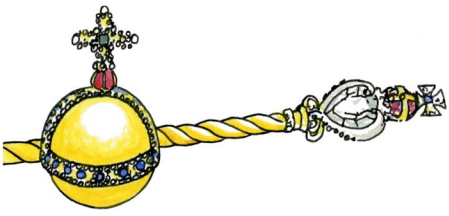
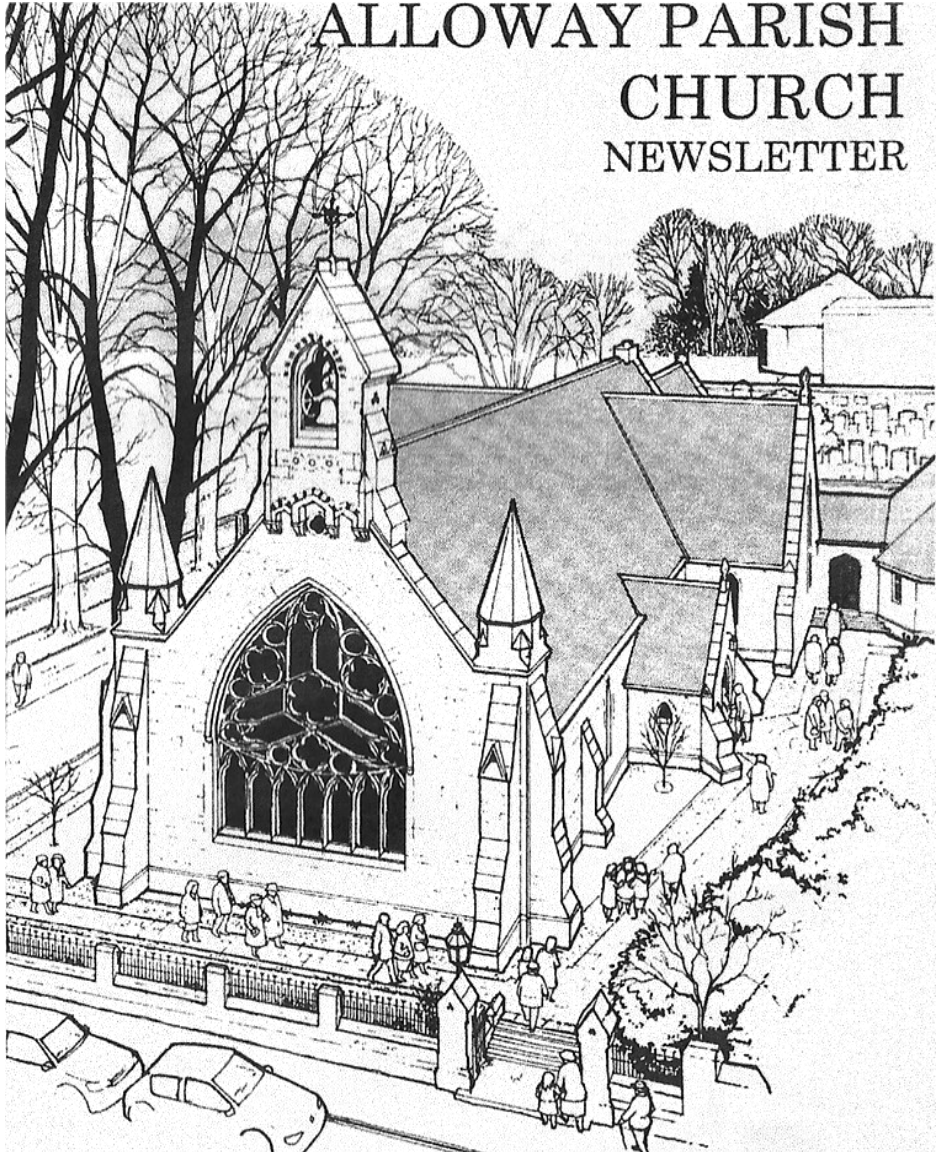


ALLOWAY PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



May
2023



Dear Friends

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8

"The task ahead of us is never greater than the power behind us " Ralph Emerson

If you are a fan you will know that May 4th is Star Wars Day! Sometimes fans gather for parties or movie marathons.

