

St Molios Church Magazine



MAY 2021



EASTER SEASON REFLECTION

Our Easter Pilgrimage

*With our eyes we see the beauty of Easter
With our ears we hear the sounds of spring
With our hands we pick the fragrant hyacinths
With our hearts we feel the miracle of God's love -
And on the wings of prayer and meditation
We make Easter pilgrimage to Him.*



Let us Celebrate the Resurrection every Sunday.

From our Locum Minister Mrs Elizabeth Clarke

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

Hello folks,

I am writing this sitting at my desk, which is located in front of a window, which looks out on to our front garden, which is a mass of daffodils just now.

Every year they appear but I don't remember another year when there were so many. And when I drive to Blackwaterfoot, Brodick or Lochranza I am equally struck by the sheer proliferation of these sunshine flowers.

These displays caught William Wordsworth as he wrote in this famous poem:

I wandered lonely as a cloud

That floats on high o'er vales and hills,

When all at once I saw a crowd,

A host, of golden daffodils.....

.....And then my heart with pleasure fills,

And dances with the daffodils.

Our daffodil legacy at Swallowbrae comes from John's mum, Marla who planted them all many years ago. It must have taken her many, many hours.

All of us who live on Arran now owe this wonderful, annual display to all the folk who, like Marla, took the time to plant thousands of bulbs around the entire island.

For me, these flowers give a real boost to my spirits – sunshine, warmth, summer are in my thoughts, not just when I am looking at the daffodils but their image stays with me for a long time, keeping my spirits high. I'm sure I'm not alone in this. It is possible to see folk standing straighter, walking more briskly and smiling more.

What an amazing thing those people did all those years ago. I wonder if they realised what a lasting legacy they were leaving for generations to come.

John, in "retirement" is able to spend more time in the veg garden – his joy and passion. He loves growing veg and I love eating them! Last year was such a good year – witness the fact that we are still eating French beans and Broad beans (from the freezer) and – even better – Purple Sprouting broccoli still growing in the garden now! I am so looking forward to this year's crop.

And that's not all I'm looking forward to – I have a haircut booked, I'm planning a visit to family (especially grandchildren) in July and now that church is open again I can look forward to a not-too-distant time when we will be able to sing the hymns again.

I hope you are all feeling more optimistic now with many sunshine thoughts of things to do in the coming days, weeks and months. Let's go forward to our new "normal" in hope, faith and love.

Liz

Please note that there will be a celebration of Holy Communion on Sunday 16th May at 12 noon (with specific Covid restrictions). Everyone who wishes to attend must register by midday Saturday 15th at 860498 or at

kerrjh@btinternet.com



Guild News

On Sunday 14 February, fourteen members and friends met for a **Valentine's Day virtual afternoon tea** as a Projects Fundraiser. The idea was to make a loving donation of the price of a 'tea' while eating one of your own making. Elaine Clinton revisited her

talk (19 January) about her journeys to and within Africa, this time with an interesting slide presentation that let us meet the people who shared these journeys and brought to life the varied locations.

"Faith in Young People". At our regular monthly meeting on 16 February, Jackie Wilson joined us online from her home in Millport to speak about the Boys Brigade, a volunteer led Christian organisation founded by William Smith in 1883. The B B has grown worldwide from its start in Glasgow, but the partnership with the Guild focuses on Scotland. Jackie was appointed as Development Officer in 2015 after 37 years of volunteering. Much has remained constant since 1883, such as the badge, motto and ethos - but the organisation has also moved with the times and is still relevant in the computer age. Because of the pandemic, many activities such as camps and national competitions have been suspended, and church halls are unavailable for meetings. The virus has also made fundraising very difficult, especially for B B Companies in deprived areas.

One source of finance from the Scottish Government raised a smile - it's called 'Cashback for Communities' and uses money seized from crime! - but B B funding is still largely from fees paid by Companies and Leaders.

"The Free to Live Trust; Seema's Project". On 16 March we heard about a much newer venture, in India. Pam Cairns - retired GP, author, and founding Trustee - gave a thought-provoking talk about modern slavery & human trafficking. Statistics are shocking - 40 million slaves globally, mainly women and children. In Pune, near Mumbai, the brothels in the red light area are horrific. Children born to the trafficked sex workers can only stay for a short time and are then on the streets. Seema Waghmode is changing the lives of

these children. She started by feeding them lunches in the city, but more was needed, so when she inherited her father's farm in the village of Bori, 80 miles away, she turned it into a refuge where the children are safe, fed and educated. By April 2017, 32 children were in residence and in 2019 a second home was opened. The rescue and rehabilitation of the mothers is another part of this project which is turning horror into hope. The extra challenges from Covid19 have been met by the dedication of Seema and her team, but help from the Guild is important to enable the project to grow and flourish.

