

St Molios Church Magazine



November 2021



We Shall Remember Them

*They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We shall remember them.*

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM

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***Quotable Quotes:***

Before Nelson Mandela left prison he said:

“As I stand before the door to my freedom,  
I realise that if I do not leave my pain, anger and  
bitterness behind me I will still be in prison”.

Forgiveness does not make you weak, it sets you free.

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When the Master invited the Governor to practice meditation and the Governor said he was too busy, this is the reply he got, “You put me in mind of a man walking blindfold into the jungle and being too busy to take off the blindfold.”

When the Governor pleaded lack of time The Master said, “It is a mistake to think that meditation cannot be practised for lack of time. The real reason is agitation of the mind.”

‘Taking Flight’ by Anthony de Mello

Rainbows over Arran!

On my first visit to Arran as your temporary minister, rainbows appeared in the skies almost throughout the entire day, and a complete bow spread over the harbour at Brodick – glimpses of God's promise of long ago.

Now, a wee bit about myself and what I've been up to as a minister. I have come to help, advise and support the churches in the north of Arran. My wife Marian came with me on my first visit and we renewed our acquaintance with Arran, this beautiful island that is your home. We had been before, during the time when we lived in Stevenston where I was minister of the High Kirk (1976-1988). Our 3 children grew up there and enjoyed the country and coastal life and they have many happy memories of holidays on Arran.

During this time the High Kirk celebrated its 150th anniversary when there was much community engagement, involving the young people of the church and the 'Music Makers', a music group in the Sunday School. It was in this period that I was able to experience 'team-work' within the Kirk Session which had a Unitary Constitution.

Moving to Paisley: Wallneuk North (1988-2006) brought new experiences of 'Team Ministry', with 2 projects in a 'joint parishes arrangement' - a project to help single mothers to reach their potential in education/work and a youth project in an area of deprivation. As part of a sabbatical spent in downtown Toronto, Canada, I learned of innovative 'ministries' directly responding to peoples' needs 'on the ground', one example being the 'bike ministry': bikes were made available to those seeking work, allowing them to travel to interviews all across the city. I also spent a few months on Iona as part of the resident staff in the Abbey – mostly in the kitchen making bread and porridge! The communal life, work and witness of the Iona Community has greatly inspired me, especially in terms of worship.

I was for 4 years Convener of the Church of Scotland Ecumenical Relations at the General Assembly, also work-shadowing at the World Council of Churches

in Geneva, and attending the WCC in Harare, Zimbabwe as part of the Scottish delegation.

In Shetland (2006-2021) I served rural communities on the Westside of the Mainland, including the islands of Foula and Papa Stour; one reached by air (7-seater plane), the other by ferry, so I am very familiar with the vagaries of island life and travel!

After retiring in 2011, I continued to serve as locum in various Shetland situations, but also in ALT churches (Lochcarron). No two situations are the same – although there is always the challenge of how the Church addresses its mission! It became clear that the churches in Shetland could no longer continue as they were, with 31 buildings, 7 charges all with linkages and some ministers having retired. In anticipation of this ‘looming crisis’, the Presbytery invited the Ministries Council to help.

Over the last 4 years, conversations with Kirk Sessions, congregations and the community at large took place, with the help of Assessor Ministers and Place for Hope. Listening to one another was vitally important! This process enabled the church folks to realistically come to terms with what would be radical change: ie 11 church buildings deemed to be fit for purpose and a new model of ‘ministry team’. Shetland Churches became one parish (100 miles north to south, with several islands reached by ferry). The finances were combined and this resulted in a pool of money to resource ‘well-equipped spaces in the right places’ and more importantly the mission of Christ.

As you will begin to realise, Arran, along with every other part of Scotland faces similar, if not the same, challenges. At present the Kirk Sessions are involved in a process to survey the current situation of our churches and how to respond to the future mission in a changed church landscape and in an ever-changing society.

