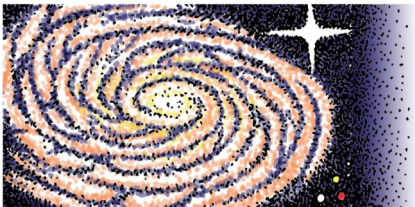
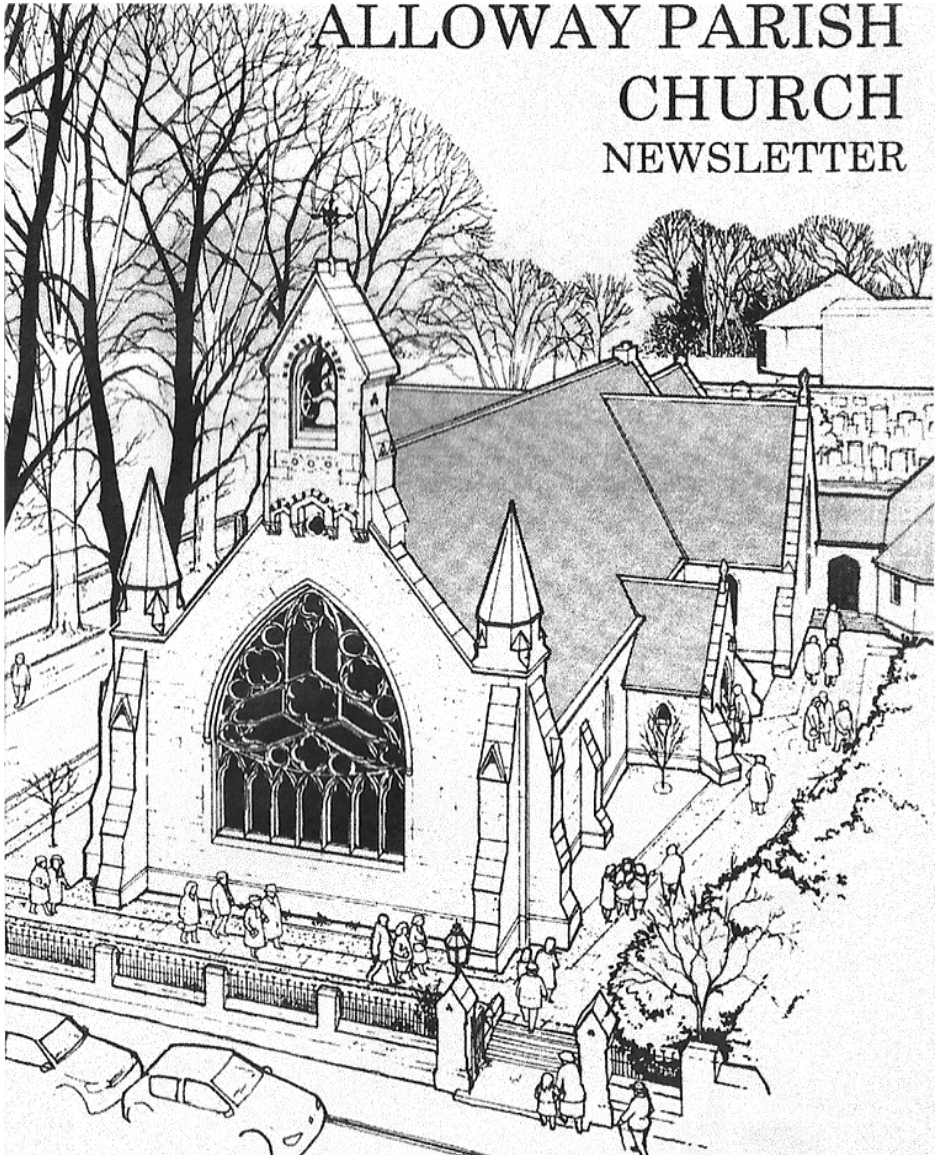
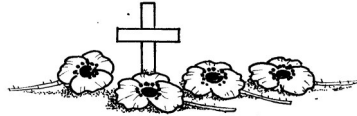


ALLOWAY PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



November
2022



Dear Friends

This year as part of our Remembrance season, we will create a temporary garden in which crosses will be planted with poppies on them. These crosses are available for uplift from the vestibule.

