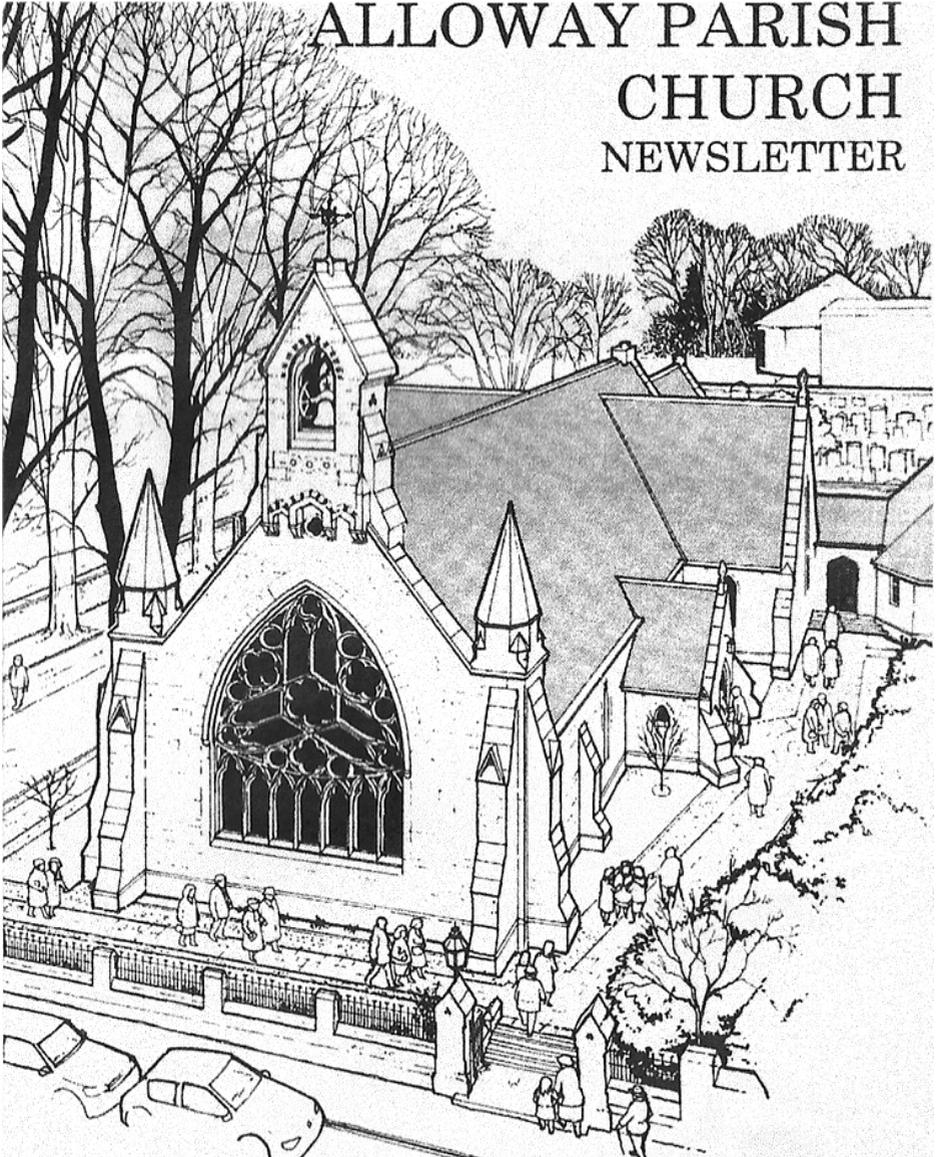


ALLOWAY PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



January
2023



Dear Friends

By the time you read this newsletter Christmas will be over and boxed up. However, the month of January takes us to the season of Epiphany.

The first Epiphany is the revelation to the wise men of the child of Bethlehem as Messiah. Very little is known about the identity of the wise men.

Matthew calls them 'Magi'. This was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were called kings - by a church father, Tertullian. Another church father, Origen, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given.

Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Since the 8th century, the Magi have had the names Balthazar, Caspar and Melchior.

Yet what meaning can we derive today from this mysterious New Testament story?

The Magi provide a powerful picture of the journey we all make in searching for God in our lives.

As with the wise men, our spiritual journey will require time and effort (they travelled for months). There may be some desert experiences on the journey. Times when we feel like giving up our faith. Turning back to our old ways! As the wise men followed the star, so we are called to pursue God's light in our lives.

