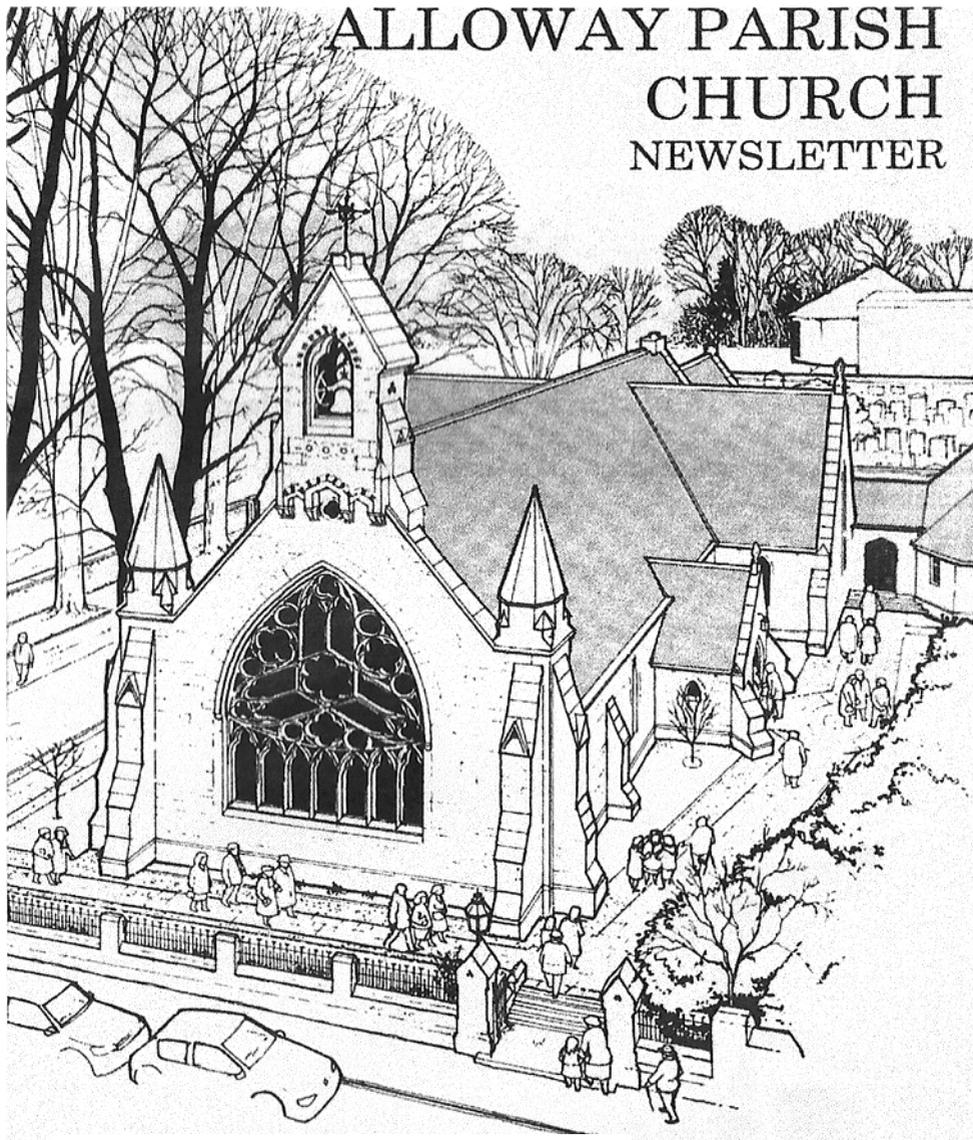


# ALLOWAY PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER



*August 2020*



Dear Friends,

Rham Emmanuelle, a past adviser to President Obama once said:

“We must never let a crisis go to waste.”

It is a well known fact the Chinese word for crisis is composed of two characters. One symbolises danger the other symbolises opportunity.

It would be naive to underestimate the huge dangers which the advent of the COVID crisis now poses.

So too I continually remind myself as your minister it would be negligent not to see the opportunities which lie ahead.

In truth as a congregation at the moment we are finding our way. As I used to say to my mother, “I am trying.” She would respond, “You are very trying!”

The digital on-line service and dial in service for the church provide the digital backbone to our mission.

Significantly, we have re-established public worship in the sanctuary on a Sunday. We may not yet meet in large numbers as we once did, for some time.

Please understand we do not want to encourage people back to church who must not be in church for health and safety reasons!

