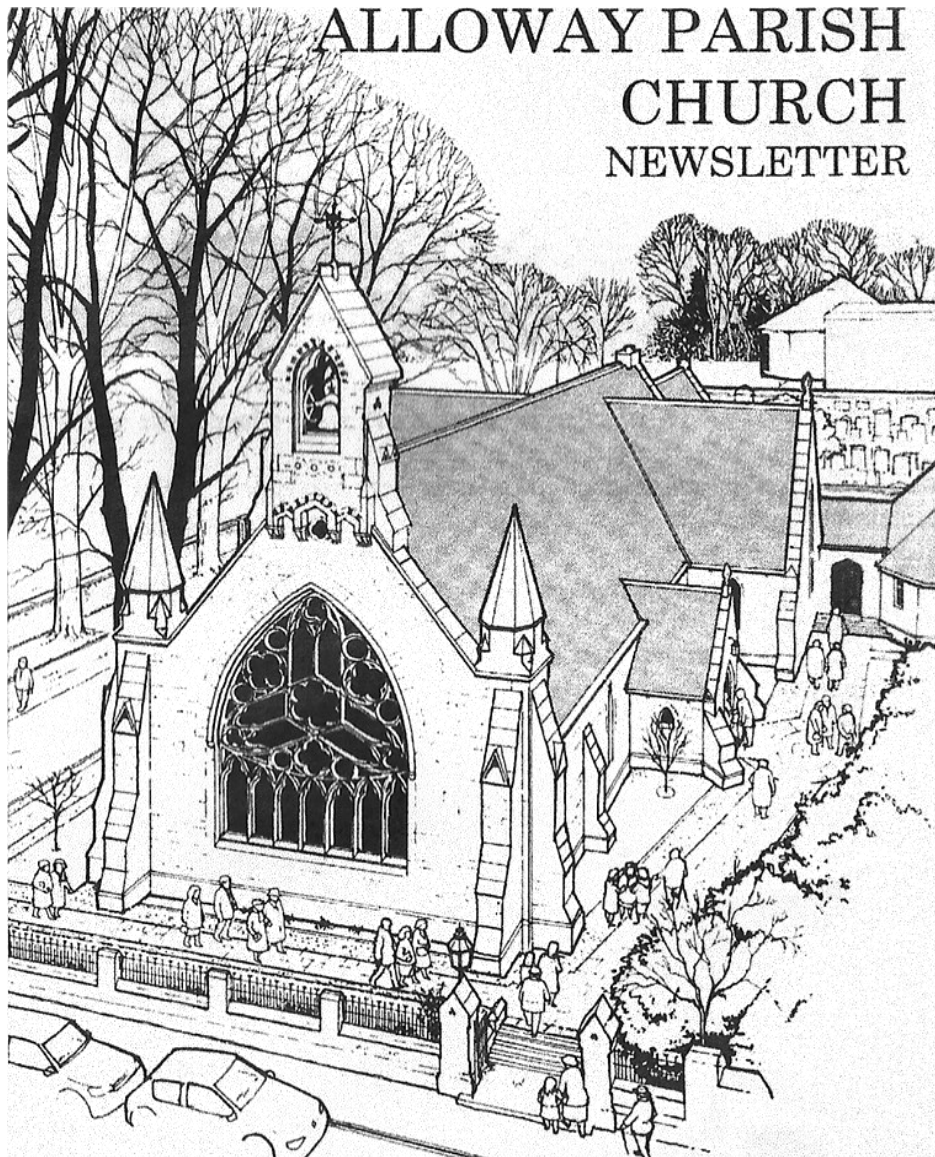


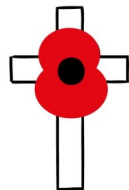
# ALLOWAY PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



November  
2021







Dear Friends

Amid the mud, blood and carnage of trench warfare in World War 1, tens of thousands of bright red poppies grew, marking the graves of the fallen. This led John McCrae, a Canadian army physician who had lost a colleague, to write "In Flanders Fields",

In Flanders fields, the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row  
That mark our place, and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.

This image inspired the adoption of a red poppy as the symbol of all soldiers who had died in conflict.

Exactly 100 years ago, on the 11 Nov 1921, poppies of remembrance were sold for the first time in British and Commonwealth countries. Hostilities had actually ceased three years earlier at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

This year, on the 14 November, which is the nearest Sunday we will once again walk from the church to the memorial to remember the honoured dead.

