

St Molios Church Magazine



NOVEMBER 2020



A Poem to Commemorate Remembrance Sunday – 8th Nov.

Written by Joshia Dyer, a 14-year-old boy in 2019

ONE THOUSAND MEN ARE WALKING



The thousand men are walking
Walking side by side
Singing songs from home
The spirit as their guide.

They walked towards the light milord
They walk towards the sun.
They smoke and laugh and smile together
No foes to outrun.

These men live on forever
In hearts of those they saved.
A nation truly grateful
For the paths of peace they paved.

They march as friends and comrades
But they do not march for war.
Step closer to salvation
A tranquil steady corps.

The meadows lit with golden beams
A beacon for the brave
The emerald grass untrampled
A reward for what they gave.

They dream of those they left behind
And know they dream of them
Forever in those poppy fields
There walks one thousand men.

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**'We will remember them.'**



Dear All,

November 2020

‘The days of a mortal are as grass; he blossoms like a wild flower in the meadow: a wind passes over him, and he is gone, and his place knows him no more (Psalm 103: 15/16)

By now as you read this, my time with you will be over, my ministry at North Arran ended and already I am ‘yesterday’s man’. I have crossed the Rubicon, no going back. Yet if I may be permitted a moment to look back at my time over the past 14 and a half years at Brodick lw Corrie lw Lochranza & Pirnmill lw Shiskine, the overwhelming emotion is one of thanksgiving for having been granted the enormous privilege of being your parish minister and sharing together with you, many times of laughter and joy, as well of course, of times also of deep grief and sadness.

In preaching my final farewell discourses, I have already said all I wanted to say to five wonderful congregations, but the one thing that can never be said often enough, is how grateful I am for the constant kindness, support and encouragement shown to me during those years, not only by good loyal church folk, but by many, many others in the wider Arran community.

Any regrets? A few and all to do with those moments when despite giving my all, in my human frailty, I got it wrong. Even then, I do take a little comfort from the old saying ‘the man that never made a mistake, made nothing.’ I hope on those painful few occasions, I at least learned from my mistakes and put things right, or made it right, with those who felt aggrieved.

Will I miss being your minister? Yes, especially conducting worship on a Sunday, never a chore, always a joy. But more even than that, as I will

now not see any of you as regularly, if at all, I will miss above all else, your friendship.

If my successor is as richly blessed with that same friendship and support that I have been shown, he or she will be richly blessed indeed. My greatest hope is that under a new minister the congregations of North Arran will be secure for many, many years to come and enabled to continue to serve the people of their respective parishes in the same wonderful manner in which they have always done.

It remains for me to say to each of you a final grateful, heartfelt thank you. I wish each of you all the very best for that future and may God bless you all.

Angus

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Pathway

One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go
From the old things to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you.

And its from the old I travel to the new

Keep me travelling along with you. (Sydney Bertram Carter)

Young and old like singing this Hymn. We always liken it to a journey through life and a journey in the Christian faith.

A few weeks ago on the online service I spoke about a book by Rev Lezley Stewart a Church of Scotland minister, the book called ‘Let everyone find their voice’ Re-imagining the Pslams for worship and devotion.

In her book Lezley reimagines key Psalms in strikingly beautiful contemporary language and incorporates them into ready to use liturgies that focus on central themes some of them are on Pathway.

She says “Pathway immediately suggests a journey and lends itself to the exploration of all the twists, turns and different directions in the life of faith.

In the Psalms, Pathway is a repeating metaphor and translates with ease into how we encounter the adventure of faith today, albeit in a different landscape from that known by the Psalmist.

There is much to explore from a variety of approaches in worship, which can be varied as the pathways that people are on.

Some are searching for a pathway that leads closer to God. Others have taken a turn away from God but may be struggling to engage honestly about this. Some may be seeking release from a destructive pathway, or one that has simply led to disappointment and pain.

In the context of worship this theme invites an encounter that understands that God is in company with us, in every experience, yet acknowledging that we can often feel as if we walk alone.

The challenge is to try to express, beyond the beauty of the ancient poetry found in the Psalms, words that connect with journeys that are being experienced in the here and now.”

Psalm 23 is the one of the most well known of Psalms whether it is read or sung to the various tunes.

Psalm 23 this version in words from Rev Lezley Stewart.....

God is a pathway for my life. I find peace when I am with God.
Even on rough ground, even in darkness, even when the direction is unclear, I am never alone.

Way-markers guide my steps, offering pointers to my next turn.
Christ walked this path before me- he is my companion on the road.

Step by step, the pilgrim path sustains me. Step by step, freedom in Christ is found.

The eternal one secures my life, leading me always forward.
I will praise God while I live and move.

