

St Molios Church Magazine



Easter Joy to All – 2022

Rejoice He is Risen





Love to the fullest

Love to the fullest once roamed our earth.
He arrived here by means of a heavenly birth.

From the very beginning almost everyone knew
there was something so special this child would do.

As time would prevail He became a man,
teaching us love from God's own hand.

Though to some He knew He would be such a dread.
They never could rest until He was dead!

He knew His own fate from beginning to end.
He knew and still loved His betraying friend.

He carried His cross using His own two feet
to die for our sins and our total defeat.

Why did He do it? No reason but love!
He wanted to help us to heaven above.

Who was this man with such merciful love?
None other than Jesus, our Saviour above!

By Patricia L Cisco



Easter Joy!

Easter eggs have been in the shops since Christmas and the children are already looking forward to their Easter break. I am sure that you have been following the way of the Cross with the Sunday reflections. Week by week we are remembering all that Jesus had to endure and suffer for us and our salvation. At the church I attend in Saltcoats I am teaching the Sunday School and the congregation how to make palm crosses, and after the Palm Sunday procession round the church, two teenagers will be offering up this simple prayer at the service. Perhaps you might consider using it too.

A Prayer for Holy Week

On Palm Sunday, Lord, you rode into Jerusalem,
and the crowds cheered and shouted 'Hosanna!'
Help us to praise you Lord with all our hearts.

Help us to remember you

Next you turned the money-changers and stall-holders out
of the temple. 'This is a house of prayer' You said.
Help us to love our churches and use them well.

Help us to remember you

Then you praised a poor woman's offering.
It was very small, but it was all she had.
Help us to be generous in our giving to others in need.

Help us to remember you

Your disciple Judas met Your enemies and told them how to capture
you.
Help us, unlike Judas, to remain loyal to You and to our friends

Help us to remember you

On Thursday You ate your special meal with your disciples,
'The Last Supper', with the bread and wine.

Help us to grow closer to You and to one another.

Help us to remember you

On Friday You died on the cross to set us free.

Help us to remember how much we owe You.

Help us to remember you

Saturday – that was an empty, unhappy day for all who had loved and
lost You.

Help us to be kind to those whose relatives have died.

Help us to remember you

On Easter Sunday You came alive. You were seen again and your
friends were overjoyed.

Help us rejoice with Christians everywhere in the wonderful news of
your Resurrection.

Help us to remember you

This is the most significant time in our Christian calendar – an opportunity to
re-evaluate our priorities in life and in the life of the church - in our own
congregations. You know that Jesus, in his ministry, + extended his reach to
the most vulnerable and those cast aside by the society and religious
institutions of his time – this is the way of the Cross.

If we are not concerned to reach out beyond the confines of our weekly
pattern and become involved with those yearning for acceptance and love,
the love of God we are asked to offer... then is Jesus' sacrifice in vain?

As we complete our final journey to Easter through Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday Communion, Good Friday Walk of Witness and the joy of Easter Day - let us consider how we might respond to the saving grace of our Lord, that as a church we might serve him more fully in the wider community. Then, I believe, we will truly experience the ongoing resurrection joy of Easter!

A Blessed and Happy Easter to you all!

Tom Macintyre, Interim Moderator



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### From Liz Clarke our Locum and Reader

"**The Springs of Life**" Prov 4:23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.

The snowdrops have gone. The daffodils are blooming – in their thousands. The clocks have gone forward. The days are getting longer. We have even seen some sunny days. Its spring!

The effect of all of this is that thoughts turn to .... Spring cleaning.

I must say that I'm thinking a lot about spring cleaning just now ... but that's as far as it goes – I have managed to avoid **doing** any spring-cleaning so far!

It seems a little strange to me but, it appears to be something that many people have built into their DNA that when the first flowers start to bud many households enter spring cleaning mode.

Personally, I don't really understand this sudden urge to take a perfectly beautiful day or weekend and spend it messing up the house just to clean it up.

This messing up normally exposes places that no one ever looks in or under to see if there is any dirt there.....

Of course there is dirt there...

I am just confused as to why we suddenly need to do something about it....

What is it hurting...?

How is a dust bunny ever going to evolve into a dust elephant if we disturb the natural process? Now don't get me wrong, I am not against having a clean home or even cleaning, it is just the idea of all that work.

