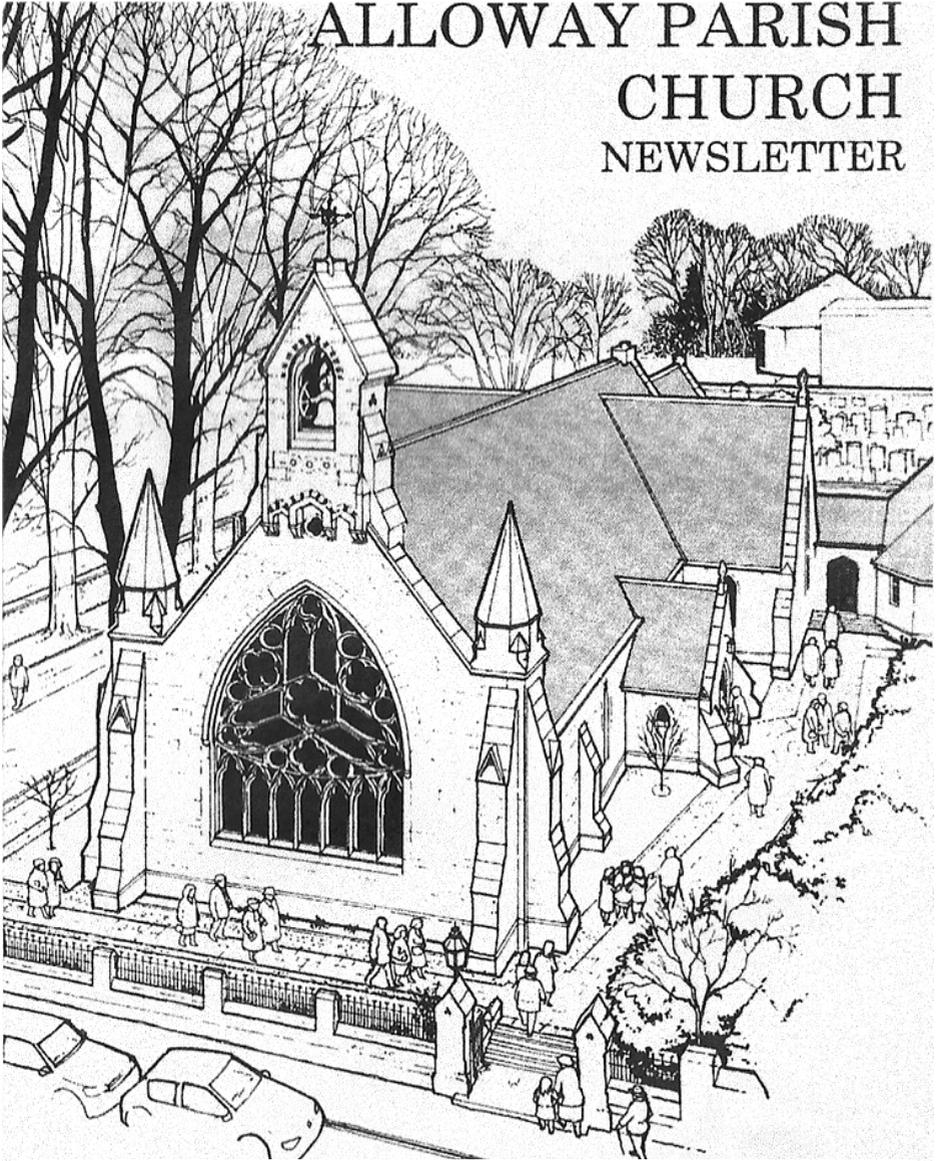


ALLOWAY PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



October

2021



Dear Friends

After a little time off it is good to be back with you again.

I am not in denial. I have enjoyed the 39th anniversary of my 21st birthday and it was painless! Why? Because 60 is the new 40!

Hard to believe I now qualify for my very own bus pass!

