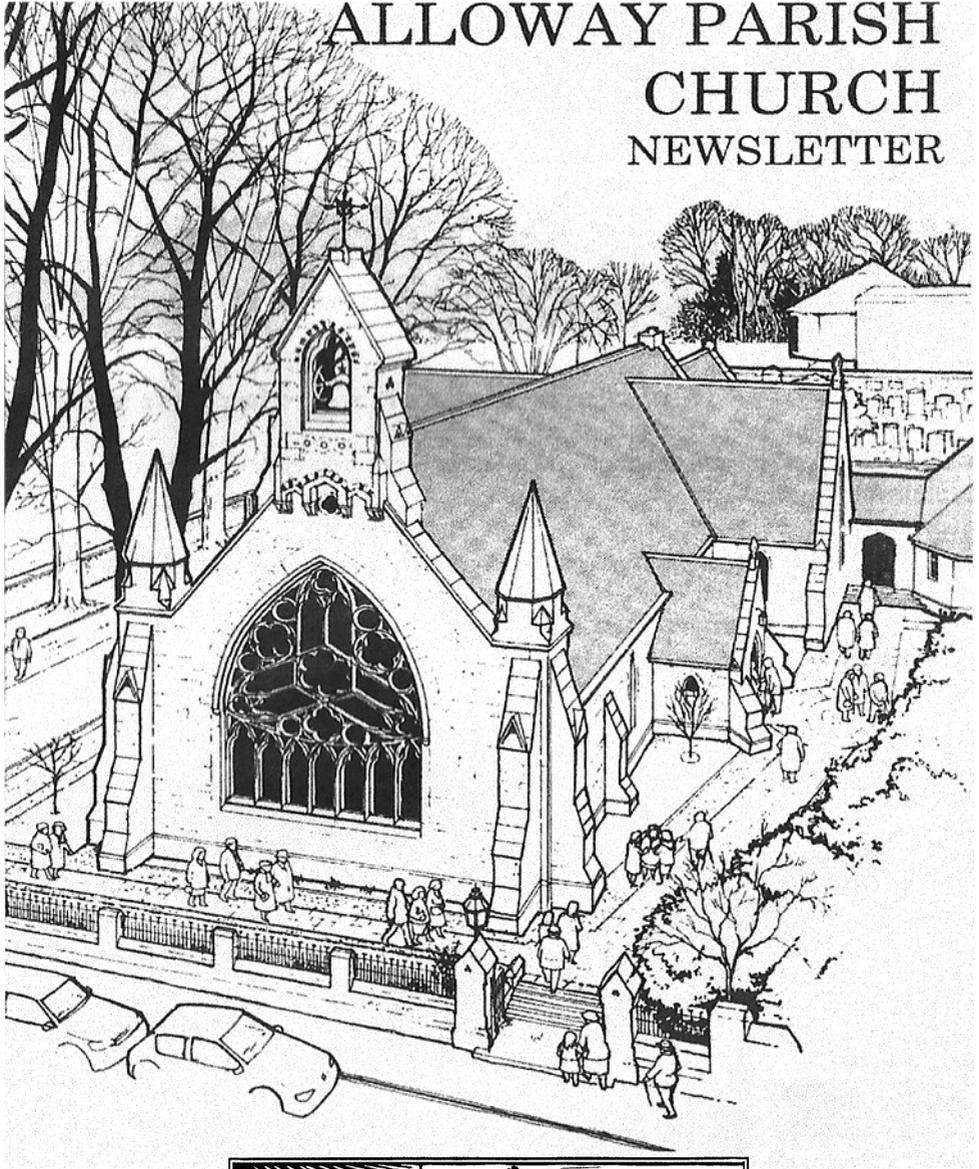


# ALLOWAY PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



2019



Dear Friends

“Man shall not live by bread alone” Matthew 4:4

The older we get the more we understand the importance of physical health.

We are regularly invited to physical health check ups!

For me the Christian season of Lent is a time for a spiritual health check!

Perhaps you don't suffer from disillusionment, weariness and despondency?

Maybe you find prayer and Christian stewardship easy?

Throughout Lent we remember that Jesus proved the way of faith would always be challenging.

From his example it is clear that there will be times when you will feel like you are in a wilderness.

Lent is a time to reflect on His example and draw strength from it.

