

St Molios Church Magazine

EPIPHANY



WINTER 2022

From 'a guide to prayer for all who seek God'

A quote from Max Lucado's '**God Came Near**'

"He looks like anything but a king. His face is prunish and red. His cry though strong and healthy is still the helpless and piercing cry of a baby. And he is completely dependent upon Mary for his well-being.

Majesty in the midst of the mundane. Holiness in the filth of sheep manure and sweat. Divinity entering the world on the floor of a stable, through the womb of a teenager and in the presence of a carpenter.

She touches the face of the infant-God. How long was your journey?

Worshipping angels had been replaced by kind but bewildered shepherds.

Meanwhile the city hums . The merchants are unaware that God has visited their planet And the people would scoff at anyone that told them the Messiah lay in the arms of a teenager, on the outskirts of their village. They were all too busy to contemplate the possibility.

Those who missed His Majesty's arrival that night missed it not because of evil acts or malice; no, they missed it simply because they weren't looking.

Little has changed in the last two thousand years, has it?"

Christmas 2021 has been and gone! But can we keep its spirit in 2022?

Happy New Year to you all! (even if it's a bit late!)

In my last charge, I was phoning an elderly lady in the parish to arrange to go and visit her. 'You can come any time except Wednesday morning', she said. 'I always have to get up early that day to tidy round before the carer comes.'

It's a bit like cutting your toenails before going to the chiropodist'

Why do we have this compulsion to put our house in order before accepting help? It is probably something to do with the pride that will not let us admit that we do not always measure up to our own or other people's expectations of us.

Like adults who suffer agonies of embarrassment rather than admit they have never learned to read, when attending a literacy class would transform their lives. Or people who are afraid to show love for fear of rejection.

There are those who draw back from becoming involved in the church and church-life, because they feel they won't 'measure up'. I remember attending a Church of Scotland Communion Service while we were on holiday on the Isle of Skye many years ago now. I was surprised that only a handful of people out of a congregation of about 30, sat at the linen covered pews at the front. Everyone else sat at the back.

When I later asked the lady who owned our rented cottage why this was, she said 'We are not 'good enough' to sit at the Lord's table.' This saddened me and I have always wondered who told them they weren't good enough, and who told the *few* that they *were* good enough!

There are also those within the church who hang back from volunteering, or getting really involved, for the same reason. There are many who are afraid to call themselves 'Christians' because they fear their lives can never match the pattern set by Jesus himself. And so we wait until we feel ready for commitment - and sometimes it can be a very long wait indeed,,,or even too late.

We all must be ready to venture into the unknown, to become involved in changing society for the better, to go where the need is greatest and to 'rekindle the flames of love where the fire has gone cold'. Faced with the changes that are about to come in our churches this would be a good place to start. Winning people for Christ begins with reaching out to wherever people hang out. I am sure there are people of goodwill in the communities around Arran who may feel drawn to help the mission of the church.

In the life of the church, and in the life of faith, *all* are welcome, and especially *beginners*! God does not expect us to move mountains by ourselves, but he does offer us the use of his fork-lift truck!

And so, before we begin to re-arrange the dust, maybe we should just open the door and let God in - to turn our lives around.

Tom Macintyre, Minister

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### **From our Locum Liz Clarke**

Are you a "glass half full" or a "glass half empty" sort of a person? We human beings are great creatures of habit, so every weeknight John and I sit down at 6pm to watch the BBC news and Reporting Scotland. We don't take a newspaper, so this is how we keep up with what is going on in the world. Since the start of this pandemic our attention to events has become more focused as we attempt to follow the changes in the lock down rules and advice – changes that seem to happen at least once a day and vary depending upon each country.

And then there are the natural disasters which seem to be growing in number and magnitude every week.

And what about wars, conflict, political tensions, racism, murder etc, etc, etc!

I like to think I'm a "glass half full" person but it can be hard sometimes to find a positive comment to make or to keep an upbeat mental attitude.

However, I have noticed that at the end of the news there is usually a wee cameo story with a happy ending or perhaps a photo of e.g., a young polar bear – a short but sweet “cheer up” item.

It is easy to be negative these days, but it only needs a small thing to cheer us up. John and I walk along Blackwaterfoot beach as often as we can – just before sunset when there aren't many people about. The sound of the waves and the wind blowing away the cobwebs is all we need to bring a smile to our faces.

And speaking of smiles – just greeting someone you bump into by chance with a smile is enough to lift the spirits. And, yes, it is possible to tell from the eyes even if we can't see behind the mask, that the person is smiling at you.

A kind word, a word of encouragement goes a long way to cheering someone up. How many of us seek out the company of a person who is always moaning and negative?

There is the story of a member of a congregation who always had a complaint about the service when they shook hands with the minister at the end. Eventually the minister asked that he try to find something positive to say each Sunday. The person took this to heart and the comments became much easier to listen to. However, one Sunday, the person was really struggling to find anything positive to say and when he got the minister, the words that came out were “I liked the amen!”

Who remembers the Morecambe and Wise theme tune?