As we do so we are mindful too of COP26 meeting in Glasgow. We must believe that we all might become better stewards of the freedoms which were bought for us all at a price.

Around 30 million poppies are sold each year in the UK.

All the proceeds are used to provide serving and ex-service personnel with financial support, advice, employment, mobility, housing and mental health facilities.

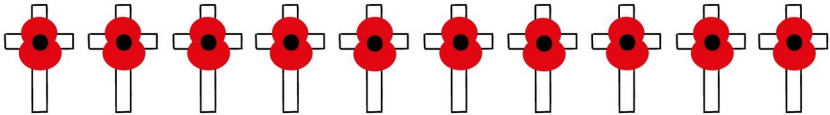
Reflecting on the poem, 'In Flanders Fields', the American professor Moina Michael, wrote:

And now the Torch and Poppy Red  
We wear in honour of our dead.  
Fear not that ye have died for naught;  
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought  
In Flanders Fields.

Keep safe

Every blessing

Neil McNaught



**A note from Rev. David...**

By the time you read this article, the clocks will have been turned back and this is a sure sign that we are heading for winter, and cold weather! It is also likely that the COP26 Conference in Glasgow will either be nearing its end, or will have finished. In this article, I would like to highlight an initiative that relates to both winter, and recycling/climate change.

I read recently about a young man - Miley Porritt from Frome in Somerset. The 23 year-old spent five years sleeping rough and living in a YMCA hostel and knows first-hand about the difficulty of staying warm and dry when sleeping rough. Miley came up with an ingenious way of creating foil blankets that can be used as a liner inside a sleeping bag by those sleeping rough. These foil blankets reflect a person's body heat back on to them and helps to keep them dry and warm.



The foil blankets are created from used foil crisp packets. Miley uses around 150 of these foil crisps packets and irons them together to make a foil liner - the heat from the iron creating a seal.

Not only does this initiative provide essential foil blankets to those sleeping rough, but it also helps with climate change through recycling. It is estimated that it takes around 80 years for a foil crisp packet to decompose. How fantastic that 150 of them can be ironed together and turned into a survival blanket for a homeless person and will help to keep their sleeping bag dry and insulated.

Miley is collecting foil crisp packets so that he can continue to make these blankets. If you would like to collect foil crisp packets, please clean them in warm soapy water, allow them to dry, and then hand them in at the Foodbank Collection Point at the church halls (Sundays 10am-1pm) by Sunday 28 November and I will post them to Miley.

Further information on Miley and his initiative can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/ironmanfrome/>.

God bless, David.





## **The Church of Scotland and COP26**

This November, leaders from around the world will gather in Glasgow at COP26 to chart a new course towards a safe and sustainable future. The climate and biodiversity crisis are collectively pushing many of the world's ecosystems to the brink of collapse, and with it, many of the support systems that billions of people depend upon. As one of the biggest landowners in Scotland, the Church is plotting its route to reduce carbon emissions and encourage good stewardship of the planet. The 2021 General Assembly approved an outline strategy for the transition of the Church to net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.

What is the Church doing to meet these commitments?

The national strategy aims to support all congregations, many of whom are already reducing their carbon emissions. Here are some examples of projects already happening or under development nationally:

- **Energy Footprint Tool:** the first step of the strategy is to establish our current carbon footprint to monitor progress towards net zero. With the help of the Church of England, we are developing an Energy Footprint Tool, where congregations can input their energy use and bills as part of the annual statistical return.
- **Green Electricity:** The General Trustees offer a green electricity tariff that is 100% carbon-free. Over 70% of congregations have already signed up.
- **Transport:** a pilot project investigating installing electric vehicle charge points in church grounds is in development. More will be



available on this soon.

- Trees in church grounds: Over the summer, 158 congregations participated in a tree counting pilot project. The aim is to understand more about the role of trees growing around church buildings. More information will be available in due course.
- Following a successful orchard pilot project, which saw fruit trees planted in church grounds, a handbook on tree planting specifically for churches is in development.
- Work by the Investors Trust to disinvest from the oil and gas industries is a step in reducing the Church's overall footprint.

What are congregations doing to reduce carbon emissions?

From growing vegetables to insulating buildings and getting people onto bicycles, the list of congregation-led initiatives is huge. Visit the [CoS](#) website here to see some examples. As green fuel is not always cheaper and fuel bills continue to rise, improving efficiency is key. Cost-free or low-cost changes can be effective in improving energy efficiency, and much can be done without significant investment in buildings. ZeroWaste Scotland can offer free advice to charities and businesses and may be able to provide a free energy audit of buildings.