We are missing many of you, but we fully understand the reasons why you can and should not be there.

Personally, I look forward to conducting an outdoor service when we are legally permitted to do that.

The fellowship of the brollies has much to commend it!

Meanwhile do continue your wonderful support of the Food Bank! Remember too in Bandawe just now the finishing touches are being completed in much needed accommodation for the girls' school thanks to your generosity.

Clerical garden visits are on the increase!

God willing my sunflower will burst into floral wonder sometime soon.

Amidst this turmoil I am more than ever sure the gospel has a message for our society today.

In an age when we are supplied with a running commentary on our physical health, few draw attention to our spiritual health!

Beware too I say the spiritual viruses of racism, materialism and injustice which cause just as much damage in our world.

While our prime minister campaigns for us all to be physically fit - don't forget your spiritual fitness. Pray often! Deep down in your hearts know this. Christ's gospel of mercy and justice challenges and comforts and still gives us hope for a different future.

Keep safe

Every blessing

Neil

## A note from David...



By the time you read this note, I will have attended the final review for my training as an Ordained Local Minister (OLM) – it was on 30th July! What did the panel recommend? Will they allow me to be ordained? Hopefully it will be a positive outcome and I can look forward to a date for my ordination. Unfortunately, as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, it is likely that my ordination will not be as I had imagined – I had hoped that my family would be able to attend together with friends from all the churches that I have been attached to during my training. It seems that any ordinations in the near future will only have a very small attendance and will be streamed on-line.

It is hard to believe that my OLM journey started almost four years ago when I enrolled for academic studies in theology and commenced the Church of Scotland assessment process. Only after a Vocations Conference, a Period of Discernment, much form filling, a psychological assessment (I passed!!), and an Assessment Conference was I allowed to enter the training process.

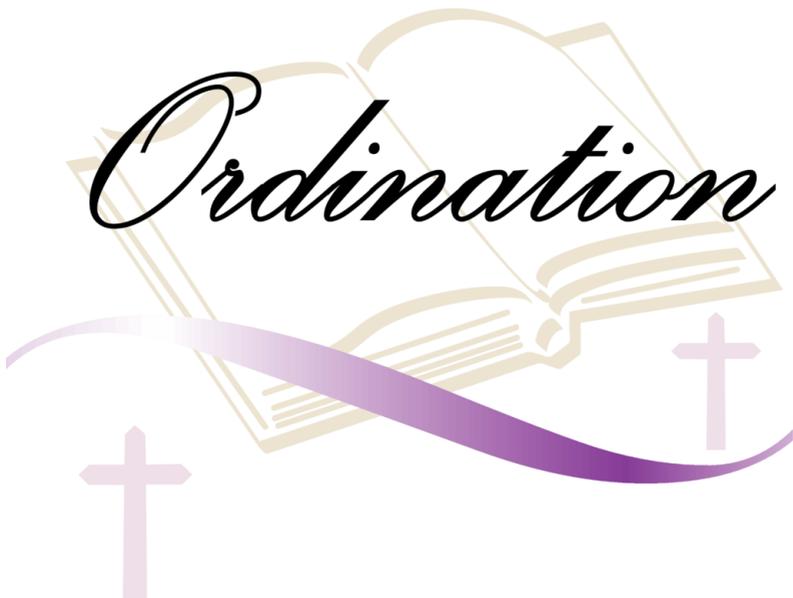
I was fortunate to secure placements at Irvine Relief Bourtreehill Church, New Laigh Kirk, Kilmarnock, Alloway Parish Church (of course!), and Fullarton Parish Church, Irvine. I have been completely supported throughout the training process by my wife Karlyn and my family, and have had such encouragement from my placement supervisors, the congregation of my home church (St. Kentigern's, Kilmarnock) and the congregations of each of my placement churches.

Lockdown and the restrictions associated with COVID-19 have meant that the final 5 months of my training have been very strange – not being able to do some things, but having the opportunity to try new things, like recorded services and live on-line streaming. I also did not expect my first five months as Church Family and Schools Worker at Alloway Parish Church to be so restricted. Hopefully, as the restrictions ease, I will be able to do more and be able to fully embrace my role with you.

If I can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

God bless!

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





Religion and science compatible says the Pope's astronomer

**A renowned physicist known as the Pope's astronomer has said that science comes out of "religious experience".**

Brother Guy Consolmagno said it is "no coincidence" that discoveries have been made by Christians, Jews and Muslims who have studied the word of God.