We know even the wise men got waylaid! They visited Herod imagining that they would find the King there in the palace. We too can be distracted by the wealth and power of this world.

What does this story say to us at the beginning of a New Year? With renewed resolve we can commit ourselves to following our master's star and his teaching. Through prayer and worship and Word, we can be guided in his way.

Be prepared to be surprised where we find His presence! In times of joy and times of sorrow.

Be prepared to be surprised by the people God is calling you to love and serve.

Wishing you and yours a blessed and Happy New Year!

May we together throughout this year follow His star and find joy in His service.

Yours in Him

Neil McNaught



A note from Rev. David...

After an absence of two years, it was great to welcome the P1-3 children of Alloway Primary School to church on 13th and 14th of December for two performances of their Nativity - this year entitled 'Baubles'. The church was full to brimming on both evenings and the performances by the youngsters was absolutely amazing - they were all stars!! Massive credit must also be given to the teachers, classroom assistants and helpers who pulled together such amazing performances.



It was fantastic to once again have school Christmas services in church. On Wednesday 21st December, the pupils, staff, parents and friends of Doonfoot Primary School had their service in church and on Thursday 22nd December it was the turn of Alloway Primary School - it definitely is a wonderful time of the year!!



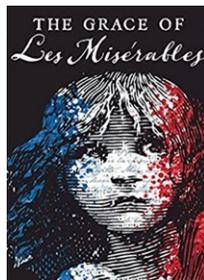
I always find the Christingle Service really special and it was great to see so many people joining us on Sunday 18th December for a wonderful family time together. We sang, we prayed, we crafted and of course we made our Christingles! All followed by refreshments in the halls!

The next Messy Church will be on Saturday 14th January 2023 from 4-6pm when we will be focusing on 'Jesus Feeding the 5000'. It would be great to have another good turnout of children, parents, grandparents and carers. As usual, we will round off Messy Church with a meal together in the large hall.



Building on the programme of Stepping Stones held before Christmas, the plan is to have another series of sessions commencing mid-February. Look out for dates and times in the next church newsletter.

Following on from the 'Be Still' course held in the Autumn, we are excited to announce that our Lent Study will be on 'The Grace of Les Misérables'. Based on the book/movie/musical Les Misérables, this six-week study will explore six themes found in the story: grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope - each theme represented by a character in Victor Hugo's story.



Each evening we will meet for tea/coffee followed by a short time of worship. We will then watch a brief video presentation before breaking into groups for a discussion on the specific theme for that week.

The sessions will be held in the church halls on Wednesday evenings from 7.00-9.00pm and will commence on Wednesday 15th February 2023. In addition to the six sessions, there will be a 'movie night' on Wednesday 29th March to have a licenced viewing of the 2012 movie Les Misérables - popcorn and choc-ices available!!

We hope that you will be able to join us for what will be an exciting adventure!

God's richest blessings, David.

CHURCH OPENING

The Church has recently received a letter of thanks and a certificate from Whiteleys Retreat in respect of a donation of £1000, which was sent to the charity recently. This donation was from money left by visitors during our summer Church Opening. As always we choose a local charity to benefit from any money donated by our many visitors. Do remember that members of the congregation can help not only their Church, but also a local charity by volunteering a few hours of their time next summer - so keep that in mind.

Donald Kemp

on Behalf of Worship & Development

A Message from David Donaldson

Well, as you know I was looking forward to a busy Christmas after COVID curtailed so many of our traditional celebrations over the past two years... and Alloway you have certainly delivered. I am feeling incredibly festive and thankful as I write this next to my Christmas tree and listening to my favourite carols. It has been great leading prayers and preaching in the first three weeks of Advent and on the fourth Sunday, I had the pleasure of watching Lessons and Carols and getting to make a bejewelled crown and a Christingle. There has been lots of fun and fundraising this December, but every event has had Jesus at the centre never forgetting that He is the reason for the season.

Wednesday worship has become a real highlight in my week, both when I am leading or when I get to watch Neil or David. There is always an amazing sense of fellowship, and we enjoy our tea and cake afterwards. Services are always light and bright with fun facts, excellent songs and the odd atrocious joke!

After lots of hard work and some late nights, I have finished semester one of my final year at Glasgow University. After Christmas I will be completing my dissertation and studying two courses: Women in the Bible and Theology and Creative writing. I am really looking forward to the creative writing course and hopefully I will be able to share some of my writing with you in church.