But its not just our homes that need a spring clean – it is good to have a clear out of all the junk we accumulate in our mind and in our heart which serves to interfere with our Christian living.

In Psalm 139 David wrote: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting."

That's not something easy to cope with - asking God to shine a light on all the rubbish in our life. It's something we usually try to avoid, rather than intentionally seek out. And that's part of the problem. Often, when God sends messengers to speak to us – messengers in the form of a husband, or a wife, or a friend, or even an enemy – we put our hands over our ears.

We refuse to listen, we change the subject, we attack the messenger, we leave the room. If that doesn't work, then we deny the offence; we redefine it, we rationalize it. And finally, if all else fails, we rename it to make it seem less offensive, or if possible, even virtuous. We come up with a pleasant-sounding euphemism. So, gossip becomes "just sharing my concerns". Greed becomes "thriftiness". A glutton is someone with "a healthy appetite". Pride is reframed as "high self-esteem". Lying is "stretching the truth". A harsh, critical attitude merely indicates that you have high standards.

Now, what do we do when God answers our prayer, and begins to open our eyes to some area of our life that needs to change? It's something like when getting ready for visitors to arrive and you suddenly realize just how dirty and untidy your house has become. "Look at those windows! I can barely see out

of them! And this rug! It's covered with dog hairs! And so on. The first reaction is to close our eyes, because we don't like what we see. It was more pleasant and comfortable before, when we didn't have to deal with the reality of grimy windows, and a filthy rug. We liked being able to tell ourselves that everything was fine, so that we could go golfing or shopping, instead of spending the weekend scrubbing windows and vacuuming the rug. There's a strong urge to just forget what we've seen.

So, we have to be open to God because if we are not, we will find some way to avoid hearing what God is saying.

There is one thing that helps me to listen and that is the knowledge that God is a gentle, and kind, and compassionate father. And because of that, he won't give me more than I can bear. Instead, he will lovingly, and carefully, reveal enough to produce repentance, but not so much that I despair. How do I know that? Because that's how Christ dealt with the disciples. When he was preparing to leave them, he said,

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth." – John 16:12-13

Every blessing,

**Liz**

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Ardrossan Presbytery News

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland convenes next month. For the last two years we have all been living in unusual times and because of lockdown and restrictions the General Assembly had to meet on line. This year is slightly better, however it will be a hybrid GA, that means some commissioners will meet in person in Edinburgh while the other commissioners will be on line. This is so that the numbers meeting in person can be reduced for the safety of all involved because the Covid virus is still

around. As a commissioner from Ardrossan Presbytery I have chosen to be on line.

At the General Assembly last year, the decision was taken to instruct all presbyteries to prepare and implement a new Presbytery Mission Plan. The Presbytery Mission Plan Act offered a framework for understanding mission under the Five Marks of Mission.

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers;
3. To respond to human need by loving service;
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation;
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

To enable presbyteries to prepare and implement their new Presbytery Mission Plans, a suspension on vacant churches having the right to call a minister was put in place until 31st December 2022. That has meant that in this year none of the vacant churches in our presbytery are allowed to call a minister.

I have explained in a previous Newsletter that with quite a number of ministers of Word and Sacrament retiring in the next five years and not enough candidates coming forward for ministry the ministry allocation for each presbytery was to be reduced.

Ardrossan Presbytery were given an allocation of 13.5 FTE (Full time equivalent) ministries for the whole presbytery. This was to be a reduction from 23.1 (FTE). The 13.5 FTE could be a mix of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministries Development Staff. I was employed as an MDS before my retirement last year. To get to an allocation of 13.5 FTE was a very difficult task.

The Appraisal Committee of Ardrossan Presbytery have been busy though since last summer preparing the Presbytery Mission Plan with their allocation of posts in mind. Representatives of the Appraisal Committee have had consultations with each of the 27 Kirk Sessions including Shiskine to listen to what they had to say and to hear their thoughts on the way forward. Having

listened to the Kirk Sessions, Reports were written up and discussed by the committee. They have also had meetings with individual ministers in charge, Interim Moderators and MDS staff.

The Appraisal Committee have had advisors from the Faith Nurture Forum as well helping them through the process.