In late 1914 in Northern France and Flanders great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren. It seemed everything was destroyed.

However, in the spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction.

Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud.

These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

It was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war.

A French woman, Anna Guerin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London.

There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

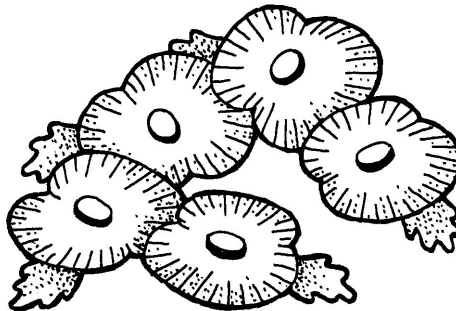
The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future.

This year war yet again haunts Europe. Our thoughts and prayers go to all the victims of that conflict and at least twenty seven other major conflicts which scar the world of today!

As I recall the humble poppy I reflect that amidst conflict and turmoil we too are called in faith to be resilient and resolute in working for peace.

Every blessing

Neil McNaught



A note from Rev. David...

It has been a very busy month at Alloway Parish Church and it has been great to see so many people involved in the activities that we offer. Below is a brief summary of some of the activities in October and a look forward to those coming up soon.

The 'Be Still' Course started on Tuesday 11th October and from that very first session, the attendance has been quite amazing. At the time of writing, we have had 49 folks coming along, with an average attendance of 40 each week! At each session we have had the opportunity to have a short time of worship, a video presentation, small group discussions and of course, we start with tea, coffee and a chat.

The theme of the course has been to consider how we can develop a personal 'Quiet Time' with God and how this can deepen and strengthen the relationship we have with him. It has been so exciting to see so many people come along and to learn about what helps, or hinders, each of us from having a 'Quiet Time' with God.

The remaining sessions of the course will take place on Tuesday 1st and 8th of November (7.00-8.30), so there is still time to come along. To conclude the course, we are having a 'movie night' on Tuesday 25th November (7.00-9.15pm) to watch the Christian film 'War Room' - and I have promised popcorn and choc-ices - so why not put this date in your diary.

We are already thinking about what course will be next - perhaps in the Spring of 2023.

Well, Messy Church returned with 'a bang' in October - we were quite taken aback when 69 children turned up, together with their parents/grandparents/carers!! There was some frantic scenes as we got everyone registered and ensured that we had enough craft activities, games, sheets - and food - for everyone. As always, the amazing Messy Church Team rose to the challenge and it was an amazing session where we focused on God's Creation.

The next session of Messy Church is on Saturday 19th November, 4.00-6.00pm where will look forward to the birth of Jesus. I do hope that we get another great turnout!

On Wednesday 5th of October I was accompanied by David Donaldson for our monthly visit to Greenan Manor. The theme of our little service was 'Harvest' and it was great to see that Elizabeth, the Activities Coordinator, had prepared a beautiful Harvest display. Each month, the attendance at these short services increases - though I don't know if it is the singing/message that is the attraction - or the beautiful cakes, tea and coffee on offer afterwards! It was also encouraging to learn that some of the residents from Greenan Manor attended the October 'Musical Memories' - great to see the links between Greenan Manor and Alloway Parish Church developing.

