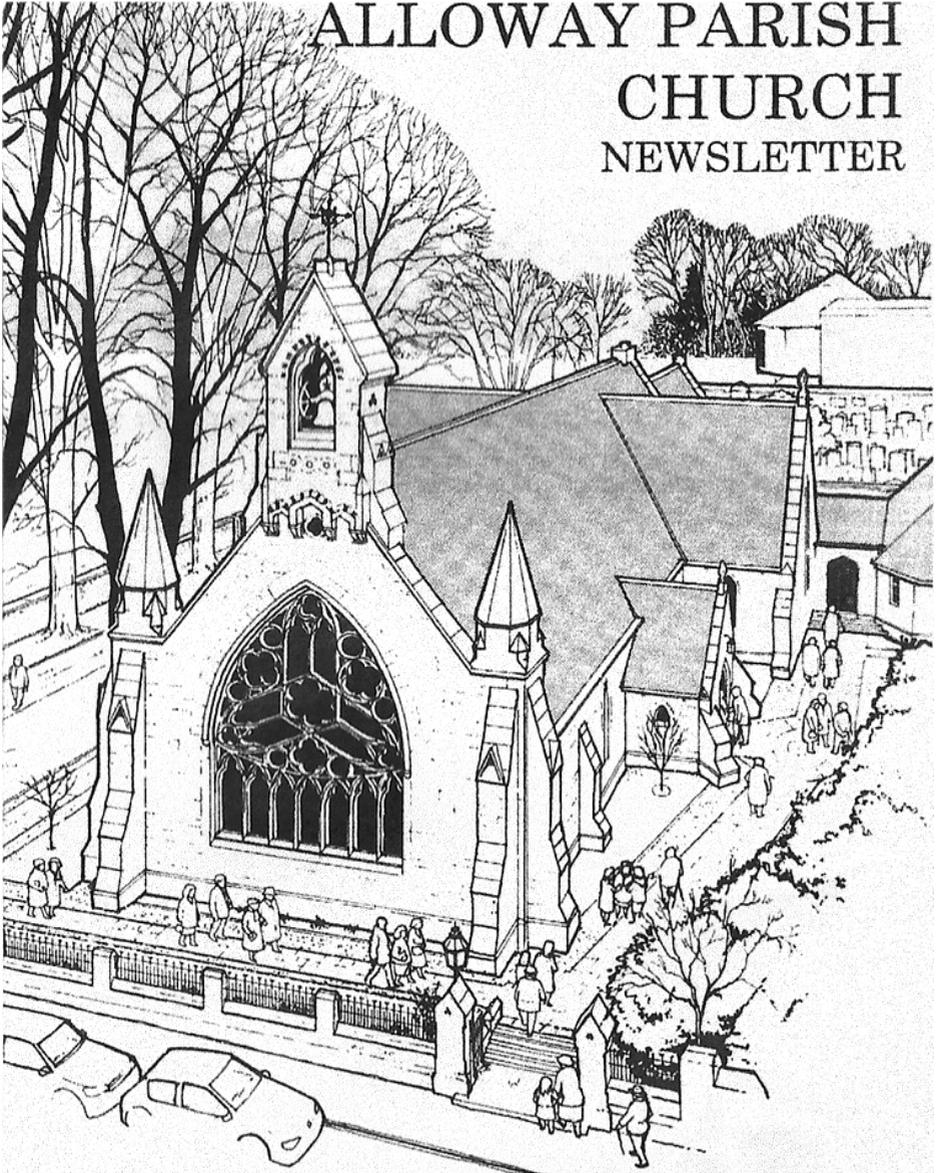


ALLOWAY PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



December
2022



Dear Friends

"While Shepherds washed their socks by night, all seated round the tub, the angel of the Lord came down, and gave their socks a scrub".

Where would any nativity play be without the shepherds?

All you need to do is place an old tea towel on top of your head, grab a crook and you are ready for your Christmas appearance. At times the shepherds have a comic feel!

In fact, the appearance and first choice of the shepherds in the nativity account speaks to us of something dynamic and revolutionary about God's love!

It's inclusive rather than exclusive!

Many first century shepherds in Palestine were thought to be uncouth and untrustworthy.

They were not allowed to give testimony in the law courts.

Yet in Luke's gospel the shepherds are entrusted and chosen to be the unlikely first witnesses to hear the wondrous news of the birth of the Saviour in Bethlehem.

Luke is the gospel writer who champions the outsider.

From Dr Luke we shall hear later in his gospel of the tax collectors, sinners, women and poor who will have chief place in this new unfolding kingdom which Jesus embodies and proclaims. In Jesus kingdom outsiders become insiders.