It all of course works on the movie pun "May the force be with you".

In Star Wars "The Force" is an energy field that connects everything in the universe. When someone says, "May the Force be with you," they are wishing that the Force works in your favour.

There are other religious themes in the Star War Series.

"Going over to the dark side"! Perhaps we are all capable of that!!

In the church fifty days after the resurrection we celebrate Pentecost.

This is a time when through God's spirit, the disciples received renewed spiritual power. They found renewed confidence in their faith and sought to live that faith out in public. How was this power to be made manifest in the life of Jesus followers?

The apostle Paul tells us

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law”. Galatians 5:22-23

Our world seems particularly worn and weary at the moment. We all could do with more power from above to help us live our lives faithfully!

So this Pentecost never mind the force - remember instead the power of God's Spirit.

May we together be renewed in faith and hope and love by Him!

Neil McNaught



Some notes from Rev. David...

Scripture Union continues each week at Doonfoot Primary School, and a number of pupils are looking forward to receiving a special award when they have attended 20 sessions. Planning has now started to introduce Scripture Union to Alloway Primary School in the 23/24 school year. It has also been great for me to participate in assemblies at Alloway Primary School - even the school pupils like to see what is in my 'magic bag'.

SCHOOLS



The next Messy Church will be on Saturday 13th May when we will be focusing on 'Jesus - The King of Kings'. Our final meeting for this session will be on Saturday 10th June when we will be thinking about the story of Jonah. I have already started thinking about themes for Messy Church in the 23/24 session!

As mentioned in the April Newsletter, the 2023 Summer Holiday Club will run from Monday 31st July to Friday 4th August, 10.00-12.00 each day. Please pass on this information to parents and grandparents to enable them to put the dates in their diary. This year we will be exploring 'The Parables of Jesus'. The Summer Holiday Club is particularly aimed at children who attend primary school - full details in the June Newsletter!



**Stepping
Stones**

It was great to welcome back the participants from our recent programme of Stepping Stones who joined together for lunch on Friday 28th April. The participants thought that it would be a good idea to meet informally and to continue to support each other. The soup, sandwiches and cakes were thoroughly enjoyed and we look forward to arranging another 'meet-up' soon.

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In the 2023/24 session, we will be introducing a couple of new initiatives for Alloway Parish Church. Firstly, we will be starting a "Men's Breakfast". The first breakfast will be on Saturday 30th September, 10.00-11.15. The plan is that men will join together for a breakfast of hot filled rolls and hear from an invited speaker - look out for further details in the June Newsletter. Ladies should not feel left out however - they will have the opportunity to attend a 'Ladies Day' on Saturday 4th November 2023 - again, look out for further details. Exciting times!!



God bless, David

Church Walk

Following the successful walk at Dumfries House, the next walk is planned for Sunday 4th June at River Garden Auchincruive. Meet at the church car park at 1.30pm.



Thank You

I write to you all from along the road a bit! I have just started my final student attachment at Ayr St Columba where I will be for ten weeks.

I want to thank you all for your incredibly generous gift of £820, which I have already put to good use. I have ordered two custom made stoles, one white and one green. I will be reminded of all at Alloway Church each time I wear them throughout my ministry. In addition, I have booked a week's retreat at the Iona Community in September to recharge my spiritual batteries at the beginning of my probationary period.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for your support, advice and well wishes. I thoroughly enjoyed my time journeying with you all and I look forward to visiting sometime soon.

Take care and God bless, David.



Welcome to the Carolean Age



The other week some of us enjoyed a beautiful church walk in Dumfries House. The daffodils were there in all their splendour to greet us. There can be little doubt that Ayrshire has a special relationship with King Charles 3rd.