The director of the Vatican Observatory discusses the compatibility between science and religion in the latest episode of the "It's a Fair Question" series with the Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt. Rev. Dr. Martin Fair.

Brother Guy Consolmagno and Rt. Rev. Dr. Martin Fair ponder the creation of the universe.

Mr Consolmagno, an American research astronomer, worked at Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the USA before joining the Jesuit religious order.

He said religion gives him the reason to practice science and the joy of doing so is the "evidence of the presence of God."

The physicist, who is based in Tucson in Arizona, said it was Catholic priest, Georges Lemaître, who first proposed what is known as the Big Bang theory of the origin of the universe.

"The world is not chaotic but made in orderly fashion, as orderly as night follows day as follows night," said the Jesuit brother.

“The God of Scripture, the one who was there at the beginning, is a God who is outside of space and time, what we call transcendent - supernatural.

“God maintains the existence of the universe, a universe which operates under laws that God created.

“It is not coincidence that science is developed out of peoples who have the Book - the Jews, the Christians and the Muslims. “Only in the Book do you find a universe where God invites you to study how the universe works.”

### **Important issues of our time**

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Church’s Society, Religion and Technology ( SRT ) project. Known originally as the Advisory Group, it aims to help the Kirk to engage with ethical issues in science and technology, and to bring a Christian perspective to discussions which are often controversial.

The SRT project has advanced alongside the rise of the Internet, the increasing concerns surrounding climate change, and the birth of Dolly the Sheep.

Reports on topics as varied as genetic engineering, end of life issues, surveillance, and energy and fuel poverty have helped the Church form policies regarding many of the most important issues of our time.

Kirk ministers are members of the Grasping the Nettle movement which was formed to promote dialogue within the church and society at large about belief in God, especially in relation to science.



## **Urgently Required!**

### **Property Committee**

In Alloway Church we have been richly blessed by the willingness of volunteers to step forward in our hour of need. The recent appointment of our new treasurer is an example of that.

The Property Committee is a hard working and diligent group of people. We are indebted to Mr Philip Gay for convening this committee for over five years. However he has intimated his retirement from that post.

We are grateful to Philip for his outstanding work and his willingness to cover pro tem. We are desperately now seeking his successor.

You've guessed! It is the usual rate of pay.

However I believe there would be immense satisfaction in being of service at this critical time to the church. Rewards and benefits will be out of this world!!

If you would like to find out more of what is involved speak to Neil (441252) or the Clerk to the Board Mr Ian Stewart (443951) for further details.

### **Publicity Committee**

Mr Douglas Thow also is retiring as Publicity Convener. We are grateful to Douglas for all his work particularly overseeing our Signpost publication.

Again we have a very willing committee looking for leadership.

If you would like to find out more of what is involved speak to myself or the Clerk to the Board Mr Ian Stewart for further details.

## BAGSS Project Update

I am delighted to report that the Mamie Martin Hostel project remains on time and on budget.

Chimugogo Builders have proved to be a competitive and effective choice. I have had little occasion to ask for improvements or alteration in items of work.

Rev. Andrews Bipa and Ernest Chirwa, headmaster, are diligently overseeing progress on site and reporting diligently and frequently.

It is expected the project will be completed before the date when the new term should start at the end of August. Thankfully COVID-19 has had a relatively limited impact in Malawi with only 3640 cases, 1700 recoveries and 99 deaths. Malawi has only 25 ICU beds for 17million people. However, COVID-19 remains an issue and while this has allowed us to progress this project unhindered, no-one knows when the government will allow schools to re-open. We remain prayerful the finished project will be occupied for the new term start.

Murray Hutchison  
Malawi Mission  
Project Co-ordinator



# BAGSS project Update



## **Easy Fundraising**

If you shop online there's now an easy and free way for you to support Alloway Parish Church.

We've teamed up with easyfundraising which provides a shopping directory listing some of your favourite online stores. Many big-name retailers are participating including Amazon, M&S, Vodafone, eBay, John Lewis, Tesco, Viking and over 3000 others.

All you need to do is use the links provided on the easyfundraising site whenever you shop online. The retailer will then give Alloway Parish Church up to 15% of every purchase you make - it's that simple!

It doesn't cost a penny extra to shop and raise funds in this way, and you can even save money as many retailers give exclusive discounts, special offers and even 'e-vouchers' exclusive to easyfundraising.

If you already shop online why not help raise extra funds for us by using this completely free service? Follow the instructions below to find out how.



