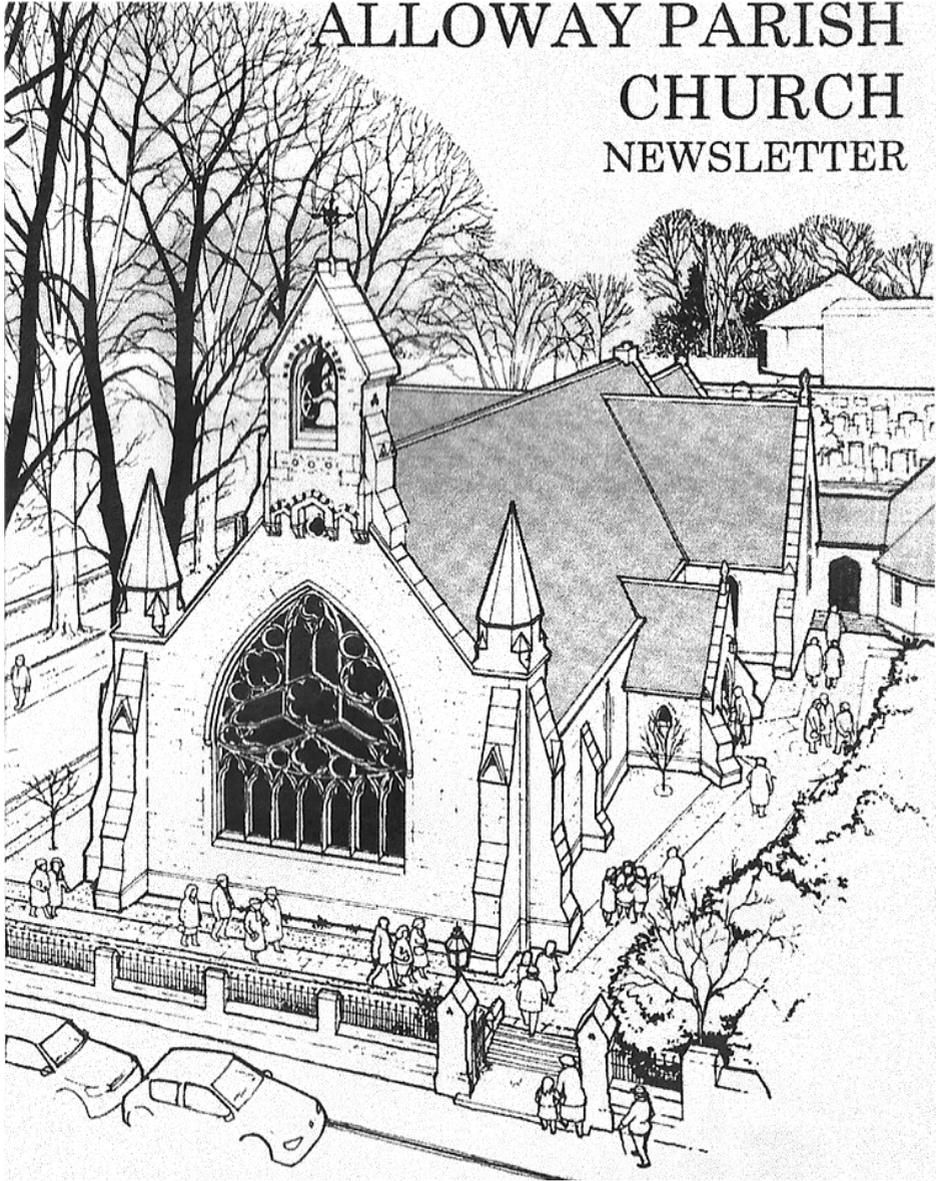
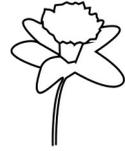


ALLOWAY PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



March
2023



Dear Friends

I'm always pleased to have the months of January and February behind us! Sometimes I navigate my way through the cold dark wintery months by looking for the flowers which lift the spirits.

We begin the year with the snowdrops. Little white heads fighting their way through the frozen ground. A miracle! Then we have the colourful crocuses (and that essential walk in Corsehill Park to lift your Spirits!).

March is the time for dancing daffodils and their glorious yellow colour. March 1st is a day also to recall the Welsh Patron Saint David.

Some maintain that the daffodil became the national flower of Wales because of its abundance this month.

