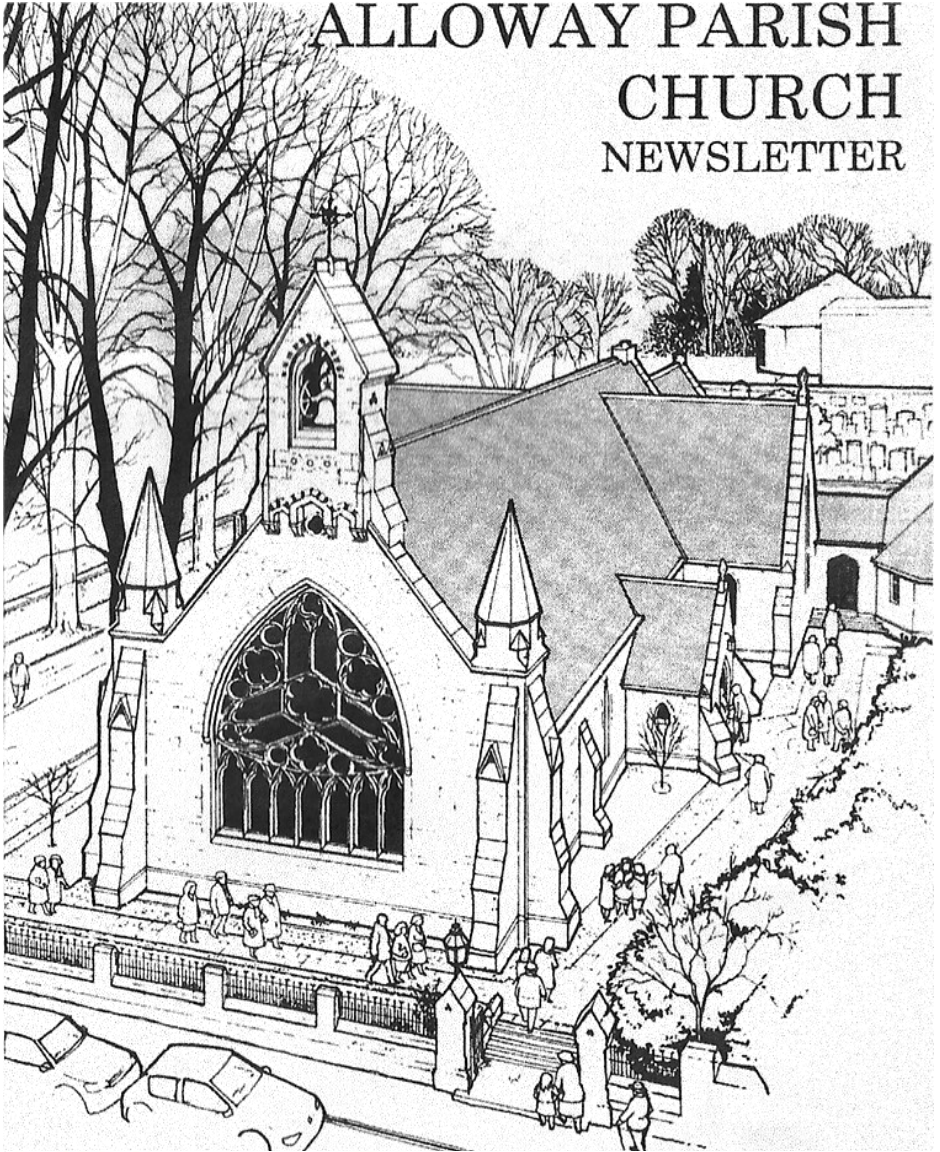


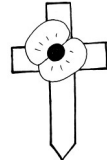
# ALLOWAY PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



November  
2023







Dear Friends

November is a poignant month. It is a month to remember. If you are like me, perhaps remembering doesn't always come easily!

That is why particularly in Scotland, memorials were placed at the end of the First World War in the middle of towns and villages so communities would not forget the cost at which their freedoms were purchased.

So with hundreds of young people on Remembrance Sunday (12th November) we will make our way to the war memorial at the village hall at 12.30pm to pay our respects to those who gave their lives that we might live.

We also shall pray for peace with justice for our world!

This year in particular our thoughts will go to Ukraine and to Israel and Palestine.

In the words of Maya Angelou, who was active in the Civil Rights struggle and worked for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"No one of us can be free until all are free".

There seem so many people globally who do not enjoy the peace and plenty we are blessed with.

In our prayers and actions we seek to renew a sense of global vision and pray for cooperative action to build peace and justice at an international level.