Our AGM on 20 April 2021 was the second AGM to be on Zoom. Seven of us managed to attend.

Following the opening devotions led by Elaine and Helen, Alison gave us a summary report on our unusual year of Zoom meetings except for the highlight of our year when during the slightly relaxed Covid restriction in December 18 of our members and friends were able to meet in the Golf Club Teerom – two at a table and have a face to face gathering for a Christmas quiz and afternoon tea.

Alison reported that in spite of us not gathering together and not having our usual fundraising activities BBQ and Harvest Lunch – there was the sum of £600 available for distribution. After discussion it was agreed to send £250 each to the two projects we supported 2020/2021 and £100 to the church.

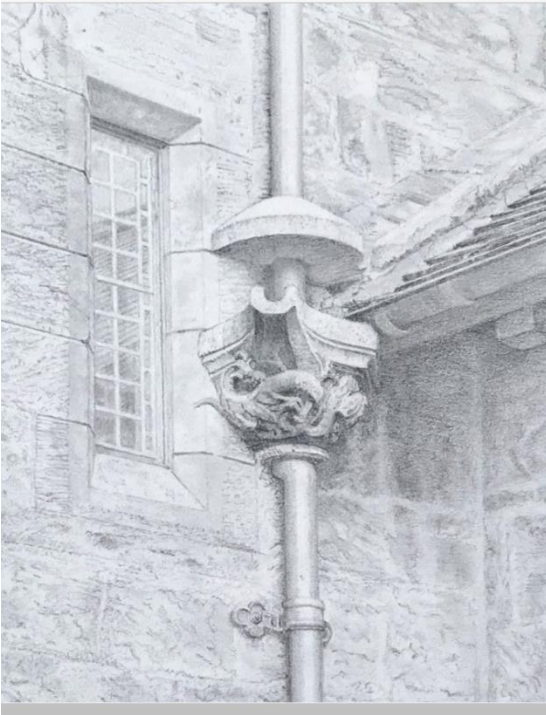
Looking ahead . . . The new three-year Strategy will be **“Look forward in faith”**. Elaine gave an overview of the 6 new Guild project partners for 2021/23; 2 in UK and 4 overseas. The theme for 2021/22 will be **‘Lights and Bushels’**.

Dates for the Guild Diary 1 June - Guild Rally, on Zoom
11 June - The Big Sing, on Facebook - the new projects will be shown.
8 Sep - Guild Annual Gathering, in Dundee - hopefully ‘face-to-face’ and not ‘virtual’.

In October, we will be celebrating 20 years since Jean Hunter re-started Shiskine Guild!

Dorothy Allan

Another gem from Dorothy Allan



The Artwork on the Down - pipe just at the side of the church vestibule

Dorothy writes, “This utilitarian down-pipe has been transformed by the architect and stonemason into a small sculptural gem.

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## The Wee Shop

At a special Zoom meeting of Arran Churches Together (ACT) the idea of a project ‘The Wee Shop’ was discussed and it was decided to have a trial period to see if this indeed filled a need for those who may be badly hit by the Pandemic with debts mounting or difficulties in making ends meet. It was felt that a section of the community found it difficult to imagine they needed to make use of the ACT Foodbank which is run out of Brodick Church by volunteers but is supported by all the churches on the island and the community at large. The Wee Shop has been running for eight weeks using money from a grant to buy the food items etc. which customers are able to

buy at a much reduced price. Donations from churches and individuals are kept for use in the foodbank.

|                   | <u>No. of customers</u> | <u>Outgoing</u> | <u>Income</u> | <u>Balance</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
|                   |                         |                 |               | 3,000.00       |
| Week 1<br>12/3/21 | 4                       | 430.98          | 34.50         | 2,603.52       |
| Week 2<br>19/3/21 | 5                       | 134.39          | 50.40         | 2,519.53       |
| Week 3<br>26/3/21 | 8                       | 117.20          | 63.50         | 2,465.83       |
| Week 4<br>2/4/21  | 10                      | 93.74           | 64.10         | 2,436.19       |
| Week 5<br>9/4/21  | 10                      | 209.73          | 58.80         | 2,285.26       |
| Week 6<br>16/4/21 | 10                      | 242.15          | 90.35         | 2,133.46       |
| Week 7<br>23/4/21 | 13                      | 223.09          | 85.60         | 1,995.97       |
| Week 8<br>30/4/21 | 13                      | 91.48           | 81.80         | 1,986.29       |

**Susan Dobson, Coordinator** says “Customers who have shopped with us have all been very grateful for this support. Some of them work in industries which have been affected by CV19 restrictions, whether they will stop shopping with us when they are earning again and have cleared debts, remains to be seen.”

