

St Molios Church Magazine



AUGUST 2021



Rise & Shine

*Awake my child, embrace the day,
for I've blessed you with a chance...
to choose to spend it joyfully
through every circumstance.*

*If you could see YOU through my eyes
you'd never feel alone...
or lost, or sad, or less than great,
for your strength is not your own.*

*I offer you My Spirit,
so don't let it waste away.
I pray that you'll accept My gift
and grow closer every day.*

*Now Rise & Shine!
And guard your thoughts
by keeping them on Me.
I'm giving you what you need today,
though you may not always see.*

*So ask Me child, for what you need,
I'm just a prayer away.
I bless you & I send My love,
on this ordinary day!*

Anonymous

From our Locum Minister Mrs Elizabeth Clarke

lizahclarke@gmail.com, Landline: 01770 860219, Mob: 07833 251486)

Hello folks,

I don't know about you but I'm a great one for putting things off – especially when it's something I don't really want to do or don't feel comfortable with.

For example I really don't enjoy cleaning the house! If I can find something else to do to delay the job I will. Eventually however, I will have used up all my options and have no choice but to get the vacuum cleaner and duster out. I am quite successful at delaying though so John has been known to describe our house as the only place where spiders die a happy death!

And then I will put off making phone calls for as long as I can especially if it is to a company or business when I know that I will be put in a queue and subjected to canned music for what seems like an eternity. When we were having trouble with our land line a few years ago I spent hours in a queue over several days trying to speak to BT – I have never felt the same about Beethoven's 5th since! And when you finally get through you are asked to choose from a list of many options none of which seem to be the right one!

Continuing with the phone call theme – I do have difficulty occasionally phoning someone I know. For example, I have been meaning to phone my aunt for some time now – just to hear how she and all the family are doing. It keeps being transferred through my “to do” list and the longer it goes on the harder it becomes for me to make the call. Have you been there? And when the other person phones me first I get that guilty feeling.

When some things are put off it is not important – my mum used to say, “the house will be there when I'm not”. But delaying making that phone call might result losing the last opportunity to speak to that person.

So as Benjamin Franklin said:

“Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today.”

I wonder if you have a Bucket List? For me this is a relatively new phrase indeed it meant nothing to me the first time I heard it. Now I know what it means and I even have one of my own!

So, I enjoyed travelling when I was younger but haven't been away much over the last 30 years! So I have places I would still like to visit – our friends in Switzerland, the Lake district, the outer isles and the small isles, not to mention the more exotic ones like Cyprus.

I loved skiing 30 years ago but I've never skied in Scotland so a trip to Aviemore at a suitable time is on the list.

I would like to learn to speak Gaelic properly rather than have just have a few words and phrases.

And so on....

All have been added to my bucket list - for some time now - but – I have yet to tick any of them off as “done that”.

I think that it is a good thing if I leave this life with some things unticked on my list but it would be a shame if none of them had been completed.

So it is my non-New Year resolution to DO rather than just WRITE.

In the bible we can read:

Proverbs 27:1

Do not boast about tomorrow,
for you do not know what a day may bring.

and

James 4:13-14

Boasting about tomorrow

¹³ Now listen, you who say “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” ¹⁴ Why, you do not

even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Every blessing,

Liz

Please note that there will be a celebration of Holy Communion on Sunday 8th August (with specific Covid restrictions). Everyone who wishes to attend must register by midday Saturday at 860498 or at kerrjh@btinternet.com

At the time of writing the magazine we have not yet heard if we will be allowed to sing but we are all longing to be able to sing with thanksgiving in our worship.

Meantime there is a service online every other week which can be found on our website: [www.//stmoliosshiskine.org.uk](http://stmoliosshiskine.org.uk)

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(My apologies, this message below was inadvertently left out from the May magazine - Editor Helen Kerr)



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Dear friends

Although a little belated, I write to thank you for your gift on my retirement from my post of Parish Assistant. It was very generous of you and I truly appreciate the gift, quite overwhelming.