Over the last few weeks, I have been doing some hospital visiting and I hope to be able to visit some more folk in their homes in the New Year. I am also looking forward to accompanying David and Neil on more care home visits.

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas filled with hope, peace, love and joy. Happy New Year and best wishes for 2023. May it be a blessed and peaceful one for us all.

David



Quotable Quotes for this New Year

"O Lord God of time and eternity, who makes us creatures of time, that when time is over, we may attain your blessed eternity. With time, your gift, give us also wisdom to redeem the time, so our day of grace is not lost, for our Lord Jesus' sake." Christina Rossetti

"To reach up for the new, you must let go of the old. What lies behind you is not nearly as important as what lies in front of you"-Joel Osteen

Feel a failure because you don't get everything on your list done each week? Don't worry - the only person who ever got everything done by Friday was Robinson Crusoe! - Anon

Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto man His Son hath given;
While angels sing with tender mirth,
A glad new year to all the earth. - Martin Luther

A BIG THANKYOU

As someone who attended both the 'Alpha' and 'Be Still' courses, I would like to thank all the folks who worked so hard to make them interesting and informative. I think that what I most enjoyed was the opportunity it gave me to meet and talk with many others who had similar interests. I made new friends.

It occurred to me that some who enjoyed the courses, might also enjoy The Quiet Time of Prayer, held every Thursday morning at 10.30am in the Fellowship Lounge. During that hour we use a variety of the ways of praying, demonstrated during the course and finish with a wee cuppa together. We extend a very warm welcome to all.

Madge Irving



Take Time

Take time to think; it is the source of power.

Take time to read; it is the foundation of wisdom.

Take time to play; it is the secret of staying young.

Take time to be quiet; it is the opportunity to see God.

Take time to be aware; it is the opportunity to help others.

Take time to love and be loved; it is God's greatest gift.

Take time to laugh; it is the music of the soul.

Take time to be friendly; it is the road to happiness.

Take time to dream; it is what the future is made of.

Take time to pray; it is the greatest power on earth.

Anon

Update on the Toilet Project in Bandawe

Friends

I am pleased to report, through your generosity, especially as a result of over £3,100 raised at the Christmas Fair, the Bandawe Primary School toilet building is well under way. The weather (normally wet just now) has been kind and Chimugogo Builders have made excellent progress as the photos show.

Murray Hutchison



*Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—**



Musical Memories



Musical Memories is on Thursday 12th January at 2.30pm. The hall is always comfortable and the welcome is warm. Come and join us in singing the songs of your youth and enjoying afternoon tea in company with others.

FAIRLY TRADED PRODUCTS and GIFTS - ORDER YOURS NOW

Fairtrade is a simple way to make a difference to the lives of poor people who produce the things we love. We need to change the way trade works, through better prices, decent working conditions and a fair deal for farmers and workers in developing countries. Please join us by placing an order! In your supermarket, ask yourself if the high price you are paying is actually being passed on to the farmers who grow the products? In tough times, Fairtrade is more important now than ever. Always try to buy products which have the Fairtrade logo.

Our next Fairtrade order will be going in on Wednesday 11th January, 2023. Please let us have your order before that date. There are some really interesting and innovative products and gifts available in the catalogue. 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. If you have difficulty going online, let us know and we will deliver a catalogue to you. Thanks for all you are doing to support the poorest producers overseas.



Christmas Fair Thank You

An enormous thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of this year's Christmas Fair. Whether you worked in the tea room or stalls, contributed by donating and/or buying goods or visited our tea room, you made a big difference to our annual fair. Together we raised a wonderful sum of £3,088, which will allow us to continue building the much needed toilet block for the Bandawe Primary School.

We were pleased that as well as raising money, many people told us that they had enjoyed a happy morning in a friendly atmosphere in our church halls.



New Year Concert

After an enforced break in 2021 and 2022 we are looking forward to reinstating our annual new-year concert on Friday 13th January at 7.30pm. The entertainment will again be provided by the Dalrymple Ukulele Orchestra and The Last Resort. Tickets priced at £7.50, which will include a light supper are now on sale.

All money raised at this event will be given to Crossreach - the Church of Scotland's social care branch.



January Leisurely Lunch



Our next leisurely lunch will take place on Thursday 26th January from 12.00noon until 1.30pm. In view of the date this lunch will have a Burns' theme and the menu details are on the poster within this newsletter. Please join us for good food and good company while raising funds for a good cause.