Saint David, like many saints, is a man of mystery. What we know of him is that David - or Dafydd or Dewi - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron saint of Wales, He has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised in the Western Church.

Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?) and devoting himself to works of mercy.

He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder.

His last words are recorded as being

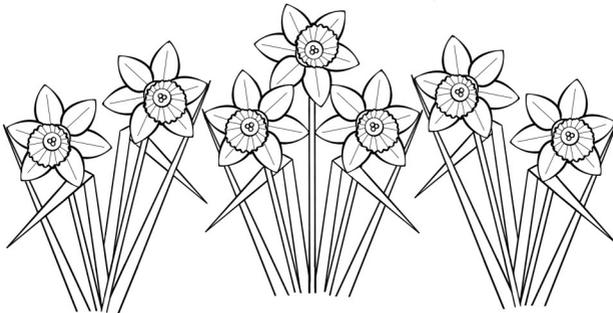
'Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do.'

Surely Saint David's exhortation is one for our generation. In our large interconnected world where it is easy to be overcome by so much despair, it is our calling in so far as we can to do just this.

"Be joyful, keep the faith and do the little things well"

Dduw bendithia!!

Neil McNaught



Some notes from Rev. David...

Primary 7 pupils from Doonfoot Primary school recently had a 'dress down day' to raise funds for the Bandawe Primary School Toilet Project. On 24th February, I was totally amazed to be presented with a cheque for £319.50 from Miss Anderson and her P7 pupils. Miss Anderson is familiar with the needs at Bandawe Primary School having visited Malawi with the church group a few years ago.

SCHOOLS

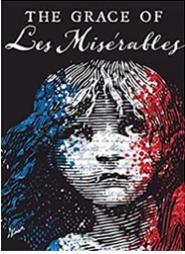


Attendance at Messy Church continues to be amazing. What a thrill it is to have so many children attend Messy Church with their parents/grandparents/aunts and uncles. Our next session will be on Saturday 11th March (4.00-6.00pm) when we will look forward to Easter. There is no Messy Church in April to allow for the school holidays, but we will be back on Saturday 13th May.

Another programme of Stepping Stones commenced on Friday 3rd March 2023. This is a 5-week programme with each session being held in the Fellowship Lounge, running from 2.00-3.30pm. The programme concludes on Friday 31st March.

**Stepping
Stones**

Stepping Stones is a bereavement support programme focusing on the journey of loss and allows people to meet with others who are dealing with common concerns and feelings. Stepping Stones is open to all who are living with loss and there will be an opportunity to discuss the bereavement journey; health issues; looking after yourself; and thinking ahead. Please tell others about the programme and feel free to contact me for more details.



Our Lenten Study, 'The Grace of Les Misérables' commenced on Wednesday 15th February. Focusing on the book/movie/musical Les Misérables, this six-week study explores various themes found in the story. It has been great to welcome more than 60 people along to the study and the small group discussions have been fantastic. There is still time to join the study and the sessions are held in the church halls on Wednesday evenings from 7.00-9.00pm - you will be made most welcome!! On Wednesday 29th March, we are having a 'movie night' with a licenced viewing of the 2012 movie Les Misérables - popcorn and choc-ices available!!

Take care, *David*.

Halls Spring Clean

We have now started the Spring cleaning of the Hall cupboards. Before we send items to Heathfield for recycling/disposal we wanted to give members of the congregation the opportunity to rehouse/reuse the following: -

Projector Screens

Fold away. Could be used for slide shows/cine reels/modern tv projectors.

If interested please contact Donald Ross, Property Convener, on 0748 484 2329.



Message from Our Student Minister



The Lenten season is upon us, and it will be Easter before we know it. Lent can be problematic for some folks in the Reformed tradition as there are no set rules for what we should do or not do in the weeks leading up to Easter Sunday. It is perhaps easier for our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters with their set pattern of fasting and abstinence from Ash Wednesday onwards. For Protestants, there is no obligation to fast, yet some do find it worthwhile and feel it draws them closer to God at this the holiest time of year and that is fair enough.

However, nowadays the church tends to focus on taking something up or giving intentionally back rather than cutting things out in Lent. The Student Christian Movement encourages its members to use the following two questions to set the focus of their Lenten journeys:

What intentions shall I set for myself this season?

How can I better follow God's call to help those in need?