As a congregation this year we engage with the season in a variety of ways:

- Through the season of Lent there will a sermon series on the Lord's Prayer
- There will be a weekly study of John Ortberg's "If you want to walk on water you have to get out of the boat"
- You can register for daily Lent reflections straight to your email box and meet weekly for discussion on a Thursday morning ([www.isglasgow.co.uk/Lent2019.html](http://www.isglasgow.co.uk/Lent2019.html))

Strangely, I believe it is often in the wilderness experiences of life that we find the truth about ourselves.

As we march toward the wonderful season of

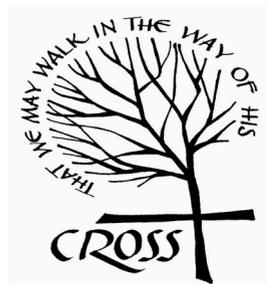
Easter may we remain

faithful through our times of testing.

Through our testing may we grow in faith.

Yours in Him

Neil McNaught



17<sup>th</sup> March

St Patrick's Day



St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick, some say, was born in Kilpatrick, near

Dumbarton, in Scotland in the year 387. Other sources say he was born in Wales.

As a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years when he "knew not the true God." Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick returned to his family. But he was much changed.

He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted. By 435, well educated or not, Patrick was badly needed.

Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ. Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints.

St Patrick's Prayer

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit, Christ where I arise,  
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks to me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.



## A note from the trainee minister....



It is hard to believe, but by the time you read this article, I will only have 3 months remaining of my placement at Alloway Parish Church. As the saying goes... 'time flies when you are having fun'.

My time at Alloway so far has been very busy and it has been my aim, with the help of Neil, to experience as much as possible of the life of a minister and to learn from these experiences. I have been fortunate to participate in as many aspects of Sunday worship as possible and I have really appreciated and benefitted from these experiences. I have also had the great privilege of visiting people in their homes, in hospitals and in care homes. It has been so interesting hearing the life stories of so many remarkable characters.

The weekly calendar at Alloway Parish Church is generally packed with activities and I have managed to attend Lantern Services, Stepping Stones, Wednesday Worship, Coffee Mornings, Musical Memories, Leisurely Lunches, Messy Church and meetings of Presbytery, the Finance Group, the Publicity Group, the Board and the Kirk Session. It was also a great honour for me to conduct a funeral in November.

There is still much to do, people and organisations to visit in the next few months but every minute of my time at Alloway Parish Church is such a blessing and will be a great help to me as I seek to become an Ordained Local Minister. I know that God has a plan for me and it will be so exciting to discover what that plan is.

Many thanks for being part of my journey.

God's richest blessings, David.

(dhume@churchofscotland.org.uk; 07858 966367)



## March Services

- 10th Communion Services 9.30am, 11.15am and 6.30pm  
17<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Service followed by Annual stated Meeting  
24<sup>th</sup> Morning Service 9.45am and 11.15 am (Continuing series on The Lord's Prayer)  
31<sup>st</sup> Mothering Sunday 9.45am and 11.15am (Continuing series on The Lord's Prayer)  
7<sup>th</sup> April 9.45am and 11.15am (Continuing series on The Lord's Prayer)

## Wednesday Worship

13th and 27<sup>th</sup> 11.00am in the Octagonal Hall

## Election to the Congregational Board

The elected members of our Congregational Board initially serve for a period of three years. Their duties and responsibilities include welcoming worshippers to our Sanctuary, distributing hymnbooks, uplifting and recording the Offering as well as serving on one of the several Church Committees. Duty on Sundays is one out of six. They also attend the meetings of the Congregational Board that convene on Wednesday evenings (6 per year). Board members are not required to carry out house visits as this is the role of our Elders.

Board members are elected at the Stated Annual Meeting that this year is being held at 10.30 am on Sunday 17th March. If you are over the age of 18, and interested in standing for election, please contact me. Similarly you may nominate a candidate who is willing to stand.

Regards,

Ian Stewart

Clerk to the Congregational Board

Tel 443951 ifstewart@btinternet.com

## LENT STUDY

Six evenings have been scheduled for this years Lent Study Course. They are Wednesday 6th March, Tuesday 12th March, Tuesday 19th March, Tuesday 26th March, Wednesday 3rd April and Tuesday 9th April. The meeting will start at 7.30 pm each evening in the halls complex. We will be studying a course by John Ortberg entitled 'If you want to walk on water, you've got to get out of the boat'.