### **Instructions**



**It's as easy as 1-2-3:-**

- 1 Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/allowaychurch/> and register for FREE!
- 2 Once you are registered, use the links on the easyfundraising site to go to your favourite online shops and shop in the usual way.
- 3 Every time you shop online, log on to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/allowaychurch/> and use their links to visit your favourite shops.

Please encourage your friends and family to sign up too and raise even more money for Alloway Parish Church.



## **D.E.C. Emergency Appeal**

As lockdown measures in Scotland begin to lift, the charities who make up the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) in Scotland say that the global emergency is far from over. Millions of lives are at stake as COVID-19 threatens to overwhelm vulnerable communities living in overcrowded refugee and displacement camps in places like Yemen, Syria and Somalia.

The DEC Scotland charities are warning that people living in crowded camps have little access to medical care, clean water or enough food, making them extremely vulnerable to infection. In these places, the virus is likely to be even more deadly than it has been here.

Supporting the call, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt. Rev. Dr. Martin Fair, said:

"The COVID-19 pandemic has brought suffering to people across the world, and in those regions which were already facing serious challenges it is having a catastrophic impact. Refugees, displaced people and people trapped in war-torn areas simply do not have clean water, hygienic surroundings or the means to keep themselves safe and healthy. We know that poverty is a problem for millions of people across the world; now international agencies report the pandemic is causing extreme poverty to rise rapidly, reversing the progress made since 1990.

"People who were in crisis before, now urgently need our support to feed and care for themselves and their families. That is why I am urging everyone to support the Disaster Emergency Committee COVID-19 Appeal. Your generous gift to Christian Aid and its partner organisations on the committee will save lives and offer hope in these most difficult times."

Sally Foster Fulton, Head of Christian Aid Scotland and chair of DEC Scotland, said:

“We have seen here how deadly and frightening the coronavirus can be. But just imagine what it would be like to face the threat of COVID-19 when you live in an overcrowded refugee camp, where social distancing is impossible and where you don’t even have access to clean water to wash your hands.

“During the pandemic, communities across Scotland have come together to protect each other from the threat of the virus; now we’re asking people to show the same solidarity with people around the world facing this silent killer. We’re urging everyone who can to donate today – every pound counts and will help save lives.”

Global solidarity Funds raised by the appeal will go to help people in Yemen, Syria, Somalia, South Sudan, DRC, Afghanistan and the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

Donations will be used to:

- provide families with clean water, soap and information on keeping themselves safe;
- provide frontline medical and aid workers with equipment and supplies to care for the vulnerable and sick; and
- ensure families get enough food to prevent malnutrition, particularly amongst children.

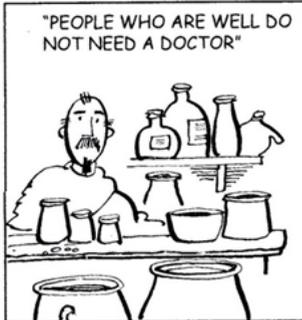
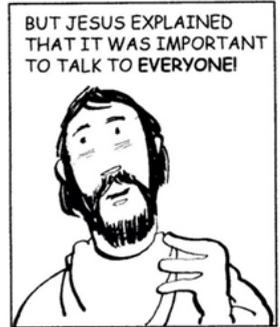
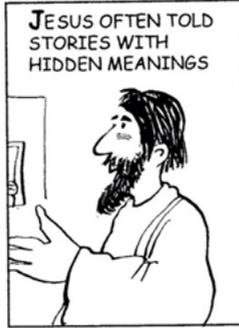
You can donate now by going to the DEC Coronavirus Appeal website.

<https://www.dec.org.uk/>



**DISASTERS  
EMERGENCY  
COMMITTEE**

# The doctor and the ill person



# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies  
faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic  
Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them.

I will fight the best soldier in Israel's army and if I win, you will be our slaves



David's brothers were in Israel's army. He came to bring them food, and he heard Goliath.

He is insulting God!



David's brothers were not happy.

You just came to watch the fight. Go back to your few sheep.



But David didn't stop..

and King Saul heard what he said.



We shouldn't be cowards. I will fight him!

You don't stand a chance.



I have killed lions and bears with God's help.

Then go ahead. You can wear my armour.



I can't move with all this on!

So David took it off.



He took his sling and chose 5 stones from the stream bed.



Goliath couldn't believe what he saw.

Do you think I'm a dog that you have come with a stick?



I have come to fight you in the name of the All-powerful God. The Lord always wins His battles

As Goliath came forward..



David slung his stone and hit him on the head.

Goliath fell down dead.