A 'Pathway to Net Zero' resource is being developed. We aim to help congregations wherever they are on the pathway with practical information, case studies, funding opportunities, links and advice from those who have already walked that way.

Here in Alloway on Wed 3 Nov and 10 Nov at 7pm we continue to listen to the work of Christian Climate scientist Katherine Hayhoe as she answers some direct questions on climate change from church leaders and encourages us to explore more!



## **Prayer for COP26**

Loving God,

We praise your name with all you have created.

You are present in the whole universe,  
and in the smallest of creatures.

We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us  
as stewards of your creation.

May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as  
they seek to embrace the changes needed to foster a more  
sustainable society.

Instill in them the courage and gentleness to implement  
fairer solutions for the poorest and most vulnerable,  
and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son.

Amen



## CONGREGATIONAL BOARD REPORT

### **Finance:**

#### Donate Button:

A Donate Button is being added to our Church website in the near future that will give donors the facility to add Gift Aid to their donations.

### **Property:**

#### Roofing Project

The re-roofing Project is effectively complete. Recent heavy downpours tested the integrity of the repairs and they came through with flying colours.

#### Church & Halls

The new defibrillator cabinet mounted to the left of the front doors to the Halls is now fully operational. This will be accessible to users of the Halls and visitors to the area. Its presence is flagged up should anybody in the near vicinity dial 999 for medical assistance.

#### Grounds and Car Park

Our "Jolly Gardeners" are now on winter hours. The present, on-going challenge is tree leaf fall.

All the benches have been scrubbed clean.

#### Manse

The work to replace the 107 foot long wall on the mutual boundary between the Manse and the neighbours to the north is almost complete.

A quote has been accepted for the supply and installation of inter-connected detector equipment to ensure the Manse meets the Fire Safety for Homeowners legislation that comes into effect in February 2022.

### **Covid-19 Update:**

The CoS circulated new advice to Churches on 6 October 21 that impacts on the work of both the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board.

Many of the legal restrictions have been removed but the overarching message is that the pandemic is not behind us and churches should continue to mitigate risks by maintaining good hygiene and ensuring good ventilation. It is suggested that some churches may wish to continue with at least some of the previous restrictions or manage a phased relaxation. Much of the guidance is now to be regarded as 'good practice' rather than regulations.

Alloway's Trustees have decided that during the cold winter months the main door and one or more doors to the vestibule area will be open to reduce the time taken to enter and leave the Sanctuary.

The Main Doors will be closed during Services to reduce the nuisance caused by draughts. A modicum of through ventilation will be provided by fully or partly opening both external doors to the vestibule.

### **Worship**

The restriction on the numbers attending has been removed however, congregations are advised to consider if retention of physical distancing will be a useful mitigation in the months ahead.

Checking-in is no longer a requirement however the CoS have recommended that this practice continue. Your Trustees considered this advice and concluded that sheets would be made available at the doors for worshippers to enter their own contact details. Also the Check in Scotland QR Code will be on display to facilitate check-in via mobile phone.

Face coverings are still a legal requirement, including during hymn singing.

Touch/hand shakes are to be avoided.

Hymn Books/Bibles can be used but subject to strict cleaning regime. (Their provision is unlikely to be reintroduced at Alloway meantime).

Communion - no passing of elements so we will continue with individual disposable pods.

Baptism - no change

Sunday School/Bible Class can now play a part in worship. Children aged 12 and over have to wear face coverings.

Offering — it is still not permissible to pass an offering plate. Offerings may be collected as people enter/leave church.

### **Funerals and Weddings**

The number restriction has been removed but households should be encouraged to keep a physical distance from other households.

### **Church Meetings**

Session and Board may now meet in person with no face coverings subject to 1m distancing, however the CoS suggest face coverings may be a sensible precaution. Surprisingly face coverings are still required at small groups meetings, such as prayer meetings.

### **Hospitality**

It is a legal requirement that a record is kept of those attending (whether a meal is served or simply a cup of coffee). Table service is recommended. Home baking is allowed but congregations are encouraged to bake in the church kitchens rather than at home.

Before home baking resumes there must be Session/Board approval, a Risk Assessment undertaken and everyone who bakes at home must have received recognised training in food safety and hygiene (a 2hr online course is available from the C of S at no cost)

Reference is also made to new legislation in Scotland effective from 1 Oct 2021 that requires labelling of prepacked food to include the product name and a full list of ingredients. Surprisingly this legislation does not apply to loose/unpackaged foods.