At the 1st March Presbytery meeting a Draft Ardrossan Presbytery Mission Plan was presented and noted (minus a report and decision about the buildings). The Draft Plan was then circulated to Kirk Sessions for comment and comments to be returned by 8th April.

At present on Arran there are seven congregations and seven Kirk Sessions. The part of the Draft Plan for Arran is to unite all the congregations under one Kirk Session with 2 FTE posts in a team ministry. Working together will help share resources, office bearers and finances. This should help with the churches focus on mission on Arran.

There are the church buildings to be considered though, within the Presbytery Mission Plan. Each church had to complete an Asset Management Building Audit (AMBA). Once completed these were sent to the General Trustees and Faith Nurture Forum, each church building has been given a percentage mark, this in turn will determine what church buildings have to be retained within the presbytery including here on Arran.

Ardrossan's Presbytery Mission Plan, including the buildings that have to be retained for the Presbytery's mission will be presented to the 3rd May Presbytery meeting for approval.

Every blessing
Jean Hunter,
Presbytery Elder

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Some people quietly and without show just do it! A huge thanks to Murray Stewart who saw what was needed and without fuss got the job done. Thank you Murray for repairing and making safe our hall floor.



## Guild News

We are coming to the end of our 2021/22 session, but St Molios Guild keeps on meeting over the summer. Please don't forget. On 19 April we have our ABM at 2p.m. On the third Tuesday of May (17) we meet together for lunch together venue TBA and in June (21)

we have invited our Link Guild St Frances in the East in Glasgow to visit us on Arran for lunch and a visit to Bellevue Farm thanks to Ailsa Currie.

In February we had a Guild's own meeting and discussed the topic in the current theme. It is always good and at times fun getting to know each other better. In March we welcomed Mrs. Anne Wren who spoke to us on Zoom, although we met together in reality with Jean also joining us on Zoom as she recovered from Covid. Anne's talk was very informative and we learned that all we gave in kind to **the Fellowship of the Least Coin** was also asking us to be praying for the organisation and their projects around the world each time we gave our least coins.

**GTNA Rally** Guilds Together North Ayrshire will hold the Spring Rally including the ABM, drama and a visit from Mrs Margaret Muir, our National Convenor, and a great sing together. We will meet in Stevenston High Church Hall at 2p.m. on 20 April. This is a real opportunity to feel part of the great national church organisation the Guild is, without travelling far. There will be shared transport on the day travelling on the 1105 ferry. We hope as many of us as possible will join in the day. Invite a friend – especially a man friend! Yes, we have quite a few men in the North Ayrshire Guilds. Please contact Helen or Alison if you are able to come.

**The National Gathering and Guild Week** has been moved from the first Saturday in September to Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> September (and the week following) and from Dundee to Edinburgh Church Assembly Halls on the Mound. More details of events in Guild Week in the next magazine..



**Walk of Witness** – 15 April will start at Holy Cross Church with an act of worship at 2p.m. after which we will walk silently behind the cross along Brodick shore road to St Bride’s church of Scotland for further worship. In Holy Cross masks must be worn as we can be many and may spill outside. We have greatly missed this event over the Covid restrictions so let’s gather and say what Holy Week and Easter is truly about.

**Songs of Praise on Arran** A further date for the ACT diary is Sunday 26 June when we will gather on the foreshore, Lamlash to sing our hearts out in praise. Should the weather be unkind we will meet in the church. We in St Molios are all part of Arran Churches Together. Do think of making this a Sunday afternoon to join together and encourage other passers by to join us.



A big thank you to Jean Hunter who has been a member of ACT committee for 21 years during which time she has been, at various times, chairperson, secretary and for the last five years + she has been treasurer which includes

holding the accounts for the food and fuel bank. This has been no small task and we are most grateful for all her service.

We are happy to say that the role of treasurer will be taken over by Catherine Jenks, a member of Holy Cross Church Brodick.

**Jonathan Veira in Concert.** On Saturday 21 May at 7p.m. Jonathan is an internationally renowned singer and entertainer. This promises to be a most entertaining evening with something for all tastes and ages. Be sure to get your tickets from Brodick Book and Card shop. See the poster below.



