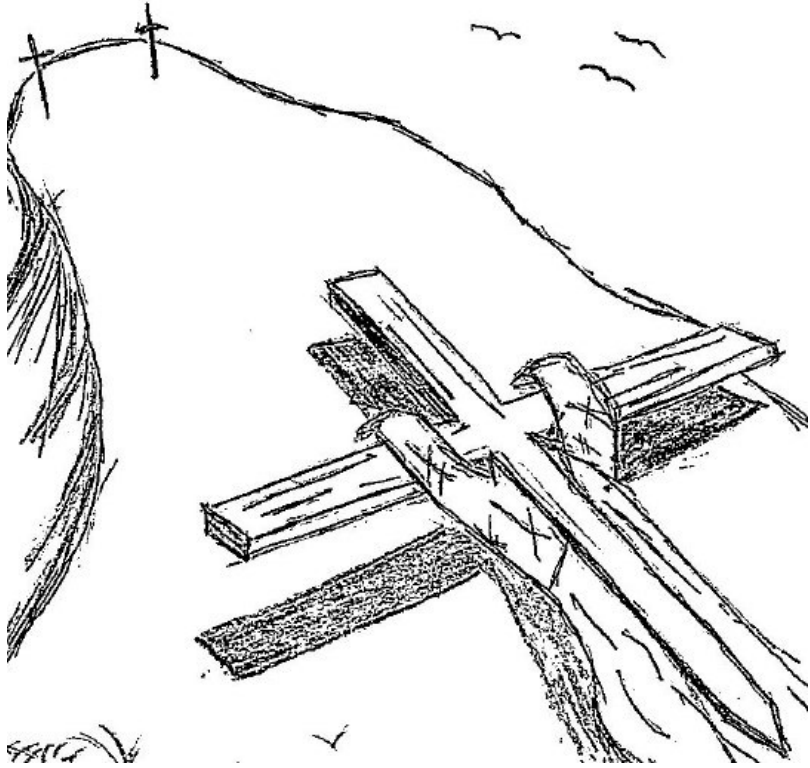


ALLOWAY PARISH
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER



April 
He is risen!

2023

Front Cover designed by:
Leon Colvin, P7A, Doonfoot Primary School.



Dear Friends

As we celebrate the Easter story, I have been recalling my time last year in Oberammergau.

To have witnessed a local community keep its promise to share the Passion play was humbling. Residents have been staging this play faithfully generation after generation since 1634 when the worst of the plague passed by the village.

The play starts with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The mood quickly changes with the betrayal, arrest and execution of Jesus. The events of the play get darker as the darkness itself descends upon the outdoor theatre.

However, it was the way the resurrection was depicted that inspired me then and continues to inspire me now.

Those who come to believe the resurrection are portrayed as holding little candles. At the end the stage remains in darkness, yet the little candles shine brightly piercing the blackness.

Easter is always a mystery! (Beware those who think otherwise!)

Death does not have the final word. God's love is stronger.

Yet it is a mystery filled with hope. For many our world remains a very dark place.

Our challenge is to remain light bearers in the darkest of circumstances. We are called to do it not just for ourselves but sometimes we are called to do it for others who face their own Calvary.

Richard Gillard's hymn captures this thought:

"I will hold the Christ light for you
in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony."

This Easter - hold onto the little candle of faith for yourself and hold it for others.

From endings - new beginnings will come.

God's love is stronger than death.

Have a blessed Easter.


Neil McNaught

Some notes from Rev. David...

I was privileged to be asked to speak at the Doonfoot Primary School Easter Assembly on Wednesday 29th March. The  contributions from the children were fantastic and it was great to share the Easter Story with them. On Friday 31st March, the pupils and staff of Alloway Primary School came to church for their Easter Service. Each class contributed to the service and there was much talent on show. I was also able to share the Easter Story with the pupils of Belmont Academy when I joined their assembly on 29th March. It is a great honour to be welcomed into our local schools.



At our Messy Church in March, we focused on the message of Easter. As always, the different craft activities were fantastic. We also watched a short video of the Easter Story and I was amazed at how the children remembered the main aspects of the story. Our next session will be on Saturday 13th of May when we will focus on 'Jesus - The King of Kings'.

Our recent programme of Stepping Stones concluded on Friday 31st March 2023. The  programme was very well attended and each week we focused on different aspects of managing grief. It was a privilege to listen to the experience of the participants - and heart-warming to see the participants learning from each other, and from the guest speakers. We will run another programme of Stepping Stones in the Autumn. In the meantime, if you, or someone you know would benefit from bereavement support, please get in touch (dhume@churchofscotland.org.uk; 07858 966367).