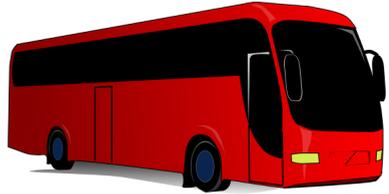
Donald Kemp on behalf of Worship & Development

**The Friendship Group** will meet on Wednesday 27th March at 7.30pm in the Octagonal Hall when we will be joined by three ladies from the Flower Fellowship Group for a floral demonstration. Please do come along - you will be most welcome.



## Church Trip

There will be an open meeting on Saturday 9th March at 10.00 am in the Octagonal Hall of the halls complex. This meeting is to outline the next church trip, which will take place between Monday 2nd September and Thursday 5th September 2019. Bookings and deposits will be taken at the meeting. We plan to visit Sligo in Ireland, taking in Donegal and Enniskillen. For further information please contact Sheena/Donald Kemp 440700.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR MESSY CHURCH  
SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019  
4.00 - 6 .00PM IN THE CHURCH HALLS.

OUR THEME IS - WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Creativity (We make crafts together); Hospitality (We share a meal); Celebration (All age family worship)

Please join us, as well as the two partner  
Head teachers from Malawi.  
All welcome!

## Musical Memories

This month's session will take place in the Church halls on Thursday 14th March at 2.30pm. All are welcome to join us in singing the songs of our youth and enjoying afternoon tea together.



## OUR TWO VISITORS FROM BANDAWE

Continuing our introduction to the forthcoming visit, we thought it would be helpful for you to have some background to Francis and Ernest from Bandawe.



Francis Juma (Headmaster at Bandawe Primary School BPS) is the youngest of a family of four and is 45 years old. He qualified as a

primary school teacher at Montfort Teachers' College, Malawi.

In 2012 he was given a scholarship from Unicef through the ministry of education to go and study Guidance and Counselling in Lilongwe at a youth development centre. He graduated in

December 2013. In January 2014 he was appointed Depute Head at Bandawe Primary School and in October 2017 was appointed as Headteacher for Bandawe up to the present day.

He is married to Tiphness and has 4 children: Mary born in 2003 who is in form 3; Christina born 2005 who is in class 8 and this year she is supposed to be selected for one of the national schools; Gracious born 2008 - the only son in his family and Tawonga born 2015 the youngest in his family.

His wife is a housewife and dedicated member of CCAP church .

His expectation is that the relationship between Bandawe Primary school, Alloway Primary and Doonfoot Primary schools will grow after this visit.

Secondly, as Headteacher he will learn more skills from his fellow Headteachers of Alloway Primary and Doonfoot Primary schools and that Bandawe Primary will be enabled to copy similar school activities in future.

Ernest Chirwa (Headmaster at Bandawe All Girls Secondary School) is married to a fellow teacher, Fiskani Phiri. They have both been teaching since 1991 and he will mandatory retire in 2027 when Ernest will be 60 years old. In Malawi if you reach 60 years you are supposed to retire. They started as primary school teachers before Ernest became Headmaster of BAGSS and his wife rose to the position of a Primary School Education Advisor in 2010.

Before coming to Bandawe Girls Secondary School he was heading a purely government run secondary school in Karonga district and was then posted to Bandawe Secondary School, another purely government run secondary school. From there he came to the neighbouring Bandawe Girls Secondary School (BAGSS). Then Benford Mwakayuni was a Headmaster for Bandawe Girls. After he got promoted to the position of Deputy District Education Manager his Deputy Headmaster became the Acting Headmaster for BAGSS who stayed for less than a year and secured a better paid job. By this time the CCAP SYNOD OF LIVINGSTONIA was already looking for a Headmaster who met three qualities:-

- 1 Should be a devout member of the Church Of Central African Presbyterian;
2. Should be a hardworking man or woman who could instil and maintain discipline of learners and staff;
3. Should have relevant experience of managing a big school.

He has three sons, his first born in August 1997 is Misheck Ernest Chirwa who graduated with a Bachelors degree in Financial Accounting and Information Systems. This is now the second year he has been applying for different jobs but due to high unemployment is still at home looking for jobs or any scholarship for chartered accountant programs. His goal is to be a chartered accountant. Daniel Kingsley Chirwa, his second born son, was born in November 1992. His third born son is Wanangwa Kingsley Chirwa, born in August 1997 and he is studying Chemical Engineering at the Malawi University Of Science and Technology. He is in his fifth and final year.