He did after all rescue Dumfries House, saving the property and its large collection of Chippendale furniture for the nation. What do we know about our new sovereign?

King Charles:

- Was born at 9.14pm on 14th November 1948, to Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, at Buckingham Palace in London.
- He is the first monarch in British history to have earned a university degree. From 1967 to 1970 he studied history at Cambridge University.
- He can speak Welsh. He spent two months learning the language in 1969, as he prepared to become the Prince of Wales. He still speaks it today.
- He is a qualified pilot and diver. While serving in the military in the 1970s, he trained as a jet and helicopter pilot and became a confident diver.
- He is a keen watercolour painter, a published author, and a music lover, who played the cello at Cambridge. He has done some TV: making a guest appearance on Coronation Street, and presenting the BBC weather forecast.
- As Prince of Wales, he founded nearly 20 charities. Together, they raise £140million each year for good causes. He is passionate about the environment, speaking out against plastic pollution as early as 1970. He has planted many trees during royal engagements.
- Aged 73, King Charles III is the oldest monarch ever to be crowned in British history. He became King on 8th September 2022, after the death of his mother, the Queen, in Balmoral.



Kiltwalk Kindness 2023



A huge thank you to all the very generous donors who helped the four Kilties raise £4402.

Gift Aid of £774 was added to this bringing a grand total of £5176. The monies were raised for Christian Aid and one project in particular.

"One of our long-standing partners is the World Food Programme (WFP), the world's leading humanitarian agency working to improve food security. We are working with the WFP to tackle the needs of displaced people in Bangladesh, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo. For £1 you give today will be multiplied to provide £20 of lifesaving support."

Thus thanks to your generosity and Christian Aid's relationship with the World Food Program £103,520 has been raised for some of the most vulnerable of the world's poor.

What finer reason to wear the kilt than that!

Neil Madge David Tracey (Alloway Strollers)



Christian Aid Week

We will not be doing a door-to-door collection for Christian Aid this year. However, there are other ways in which you can contribute to this very worthwhile cause.

- i) Envelopes will be available on the church pews and at the foodbank point from Sunday 7 May. These can then be returned to the Church if possible with gift aid.
- ii) You can attend our coffee morning and book sale on Saturday 20th May from 10.00 am until 12.00 noon in the church hall. Books will also be available the following day after the church service until 1.00 pm.

There will also be a plant sale on both 20th and 21st May.

We would be delighted if you would be kind enough to contribute baking and/or plants. Please deliver these to the hall on Friday evening (19th May) between 6.00 pm and 8.30 pm or on the Saturday after 9.00 am.

Please also start to clear out your books but PLEASE do not deliver to the church hall until Sunday 14th May between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm - we are not able to store for a longer period.

Thank you

Mission Committee



Christian Aid Coffee Morning and Book Sale

Alloway Church Hall

Saturday 20th May 2023

10.00am until 12.00noon



Cost £3.50 - for home baking and tea/coffee.

**Books also for sale on Sunday 21st May
after the church service until 1.00 pm.**

Night Before Christmas Campaign

A massive thank you to everyone who supported my participation in any way during this year's Glasgow Kiltwalk challenge. I joined nearly 50 other elves in raising funds for the Night Before Christmas Campaign, a local charity that brings a little cheer to struggling families at Christmastime and throughout the year when needed. Last year, almost 7,000 'bags of joy' were delivered.

I must admit, I found the 'Wee Wander' of 3 miles to be much easier on the feet compared to my previous Kiltwalk challenges, which involved the 'Big Stroll' at 14 miles. Our very own minister has impressively completed the 'Big Stroll' for the last 3 years with his team of Alloway Strollers!

Despite this year's lack of sunshine, it did not dampen our spirits. We dried off in the marquee while enjoying a complimentary meal and being entertained by various acts, including the fabulous Red Hot Chilli Pipers, who had everyone on their feet.