We will then be asked to consider our future as the Church of Scotland on Arran. What we have to work out, like our forebears did, is what the mission of the church is in today’s world. This will inevitably be uncomfortable and

rigorous, BUT I am confident that together we will be able to reach a solution that will enable the churches to thrive once more.

Now...back to rainbows! You will remember that this was a sign to Noah that all would be well. And like all the journeys in the Old Testament, there was hardship and trial, doubt and fear, but like Abraham, Moses and the others – we will get there with God's help!

Let there be rainbows over Arran!

Tom Macintyre



From our Locum Minister Mrs Elizabeth Clarke

Hello everyone,

So it is the autumn of the year now and it wont be long before the clocks go back an hour and the evenings get dark earlier. For me, autumn is a time to sit back a little and reflect on the events of the previous months.



At Swallowbrae our summer has been dominated by church services, the veg garden and visits from friends and relations. I would not say we have had a quiet summer! It has been a busy, joyful time, helped by the unusually good weather we had in July.

Now I'm contemplating the changes we will see as we go into winter.

The veg garden has yielded its harvest and it is stored away for us to enjoy over the next 6 months. Our working freezer contains many bags of peas, beans etc. and – its amazing what you can do with a broken chest freezer – our tatties are stored perfectly in it.

The clematis is finished as are the lupins, but the lobelia is still giving us a display.

The birds – swallows, tits, sparrows & finches – have all fledged and I will miss sitting at our kitchen window watching the adults busily flying in and out of their nests to feed their young. What hard workers they are.

While these things are past for this year, there are some things that are just starting in the autumn.

One of our favourite entertainments is to watch the squirrels playing in the garden. They have not been to see us all summer, but we have had a few visits in the last week and once the winter weather kicks in, we will put out some food for them and the birds. For me, they are a much better way to while away the hours than the Internet or video games.

But, apart from being incredibly cute and entertaining, squirrels can teach us a few lessons.

Squirrels teach us to be good stewards of our earth.

Squirrels eat seeds and nuts (and other things) and although they bury their food for the winter, we know they often forget where they have buried the seeds which can result in a new plant appearing. We too need to be good stewards of the planet so as well as living off its resources, we need to give back into its richness.

Squirrels teach us to pace our lives – to live in God's rhythm.

In the spring they get up at sunrise and spend the day finding food, building their drey and rearing their young. In the summer, most squirrels slow down and have a wee snooze in the afternoon before going back to finding food and to much playing. During the winter, they get up near sunrise, work until mid-day and spend the rest of the day resting and conserving heat. They work with the rhythm of the seasons.

God gives us 4 seasons in our life to grow, rest and enjoy and each season gives us great things to do and experience.

Squirrels teach us to enjoy life to its fullest.

We all enjoy watching squirrels playing – running up and down the trees and jumping from branch to branch. Like our friends the squirrels, God wants us to live a rich and joyful life.

I love the fact that it is God’s will that our joy be filled:

John 16:24

“Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”

Every blessing, *Liz*

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Within St Molios Church . . .

I had never looked closely at the two crosses inset in the ends of the Elders’ Pews until earlier this year when my allocated seat during Covid social-distancing was facing the right-hand one. I could see that there was an



inscription round the figure but had to wait until I could inspect it more closely to make out the words. It reads as follows:-

SANCT + MOLIOS + PER TE SALVE +

‘sanct’ means ‘holy’ ‘per te’ means through you and ‘salve’ is from ‘salvere’ - to be well - and was a common Roman greeting.

From a distance, I had assumed that the left-hand cross would be identical, so I was surprised to discover that the central carving is very different. It appears to be an elaborate coat of arms. Although I don’t have any plans to draw it, I am really interested to find out more about it, and would be grateful if anyone can share some information.

Dorothy Allan

Ardrossan Presbytery News

Ardrossan Presbytery has been meeting in person since September in West Kilbride Parish Church. At the September meeting Rev Dave Sutherland was installed as Moderator for Session 2021/2022. Dave was the Interim Moderator for the North Arran Linkage for a time. At the meeting we still have to wear masks for singing, however because it is a business meeting we can now take our masks off for the business part.

