

# St Molios Church Magazine



Easter 2023

Rejoice, Jesus Christ is Risen!



## Reflection

By Benjamin Cremer

We want a war horse.

Jesus rides a donkey.

We want a bird of prey.

The Holy Spirit descends as a dove.

We want the militia.

Jesus calls fishermen, tax collectors, women and children.

We want the courtroom.

Jesus sets a table.

We want the gavel.

Jesus washes feet

We want to take up swords.

Jesus takes up a cross.

We want the empire.

Jesus brings the Kingdom of God.

We want the nation.

Jesus calls the church.

We want the roaring lion.

God comes as a slaughtered lamb.

We keep trying to arm God.

God keeps trying to disarm us.

## **From our Interim Moderator**

### **A small miracle....**

Who said, 'The age of miracles is dead'? Sorting out the garden shed, I discovered an old packet of 'Miracle Gro' – ready-to-use plant food which promised to stimulate luxurious growth while adding health and vitality to all our plants. If only it were that easy!

I remember once I witnessed a small miracle. I had offered to help a neighbour sort out her garden. My task was to clear the patio and I spent an enjoyable afternoon emptying and cleaning what seemed like a hundred flowerpots containing dried up plants, rainwater, mud, stones and then sweeping away last autumn's leaf mould and garden rubbish.

Then I witnessed an amazing sight. In the middle of a new mono-block path which had been laid along the edge of the lawn, one of the blocks had risen, and now stood at least one inch above all the others. And the reason? A daffodil had forced its way up through the hard ground and had lifted the block as it grew towards the light. You and I would have found it difficult, if not impossible, to raise that block which was so well embedded in the path, and yet the force within that delicate flower had done just that – a miracle indeed!

It reminded me of the rolling away of the stone which sealed Jesus' tomb, and I recognised afresh the power of God's love in action.

Two thousand years after the first Easter Day our world is still full of oppression, suffering and pain. On TV newscasts we are constantly confronted with people's cruelty to one another, and sometimes we are weighed down by it and cannot envisage any hope for the future. It is then that we need to remind ourselves that love, which seems so fragile, is still the most powerful force in our world, and that, in the darkest places and in life's darkest times, God can work miracles beyond our understanding.

Week by week we are remembering all that Jesus had to endure and suffer for us to, gain our salvation on the cross. As we complete our final journey to

Easter through Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, we reach the joy of Easter Day – God’s miracle of resurrection! His love wins through.

Wishing you all a happy and blessed Easter!

Tom Macintyre

**Prayer**

*All-powerful God, you use your gentle touch to roll away the stones which weigh us down. Remind us always that the fragile touch of love can work miracles where force has failed, and that all things are possible for you. Amen.*



**The Holy Week Labyrinth** in St Molios church on Wednesday all day and again in Thursday morning was enjoyed by a number of people from various parts of the island. A time to reflect on the events of Jesus’ last days on earth leading up to his crucifixion and resurrection. It was a quiet place in our busy world.

**Maundy Thursday Agape Meal** in Brodick church hall, Liz Clarke led 17 of us from all four congregations in this simple act of worship remembering how our Lord frequently had times when he met with his friends for a meal. Thereafter we enjoyed tea/coffee and large hot cross buns.

**Easter Day Celebrating the Risen Lord** 9th April in St Molios at noon.





Our Link Guild St Francis in the East Bridgeton. On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June two of us were able to travel to Glasgow to enjoy the celebration of their 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary . It was a happy afternoon with guild members and friends, with a display of years gone by, a time of worship and entertainment, followed by a lovely tea with anniversary cake, in great company.



### **Guilds Together North Ayrshire** held the

Spring gathering and annual business meeting in Beith, the following day. Thirty-eight men and women representing 10 Of the 13 branches in North Ayrshire. Three of us attended from St Molios. The singing was uplifting and it was good to be together with guilds from other churches. Following a short time of business the Right Rev. Andrew MacLennan, Chairman of Friends of St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias was introduced as our speaker. He was such an engaging speaker that time passed in a flash as he spoke with passion and humour explaining about the support for the upkeep of the two churches of Scotland in Israel and the projects the funds from the organisation assisted Palestinians and Israelis who strive to work for peace and justice in this strife torn area. His talk was illustrated and we saw a large stone which declared 'WE REFUSE TO BE ENEMIES'. GTNA is a life member of Friends of St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberius And it was good to hear of Scotland's presence in Israel.

