

ALLOWAY PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER





Dear Friends,

We live in unprecedented and extraordinary times. As we battle our way through a global pandemic, we rightly ask ourselves if our faith can lighten our path.

My repeated mantra is that faith doesn't know the answers; it is being prepared to live with the questions. The profundity of the question of global suffering will be with us for many years. I don't know why this pandemic has come to pass! The tidal wave of sadness and tragedy means for none of us life will be the same.

Yet questions of suffering lie at the root of the Easter story. In the events of Holy Week there are deep and contemporary themes.

On Maundy Thursday, Jesus did the unthinkable .He took the basin and the towel and washed the feet of his disciples. They were to remember his model of servanthood and fashion their lives around it.

So in the garden, he prayed, that the cup of suffering might pass him by.

It never did.

Through the dedication of countless volunteers and frontline NHS workers, our society is being reminded of the value of people who put themselves in harm's way to serve others. As for the cup of suffering?

Already it has become clear that the world and our community has not been excused the devastation of a global pandemic. I pray that your household might be spared the worst effects.

*However, we are an Easter people.
We seek to hold fast to the Easter paradigm shifts .*

- *Despair can be turned to hope.*
- *After endings will come new beginnings.*
- *Love is stronger than death.*

***“When our hearts are wintry grieving or in pain
Thy touch can call us , back to life again.
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been
Love is come again , like wheat that springeth green.”***

*Wishing you and yours God’s blessing this Easter.
Yours in Him*

Neil McNaught

Winning entry for
newsletter cover :
Eva Kearsley – P3F,
Doonfoot Primary School



I'm Back!!

When I left Alloway Parish Church on 30th June 2019, I did indicate that I would come back and see you – little did I know that when I returned it would be as your new Church Family and Schools Worker! I was so excited when I learned of the vacancy at APC and was absolutely delighted, following a selection process, to be offered the position. During my time on placement at APC, I made no secret that I would like to be part of the ministry team with Neil and it seems that my prayers have been answered.



I am fully aware that it will be difficult to “fill Julie’s shoes” – though I doubt that I could walk in her shoes in any case! I know that Julie was, and is, much loved by the folks of APC, the parish and the school community – it is not my aim to replace her but to continue the areas of work that she developed. Little did I know when I enthusiastically started in my new post that we would soon be hit with impacts of Covid-19. Whilst I did manage to attend a Leisurely Lunch, Wednesday Worship and Messy Church, make some visits to folks in their homes and in hospital and met with staff and pupils at Alloway and Doonfoot Primary schools it was not long until we were all on ‘lockdown’ and encouraged to practice social distancing.

I am sure that many, like me, have found it difficult to comprehend the global impact of Covid-19 and the changes being implemented in an attempt to limit the spread of this strain of Coronavirus. It is all quite difficult to ‘get your head round’. Whilst we cannot physically meet as a fellowship of God’s people, it has been so encouraging to see the creative ways that churches (including APC) are providing on-line services of worship and the different ways that people are keeping in touch with each other and offering assistance where possible.

If I can be of service to you in any way – even for a chat, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. I look forward to times when we will all be able to meet again, to join together, share fellowship and worship God.

Have a blessed, self-isolated Easter - God bless!

David Hume
Church Family and Schools Worker
07858 966367
dhume@churchofscotland.org.uk

Alloway Parish in the Age of Corona

Like many people, as minister I felt very vexed when we were instructed to close our church doors.

It's true as the bombs fell in London, the churches were filled with people at prayer. The war we face is a less visible one. The enemy quite ruthless.

I'm hugely grateful to elders who will be phoning and keeping in touch with their districts.

There are people too, working hard to maintain our fellowship digitally - please visit our website and/or Facebook for information and services.

At the moment we are making available a weekly online Sunday service.

Do visit allowaychurch.org and facebook.com/allowayparishchurch45/



St. Corona

(Patroness of plagues and pandemics)

We shall never forget the name Corona! Did you know there is a little known 2nd century Catholic Saint named St. Corona?