I think this is great advice and a good place to start. But I want to move us beyond resisting temptation and doing good works; even though these are very important and worthwhile things. I believe that Lent is an invitation to reflect on God's love for us. A love made visible in the person of Jesus Christ. It is a prayerful time: a time to reflect on what is truly important. Therefore, in these next few weeks, I would urge you to take some time of silence and solitude, so that you may rediscover the grace of a prayerful life.

During our Lenten prayer journeys, let us be honest with ourselves and look into our hearts and souls; remembering the times we've turned away from God toward things that do not really matter. Let's commit ourselves to growing closer to God each and every day through the power of prayer so that we can truly rekindle our love for and faith in Jesus. I believe this will do us far more good in the long run than giving up chocolate for a few weeks!

"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you." (James, 4:18)

May the Lord shower you with blessings this Lent and always, David.



Mothering Sunday 19th March



Mothering Sunday is a day of mixed emotions. For many it's a happy, joyous day, but for others it's one of pain and grief. A day to celebrate love, while acknowledging those who cannot have children or have lost them and those who have no relationship with their mother.

In the dying moments of His life, Jesus honoured Mary his mother by showing her love and care. He entrusted His mother to John's protection: 'When Jesus saw His mother there and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.' (John 19:26,27). While affirming the importance of mothers, Jesus reminds us that the love we show on Mothering Sunday is just a token of our continuous appreciation of them.

Jesus also creates a new way of being family, marking the beginnings of the church. In the past, people would go back to their 'mother' church on this Sunday, to acknowledge its importance in their lives. Jesus invites us into this new family of love and mutual belonging, where we can find a place, irrespective of our own family circumstances.

Church is not always an easy place to be, because we are shaped by our own experience of mothering. We may find it hard to give or receive love without ourselves getting in the way. However, God's help is available to change things, 'because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.' (Romans 5:5)

Remember too on the 19th March we will have two services in Alloway
9.45am and 11.15am

At the 11.15am we will have our youth parade.

Finally I recall that a mother of three difficult youngsters was once asked whether she'd have children if she had it to do over again.

'Yes,' she replied. 'But not the same ones.'

Happy Mothering Sunday to all mothers and those who care with a motherly care!

Easter Celebrations

2nd April	10.30am	Palm Sunday
5th April	10.30am	Coffee and Chat (Fellowship Lounge)
6th April	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Communion
7th April	10.00am	Parish Pilgrim Walk (meet in front of church)
	7.30pm	Good Friday Service
9th April	10.30am	Family Easter Service (Followed by hot cross buns in the hall)
12th April	10.30am	Wednesday Worship (Octagonal Hall)



Jolly Gardeners Report Spring 2023

Hello friends

Our jolly team of volunteers continue to enjoy their weekly chores on your behalf and as spring fast approaches, they are excited!! and keen!! to start their 2023 season.

Winter has been extremely busy as we have redeveloped the carpark by adding a few more trees /shrubs and rockeries bulbs etc. The trees/shrubs have had a nutritious compost added to assist with strong root growth and hopefully help produce some wonderful colours.

The church grounds are also being modified, new conifer bed, addition of nutritious compost + new soil mixture. The pathways are in the process of being upgraded with new red whin chips.

Boundary fence, (opposite church front door) after last round of gales was noticeably damaged and required repairing. This is being tackled with 6 new wooden posts cemented in as extra support and should be finished by month end.

Pruning of the Rowan tree at front door will soon be finished and dressed with coloured lights for future use.

Finally if anyone would like to assist by donating seasonal bedding plants don't be shy, please contact myself 07860190209 (or team members) they will be appreciated.

Do come along and visit the team, I promise you won't get your hands dirty!!Just have a chat, enjoy the blooms and of course the summer sunshine!!!!

We do appreciate all your marvellous comments, and we all agree that our grounds are second to none and much admired by the many visitors to Alloway.

Yours in Him , The Jolly Gaffer!!!



Fellowship Lounge - Sunday Coffee & Tea

For the last 6 months volunteers have been providing tea & coffee in the Fellowship Lounge - this has been done to supplement the twice monthly teas & coffees the Social Committee provide in the Halls. This has proved very successful with both the Social Committee and the Sunday Fellowship Group noticing an increase in the attendance, which is very pleasing.