It has also been a busy month with Alloway and Doonfoot Primary Schools. I have been involved with assemblies, classroom sessions, Harvest Festivals, Scripture Union, Foodbank collections and have also visited the Early Years children at Alloway Primary. It has been great to witness the excitement and enthusiasm of these youngsters - and to share some of the wonderful stories from the Bible. Very soon of course, we will turn our attention to the Christmas season - and in particular the Christmas services for Alloway and Doonfoot Primaries, two Nativity evenings with Alloway Primary - and of course our Christingle service! Look out for details in the December Newsletter.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, we are running a 'Stepping Stones' bereavement programme on Friday afternoons, 2.00-3.30, from 11th November - 2nd December, with our Quiet Service taking place on Sunday 4th December. The weekly sessions will take place in the Fellowship Lounge and will include sessions focusing on: Feelings and Possibilities - Exploring Aspects of Loss; Cooking and Nutrition - Practicalities of Cooking for One; Caring For Yourself - Self-Care and Exercise; Health and Reassurance - Considering Health Concerns. For further information, please get in touch.

Each week I aim to visit members of the congregation and of the parish. Most often this is in their home, but sometimes in hospital or care home. If you know anyone who would benefit from, or appreciate a visit, please let me know.

God's richest blessings, *David*.

Welcome to Mr David Donaldson

My name is David Donaldson and I will be joining you at Alloway for my next student placement. I am a candidate for full-time ministry of Word and Sacrament and have completed placements in Kilmaurs, Mauchline and Sorn. I study Divinity at the University of Glasgow and I teach one day each week in a special needs school. I live in Kilmarnock with my cat Mattie where I attend St Marnock's Parish Church. I am looking forward to journeying with you over the next six months and pray that we will all grow in faith and come to know Jesus better.





Dear Member

May I thank you for your vital and continued support of the Church.

We celebrate our next communion on Sunday Nov 27th at 10.30am and 6.30pm. Individual communion pods will be available as an option.

While all are warmly invited we fully understand if you cannot join us. As on the day we shall light the first advent candle, I pray that God's light shall shine upon you and yours this advent and Christmas season.

Every blessing

Neil McNaught

Preaching Calendar

Nov

6th	10.30 am	(baptism)
13th	9.45am, 11.15am	Remembrance Service
	12.30pm	Wreath Laying
20th	10.30 am	Rev David Hume
27th	10.30 am	Advent Communion
	6.30pm	Advent Communion

Dec

4th	10.30am	Advent 2
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Alloway Church Harvest Appeal



The Amazon Hope Medical Programme began in 2002, steadily growing each year so that by 2013 the programme was working in six river basins (Amazon, Manítí, Ucayali, Puinahua, Tigre and Marañón).

"Without doubt 2022 has been the busiest year that the Amazon Hope health programme has ever had."

On the 20th anniversary year of Amazon Hope's work it is pleasing to report that the congregation of Alloway Parish has in total (including gift aid) has raised £2744.50 for the Vine Trust from their 2022 Harvest Appeal.

A huge thank you to all who contributed to this very worthy cause which will bring health and healing to some of the world's poorest people.



Mid Week Fellowship

2nd Nov 10.30am	Coffee Morning Fellowship Lounge
9th Nov 10.30am	Wed Worship Octagonal Hall
16th Nov 10.30am	Wed Break online
23rd Nov 10.30am	Wed Worship Octagonal Hall
30th Nov 10.30am	Wed Worship Octagonal Hall



Session Update

The meetings over the last few months have continued in their usual way with reports from our committees keeping us up to date with news of events happening in church and around the parish.

The Mission committee reported on the Harvest Supper which was part of the Leisurely Lunches programme and confirmed the date for the Christmas Fair. The lunches are one of the ways we are trying to fund our Malawi project which has had a few setbacks recently. Murray Hutchison is our main link here and he reported that because of their problems with inflation and the devaluation of their currency the cost of the project had risen considerably. After some discussion with the Bandawe primary school and with our own Finance committee it was agreed that we should continue to help build this desperately needed toilet block. Your help with any future fund-raising events will be greatly appreciated. Our Worship and Development committee reported on the church summer opening, details of which have been published and updated us on the progress of the coffee and chat as well as our litter picking.