Meanwhile we are now firmly in Autumn Time which means for us

"Harvest thanksgiving "

In terms of the first traditional Harvest thanksgiving service, historians point to 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church in Cornwall.

He tapped into a great spiritual desire to respond with gratitude to the ingathering of the Harvest.

Around this time many of our favourite Harvest Hymns emerged.

Hymns such as

"We plough the fields and scatter",

"Come ye thankful people, come"

"All things bright and beautiful!"

Rooted in the celebration was a spirit of thanksgiving to God for his provision.

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At a time of global pandemic, it is perhaps more difficult for thanksgiving to come from our lips, or the lips of millions for whom this time will be very challenging.

Yet in truth we are still surrounded by daily miracles. Compared to others we remain so so blessed.

We seek also to share that blessing with others via the Christian Aid Hunger Appeal.

A special word of thanks to all the ladies who prepared the flowers which were distributed and so well received in the congregation.

"All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above,
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
for all his love."

Keep safe

Every blessing

Neil McNaught



A note from Rev. David...

In our reflections over the past month or so, Neil and I have spent time looking at the letter of James from the New Testament. This short book of the Bible is a wonderful read and provides us with so much useful guidance on how to live a life of faith. As I spend time visiting members and friends of Alloway Parish Church it never ceases to amaze me how I get so many lessons for life from the example of others - as they say, 'every day is a school day'.

The other day, I received a note from a very wise gentleman in our congregation and he shared with me a message written by a 90 year-old lady from Cleveland in the USA. She writes: "To celebrate growing older, I once wrote the 45 lessons life taught me. It is the most requested column I've ever written".

There are some wonderful lessons for us in this list - enjoy!

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short - enjoy it.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and family will.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Stay true to yourself.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.

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15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye, but don't worry, God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful. Clutter weighs you down in many ways.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to be happy. But it's all up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?'
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time, time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
36. Growing old beats the alternative of dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood.

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38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Envy is a waste of time. Accept what you already have, not what you need.
42. The best is yet to come.
43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
44. Yield.
45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

God bless, David.

*Every generous
act of giving,
with every
perfect gift,
is from
above,
coming
down from
the
Father of
lights, with
whom
there is no
variation or
shadow due
to change.*



James 1: verse 17

4 October Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi

Italy's patron saint, whose feast day is this month (the 4th) was a complex and some would say, controversial character.

His life spanned the end of the twelfth and beginning of the thirteenth centuries. He was born into a very wealthy family, but after what he called his 'conversion' standing before a crucifix, he renounced all his possessions.

In fact, he stripped himself of his wealthy garments in a public square in his hometown, Assisi. For the rest of his life, he and his followers, including his feminine counterpart, St Claire longed, prayed, and worked for a life of simplicity - a lifestyle without luxury or privileges. For the Franciscan brothers and the Poor Claires. This meant no private possessions at all. Francis saw that many poor people without these things, actually seemed to live happier and more fulfilling lives than the ambitious rich. He spoke of a simple life not shaped by money or power but by love and mutual concern. As his hymn says, 'it is in giving of ourselves that we receive'. Of course, poverty; in our modern western world is seldom a matter of blissful simplicity, as present-day Franciscans recognise. For too many it is a matter of poor diet, over-crowded rooms, rough sleeping and unemployment. The call of today's followers of Francis and Claire is that those who are better-off should 'live more simply, so that others can simply live'. Christians follow a Master who said that he came with 'good news for the poor'. They believe that many of us today can be that good news.



Christian Aid Book Sale

Alloway Church Hall

Saturday 16 October 2021

10.00 am until 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm



Tea/coffee and wrapped biscuits will be available.

Covid protocol will be observed.

Christian Aid Book Sale

There will be a book sale in the church octagonal hall on Saturday 16 from 10.00 am until 12.00 noon and from 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm.

Coffee/Tea and wrapped biscuits will be available in the large hall during these times with a suggested donation of £2.00.

