St Molios Church Magazine



MAY 2020





THE WAR OF 2020

1 Many feet are marching Marching row in row, Forward is the battle cry As off to war we go.

2 But these are not soldiersMarching off to fight.Who are these peopleDoing what is right?

3 These are just the people Most like you and me Off to fight a battle That no one else can see.

4 Doctors, nurses, medics Leading all the rest; Workers, drivers, postmen Doing what is best.

5 Volunteers of every kind Bringing up the rear All about to do their part To keep us free from fear. 6. But what is this enemyThat has sent us out to fight?It's unseen, unheard and scaryAnd turned our day to night.

7. It is a deadly virus That strikes both young and old From the highest to the lowest Even the richest with their gold.

The world it stands together
Old foes and wrongs forgot,
Sharing all our knowledge,
To make sure this curse is caught.

When this war is over
As sure as it will be,
Let us think about each other
And forget about JUST ME.

By Deirdre Patterson (thanks to Barbara Crawford her daughter)

May 2020

Dear All,



With the onset of the Covid 19 threat and the very necessary implementation of 'lockdown' measures, all our lives have had to change dramatically and there have been many challenges to face as we adjust accordingly, including the way we do church.

Perhaps as we reflect on this, indeed have been forced to do so,

it appears some things were very much in need of adjustment and change, which otherwise would yet again, have been pushed out of mind as too difficult even to contemplate.

Embracing modern technology perhaps top of that agenda and boy have we been thankful for it. It has allowed us to continue to worship together, albeit virtually and remotely from each other as we currently all live in temporary isolation. It has undoubtedly also enabled our services to reach many that otherwise would not have been in church and that has been a great thing. Should this continue after 'lockdown' is a good question and one that will be addressed, although I believe that there is still no substitute for worshipping together on a Sunday and in that regard the words 'virtual', 'remote' and 'temporary' are to be noted.

This time of Pentecost reminds us that the gift of the Spirit came as 'all the believers were gathered together in one place' (Acts 2; 1). The church is made up not of bricks and mortar, but of the people of God who gather together to offer him worship and then go out into the world, renewed each week by the power of the Holy Spirt to live lives of Christian witness and service.

For me there can be no substitute for Christian fellowship, and we must remain mindful that wherever 'two or three gather together' in his name, Christ delights to be in their midst. That I don't think will ever change. Just as at present we make do with a phone call to loved ones, a Skype call when we can see them visually, perhaps even better, still we all long for the day when we will see those loved ones, face to face once more, actually enabled to be in their immediate presence. That is surely no different when it comes to worship.

Besides worship, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper is for me also central in enabling us to celebrate our Christian faith. To my mind at least, it cannot be conducted virtually and yet it surely remains at the heart of what we are to continue to do following Christ's example and obeying his command, 'this do in remembrance of me'. The Lord's Supper makes his presence 'real' in a way nothing else can and of course that can only happen when we are together in communion, literally meeting face to face with each other.

With social distancing measures now in place for the foreseeable future due to the fear of spreading infection and no doubt set to remain for some time yet to come, celebrating Holy Communion will pose a tremendous challenge, but not an insurmountable one. The Church in Germany by observing tight restrictions on keeping safe distance between churchgoers, as well as adopting strict disinfecting measures for church buildings, has found a way around both the above and already Sunday services have restarted. In the case of the Roman Catholic Church, the mass too is now being celebrated once more. I hope in the not too distant future that will be possible at St Molios and the ministry of sacrament, as well as of that of the Word, will resume once more.

Meantime, we continue to broadcast a service for each Sunday. Thank you for 'tuning in'. Jean and I very much sense your 'presence' with us and we are grateful for all your messages of support. Thank you too for all those who print off a hard copy to distribute to those who don't have access to the technology, ensuring no one is left out.

And until we meet again face to face, God bless each of you. Stay safe and keep

well.

Media and Websites for Sunday Worship

Radio Scotland 7.30a.m. radio 4. 8a.m. St Molios Church website 11a.a. onwards; www.Sanctuary First; West Kilbride Parish Church and many church websites, on their facebook sites; Reflection at the Quay - ecumenical reflections at 11.15a.m.

The Moderator, Pentecost service at www.churchofscotland.org.uk 31th May

Angus

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart in all your ways and lean not on your own understanding (Proverbs 3: 5)

I am praying for you today

Although there may not be many things that I can do, One thing I will, and that's to pray for you: That you will know God's all enfolding love and a whisper saying "You're not alone", coming from above.