Our Presbytery elder keeps us informed of all the changes happening around us, one of the main ones recently being the removal of Ayr Presbytery to become part of the new West of Scotland Presbytery. We also heard that two members of Alloway, Simon Mann and Malcolm McNeil had passed their final assessment for the Worship Leader Team.

We are also continuing our progress towards our change of constitution from Model to Unitary and we are at present awaiting word from the church's solicitors to finalise details. Although this is a significant change it may not appear to be very different to what we have now. We will still operate with committees but those who serve there will no longer be called Board members just committee members. A more noticeable change may be when we link with Fisherton. We will continue to advise you of progress there.

Eric Ness

Session Clerk

Congregational Board Business Update

As regards our Church finances our current net income is reasonably healthy, but that is in part due to the generosity of those who have gifted legacies and the increase in revenue we have enjoyed from Church Weddings, post Covid.

Our Church Trustees, having considered the most recent Covid advice from The Church of Scotland, agreed that, as Covid was now less of a threat, the practice of passing the Offering Plate at Sunday services could be reintroduced, and this has resulted in an appreciable increase in monies received.

We thank Church Elders, Alan and Moira Menzies, who over many weeks and months during the Covid restrictions volunteered to record and bank monies received, both at the doors of our Church, and at our Halls on Sundays.

Property:

Much of our attention has been directed at the repair and/or replacement of electrical equipment.

The faulty, constantly flashing, downlights at the front entrance to the Halls have been replaced after considerable delay and frustration in sourcing replacement parts.

The faulty water heater in the Fellowship Lounge will either be repaired or replaced, depending on cost implications.

A subgroup has been looking into the replacement of the lighting system in the Sanctuary. LED lights that are more energy efficient would be installed. The initial estimate of cost has proven significant so further investigation work is required.

Parking along Auld Nick's View has been problematic at times partly due to the fact that the yellow parking restriction lines had become faint. Following several requests from ourselves, most, but not all the yellow lines have been repainted in the vicinity of the Halls and Church. The ones down Auld Nick's View are painted by hand, not machine, and unfortunately the Council's one and only in-house line painter is on sick leave so that work will not be completed until he returns to work.

The Church of Scotland suggests that one apartment in the Manse should be redecorated each year. Unfortunately our rolling programme was interrupted due to Covid restrictions. The dining room is our next project.

We hope that the Manse's garden patio and footpath build work will commence before the end of this financial year. If not, the budget will need to be carried over to next year.

We again thank the Jolly Gardeners for caring for the grounds at the Halls and Church and these are looking splendid. The feedback from church members as well as from visitors during Doors Open over this Summer has been excellent. The straw scarecrows the team fabricated and the photo montage they prepared for our Harvest Thanksgiving Service were much appreciated.

Our Church Halls are being well used, including by 9 Community Groups, 7 of whom meet weekly and 2 on a monthly basis.

Our Social Committee is kept busy providing tea and coffee after the Sunday services. Recent attendances have averaged 70.

On your behalf I thank the Conveners and members of the Committees of Board, and all volunteers for their efforts.

Ian Stewart

Clerk to the Board

Alloway Singers

Calling all singers who would love to join us for our Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday 18 December.

It's been some time since we've got together and it would be good to see some new and existing members.

The rehearsals will be on a Wednesday evening in the Session House at 7pm.

The dates are 9/16/23/30 Nov and 7/14 Dec.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Stephen and Karin



Presbytery News

In Robert Burns' satirical poem Holy Willie's Prayer the poet quotes Willie Fisher, an Elder of Mauchline Kirk who had his own views of Ayr Presbytery.