Our Lenten Study, 'The Grace of Les Misérables' concluded on Wednesday 29th March when we watched the 2012 movie of Les Misérables - with popcorn, drinks, chocolate and choc ices available! The programme was a great success with 64 folks attending the 6 key sessions. It was great to welcome folks from Newton Wallacetown Church to the study. Whilst the topics we examined were

challenging, there was much thought-provoking discussion in the small groups. We will now start planning a study for the Autumn - look out for details!!

We have already started planning for our 2023 Summer Holiday Club that will run from Monday 31st July to Friday 4th August, 10.00-12.00 each day. Please pass on this information to enable folks to put the dates in their diary. This year we will be exploring 'The Parables of Jesus'.



I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who assisted in so many different ways to the running of Messy Church, The Grace of Les Misérables and Stepping Stones - they could not run without you!!

Take care, David.



A Message from David—Out Student Minister

I cannot believe that as I write this, I have only two weeks left at Alloway Parish Church. My placement comes to an end on Easter Sunday. I have enjoyed my time at Alloway immensely and I have learned so much. It has been an incredibly busy time for me between church, studies and work, but I have tried to give of my best over the past months to share the *Good News* and journey with you all in faith.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Neil for his guidance and patience. He is incredibly wise even though he tries to hide his wisdom behind an awful joke! Having two ministers to learn from at Alloway is a huge bonus and I want to thank David too. I am going to use many of his children's sermons in my next church; I have my magic bag looked out! Jan in the church office has been a wonderful support and I am grateful to Margaret for her skills at the piano on Wednesdays. Tech corner, thank you for your patience, I can be very last minute, and I know this adds to your stresses, apologies. Finally, I want to thank each and every one of you for making me feel at home in your church over the past seven months. It was a privilege to lead you in prayer and praise and as I look back on my time in Alloway I feel enormously blessed.

Springtime is now in full swing and all around us we see the wonder and beauty of God's creation. A walk at this time of year reminds us that God truly is everywhere. The gamboling lambs and the vibrant daffodils and tulips remind us of rebirth as we celebrate Easter, our most important Christian festival.

I believe spring to be the perfect metaphor for our faith. The light and life of spring has banished the cold darkness of winter; in the same way that the agony of Good Friday has been defeated by Christ's resurrection. A life without Jesus is perpetual winter darkness, but with Jesus in our hearts, we inhabit an infinite spiritual springtime of love, joy and light. Friends, take some time to go outside into nature and revel in the beauty of God's creation at this most special time of year.

May God bless you and keep you all this Easter and beyond, David.



26th April

Mark, whose home in Jerusalem became a place of rest for Jesus and His 12 apostles, is considered the traditional author of the second gospel.

He is also usually identified as the young man, described in Mark 14:51, who followed Christ after his arrest and then escaped capture by leaving his clothes behind.

Papias, in 130, said that in later years Mark became Peter's interpreter.

If so, then this close friendship would have been how Mark gathered so much information about Jesus' life.

Peter referred to him affectionately as his 'son'.

Mark was also a companion to Paul on his journeys.

When Paul was held captive at Rome, Mark was with him, helping him. Mark's Gospel, most likely written in Italy, perhaps in Rome, is the earliest account we have of the life of Jesus. Mark died about 74 AD.

Early in the 9th century Mark's body was brought to Venice, whose patron he became, and there it has remained to this day. The symbol of Mark as an evangelist is the lion and is much in evidence in Venice.





Easter Celebrations 2023

5th April	10.30am	Coffee and Chat
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)

Flower Fellowship

The new Flower Fellowship Rotas are ready for collection from the Session Room.

There are one or two vacant Sundays. If anyone would like to volunteer either to do any arrangement or get a friend or florist to do one, we would be delighted. Please speak to anyone on the Flower Fellowship team.



Kiltwalk Kindness 30th April 2023

Once again, we have four fine folks prepared to walk the 14 miles in the blazing sun! For those interested in torture the route is from Clydebank up to Loch Lomond. The last time I did this was one year ago (I have my bath chair at the ready!)

Christian Aid is a charity which is close to the hearts of many in the congregation.

Your support for Christian Aid and its work in the world remains vital.

We would be delighted if you could support Madge Irving or Tracey and David Turner or myself as we undertake our 14 mile "big stroll".

Unfortunately, this year there will be no added bonus from the Tom Hunter Foundation which in the past so generously topped up our total.

However, in choosing to support Christian Aid's Partnership with the World Food Programme your donation will be x20!!!

So yet again your generosity will go to feed many hungry mouths.

To support the Alloway Strollers as they walk for Christian aid please visit:

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/teamallowaystrollers>



The Kiltwalk Appeal 2023

Harvest has been celebrated for centuries as a season of plenty.

Yet in 2023, the number of people living in hunger and poverty is at an all-time high.

Today, more than 811 million people around the world face chronic food insecurity and do not know where their next meal will come from.