By choosing shepherds as first witnesses, God in the birth of his son once again turns upside down the ways and wisdom of the world!

As we seek to honour and celebrate the Christmas season it's important to remember and care for those who today feel themselves excluded rejected and forgotten. Those for whom Christmas will be tough materially and spiritually. It was for such people that God gave his son.

It's time for us to continue Gods work of turning upside down the greed and selfishness that haunts this world

This world and our communities desperately need God's love and acceptance - and perhaps even forgiveness!

This Christmas may we work to include those who have not felt included for a long time!

"Soon the shepherds came that way where the Baby lay, and were kneeling, kneeling by His side; And their hearts believed again for the peace of men, for a Boy was born, King of all the world."

From us all at the Manse to you and yours

A Blessed Christmas and Good New Year

Rev Neil McNaught



A note from Rev. David...

What a great month November has been - fantastic to see so many people involved in a variety of activities around Alloway Parish Church - and it looks as though December will be busy too!

Be Still I consider The 'Be Still' Course to have been a great success. We had an average of 40 people attending each week when we enjoyed tea, coffee and a chat, a time of worship, a video presentation and a time of group discussion. The feedback was very positive - with a request however that we allow more time for the group discussions (noted!). We have already started looking at possibilities for another course - probably starting mid-February.

The 'Be Still' Course concluded with a "movie night" on Tuesday 22nd November when we joined together to view 'War Room' - and we also enjoyed popcorn, drinks, chocolate, and of course a choc-ice. The overwhelming response to the film was encouraging with comments such as "that was a life changer" and "what a tear-jerker". Watch this space for news about future movie nights!!

The November Messy Church was another busy one - with 61 children and 45 parents/grandparents/carers attending. The theme this time was 'The Birth of Jesus' and the children had such a wonderful time getting involved in an amazing range of craft activities (thanks Jenny!). We then watched a video, sang a song and thought about the best Christmas gift ever - Jesus! We finished with a delicious meal prepared by very hard working ladies in the kitchen (thank you!!).



Whilst there is no Messy Church in December, it would be great to see everyone at our Christingle service on Sunday 18th December at 3.00pm. The next Messy Church will be on Saturday 14th January when we will be thinking about 'Jesus Feeding the 5000'.

A huge thank-you to everyone who helps make Messy Church such a great event.

SCHOOLS

It has been another busy month with Alloway and Doonfoot Primary Schools - and I can sense the excitement building for the Christmas events in December. I have continued to be involved with assemblies, classroom sessions, Scripture Union, and also attended a very emotional Remembrance Service at Alloway Primary School.

We now turn our attention to Christmas starting with Alloway Primary School having Nativity Services in Church at 6.30pm on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December. Doonfoot Primary School will have their Christmas Service in church on Wednesday 21st December at 10.30am whilst Alloway Primary School will be in church on Thursday 22nd December at 9.45am for their Christmas Service.

It has been heartening to see a group of folks attending our 'Stepping Stones' bereavement programme on Friday afternoons. The sessions have allowed folks to explore the range of feelings,

Stepping Stones

emotions and challenges that we can experience in loss, grief and bereavement. Specific topics explored included 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. The programme concludes with the Quiet Service in Church on Sunday 4th December at 7.00pm.

Pastoral CARE

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.

A Message from David Donaldson

I would like to thank you all for the wonderfully warm welcome that I have received at Alloway over the last few weeks. Thanks too to Neil and David for their patience and guidance.

Alloway is such a busy church - it is amazing to see. It makes my heart sing to look out at a full church on Sunday mornings. I have enjoyed dropping into the various activities which provide such a valuable service to the congregation and wider community including Stepping Stones, Messy Church and a session of Be Still.

The highlight for me so far has been helping to lead worship on Sunday mornings. It has been a real privilege to share prayers and reflections with you as we journey in Christ together. I think the church did Alloway proud in our acts of remembrance on Sunday 13th November.

In addition to my duties here, I have been busy with my studies at the University of Glasgow. This semester the courses are on pastoral theology and looking at Jesus Christ since 1900. I am also doing lots of reading for my dissertation which is on chaplaincy practice in Scottish schools.

Last Christmas I was poorly with COVID and had a pretty miserable time... so I am really excited about Christmas this year. Looking at the parish Christmas card it is going to be very busy, but I cannot wait. I am already belting out the carols in the car on my journeys to and from Alloway and my Christmas jumper is ready to go!