That you'll find assurance, as things around go on. That you've been given this special time to learn a different song: One that does not need what this world has to give, but comes only from above and will forever live.

So remember when things seem bad, to only look above, and because I pray for you, be sure you'll know God's love. From Jean Hunter

(by Humphrey Temple)

If you know of anyone who collects their papers everyday and would like a copy of this magazine please let them know they will be available in the Harbour shop from Thursday 21st May. Please just ask and take one.

Deaths and Funerals Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the life"

1 st May 2020	John Hollingsworth of Shiskine and Machrie – funeral on the mainland
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16th May Kathleen Fotheringham of Shiskine – suddenly at home

Guild News 2019/20 Theme - "Companions on the Road"

The year started as usual with Guild members as speakers, thus avoiding travel problems for visitors from the mainland. This was particularly fortunate in view of the extreme and frequent storms and ferry cancellations that almost isolated us for weeks.

On 21 January, Alison Burnet took us on an autobiographical worldwide journey to some very exotic places, vividly illustrated by slides, and introduced us to her 'companions' on these travels. The flowers and sunshine were a welcome contrast to the weather in Shiskine! On 18 February, Dorothy Allan chose to 'time travel' to her childhood in Kilsyth and talked about the people who were close and influential in her growing up. Old photos, certificates, books, and her own art work were the visual accompaniment this time.

By the time we met on 17 March, concerns were no longer about weather and ferry breakdowns. The spread of Covid19 was increasing daily. Several countries were already in 'lockdown' but not UK. Advice regarding distancing and hygiene were followed and we had a most interesting presentation by Helen Kerr about Taize in France, an inspirational ecumenical venue that draws young people from all over the world. With support, but without judgement or pressure, they have space and time to learn about themselves. We talked about possible ways to provide something of this for young people in our own community.

During the customary sharing of food and friendship that followed, news reached us that 'lockdown' was being implemented in the UK. What would it mean; how would it affect us? We left the church hall not knowing when we could meet in fellowship again.

The Guild ABM was scheduled for 21 April but could not take place in the usual way. Instead, Alison made use of modern technology and arranged a 'Zoom' meeting. No need to leave the house! 11 members were present, and it was great to see and hear each other again.

Alison Burnett presented the Guild Report noting the good news that membership had increased to 19 with 12-16 attending regularly. Disappointingly, there were no male members despite the fact that the Guild is for women and men!

Next she gave the Financial Report. With a higher membership, finances were good and £950 was available to distribute locally and to our projects. The disbursement of funds was decided with £300 going to Church Funds, £300 to each of this session's projects - "Free to Live Trust (India)" & "Sailors Societies (UK)", £50 to "Least Coin". Although the project speakers were unable to come this year, they were rebooked for next session. Updated national figures for the 6 projects of our three-year strategy "One Journey, Many Roads" were given.

Election of Guild Committee. The four committee members present were prepared to be re-elected, and two members who had been co-opted during the year were willing to stand for election. Jean Hunter proposed that all six should be elected, seconded by Chris Black. The members unanimously agreed to this.

Dorothy Allan

TREASURER'S THOUGHTS ON LOCKDOWN AND THE CHURCH FINANCES!

As we come to almost 8 weeks of being in lockdown, I hope you are well and coping with the isolation, especially those who are living on your own. I wonder if this is less of a problem for the over 70's who are more used to being in their homes and have a routine which doesn't involve having to go out of the house every day. I am certainly finding it more peaceful not having to travel -as much as I sometimes do and with all my local meetings having been cancelled, I was hoping I would have a lot more time on my hands. However, the introduction of video conferencing be it Skype, Zoom, House Party etc has meant I am able to be 'at meetings' so my time is taken up daily doing the work that comes from these meetings!

We have been blessed with beautiful weather since the start of lockdown and everybody who is physically able is able to at least sit outside their back doors and enjoy the sunshine. As always there is a great community spirit being shown throughout the island, (Shiskine saw this same spirit during the great snow lockdown in 2013), so I hope there is nobody who has not at least had a phone call to see how they are and is getting all the help they need?