Thank you to everyone who supported the coffee morning to raise the surplus funds required for the upcoming visit of Mr Juma and Mr Chirwa, the two Head Teachers from our partner schools in Bandawe. A wonderful £847.85 was raised as well as a further £106.70 at the plant stall the

following morning. Thank you so much for your generosity! Please check out the posters within the newsletter of events taking place for their time here with us. Please do come along to any or all of them. You will be most welcome! Julie

Please join us for a

## SCOTTISH NIGHT

SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 6.45 – 9.00PM  
IN THE CHURCH HALLS.

As we welcome and celebrate the visit  
of the two Head Teachers from our  
partner schools at Bandawe, Malawi

Ceilidh dancing, entertainment, quiz  
and refreshments.

Please wear some tartan and/or

Tjenge.



All welcome

Bringing Schools, Churches, and Communities together

ALLOWAY AND DOONFOOT PRIMARY SCHOOLS  
PRESENT



Two concerts to be held in the church on

**THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**  
**At 6.00pm and 7.45pm**

Offering for Bandawe PS. Refreshments and CD sales in the halls afterwards

ADMISSION IS BY TICKET ONLY – TICKETS ARE FREE  
Available between services from 3-3-19



Alloway Parish Church N0100538

Scottish registered Charity SC012456

## Leisurely Lunch

This will be our final lunch of the season. See poster below. We look forward to your support for our continuing Bandawe fundraising.

# Spring Lunch



## Alloway Church Hall

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019

12.00 noon until 1.30 pm

Bacon Leek and  
Potato Soup



or

Fresh Pea Soup



to follow

Easter Chocolate Sponge

or

Lemon Sponge



both with ice cream

Cost £4.50 per person includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

[www.allowaychurch.org](http://www.allowaychurch.org)

# Alloway District Guiders



## SPRING FAIR



**Saturday 16th March**

**11am-1pm**

**Alloway Church Halls**

**Adults £3 Child 50p**

**Admission price includes  
home baking & tea/coffee**



**GAMES**

**HOT DOGS**

**CRAFTS**

**HOME BAKING**

## 2nd Alloway Rainbows



Rainbows have had a busy couple of months enjoying a variety of activities working towards their 'Be Well' badge as well as celebrating some



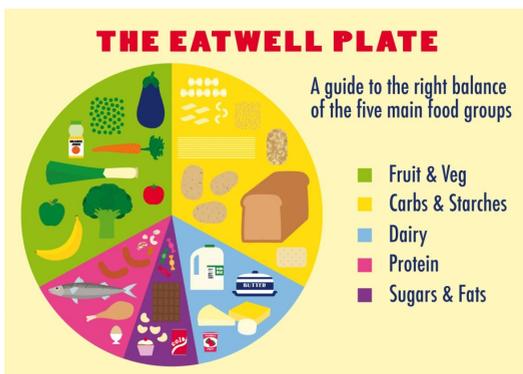
popular festivals along the way. They have enjoyed cheerleading, choosing a balanced diet, importance of sleep as well as celebrating Burns Night where they decorated shortbread and enjoyed another craft



before enjoying a game of 'Hurl the Haggis'. They celebrated the Chinese New Year making Chinese lanterns before trying a taste of Chinese cuisine which proved very popular with the girls. Some of our Rainbows took part in Thinking Day On The Air at Nether Auchendrane Activity Centre where they got the chance to go 'On Air' and talk to other Girlguiding members from around the world as well as trying out other fun communication activities like Morse Code.



Lynda Mary  
(Leader in training)



## 1st Alloway Coy NEWS



Recently two substantial donations were given to the Company. Wm Grant Distillers Ltd have given a donation again this year, higher than previous years - to be used for Sports equipment.

The Second donation was from Mr George Dickie representing the Grand Priory of the Knights Templar, who have heard of the substantial amount of Community Service undertaken by the "Alloway Boys" and want to support them in their work.

Due to high Costs for SAC facilities and availability of other hall accommodation the Annual Volleyball & Basketball Competitions have been cancelled - Alloway Company had 5 teams in each event!!

The Company is looking closely at a weeklong Full BB Camp this summer. Sports & activities, daily routine, menus and tentage is all organised. Location and dates have to be ironed out. Due to our donations and a generous sponsor, costs per boy will be minimal with an expected 75% attendance.