Bring me sunshine  
In your smile  
Bring me laughter  
All the while  
In this world where we live  
There should be more happiness  
So much joy you can give  
To each brand-new bright tomorrow

Make me happy  
Through the years  
Never bring me  
Any tears  
your arms be as warm  
the sun from up above  
Bring me fun  
Bring me sunshine  
Bring me Love



Let  
As

So let's all keep being "glass half full" folk because that is spreading God's love in the world.  
Every blessing,  
**Liz**



#### ST. MOLIOS GUILD



#### Guild News

It has been a difficult year for many guilds in Scotland with Covid 19 restrictions relaxing then tightening up and now relaxing a bit. However, St Molios Guild has managed to have real and virtual on Zoom meetings every month thanks to Alison Burnett and Sylvia

Alison setting them up for us. Our syllabus has been chopped and changed as the speaker from the Brazil Project was living in red-listed Brazil in November; then he thought he might make it in January but that didn't work out either. In November we moved our February programme to November and at our face to face meeting the floor was shared by Jan Macgregor speaking about Fairtrade, bringing cards and food items for us to purchase, and Alison Burnett giving us a challenging illustrated talk about world food security. This was in her capacity as representative of Association of Country Women Worldwide to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation. We had lots of comments and questions for her.

In December we gave an invitation to members of the congregation to join us for a Sit-at- your-table Christmas tea and self-entertainment with Covid rules

in place. John Clarke kindly entertained us with carols on the keyboard as we gathered and studied photos (see below). We were only a happy 16 with those in attendance be-masked and gloved. Photos of six people in their younger days were studied and possible often hilarious identifications attempted, A quiz and a 'Call My Bluff' completed a happy evening – pity the answers to the quiz were left at home but it allowed the MC to be challenged!



In January we had to resort to Zoom once more but with two households allowed to meet together it allowed us to invite those who had no WIFI to join someone in their home. This meeting was more about us keeping in touch and having a cheering time. All were asked to recall an embarrassing experience they had had in life and to our amazement one of our number felt she had nothing to recall until she remembered she had once been arrested by the police! On a calmer note we then shared a favourite holiday destination.

On February 15<sup>th</sup> We hope to meet in the church hall and have the 'Guild's Own' meeting that had been planned for January and all friends are welcome.

On March 15<sup>th</sup> ( CalMac permitting) we will have a speaker from the Fellowship of the Least Coin. We have collected for FLC for many years and it is about 10 years since we have had someone speak to us about this organisation started by women in the Philippines and India to address the plight of women and children in poverty.

A further date for the diary is the **World Day of Prayer** to be held this year in Whiting Bay Church at 2p.m. on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. This invitation is extended to all Christian men and women on Arran and is currently organised through Arran Churches Together.

Helen Kerr

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For two years now we have been unable to meet together as Arran Churches Together because of Covid 19 restrictions, Since our last magazine there was no Christingle service at the end of November and no Carols at the Co-op in mid December. It was suggested by one person that ' ACT will not survive' !! I doubt that very much. ACT has always been glad to see all the churches on Arran coming together for worship and outreach, for fellowship and social time together with folk on holiday and from the larger community.

On Sunday 16th January in spite of spacing restrictions we had just over 60 of us (almost there capacity at the time) worshipping in Lamlash church. Rev. Vince Jennings led worship with uplifting singing and a challenging sermon. As Vince will be leaving Arran in April it was fitting that Rev.Noel Colford prayed for Vince with thanksgiving and commending him to God. It was good to be there.

Our next joint event will be **the World Day of Prayer** to be held in Whiting Bay Church on Friday 4th March at 2p.m. using the service prepared by England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Some may wonder where is Scotland in all this. This year Scotland is to host the international committee of the World Day of Prayer . It was intended that 200 delegates from around the world would attend in Edinburgh. At the moment it is not yet sure if this will take place in reality or whether it will be yet another online occasion which I think we have come to realise, although wonderful that we can communicate this way it is just not the same as sharing faith and prayer across cultures when face to face.

ACT secretary has just started the process of getting permission for the annual **Walk of Wirness** Held on Good Friday, this year on Friday 15 April starting in Holy Cross church at 2p.m. and finishing in Brodick church around 2.45p.m.

In ACT each church has two representatives who meet keeping all the churches informed and organising seven events each year and sharing the provision of the ACT foodbank and fuelbank working closely with Social Services and the Co-op. Also ex officio all clergy are members of ACT. After April Fr Noel will be the only resident clergy on the island. ACT representatives also encourage all church members to recognise their membership of ACT and to participate in events. In normal circumstances office bearers rotate every two years. Jean Hunter, who is now retired as N Arran Parish Assistant and has been Treasurer for five plus years and would like to stand down both as being treasurer and as being a member of ACT committee for 20 years. If anyone in our congregation would like to join me as the second representative from St Molios please contact John Kerr who will take it to the Kirk Session. It is an very engaging group and meets but four to five times a year.