The Fellowship Lounge Group has a rota of volunteers and at this point if you volunteer, you will be on approximately once every 6 months. Each Sunday we have had 2 volunteers on duty, and such is the success I would like to add a 3rd person to be on duty and would therefore like to add to the group of volunteers - so if you feel you would like to help, please contact me (Sheena Kemp) on 01292 440700 or see me at Church. Thank you in anticipation!!

Sheena Kemp



Ayrshire Cancer Support

Sincere thanks to the members of the congregation who supported the Inner Wheel Club of Ayr at their coffee morning in aid of Ayrshire Cancer Support on February 11. It was a very successful event both socially and financially, raising £2250 for the charity.

A great result on our first major fundraiser since 2019!



Leisurely Lunch

Our next lunch will take place on Thursday 30th March from 12.00 noon until 1.30 pm. Details of the menu will be found on the poster within this newsletter.

As always, we look forward to seeing you for a lovely lunch in good company.

Mission Committee



Plant Sales

Bob and I first started doing plant sales in 2009 and we have been extremely grateful for the support everyone in the Church has given us over these past 14 years.

You have all been so generous, whether by buying plants, giving us your surplus plant pots, or bringing donations of home produce along to increase the diversity and appeal of the stall.

However, due to increasing time commitments in other directions, we feel it is now time for us to give up organising the plant stall.

We hope perhaps there is someone out there in the congregation who might like to take it on as it has been a very successful fundraiser for a variety of projects over the years.

We will still be gardening and propagating, just on a much-reduced basis, so would still be able to contribute some perennial flower plants like the hellebores and snowdrops, and we could help out with pots as we have accumulated quite a collection over the years!

Thanks again for all your support.

Carol and Bob



Daffodil Lunch

Alloway Church Hall

Thursday 30th March

12.00 noon until 1.30 pm



Parsnip and Apple soup



or

Baked Potato and Salad
with choice of fillings



St Clement's Trifle



or

Pear and Peach Crumble with
Ice Cream/Custard



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

Alloway Zumba Gold

Recently the Alloway Zumba Gold Group presented Whiteleys Retreat with a cheque for £5191.00. This was the total sum raised from fund raising events that we have arranged over the year. Many members of the congregation have supported our projects, and this is an opportunity to thank you all.

I am sure you will agree that this is an amazing amount of money raised by a reasonably small group of ladies. We started raising money for a stage when Zumba moved to the church halls many years ago. We thought, at the time, that we needed a stage and then a very generous, John Hutton, bought the stage for the halls.

We decided then that we would continue to raise funds for charities nominated by members of the group so I often feel we should call the charity group 'The John Hutton Foundation'. I know that John, being such a philanthropist, would never have approved of this.

Over the years we have raised funds for:

The Ayrshire Hospice,

Alloway Church Fabric

Malawi Hen Project

Meningitis Research

Whiteleys Retreat

Combat Stress

Women's Hub of Ayr

Our charity at present is River Garden Auchincruive.

Every Monday at 10am and Thursday at 9am Jilly puts us oldies through our paces. Jan is very tolerant in the church office as she puts up with Jilly's invigorating music! We are a friendly group with an entertaining leader and welcome any new members. I would encourage anyone who is interested to come and give Zumba Gold a try!

Sue Williams

The Generous Ladies From Alloway Zumba Gold





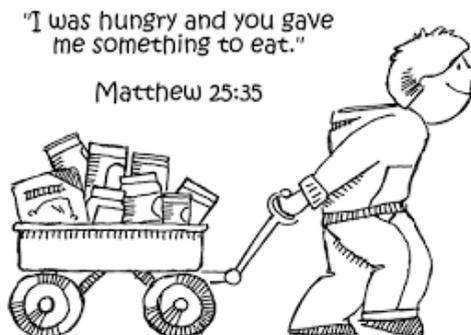
A huge thanks once again to those who have donated and those involved in the collection of food, toiletries and cash donations towards the work of South Ayrshire Foodbank.

This is vital assistance to those who find themselves in crisis in these difficult times. The donations from Alloway Church in 2022 was 9791.34 kg of food and £6,547.73 in cash. This donation has assisted the foodbank in providing 3 days emergency food, plus toiletries and pet food to 8184 people. The need continues and there was an increase of 2718 people from those helped in 2021.

The South Ayrshire Foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust whose aims include seeing the reduction in the need for foodbanks in our communities. To do this South Ayrshire Foodbank have been partnering with the local information and advice hub and other charities to provide support at the point of crisis. It is hoped this support will be able to increase over the next 12 months.