10 Boys are undertaking Duke of Edinburgh Award Silver, 5 boys & 1 Girl are working on Bronze .

Next Challenges:

Junior Drill Competition 2 teams,

Bible 3 teams

Cross Country 2 teams in each of the 3 age groups.

Weather permitting an Archery Competition during the Easter Holidays.

Stewart Robertson

Captain, 1st Alloway Company, The Boys' Brigade.

## **RETIREMENT FROM THE BOYS' BRIGADE**

Dear all,

In May 2020 I will be retiring from the Boys' Brigade after serving 20 years. I moved back to Ayr in 1999 with my two sons Michael and Stuart. Both boys had been attending Kilmarnock BB and we decided to join the 1st Alloway Coy that year. It's always difficult to change to a different company and not have any friends, so I decided to join as a helper and encourage both boys to attend weekly and give support when needed. I was extremely proud when they were both awarded with the highest honour in the youth organisation, "The Queen's Badge" and Silver "Duke of Edinburgh Award."

In 2000, I went to officer training in Irvine and became a warrant officer, allowing me to be part of a very successful company. A few years later I became a Lieutenant and was approached by the Captain to take over the Junior Section as "Officer in Charge."

When I took over the Junior Section they didn't always take part in all the battalion competitions and I decided to change that and enter as many as possible. Troon were always the ones to beat and in 2013 we became battalion champions and champions again in 2014, 2015, 2016, runners up in 2017 and third place in 2018. I have enjoyed my time at 1st Alloway Coy, and have been very proud to watch boys go through the ranks to achieve their goals in attaining the Queen's Badges. Therefore I and fellow officers Graeme Eccles and Valerie Lang, who have also enjoyed the experience of following their boys up through the ranks from Anchor Boys to Junior Section to Company Section and finally achieving their Queen's Badges, will also be retiring at the same time. All of us in total have served 42 years.

In order to continue being a successful company we must have 2/3 new officers to join us at the beginning of 2019/2020 session in August to learn, with ourselves, all aspects of the company and how everything is run. If this is not possible the Junior Section will sadly not continue to flourish.

Please note that no experience is needed.

Please email your interest to - [rosie04@outlook.com](mailto:rosie04@outlook.com)

Rosalind McWhirter

**Prayer Workshop:** We are currently organising a Prayer Workshop session for the morning of Saturday 23rd March in the Fellowship Lounge .



The session, which will be friendly and informal, will be led by staff from the Ignatian Spiritual Centre in Glasgow and will be designed to help us develop a deeper and more meaningful prayer life. Those who have been following one of the Lent programmes might find it especially useful.

You don't however, have to have participated in the Lent studies or be an expert in any way. The workshops will be pitched at an introductory level and no one will be under any pressure to pray out loud or to do anything with which they are uncomfortable.

Further details and sign up sheet will be available nearer the time or speak to Carol George, Malcolm McNeil or Madge Irving.



### **Mothering Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March**

There is an old Jewish saying:

*“God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.”*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods – our human mothers – all of them have been part of the celebration of ‘Mothering Sunday’ – as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as ‘live-in’ servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families – which is how ‘Mothering Sunday’ got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mothers’ Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day!



Please join us to say cheerio and to  
celebrate the visit of

**Mr Ernest Chirwa, HT BAGSS,  
and  
Mr Francis Juma, HT Bandawe PS**

At a Leaving Service

MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AT 7.30PM

In the Fellowship Lounge

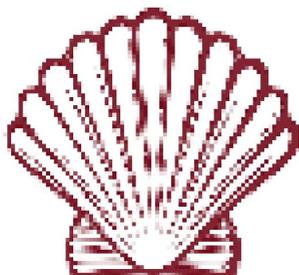
A short service, and a long cup of tea!

*goodbye!*

All welcome



*Bon  
Voyage!*



# Stepping Stones

***A local bereavement  
service***

**Stepping Stones** is a bereavement support programme developed by a group of trained local people and co-ordinated by experienced professionals.

The next programme is due to start in October 2019. The programme offers an opportunity to share with other bereaved folk and to benefit from the support and insights of experienced resource people.

In the meantime, informal evenings are planned for those who have been bereaved, or who have completed the programme in 2018, to join us for coffee and fellowship.