*Lord hear my earnest cry and pray'r,
Against that Presbyt'ry o Ayr!
Thy strong right hand, Lord, mak it bare
Upo' their heads!
Lord, visit them, an dinna spare,
For their misdeeds!
Well no one can say that again!*

Ayr Presbytery started on 17 October 1581 at a meeting in St John's Tower Ayr. It comprised of 24 parishes, served by 11 ministers and 7 readers and it all ended on 30 September 2022. The last meeting was held on 27 September within Ayr St Leonard's Church.

Not only was the 30 September Ayr Presbytery's last day it was also the last day of Annandale and Eskdale, Ardrossan, Dumfries and Kirkcudbright, Irvine and Kilmarnock and Wigtown and Stranraer Presbyteries.

On the 1 October 2022 all six met as the newly formed Presbytery of the South West in St Marnock's Church, Kilmarnock. This year's Moderator, the Presbytery Clerk, the Presbytery Administrator and Safeguarding Officer are all from the former Ayr Presbytery.

Although the geographical area may present it's challenges and presbyteries have entered this union at different stages of their respective plans, the meeting was very positive and encouraging.

Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—November

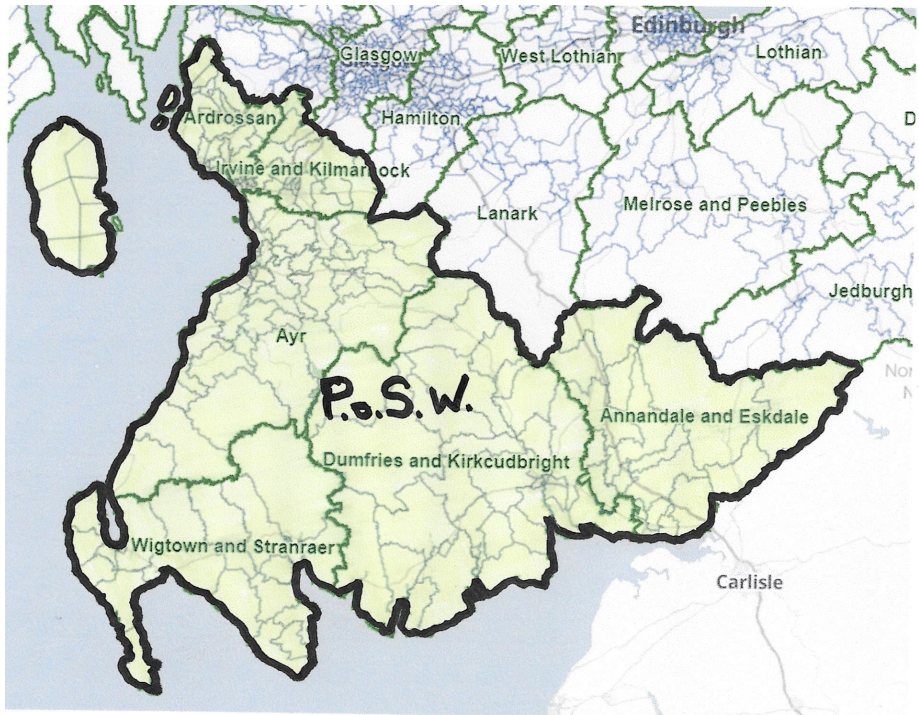
As has been said the 'only constant in life is change' we have a change of Monarch, a change of Prime Minister and Government, a change in church constitution and a change of Presbytery. This gives us plenty of opportunities for the future which we have to embrace and trust in God's guidance.

Bill Duncan

Presbytery Elder

Isaiah Ch 43 V 18.19

"Forget the former things; do not dwell in the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a



Christmas Fair

This year our Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 10th December from 10.00am until 12.00noon.

In the large hall, we will have our tea room where you can enjoy tea or coffee with home baking for only £4.00 - £1.00 for children.

In the Octagonal hall, we have all our usual stalls - art, baking, cards, crafts, plants, silk flowers, toiletries, unused gifts, toys and children's books.

In the small hall, we will have crafts/games for the children as well as face painting.

There will also be some magic tricks with Rev. David assisted by his puppet friend Sam.