Something Alan and I have appreciated is being able 'to go' to church every Sunday, it gives a focus to our week and helps us to remember what day of the week it is, with which we have really struggled to work out sometimes! The only thing that is missing to me (as the Treasurer) is the ability to put in my weekly offering. So, in case this is a worry that is keeping you awake at night, can I suggest ways in which you could solve this problem –

For those of you who do internet banking, or are able to put money into the bank, the church details are

Name of Bank	Bank of Scotland Bank code 80-05-84
Name of Account	Shiskine Church of Scotland
Church Account No	00826640

If you are putting money straight into the bank account it would be useful if you could email me and let me know – <u>alisonburnett27@gmail.com</u> or tel. no 01770860742.

If you want to just put your money into an envelope every week please put your <u>name and date and indicate if you pay Gift Aid</u> on the front of it, it will be collected when we are allowed out. I don't care what colour, size or being reused, envelope or poly bag you use! For those of you who have a daily walk perhaps you could pop it through my letter box at Ty Mawr Blackwaterfoot.

Our income and expenditure almost balance yearly but that includes the money from our coffee mornings which will be non-existent this year and our fundraising Sale of Work will, probably also, not be held this year so I do encourage you to find a way to keep giving your collection and not be worrying about it through the night!

Thank you.

Alison Burnett

Light Moments on Lockdown

It was felt that celebrations on big 0 birthdays even in Lockdown could not pass unnoticed. On Saturday 26th April several of us gathered keeping our social distance and sang Happy Birthday to Pat King who is 90 years young. It was a smiling and cheering moment when she opened her door.



There were gifts cards and a birthday cake and we all wished her a happy day. Sadly she had to spend the day on her own but she had company on the telephone saying thank you for all her cards etc.



As if Ladeside Place hadn't had enough positive distractions from Lockdown two weeks later Evelyn Hamilton 'the chicken' had her big 60. On Saturday 9th April a convoy of cars decorated with balloons and one car blaring Happy Birthday to You and all joined in giving her our very best wishes. Friends,

neighbours work colleagues and of course the fitness group – all gathered at a safe distance for the occasion.



Now Wee Smile a While Moment

Some of us are old enough to have learned about sentence structure, syntax and punctuation. Others have spell checks on their 'device' but sometimes thing do not read quite as they should. The garden was decorated by family at dawn. And they enjoyed the wee celebration.

John had a birthday just two days later but it wasn't a big 0 so wishes from some were sent by phone and card!

There is of course a new member of the family and grandpa is enjoying having another man around.



Bless the folk with typewriters and word processors! These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins and or church notices.

1 Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa will speak tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

2 Barbara remains in hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She also can't sleep well and requests tapes of Pastor Randy's sermons.

Views from the 'Pews'

There have been many emails, distanced conversations and phone calls of appreciation of Angus, Jean and John C's preparing and leading us in worship in our kitchens and living rooms over the past eight weeks. And of course our thanks too to Hamish Bannatyne who looks after our website for 'stitching it all together It is quite a time consuming exercise for all concerned and we say a big Thank you'.

Here are a few of the comments below.

From Dorothy Allan: Church is now in my home . . .

When I came to live on Arran, it took some time before I worked out that the minister who took St Molios Sunday Service at 12 noon had earlier led worship in two other churches. There was also the matter of who would be in the pulpit? I have to give credit to Church Notices in the Arran Banner for giving me a clear picture of the pattern of worship on the island, though it took time for me to fix this in my memory. Church Notices are now all too brief and easy to remember. The headline "ALL CHURCH SERVICES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE" feels at first like a message of doom and gloom, but keep reading to the smaller print and the good news that " an internet service at 11am Sunday morning and over the rest of the week can be received", and things look brighter. In a strange way, this has opened the church further rather than locking it up. Not all of us have the time or ability to go to the church building at a fixed hour to be part of the service, but restrictions of time, mobility and geographical distance are removed by technology. This flexibility can lead to a wider fellowship, and I've heard there is an audience in Australia! As a former avoider of the internet, I now admit to being grateful for some aspects of the system.

I quickly got used to sitting in my kitchen for worship, shutting out the outside world and focusing on my church on the screen. It is so beneficial to see Angus, Jean and John, the windows, pulpit and communion table, the flowers. I sing the hymns, listen to the teachings and, when I bow my head in prayer, I imagine that I'm in St Molios with familiar friends around. I even know where they are likely to be sitting! Those of us who attend St Molios are privileged that the service is recorded in 'our church'. However, this single worship gives

a stronger feeling of being connected with the other congregations in the Parish of North Arran. The photographs at the end of the broadcast are a beautiful reminder of our linkage.

