

# St Molios Church Magazine



February 2020



## ***The Perfect Church***

*I think that I will never see  
The church that's all it ought to be:  
The church whose members never stray  
Beyond the straight and narrow way:  
Whose preacher never has the blues;  
The church whose deacons always "deak"  
And none is proud and all are meek.  
Where gossip never peddles lies  
Or make complaints or criticise;  
Where all are always sweet and kind  
And all to others' faults are blind.  
Such perfect churches there may be  
But none of them are known to me.  
But still we'll work and pray and plan  
To make this one the best we can.*

*Roseville Bulletin*



Corriecravie

January 2020

Dear Folks,

In November past I visited Armagh for the William Kennedy Piping Festival and among other great events there was a lecture entitled 'the Pipes that once through Rossmore's Halls', a fascinating insight into the musical heritage of Irish nobleman Henry Robert Western a 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Rossmore (1792- 1860). Lord Rossmore was a renowned Uilleann piper and collector of pipe music, said in his day to be the equal of any professional piper in Ireland. Among the tunes selected to be played was an ancient Arran boat-song entitled *Uamh an Righ* or 'The King's Cave' collected here in the 1830's.

The Rossmore connection with Arran between 1820 and 1854 was through his marriage to Anne Douglas-Hamilton the illegitimate daughter of the 8<sup>th</sup> Duke. Her dowry included the farms of Altgloch, South and North Penrioch, South, Mid and North Thunderguy, Catacol, Imachar, Dougarie and Auchingallan, what is now approximately the modern day Dougarie Estate.

I was delighted to return with a copy of a lost Arran tune, but that was tinged with the fact that the Rossmore name here will ever be connected with one of the cruellest episodes in our island's Clearance history.

Rossmore had a residence at High Dougarie but wished to build a new hunting lodge at Catacol, {what is now Catacol Farm} in order to accommodate his hunting parties who were in the habit of going via Catacol Glen via Loch Tanna, through Glen Iorsa to High Dougarie. However, the original blackhouses of the old village of Catacol located at the mouth of the glen offended the gentry who had to pass them on the way to their sport. In an act of treachery the residents of Catacol were invited to a party at Dougerie by Lord Rossmore but when they

made to go home, the servants prevented them leaving long enough to allow the keepers and his agents to set the thatch of their cottages alight and pull down the walls, utterly destroying them. On their return to Catacol the people were left destitute. With no land to till the only option was to eek a meagre living fishing the waters of the Kilbannan Sound. Eventually under duress Catacol Row, that very pretty street of twelve cottages we now know as the Twelve Apostles was built for them. Despite this, many families refused to live there in protest at the way they had been treated and it originally had the less poetic nickname of 'Hungry Row'.

In other ways, Lord Rossmore seems to have been more enlightened land owner, for he had a church built for the Northend people in 1842. The following year at the Disruption when the Free Church split away from the Established Church of Scotland, he put the building at the disposal of the people who opted to become a congregation of the Free Church. Lenimore Church as it was known was located at the *Airidh Bheirge* (Areverege) a flat piece of ground located between Pirnmill and Catacol. There is a wonderful painting by John McWhirter R.A. in the *Book of Arran Vol 2* entitled 'Sunday in the Highlands', which shows the people walking along the foreshore to the church shown in the background. Demolished in the 1950's all that now remains of it are steps cut into the roadside verge.

Lord Rossmore also built a magnificent family seat Rossmore Castle in County Monaghan. In a competition with the neighbouring Shirleys of Lough Fea, as to who owned the biggest room in the County, the drawing room was extended five times. Nothing of this once magnificent mansion now remains for it had to be abandoned in the 1950's due to dry rot and it too was levelled to the ground. Perhaps, there is a strange irony in that, although not for the present Rossmore family. Despite what the bible says that 'the sins of the parents are to be visited on the children to the third and fourth generation' (Exodus 20: 4), I have always felt it is quite wrong to hold future generations

responsible for the actions of forebears and things that happened way before they were born or had any control over.

Hopefully though, we can learn from the cruelties of the past and make the present more just and better for all. As to judging our ancestors too hastily, care must be taken, 'judge not lest ye be judged' (Matthew 7: 1). We might think it inconceivable that someone in the past could spend money to build a place of worship whilst neglecting the needs of the poor and homeless. Yet as we approach another Stated Annual Meeting, our yearly congregational business and financial meeting, a huge amount of energy will be placed in spending money keeping our church buildings open and the institution of the Kirk functioning. Jesus on the other hand, would have been more likely to give it all away to the poor and needy.

Angus

A New Year with the Lord

(by M. S. Lowndes)

This poem was used in the church at the beginning of the year.

A New Year is about to unfold  
With new opportunities to explore,  
Doors will open for new experiences,  
New adventures with the Lord.

Remember not the former things,  
The things of the past year,  
The Lord will do the things in us,  
Much more than we are aware.