In the last Newsletter I reported on the changes that have to be made throughout the church and Ardrossan Presbytery.

Each Presbytery has to have an agreed Presbytery Plan in place and so it is with Ardrossan. The Presbytery Appraisal Committee is the committee that is responsible for preparing the Presbytery Plan.

The committee have to draw up a new plan called a Presbytery Mission Plan. We are reminded that “The Mission of the church is Christ’s Mission”. This is the mission of the whole people of God and not just those in paid ministries and office bearers.

There are Five Marks of Mission in the new Presbytery Mission Plan Act that churches have to work with. This Act offers a framework for understanding mission. They are as follows:

- 1 To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;**
- 2 To teach, baptise and nurture new believers;**
- 3 To respond to human need by loving service;**
- 4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation;**
- 5 To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.**

The Ardrossan Presbytery Mission Plan is to be completed , presented to Presbytery and approved by June 2022. The Appraisal Committee are keen to

listen to Kirk Sessions and in turn for them to keep all members informed and listen to them.

The process so far:

Each Kirk Session has been asked to complete a survey and return to Presbytery by 31st October 2021. Our Kirk Session met this morning on zoom to discuss the survey and complete the questions to the best of our ability.

Some of the relevant questions to think about and answer were:

- a) As a Kirk Session what do we think of the Five Marks of Mission?
- b) What would we like to achieve in mission in five years time?
- c) Which of the Mission Plan principles should Presbytery prioritise?
- e) How can we develop new ways of being church, i.e. Pioneering initiatives/Fresh Expression etc..

Future Sustainability + Adjustments:

Why are we sustainable beyond 31st December 2025?

Mission? Kirk Session? Congregations? Property? Finances? Other?

Why should we not embrace change?

As members and adherents of St Molios you may want to answer these questions for yourself, what do you think? If you would like you can speak to any of the Kirk Session on any of these.

Is your church important to you? Is it important to the community?

The next step in the process is that the Appraisal Committee will read the responses from all of the Kirk Sessions. Then sometime between November and January representatives of the Appraisal Committee will meet with each Kirk Session in the Presbytery. The date of these meetings have yet to be decided.

Every blessing

Jean Hunter - Presbytery Elder



St Molios Shiskine BBQ

On Friday 27th August at 18.30, St Molios Guild held its Annual BBQ in the church garden in Shiskine village. This event had been cancelled in 2020 because of Covid restrictions and so the 2021 BBQ was an extra special occasion. The beautiful setting amid hills and fields of sheep, with a view of Kintyre and the sea, was enhanced by perfect weather.

A record number of 62 people from church and community, ages ranging from 2 to 94 years, came together to share fellowship and food. It was our first large gathering since before the start of the pandemic, and for some, this occasion marked a reunion after 18 months of separation. There was lots of happy chatter and laughter with a background of live piano music played by our organist, John Clarke. The food was delicious and plentiful. After the burgers, hot dogs, salads and savouries, we relaxed with the guild staple of tea, coffee and home-baking. This was topped by a delicious, layered chocolate cake to celebrate the 75th birthday of our convener and treasurer, Alison and a 28 year-old visitor, Alan, who acted as chef's 'runner'! It was like feeding the 5,000 getting a good-sized taste of the cake for all 62 who wanted to partake!

We were delighted to have VIP guests join us; Rev. Tom Macintyre our Interim Moderator, his wife Marian Macintyre, our former Guild National Convener, also Ardrossan Presbytery Moderator Mr Alan Richardson, who is now our Guilds Together North Ayrshire Chaplain for 2021/22 and his wife Marjory. Richard praised the Guild for all their work and efforts in the church and the amazing projects supported through prayer and funds, over the next three years.

The BBQ, this year, is held as a fundraiser for Church and Guild funds, and realised £577, all of which will go to these funds. The buns were a gift from the Co-op, the meats were donated, and other foods were provided by Guild members and friends. 'Contributions' of grilling and kitchen duties, shifting of tables and chairs, planning and ticket-selling are also much appreciated.