### **Publicity:**

A leaflet outlining Church activities during the Festive Period is being drafted. It will be distributed to households throughout the Parish that has grown considerably due to extensive house-building, particularly to the south-west.

### **Social**

Since "reopening" three Teas and Coffees between Services have been held. These were well supported, with more than 50 attending on Sunday 17 October.

Ian Stewart

Clerk to the Board

## **September/October Session Meetings**

At our September meeting we heard from the Mission committee that there would be a Christian Aid book sale in aid of their Famine Appeal Fund, the proceeds of which would be added to the amount received from the envelopes which had already been distributed. It was also confirmed that the Helping Hands scheme had restarted and that there were plans for some kind of Christmas event. Leisurely Lunches would possibly be restarting early next year. The Business committee reported that they had discussed the Presbytery Plan and were considering the implications and how we could make the Union with Fisherton workable. They had also considered a number of documents from Church of Scotland and agreed which and when they should be brought forward to the Session meetings. The first of these papers on "Same-Sex Marriage" would be considered at the next meeting in October.

We then heard of plans for a harvest supper and further details of the forthcoming Kilt Walk being undertaken of behalf of Christian Aid's Harvest Appeal.

The news from Presbytery was that all 7 churches in the Central South Area, which includes Alloway, had met and all had agreed to move forward on the Plan A proposal. This plan involves a union between Alloway and Fisherton and adds the planned new area of Corton to our parish. Other plans which we did not support involved more complicated arrangements and so we were happy to hear of the agreement on Plan A.

At the start of our October meeting we commenced with a short film on Climate Change being promoted by the Church of Scotland who are "encouraging every congregation in the Church of Scotland to do all that we can do to ensure that COP26 succeeds in addressing the huge challenges that we are facing". This includes prayer and also taking part in any event set up to draw attention to the COP26.

We then split up into smaller groups to discuss the Church of Scotland paper on "Same-Sex Marriage" when we all had a chance to express our views. The Moderator found this of particular interest as the next step, assuming General Assembly approval, will be for Ministers to make a decision on whether or not they would apply to undertake this ceremony and he welcomed the feedback from session.

The Mission committee then advised the latest news from Malawi, confirming that our recent toilet block project was complete and that a safeguarding wall around the complex was nearing completion. We are also helping to finance the completion of a water project and a chicken project at the primary school.

It was also advised that the recent Christian Aid Book Sale with Tea/Coffee had raised an encouraging amount and when added to the amount received from the harvest envelopes totalled £2,303. This was a commendable amount considering that so many had already given to Christian Aid via the Kilt Walk and shows the generosity of the congregation in supporting Christian Aid's Harvest Famine Appeal.

Early notice was given that the committee were looking at another project involving South Ayrshire Council in their work with Afghan relocation and assistance. It was hoped there would be enough interest from the congregation to form what would be a small support group. Further details are given in this Newsletter.

Neil then advised that he was setting up a short series of Zoom meetings on matters which will be discussed at COP26 and encouraged all to take part. There would be three meetings over three weeks and further details are found in the newsletter. He also confirmed that there would be two services on Remembrance Sunday 10.00 am and a youth service at 11.15am which would finish with a parade to the Village Hall.

David Hume reported that although he was still not able to visit the primary schools, he was keeping contact and getting both schools involved with Malawi projects. He also confirmed that Messy Church would resume on 30 October and plans were also being made for a new Stepping Stones course. Rhona Mortlock added that Parent and Toddlers had also resumed and support was excellent. Sunday School was continuing although numbers here are still quite low.

Finally the news from Bill Duncan and Presbytery was that although our group (Central South) had agreed to support Plan A, not all 8 groups had followed us. Four agreed but 3 are in deadlock and 1 has yet to decide - more work to be done. Where change has been agreed however, we are encouraged to start working on a local mission plan and move forward.

Eric Ness

Session Clerk

## **News from the Mission Committee**



### **i) Christian Aid Harvest Collection**

A big thank you to those who contributed to our Christian Aid Harvest appeal. The total received was £2,303, made up from £1,306 (envelopes), £642 (book sale) £149 (teas/coffees) and £216 (Gift Aid).