Wishing you all a blessed Advent. I hope this special time of year is full of smiles, happiness and joy as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Love and best wishes, David



Christmas Services 2022

- Sun 4th December 10.30am Morning Worship
7pm Quiet Service of Remembrance (optional lighting of candle as we give thanks for those with whom we shared Christmas past)
- Sun 11th December 10.30am Morning Worship (Christmas jumper)
- Sun 18th December 10.30am Christmas Lessons and Carols
3pm Family Christingle (followed by fellowship in church halls children dress up)
- Sat 24th December 11pm Community Carols
11.30pm Watchnight Service (retiring offering Ayrshire Hospice)
- Sun 25th December 10-10.30am Christmas Day Family Celebration!
- Sun 1st January 10.30am New Year Service





Remembrance Nov 2022

Thanks to all who attended this year's service on 13th Nov 2022. Youth organisation support was particularly heartening. A touch of sunshine too blessed the hundreds who attended the war memorial.

Particular thanks go to the anonymous donor of our wooden poppies which decorated the front of the church this year.

Fashioned by the same artist who carved the Rozelle poppies - these flowers will herald the season of remembrance for years to come.

The retiring offering for Poppy Scotland this year raised £494.

ALLOWAY'S FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

As you know this year Alloway Parish Church had its own temporary Field of Remembrance to honour those in our thoughts at this time of national commemoration.

The 110 crosses displayed were removed on Sunday 20 Nov and reduced to ash. The ashes were then scattered within the church grounds in constant memory of those names depicted.

My personal thank you to all those who assisted with this project. It is hoped that we will be able to repeat this poignant memorial next year.





One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. These days he seems to frequent many shopping and garden centres. This is someone with quite a cultural history!

Some people say that Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade.

Some people say that he began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor.

He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, allegedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity. Naughty Santa!!!!

Nicholas died in Myra about AD343. However, the wonderful stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning.

One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character.

Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas. It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom.

The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his lifework of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'. From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get round all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas that is a sobering thought.

To finish the immortal words of Victor Borges

"Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year."

Rev Neil



Coffee & Chat/Sunday Fellowship

It is now almost a year since the monthly Wednesday Coffee & Chat was started. This takes place on the first Wednesday of the month at 10.30am in the Fellowship Lounge, at a cost of £3.00 for coffee/tea & sweet treats. The funds raised go towards the charity Trees for Life, which plants trees in Scotland. This is in line with the Church of Scotland's Eco Church initiative.

At the end of the Summer a decision was made to supplement the hospitality already provided by the Social Committee on a twice monthly basis within the Large Hall. A group of volunteers have been providing hospitality on the other Sundays within the Fellowship Lounge and this has proved to be very successful. These two strands of hospitality now give a chance for fellowship after every Sunday Service and currently attract about 70 folks every week. The Sunday Fellowship hospitality monetary donations also go towards the charity Trees for Life.

By the end of the year, it is estimated that between the Sunday Fellowship initiative and the monthly Wednesday Coffee & Chat Group, we will have raised over £1000. As well as a donation to Trees for Life, we will be making a donation to the Church to cover the cost of tea and coffee.

Sheena Kemp - on behalf of Worship & Development



Christian Aid



CAROL SINGING

at **MORRISONS**

Sun 18th Dec 2 – 4pm

All welcome.

Please **come along and sing** with us. Raise funds, spread the Christmas message and have fun!

*The only requirements are
enthusiasm and a smile.*

(Santa hat is optional)

Scotland registered charity number: SC039150



Christmas Toy Bank Appeal

You may remember we have collected toy/gift donations on behalf of South Ayrshire Christmas Toy Bank Appeal for the past couple of years. However this year they are changing their way of helping families but another charity NB4CC, who do very similar work supporting families who are struggling in these very difficult economic times and would very much appreciate your support.

There will be a box available for donations during the foodbank hours at the halls. Alternatively you may wish to fill a bag of joy - see notice board in the halls if you are interested in doing this for a child/teenager or have a word with Lynda Mary. I can vouch for the wonderful volunteers who work hard all year round to help out with this charity.

Lynda Mary

Newsletter deliverers

Email: patpalmer1@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07751 637583

I would like to say a big thank you to all the kind folk who deliver the newsletters each month.

Miraculously the bundles disappear after we put them out in the Session Room.

Although many people now receive a digital copy, we are still delivering over 430 copies to the membership. This task is made easy by all of you.

If you have to get in touch with me with any problems could you please use email or my mobile number rather than the landline. I will always respond more quickly to either of those.



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.

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 Dalmellington Ukulele Orchestra and the Last Resort. Tickets priced at £7.50, (on sale from 11th December) will include a light supper.