At Christian Aid, we know we are stronger when we stand together. When we work in partnership, we achieve the greatest impact.

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.

Every £1 you give today will be multiplied to provide £20 of lifesaving support.



Kiltwalk 2023

In previous years I have taken part in the Kiltwalk with my fellow walkers from Alloway Church on behalf of Christian Aid.

This year however, I am walking the shorter route of 3 miles - The Wee Wander - for health reasons and will be joining the team from the Night Before Christmas Campaign - a charity our church already supports around Christmas time by acting as a collection point for donations of new toys, pyjamas and toiletries for families struggling with the cost of living.

If anyone would like to support me by kindly making a donation it would be most appreciated. The link to my JustGiving page is printed below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lynda-mary1>

Thank you so much.

Lynda Mary





Brownies



thirdallowaybrownies@hotmail.com

by Brown Owl Lise Whittle

The weeks seem to fly by, and we manage to pack a lot into our Brownie meetings! Recently we have been continuing with our 'Have Adventures' theme badge, and our Rupert the Bear mascot goes home with a different Brownie each week to 'have some more adventures'.

We played an obstacle course game about an imaginary trip up a snow covered mountain which involved slotting our hands over our eyes to make 'snow vision goggles', then finding our way around rocks (chairs), lakes (hoops), over the river (blue scarf), into the cave (under table), through a snow storm (Young Leader with water sprayer!), over the wobbly bridge (plank) and back down the mountain on the ski lift (a ride on the table trolley - but don't tell the Health & Safety Officer!) After that the Brownies had another adventure, this time stranded on a desert island where they had a list of 20 items, but they had to decide which 5 were the most essential items to help them survive.

Another night the girls got into their Sixes and each Six chose a game to play; they chose Chairs, Beans, Corners and Ladders.

The following week we had a Stamp Night which counted towards their Collector badge. Each Brownie came up with a theme or chose a country and put together a page of stamps. Some of their titles included 'Animal Wonderland', 'My Nature Collection', 'Purple Flowers', 'Special Seychelles' and 'My Favourite Countries'. These will be sent off for a national junior stamp competition. We played a game called 'You've Got Mail' and sang 'I sent a letter to my friend, and on the way, I dropped it, one of you must pick it up, and put it in your pocket'. At home-time everyone got a stamp album and some stamps to take home, kindly donated by Stamp Active (stampactive.co.uk) and the Ayrshire Philatelic Society.

Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—April

For Mother's Day or Special Lady Day, the Brownies decorated a teapot card and taped a 'Relaxing' tea bag inside, and they all promised to help make their Special Lady a lovely cup of tea (with supervision pouring the hot water!). They also decorated a glass jar and put a colour-changing battery tea light inside, and tied on a label saying, 'You Light Up My Life'. They put all the things in a pretty paper bag and were given strict instructions not to show it to their Special Lady until Sunday; at home-time I heard one little Brownie dash enthusiastically up to her Mum and say, "Look what I made for you Mum!". Bless.



1st Alloway Company, The Boys' Brigade



December to March has been a very busy time for the company.

Santa's Sleigh

Was successful despite several night at -7 degrees.

Donations of £500 have been made to: RNLI, MND-Doddy Weir, Erskine Hospital & Sensory Bus. In addition, smaller donations were given to Brigade Appeal and Chest Heart & Stroke -Scotland.

CURLING Thursday 5th January

Santa's Sleigh Elves (collectors) were treated to McDonalds Lunch in BBHQ - curtesy of an appreciative donor.

After the indoor trial in December was so popular, we attended the Ice Rink afterwards to have a shot at real Curling. A big thank you to Mr Russell Wylie and the various coaches.

National Competitions

This is the first time we have been involved for a few years. Our teams came in the top 12 in both Master quiz and 5-a-side Football. (No minor achievement!) If they had got through to the final round it would have clashed with their Queens Badge Completion Course.

Queens Men Completion Course

Five Sergeants successfully completed a Residential Completion course at Aviemore.

The Highland District were impressed with the standard of the "Alloway Men" - they were taken to be a year older than they are.

3 Battalion Events

The three Ayrshire battalions, Ayr, North & East ran a superb quiz, hosted by our friends 1st Dundonald. Of the 55 companies, 15 entered teams. The national champions won 4/5 Kilmarnock, Galston, 1st Irvine, 1st Alloway and 8th Ayr were top 5.

Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—April

Ordinary Friday Night - never just ordinary.

Variety is the essence. Full resuscitation and CPR training.

Rifle drill - "it will last 5mins " - 45 minutes of Smart drill.

Adam & Eve - the Moore pet Viper paid a visit.

Bible class has been interactive and big screen TV with the occasional role playing.

PE - just 15 different highly competitive inter-squad sports - try naming 10!

Tuck shop - Aye! Makes a profit which turns into tokens then prizes then tuck.