Once again thanks to all involved. This is vital work. Let us keep it going while it is needed.

Bill Duncan



Alloway Explorer Scouts

Alloway Explorer Scouts would like to thank the Church for the use of the halls over the weekend 17-18 February to complete our sponsored 24-hour Cycle Challenge.

24 Explorer Scouts aged 14-17, in 2 teams, started racing 2 stationary exercise bikes at 7.35pm on Friday evening as part of our usual scout meeting, but then as the younger scouts all went home the Explorers carried on taking turns on the bikes all through the night and until we finally finished at exactly 7.35pm on Saturday evening. Very tired, but with a huge sense of achievement, each team cycled nearly 400 miles.

All this effort was to raise money for the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea later this year, for which 4 of our Scouts have been successfully chosen to attend.

Thank you to those who supported and sponsored us and for letting us use the halls to hold this event.

David Codling

Alloway Explorer Scouts





thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle

The Brownies have started their new theme badge called 'Have Adventures', which is all about outdoor skills, wild animals and nature, the sky at night, how to put up a tent and make a campfire safely, campfire singing, and what to pack for camping. We aren't actually going camping - we leave that for when the Brownies are in Guides, as we are very lucky to have some fabulous adventurous Guide leaders in Alloway who take them camping. We have chosen a mascot for our theme - Rupert Bear! He was chosen because he is famous for having adventures, and each week one Brownie will get to take a toy Rupert Bear home and have some adventures with him to tell us about. We have been finding out about Rupert - he is 103 years old! Did you know that one of his illustrators lived in Girvan? Many of the stories about Rupert include three Girl Guides - if you have ever read Rupert Bear stories, can you remember their names? There is a huge willow sculpture of Rupert by the Swan Pond at Rozelle, and when the nights are lighter, we are planning to have our Brownie meeting there and follow the sculpture trail.

The Brownies had lots of fun playing a 'Roll-a-Rupert' game in their Sixes adapted from one of the Unit Meeting Activity games cards required for the badge. We have also been working towards their Aviation badge by making a list of 40 things that can fly - you could have a try too! Then we made up model planes from kits and measured how far they could fly, and we also made little paper bluetit birds. We made origami frogs and played a game called 'Fox Frog Flea' which was a bit like 'Rock Paper Scissors'. We acted out the stages of the life cycle of a butterfly. And we played a relay game involving things you would and wouldn't take packing - there was a lot of discussion about whether you would or wouldn't take your favourite cuddly toy with you!

So, as you can see, the Brownies are definitely having a very adventurous time working towards their 'Have Adventures' theme badge!

The three Girl Guides were called Pauline, Beryl and Janet.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Jn 1: 29-34, Mt 3: 13-17, Lk 3: 21-4: 13, Mk 1: 9-12

People came to John to be baptised - washed in the river Jordan - to say sorry for what they had done wrong. Then Jesus came...

Please baptise me.



No, it should be the other way round.

No, this is the right way now to complete God's plan



So John baptised Jesus in the river Jordan.

The Holy Spirit filled Jesus and God spoke..

This is my precious son.



Jesus then went into the desert for 40 days.



He didn't eat or drink, and at the end was very hungry



The Devil came to test him.

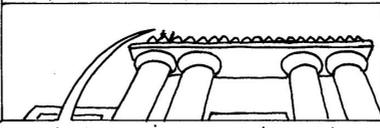
Show me you are God's Son by turning this stone into bread.



The Bible says 'You need more than bread to keep you alive.'



The Devil took him to the highest roof of the temple in Jerusalem



Why don't you jump? God would make sure His angels would catch you

The Bible says 'Don't try to manipulate God.'



The Devil took Jesus to where he could see the whole world.



I have power over all this, and I could give it to you.

Just worship me



Go away! Only God is to be worshipped!