According to tradition, Corona was martyred during the reign of Emperor Antoninus in the year 165 A.D. in Damascus.

The most common pious legend around this young 16 year old girl involves another Saint, St. Victor, a Roman soldier of Italian ancestry, who was stationed in Damascus.

St. Victor was tortured for refusing to renounce his faith.

While St. Victor was being tortured, Corona, daughter of a fellow soldier, comforted and prayed for him. Corona was then arrested and interrogated by the Romans and found to be a Christian.

After martyrdom her relics were transferred to Aachen around 1000 A.D. by Emperor Otto III.

During the middle Ages, she was often invoked by treasure hunters, likely due to her name, which means "Crown", as coins of the time would often feature the crown of the ruler who issues them.

Together with St. Victor, the remains of St. Corona are to be found in the basilica of Anzu in northern Italy.

A Prayer for this time



Jesus Christ, the source of hope in this life.

For all that is good in life, thank you.

For the love of family and friends, thank you.

***For the kindness of good neighbour and Samaritan stranger,
thank you.***

***At this time of national and international crisis may those
who are vulnerable, hungry or homeless, experience support.***

May those who are sick, know healing.

May those who are anxious or bereaved, sense comfort.

***Bless and guide political leaders and decision makers, with
wisdom.***

***Bless and guide health workers and key workers, with
strength and wellbeing.***

***Bless and guide each one of us, as we adapt to a new way of
living.***



April 1st

Being English (for which I make no apologies!) I was surprised to learn here in Scotland, April 1st was traditionally called ‘Huntigowk Day’ as opposed to April Fools’ Day in England. I actually thought someone was pulling my leg when I was first



told this, until I looked it up on good old Google. For those of you whose knowledge of Scottish words/traditions is fairly limited, like mine, I will share a little of its interpretation!

‘Hunt the Gowk’ (gowk being the Scottish word for cuckoo or foolish person) involved asking someone to deliver a sealed message that apparently contained a request for help. In truth, the message actually read:

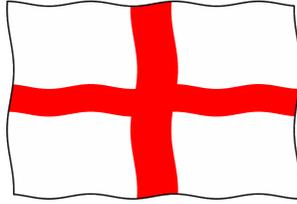
“Dinna laugh, dinna smile.

Hunt the gowk another mile.”

Upon reading it, the recipient explains to the victim that he can only help if he first contacts another person and so sends him onto the next person with an identical message and so the prank continues.

Did you know that some believe that the origins of April Fools’ Day may go back to the Genesis flood story? It was thought that Noah sending a dove on the 1st April before the waters had receded, reminded people of the ‘fool’s errand’ that the bird was sent on. A similar tale is told of Jesus being sent from Pilate to Herod then back again. An edition of the Ladies Repository from 1861 supposed that sending people on ‘bootless errands’ on one day out of 365, ie practical joking, can be allowed on this day without offence as it is an imitation of Pilate sending our Saviour to Herod and so coined a phrase ‘sending a man from Pilate to Herod’ e.g. sending someone on a fool’s errand.

Lynda Mary



St George's Day 23rd April

It's perhaps typical of the English that they should have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure and who may not have existed at all.

That didn't stop him being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It's most likely that he was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies.

There is no doubt that he was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity.

The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting.

The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' – one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause.

Coffee Morning Sport Relief 2020

A massive thankyou to everyone who supported us in any way at our coffee morning we held for Sport Relief. We had a wonderful selection of home baking - (enough to feed several football teams!) rest assured none of it went to waste. With your generous donations on the day, in lieu of attending and through our JustGiving page, the fantastic total of £466 was raised!!



The money raised for Sport Relief helps vulnerable people, across the UK and the world, to live happier, healthier and safer lives. This was a wonderful way to celebrate our late son's birthday. Thankyou.

Lynda Mary & Steve Maw

Christian Aid Week,



The dates for Christian Aid Week are May 10th until 16th, but because of the coronavirus we will be unable to organise our usual door to door collection.