It seemed no time since I came among you good folk of St Molios Church and community in 2001 and moved into Shiskine Manse. At that time I came to work with you and the churches and communities of Lochranza and Pirnmill.

I moved in to my new home in Corrie although still surrounded by some boxes, I have settled in. A different kind of view this side although lovely all the same. I have been able to get out and about and enjoy some free time in my retirement going for lunches and for walks with Max which I'm sure he enjoys.

There have been a lot of changes in the past year and a half and not just with COVID restrictions but in the church and will do so in going forward:

Jeremiah tells us this – “For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Ardrossan Presbytery has made provision for ministry for the North Arran Linkage with Rev Dave Sutherland as Interim Moderator and Mrs Liz Clarke as Locum.

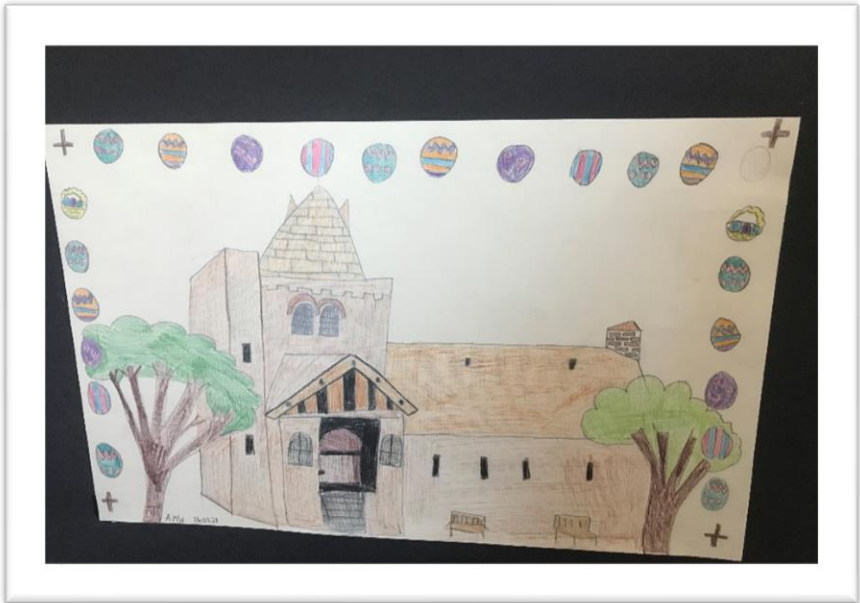
#### Shiskine Primary School and Early Years

I was touched by the kids of Shiskine Primary School at Easter time. Some of them came to visit me at the church, outside of course, just before Easter with their teacher Mrs Black and Mrs Carol Brown. They brought me gifts as well - an Easter egg and a bag of chocolate goodies from James Chocolate Shop, lovely. They gave me a card from the staff and a big card from all the school. I didn't open them until I got in my house and I was so glad I had waited, as I was so touched and a bit teary by then. The picture you see of the church with Easter eggs round it and crosses was drawn by Ava McNeice, its stunning. The children from Primary one to three and Primary four to seven had signed it inside with a message 'Happy Retirement'. I put the picture in a frame and it is hanging on the wall in my new home. I always enjoyed the school assemblies and being associated with the school. It was a privilege being invited into the school and to the many events they have held over the years.

Every Blessing on you all

Jean Hunter

*Below is the bonnie picture from the children in Shiskine Primary School.*



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Editor's note: The following article is also written by Jean. Although she is St. Molios presbytery elder she is also Clerk to Ardrossan Presbytery and in that position she has a wealth of knowledge of the radical plan the Church of Scotland is undertaking at this time. We are blessed to have the benefit of her knowledge so that we can begin to understand the serious complexity of the situation we find ourselves in as part of the national church and as a congregation.

Ardrossan Presbytery News

One thing I keep getting asked when I meet people from the church or in the community is, “When are we going to get a new minister?” and I have to say “I don’t know”. I will try to give you a very shortened explanation of why, in this letter.