I am delighted to announce that an incredible amount of nearly £700 has been raised for the Night Before Christmas Campaign through my JustGiving page. On behalf of both mysELF and the charity, I want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU!



Church Opening

The local charity, which will be supported by donations from this year's Summer Opening Visitors is the River Garden Auchincruive.

River Garden Auchincruive is located on the beautiful 48.5 acre site on the banks of the River Ayr in South Ayrshire. It is a training and social enterprise development centre offering a residential programme for people in the early stages of drugs and/or alcohol addiction.

We offer a 3 year residential program that is free of charge to residents and their families. During their 3 year stay, residents are given much needed time to reflect on their lives and to grow as people. We use a work based approach, in which residents live and work alongside their peers. They receive personal development support and learn new skills and qualifications, while working on-site in our range of social enterprises. The approach is unique to the UK, taking learnings from successful and transformative recovery organisations across the globe including San Patrignano (Italy), Basta (Sweden) and Delancey Street (USA), which have been producing successful results helping people into long term recovery and reintegrating into employment and mainstream society.

The Bothy Café at River Garden has become a hub for locals to come and enjoy coffee, fresh home baking and our quality, locally sourced breakfast and lunch menus. We work with the best of local suppliers (Narture Bakery, Country Fresh Meats, Mossgiel Milk) and many of the ingredients we use, for example in the fresh soup that we make every morning, we grow in our vegetable patches in our beautiful gardens. River Garden jams, hot chilli sauces and apple juice from our orchard are just some of the amazing, homegrown products that are available to buy from our café.

Our stunning Victorian walled gardens where we grow our own produce are open to the general public. There are many beautiful walks in the gardens which can be enjoyed with the sound of the River Ayr in the background. We host regular evening events with artists including The Bluebells, Constant Follower and Charlie Dore having recently performed, as well as theatre events such as Ken O'Hara's Christmas Carol and Short Attention Span Theatre.

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2023 marks the opening of our brand new social enterprise, the River Garden Wood Shop, where our residents will be trained in the making of household and garden utensils and furniture. Our wood workshop is kitted out with state of the art machinery, equipment and tools and will be producing only the best quality wooden products.

Everything we have achieved so far has depended on donations large and small. There is no charge to our residents or their families to come to River Garden and none of their places are state sponsored. Our work force consists of some staff, but the team is mostly made up of our residents and amazing volunteers, all of whom we are incredibly grateful for. We are always looking for extra pairs of hands, so whether you can bake, garden or just wash dishes for a few hours a week, we would love to hear from you.

If you know anyone who might be interested in supporting a wonderful cause and volunteering some of their time, please drop into River Garden or contact us at [enquiries@ifdas.net!](mailto:enquiries@ifdas.net)

The Diary for the volunteers for Church Sitting will be available for you to offer your time from mid-May onwards. Each session is 2 hours and it is always a worthwhile experience.

Donald Kemp

For Worship & Development


Church Summer Opening



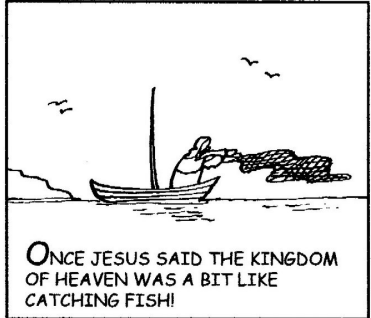
The church will be open to visitors from the end of May until the end of August. This is only possible if we have volunteers to cover the 2 hour sessions. Supervisors open and close the church so the volunteers only have to welcome the visitors and offer information leaflets. If you haven't done this before please give it a try. It can be very rewarding and interesting to meet people from all over the world.