All monies raised will be given to Christian Aid as part of their Global Hunger Appeal. It is estimated that more than 40 million people in 43 countries are facing extreme hunger caused by the Covid pandemic, violent conflict and global warming.

Every effort will be made to make this sale a Covid free experience; -

1. Entry via the front door and exit via the back door.
2. Name and telephone number will be taken on arrival
3. Numbers will be limited while browsing the books, hence the extended opening hours.
4. Masks should be worn unless seated to eat and drink.
5. Hand gel will be available at the door of each hall.
6. If you wish you may bring your own disposable gloves.
7. The books will have been in situ for at least 72 hours before the sale
8. Please bring your own bag for any books purchased.

We welcome your donations of books which should be brought to the back door of the church hall **ONLY ON SUNDAY 10th OCTOBER BETWEEN 10.00 am and 1.00 pm.**

If this is inconvenient, please arrange for a friend to deliver during these hours.

We look forward to your support for this worthwhile cause.

Mission and Youth Committees



Christmas Event



The Mission Committee would like to look ahead to the possibility of holding a Christmas event on Saturday 4 December. We would hope to have most of our usual stalls in the octagonal hall.

Please begin to gather goods you may wish to donate to the following stalls; - crafts, unwanted treasures, toiletries, greetings cards, toys and children's' books.

At the present time restrictions do not allow us to have home baking but things may change in the coming months. Covid protocol will be observed at the level required on the 4 December.

Mission Committee

Helping Hands

We are pleased to say that we have reinstated our church Helping Hands scheme.

If you have any small tasks which do not need a skilled tradesman, then please contact Bill Cormie on 442471.

He will in turn contact the volunteers to find the right person for the job.

The jobs can be around the house or garden, deliveries, transport (to doctors, hospital etc) and one of our volunteers has also agreed to help with filling in forms and communicating with "agencies".



Mission Committee

BELMONT ACADEMY TRIP TO MALAWI

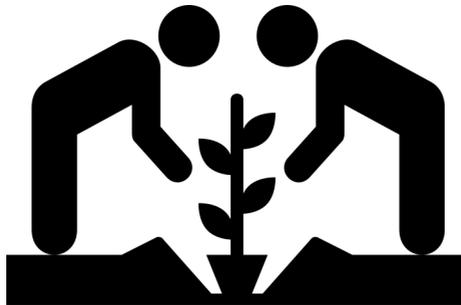
Due to Covid, Amy and Zoe are no longer going to Malawi with Belmont Academy. Any money that they collected towards this trip has been given to the church Malawi Fund. The girls would like to thank everyone who supported them.

JOLLY GARDENERS

A word of thanks to the jolly gardeners for all their work in keeping the church grounds so well maintained.

So many people appreciate all their good works.

Thanks too to our wonderful flower fellowship ladies for all their hard work in keeping the sanctuary so well decorated!



A Big Thank You from Alloway's Magnificent 7 Kilt Walkers



Rev Neil, Rev David, Lynda Mary, Madge Irving, Simon Mann, Jennifer Howie, Nick Howie, on their way to walking 16 miles from Glasgow to Dumbarton and raising nearly £4000 pounds topped up by Sir Tom Hunter to £6000 for the Christian Aid Hunger Appeal.

The Appeal aims to help provide assistance in areas of Afghanistan, Ethiopia and South Sudan to some of the world's poorest.

Their priority aim is to:

- provide food packs for poor and marginalised households facing starvation;
- provide special nutrition for pregnant/lactating mothers and children below 7 years;
- provide clean water and hygiene kits, create awareness on COVID-19 pandemic.

Once again, a huge thank you to the members and friends of Alloway Parish Church.



COP26 Glasgow



The Moderator of the General Assembly has joined faith leaders from across Scotland and the UK in urging governments to take transformational action on climate change at the COP26 in November.

Lord Wallace joined more than 50 religious figures who have signed the Glasgow Multi-Faith Declaration, which calls for those in power to put the 2015 Paris Agreement into effect. The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change adopted by the 196 attending parties at the COP21.