We are a Presbyterian church and have to follow the procedures of the Church of Scotland (C of S). Intimations called ‘Edicts’ have to be made to congregations in church at certain stages of the Vacancy Process. However, during the last year and a bit that hasn’t been easy because of COVID and with churches either being closed because of the pandemic or constrained because of numbers allowed in church.

Each Presbytery including our Presbytery of Ardrossan, has to have an agreed Presbytery Plan in place. The Presbytery Appraisal Committee, the committee responsible for preparing the Presbytery Plan, presented part of that to the Presbytery for Approval on the 4th May. The part they presented was for Mission Group 4 which was for the congregations on Arran. Presbytery approved that part of the plan for 2.7 ministries for Arran, two full time ministers of Word and Sacrament and a part time Ministries Development Staff. Although that was approved by Presbytery the proposal had then to go to a higher authority for approval, the Presbytery Planning Task Group.

However, before a decision could be made, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was held virtually in May and everything changed.

After a report by the Faith Nurture Forum, who is responsible for ministries among other matters, they presented a new Presbytery Mission Plan Act and the General Assembly agreed to this new Act which is more radical than all that has gone before.

In the next five years there is a large percentage of ministers due to retire and not enough men and women in training for ministry to fill the posts. The Church at the moment is also running with 290 vacancies and then there is the financial implications and all of this can’t be sustained in the years ahead.

A third of the congregations in the C of S are subsidising the other two thirds through their Ministries and Mission Contributions (The amount of money each congregation is asked to contribute to support their minister(s), training of new ministers and to the mission of the Church both at home and abroad.

What does this mean for Ardrossan Presbytery of which we are part ?

The General Assembly agreed that going forward there would be a total of 600 paid ministries for the Church, this would include Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministries Development Staff. The Church would also run with no more than 60 vacancies at a time. Each Presbytery has been given an allocation of ministries.

In our Presbytery Plan in May, the Appraisal Committee were preparing for a reduction of 20% ministries but what we have been allocated is a reduction of 43%. In the current Plan we have 23.1 ministries and this has to be reduced to 13.5 for the whole of Ardrossan Presbytery.

The General Assembly agreed to suspend all Presbytery Plans from 1st June 2021 until after 31st December 2022 in order for Presbyteries to draw up this new Presbytery Mission Plan. The only congregations allowed to call a minister at present are those who have gone through the steps of the Vacancy Procedure and are at the stage of having a sole nominee (someone preaching for the vacant charge) and can do that before 31st December 2021 will be allowed to have a minister inducted to the charge. If those congregations have not had a sole nominee preach for the vacant charge by 31st December 2021 they will have to wait until 2023 to proceed. In Ardrossan Presbytery we only have two congregations at that stage. The rest of the vacant charges will have to wait, including those on Arran.

The Ardrossan Presbytery Appraisal Committee has a challenging time ahead and not an easy one in drawing up the Presbytery Mission Plan, they have begun though and their next meeting is in August. There will be consultation with Kirk Sessions and congregations in due course. We remember that “The Mission of the Church is Christ’s Mission”. This is the mission of the whole people of God and not just those in paid ministries.

There are Five Marks of Mission in the new Presbytery Mission Plan Act we have to work to, offering a framework for understanding mission. They are as follows:

- 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.

The former Moderator, the Very Rev Martin Fair said in his closing address to the General Assembly this :

“With the 3, 4 and 5 marks of mission ‘there is a work for us to do’ with all that is going on in the world. The church has to get its act together though. The Church needs refreshed, revitalised and reformed. If that is to happen then we had better see to the 1st and 2nd of the 5 Marks of Mission to enable the church to survive in new and creative ways to do 3, 4 and 5”.

As I have said all Presbyteries have to draw up a Presbytery Mission Plan for the congregations within their bounds. Congregations in turn are encouraged, as the whole people of God, to think of the 5 Marks of Mission in a positive way and how they can use them for ‘the Mission of Christ’ where they are for the way ahead.