Mid Week Fellowship

4th Jan 10.30am	Coffee and Chat	Fellowship Lounge
11th Jan 10.30am	Wed Worship	Octagonal Hall
18th Jan 10.30am	Wed Break	online
25th Jan 10.30am	Wed Worship	Octagonal Hall
1st Feb 10.30am	Coffee and Chat	Fellowship Lounge



Ayr Inner Wheel

Ayr Inner Wheel are holding a coffee morning in Alloway Church Halls on Saturday 11 February from 10am till 12noon. Proceeds will be donated to Ayrshire Cancer Support. Tickets cost £4.



New Year Concert

Alloway Church Hall



Friday 13th January 2023
7.30pm

Music provided by

“Dalrymple Ukulele Orchestra”- and “The Last Resort”

Supper - sausage rolls, sandwiches and home baking
- included in Ticket price - £7.50

Proceeds to “Crossreach” –

(Social care branch of the Church of Scotland)

Burns Lunch



Thursday 26th January 2023

12.00noon until 1.30pm

Alloway Church Hall

Rosie red soup

or

Cock-a-leekie Soup



Followed by

Cloutie Dumpling
with custard.

or

Oat cakes and cheese



Cost £5.00 per person includes tea/coffee and shortbread.

Passing the Torch



In March 2020, The Boys' Brigade nationally stood down Companies due to the Covid Situation. At that time, the 1st Alloway Company had many long serving Officers on the staff. Attending weekly for 40 weeks in the year, organising trips, visits, camps, challenge competitions and activities designed to develop young members in a true Christian manliness.

The Company, and by extension the Congregation are indebted to the hard work and dedication of these volunteers.

Lt. Kenneth Barnes	Company	20	years
Warrant Officer Donna Eccles	Junior Section	12	years
Lt. Graeme Eccles	Junior Section	10	years
Lt. Peter Hillier	Company	10	years
Warrant Officer Valerie Lang	Junior Section	10	years
Lt. Steven Mathieson	Company	22	years
Warrant Officer Anna McQueen	Anchor Boys	5	years

Although not "active" as officers of the company, they all continue to be part of the bigger picture of the parish of Alloway.

The Company still has a hard core of experienced trained officers. In addition three young men have stepped forward for OTC and a pool of "others" have volunteered to help - as and when they are able.

"Girls in the BB?" Not one Scottish Company has girls in the ranks. We do have two young ladies (both sisters of BB boys) who assist initially as helpers and after their 18th birthday ranked as Warrant Officer.

BB night is boys night..

It is a solid foundation, in the times we live in "Sure and Steadfast"- the Brigade motto - is still firmly anchored in Alloway.

Stewart Robertson

Captain, 1st Alloway Company

The Boys' Brigade

Easy Fundraising

If you shop online there's now an easy and free way for you to support Alloway Parish Church.

We've teamed up with easyfundraising which provides a shopping directory listing some of your favourite online stores. Many big-name retailers are participating including Amazon, M&S, Vodafone, eBay, John Lewis, Tesco, Viking and over 3000 others.

All you need to do is use the links provided on the easyfundraising site whenever you shop online. The retailer will then give Alloway Parish Church up to 15% of every purchase you make - it's that simple!

It doesn't cost a penny extra to shop and raise funds in this way, and you can even save money as many retailers give exclusive discounts, special offers and even 'e-vouchers' exclusive to easyfundraising.

If you already shop online why not help raise extra funds for us by using this completely free service? Follow the instructions below to find out how.



Instructions

It's as easy as 1-2-3:-



- 1 Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/allowaychurch/> and register for FREE!
- 2 Once you are registered, use the links on the easyfundraising site to go to your favourite online shops and shop in the usual way.
- 3 Every time you shop online, log on to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/allowaychurch/> and use their links to visit your favourite shops.

Please encourage your friends and family to sign up too and raise even more money for Alloway Parish Church.

Brownies

thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle



The Brownies had lots of fun getting ready for Christmas! We had a Christmas crafts night and everyone made a wooden penguin tree decoration, a reindeer cake with pretzel horns and a smartie nose, and a Christmas card. They also made their own wrapping paper by recycling some large out-of-date wall planners, decorating the blank side with their name in large letters and using Christmas ink stampers and stickers to make the sheet look colourful and festive The Leaders kept their wrapping paper to wrap the presents in for the Christmas party the following week!