With the new restructuring of presbyteries, the **Guilds Together** were encouraged to considered following the boundaries of the new presbyteries but the three in Ayrshire decided 'no'! that did not suit our purpose. It was felt that people do not want to travel longer journeys to meet up with

members but that the three Ayrshire Guilds Together would meet up occasionally. Our next meeting together is on 12<sup>th</sup> April in the Howard Centre in Kilmarnock. We are encouraged to take a packed lunch and it will be a day away together. If you would like to attend – you do not need to be a guild member but could make it a taster – please contact Alison Burnett 860742 as soon as possible.

**St Molios Guild** The last formal meeting of our guild will be on Tuesday 18 April at 2p.m. and will include our annual business meeting when funds will be disbursed. All are very welcome.

On 16<sup>th</sup> May we hope to all go out for a social lunch on Arran just to keep in touch. Venue TBA. Watch the church notices!

On 13<sup>th</sup> June some of us will travel to Bridgeton to meet our link guild members and travel together to the David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre where we will have lunch out and a guided tour round the centre.

**The GTNA Summer Gathering** St Molios Guild will be the host guild when the meeting will be held in Brodick Church at 2p.m. on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and we do hope as many members will be able to attend. The speaker will be Rev. Christine Fulcher, the new regional guild support person for the whole of the west of Scotland.



**ACT Committee** met on 9<sup>th</sup> February when there was, for the first time since before Covid, a change of office bearers and I gladly relinquished the position of chair of ACT. It was decided to have a rota for chairing the meetings which puts more onus on the secretary. Chris Black representative from Lochranza congregation agreed to be secretary for one year only.

It remains to be seen how many representatives the Arran Church of Scotland will have after the Act of Union later this year. ACT has always worked together very well and it is good to meet together in public worship and outreach events on the island.

On Good Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April there will be **The Walk of Witness** starting at Holy Cross Church at 2p.m. prompt. Following a short act of worship, the walk will pass silently through the village behind the cross to Brodick Church where we join together in a second act of worship. There will be refreshments in the hall thereafter.

**Songs of Praise on Arran** is arranged for 3p.m. on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Each representative has been asked to seek one volunteer in their congregation to select a favourite hymn and be prepared to say a few words as to why it is a favourite of theirs. If you feel this could be you please contact me.

Helen Kerr ACT rep.

~~~~~

**Celebration of Pentecost** The annual Service at the Preaching Cave will be on Sunday 28 May at 3.30p.m. when we invite all churches to join us at this historic location to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Remember to wear stout shoes and keep an eye on the weather! The walk to the cave along Kilpatrick shore is rather rough. There will be parking at Kilpatrick Farm.

~~~~~

### **Taizé Worship**

Helen Kerr

I have been asked to write something about Taizé worship as an older participant and Taizé in Southeast France.

Taizé community is an ecumenical expression of life, practising the presence of God. That life demands a life long commitment to living in brotherhood - a

life of simplicity, worship in song and prayer with peace and reconciliation at its centre.

From February to October each year they open their community to people from many nations, (mainly 16-25 year-olds but also older people, couples and some families) for one week visits – people of committed Christian faith, people of other faiths, people with faith doubts and people of little faith or none. The one condition is that each visitor will follow the Taizé routine of life and worship and join wholly in the programme.

Young people are particularly attracted to Taizé gatherings week by week in numbers from c.800 to 3-4,000. Their programme for both young and older people, includes worship in the Church of Reconciliation three times a day. Daily talks and discussions on topics - for the young groups such as reconciliation, peace, justice and anger management – related to the bible with group discussion in afternoons when a number of questions are put to the small groups. (the programme for older participants is very different.) Everyone had a domestic duty to carry out every day –such as washing dishes or cleaning toilets! The meals are healthy, tasty and basic but the temperature of the shower water is very very eco!! There is time for games or a walk in the afternoon and relaxation after worship time at 21.00.