### **ii) Christmas Fair**

In the last newsletter we put forward the idea of a Christmas event on Saturday 4 December - to help with our work in Malawi. We are hopeful that, barring any change in Covid regulations, this will take place from 10.00am until 12 noon. At this Fair we will have all our usual stalls - crafts, unwanted treasures, toiletries, greetings cards, toys and children's books. Donations for these stalls can be brought to the church hall on Friday 3 December between 6.30pm and 8.00pm or between 9.00am and 9.30am on the day of the Fair. I am pleased to say that we are now able to both sell and serve home baking in our tea rooms in the large hall. We look forward to welcoming you back to this popular event which was sadly missed in 2020.

Thanks

Helen Ness



## **Afghan Refugees Relocation Project**

If you were affected by the TV coverage of the Afghan people fleeing their country you may be interested in finding a way in which you could help. We are informed that South Ayrshire Council is planning to accept 4 or 5 families under this project. They will be eligible to receive accommodation, furniture, bedding, and other necessities financed by the government. They will be granted indefinite leave to remain, from the start, and will therefore be able to seek work, claim benefits, have full health service provision and education services, in the same way as any other citizen.

If we wish to be welcoming to these people, we would require to: -

- Nominate a small group to oversee our involvement.
- Seek the involvement of our safeguarding team to be a part of this work
- Gather details about volunteers who would be willing to visit in a befriending role for these 4/5 families while seeking training for this task.

This group would then function as a liaison between the Council and the church, passing on information regarding the needs which arise, and which may be able to be provided by the congregation.

If you feel able to help please contact either Madge Irving on 01292 442963 or Helen Ness on 01292 443800.







## **Wednesday Break**

Every Wednesday at 10.30am. Uplifting worship, a thought for the day, a quiz and yes, some cheery banter! A chance also to catch up with friends!

Neil and David warmly invite you to join them for a mid-week faith lift online. Codes available from the secretary

Mrs Jan Duncan [secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com)

Please note we will meet in the Octagonal Hall on Wed 1 Dec at 10.30am for what may be the first of our monthly real time meetings!

## **Flower Fellowship Team**

The members of the Flower Fellowship Team would like to thank most sincerely all the ladies who once again helped to make up 100 posies for distributed to members of the congregation following the Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Our thanks also goes to members of the congregation, elders and all who helped us to deliver them.

Oonagh Allison.



# The tale of the Tower Builder



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



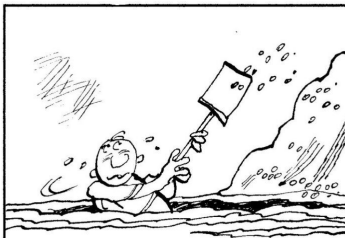
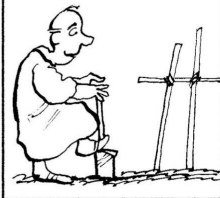
JESUS BEGAN, IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....

...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



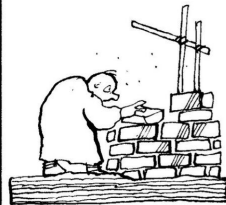
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....

...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START, ....

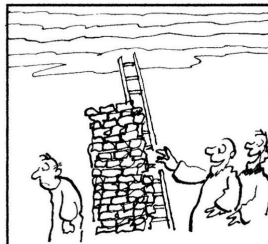


....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS. ....

...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS,...



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.



# Brownies



by 3rd Alloway Brownies Brown Owl Lise Whittle

This term 3rd Alloway Brownies are working towards their 'Be Well' theme badge. They have been busy finding out about their muscles in their bodies, and why it is important to exercise. Little Owl Lara taught them some boxing moves - Cross, Right Hook, and Upper Cut - and they played a game rather like 'Rock, Paper, Scissors' but using the boxing moves instead!

One night we found out about asking others for help. We have 21 Brownies, and the Leader read out this 21-digit number. The Brownies had to repeat it!

0 8 2 4 7 8 3 1 4 5 9 5 4 1 3 8 7 4 2 8 0

Of course it was far too long for one person to remember all of it, but gradually the Brownies came up with the idea that if they each remembered one digit of the number, they would be able to repeat it as a team. Well done Brownies - problem solved by helping each other!

Another week we found out about how important it is to drink enough fluids during the day, and the Brownies used pens and stickers to decorate their own individual water bottle to take home.



We had a very popular Pyjama Party where everyone came along in their jim-jams and slippers! We talked about the importance of getting a good night's sleep, and different ways of getting to sleep if you still feel wide awake. The suggestions from the Brownies included doing your 13 times tables, and repeating the alphabet backwards! They made themselves individual 'Evening Plans', and went home with a soothing colouring sheet of Vincent Van Gogh's 'Starry Night' to colour in.