At the Christmas party we started off by singing 'O Little Town Of Bethlehem' and we discussed the meaning of Christmas and why we give and receive presents (because the Wise Men gave presents to Jesus). Then it was time for some games - Santa Says, Musical Chairs and Christmas Corners which involved acting out a penguin, Santa, a reindeer and a Christmas tree! Our Young leader Cora read out a Christmas snowman story which involved the girls passing a toy penguin around the circle - every time she said the word 'left' or 'right' they had to change direction of the teddy, it got very fast, and the Brownie who was holding it when the story ended won a prize! Everyone enjoyed Barn Owl Sonya's Christmas Quiz (see below), and we finished up with a newspaper snowball fight - two teams with a row of chairs between, each team was given a couple of newspapers and 1 minute to roll the sheets up into snowballs, then one minute throwing them at the other team! When the time was up, it was the team with the least snowballs on their side who won lollies. Fortunately we had a lot of lollies so there were enough for the losing team as well, but I'm sorry to say that led to a big discussion by some of the winning team that it wasn't fair that the losers won a prize too! Hmm, I think we'll need to discuss that further next term! However, everyone left the party with a present (wrapped in their own wrapping paper they had made the week before), activity sheets, a carol sheet, a scratch art decoration, and a Christmas card - and a smile on their faces!

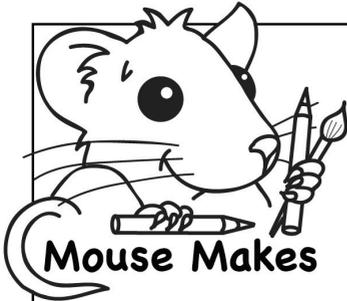
The following Saturday we had a Girlguiding trip to the cinema in Ayr to see 'Matilda The Musical', and girls from all sections came along - Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers - the cinema was almost full! The Leaders had some concerns beforehand as the film was rated PG, but the Brownies said they enjoyed it afterwards. Everyone received a lovely special 'Matilda' badge.

After saying a Brownie Thankyou to the cinema staff, everyone wished each other a very Happy Christmas, and it was time to go home.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ BY BARN OWL SONYA HILL

1. What is the name of the snowman in the Disney movie Frozen?
2. What four letter word is an abbreviation of the word Christmas?
3. Where does Santa live?
4. True or False: In Japan, millions of people eat KFC for their main Christmas meal?
5. Santa Claus is also known as Saint who?
6. Tradition has it that in order to bring good luck, people should do what on each of the twelve days of Christmas? A) Eat a mince pie B) Open a present C) Pull a cracker
7. What is the name of the lead character in the movie Elf? A) Ronald the Reindeer B) Alfie the Elf C) Buddy the Elf
8. How many points does a snowflake have?
9. What is the name of the evergreen plant that it's traditional to kiss under?
10. What is the name of the 25 days leading up to Christmas?
11. What is lucky to find in your Christmas Pudding?
12. Who were the first people to visit baby Jesus? A) Shepherds B) Three Kings C) Three Queens

QUIZ ANSWERS 1 Olat 2 Xmas 3 The North Pole 4 True 5 Nicholas 6 Eat a mince pie 7 Buddy the Elf 8 Six 9 Mistletoe 10 Advent 11 Sixpence 12 Shepherd



A JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

When the **Magi** (wise men) came to **Bethlehem** where had they travelled from?

The _____

Why did they make the journey?

What did they follow to get there?

A _____

What did they see?

Read *Matthew 2:1-12*



Why did **Joseph** and **Mary** travel to **Bethlehem**?

Read *Luke 2:1-4*

When **Samuel** came to **Bethlehem** who sent him? Who did he go to see?
_____ and his sons.

Who had he come to anoint as king?

Read *1 Samuel 16:1-13*

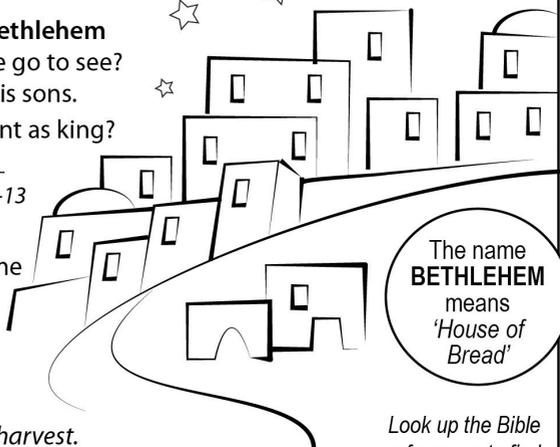


Naomi and **Ruth** came to **Bethlehem** where had they travelled from?
_____ and why?