For he will make a way for us  
As we put our trust in him,  
And he will guide our every step,  
By his presence we have within.

What God has placed within our hearts,  
We find we'll be able to do,  
If we look for the opportunities,  
We'll see the door to go through.

We musn't let anything hold us back,  
But rise up and take our place,  
And be all that God wants us to be,  
With a fresh touch of his grace.

From Jean Hunter

#### ST. MOLIOS GUILD



On 29 October 2019, a few members of our guild travelled over the String to join Lamlash Guild in their lofty church hall. After a very warm welcome, we settled down to hear about a current guild project, "Malawi Fruits". The presentation was given by Kevin Simpson, a co-founder and active administrator. He runs the charity from his

spare bedroom in Wishaw! The charity aims to raise farmers from traditional, precarious, subsistence farming by providing training and support which enables them to grow and process an additional 'cash crop'.

We started with an amusing and informative quiz about Malawi, then heard about the 'Paprika Project' and the huge importance of Solar-powered water pumps. The slides we saw, along with Kevin's equally colourful words, took us to meet the Malawian people. His energy and love of Malawi is inspiring, as is his commitment to God. He confessed that his earthly hero is David Livingston!

Many thanks to Lamlash Guild and Kevin Simpson for a very special afternoon, including the tea, cakes and chat that followed the presentation!

St Molios Guild hopes to have a "Malawi Fruits" speaker at a forthcoming guild meeting so watch this space. All are welcome!

We held our annual Christmas Carols and Tea on 17 December in the church hall. A baker's dozen of members sat round the large table which was set for tea. We were delighted that Rosemary, a new resident of Blackwaterfoot, joined us, and that John Clarke was sitting on the piano stool ready to play! Betty, our eldest member, picked the first carol to start us off and other members made their choices later. Between songs, Liz entertained us - and gave us food for thought - with a variety of readings and anecdotes, and Allison led us in a pass the parcel game, not to music, but to a reading of the Christmas story. This required us to know right from left, so you can imagine how hilarious it was! We were more than ready for our afternoon tea and consumed an impressive amount of the abundant feast!

Dorothy Allan

Up Coming Events: (GTNA) Ayrshire Three "Guilds Together" will have a **Big Sing** on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 2.30p.m in Kilwinning Abbey (Kilwinning Old Parish). This year it is our Guilds Together that is hosting friends from South and East Ayrshire and we hope as many members as possible will attend. We will go on the 11.05 ferry and return on the 18.00 ferry.

**The Resource Day** Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 10.00 in St Cuthbert Church, Saltcoats when Iain Whyte our Guild General Secretary will be with us. This will introduce us to many new resources available in the church including the 2020/21 theme guide 'The second mile.' Please let Helen or Alison know if you are able to go on what promises to be a great day out together.

Helen Kerr

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**I AM BLESSED**

I've seen better days but I've also seen worse.

I don't have everything that I want but I do have all I need.

I woke up with some aches and pains but I woke up.

My life may not be perfect but I am blessed.

**Date for your Diary** World Day of Prayer, 2p.m. 6<sup>th</sup> March in Lochranza.



The highlight of our new year in ACT is when we all gather together in one place for our annual Service for Christian Unity. This was held in St Molios on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> January. It was good for us to worship together from all the churches on Arran. About 160 of us attended the service and singing was lead by Arran Brass Band and the message was given by Rev. Vincent Jennings. The offering which went to Arran Churches Together foodbank came to around £807. It was good to be there. Peoples' comments on the way out: "It would be good if we meet like this more often." "Wouldn't it be great if the church was this full every Sunday." "Could we not do this once a month!" "Inspirational!". It was indeed.



**The Good Friday Walk of Witness** The annual event through Brodick on the day our Lord died on the cross, brings to mind publicly what the real meaning of Easter and the events leading up to it are. It starts at 2.00p.m. on 10<sup>th</sup> April, with a short act of worship In Holy Cross Catholic Church and after a silent walk through the village behind a wooden cross. It ends with a further act of worship in Brodick Church at about 2.45p.m. All are welcome and if you are unable to walk that distance travel by car or come to one or other of the venues.

Helen Kerr



**News from a couple of Young People** from World Mission Magazine dec/jan

**1 Amy Hannah.** I was invited to go to Hungary's Starpoint Youth Festival in Debrecen under invitation of World Mission Council. The trip promised an insight into the differences of youth ministry in the Church of Scotland and Hungary.



The trip was not quite what I expected with little opportunity to learn about serving young people. However, I gained something that proved much more valuable in my personal faith. I was part of an international group of delegates from all around the world and over a week, we became a united force within Starpoint building strong relationships to help one another through the challenges and enjoying new experiences together. I was very grateful for all the laughs, good times and shared moments with people I hope to one day see again.