The Brownies were invited to watch the 'International Observe The Moon Night' with their families at home one Saturday. This was a live online event put on by the Royal Astronomical Society and UK Space Agency. They had set up a live telescope view of the moon from Cyprus. Invited guests spoke about moon landings, the moon in history and art, and an artist demonstrated how to creatively draw the moon surface - including using black paper and white chalks. The Brownies who were able to watch this event earnt themselves an extra badge.

Things are a little different at Brownies at the moment, and the planning and preparations take a little longer, but everyone is very grateful that we are able to use the Church Halls again, and we are looking forward to having lots more fun and activities this term.





## Parish Record



### **"In My Father's House are many mansions"**

18.9.21	Mr John Guthrie	Burnside Glasgow
25.9.21	Mrs Mollie Cooke	Cregganbahn Nursing Home
26.9.21	Mrs Dora Bleasdale	Care Home Cumnock
30.9.21	Mr Douglas Morrison	Burnbank Road
12.10.21	Mr George Strachan	Moorpark Crescent Prestwick
20.10.21	Dr Bella Kennedy	Doonholm
23.10.21	Mrs Vivian Metcalfe	Malin Court

Deadline for December Newsletter—Tuesday 23 November—12 noon

Contributions should be sent to:

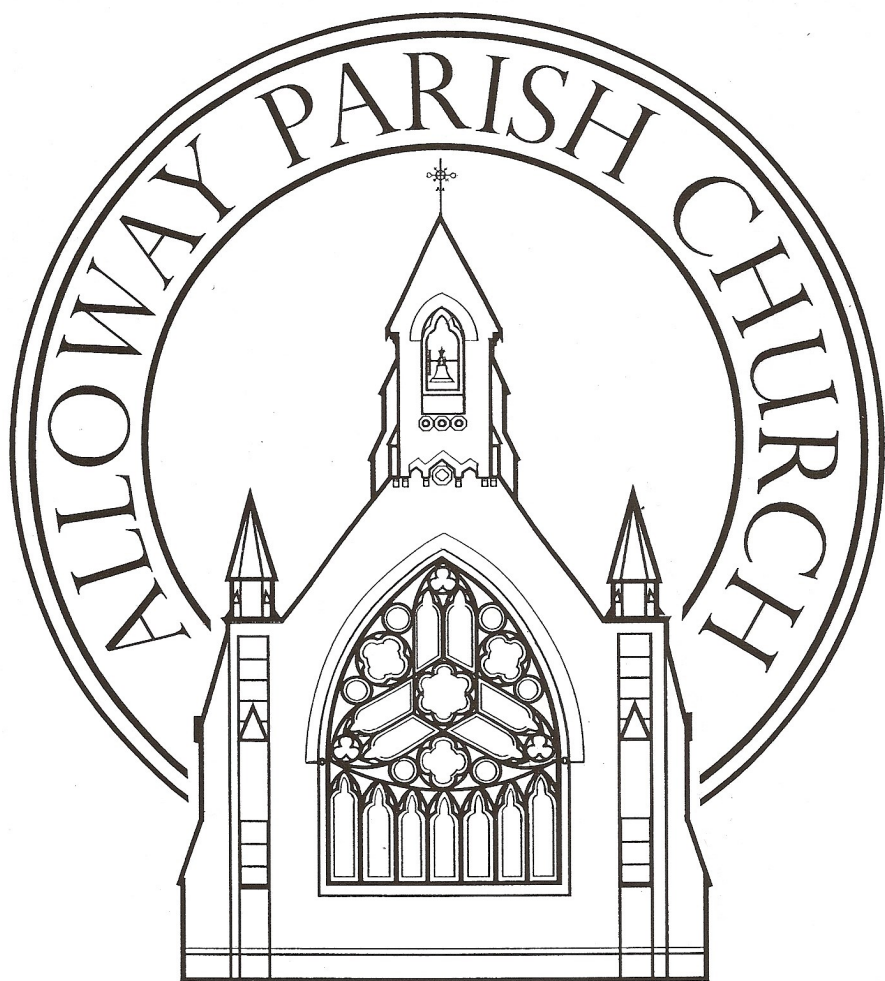
[allowaychurch.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:allowaychurch.newsletter@gmail.com)

Please visit our website [www.allowaychurch.org](http://www.allowaychurch.org) or our Facebook page









Alloway Parish Church of Scotland  
No. 100538

Scottish Registered Charity  
No. SC012456