

Jean Hunter, Presbytery Elder

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## **Feeling Blessed**

Evelyn Hamilton

I have just returned from a wonderful trip to NZ to be with two of my three lovely daughters. Donna and Paul made Auckland their home over ten years ago and have enjoyed exploring the north and south island where many of their Arran and Scottish friends live too. It's hard to believe that Laura has now been in NZ for four years! She has settled in Napier with her Kiwi partner Blair. Napier is home of the beautiful art deco buildings and Hawke's Bay Wine.

We spent time at Blue Duck Station, NZ's largest working tourist farm in the Whanganui National Park where Laura worked and was "locked down" during the pandemic. This was special as I met the young family Laura had looked after and who I'd got to know on face time over the past two years. The Station is home to the endangered blue duck and every effort is made to maintain its environment through conservation. Being surrounded by the scenic mountains and rivers at the Station sets a pace we should all indulge in from time to time, great for mind and soul.

*Below Evelyn and her two bonnie girls Laura and Donna*



In contrast to the valley at Blue Duck we had the privilege of visiting their fine dining restaurant “The Chef’s Table” located on one of the highest points of the station affectionately known as the Top of the World, it has views

of the Tongariro and Whanganui national parks. The fine dining 10 course degustation menu, from

the land, followed a two- and half-hour ATV (all-terrain vehicle) journey bush safari of the station’s ongoing conservations project to protect the native bird life and rainforest. Both experiences were out of this world!!

It was hard to see firsthand the devastation left behind from Cyclone Gabrielle back in February, major roads and bridges washed away. Miles and miles of homesteads and established vineyards wiped out. The work that has had to go into the clear up, repair and rebuild is unimaginable and yet I never was aware of any self-pity as I travelled around. The people of NZ are resilient and hardworking and clearly have rolled their sleeves up and got on with the mammoth task they have been faced with.

It was lovely to visit extended family, Fiona in Rotorua and Tina in Hawke’s Bay, there are so many Arranites in NZ you don’t have to travel far to find them.

I had three wonderful weeks touring this amazing country that is so much like home but on a much larger scale and everywhere I went people were eager to share their Scottish ancestry with me.

I give thanks to the Lord for this opportunity and for giving me the confidence to take it.

## A Call to 'Come Let Us Worship Together'

While I would hesitate to say that the Covid pandemic is completely over. I can say that the myriad of rules and restrictions are now behind us and that there is now nothing to keep us from meeting and worshipping together.

That being said, it is very evident that over "Covid", routines and habits have developed that did not or could not include attendance at Sunday worship - routines which have continued even now that all restrictions are lifted. As a result of this attendance is almost half that of the "pre-covid" period. At a time in the history of the Church of Scotland on Arran when places of worship are being reduced from seven to four, (St Molios being one of the four - an arrangement that is to be reviewed after five years), it is more important than ever that we should be active and prominent in both worship and service. For members of the church who have promised to "Receive the strengthening of the Holy Spirit" and to use "The Means of Grace" meeting regularly together for worship must surely be a major part of this.

The Isle of Arran Church of Scotland which will be formed soon will have one minister of "Word and Sacrament" and one "Mission Development Staff." the time, place(s) and format of worship have yet to be decided but obviously a local church community with a high proportion of active and attending members particularly those who are still working or in early retirement will have a greater influence on the direction that church on Arran takes over the next few years.

May I therefore invite you to return to being an active and participating member of St Molios so **"Come and let us worship together."**

John Kerr, Session Clerk

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**Guild News** Although we have no formal programme after our Annual Business Meeting in April we like to keep in touch. In May a number of us met at the Kinloch for lunch and chat.

Also on 23<sup>rd</sup> May at the **General Assembly** the Guild report was well received and it was noted that a group of under25s had approached the Guild about the start up of a Youth Guild now that there is no longer an annual Youth Assembly. Young folk are from all over the airts and so meantime they meet online Zoom - something the young are expert at and hope to meet in reality at least once a year.

In the evening it was a delight to attend **The Big Sing** at which we not only aired out lungs in praise but heard about a number of past projects that the Guild had supported. It was so good to hear how seed funds for a new project in these organisations had helped them to flourish in their serving others.

