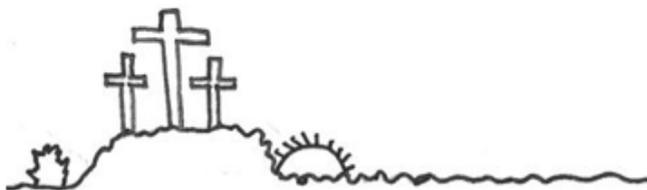


**ALLOWAY PARISH CHURCH  
NEWSLETTER  
APRIL 2021**

CHRIST IS  
RISEN

v



**Cover designed by:  
Skye Neilson, P5S Doonfoot Primary School**



Dear Friends

After a long lockdown winter, Easter this year is most welcome.

Already we can see the days stretching!

The dawn chorus is finding new voice!

Easter is the time when we look with real hope and expectation to warmer, better, brighter days ahead.

New buds and fresh blossom point us to the miracle of new life.

Countless flowers echo the glory of springtime.

Easter in our Christian faith speaks of springtime for the heart.

For Christian people Easter tells of light after darkness, meaning after suffering, life after death.

It's true that the economic and social consequences of an unprecedented global pandemic are as yet unclear.

However, Easter speaks of hope after despair.

In their day Jesus' followers faced monumental challenges as they sought to embody the spirit of their master and to promote His kingdom.

Through persecution and much adversity, they prevailed.

Someone once said:

"At the end of the day all you need is hope and strength. Hope that it will get better and strength to hold on until it does".

As generations before us have done, through joy and sorrow, we look to this Easter God to give us both hope and strength going forward.

Indeed, not endings, but new beginnings await us all.

Thank you for your continued support of the church.

A very blessed Easter

Neil McNaught

"Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven."

N.T. Wright



## **A note from David (Mr. Grumpy??)**

Dear Friends -

Now I should start off this little message by suggesting that I am not normally a party pooper, Mr. Grumpy or Victor Meldrew (do you remember him?) but the commercialisation of Easter annoys me just a tad!

My recent grumpiness (is that a word?) started when I was searching online for an image related to Easter (try this at home!). I was somewhat annoyed to find that almost all of the images provided related to bunny rabbits, eggs, fluffy chicks, chocolate, cuddly wee lambs - oh and let us not forget Percy Pig!!

I have no real objection to any of these images (and I love chocolate!), but the distinct lack of anything related to the real meaning of Easter - the betrayal, torture, crucifixion of Jesus - was quite concerning. It would appear that more and more, people in society will 'celebrate' Easter without any thought of, or perhaps knowledge of, the real reason for this event in the Christian calendar.

A good worship song that helps us to remember the true story of Easter was written by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty - In Christ Alone. If you have some way of listening to this, I encourage you to do so, but in this season of Easter, why not take a minute or two to reflect on the words:

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Easter blessings to you all!

*David.*

Rev. David Hume

Church Family and Schools Worker

## Reconnecting the Network

As you will be aware, covid restrictions are partially lifting. It is hoped that we can resume our printed copy Newsletter deliveries from the church to members' households no later than September.

Meantime, we must check our network and ensure those who so kindly delivered Newsletters before will be willing to resume their task when allowed.

This will take time!

In the interim a limited number of printed Newsletters will be available both at the church and the Foodbank for uplift on Sundays from 11th April.

If you wish a printed copy of the Newsletter delivered to your door before September please get in touch with the secretary directly on 442083.

Every endeavour will be made to fulfill your request.

Members who indicated that they were happy to receive a digital copy of the Newsletter will continue so to do. (Please be mindful if you do change your email address to inform the secretary [secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.allowaypc@gmail.com) ).

Remember too that our Newsletter can be found on our church website [allowaychurch.org](http://allowaychurch.org).

Thank you in anticipation for your patience as we seek to reconnect our network!

Keep safe.

Every blessing

Neil





Rev Neil and Rev David are doing a Kiltwalk round Alloway and Doonfoot Parish to raise funds for Christian Aid, a charity which is close to their hearts and which gives generously to some of the poorest, most vulnerable people in the world.

Given that this year again we will not be dropping off and uplifting Christian Aid envelopes door to door, we felt the Kiltwalk might give a little boost to the funds of a much-respected charity.

Every penny we raise will be topped up by 50% thanks to the generosity of Sir Tom Hunter and The Hunter Foundation.

Any donation will be gratefully received by ourselves and given directly to Christian Aid who are commending this initiative.

Thank you in anticipation of your kindness and support.

God Bless.

Neil and David

Links to support:

Neil - <http://bit.ly/APCKiltwalk-RevNeil>

David - <http://bit.ly/APCKiltwalk-RevDavid>



## **Christian Aid**

Unfortunately, we are again unable to do our annual door-to-door collection for Christian Aid. As with other charities Christian Aid has suffered during this pandemic but they still hope to do much needed work. If you go to their website and search "Rose's Story" or "Florence's Story", you will hear of essential dam building work which is required to combat the poor harvests due to climate change.