We would welcome donations for all of our stalls which can be brought to the church hall on Friday 9th between 6.30pm and 8.00pm or between 9.00am and 10.00am on Saturday before the fair begins.

All money raised will be used for our project in Bandawe - we are anxious to build toilets in the primary school where at present none exist.



FAIRLY TRADED PRODUCTS and PRESENTS - ORDER YOURS NOW FOR CHRISTMAS

In Alloway Church, we believe that God wants us to have a concern for the poor worldwide and therefore we do everything we can to meet their needs. Fairtrade is a simple way to make a difference to the lives of poor people who grow and produce the things we love. We do this by changing the way trade works, through better prices, decent working conditions and a fair deal for farmers and workers in developing countries.

While we are all feeling the pinch, as our supermarket bills increase, have a thought for the farmers and producers overseas and consider how they are suffering? In your supermarket, ask yourself if the high price you are paying is actually being passed on to the farmers overseas who grow the products? In these tough times, Fairtrade is more important now than ever. Make sure you buy products that have the Fairtrade logo, whenever you can.

Our last Fairtrade order before Christmas will be going in on Thursday 10th November, 2022. Please let us have your order no later than Wednesday 9th November. There are some really interesting and innovative things available in the catalogue, something different this year for your friends and relations. Check the catalogue on the Traidcraft website on www.traidcraftshop.co.uk then send your order to Olwen and Malcolm at olwenatayr@btinternet.com or phone us on 01292 440423. Thanks for all you are doing to support the poorest producers overseas.



Remembrance Day 2023

This date is not incorrect!

We are looking for volunteers to make red knitted poppies which will be used to make a remembrance day display in 2023.

We ask that you use "Robin Double Knit" in red which can be bought from "The Wool Sak" opposite M&S in Ayr High Street for £1.75 for 100 g.

Poppy pattern;-

Using no. 9 (or 3.75 mm) needles cast on 120 stitches.

Rows 1,2,3 and 4 knit.

Row 5, purl 3 stitches together across the row.(40 stitches)

Rows 6,7,8 and 9 knit.

Row 10, knit 2 stitches together across the row. (20 stitches)

Rows 11, 12, 13 and 14 knit.

Row 15, knit 2 stitches together across the row. (10 stitches)

Cut 20 cm tail of yarn and thread this yarn onto a sewing needle - slip all remaining stitches onto the yarn and pull tight.

Pull poppy round into a circle and stitch together for an invisible seam.
Sew in ends.

HINT;- Try to make your tension slightly looser on row 4 to make it easier to purl the 3 stitches together on row 5. Poppies will be collected at the end of June 2023.

Helen Ness



Musical Memories



NEWS FLASH

Musical Memories is as popular as ever, but the band has sadly been depleted and is seeking new volunteers to augment their numbers.

Musicians would not require to attend every session.

There is usually a short rehearsal in the first week of each month just to make everyone familiar with the playlist.

Would you be interested, or do you know someone who may be willing to help?

Contact Madge Irving on 01292442963 in the first instance, for further information.

Flower Fellowship

The flower fellowship team would like to extend a big thank you to all the ladies who helped to make the Harvest posies. We would also like to thank members of the congregation who all rallied round to help with the delivery of them.

We have already received lovely messages of thanks from recipients. How lovely it is to be able to bring a little joy through flowers.

Oonagh Allison



Fisherton Church Friendship Group

Alloway congregation is invited to the following meetings which take place at Fisherton Church from 2.00pm until 3.30pm with cuppa, cake and chat included.

Friday 18th November - Mr and Mrs or Mrs and Mrs quiz. How well do you really know your partner/best friend.

Friday 16th December - Different aspects of Christmas - interesting presentation by Ian McAnulla. Secret Santa and festive refreshments.

Friday 21st January - A taste of Burns. Short talks on Burns' music and traditional food and drink.