On 6<sup>th</sup> June Our guild hosted the **Guilds Together North Ayrshire** Summer Gathering in Brodick church when Rev. Christine Fulcher the support person for resources in Guild office was the speaker. It was good to hear her 'story' and 'journey' and how she ended up on guild staff. Now when we use the great resources that come out of the office we know the face behind it all. Numbers were disappointing with less than 30 and one continues to ponder in this post Covid era why people are slow to gather – perhaps concerns over ferries! Nevertheless it was good to be together.

On 13<sup>th</sup> June eight of us went up to Glasgow to meet up with **Link Guild in Glasgow -St Francis in the East** where we had a welcome cuppa and saw round their interesting inner city church.

Truth to tell we were four in number, together with one overseas visitor and three husbands! We hope the latter will realise that we do much more than have tea and chat and may even join the guild some day (SOON). We all then went off to the David Livingston Centre for a soup and sandwich lunch and a very informative guided tour of the centre. Travel arrangements on ferry, train and minivan went like clockwork till we got back to Central Station –

electrical fault in the over headlines and no trains to Ayr, Largs and Ardrossan so all had to make arrangements for an overnight on the mainland! Not Calmac this time!

Coming Up Ayrshire Guilds Together are preparing for an Afternoon Tea and Quiz afternoon on 23rd August in the Howard Centre in Kilmarnock from 2-4p.m. The tea costs £5.00 and some of us hope to go on the 1105 ferry that day for a time to meet sisters and brothers in the Guild Why not come and invite a friend.

Our annual BBQ will be held on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August in the church garden. The Guild will be taking the service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September when the dedication for the new session will be.

Our first meeting of the session will be on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September new members and friends are always welcome.

Helen Kerr

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**Songs of Praise** was held in Lamlash Church on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June when just short of 60 people gathered to worship in song together, lead by Arran brass and by Rev. Andrew Clark on the keyboard. Sadly, in spite of sunny weather on both sides that Sunday was wet and the ground soft so we were unable to meet outside. It was disappointing to see that, as with many of our ACT gatherings and worship services numbers joining from all the churches on Arran are considerably reduced from pre-Covid years.

**FoodBank Update** - From Susan Dobson "As discussed at our last ACT meeting, the cost of topping up items when necessary, is costing more each

month because of the increase in prices. We are very grateful to those who continue to donate money.

Some of the items on offer are only available when they are donated e.g toiletries, household cleaning items, pet food, baby food and nappies. There are now less items being donated in the collection bin at the big Co-op."

Over the last three months the foodbank has distributed more than 4,100 items of food. We in ACT (that is all of us in the churches on Arran) are grateful to the four volunteers who oversee, stock up, shop and keep strict records of ins and outs at the bank in Brodick church vestibule.

Records of items passing through the foodbank over the year can be seen on the noticeboard at the back of the church. It is noted that the number of items distributed fell by between three to four thousand items from April – during the summer months.

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

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|--------------------------|---|
| Sunday Sept 3            | The Sacrament of Holy Communion at Noon   |
| Aug 25 Sept 9, 17 19     | The <u>Guild BBQ is on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Aug.</u> and monthly meetings at 2p.m. on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues. starting on Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup>            |
| Aug. 23                  | <u>Guilds Together</u> in Ayrshire will meet in the Howard Centre Kilmarnock at from 2 -4p.m on 23August. for afternoon tea and a fun quiz.                 |
| Last Wed. each month     | <u>Prayers for Health and Healing</u> in Brodick Church transept at 1.30p.m. 27 Sept 25 Oct. If you know of anyone needing prayer please contact Helen Kerr |
| First Thurs of the month | <u>Taizé worship</u> in Holy Cross church at 3p.m. All are welcome.   |
| Every other Wed'day      | Zero Waste Café in the church hall July, 12 and 26:<br>Aug 9 and 23: Sept 6 and 20 from <u>12noon – 2p.m.</u>   |
| Sept. 24                 | <u>The annual service at the Clachan</u> 3p.m.  |

## ***Useful Contacts***

### ***St. Molios Church in the Parish of North Arran***

		Telephone no.
<b>Interim Moderator</b>	Rev. Tom Macintyre	01294 788678
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<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 17 September 2023.