**A date for your diary 21<sup>st</sup> May**

**Buy your tickets now and don't be disappointed**

**JONATHAN VEIRA**

**THE UNLOCKDOWN SESSIONS LIVE**

Adult Tickets  
**£10**  
Concessions\*  
**£7**

**Arran High School**  
Lamlash, Isle of Arran KA27 8NG  
**Saturday 21st May 2022, 7:00pm**

Tickets available from: The Shore (Whiting Bay), Book & Card (Brodict)  
Online: [www.arranbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.arranbaptistchurch.org.uk)

\*Concession price for Ages 18 and Under

**Celebration of Pentecost** The annual Service at the Preaching Cave will be on Sunday 5 June at 3.30p.m. when we invite all churches to join us in the coming of the Holy Spirit. We have missed this time of worshipping together these past two years. It will be good to gather together again.

Remember to wear stout shoes and keep an eye on the weather! There will be parking at Kilpatrick Farm.

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Arran Youth Foundations AGM will be held in Brodick Church Hall at 4p.m. on Monday 16. As a church we donate monthly to the youth work on Arran so why not come along and hear all that has been happening including the youth worker/project manager's report.

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### **Crossed 70 and heading towards 80!**

If you are not quite there it's just round the corner!



I asked a friend who has crossed 70 & is heading towards 80 what sort of changes he is feeling in himself? He sent me the following:

- 1 After loving my parents, my siblings, my spouse, my children and my friends, I have now started loving myself.
- 2 I have realized that I am not "Atlas". The world does not rest on my shoulders.
- 3 I have stopped bargaining with vegetable & fruit vendors. A few pennies more is not going to break me, but it might help the poor fellow save for his daughter's school fees.
- 4 I leave my waitress a big tip. The extra money might bring a smile to her face. She is toiling much harder for a living than I am.

5 I stopped telling the elderly that they've already told that story many times. The story makes them walk down memory lane & relive their past.

6 I have learned not to correct people even when I know they are wrong. The onus of making everyone perfect is not on me. Peace is more precious than perfection.

7 I give compliments freely & generously. Compliments are a mood enhancer not only for the recipient, but also for me. And a small tip for the recipient of a compliment, never, NEVER turn it down, just say "Thank You."

8 I have learned not to bother about a crease or a spot on my shirt. Personality speaks louder than appearances.

9 I walk away from people who don't value me. They might not know my worth, but I do.

10 I remain cool when someone plays dirty to outrun me in the rat race. I am not a rat & neither am I in any race.

11 I am learning not to be embarrassed by my emotions. It's my emotions that make me human.

12 I have learned that it's better to drop the ego than to break a relationship. My ego will keep me aloof, whereas with relationships, I will never be alone.

13 I have learned to live each day as if it's the last. After all, it might be the last.

14 I am doing what makes me happy. I am responsible for my happiness, and I owe it to myself. Happiness is a choice. You can be happy at any time, just choose to be!

Why do we have to wait to be 60 or 70 or 80, why can't we practice this at any stage and age?

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News from Cambodia



Dear Friends/Family,

It's been a while since my last letter, with me rushing to get internship offers (as it's part of our requirements in order for us to graduate) I sort of lost track of time and other duties and for that I must apologise.

First of all, I've managed to get an internship offer by an architecture firm here in Phnom Penh (Cambodia) called Bloom Architecture, the firm founded by a French/Cambodian architect. I have been working there for the past three or so months now with just another three months to go until my internship ends. I cannot believe that time moves so quickly.

Secondly, I have graduated from Raffles International College with Advance Diploma and I have the option to further my education for Bachelor Degree where I've been given option to study here or abroad, for me I if I have the chance I want to study abroad there in Scotland where Raffles International College had partners with universities and colleges in Glasgow.

In saying that, I must weigh the financial situation and what the requirements are as well. The Raffles Information team has been asking me where I would like to study for my Bachelor and I just told them I need some time to discuss and evaluate or even take another gap year before I make any decision.

Phnom Penh is already fully reopen with people getting on with their day to day as normal as they're possibly can, but yes Omicron is still a concern for the Chum family whereas others might not as much but yes at this time we're trying our best to stay safe while trying to live with the new normal environment.

Lastly, I want to pray for the people of Ukraine during their hardship of trying to escape the invasion, praying for the people in Mariupol, Kharkiv and

elsewhere within the country to find safe passage and for them to get to safety without further harm.