The Wee Shop operates in the mornings and customers have 15 minute individual slots to shop. Shopping is by appointment only and appointments can be made through 07731562352.



## Quotable Quotes

1 From 'Absolute Truths' by Susan Howatch.

"We are not here (on this planet) simply to exist. We are here in order to become. It is the essence of the creative process; it is in the deepest nature of things"

2 In the unlikely place of a Jewish concentration camp, someone wrote these words on the wall –

"I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.

I believe in love even when I cannot find it.

I believe in God even when He is silent."

In all the touching places of life may we say with Jacob "Surely the Lord is in this place".

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Death

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

24/4/21 Valerie (Val) McAllister McNeil of Shiskine and Pirnmill

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**Prayer for Heath and Healing** During lockdown some of the group have been praying in our own homes at 12 noon on the last Wednesday of each month and on our own praying by name on the list that Jean provided for us. If anyone would like to join us please contact Helen Kerr 860498 and she'll see you get the up to date list. We are all in need of prayer but there are special times when individuals need it particularly. If you know of anyone who needs our prayers please let Helen know.

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Psalm 141:3

“Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.”

A Poem by Evelyn Meyer Doyle

My mouth runneth over –
A problem with which long I’ve coped –
When humility, justice, kindness and love,
Are traits for which I’d hoped.

Something within me starts to churn,
When any subject at all comes up.
For the life of me, I cannot just sit,
And quietly hold my cup.

There are other cups to fill –
So I jump in both feet first,
With very little persuasion –
Just the first pause that occurs.

I extract, examine, explain and exhort –
You might say monopolize –
Till the Lord in his mercy shows me
Interest waning in my listeners eyes.

Verbosity can be a gift – or a curse –
Can make one a star – or a bore –
Depending upon who is coaching one
And the richness of one’s lore.

Deep down inside I’d rather not be
One with the verbal skill –
To slay dragons – feed impossible dreams –
Or spew words with the power to kill.

So each day must start with meditation
And for guidance a petition
If speak I must, and I must speak –
Let my words be those of blessing.

from Liz Clarke

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION AND PRAYER

A Promise and a Response

God's Promise:

My love for you knows no limits. Out of my love for you, you were born. And out of my love for you my eye is upon you every hour. For you see, you are my beloved in whom I am well pleased.



Our Response:

I do love you my Lord but not faithfully enough. I confess that my love grows hot and cold. My God, help me to understand this mystery about myself. Why must my relationship with you be such a come-and-go affair?

from 'A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God'

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From Chea Chum  
News from the young folk in Cambodia  
May 2021

Dear Family and Friends,

I hope everyone is happy, well and safe.

I want to apologise to all of you for being on radio-silence and not keeping updated on what's going on here in Cambodia for a while. Work from college just took most of my time lately and procrastinating is a poison where I seem to fall into. Anyhow, here is the latest update on what's going on here in Cambodia.

Currently, the central government just partially lifted the restrictions on the Capital Phnom Penh (where we live) lockdown where citizens can now travel

freely (well mostly), with the exception of some of the red-zone communes (where most covid 19 infections are situated). Our commune, Boeng Tumpun was in the red-zone for about three months (which means there were restrictions on people's movement from one home to another, on outdoor exercises and the closing down of markets). So we've been in lockdown for the past three months and it is nice to see it's been lifted.

Speaking of Coronavirus, there are 17,621 cases of infections in the city and a total of 114 deaths, the hospitals are overwhelmed, with hospital beds running out soon if more critical cases come in..

Before the lockdown began, panic buying occurred in many shops, pushing the positive cases even higher as every market was jampacked, also infections raged in the garment factories forcing them to close and crippling the country's economy. Food prices are rising fast, at times rising at least fivefold. During lockdown the government are handing out food rations, - nothing fancy, just enough to sustain each family for a few weeks, yet some families letting their pride get in the way with them feeling ashamed to ask for it even when they've know they need it. We are just thankful for not having to face the same predicament of living under the poverty line and having to rely on government food rations to survive.