The Declaration, which is being made during Climate Fringe Week, stresses that urgent action is needed to avert the loss, damage, and forced migration threatened by climate change.

Lord Wallace said: "Our faith communities are united in caring for human life and the natural world. We share a belief in a hopeful future, as well as an obligation to be responsible in caring for our common home, the Earth.

We recognise the opportunities that COP26 brings in addressing the urgent need for action in limiting the effects of climate change and the critical importance of decisions made in this conference to take forward the agreement made in Paris in 2015."

Prayer for COP26

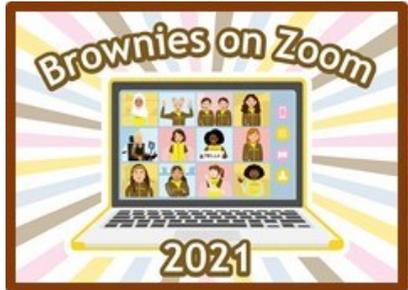
"Creator God, giver of life, you sustain the earth and direct the nations. In this time of climate crisis, grant us clarity to hear the groaning of creation and the cries of the poor. Challenge us to change our lifestyles. Guide our leaders to take courageous action. Enable your church to be a beacon of hope." Amen



by 3rd Alloway Brownies Brown Owl Lise Whittle

It is WONDERFUL to be able to meet the Brownies back in the Octagonal Halls, it's been such a very long time and it felt quite emotional to be back! Huge thanks to everyone involved in getting the Church Halls reopened.

We kept in touch with all the Brownies throughout Lockdown with weekly emails of activities, games, keep fit, recipes, quizzes, stories, badge work and crafts for them to do at home with their families. We also held several Zoom sessions which were great fun, and a good way to feel we'd all 'seen' each other. We had Virtual Sleepovers and parties on Zoom, and Girlguiding Scotland held online events for all Units to watch such as a 'Christmas Panto' and 'Spring Social'.



At a later date - when it was allowed - we were able to meet up with our Brownies outdoors at the Girlguide Centre at Nether Auchendrane for games and even some fence painting, and had a trip to the beach. Some of our Brownies have now moved on to Guides, and we have some new girls who have moved up from Rainbows.



(Photo above; Brownies fence painting at Nether Auchendrane)

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It's been a tricky time, but everyone has made the best of it, and we're grateful to all the leaders in our Unit who have helped to keep the girls busy with the activities - thanks Barn Owl Sonya Hill for all the puzzles and quizzes, and Little Owl Lara for all the fitness activities!

I admit I felt rather nervous the first time we met back in the Halls, and there was a lot of paperwork and preparation to put in place beforehand. But as soon as we saw the Brownies' smiling faces and heard their chatter and chuckles, it seemed worthwhile. It's been a learning curve for all the leaders, and things are a little different, such as the girls sitting further apart than usual, and we're choosing games that minimise close contact or touching. But so far it seems to be going well.

During January and February, Third Alloway Brownies continued working towards the 'Have Adventures - Camping' theme badge, and learnt about the right way to build a campfire and strike a match safely. We borrowed a plug-in campfire and sang songs around it. We also practised outdoors First Aid and then took a volunteer 'injured' Brownie safely through an outdoor adventure assault course back to safety - hopefully without injuring her further! We had a 'recycling from junk' night where the girls were asked to make something "useful that would last" from recycled items, and they came up with some clever ideas including a really good board game, a doll's house and a useful decorated bowl. One night the Brownies were told that they were shipwrecked on an island and could only take 5 things with them - now readers, what 5 things would you choose from the following - First Aid kit, waterproof material, fishing net, knife, matches, string, chocolate, empty water bottle, blanket, paper and pen, torch, mirror, batteries, suntan lotion, spare clothes and compass? Everyone came up with different ideas, and it prompted a lot of discussion, but most of the girls finally ended up with similar answers! Another night we made wax food wraps from cotton fabric squares and melted bees wax, which can be used and reused to wrap food in place of plastic cling film. We sold them at the Eco Event and raised over £30.00.