However, the work for peace belongs not in faraway lands but in our own community family homes and hearts.

I am often moved by lyrics of the song of Jill Jackson

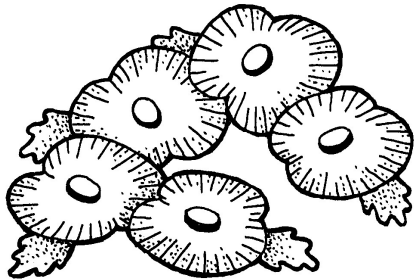
Let there be peace on earth,  
and let it begin with me;  
let there be peace on earth,  
the peace that was meant to be.

With God our creator,  
family all are we.  
Let us walk with each other  
in perfect harmony.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, they shall be called the  
children of God"

Yours in Him

Rev Neil McNaught





In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then 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'.

And 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. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK. A French woman, Anna Guérin 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, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.

**Remembrance Sunday Services 12th Nov 23**

**9.45am 11.15am**

**Wreath Laying—12.30pm Village Hall**

## Some notes from Rev. David...

### SCHOOLS

What a joy it is for me to visit our local primary schools and to have the opportunity to share some bible messages with the children. Attendance at Scripture Union remains good, and the children clearly enjoy the interactive activities that Fiona and I lead. At a recent SU session, the children at Alloway Primary had to be 'removed' from SU by Mrs Meney, the head teacher - to have their lunch!! - they were having such a good time at SU. The pre-school children from the Early Years Centre at Alloway Primary visited the church halls on Wednesday 25th October for a '**Stay and Play**' - what a privilege to get down on the floor to play alongside them. Doonfoot Primary school had another collection of groceries for the **South Ayrshire Foodbank** and what a great response from the children, parents and staff. The items collected were added to the church donations on 29th October. Next month we look forward to lots of Christmas activities with Alloway and Doonfoot primaries.

Well, **Messy Church** was certainly 'back with a bang' at our meeting on 14th October. Fifty excited young people, accompanied by their parents/grandparents/aunts and uncles joined us for a range of activities focused on Adam and Even in The Garden Of Eden. To continue our theme of 'animals from the Bible, we had a range of fantastic crafts (organised by Jenny Andrews) featuring snakes. Our next meeting will be on Saturday 11th November (4-6pm) when we will think about the nativity scene. A huge 'thanks' goes to all those who volunteer at Messy Church - it could not run without you!



### Stepping Stones

A new session of Stepping Stones, our bereavement support programme, commenced on Friday 27th October. The aim of the programme is to provide support for folks going through the grief process. We discuss a range of topics, and as you might expect, at times it can be very emotional. Whilst bereavement support is always available from Neil and myself, those attending benefit greatly by sharing, and speaking with those in a similar position. Another programme of Stepping Stones will be organised for the Spring of 2024.

## Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—November

Unfortunately, the church halls are not available on 25th November for our planned Men's Breakfast. As a result, our next Men's Breakfast will now take place on Saturday 2nd December, 10.00-11.15 in the Large Hall. At this meeting, we will hear from a speaker from the South Ayrshire Foodbank, who will speak about the work of the Foodbank and the Trussell Trust. Why not join us for food (hot filled rolls!), fellowship and to hear from our guest speaker. You will be made most welcome.



As mentioned in the October newsletter, in January 2024, we are starting a new group called 'Pulse' for youngsters in P7-S4 'Pulse' will meet on the last Sunday of each month, in the church halls from 7.00 -8.30pm and will commence on January 28th 2024. Each month there will be a range of games on offer including pool, table tennis, air, hockey, velcro darts, table football, and a range of board games and craft activities. We will also have quizzes and team games - and of course tuck shop!! Please spread this news. There will be a meeting for those willing help out at Pulse (perhaps on a rota basis?) on Wednesday 15th November at 7.00pm in the Church Halls - we will definitely need some willing volunteers!!



A wee reminder of dates for your 2024 diary:

Lent Study - 'The Greatest Showman' - Wednesdays (7.00-8.45pm)  
14th February - 20th March 2024.

'Family Ceilidh' - 7.00-10.00pm, Saturday 16th March 2024. Music will be provided by the fantastic 'Jiggered Ceilidh Band'.

God bless, David.

## **Prayer for Israel and Palestine (Iona Community)**

God of mercy,  
we lay before you the hearts, minds and bodies  
of all those suffering from violence  
in the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel.  
Shower upon all the people of this holy land  
the spirit of justice and reconciliation.

Lord have mercy.