The congregations in the North Arran linkage are currently well served with Liz Clarke as our Locum and the others conducting worship on Sundays and we are grateful to them.

Please uphold them and the office bearers in your prayers.

Every blessing,
Jean Hunter, Presbytery Elder

North Arran Linkage – Prayers for Health and Healing

A Call for All to Consider Joining Together

During this pandemic and its many restrictions to our daily lives a small group in the Parish of North Arran who regularly attended Prayers for Health and Healing before Covid, have committed to meeting each in our own home to pray for those on Arran and further afield who have personally asked for prayer or who have had a friend or relative ask for prayer. However, it has been brought to our attention recently that we not only have been and continue to be in crisis because of Covid 19 raging through our world but that much prayer is needed for our world, our nation, governments and perhaps most importantly our Church of Scotland which stands at very serious crossroads; our churches locally on Arran and nationally need our prayers.

On the last Wednesday of June a Zoom meeting was held when half a dozen of us 'met' and discussed this need to enlarge the mandate of what we ought to be praying for as well as the personal prayers for individuals. We then held the prayer time which was then discussed after the service. We now want to invite anyone who is constrained to join us in prayer on Zoom at 12 midday on the last Wednesday of each month.

When Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together there am I in the midst," it was/is not an invitation for us to be limited to a tiny group. I am always encouraged how my own focus is much better when we pray together at a set time. It is not an invitation to each participant to lead verbally in prayer but for your presence to participate in prayer, often in short silences and always together in God's presence.

Please prayerfully consider this invitation to you and let me know of your wish to join by emailing me or phoning and I'll send you the meeting details. It is possible under the present regulations for three households up to six people to meet in one household and this is an opportunity to invite those who may not have access to Wi-Fi and Zoom. The next meeting will be at 11a.m. on Wednesday 28th July. Hopefully we may soon be able to meet face to face.

Helen Kerr Tel 01770 860 498 kerrjh@btinternet.com

Guild News



Our last Zoom meeting of the Guild was our Annual Business meeting in April. Since then a number of us were also able to join in Guilds Together North Ayrshire (GTNA) summer rally on Zoom, which should have been held in Brodick this year. It was good that Covid regulations had relaxed a bit and those of us with Wi-Fi and able to meet on Zoom were able to invite a member who had missed out on our regular Zoom meetings.

Our Guild leadership team has been busy organising the syllabus for 21/22 and we hope to be able to meet in face to face on the third Tuesday each month starting with a service of dedication in church on Sunday 19th September led by Jean Hunter. Please mark it in your diary. On Tuesday 21st September, Graham Johnston Youth Worker Project Manager of Arran Youth Foundations will speak to us about working with disadvantaged and young people with disabilities and how they relate and are integrated within the whole AYF community.

Before then, we anticipate being able to have our annual BBQ for the congregation and the community on Friday 27th August but that will depend on what we are permitted to do by the Scottish Government at that time – watch this space!

Also Looking forward to the October meeting we will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of our branch of the Guild being restarted by Jean Hunter who had for many years been a Guild member.

We warmly welcome any women or men to join us for one or all of our gatherings – the fellowship and friendship and tea is a great time too.

Yet again this year because of Covid 19 restriction the Annual Gathering, usually held in Dundee will be virtually on Zoom. Last year over 1000 joined in and it is hoped a good number of us from St. Molios will be able to do this again on 4th September at 11.am.

Those of you who signed up to the weekly Guild News by email will have appreciated keeping in touch with what other guilds are doing and news about forward plans. Below I thought you would appreciate the letter this week written by our National Secretary Iain Whyte when he tells of the peace he enjoyed on Arran recently.

Helen Kerr



The power of peace

My wife, Elaine, and I recently returned from our annual trip to Arran. We spent two happy, sunny weeks on the island and once again were refreshed by its stunning beauty and variety.

Over our time there, we walked around 60 miles across rocky and sandy coastlines, up and down steep and rugged hills, through forests and over streams. We saw beautiful lochans and views as far as Jura. We shared time with friends and had quiet times of reading and relaxing.