Stewart Robertson

Captain, 1st Alloway Coy. The Boys' Brigade



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 21:1-11, Mk 11:1-11, Lk 19:28-38, Jn 12:12-19

Thousands of people went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast each year. This year Jesus and his friends went too.

Two miles outside Jerusalem Jesus said to two of his friends



Go into that village and bring back the donkey you find there.

If anyone asks, say 'The Lord needs it.'



So off they went...

and they found it as Jesus had said



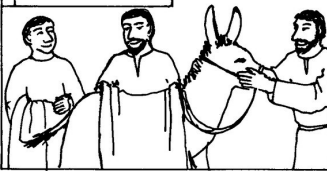
Why are you taking our donkey?

The Lord needs it.



That's alright then

They brought it back to Jesus, and made a saddle from a cloak.



They spread more cloaks on the road to make it a way fit for a king.



Others cut palm branches and waved them.

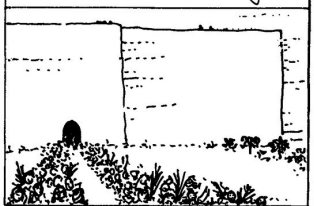


They shouted the traditional welcome to the Passover feast

God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!



As they got closer to Jerusalem the crowd grew.



Everyone shouted to welcome Jesus as king



The teachers of the laws were angry



Teacher, you should stop them calling you 'king'.

But Jesus replied



What they say is so true that even if I made them stop, the stones would shout!

Parish Record



Baptism - "Of such is the kingdom of heaven"

19.3.23 Olivia Alison McCaig daughter of Louise and Richard



"Blessed are those who mourn they shall be comforted "

1.3.23	Mr Ewan Lamont	Nether Auchendrane
4.3.23	Mr Norman Wright	St Vincent Crescent
14.3.23	Mrs Jean Skinner	Windyhall Care Home

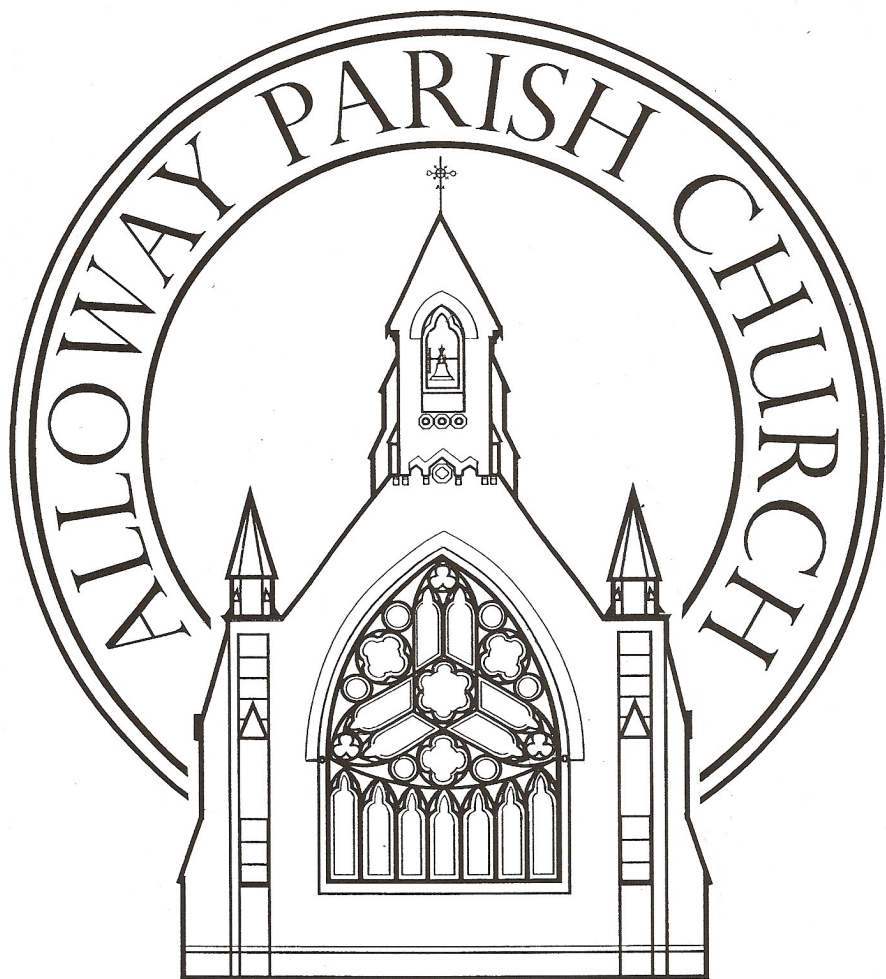


Deadline for May Newsletter—Tuesday 25 April—12 noon

Contributions should be sent to:

secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com

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



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