In March it was announced that all Girlguiding activities were to be suspended because of the outbreak of Coronavirus Covid-19. This meant that we had to abruptly stop all our meetings, and also postpone our Pack Holiday which was due to take place in March. But we Leaders decided to stay in touch with our Brownies, and we have been putting together a weekly activity pack emailed out to the girls every single

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Thursday at exactly 6.00pm - which is the time we would usually be starting our Brownies meetings. The girls have been following at home with our usual welcoming songs and having a go at puzzles, games, quizzes, yoga and keep-fit; origami, Easter crafts and cards; we continued some badge work including 'tent detectives' to work out the correct order to put up a tent (from pictures!) and making a den at home; how to make a 'Bottle Mansion' for insects; making aviation flying objects and measuring how far and high they could fly; night sky observing; working towards the Baking Badge (Chocolate Crispy Owls - yum!) and the Painting Badge - Brownies found out about artists and wrote and sent photographs - Picasso, Giuseppe Arcimbolde (who created paintings that could be turned upside down to look like something else), Piet Mondrian (who painted modern block colour paintings) and Eric Zener (photo-realistic underwater oil painter). The Brownies then had a go at creating their own similar designs.



The Brownies tried out sign language and Makaton; they made a cereal box puppet theatre and puppets, and were asked to put on a performance for their families; they made papier mache eco plant pots from shredded newspaper; went cloud watching and tried to learn part of the poem 'The Cloud' by Shelley; created a 'Museum of Imagination'; took part in regular Family Quizzes set by Barn Owl Sonya; looked at stamps and stamp collecting on the Stamp Active website; learnt how to make a rainbow using sunshine, a glass of water, a mirror and white paper (and sing 'Over The Rainbow' at the same time!); tried to learn the poem 'Alexander Beetle' by A.A. Milne 'I had a little beetle, so that Beetle was his name, And I called him Alexander, and he answered just the same'

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In the middle of all this, our lovely Tawny Owl announced the birth of her beautiful little baby girl Eilidh, and although we couldn't meet her in person we gave her a big online welcome (and will reserve Eilidh a space in our Brownies in 7 years' time!). They are all doing well together.

Girlguiding organised various other online events to keep everyone occupied throughout the country under the heading 'Adventures at Home' - daily activities on Facebook, a Scottish 'Guiding at Home' Challenge badge, a Netherurd Adventures challenge badge, and a fabulous all-day online Festival day packed full of video clips including chemistry experiments, interviews, theatre, magic show, animation, fitness and lots more.

We hope to get back to our regular meetings when it is safe to do so. If you know of any young girls aged between 5-10 who might like to join Girlguiding please ask their families to register online at www.girlguiding.org - Register your daughter.



The gardener and the Vine



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL
ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS
TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH
BRANCH CAREFULLY...

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING
GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE
FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD
FRUIT...



...OR NO FRUIT AT
ALL...



... THEN THE GARDENER WOULD
CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN
THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE
THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE
VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S
GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.

Time for a chuckle....



'SONGS FROM THE MUSICALS' – QUIZ

Can you identify which musicals these songs come from?

1. I Could Have Danced All Night
2. Defying Gravity
3. Getting To Know You
4. Sisters
5. Love Changes Everything
6. I Have A Dream
7. Circle of Life
8. Don't Stop Me Now
9. You Can't Stop the Beat
10. Matchmaker, Matchmaker
11. You'll Never Walk Alone
12. As Long As He Needs Me
13. Somewhere
14. People Will Say We're In Love
15. I Don't Know How To Love Him
16. Some Enchanted Evening
17. Tell Me It's Not True
18. Stars
19. All That Jazz
20. The Music Of The Night