In you, Lord, all life is connected  
and all the Earth and its land are to be cherished, not  
controlled.  
Your gifts are for all.  
Yet as we see the violence and hatred in the land called  
Holy,  
and see the signs of climate breakdown,  
help us all to work to live in communion.

Lord have mercy.

Amen





## **Harvest Leftovers**

Huge thanks to the Ladies Flower Fellowship for decorating the church and creating and distributing over 100 posies at Harvest Thanksgiving time. They were very much appreciated.

So too a huge thanks for all those who helped prepare a wonderful Harvest supper where over 100 were served with seasonal fayre.

Again our thanks to Stephen and Lynn and Karin for our thanksgiving music and recitations which followed.

We look forward to announcing the amount raised for the Vine trust very soon!

## **Future Union with Fisherton Church**

On Sunday 15th October 2023 there voted in Alloway 173 for Union 1 against.

There voted in Fisherton 20 for Union 0 against.

Accordingly, a Union between the two congregations will take place in Spring 2024.



## **Christian Aid**

We have recently received a letter from Christian Aid to thank us for our contribution to Christian Aid week in May. The amount given was £2,992 which, when we add gift aid amounts to £3,252.

This was made up from the contents of envelopes plus the proceeds from the coffee morning and book/plant sale.

The Mission committee wish to thank everyone who contributed in any way.



## **New Year Concert**

Here is a date for your new diary - our annual new-year concert will be held on Friday 19th January 2024.

As last year, our performers will be the Dalrymple Ukulele Orchestra and The Last Resort. The cost remains at £7.50 per person and includes a sandwiches and home baking supper.

Tickets will be on sale from 17th December and the proceeds this year will be divided between the Ayrshire Foodbank and The Church of Scotland's Crossreach.



## **Christmas Fair**

This year our Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 9th December from 10.00am until 12.00noon.

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

In the Octagonal Hall, we will have all our usual stalls - art, baking, preserves, 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 *Granny Goggins*.

We would welcome donations for all of our stalls which can be brought to the church hall on Friday 8th 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 buy mattresses for the schools where replacements are urgently required.



# Christmas Fair



*Merry Christmas!*



## Alloway Church Halls

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

10.00am until 12.00noon



Lots of stalls – including; -

Art, Baking, Preserves, Children's Books and Toys, Crafts,  
Greetings Cards, Plants, Silk Flowers, Toiletries, Unused Gifts.

We will also have crafts, games and face painting for the children and this year there will be some magic tricks with Rev. David assisted by his puppet friend Granny Goggins.

Tea room with home baking - Cost £4.00 per adult - £1.00 for children.

**Proceeds to Bandawe, Malawi.**

## ENCOURAGEMENT CORNER

### **Don't Panic**

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8 :28

Panic and fear are very human reactions which we are all faced with at some time in our lives. However, the bible has a lot to say about fear and how we should handle it. In fact, there are approximately 61 times in Scripture (48 OT and 13 NT) when we are clearly and reassuringly commanded to 'fear not.'

Can you imagine the panic and fear that Queen Esther must have felt when she received the news from her cousin concerning the planned attack on her people. Realising she faced certain death if the king was angry, she entered his presence uninvited. Overcoming her fear, she put her trust in God and pressed ahead speaking the truth and ultimately saving her nation.

Could something good result from her actions? Yes! As we follow this story in the book of Esther, we see that God honoured her faithfulness and her trust in Him. He saved her nation from the scheme of an evil man who had planned to obliterate them from the face of the earth.

In 1944 Corrie ten Boom and her sister Betsie found themselves in the flea infested Barrack 28 of Ravensbruck concentration camp. We can't begin to imagine how they felt. Perhaps they were fearful of what might lie ahead of them? Miraculously they had been able to hide a bible and a bottle of vitamins as they passed through checkpoints and inspections on their way to Ravensbruck. The bible, they used to bring hope and comfort to their fellow prisoners by means of bible studies. The vitamins, which like the oil of the Widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17: 9-16) seemed to go on and on and were used for Betsie and a dozen other prisoners.

Imagine their joy when they realised that their bible studies were uninterrupted by the guards because of the fleas. The simple truth was the guards feared being infested by lice and stayed out of the barrack.

God does make all things work together for good and on this occasion, He used fleas!

Consider Job, he lost everything. God allowed a catalogue of catastrophic events to impact his life depriving him of livestock, children, wealth and finally even his health. However, throughout it all he was able to say "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." Job 13: 15 AV.

His motto might have been "no fear here." He was rewarded for his faithfulness when God restored his family and increased his wealth one hundred per cent.

What was behind the successes of Esther, Job and the ten Boom sisters? Was it perhaps their unshakable faith and trust in their God?