Within our parish we normally collect in excess of £10,000 and this illustrates the serious loss of income for Christian Aid nationally. This is at a time when globally Christian Aid would want to be able to help in some of the poorest countries in the world where this epidemic will hit hard. We would urge you to donate by going on-line to "Christian Aid Week 2020 and coronavirus" for information and a means of donating. You can also donate by phoning 020 7523 2493 or by sending a cheque to Christian Aid, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London, SE1 7RL. We plan to have our usual Christian Aid book sale and coffee morning when life returns to normal.

Thank you for all your support in the past and please continue to help this worthy cause.

Mission Committee

ECO Event



On 7th March I hosted an Eco event for the local community, local organisations and all at Alloway Parish Church.

Having not done one before, I thought for a long time on what would interest everyone and came up with the following:-

The Planetarium (from Dalmellington Dark Sky Observatory)

Fi came down with a portable planetarium for people to experience the universe and learn about our place in the universe. She came with 3 different films and I have to admit, it was *awesome* and very well attended. The planetarium proved to be a real hit with people young and old and our very own minister even managed to enjoy the experience twice!



Ayrshire Beekeepers

THE Ayrshire Beekeepers came in and educated us all on how to keep a hive and all the wonderful things you can do with the honey and wax. I particularly enjoyed the candle making and honey. Did you know that real beeswax candles burn longer, help purify the air and are better for the environment?



Lavemill Larder from Troon

At Lavemill their ethos is sustainability and to protect the environment by not using plastic. Therefore, you can go and buy all your dry foods in your own glass containers with no plastic in sight. But it doesn't stop there, no-no, you can get shampoo bars, eco cleaning products, beeswax wraps, fabric washable kitchen towels and many more wonderful products that we can use to change to a greener way of living.



Guides

Members of guiding came along to show us their approach to tackling the plastic problem. They also showed us the beeswax wraps that they had been making.

South Ayrshire Council Waste Management

The representative from South Ayrshire Council Waste Management was very informative about what we can do at home and what they can do to help us manage our waste output.



Marie Forrest

Marie helps children with anxiety by teaching them outdoors and she brought along ingredients for children to make seed bombs. These sticky seed bombs will hopefully grow and help our bees.



Unwanted Items stall

Lynda Mary and Steve Maw ran a very successful stall where you could bring along your unwanted items for someone else to give them a home in return for a small donation to charity.



Plant stall

This was run by the amazing Carol and Bob George with home-grown seasonal plants.



Fairtrade and a Tuck shop

We had sustainable food and homeware from Fairtrade and Amy and Zoe ran a lovely tuck shop to raise funds for Malawi. This was also an excellent way to raise awareness for Malawi.



Scouts

Some of our local scouts came along and informed us of their previous working trips to help eco causes and what they are doing now within Scouts. This was very informative and well worth learning about.

Sound Therapy

An amazing therapy that retunes your body to vibrate in time with nature's vibration.



Eco Ayrshire

The lovely ladies from Eco Ayrshire were keen to share their tips and advice with everyone. Their group aims to educate, encourage and support others in taking steps towards practising more environmentally sustainable habits.



Jewellery Making

This stall showed people how to upcycle old magazines into very nice necklaces and bracelets. It was a very busy stall, enjoyed by all.

Electric Leaf car

We had an electric Leaf car parked outside for people to view and find out more information on this very interesting exhibit.



And finally, the refreshments from our wonderful catering team, with homemade baking and Fairtrade hot chocolate in return for a donation.

Hopefully I have painted a picture of the afternoon. Watch this space for more details next year.

The event covered our costs and the extra funds raised will be split between Belleisle Conservatory and Ayrshire Bee Keepers so they can continue the excellent work they do for our community and Eco system.

Many Thanks

Rhona Mortlock

Youth and Children's worker

Alloway Parish Church

Please Remember to look after your environment and community in these difficult times.

Signpost Editor

The Publicity Committee is seeking a new editor to oversee the publication of Signpost 2020. The task is to proof-read and collate articles submitted using a Page Plus-6 publishing tool. While this requires moderate IT skills, there is a well defined template in place to simply over-write.