Taizé Worship Our week at Taizé had a profound affect of my faith. Late in life I came to accept that I had not truly learned to be silent before God – to live in his presence – declutter my mind and heart of my agenda in life – to learn to practice the presence of the Lord. It did not , does not, come easily but at Taizé I learned to be still and the difference between **being** still in God’s awesome presence, and being busy **doing** service in his name. Three times a day at worship there would be much repetitive singing of Taizé songs with all songs being based on words from scripture; focusing on those few words and taking them in, there would be reading of scripture in the three most predominant laungages of those present and two 10 minute times of silence for personal reflection on what you have heard. At first that can be a long time, especially for teenagers but after the first days there is amazing silence.



I have an interesting DVD from Taizé which shows how Taizé impacts on the lives of young people from all over the world. Any gathering that brings so many young people to challenge their faith and help them to form their Christian faith is laudible. ~~~~~

**Beatitudes From the Elderly** Found in the Bible of an elderly lady after she died.

Blessed are they who understand,  
My faltering step and shaking hands.  
Blessed are they who know my ears today.  
Must strain to catch the things they say.

Blessed are they who looked away  
When tea was spilled on the cloth that day.  
Blessed are they with a cheery smile.  
Who stop and chat for a little while.

Blessed are they who never say  
'You've told that story twice today'!  
Blessed are they who make it known  
That I'm loved, respected not alone.  
And blessed are they, who ease the days  
Of my journey home in loving ways.

~~~~~

**Zero Waste Cafe** pops up every two weeks next one in on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April from 11.00 – 13.00. Hot soup, bread tea/coffee and a home bake. All are welcome. 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. (please bring your own containers to use the refill dispensers!)

**Food Share** held every Sunday evening a 9p.m. prompt! No food to be wasted

**News from Cambodia** Continued from January magazine about Helen Chum's visit to Europe.



Then we headed to Durham where we would be staying with Anna and Nick Brooker. There I was able to spend some time with Bruno the family pet dog, who is a sweetheart and I miss him dearly, as well as meeting Edith and the twins, Rufus and Teddy. They were a pleasure to meet and to finally match their

faces to the names that Chea has been telling me about since he came back in 2019.

While there, I was also able to wrap up the last of my maths studies as well as contribute to Anna and Nick's jigsaw puzzle. It was fun doing the puzzle. There I was also able to get the whole 'British' experience by going to a pantomime which was quite a culture shock to me because mostly while watching a musical we stay quiet until they pause and such. I enjoyed it. It was very funny and although a little ridiculous, it was incredible. I would like to go to one again.

After two nights in Durham, we headed to the Netherlands by ferry. On the first day in The Netherlands, I personally stayed in the airport hotel to just relax and wash my hair. On the second day, we explored Amsterdam and decided to visit the Artis zoo. I was able to see many animals that I haven't had the pleasure of seeing here in Cambodia and was able to get many pictures of them for my memories. On the third day, we went to Gouda and met with our friend Marion and had coffee with her before we went and walked around the market a little bit. I got a few things to bring back to Cambodia and we have all loved the treats to eat with our morning coffee. Then the last day we went to visit Amsterdam again and visited the church there for their service it was a little bit of a struggle finding it, but we got there in the end. After that, It was time for me to once again be on a plane back home. Overall, I had fun on this trip and enjoyed the past three weeks. Hopefully, I would be able to visit again soon.

With lots of love,  
Helen.

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

- Sunday April 16                      The Sacrament of Holy Communion at Noon
- April 18, May 16 June 13      The Guild meets at 2p.m. on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month.  
Apr. ABM, May, lunch together. In June a day away  
with our link Guild Likely to be a visit to David  
Livingstone Centre Blantyre.
- April 12 Guild Rally              Guilds Together in Ayrshire will meet in the Howard  
Centre Kilmarnock at from 12 noon.
- Every second week              The Linkage Discussion Group – from Friday 14 April  
at 10.00 Contact John Kerr 860498 for details of date  
and venue.
- Last Wed. each month      Prayers for Health and Healing in Brodick Church  
transept at 1.30p.m. 26 Apr., 24 May., 28 June. If you  
know of anyone needing prayer please contact Helen  
Kerr 860498.
- First Thurs of the month      Taizé worship in Holy Cross church at 3p.m. All are  
welcome.
- Every other Wed'day          Zero Waste Café in the church hall April 19: May 3, 17  
& 31: June 14 & 28.

~~~~~

## ***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

~~~~~

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 15 June 2023.