This for contemplation...

Which pathway are you following?

How do you allow God to direct you?

Have you missed a turn?

Have you found peace and freedom in Christ?

Every Blessing

Jean Hunter

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### Interim Moderator

Ardrossan Presbytery at its recent virtual meeting, appointed Rev. Dave Sutherland, minister of the charge of Stevenston Ardeer I/w Stevenston Livingstone, as Interim Moderator for the North Arran Linkage. He is very familiar with the parishes of North Arran as he and his wife Maureen have holidayed here many times, mostly in Lochranza.

A minister of the charge, as Angus was, of Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza and Pirnmill, and Shiskine, is Moderator of all four Kirk Sessions.

In a vacancy, the Presbytery who is responsible for the supervision of ministers, elders and congregations within its bounds has a duty of care and an obligation to appoint an Interim Moderator (in place of the minister) to look after all vacant congregations.

Rev Sutherland will look after the business of the congregations. He will moderate kirk session meetings, deacons court meetings and will oversee the business of the vacancy giving advice and leading.

Rev. Sutherland will conduct weddings or arrange for someone else to do that, conduct Communion services and Baptisms although again because of Covid-19 restrictions, Communion and Baptisms will not take place in the church until restrictions are lifted.

In due course Rev Sutherland I expect, will introduce himself to the congregations.

A Locum will also be appointed by the Kirk Sessions of the North Arran Linkage to conduct the Sunday services and for pastoral work - conducting funerals, visting, schools and pastoral care. (Although because of restrictions at the moment no visiting or schools - but still pastoral care.)

In the meantime if you have any questions or concerns please phone me 860380

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ST. MOLIOS GUILD

Guild News



On Tuesday 15 September, we had our opening meeting of the new session of The Guild. Twelve members gathered to start our new theme “The Extra Mile”, the third and final one in “One

Journey Many Roads” Strategy.

Helen opened the meeting with bible reading and prayer. Alison then spoke about finances, including how to collect annual capitation fees and monthly offerings. Cancellation of BBQ and Harvest Lunch meant that important fundraising for projects has been lost this year.

Church Services in St Molios are resuming on 4 October under very strict rules. Liz gave us a summary of what has to be done, including advance booking. A newsletter with all necessary information is being distributed.

We had some discussion about what “The Extra Mile” could mean for us. How to encourage new members could be one challenge. The old-style Women’s Guild is a thing of the past. The Guild is for young and old, men and women. The range of projects, discussions and events are interesting and varied - and membership is free for the first year! Members were also asked to think about ideas for the role of The Guild in our community.

Helen took us on a ‘tour of Scotland’ by means of a challenging quiz! It was a lot of fun as well as informative - and several of us realised we would have to brush up on our geography!

Of course, meetings have to be on Zoom because of ongoing Covid19 restrictions, so we had to say our goodbyes without sharing an afternoon tea round the church hall table.

On Tuesday 20 October at 2pm, A small group met virtually and enjoyed an informative and amusing talk from Becky Haldane about the history and work of the Sailors’ Society. She is chaplain to the seamen who dock in Greenock where for sure her services will be most welcome there.



Remembrance Sunday 8th November

Sadly, the latest government dictates for those areas in level three, concerning the commemoration of Remembrance of all who gave their lives in the world wars and subsequent conflicts may not take place at war memorials during the pandemic at this time. There will be an act of remembrance during worship at 12 noon on the 8th November in St Molios. Please remember that if you and members of you household wish to attend this service you must register before midday on Saturday 7th and you will hear

if there is space from John Kerr Session Clerk – the maximum capacity is 28.
Tel 860498 or by email kerrjh@btinternet.com



Farewell to Angus The letter from Angus at the beginning of this magazine is his last message to us all in the linkage as our minister. On behalf of St. Molios Kirk Session and the whole congregation we want to wish Angus the very best for the next stage in his life, asking God’s richest blessing on him and his family in the future. A huge thank you for all you have given us and all you have shared with us in the past years.