Harvest Supper

A big thank you to all who in anyway supported our harvest supper on Sunday 9th October. We raised £335 (after deductions for foodstuff) and this money will be added to our toilet block fund for Bandawe Primary School.

Mission Committee



BANDAWE REPORT OCTOBER 2022

The report focuses particularly on the building of another toilet block, this time for Bandawe Primary School. It is already shown in the budget 2022. It was discussed in full at a recent Malawi Mission Committee and at the Congregational Board.

As of August 2022, Malawi Fund balance	£10,200
Release of Ministries Allocation Sept-Dec would mean a new total	£12,867
With projected Christmas Fayre and School Fundraising	£16,067
2022 Budget figure shown as (pre mkw devaluation)	£13,500

BPS Toilet Project

BPS Toilet Block Builders post mkw devaluation estimate.	Mkw27,273,000
Revised estimate following deletion of certain items	mkw24,689,800
exchange rate mkw1166 to £1 then	£21,159

The main reason for the cost increase is that the Malawi government was pressured by the IMF into devaluing the mkw by 25%. However, in some cases items have increased by more than 25% eg cement was mkw 6500. It is now mkw 11,200.

At our recent meeting a member advised he wished to fund any resulting difference between the sums finally raised here and the final agreed costs ie cost guarantee.

A small works contract is in preparation as are drawings from Bandawe and a full detailed estimate has been received. The new headteacher Kira Kamanga has been advised of the necessary contract process, the need for his Board approval and signing and the payment in 3 tranches on confirmation visually of progress. This would also assist availability of Alloway PC funds. The builders advised, with no unexpected weather interruptions, it would be a 3.5-4month contract. The cost difference has been put to the Finance Committee and that the whole matter has been agreed by the Congregational Board.

School Fees

Denis at BAGSS has reported on 5 vacancies. This October term Fees are increasing from mkw 130,000 per term (x3) to mkw 170,000(x3). Denis has nominated 5 suitable candidates, and these have been accepted and the pupils notified. Lorraine McEwan advised that funds are available to cover this including the fee increase which brings an annual cost of £425 per girl.

Chicken Project at BPS sadly this has failed due to feed costs trebling and increase in medication costs for the birds. It may be that this can be revisited at some future date as it did raise income for BPS.

Food Issues We have consulted with Denis Kamata at BAGSS this month and he advised stocks of maize were adequate but that maize prices had almost doubled in some areas and there was now a prevalence of cholera in the area. All this was a real concern for 2023.

Murray Hutchison



Brownies



thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle

This term 3rd Alloway Brownies have been working on Girlguiding's 'Take Action' theme badge; "Empower yourself to make a difference and use your voice to help your community and the wider world." We have to admit it hasn't been our favourite theme so far, but we have still managed to have lots of fun.

We began by welcoming some new Brownies into our Unit by everyone showing our biggest smiles! We played a getting-to-know-you memory game, and 'Making Friends' bingo. We were saddened to hear about the passing of Queen Elizabeth and held a 2 minute silence. Another night we played 'Mirror Me' which was all about listening and how to act and look engaged when talking to someone. We played a 'Simon Says' type game; Listening - (good eye contact and nodding) / Mirror Me - (stand up straight and smile) / Sound interested - (say 'Wow!' and "gaspl!") We played a relay game called 'Spread the Word' which involved passing a ball in cups while acting out something written on the ball.

We had great fun playing a detective game called 'The Great Chocolate Heist' trying to work out who stole a bar of chocolate. The Brownies 'earned' clues by playing games - Hook-a-Duck, chocolate bar dice game, beanbag target game, and 'tell 2 truths and a lie' game. Everyone had fun and went home with a bar of chocolate!

On another night we played 'Character Mix Up' and acted out the story of Little Red Riding Hood - with a few alternative twists! We made origami wolves and played 'What's In Little Red's Basket' memory game.