It can be very tiring staying strong and positive in these difficult circumstances, getting personal bad news as well as national. We need all the help and support we can get, someone stronger to ease the burden. During the safe space of these services I can admit to being anxious and afraid, confess to feeling weak and even shed some tears, knowing that I will receive comfort and strength from the message of God's love. I have to give credit to Angus for triggering these thoughts with the words "... our grand illusions of self sufficiency" in his prayer a couple of weeks ago, and my grateful thanks go to everyone involved in the production of this on-line service each week.

From Val McNeil in Pirnmill:

'It's so Amazing!'

A telephone interview:

"I was 'through the way' when Helen, my granddaughter shouts, "Come quickly. I have a surprise for you". There was my church with Jean and Angus and the organ playing. It was absolutely wonderful. Helen had gone on the website and we both took part in the service. I found it very emotional. I have not been in church for a long time. Will there be another one? What every Sunday? I can't tell you how lovely to see the church and be part of it. Please tell all my friends in St Molios, I send my love.

From Paddy, Ted and Margaret and Pat:

(They get the transcript of the sermon and prayers delivered to their home as they have no wifi.)

Asked if we could say a Big Thank You from them for all the work put into the services and how they appreciate being able to read and reflect at home

From John Kerr:

Thoughts from Our Worship at Home

1 In her introduction to her sermon a few weeks ago Jean quoted the opening sentence of A TALE OF TWO CITIES. This prompted me to reread the book. I wonder if Dickens in his introduction and conclusions was talking about his time and even ours today

'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.....

....."It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done;'....."'.

Some things never change!

2 Also, I thought the petitions from a recent prayer of Angus was very humbling and challenging to reflect on.

'We pray for those in positions of power and influence in finance, business and industry whose decisions may profit some or impoverish many, may they never divorce money from morality, or ownership from stewardship.

May they be led to value people higher than profit and so be minded not to impose burdens on the poorest in society, which they would not carry themselves;'

Thank you, Jean and Angus



Hello again, from the Chum family in Cambodia,

Before I start with anything else, I just want to give all my friends in St Molios a long distance (quite literally) hug as we need a bit of reassurance during this hard and dark time caused by the novel Coronavirus. I, myself am just blessed having two supportive families

both on Arran and here in Phnom Penh, as they never fail to remind me how risky it is to be reckless during this time of year, as it is not just thinking about

myself anymore but to think about the others surrounding me and the potential risks the virus will bring.

Here in Cambodia we don't really have any strict lockdown but the government was quick to order all of the deemed non-essential businesses to temporarily close-down until further notice. Even if we do not have a lockdown order, we still have a travel restriction in order to limit potential infections.

I'm in my 4th term at Raffles College and any other term I would say it is great and I am enjoying it. I can't say I am enjoying it quite as much now. Some young adults would say I must be crazy as we could all stay at home and just need to learn online but that is not me. The lack of physical contact is drawing me out of my mind most of the times, I miss my college friends and not to mention sometimes I have to spend about eight hours a day doing online courses and at the end of it my whole back is protesting from sitting in a chair for far too long and my eyes are no different, migraine is also frequent (at least for me) during these couple of months with all of the online studies, and at the end of the day I just wish I could get my old normal life back.

Even though, Cambodia no longer has new cases of Coronavirus I am still not willing to let my guard down as we still don't know how much testing has been conducted during this pandemic and how accurate the government data is shown on the declining number people got infected with this new virus.

People in Cambodia seem to let their guard down however, believing the misconception (fake news)saying to treat Coronavirus as nothing more than a common cold but anyone who's keeping up with international news and any other relevant sources would understand it is far from being a common cold, far from it.

Anyhow, aside from all of my complaining about my finding it hard to adapt to our new normal, I just want to say I miss all of you so much and to give all of you lots of love from Cambodia.

Chea

'Hello,' from Helen Chum - A teenager coping with lockdown in Cambodia

Firstly, I would like to send greetings to everyone through this strange time and hope that you stay safe and healthy. In Cambodia, we don't have as many cases of the virus as those in other countries, though our government in youth and



education did take measures to close down schools to minimize the spread of the virus. My school, like most other schools, moved to online courses through the means of Google Classroom. At first it was very strange and confusing to be studying online for both the teachers and the students. We were all trying to figure out which app to use for calls, how to work in the classroom and how to connect with each other while we are all stuck at home.