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

Mission Committee



Christmas Fair



Merry Christmas!



Alloway Church Halls

Saturday 10th December 2022

10.00 am until 12.00 noon



Lots of stalls – including;-

Art, Baking, 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 Sam.

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

Proceeds to Bandawe, Malawi.

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)

Christmas Shoeboxes

Thank you so much to everyone who supported us this year with our donation of Christmas shoeboxes for Blytheswood. We collected the wonderful total of 164 filled shoeboxes which will be making their way to Moldova for those in greatest need.

Many thanks again.

Lynda Mary



1st Alloway Company, The Boys' Brigade



3 Battalion Events

The three Ayrshire battalions, Ayr, North & East are combining to run some events.

Sat 29th October was outdoor day on the Low Green then inside to Pirate Pete's for more games. Seven of the Alloway boys attended and "had a fab time".

Outlook Magazine

In early October we were approached to deliver VASA/SACCT magazine Outlook to every house in Alloway. The senior boys felt it was important, as the publication contains many forms of advice essential in the current "Cost of Living Crisis". Since then 2 other companies and other youth organisations have been asked to cover their respective areas.

Halloween Parties

As always, plenty of sweets, games, laughs and fun.

RNLI - Troon Visit

At the end of November the Junior Section were guests of the RNLI, to inspect the Troon lifeboat and meet the crew.

National Competitions

The Senior boys have been lucky, and are competing in five of the National competitions organised this year.

Badminton—versus Dundonald

Table tennis - versus Bridge of Weir

FIFA Irvine

Master Quiz—Kilmarnock

5-a-side Football Eaglesham, 4/5 Kilmarnock, 79 Glasgow, 1st Irvine

Arresting Thought

One of the Curators of the Police Museum is arranging for the Company Section to "visit" (only) the museum of the world's oldest Police force on a Sunday (12pm - 4.30pm) in January.

Santa's Sleigh

Permission is being registered for the annual Sleigh Tour of the Parish.

For Children (no matter what your age) not fortunate to be part of the Brigade.

The planned nightly route

Monday 12th Dec—Alloway

Tuesday 13th Dec—Shanter Wynd, Craigstewart & Burton

Wednesday 14th Dec—Doonfoot, High Greenan

Thursday 15th Dec—Seafield, Gearholm & Mount Charles

Friday 16th Dec—Taybank & Finlas area

Members of the Public are requested not to follow the sleigh.

All funds raised go to charities nominated by the current Seniors.

Stewart Robertson

Captain, 1st Alloway Coy. The Boys' Brigade

Brownies

thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle

The Brownies had lots of fun at their Pumpkin Party starting with a costume parade, then a game called *Giants, Goblins and Wizards*, - an acting-out version of *Rock Paper Scissors*. After that they mummy-wrapped the Young Leaders! They made a bat or pumpkin wand and learnt how to candy-stripe their wand with ribbon. They were all brave enough to put their hand in the 'Mystery Feely Box' to feel a ghost's hand (water filled rubber glove) Zombie's eyeball (wet bouncy ball) and a witch's tongue (a wet leaf)! We sang 'In The Hairy Scary Castle' and everyone had a goody bag to go home with.

The next week we worked on our Charities Badge and found out more about Deytenat, the little girl in Ethiopia that the Brownies sponsor through the charity PLAN. We had been concerned about her as we knew there was civil unrest in her part of the country, but we were very relieved to hear that a peace treaty had been declared the day before. This led to discussion about what her life is like and how different it is to the Brownies' lives. We played Ethiopian games called *Kabaddi* and *Kebeto* which is the Ethiopian version of *Duck Duck Goose* - 'Duki, Duki, Zeyi'. Kind Brownie Riona once again made some delicious cakes to sell and raised £26.50, which is enough to sponsor Deytenat for almost 2 months!

For Remembrance the Brownies each have a soldier's name from the War Memorial to remember, and they painted pebbles to place on the Memorial. They acted out a true story from WW2 (which had a positive ending!). We had a look at the moving certificates on display in the Fellowship Lounge window. Thank you to Hazel Hoyle and team for such a beautiful tribute. We played parachute games with a real army green parachute - does anyone know where this parachute originally came from?

The following week Brown Owl had a surplus of baby plants attached to her spider plant, so she brought the 'mother' plant in and everyone chose a baby spider plant and potted it up to take home. The Young leaders led a games night playing 'Be The First To Bring Me A.....' (hair band, shoe, Brownie jacket etc); *Wink Detective*; *Lighthouse* where one blindfolded Brownie was the 'boat' and had to make her way to the 'lighthouse' without bumping into any Brownie rocks who squealed if she came near; and a *Hula Hoop* game where the Brownies had to pass a hula hoop around the circle without using their hands! We are now looking forward to our Christmas crafts night and Christmas party.