**Alloway Parish Church Halls  
on Wednesday 10th April 2019  
at 7.00pm – 8.30pm**

If you are interested in attending or would like more information, contact the programme co-ordinator by phone on **07779 543971** or e-mail at: [juliegriffiths66@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:juliegriffiths66@yahoo.co.uk)

Alloway Parish Church of Scotland No. 100538  
Scottish Registered Charity No. SC 012456

## KILTWALK 2019 Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019



To celebrate my husband John's retirement we are walking the Kiltwalk in Glasgow on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April. I am delighted that our friends Andy and Tracy Moynihan and Madge Irving are joining the team also.

We are raising funds for **Ayrshire Cancer Support**. Sir Tom Hunter also adds a further 40% to any amount raised.

We felt this was an appropriate charity as our Winter Coffee mornings are also supporting this small local charity, which has, and continues to help so many of our friends within this congregation. To be able to offer the services they do to those with a diagnosis of cancer, and their families, **Ayrshire Cancer Support** needs to raise £80,000 a month.

If you would like to sponsor us as we challenge ourselves to walk from Clydebank to Loch Lomond (15 miles), please see me for the sponsor form, or use the link below to donate.

In anticipation, thank you all so much for the support!

Julie

[www.everydayhero.com/uk](http://www.everydayhero.com/uk)

Search "Trust Go For It" - you will then find us, (JG) and can donate

### Wanted!

Do you have any old costume jewellery or jewellery boxes that you no longer want? At our Girlguiding Spring Fair this month we would like to have a treasure room where children can select a gift for their mum for Mothers' Day for a small cost.

We would be very grateful for any donations of trinkets etc which you can place in a box provided on the table in the vestibule at the back of the church.

Thank you in anticipation.

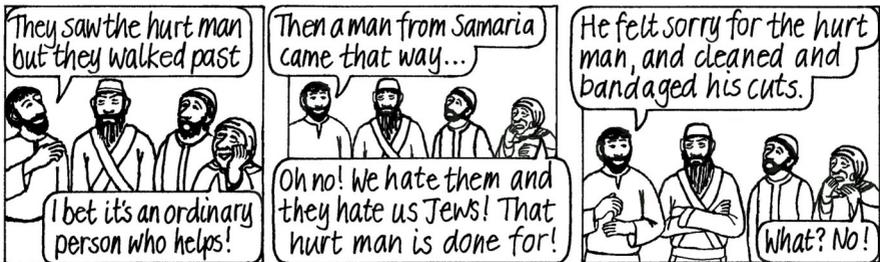
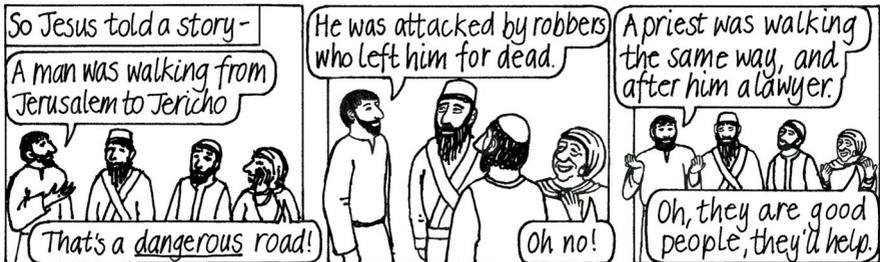
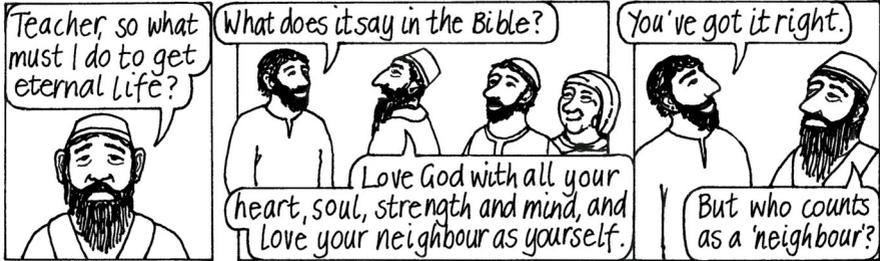


# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Luke 10:25-37

An expert in the Law of Moses wanted to test Jesus' knowledge of the laws in the Bible, so he asked Jesus a question.