The magazine runs to some 36 pages and focuses on church, community, youth, commemoration, celebration and inspiration. Completion date is mid-August noting that, this year, its publication will be confined to the church website.

Please contact Douglas Thow on 01292-441271.



Publicity Committee Members

The Publicity Committee is seeking new members with moderate IT skills to help with its various activities.

Please contact Douglas Thow on 01292-441271.

Flower Fellowship

All the team are willing to assist or give advice to anyone who would be interested in joining us.

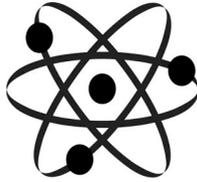
We would also be interested to hear from anyone who would be willing to help at Harvest and/or Advent when many hands are needed.

Thanking you in anticipation.



Please contact – Oonagh Allison (01292 288599), Moira Douglas (01292 442951) Isobel Allison (01292 440387) or Anne Fawbert (01292 441373).

How can a Christian be a scientist?



I used to ask this question as a student. I wondered who could make it in the world of science and still hold onto their faith. Soon enough, I met a good number of successful scientists who were sincere.

Christians, some of whom were at my own university. So what do people like this make of the opportunities and challenges that a life in science holds for a Christian?

Science is an exercise in observing and measuring things in the world and coming up with general principles about the way things are. Exploring the world is a great thing to do to express our gratitude to the Creator. There is a sense of awe and wonder that comes when we expand our minds and our horizons by discovering things about the universe which can feed into our worship.

Of course, there may be things in science that some Christians don't want to get involved in because of what they believe. But there should also be ethical issues that make them want to get stuck into new research that will help people, protect creation or tackle injustices. I am glad to see that many senior scientists do their best to find appropriate ways to make their own faith visible, so that people like my younger self can find role models and mentors.

Another helpful thing about science is that, although our beliefs may at times affect what we notice about the world and how we interpret our data, they shouldn't affect the outcome of experiments themselves. This means that a scientist can be respected by her colleagues for doing good work, regardless of what she believes and what her colleagues think of that worldview.

In my work at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion and my involvement with Christians in Science, I have the privilege of meeting a great number of scientists who are also Christians. One of the most famous living biologists is Francis Collins, who was Director of the project to decode the whole of human DNA. He wrote that it is “possible for the scientist-believer to be intellectually fulfilled and spiritually alive, both worshipping God and using the tools of science to uncover some of the awesome mysteries of His creation.”

(Francis Collins, The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief)

(Simon and Schuster, 2000)(This article was written Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.





Mouse Makes

LABROAD
 OCROSSE
 RHAPPYB
 DONKEYS
 FSCIASC
 EAHNCAO
 ANEGETA
 SNSPLOT
 TAPALMS
 DIMOURJEWSSLNPATTCUPKJCB
 RPASSOVEROBEARRCHRISTEREE
 IGNABODYKILLIAROOLOTSUTA
 NEATTMEALGODLYELRWILLUCRT
 KDISCIPLESONSUSTNNMESSIAH
 EBREADWINEDXGETHSEMANEFYE
 DARKNESSHTLINENAHEAVENYYD



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HUGDAWN
 RTOMBMG
 EOOTPOE
 ECDEFRL
 DRNMRNK
 AOEP A I I
 YWWLINS
 SDSESGS
 EASTERB
 GUARDEU
 SAVIOUR
 PRAISEY
 IDCUTKT
 RIDJOYE
 ICOINSL
 TETREEL

DONKEY • COLT • SAT • COATS
 ROAD • CROWD • CUT • PALMS
 BRANCHES • KING • HOSANNA
 DISCIPLES • ROOM • PASSOVER
 FEAST • EAT • DRINK • BREAD
 WINE • SON • MAN • BLOOD • CUP
 MEAL • JEWS • PLOT • KILL • COINS
 GETHSEMANE • PRAY • WILL
 BETRAY • KISS • ARREST • MESSIAH
 CHRIST • CRUCIFY • JESUS • CROWN
 THORNS • ROBE • TREE • NAILS
 CROSS • SPIRIT • DARKNESS
 TEMPLE • DEATH • LOTS • DICE
 TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY
 BURY • GUARD • THREE DAYS
 DAWN • MORNING • ANGEL • TELL
 HEAVEN • GOOD NEWS • LORD
 GOD • RAISED • JOY • PEACE
 PRAISE • SAVIOUR • EASTER