However, there is hope, the government have been pushing hard toward getting the population vaccinated but the efforts are slow and the people are very disorganised, making it hard to fast track the programmed. Another issue is the shortage of the Covax AstraZeneca Vaccine from India as they are exclusively using it to vaccinate their older population.

Speaking of vaccination, we just got vaccinated (first Jab) on the 04<sup>th</sup> May 2021, my dad (Savy), mum (SreyAun) and me (Helen is not old enough to be in the vaccine programme just yet). We're going to get our second Jab on the 18<sup>th</sup> of same month. As for college, I'm in my last term with just internship to complete but with the rising in cases and deaths we've (most of my classmates) opted to defer until July to start our internship instead.

Lives in Phnom Penh are pretty much quiet at the moment with people still unsure of how long these restrictions are going to last and when the rising of infection is going to slow down if not stop.

God Bless,  
Chea Chum

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And from his sister

Dear All,

Recently Cambodia was in full lockdown. My school once again moved to online learning. This time it was much easier to adjust to the sudden change than when we first had to move to an online course. We knew how everything worked and had a much easier time organizing our assignments and classes.



I have been quite busy with the school throughout this lockdown. Usually, classes would start early in the morning (about 7:00 am) and continue until the evening (3:00 pm). This would occupy most of my days, talking to teachers on a video call, lessons, and assignments to do. My school had decided on a system to lessen the stress on students during this time by having synchronous and asynchronous lessons. During the synchronous days (usually on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.) we would be on a call with our teachers going through the lessons with them. During the asynchronous days (Tuesday and Thursday) we would not be on a call with the teacher and would be given assignments to do. During the asynchronous days, if students have questions, they can email the teacher or discuss it with them on the synchronous days.

On top of our school work, we are also preparing for our assessments for Cambridge. Since I am in year 10, I can choose to take the exams (although some students here in my year choose not to). Since we can't go to school physically, instead of having us sit in a room, doing the exam, the teacher will

instead take assessments. This would mean they are using the mock exam grades and pick out three (or maybe two. I have a horrible memory) other assignments we have done throughout the semester and send them to be checked.

With all this and combined with the fact I am someone who is a professional procrastinator, work piled up quickly. Although I am also an extremely competitive person, who wants the best grades, therefore I try my best to complete the work on time. This means I would often burn the midnight oil and work myself until morning to get it done on time or at least close to the deadline. I remember one time I had to write an essay for my history teacher on the topic of the 'Iran-Iraq War' and it had to be at least 850 to 1000 words long. I had completely forgotten about until the day before the due date. I completed it on time but had to go to bed extremely late and only got a few hours of sleep; I was completely exhausted. But in the end, I completed it.

Though I have been busy with school, I do have a lot of time to just relax and unwind from the studies. That's a story for another time!

I'm sorry I am again not able to visit Arran – the second year my holiday to Scotland has been postponed. I hope to meet many of you NEXT year!

I hope you are keeping well and staying safe during this time.

With love,

Helen Chum

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### **An Easter Season Wordsearch for Coffeetime**

Find the following words on the grid. Words can go in all directions -upwards, downwards, backwards or diagonally.

baptise believe Caiaphas cup doubt Easter Emmaus fear forgive  
Jesus John joy love Mary peace Peter pray reconcile remain spice  
Thomas tomb world

## WORDSEARCH FOR EASTER

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | I | C | E | L | I | C | N | O | C | E | R |
| O | T | A | Z | Y | D | F | P | E | T | E | R |
| R | H | I | R | S | P | I | C | E | M | H | E |
| G | O | A | T | O | M | B | Y | A | I | N | C |
| I | M | P | X | C | W | B | I | A | H | B | A |
| V | A | H | R | D | E | N | Y | O | R | A | E |
| E | S | A | Y | L | T | R | J | V | I | P | P |
| Y | K | S | I | N | W | O | R | L | D | T | N |
| O | J | E | S | U | S | L | U | R | O | I | K |
| J | V | I | L | O | V | E | A | M | U | S | O |
| E | M | M | A | U | S | E | S | X | B | E | W |
| T | G | P | U | C | F | E | A | S | T | E | R |



### A Word of Wisdom to Contemplate

**“Never give up your life for anything that death can take away.”**

Written on the back of a photo of Naomi Laura Tami 1990 – 2013  
who had an inoperable aneurism but lived her short life to the full.

## ***Useful Contacts***

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

Telephone no.

|                                     |                                   |              |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Interim Moderator</b>            | Rev. Dave Sutherland              | 01294 608993 |
| <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                   | 860380       |
|                                     | 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>                  |                                   |              |
| <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 15 July 2021.