It's good to be able to unwind in a place like that but it is also good to use the time to reflect on the wonder of creation and, without being overdramatic, your own place in that.

One thing that really struck me, though not for the first time, was the

power of the peace that pervades vast outdoor spaces.

On a walk up and down Glen Rosa, I stopped and looked around me. The mountains and the corries between them, the sweeping hills and the big sky, the rushing Rosa Burn, buzzards and fish and rabbits...so much history and vitality, yet amongst all that there was this sense of silence and of infinity and eternity.

At times like that, I wonder how atheists can believe that this is all an accident, a random gathering of particles and physical forces. For me it is in places like Glen Rosa that God speaks loudest, as well as in music and words...places where we are alive in our thoughts, but also in all of our senses.

I wonder if the story of Jesus spending 40 days in the wilderness being tempted by the devil says something of the same...was he just considering what was being asked of him, doing that in solitude and coming up with answers? Or was the wilderness key to it all...the sense of the wonder of creation inspiring him and moving him?

We should never underestimate the power of peace and the power of beauty...we are sentient and emotional beings and words are not enough!

Iain Whyte
General Secretary

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Paddy Youseman has sent a note of appreciation which surely echoes the sentiments of all who received the afternoon teas on the first Sunday of each month when we couldn't meet up with friends. She writes,

"Many thanks for my 'tea trays' . So good of everyone involved in its preparation and presentation and delivery. Thanks too for all the work done to keep our church going." A special thanks to Alison Burnett who made the teas all happen and to her and Evelyn Hamilton for all their time delivering to around 20 homes.

## Words of Wisdom from Audrey Hepburn

When they asked her to reveal her beauty secrets Audrey Hepburn wrote this beautiful text that was later read at her funeral.

“To have attractive lips, speak kind words.

To have a loving look, look for the good side of people.

To look skinny, share your food with the hungry.

To have beautiful hair, let a child cross it with his own fingers once a day.

To have a beautiful poise, walk knowing you're never alone, because those who love and loved you accompany you.

People, even more than objects, need to be fixed, spoiled, awakened, wanted and saved: never give up on anyone.

Remember, if you ever need a hand, you'll find them at the end of both your arms.

When you become old, you will discover that you have two hands, one to help yourself, the second to help others.

The beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, in her face or in her way of fixing her hair. The beauty of a woman is seen in her eyes, because that is the door open to her heart, the source of her love.

The beauty of a woman doesn't lie in her makeup, but the true beauty in a woman is reflected in her soul.

It is the tenderness that gives love, the passion that it expresses.

The beauty of a woman grows over the years ”

## Deaths

### Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the Life.'

04/07/21 Euphemia (Effie) Clark of Burncliff Shiskine

10/07/21 Robert Green of High Park, Torbeg

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PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

From The Divine Conspiracy by Dallas Willard

Jesus himself was and is a joyous, creative person and he said, "He that has seen me has seen the Father." One of the most outstanding features of Jesus' personality was precisely an abundance of joy. This he left as an inheritance to his students (or disciples), "That their joy might be full". And they did not say, "Pass the aspirin," for he was well known to those around him as a happy man.

So, we must understand that God does not "love" us without liking us – through gritted teeth – as "Christian" love is sometimes thought to do. Rather, out of the eternal freshness of his perpetually self-renewed being, the heavenly Father cherishes the earth and each human being upon it. The fondness, the endearment, the unstintingly affectionate regard of God toward all his creatures is the natural outflowing of what he is to the core. – which we vainly try to capture with our tired but indispensable old word *love*.

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### More news from Cambodia

Dear All,

Though I have been busy with school, I do have a lot of time to just relax and unwind from the stress. I occupy my time mostly gaming on my phone, but also, I have recently picked up some of my old hobbies and even had a few new hobbies. The game I have spent the most time playing as of right now is Genshin Impact. My





friend introduced it to me before the lockdown and the moment I played it, I fell in love with the storyline and the character design. I have and still am playing it every day when I can and it has been keeping my boredom levels at home to a minimum (By that I mean, I am not complaining about being bored as much as I think I would be).