God Bless,

Chea



Linkage Discussion Group meets every other week. During April the focus was on war and conflict; and forgiveness and forgiving. Based on one or two passages in the Bible and seeing what it says in 21st century discussion can be wide ranging topical and sometimes controversial. New members are always welcome. Contact John Kerr 860498 for further details.



Pause for Thought

The Season of Easter

The Lord is risen! The tears of grief have given way to tears of joy; and the followers of Jesus Christ now try to live in this world where evil, darkness and death itself have been unconditionally conquered. Evil conquered? Yes! Death conquered? Yes! To live in a world where evil holds no fear and death holds no threat requires a radical shift in understanding and attitude. Such a world is no longer under the dominant control of darkness but is already showing signs of the healing and life-giving presence of light, God's light. The truth that darkness can never extinguish the light gives us confidence and hope in this season and in all seasons.

Courage now flourishes where fear once dominated. We no longer tremble before powers of darkness and evil for we know that their **ultimate** defeat has already occurred and we can face them unafraid. What is there that can really do us harm? We now know the assurance that Paul declared: "In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us I am convinced that neither death nor life ... nor anything else in all creation , will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans ch8 vs 37-39).

From a Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God

Zero Waste Cafe overview

The Zero Waste Cafe is a project delivered by Eco Savvy and supported by North Ayrshire Council. A mobile 'pop-up' cafe will be operating in the Shiskine at the St Molios Church hall on a fortnightly basis. The next one is on Wednesday 20th April from 11am-1pm.

The Zero Waste Cafe is open to all. There are zero waste dispensers for bulk goods such as oats, rice, pasta and flour, tinned items and locally grown produce available for a suggested donation. A hot meal, typically soup and bakehouse bread, home baking and refreshments will also be available. The purpose of the cafe is to reduce wasteful packaging (please bring your own containers to use the refill dispensers!) food miles and to bring more locally grown and healthy food to the community. Please note that the Zero Waste Cafe is cash-only for the time being.

Eco Savvy have also purchased a freezer for St Molios Church hall to bring the food share back to the community as part of the Zero Waste Cafe. This is a distribution point for Food Share items that have been collected and frozen. They are free of charge as they are in the Brodick and Lamlash stores. The freezer is in the hall and can be accessed when the hall is open.

We hope to see you there!

Many thanks,

Jessica Wallace

Sustainable food coordinator

Arran Eco Savvy

Project Office

Ormidale Pavilion

Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8DL

Dates for Our Diary

- April 19, May 17 June 21 The Guild meets at 2p.m. on 3rd Tuesday each month. Apr. ABM, May, lunch together June on Arran with our link Guild. Incl. a visit to Bellevue farm.
- April 20 Guild Rally Guild Together will meet in Stevenston High church hall at 2p.m. Please contact Helen Kerr or Alison Burnett if you are able to go. Transport available.
- Every second week The linkage discussion Group – and 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 morning in hall from 10.30. 27 Apr., 25 May., 29 June.
- First Thurs of the month Taize worship in Holy Cross church at 3p.m.
All welcome.
- Every other Wed'day Zero Waste Café in the church hall April 6 & 20; May 4 & 18; June 1, 15 & 29.
- Holy Week Events**
- Wed/Thur 13/14 Apr. Visit the Holy Week Labyrinth in the church, any time between 10 a.m. and 8p.m. on Wed. and between 10.a.m. and 1p.m. on Thurs.
- Thurs. 14 April Maundy Thurs. Linkage Joint Holy Communion is in St Molios Church at 7.p.m
- Good Friday 15 Apr_ Walk of Witness In Brodick, starting at Holy Cross church at 2p.m.
- Sunday 5 June Worship at the Preaching Cave at 3.30p.m.

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
<i>Elders</i>	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
<i>Session Clerk</i>	Mr. John Kerr	860498
	Mrs Elizabeth McCarthy	860727
<i>Deacons' Court Clerk</i>	Mr. John McCarthy mob.07870643011	860727
<i>Organist</i>	Mr. John Clarke	860219
<i>Pastoral Support Team</i>		
Coordinator	Mrs. Helen Kerr (temporary)	860498
<i>Magazine Editor</i>	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 18 June 2022.