Sincere thanks to the many people from our church and community who gave their time and energy in advance of, during, and after the event to ensure its success.

The Guild is on the Move Again! After the summer break, the Guild meeting on Tuesday 21 September was special in more than one way! It marked the beginning of a new 3-year strategy “Look Forward in Faith” - and, we met in the Church Hall in person, a great pleasure after a year of Zoom!

This year’s theme is “Lights and Bushels”, and Helen’s words of welcome and prayer reflected this. She introduced us to **Starchild**, a charity founded by Michaela Foster Marsh in memory of her adopted Ugandan brother, Frankie Marsh. ‘Finding the Light in Every Child’ is a partnership between Starchild and the Guild, focused on breaking down stigmas and myths related to intellectual and physical disability in Uganda which have resulted in children and young people being locked up, tied up and left in the dark. Starchild aims to build a holistic centre called the Sunflower Sanctuary to offer support, training and guidance.

We were unable to have a speaker from Starchild, but were fortunate to have Graeme Johnston, Youth Work Project Manager at Arran Youth Foundations. AYF was established as a charity in 2008, to address social isolation, exclusion and lack of opportunity. It has grown from an 8 x 20’ portacabin in Brodick to the large, youth cabins at Arran High School; from a Friday night drop-in with a handful of teenagers to 14 sessions/week and more than 200 young people registered, ages ranging from 9/10 to early 20s. Graeme’s enthusiasm for his work was heart-warming, and we enjoyed hearing about the wide range of activities on and off Arran. As well as Graeme, we were delighted to welcome Jodie, who is a young person with some special needs and an active member in AYF. We heard from Graeme about the challenge this had presented and also about the rich rewards it had brought. Jodie told us about her favourite activities which included Xbox, cooking club, playing board games and singing. Arising from the success of Jodie’s inclusion, there are now several more young people who have isolating conditions, such as autism and selective

mutism, being supported by AYF and enjoying the opportunities, facilities and socialisation that AYF provides.

A True Tale of a Tomato Triumph . . .

By the end of the 2018 - 21 strategy, “One Journey, Many Roads”, Church of Scotland Guild members had raised the total sum of £551,434, for the six projects involved. One of the projects, Growing the Future with Malawi Fruits, had its share



‘match funded’ by United Nations, thus doubling the sum of £86,837.29 it received from The Guild.

In the Autumn Newsletter 2021, there is really good news from Malawi of how fruitful the last 18 months have been despite the problems of the pandemic. A year ago they had 8 polytunnels worked by 24 women growing tomatoes for local markets; now they have 48 polytunnels and over 220 trained growers. Great results in crop yields and quality, installation of a second solar- powered chill-store to reduce waste, plus simultaneous planting & harvesting results in having tomatoes to sell each month, and a year-round income for the growers. A particular success has been the siting of 3 polytunnels at Mzuzu prison. The prisoners are learning new skills and are producing tomatoes of high quality for supermarket sale. Income from this is then used to improve welfare in the prison.

In September, Malawi Fruits deployed their 400th solar-powered “Futurepump”! Originally used for outdoor irrigation of fields, enabling all-year cultivation, some now pump water into tanks which maintain a drip irrigation system for the polytunnels. Energy ‘without a bill’ from the sun!



Arran Churches Together Foodbank

Arran Churches Together (ACT) continue to run the foodbank from Brodick Church; shelving in the transept is used for storing stock whilst shelving in the vestibule is kept topped up with non-perishable goods. The vestibule is open 24/7 to allow anyone in financial crisis to help themselves to food without the need for referral. There are 4 volunteers on the rota who collect food donations from the basket in the big Coop; top up the vestibule shelves on a daily basis; shop for any low stock items and keep the vestibule and transept clean and tidy.