Helen Kerr

ACT representative

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## Deaths

### 'I am the resurrection and the Life'

31<sup>st</sup> October     Diana McMurray of Balmichael Estate

5<sup>th</sup> November     Betty Ingham of Torbeg Blackwaterfoot

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LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

I would like to thank every one of you who accepted my request to pay your Collection directly through your bank to the Church. It has greatly helped the Church finances over the last year, especially when the Church has been closed and even now when people are still reluctant to return to the Church on a Sunday.

If there is anyone who would still like to set up a Standing Order etc for their Collection, here are the relevant details –

BANK: Bank of Scotland

NAME OF A/C: Shiskine Church of Scotland

SORT CODE : 80-05-84

ACCOUNT NO: 00826640

If you would like your Collection to be Gift Aided, please let me know and I will get a Gift Aid form to you to sign.

I wish you all a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous 2022. Let's pray that we will return to worshipping without any restrictions very soon.

Alison

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**The World Day of Prayer on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 2p.m. - Whiting Bay Church**

**"I know the plans I have for you"**

Why not come and join with Arran Churches Together?

## News from the Community

### Zero-waste Café

From Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, St Molios church will be hosting the Zero-waste café on a fortnightly basis from 11am-1pm. This is a new venture by Arran Eco Savvy where zero-waste dispensers with bulk goods, tinned items, foodshare food and local produce, alongside refreshments and a light lunch (typically soup and bread) will be available on a donation basis. The Zero-waste café is open to all in the community and we invite you to bring your own c11ontainers and come along

### Contact The Elderly



Alison Burnett and her team were delighted to be able to host a Christmas tea to 12 elderly islanders and their drivers in the church hall on Sunday 12 December.



### The Linkage Discussion Group

As we are now permitted more than three households in a home we hope to restart the group every two weeks on Wednesdays starting on 2 March and continuing every two weeks through Lent. Please ask John Kerr for more details or contact him on 860498.

## North Arran Parish Linkage Prayers for Health and Healing

At last we are off Zoom and back face to face in Brodick Church at 12 noon on the last Wednesday of each month to pray not only for those known to us with health issues spiritually, mentally or physical. It has been expanded in recent months to pray for our country, our church, and the nations. If you have anyone who would like prayed for please contact Helen Kerr. We are ALL in need of prayer and we are called to be persistent in prayer. The next meeting is 23 February.

In the Brodick church hall from 10.30a.m prior to gathering for prayer there is a coffee morning in aid of World Vision where one can enjoy a social time of catch up.

**Maundy Thursday Communion** for our linkage of North Arran Parish will be celebrated with the Rev. Tom Macintyre at St Molios on 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7 p.m.

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### Co-workers in our Church

**Thank you to Gerry and her team** who throughout Covid have arranged for flowers in the church and a special thanks for the beautiful decorations on all the windowsills in the church over Advent and Christmas Season and for the Advent wreath. Also, thanks as ever to **Joan and Murray** for the decoration of the Christmas tree and the decorations in the hall.

Most recently to **Evelyn** for singl-handedly painting the inside of the hall, freshening it up and giving it 'a new lease of life'!

Our appreciation in a big way to **Alan** as he tirelessly battles on to try and keep up the maintenance of the church fabric and patiently or impatiently persists in trying to move project 202? forward.

Here is a wee trip down memory lane for us

Thanks to Liz Clarke

### EATING IN THE FIFTIES

Pasta had not been invented. It was macaroni or spaghetti.

Curry was a surname.

A take-away was a mathematical problem.

Pizza? Sounds like a leaning tower somewhere.

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.

All chips were plain.

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Chickens didn't have fingers in those days.

None of us had ever heard of yogurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible.

Cooking outside was called camping.

Seaweed was not a recognized food.

'Kebab' was not even a word, never mind a food.

Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold.

Prunes were medicinal.

Surprisingly muesli was readily available. It was called cattle feed.

Pineapples came in chunks in a tin; we had only ever seen a picture of a real one.

Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than gasoline for it, they would have become a laughing stock.

The one thing that we never ever had on/at our table in the fifties ... was *elbows, hats and cell phones.*

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

- Feb. Tues 15, Mar 15     The Guild meets at 2p.m. in the church hall. February is a Guild's own meeting. In March the speaker is from the Fellowship of the Least Coin
- Twice monthly            The linkage discussion Group – every two weeks restarting on 2 March since we are now able to meet with more than three households together. Contact John Kerr 860498 for details.
- 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
- Every Thursday         St. Molios Church Coffee morning from 10.30-noon. All welcome.
- Wed/Thur13/14 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. joint Holy Communion is in St Molios Church at 7.p.m.
- Arran Churches Together Events
- Friday 4 March            World Day Of Prayer at 2p.m. in Whiting Bay Church.
- Good Friday 15 Apr\_     Walk of Witness In Brodick, starting at Holy Cross church at 2p.m. with an act of worship and at c. 2.45 a further act of worship in Brodick Church



## ***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. Jean Hunter                  | 810218        |
|                                     | Mrs. Evelyn Hamilton              | 860233        |
|                                     | 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>                  | 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 by Sunday 3 April 2022.