René Andrews Worship and Development Committee

The parable
of
the
Fish
and the
Nets

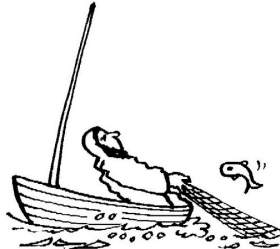
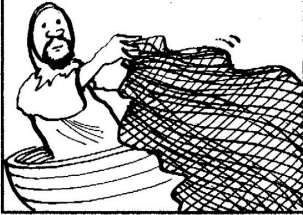


JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



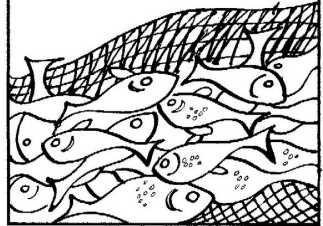
ONCE JESUS SAID THE KINGDOM
OF HEAVEN WAS A BIT LIKE
CATCHING FISH!

WHEN PEOPLE GO FISHING
THEY THROW THEIR NETS
INTO THE LAKE...

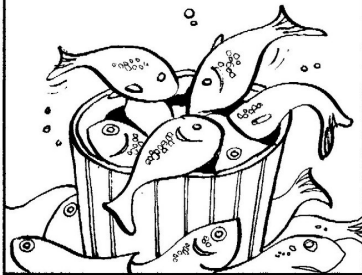


...WHEN THE NETS ARE FULL,
THEY PULL THEM TO SHORE

ONCE ON SHORE THE FISH
HAVE TO BE SORTED OUT.

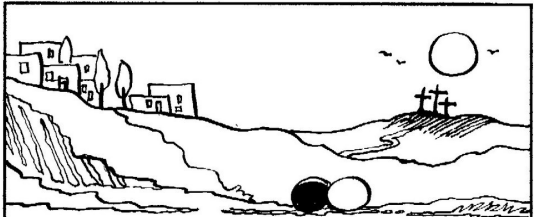


THE GOOD FISH GO INTO BUCKETS



THE BAD FISH GET THROWN AWAY!

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT WE TOO WILL
BE SORTED LIKE THE FISH. WE CAN
CHOOSE TO DO GOOD OR BAD THINGS
WITH OUR LIVES.



BUT EVEN IF WE MAKE TERRIBLE MISTAKES - WE CAN
ALWAYS BE FORGIVEN - THAT'S JESUS' PROMISE.



thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle

Recently the Brownies were lucky enough to have a visit to Ayr Fire Station. The girls were very excited about this. We were given a very warm welcome by the jovial Fire Fighters who had just come on duty. We then went through to see the Fire Engines, and were told that all the equipment has to be checked each time a new shift comes on duty so that they know everything is ready and in the right place if they get called out. The Brownies had a chance to sit inside the fire engine, and the fire fighters put the flashing lights on for them. Then we had a good look around the engines and were shown all the tools and firefighting equipment that is cleverly stored on pull-out shelves - it's amazing what they have! The Brownies had a go at holding the heavy metal cutters - they could only just about lift them! They were very interested in the First Aid equipment especially the animal resuscitation pack and were told that it had fortunately only ever had to be used once to help a dog. We also found out that the Fire Department has a rescue boat as well as other vans and vehicles besides fire engines.

After that we went back into the main building and were shown a room with all the firefighting uniforms hanging up airing and ready to be put on, and they smelled quite smoky. We were shown a very well equipped gym where some fire fighters were doing fitness tests. We were told how important it is that the fire fighters stay strong, fit and healthy to be able to fight fires. Then we went upstairs and were shown a meeting room, a computer room, and even a library where the fire fighters can spend time when they are not training, doing checks or on a call. Next we went into the canteen area where the fire fighters take it in turns to cook for all the others - they told us that tonight it was going to be baked potatoes and tuna! We saw a recreation room with a snooker table and table tennis and board games and other activities, and then we were shown the dormitories which had cubicles for each fire fighter. There was another separate dormitory, and they told us

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that was for the snorers! There was a large extractor fan, and they jokingly told us that was to remove any bad overnight smells! The Brownies thought that was hilarious!