Then angels came to care for Jesus



A Prayer for Lent

Dear Father in Heaven

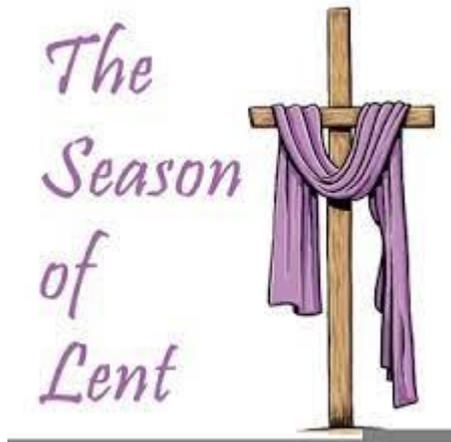
In this month, when Lent begins, we remember Jesus' experience in the wilderness. The world today can seem like a wilderness. So many difficult, incomprehensible things going on. It is tempting to turn away in horror or denial, tempting to look out for ourselves, tempting to take the easy path, to pay attention to whatever the culture dangles before our eyes.

Lord, please help us. We need your word to guide us. We need your Holy Spirit to fill and strengthen us. Help us to give our attention and our worship only to you.

Lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. Thank you, Father, for Jesus, who by his death and resurrection, opens the way to you. Help us to renew our trust in him and through him, to walk with you every day.

In his name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



Parish Record



"Blessed are those who mourn they shall be comforted "

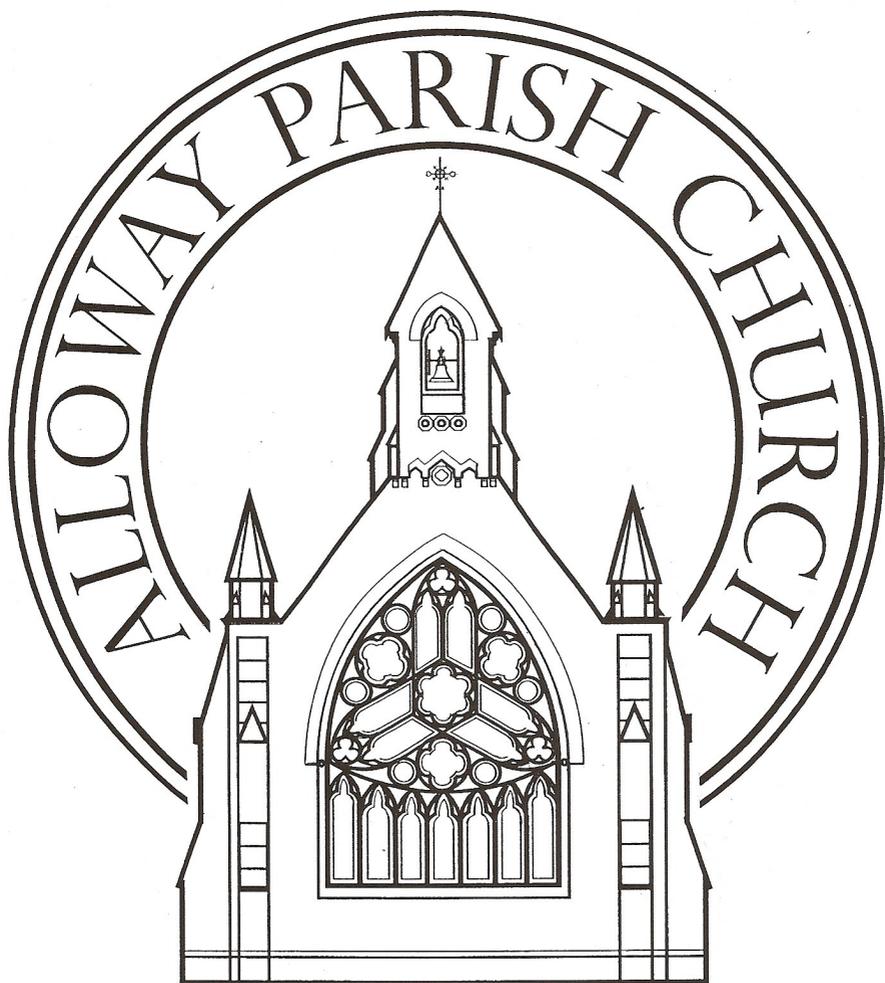
2.2.22	Mr William Carmichael	McManniston Farm Dalrymple
2.2.22	Mr Alan Dodd	12 Auchendoon Crescent
7.2.22	Mrs Joyce Martin	Bellevue Nursing Home
14.2.22	Mrs Marion Wright	Redford Nursing Home
19.2.22	Mrs Jess McKenzie	2 Rigwoodie Place
20.2.22	Mr Wallace Glendinning	The Loaning

Deadline for April Newsletter—Tuesday 21 March—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