PARISH RECORD



“Of such is the kingdom of God”

23.03.20	Rose Janet Gibson	Daughter of Justine and Ross
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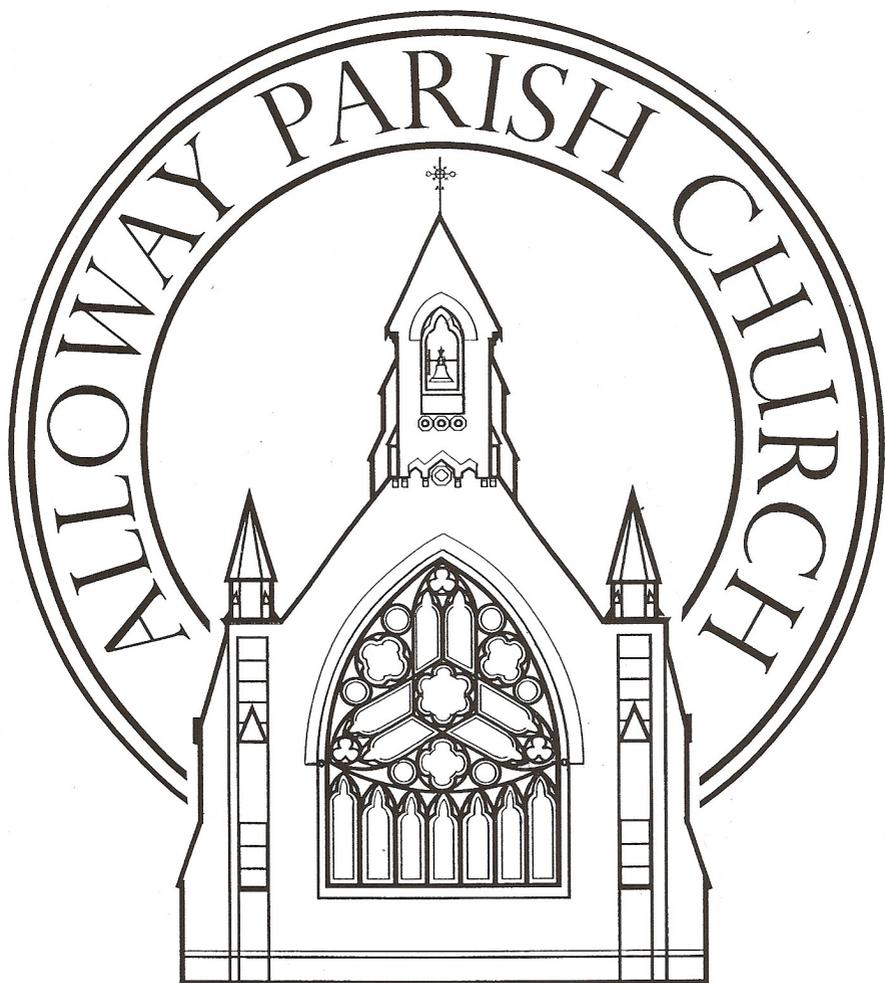


“Blessed are those who die in the Lord”

23.02.20	John Hutton	Portmark Avenue
11.03.20	James Blyth	Robsland Avenue
12.03.20	Janet Ewen	Kersepark
19.03.20	Dulcie Gray	Newark Crescent
26.03.20	Hugh Hainey	Merkland Road

Your Editor this month was Lynda Mary.
April newsletter deadline: 27/04/2020 12noon.

Contributions should be sent to:
allowaychurch.newsletter@gmail.com



Alloway Parish Church of Scotland
No. 100538

Scottish Registered Charity
No. SC012456