We would like to encourage you to give to Christian Aid this year either via our church website (further details in May newsletter) or via Christian Aid envelopes which will include a gift aid option and will be available in the church and at the Foodbank point from Easter onwards.

Please give generously if you are able.

Mission Committee





## **Treasurer's Report**

We have ended the year to 31 December 2020 in a much better financial position than anticipated. While this is positive, it has clearly come at a cost in not being able to have normal services in our Sanctuary or our Halls open for our many church organisations, fellowship and events.

Most notably our income has decreased by £45k to £256k primarily due to:

- Lower open plate offerings.
- Less fundraising activities.
- Halls being closed for over 9 months; and
- Fewer weddings being held in the church.

At the same time, our expenditure has decreased by £48k to £241k largely due to:

- Less planned maintenance across the Church, Halls and Manse in 2020 compared to 2019.
- Lower running costs and utility costs due to closure/limited opening of our Church and Halls.
- A decrease in salary costs. These reductions have been partially offset by:
- The costs associated with the refurbishment of the Hostel at the Bandawe Girls Secondary School.

As a result, we ended the year with net income of £24k in our general fund and net expenditure in our restricted fund of £10k. Consequently, the impact to our balance sheet has been an increase of £14k in our total charity funds from £297k to £311k.

Copies of the unabridged version of our Financial Statements are available on request.

## *Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—April*

I would like to express our sincere gratitude to our congregation and community for their continued support throughout 2020 and the challenges it has brought. I would also like to personally thank Neil, Eric, Ian, David, Jan and the Finance Committee for all their help, guidance and direction during my first year as Treasurer.

Lorna Howes

### **Chairman's Foot note**

Our thanks to Mrs Lorna Howes who presented her first report as treasurer this year. Lorna's diligence has ensured that our accounts were submitted as usual in good time to Presbytery!

Our thanks also to the congregation who have faithfully financially supported the work of the church through this testing time.

It was noted at the virtual annual stated meeting that it was highly likely that a new roof at the church Hall would be required in 2021.

The previous roof survived twenty-eight years! Watch this space!



## **A Year of the Foodbank Drop Off—2020 - 2021**

Alloway Church entered unprecedented territory when on 22nd March 2020 the doors could only be opened to allow a limited number of the congregation a maximum of 10 minutes of quiet time of prayer with 2 metres "social distancing". While that was indeed a sobering thought it was decided to continue with our established collection for South Ayrshire Foodbank, so we made it available for people to drop off donations at the church halls ensuring all regulations were strictly adhered to. Donations could be left between 10am and 2pm on Sundays. We were pleasantly surprised with the amount donated.

As weeks went by and the seasons changed the collections each week grew and grew. Sometimes the kindness shown has been overwhelming. This kindness has not only been from members of the congregation but also members of the community who regularly support this worthwhile cause. During the time we have been in Level 4 and Level 4 enhanced both Rev McNaught and Rev Hume have taken the opportunity to interact with those calling at the drop off point which has acted as an outreach by the church.

The amount collected has increased greatly and now each week we almost fill the Foodbank van.

Along with the collections of non-perishable food and toiletries some very thoughtful members of the congregations have brought along various items for people to take away for a donation to the food bank. These have come in many shapes and forms. We have had facemasks, yule logs, fruit loaves, fresh fruit from gardens, plant stalls, hand crafted greeting cards, Easter cards and other Easter gifts. A special mention must be made to Sue Williams and Isobel Bryce the two stalwarts of the marmalade and jams production. For months these ladies have ensured a supply of marmalade and other jams and jellies and between them have raised well over £1000.

So many people have been so kind and considerate to members of our communities who are struggling for the basics of life it is truly heart-warming. Over the last year a massive 17,738 kgs have been donated to the South Ayrshire Foodbank. This almost, 18 tonnes, which is equivalent very roughly to 14,500 meals. What a difference this has made to so many people.

## Alloway Parish Church Newsletter—April

Each week some people make monetary donations and along with all Isobel and Sue's hard work a total of £3311 has been donated over the year.

We would like to offer a huge, huge thank you to all those who have contributed to these amazing figures. While a pat on the back may be well deserved please consider that the Foodbank is preparing for a greater call on their services when the periods of furlough come to an end. Please keep the work of the Foodbank in your prayers.

The Foodbank collections are part of our church and will be continuing. During the time of the pandemic and until normal services are resumed, we will continue to be available to receive donations between 10am and 2pm every Sunday.

Stay safe.

Bill



# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew 26: 20-25, 31-35, Mark 14: 17-21, 27-31  
Luke 22: 22, 31-34, John 13: 21-30, 36-38

The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus.  
One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, had  
accepted money from them to betray him.

As Jesus and his disciples ate the  
Passover meal, Jesus said



John was sitting  
next to Jesus, so  
Peter said



So John asked Jesus



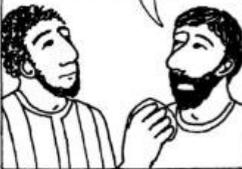
It is the person I give  
this piece of bread to



What you are about to do  
you must do quickly.