## 2 Letter from Cambodia



As this was my 5<sup>th</sup> time travelling to Scotland and one of my finest and most cherished, close to my heart. Firstly I got a chance to climb Mt. Goatfell even though it took longer to get back down (as my friend Vanna and I miraculously got lost and took forever to find the right way again) longer than expected but never the less it was fun and I would attempt to do it again.

Secondly, I was baptised in St. Molios Church and became a part of the community of Christ. I want to formally thank Angus and everybody for the wonderful service.

Thanks Grandpa John/Grandma Helen for having me this year and every other year! Fast forward to this year (2020) right now I'm in my third term, 1<sup>st</sup> year of college studying Interior design, I am enjoying the course very much but I can't really say its smooth sailing as it's work intensive and very expensive at times (especially the assignments where we need to create models).

Helen (my baby sister) will set on her journey as an unaccompanied minor to the UK on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 and I'm very excited for her to finally experience what I have experienced as well. Lastly, I really hope to meet you all again some day and best wishes to all in St. Molios as well as on Arran.

Chea

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### **How are our plans for the future coming along?**

A number of people is asking, “When will the plans for the church building start?” “What’s happening?”

The Deacons’ Court has had lengthy discussions about the response of the CARTA (committee on church art and architecture) to our first plan for the reconfiguration and refurbishment of our church. This plan was accepted by Ardrossan Presbytery and is in line with the thinking of the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland to have the “the right spaces in the right places” for the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. However, the advisory body CARTA needs to be listened to and revisionary plans are being submitted. We need to all be patient and pray that our plans will be acceptable to all involved but especially that this is the way forward for the church and community in Shiskine Valley and on Arran.

Watch this space and hopefully in May Alan Burnett, to whom we owe and enormous debt of thanks for all the many hours of work he has put in as our Property Convener, may well be in a position to give us an update.

Helen Kerr.

### **Deaths**

*Jesus said, “I am the Resurrection and the Life”*

28<sup>th</sup> October

Ina Whiteside of Torbeg 1930 – 2019

1<sup>st</sup> November

John Robertson 1943 - 20 (Free Church), of Blackwaterfoot

*Dates for the Diary*

Sun. 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Holy Communion** in St Molios Church at 12 noon.

Tues. 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. **The Guild** open to women and men. All are welcome

17 Mar.&21Ap. Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues each month at 2p.m. in the church hall.

Twice monthly **Linkage Study Group** share, enquire, discuss, learn together.  
Starts again Ask John Kerr 860498 re dates and venue.

Wednesday **Prayers for Health and Healing** on 26 Feb. 25 Mar. and 29  
April 12noon in Brodick Church. Coffee/Tea in the church  
hall from 10.30.

Sun.5<sup>th</sup> April **Palm Sunday**

Wed.8<sup>th</sup>&Thu.9<sup>th</sup> **Holy Week Labyrinth** in church 10a.m-8p.m. Thur.  
10-1p.m.

Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Maundy Thursday** Service at 7p.m. venue TBA

Sun. 12<sup>th</sup> April **Easter Sunday** All Age Service.

Fri. 6<sup>th</sup> Mar. **World Day of Prayer** in Lochranza Church at 2p.m.

Fri. 10<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Arran Churches Together** Good Friday Walk of Witness  
2p.m. at Holy Cross Church Brodick.

1<sup>st</sup> Thu. monthly **Taize worship** at 5.30 p.m. in Holy Cross Church.



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**Flower Fellowship**

February Evelyn Hamilton

March Eileen Johnston

April Joan Stewart

**Thanks to all who make our church beautiful.**  
*If you would like to help with the church flowers  
please contact Gerry Arthur on 860435. She  
would really appreciate the assistance*

## ***Some Useful Contacts***

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

Telephone no.

|                                         |                        |        |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| <b><i>The Minister</i></b>              | Rev. Angus Adamson     | 870228 |
| <b><i>Parish Assis. &amp; Elder</i></b> | Mrs. Jean Hunter       | 860380 |
| <b><i>Elders</i></b>                    | Dr. Alan Burnett       | 860742 |
|                                         | Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke  | 860219 |
|                                         | Mr. John Clarke        | 860219 |
|                                         | Mrs. Evelyn Hamilton   | 860233 |
|                                         | Mrs. Helen Kerr        | 860498 |
| <b><i>Session Clerk</i></b>             | Mr. John Kerr          | 860498 |
|                                         | Mr. John Lammie        | 860418 |
|                                         | Mrs Elizabeth McCarthy | 860727 |
|                                         | Mr. John McCarthy      | 860727 |
|                                         | Mr. Murray Stewart     | 860479 |
| <b><i>Deacons' Court Clerk</i></b>      | Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke  | 860219 |
| <b><i>Organist</i></b>                  | Mr. John Clarke        | 860219 |
| <b><i>Pastoral Support Team</i></b>     |                        |        |
| <b><i>Coordinator</i></b>               | Mrs. Eileen Johnston   | 860227 |
| <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 Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020.