When we came into the corridor we saw the top of the fireman's pole, the Brownies were keen to have a go but the fire fighters explained it was too dangerous. So we went down the stairs to the other end of the pole, and the fire fighters came sliding down.

After that we went outside, and the fire fighters brought the fire engines out into the yard and pulled out the hoses, and each Brownie got a turn at holding and turning on the powerful hose and trying to hose a bollard on the other side of the yard - it was great fun!

Then it was Question Time, and our Brownies had lots of questions! At the end we said a big Brownie Thank You to the brave firefighting team and gave them a box of chocolate biscuits which they were very pleased with. All the Brownies received a fire safety handout to take home as well as a fire engine badge - and there were even enough badges to give to the fire fighters as well! It was a great adventure.



Parish Record



"Blessed are those who mourn they shall be comforted "

23.3.23	Dr Douglas Russell	Shielhill, Ayr
11.4.23	Mr Robert Baird	Hillcrest Home, Girvan
12.4.23	Mrs Bunty Copes	Airlie House, Ayr
19.4.23	Mrs Mary Turner	Fine View, Maybole

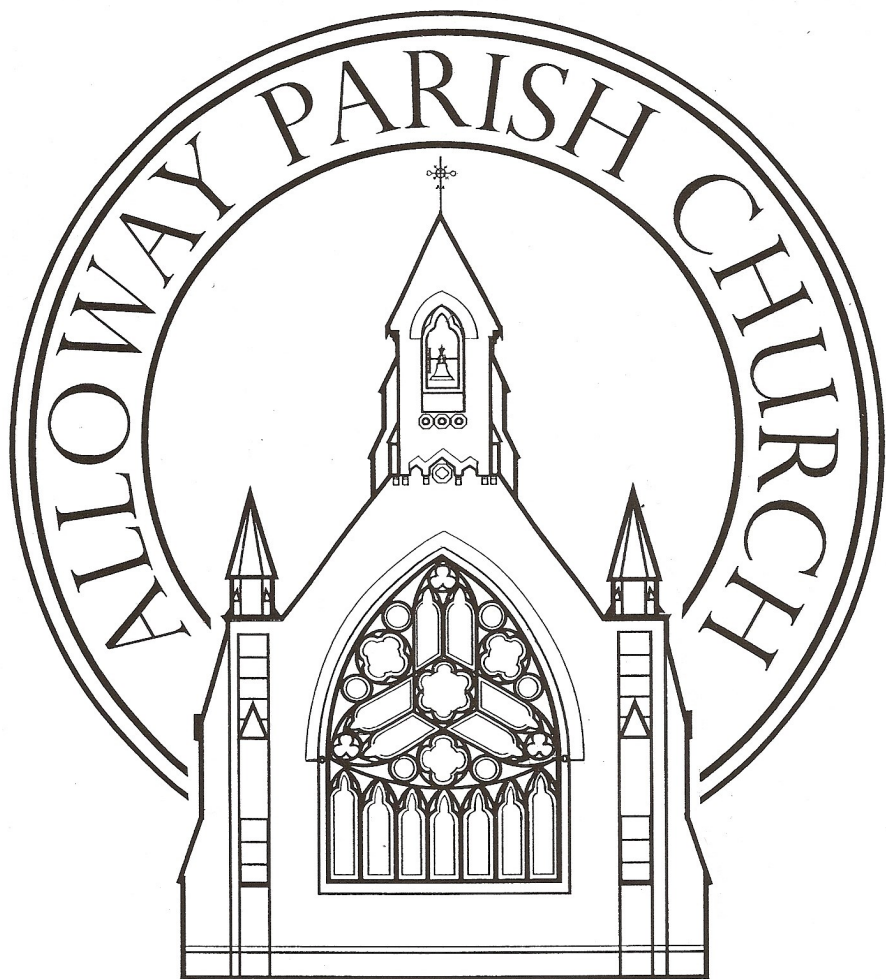


Deadline for June Newsletter—Tuesday 23 May—12 noon

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. SC012456