Why has Judas gone out?



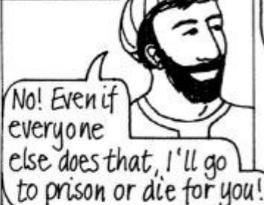
They continued  
the Passover meal



When the time  
comes, you will  
all run away.  
'When the shepherd is struck,  
the sheep scatter.'\* \* Zech 13:7



Peter said



Before tomorrow  
you will have denied you  
even know me 3 times.



Even if I have to die, I  
will never disown you!



## EASTER ANAGRAMS!!

1. CCDEIIFRU \_\_\_\_\_
2. AEEJLMRSU \_\_\_\_\_
3. EMOOPRRU (5,4) \_\_\_\_\_
4. AELPPRSSTU (4,5) \_\_\_\_\_
5. AGGHLOOT \_\_\_\_\_
6. BEMMOPTTY (5,4) \_\_\_\_\_
7. AEILPT \_\_\_\_\_
8. AACDIIJORSSTU (5,8) \_\_\_\_\_
9. EEPRT \_\_\_\_\_
10. AEEEGHMNST \_\_\_\_\_
11. AAABBBRS \_\_\_\_\_
12. AEOPRSSV \_\_\_\_\_
13. CEEINORRRSTU \_\_\_\_\_
14. DEKNOY \_\_\_\_\_
15. ACCEFIIRS \_\_\_\_\_
16. EFGINORV \_\_\_\_\_

## Parish Record



**"Blessed are those who mourn they shall be comforted"**

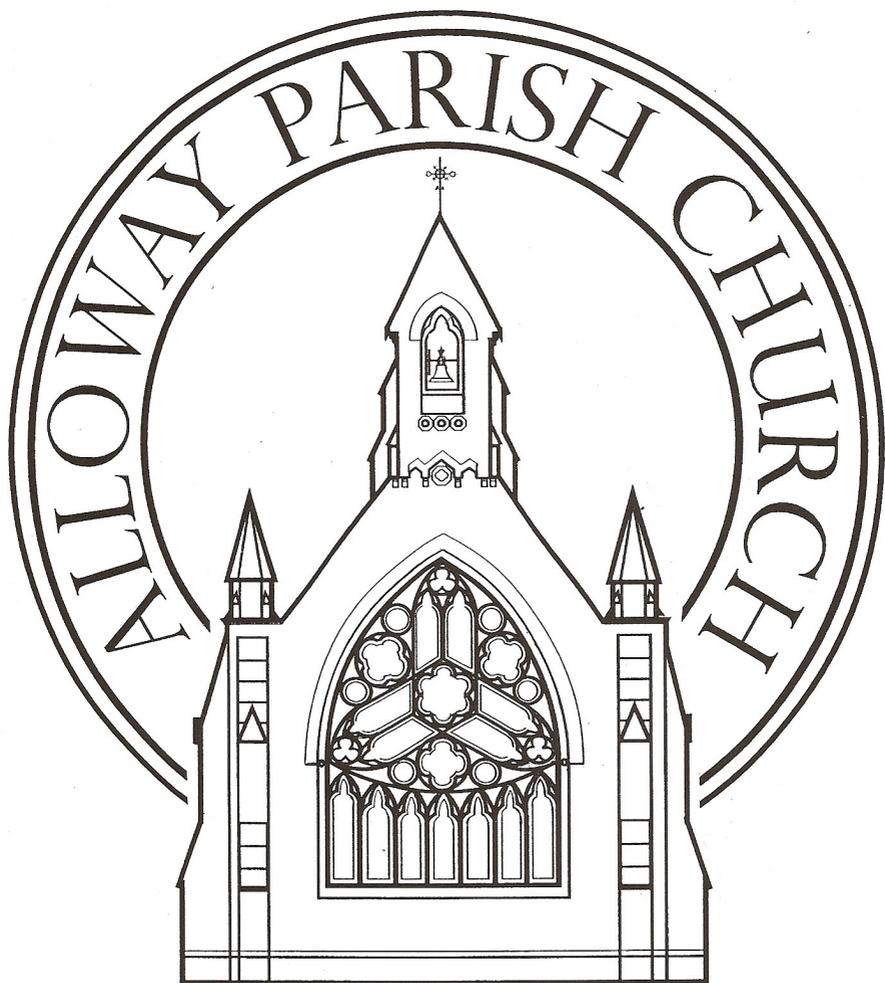
18.2.21	Robert Strefford	Abbots Way
26.2.21	Bruce Kennedy	Dumfries Park
17.3.21	Edith Robertson	Broadwood Park

Deadline for May Newsletter—Tuesday 20 April —12 noon

Contributions should be sent to:

[allowaychurch.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:allowaychurch.newsletter@gmail.com)

Please visit our website [www.allowaychurch.org](http://www.allowaychurch.org) or our Facebook page



Alloway Parish Church of Scotland  
No. 100538

Scottish Registered Charity  
No. SC012456