What are you facing today? How are you dealing with the issues in your life? Can we perhaps learn anything from the experiences of others?

Remember that Jesus promised "never to leave you or forsake you" Heb. 13: 5

Be assured of His presence with you at all times and in every situation encountered in life.

## **Carol Concert For All**

We invite you to join us as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our risen Saviour with joy and thanksgiving at **Castlehill Church on Saturday 2 December at 2.00pm.**

*"A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us."* Isaiah 9: 6

Prospects across Scotland is a small Christian Charity

- Raising awareness among Christians in Scotland about the needs of people with learning disabilities
- Equipping churches to more effectively in how they welcome people with learning disabilities and sharing the good news about Jesus in a way they can understand.





[thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com](mailto:thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com)

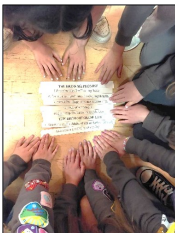
by Brown Owl Lise Whittle



3rd Alloway Brownies are continuing with their badge theme called 'Express Myself', and they certainly did just that when we had our Talent Show! The girls showed everyone a variety of talents, including a talk and display about paintings, several different dance routines, singing, piano playing, guitar playing, and a recited poem about a puppy. What clever Brownies - everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening, and they all earned an extra 'performing' badge.

Another week the Brownies made edible architecture out of spaghetti and marshmallows! The girls worked together in teams and built some amazing, sticky, and decidedly wobbly structures! The Brownies enjoyed themselves and all had some marshmallows to eat on the way home.

The Trefoil Guild is a section of Girlguiding for adult members. They are celebrating their 80th Anniversary and have set a choice of challenges for girls to earn a badge based on the theme 'From Small Acorns to Giant Oaks'. We have started towards the badge by planting acorns, and another challenge was to think of countries beginning with each letter from the words 'TREFOIL, EIGHTY, ACORNS' - you could try that too, some of the letters are surprisingly hard!



Three new Brownies made their Brownie Promise under our rosebud arch, and received their metal Promise badge, a Badge book and a goodie bag - and got to sign our toadstool. We played a Promise relay game collecting lines from the Promise and putting it back together again, and we looked at saying and signing the Promise in Makaton.

## *Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—November*

We made some ghostly monster stick puppets by decorating recycled yogurt drink bottles, using pens, eyes, wool, pipe cleaners, fabric, and tissue paper, and learned how to curl environmentally friendly paper ribbon onto a wooden stick to make a candy cane effect to attach to the puppet.

We're looking forward to a fun Campfire night at the Girlguide Activity Centre in Alloway, where we will be joining other local Brownies for field games, a campfire singalong, - and more marshmallows!!

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who help with Girlguiding, and for the support from everyone at the Church. The District is in great need of more volunteer Leaders for Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch [dcalloway@girlguidingayrshiresouth.org.uk](mailto:dcalloway@girlguidingayrshiresouth.org.uk)



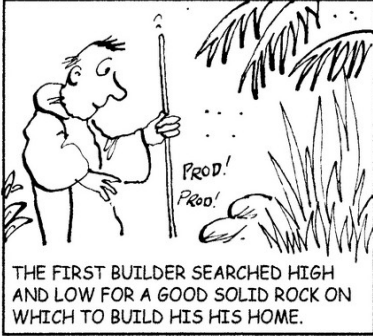
The  
Tale of the  
**TWO  
BUILDERS**



**JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS**

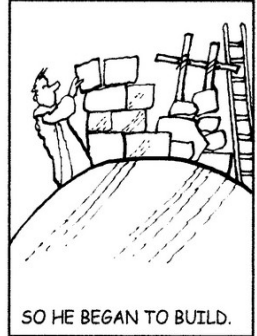


**ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO  
BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES**

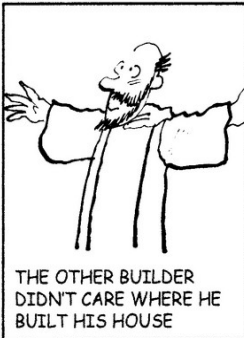


**THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH  
AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON  
WHICH TO BUILD HIS HIS HOME.**

**AT LONG, LONG LAST HE  
FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.**



**SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.**

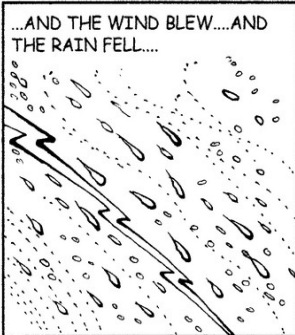


**THE OTHER BUILDER  
DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE  
BUILT HIS HOUSE**

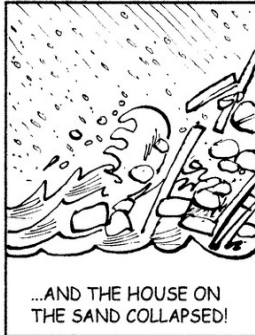
**HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND  
WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.**