We had an enjoyable evening at Nether Auchendrane Activity Centre and planted an oak tree for Queen Elizabeth's green canopy. The weather wasn't kind, so we couldn't go on the play park but played games inside - skittles, giant dominoes, bingo and colouring cut-out butterflies to decorate the flowerpots at the Centre.

We had some new Sixers and Seconds, and the new Brownies made their special Brownie Promise in front of some of the parents, and we made origami Promise books.

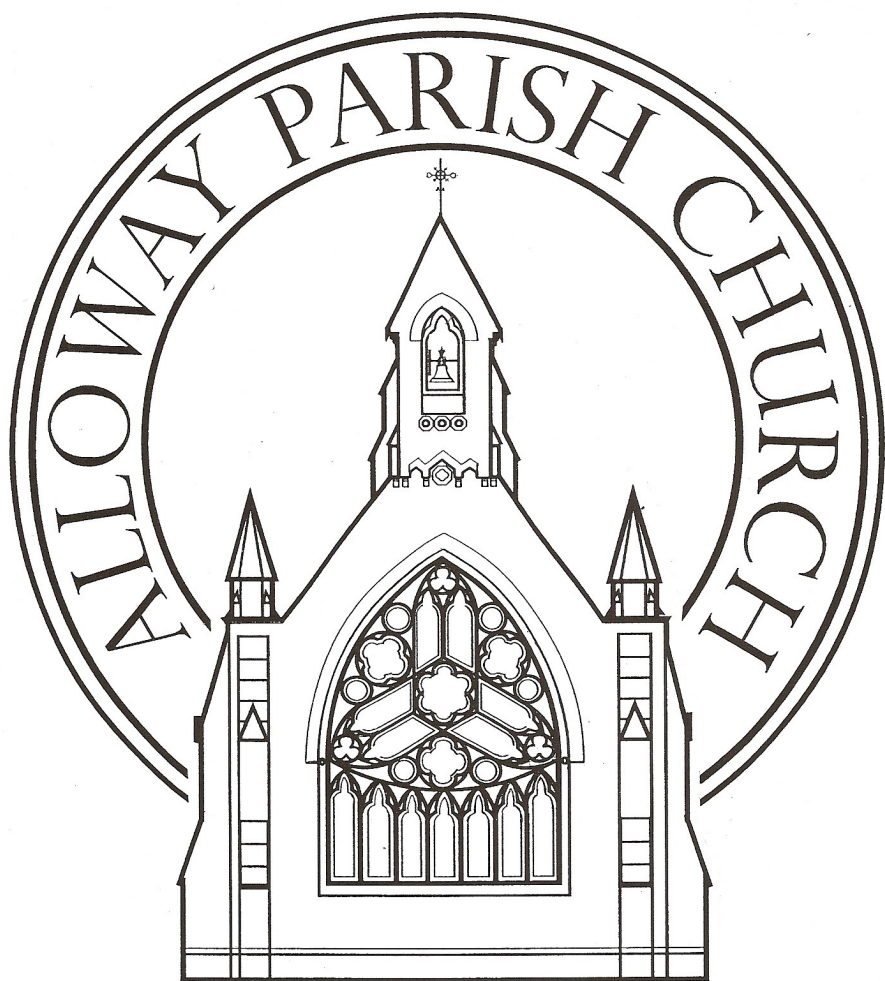
Parish Record



"Blessed are those who mourn they shall be comforted "

22.9.22	Mrs Irene Patterson	Brown Carrick Drive
26.9.22	Mr Leslie Wallace	Queensgate Alloway
27.9.22	Mr Tommy Martin	Carrick Nursing Home
8.10.22	Mr Les Shaw	Baird Road

Deadline for December Newsletter—Tuesday 22 November—12 noon
Contributions should be sent to:
secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com
Please visit our website www.allowaychurch.org or our Facebook page



Alloway Parish Church of Scotland
No. 100538

Scottish Registered Charity
No. SC012456