Everyone got used to working on the app after a while of testing, trying things out and seeing if we feel comfortable with it. At first the app didn't work as well as we thought. It would not let us send our work in, so we had to send it through email or sometimes it was very slow, but as we continue to use it, it started to work better and now it is an everyday thing for us. My friends and I were ecstatic to know that we can study from home, well at the beginning at least. We got to sleep in, relax more and since our homework is mostly due on Friday, we get more time to ourselves.

Although the beginning was fun and I enjoyed staying at home and studying in the comfort of my bed, it started to get very boring. Another factor is, it's harder to work on my assignments and projects because it was harder to ask questions online, since it takes awhile for the teachers to answer. There was also the fact that teachers pile in more and more work onto us, while when at school we answer questions and take notes, sometimes we'll get worksheets, but those we just do it in class with our friends and it's just more fun to talk and interact with my friends in person. I have found entertainment in watching 'anime' and reading online books to try and cure my boredom, watching old childhood shows that brought me to tears with all of the memories that I had at the time to reading about fantasies and magical kingdoms. My friends and I are bonding over an anime called "Haikyuu", a sports anime which is ironic because we don't really like to exercise. We also call each other from time to time, either to help each other with homework or just to joke around and play games together. We're trying our best to stay connected and remind each other to stay healthy.

Right now the schools in Cambodia have yet to open, but my friends and I are trying our best to cope with it. Although there are still no new cases here in Cambodia, my family and I are staying home, staying healthy and being there for each other. I hope to see you when I visit next year (possibly). Helen.

Copied from St Margaret's Parish church (Dalry) magazine, copied from an American social media post. by Janis Ian <u>30 June 2013</u>.

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the older woman, that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized and explained, "We didn't

THINK GREEN

have this green thing back in my earlier days." The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right -- our generation didn't have the green thing in its day. Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were truly recycled. But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags, that we reused for numerous things, most memorable besides household garbage bags, was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our schoolbooks. This was to ensure that public property, (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbling's. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags. But too bad we didn't do the green thing back then.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every shop and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throwaway kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts -- wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that young lady is right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right; we didn't have the green thing back then. We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the green thing back then. Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then?

From Elizabeth Clarke

Some Wise Words



"People are often unreasonable and selfcentered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them

anyway."

Mother Teresa

Rainbows for the NHS (et al)



We see them in many windows round the island reminding of the NHS and all the hard work they do during this difficult time often putting themselves at risk. Then there are all the other key workers many in the same boat; our carers in care home and nursing homes,

and in private homes; the ambulance drivers, drivers in public transport, those who serve us in our food shops and chemists, police and post men and women. Jean didn't have a rainbow and lives so far

from the road no one would see them. If you are driving, cycling or walking past St. Molios church have a look at the wall near the gate. We have to say a BIG THANK YOU to Angus and Freya Stewart for their beautiful rainbows and heart drawings.



Christian Aid Alert. Each year the UK has a dedicated week to support the global work of Christian Aid. Here on Arran we all have envelopes in the pews during that week so that people can take them home and make a donation. In Shiskine we still have a door-to-door collection and through your generosity raise almost £1000 p.a. but of course this year that has not been possible. But the world still has poverty, exploitation, war, refugees and hunger. Please do not forget the amazing work of Christian Aid. Give online to Christian Aid Scotland or send your donation to 290 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4JR.

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Useful Contacts

St. Molios Church in the Parish of North Arran

Telephone no.

The Minister	Rev. Angus Adamson	870228		
Parish Assis. & Elder	Mrs. Jean Hunter	860380		
Elders	Dr. Alan Burnett	860742		
	Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke	860219		
	Mr. John Clarke	860219		
	Mrs. Evelyn Hamilton	860233		
	Mrs. Helen Kerr	860498		
Session Clerk	Mr. John Kerr	860498		
	Mr. John Lammie	860418		
	Mrs Elizabeth McCarthy	860727		
	Mr. John McCarthy	860727		
	Mr. Murray Stewart	860479		
Deacons' Court Clerk	Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke	860219		
Organist	Mr. John Clarke	860219		
Pastoral Support Team				
Coordinator	Mrs. Eileen Johnston	860227		
Magazine Editor	Mrs. Helen Kerr	860498		

Articles for the next magazine should be handed to Helen Kerr or sent to Helen Kerr <u>kerrjh@btinternet.com</u> by Wednesday 15 July 2020.

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