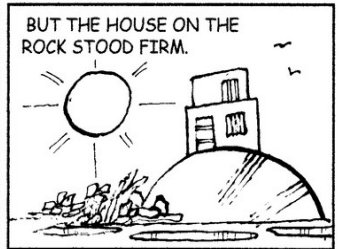
**BUT ONE DAY THE  
STORM CAME....**



**...AND THE WIND BLEW....AND  
THE RAIN FELL....**



**...AND THE HOUSE ON  
THE SAND COLLAPSED!**



**BUT THE HOUSE ON THE  
ROCK STOOD FIRM.**

**JESUS EXPLAINED -  
IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE  
A FIRM FOUNDATION.**

## Parish Record



**"Whom God has joined together"**

14.10.23 Miss Jessica Griffiths and Mr Sam Watts

**"Blessed are those who mourn"**

13.9.23	Mr Tom Wilson	Meadowpark Drive
17.9.23	Mrs Rhona Stewart	Shalloch Park
1.10.23	Mrs Shirley Wright	High Garchell Bucklyvie
4.10.23	Mrs Helen McCroskie	Gowanbank
6.10.23	Mrs Margaret Cunningham	Earl's Way
14.10.23	Mr Jason McClymont	Barnford Crescent

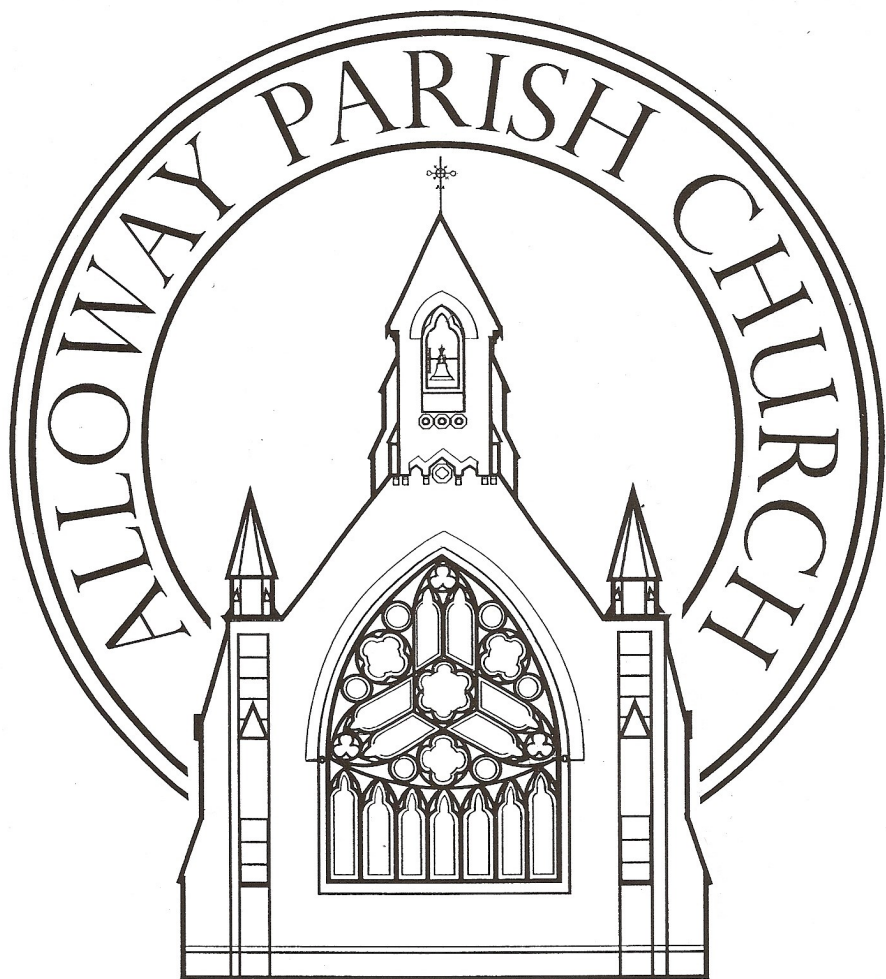
Deadline for December Newsletter—Tuesday 21 November—12 noon

Contributions should be sent to:

[secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.allowaypc@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  
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