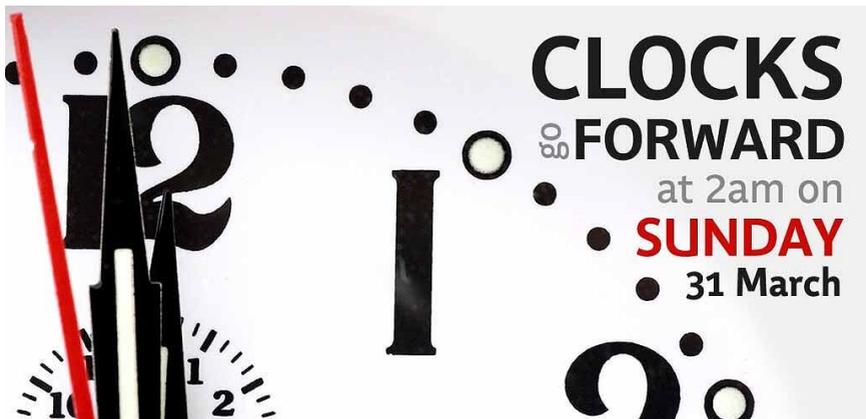


## PARISH RECORD

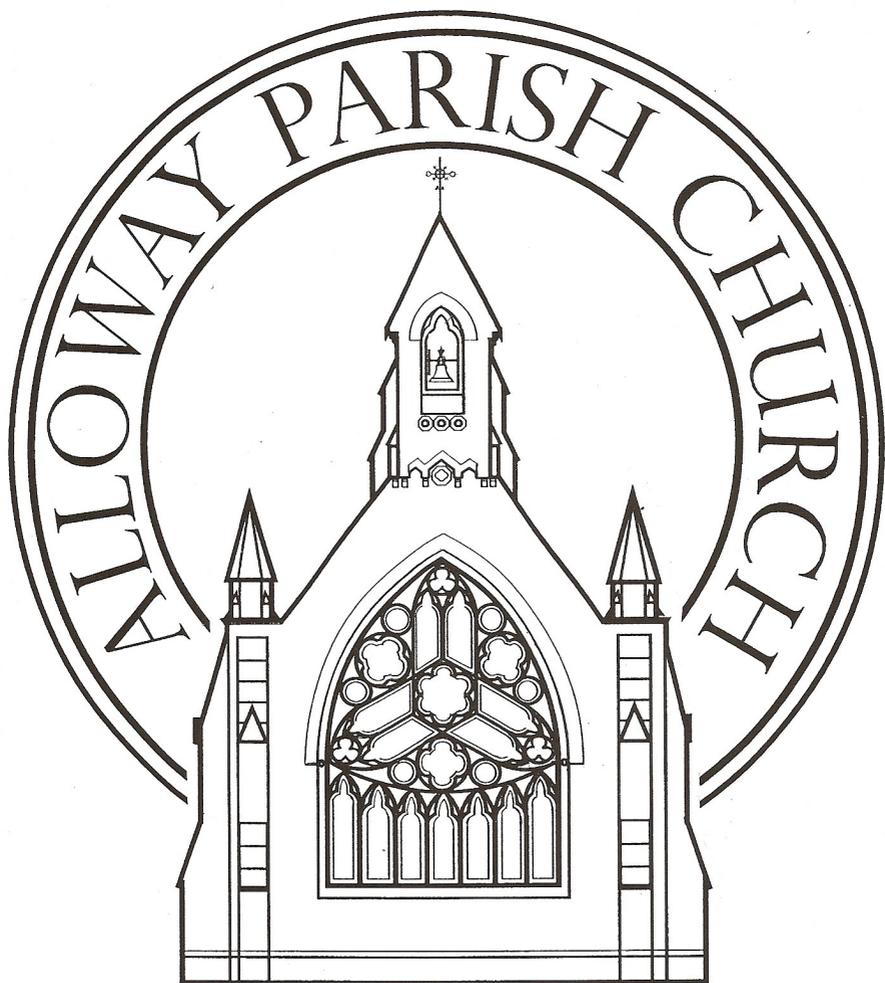


**"Blessed are those who die in the Lord"**

16.12.18	Isobel Davidson	Sunningdale Drive
23.01.19	Patrick Logan	The Loaning
15.02.19	Fay McCraw	Carseloch Road
20.02.19	Dennis Taylor	Glenalla Crescent



Your Editor this month was Lynda Mary.  
April newsletter deadline: 28/3/2019 12noon.  
Contributions should be sent to:  
[allowaychurch.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:allowaychurch.newsletter@gmail.com)



Alloway Parish Church of Scotland

No. 100538

Scottish Registered Charity