Mouse Makes
HAPPY CHRISTMAS!
 Read the Christmas story in **Luke 2:1-21**.
 Answer the questions, colour the picture and colour one star each day until Christmas.

**Where was Mary's baby born?
 Why were Joseph and Mary there?**

**Where did Mary lay her baby and why?
 What did Mary dress her baby in?**

**Why were the shepherds afraid?
 What good news did the angel tell?**

Who appeared praising God, what did they say?

What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?

JOY

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 S C H R I S T E P G L T D
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 E E A N I G H T O L D
 S M C N D E C R E E B
 E A E I S I G N
 E T D E

ALL • DECREE • JOSEPH • DAVID • BETHLEHEM • MARY • BIRTH • SON • LAID • MANGER
 INN • SHEPHERDS • FLOCK • NIGHT • LORD • GLORY • GOOD NEWS • JOY • DAY
 SAVIOUR • CHRIST • SIGN • BABY • GOD • PEACE • ANGELS • GO • SEE • TOLD • PRAISE

Parish Record



Baptism—"Of such is the kingdom of heaven"

6.11.22 Zac Allan Morrison son of Lisa and Richard



"Blessed are those who mourn they shall be comforted"

25.10.22 Mrs Eleanor McKinley Longhill Avenue

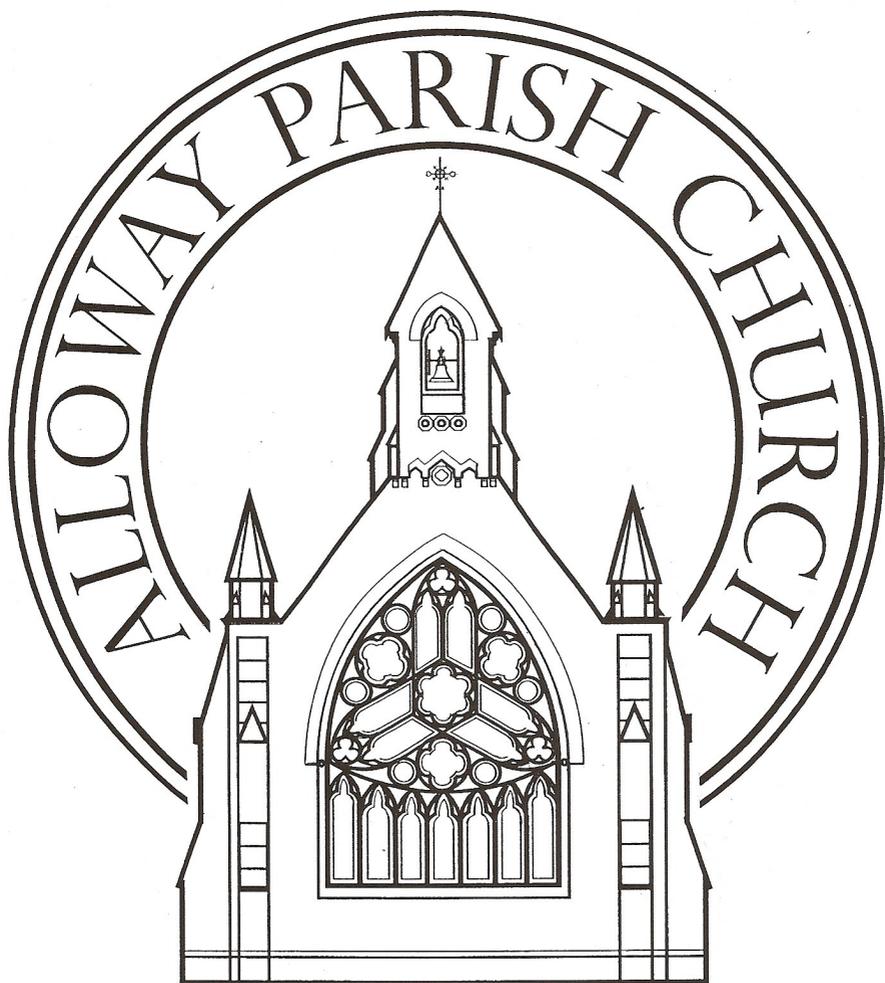
14.11.22 Mr Ronnie Good Finlas Avenue

Deadline for January Newsletter—Friday 16 December —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