John Kerr, Session Clerk



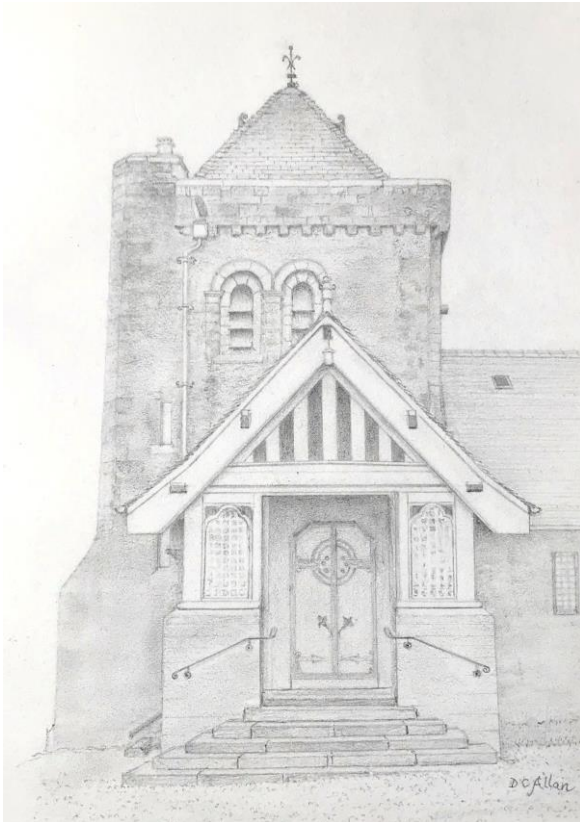
James Burnet and St Molios Church

Author Dorothy Allan

In 1885, the Established Church at Corrie on the north-east coast of Arran was built to an Early Gothic-influenced design by James Burnet. The following year, Burnet married Jean Marwick, youngest daughter of Glasgow’s Town Clerk, Sir James Marwick. Like the Burnets, the Marwicks were Congregationalists.

1886 was also significant for the Burnet practice. James established a national reputation by winning a competition for the Edinburgh International Exhibition of that Year. He also secured the commission for the new Glasgow Atheneum. Both had a strong French *Beaux Arts* influence. It was in the same year that a committee was set up to build a new church in Shiskine to replace Clachan church. Donations for the fund came from Glasgow, Edinburgh and further afield, as well as from Arran residents. Fund-raising events took place. In 1888 a sum of £250 was donated by the Duke of Hamilton, and building started to James Burnet’s design at a cost of £1,900. The original plans did not include a bell, but a special meeting in 1889 decided on this addition for £30

extra. Even in past times, final costs could far exceed estimates and the bell finally cost £70, but was a small price to pay for such a beautiful 'call to worship'.



Burnet's design for St Molios was innovative, very different from Corrie Church, and very different from his previous *Beaux-Arts*. It was the first of a series of churches ** with squat pyramid-roofed towers and large entry porches showing American influences and with Romanesque, late Gothic, Arts & Crafts and Celtic details. They were a low-cost, easy to heat alternative to the tall Dunblane

Cathedral-inspired churches with which the practice had made its name. (Burnet first travelled to America in 1896 but his interest in American 'shingle-style' started at least a decade earlier). Travelling over The String from Brodick, you first see the north aspect. My first impression was of a tower with narrow slit windows, rather dark and forbidding. In the design of the tower, the French schooling of the leading young practitioners in the office brought some problems. Neither James Burnet nor Campbell was cost-conscious; French

building science scared the elder John Burnet as inappropriate for the Scottish climate and a 'foreign language' to the Scottish building trade. The frustrations and delays endured by draughtsmen Alexander McGibbon and William Kerr in drawing the tower of St Molios with hollow walls, only to be told by John Burnet to redraw them solid, a process repeated over several weeks, became the stuff of office legend. Thanks to the wisdom of the father, the tower still stands and still houses the bell!

The east gable is hidden from the road (and mostly hidden by the church hall close behind) but the west gable is in full view. Most impressive is the 'St Molios' grave slab set in a buttress of the tower wall - and a glimpse of the side view of the protruding porch!

Approaching St Molios from Blackwaterfoot, the full beauty of the south aspect and the striking, wooden-framed porch is seen. On a sunny afternoon, with the combination of red Machrie sandstone and red-tiled roof, the church glows with warm colour in its setting of green fields.

** Dundas Memorial, Grangemouth, 1894; Gardner Memorial, Brechin, 1896; McLaren Memorial, Stenhousemuir, 1897; all 'A' listed as is St Molios Broomhill Trinity Congregational, Glasgow, 1899 - Burnet's own family church - 'B' listed.

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**Life and Work Magazine** is the monthly record of the Church of Scotland. It keeps us informed of the work of the church at home and abroad, has correspondence from members and in these changing times keeps us informed of events past and future. If you wish to renew your subscription or if you would like to take out a new subscription (£36.00 p.a) please contact John Kerr before 13<sup>th</sup> November. Payment to be made to 'Shiskine Church of Scotland' marking the back 'Life and Work' and given/sent to Alison Burnett by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021

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|                                         | Mrs. Helen Kerr        | 860498 |
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| <b><i>Organist</i></b>                  | Mr. John Clarke        | 860219 |
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| <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 by Sunday 17 January 2021.