When did they arrive?

At the _____ harvest.

Read *Ruth 1:22*



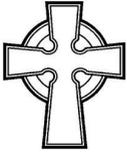
The name **BETHLEHEM** means 'House of Bread'

Look up the Bible references to find the missing words, find them and these words below in the wordsearch

E B A O F O O D K J E S S E S
M O A B A I J E I T J I A M E
R R M R A N O I N T O D M E A
U N J E S U S B G N U A U S S
T P B A R L E Y H A R V E S T
H G O D O S P F O O N I L I A
M A R Y B E H N Y M E D I A R
B E T H L E H E M I Y M A G I

- JOURNEY
- BETHLEHEM • GOD
- JOSEPH • MARY
- JESUS • BORN
- MAGI • MESSIAH
- NAOMI • RUTH
- FOOD • HARVEST
- SAMUEL • ANOINT
- KING • BREAD

Parish Record



"Blessed are those who mourn they shall be comforted "

14.11.22 Mr Ronnie Good Finlas Avenue

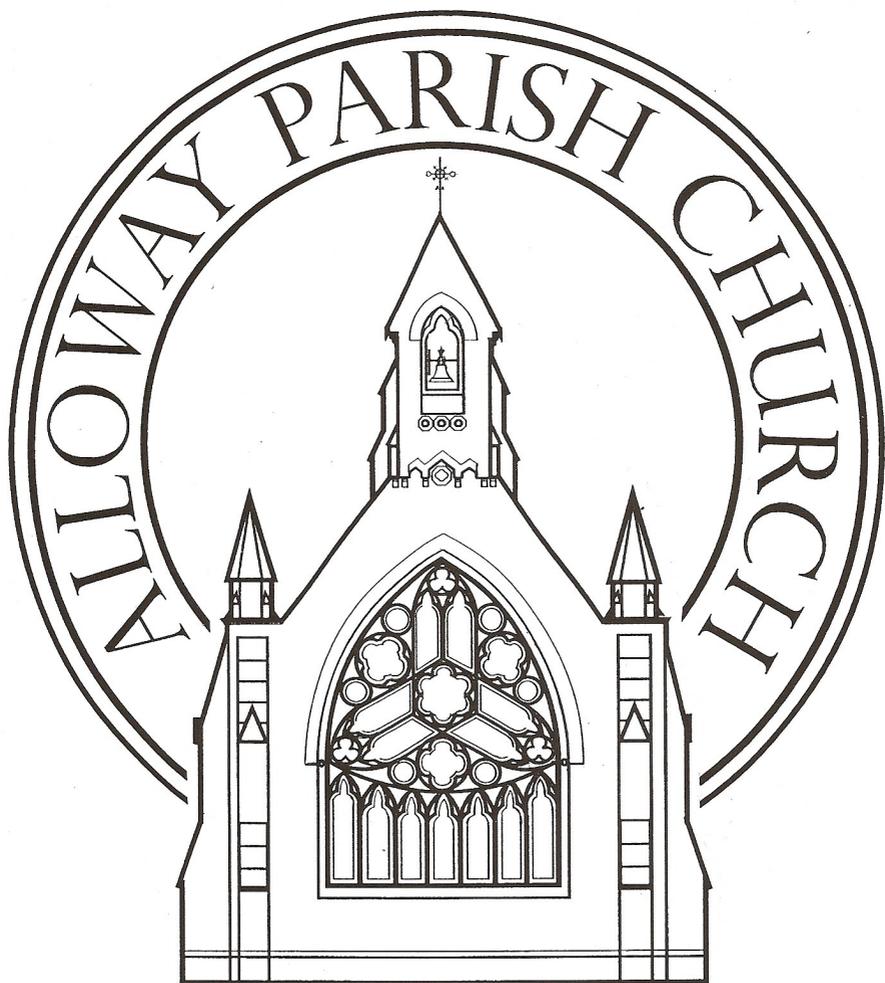
4.12.22 Mr John Bowie Broun Drive

Deadline for February Newsletter—Tuesday 24 January—12 noon

Contributions should be sent to:

Secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com

Please visit our website www.allowaychurch.org or our Facebook page.



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No. 100538

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