During this time, I had also picked up old hobbies such as drawing and writing. Before the lockdown, I had little to no time to do these hobbies, but now, with new free time, I got back into drawing and writing when I have a spurt of inspiration. I had also read novels and books that aren't text books or anything related to school, which helped refresh my mind a little bit. A new hobby I had picked up is composing and digital art. I hated the idea of digital art, but I have picked it up because a friend of mine is working with me on a project for the school that includes digital drawing. I still dislike digital drawing, but I don't mind it as much now. I also enjoy composing. At first, it was an assignment assigned by my music teacher, but as I continue to work on it, I find myself enjoying it more than I originally thought I would and it completely surprises me because I have never composed before. I am still working on my first song and am waiting for my music teacher to help correct some things, but I would love to continue to compose.

With all these things, I have been keeping myself busy and keeping myself sane from being locked in my house. My friends and I have also called each other daily on discord to play Genshin or to just watch anime together. We also help each other with schoolwork if someone doesn't understand something. We entertain each other in a sense and I am grateful for that. I'm also grateful for my family. They have been my rock through all this and I am always thankful for that.

With lots of love,

Helen Chum.

*Editor's comment: Teenagers never cease to amaze me and I always thought I found languages a pleasant challenge but I find the above an amazing language that I can't quite understand!*

Well done! Helen. I hope we all get a chance to meet you next summer.

Cambodia right now is in the throws of an increase in Covid-19 cases having managed to have kept numbers low at the beginning of the pandemic. Recently they have had 1000 new cases every day in the capital and their hospitals are ill-equipped to cope.

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Just Think

When you are going through hard times and wonder where God is, remember the teacher is always quiet during a test.

..... and Just Smile

The Journey Home

*All get heavier as we get older because
we have a lot more information in our heads.
So, I'm not fat. I'm just really intelligent and
my head couldn't hold any more so
it started filling up the rest of me!
That's my story and I'm sticking to it!*



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### **Worship and Celebration of our Christian Heritage at the Clachan**

We hope to have our annual service at the old Clachan on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 3p.m. All are welcome.

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

|                 |                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 26 July  | In church singing (with masks on) only 1 metre distance Space for more people, WELCOME BACK! 12 noon <b>Registering preferred. 860498</b> |
| Sunday 8 Aug.   | Celebration of Holy Communion 12 noon                                                                                                     |
| Sunday 19 Sept  | Dedication of the Guild during morning worship                                                                                            |
| Sunday 26 Sept. | Worship Celebration of our Christian heritage in the Clachan at 3p.m.                                                                     |
| Friday 27 Aug.  | The Guild BBQ for congregation, friends and community 6:30p.m. start.                                                                     |
| Tues 21 Sept.   | Guild at 2p.m. speaker Graeme Johnston Arran Youth Foundations – inclusion of all disabilities and disadvantaged young people.            |
| Oct 19 Oct.     | Guild at 2p.m. Speaker Jean Hunter 20 years on – celebration of the restart of St Molios Guild.                                           |

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As we hopefully 'come out' of the Covid 19 pandemic and restrictions are gradually relaxed we will still be subjected to some lesser restrictions. There may still be some limitations put on us but hopefully we will be able to hold all these events as we return to the new normal.

Useful Contacts

St. Molios Church in the Parish of North Arran

Telephone no.

Interim Moderator

Locum Minister Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke 01770 860219

Elders

Dr. Alan Burnett 860742

Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke 860219

Mr. John Clarke 860219

Mrs Jean Hunter 860380

Mrs. Evelyn Hamilton 860233

Mrs. Helen Kerr 860498

Session Clerk

Mr. John Kerr 860498

Mrs Elizabeth McCarthy 860727

Deacons' Court Clerk Mr. John McCarthy mob.07870643011 860727

Organist

Mr. John Clarke 860219

Pastoral Support Team

Coordinator

Magazine Editor 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 October 2021.