ACT continue to run The Wee Shop on Friday mornings from the small hall at Brodick Church. This is a subsidised shop which is intended to support low income individuals and families; it is intended to provide help towards a weekly shop. Shelving, tables and a fridge freezer are set out 'shop style' in the small hall; customers shop for what they need and pay approx. 1/3 of the retail cost. Customers book a 15-minute slot which gives time for shopping and restocking. The kitchen in Brodick Church Hall is currently used to store non-perishable items. We have 5 volunteers for this project who take turns shopping for stock and running the shop each week.

ACT are indebted to the volunteers who give their time to keep these projects running smoothly; we are grateful to the Board and Session of Brodick Church for allowing the projects to be run from Brodick; the projects would not be viable if it weren't for the generosity of those who donate items and money. Thank you to everyone who has supported the projects in any way. Foodbank users and Wee Shop customers have expressed their gratitude for support in their time of need.

At a recent meeting of ACT committee it was decided that there would be no Christingle service this year but should Covid regulations allow it we will have

Carols at the Coop from 11:00 -12 noon on Saturday 11th December. Come and lend your voice! The date for the united service for Christian Unity Is Sunday 16th January at noon in Lamlash Church.

Special announcement

ACT are most grateful to all those who have so generously and regularly donated money to the Foodbank account. Currently the account has a healthy balance and thankfully there has been a considerable drop in the uptake in services. We suggest that there is no current need for regular monetary donations however, we are always grateful for donations of ambient food through the usual channels.

Helen Kerr ACT Chairperson



Deaths

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

Sheena Bannatyne of Blackwaterfoot 30th September 2021



COP 26 March for... Care for Creation. Climate Justice for ALL

Glasgow Churches Together has called on all churches in Scotland to march for this essential cause on Saturday 6th November gathering in Kelvingrove Park at 11.30 and arriving ay Glasgow Green at 15.00. Of course on Arran we have some transports constraints and people may find it risky in crowds. But we can make a stance in solidarity on the day. There will be a silent vigil on the foreshore Brodick opposite the Douglas Hotel for 30-45 minutes at 13.00 There will be a banner and it is hoped that as many as possible will gather. If you find standing a problem bring along a seat. If you have something green to wear all the better. If you are able to come please let HILARY PATRICK on 07748846019

Dates for Our Diary

- Sunday 31 October The celebration of the Lord's Supper at 12 noon with our interim Moderator Rev. Tom Macintyre.
Registering 860498 kerrjh@btinternet.com
- Sunday 14 Nov Remembrance Sunday at Shiskine War Memorial at 12noon then in St Molos.
- Nov. Sun. 28 Nov Come to Church Sunday Family Service First Sunday of Advent.
- Dec. Frid. 24 Dec 11.30p.m. watchnight Service Bring a torch.
- Dec. Sat 25 Christmas Day worship in Lochranza at 11.00.
- Nov. Tues 16 Guild at 2p.m. UNIDA be informed of our new Guild project in Brazil Opportunities for young women to get educational opportunities
- Dec. Tues 14 Guild host congregational Christmas event 1600 - 18.00 families, singles and couples!.
- Twice monthly The linkage discussion Group - every two weeks next one 9th November at 8 Ladeside Place. Pls Contact John Kerr 860498,
- Last Wed. Nov&Jan Payers 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 19.30
- Every Thursday St. Molios Church Coffee morning from 10.30-noon. Please remember your mask. All welcome.
- Sat 11 Dec. **ACT Events** Carols at the Coop 11.00-noon
- Sun. 16 Jan. Christian Unity Service in Lamlash at noon

Useful Contacts

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	Mrs. Elizabeth Clarke	860219
	Mr. John Clarke	860219
	Mrs. Jean Hunter	810218
	Mrs. Evelyn Hamilton	860233
	Mrs. Helen Kerr	860498
<i>Session Clerk</i>	Mr. John Kerr	860498
	Mrs Elizabeth McCarthy	860727
<i>Deacons' Court Clerk</i>	Mr. John McCarthy mob.07870643011	860727
<i>Organist</i>	Mr. John Clarke	860219
<i>Pastoral Support Team</i>		
Coordinator		
<i>Magazine Editor</i>	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 Sunday 15 January 2022.