Answers:
1. My Fair Lady; 2. Wicked; 3. The King and I; 4. White Christmas; 5. Aspects of Love; 6. Mama Mia.
7. The Lion King; 8. We Will Rock You; 9. Hairspray; 10. Pippin; 11. Carousel.
12. Oliver; 13. West Side Story; 14. Oklahoma; 15. Jesus Christ Superstar; 16. South Pacific.
17. Blood Brothers; 18. Les Misérables; 19. Chicago; 20. The Phantom Of The Opera



Parish Record

“Whom God has joined together ”

6.9.20	David Mitchell	Caroline Kennedy
9.9.21	Christopher Brereton	Claire Torrance

“Blessed are those who mourn ”

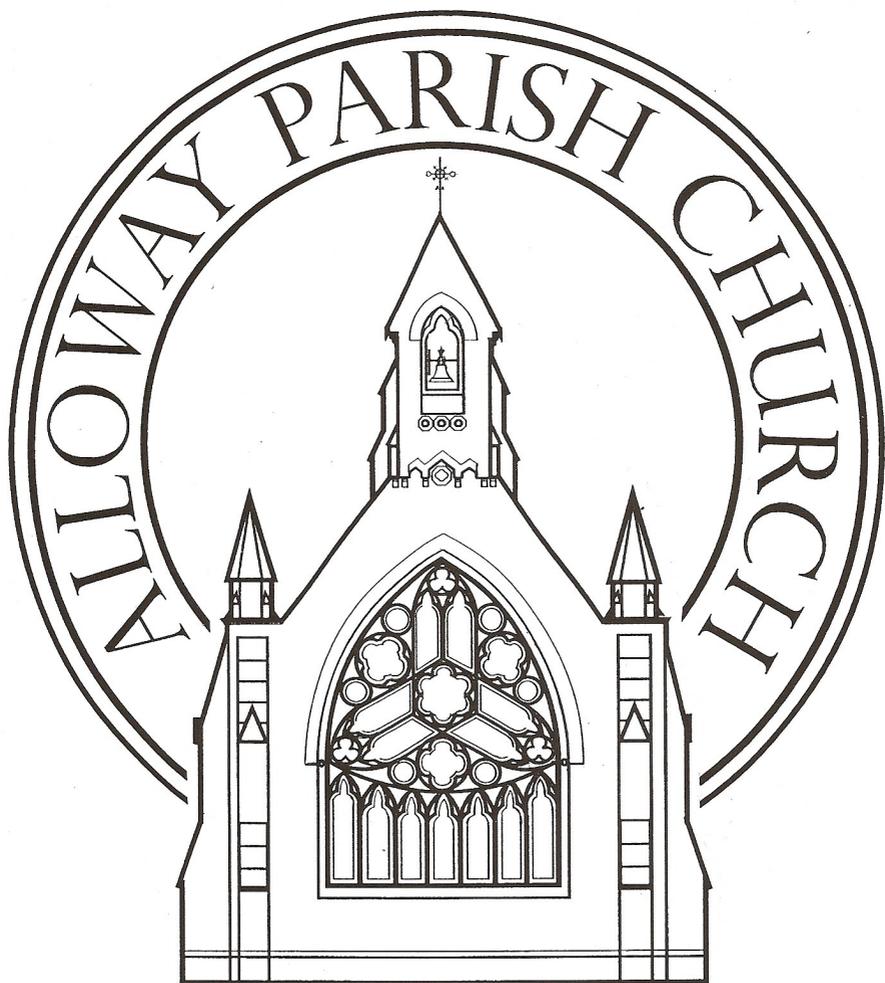
16.8.21	Dr Catriona Gaskell	Cairn Crescent
22.8.21	Mrs Margaret Booth	Creggan Bahn Nursing Home
28.8.21	Mrs Isobel Currie	Bathurst Drive
16.9.21	Mrs Francis Nelson	Longhill Avenue

Deadline for November Newsletter—Tuesday 26 October—12 noon

Contributions should be sent to:

allowaychurch.newsletter@gmail.com

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



Alloway Parish Church of Scotland
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