The Philistines ran away, chased by Israel's army.

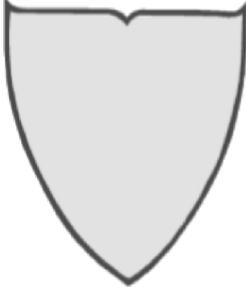


# THE BIBLE WORD SEARCH



- |                |           |              |
|----------------|-----------|--------------|
| BAPTISM        | GOOD NEWS | NAZARETH     |
| BIBLE          | HEAVEN    | PRAYER       |
| CHRIST         | HOLY      | RESURRECTION |
| CREATION       | ISRAEL    | REVELATION   |
| EARTH          | JERUSALEM | SALVATION    |
| FOREVER        | KINGDOM   | SAVIOUR      |
| GARDEN OF EDEN | LIFE      | SIN          |
| GENESIS        | MARY      | SPIRIT       |
| GLORY          | MESSAGE   | TEMPTATION   |
| GOD            | MOSES     | WATER        |

# BIBLE ARROW WORD

				Tiresome	Fire	Incorrect	Finish
					Bird	Past	
				Announce			
				Beast of Revelation			
	Gem		Baker's dozen	Attendants			
	Unity			Commotion			
Make a choice	Number of plagues	At the bottom	Visitor	Place of sleep	Head covering		
(Picture)			Cease to exist	Woman at wedding			
				Septets			
Peak	Sound				Line		
	Bird	Thistle, for example			Clothing	Eternal	
Magnitude			Centres of affection	Hoofed mammal			
Plead							
		Female pronoun		Rip			
		Slant					
In contact with	Consumed			Stops			
	History			Pots			
			Snakes			Centre of solar system	View
			Hearing organ				
Wrath				Donkeys			
Additional things	Roman language				Employ		
				Feel			

## HIDDEN BOOKS!!

**Can you find 26 books of the Bible hidden in the following letter??**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Bible is a remarkable book. Within this letter there are 26 books of the Bible hidden. Can you find them all? Have a go at it using a pen or pencil highlight the ones you find.

The Bible was written by God, using many authors from all sorts of backgrounds, having many different jobs. God tells us the story of his nation Israel and His son, Jesus Christ, making sure it has been preserved for us through the ages for us to read today.

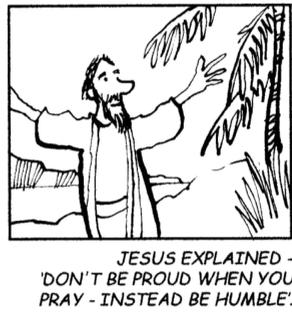
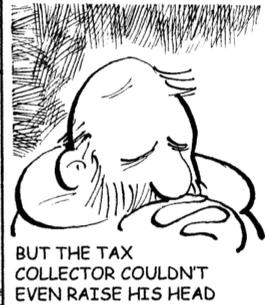
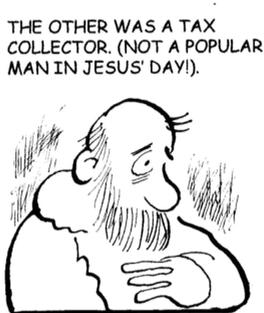
The Bible outlines the right way to lead our lives, as well as containing many historical accounts. Moses led Israel through the Red Sea, at the battle of Jericho trumpeters marched round the walls for seven days, Judea saw great wars and captivity, Abishag gained David as a husband, the Pharisees would act superior to everyone else, perhaps almsgiving for example, but Jesus kept giving them a most stern rebuke. Jesus also performed many miracles, after receiving the Holy Spirit upon his baptismal achievement, with his first miracle being turning the water into wine for the groom at the wedding, maybe it was a nice Spanish Rioja? Mesopotamia was an important region in Biblical history, with Ur and Babylon in that area, as was Sudan I elsewhere read.

When studying the Bible it is helpful to look out for any Bible echo. Search for them whenever you read as you will see some fascinating things, particularly when reading the letters to the various churches, or ecclesias. Testing what you hear against the Bible is also very important to show if it is true, for example if someone suggests Jesus was born in Suez rather than Bethlehem, you would use the Bible to check its accuracy. The same applies if you think Paul ate locusts, David played a banjo eloquently for Saul, Barnabas went on missionary work to Dijon, a horse carried Jesus into Jerusalem or Lazarus died of swine flu, keep going back to the Bible as you can learn a lot from answers to your questions. There is no need to put being academic ahead of everything else though as Jesus said it is most important to love one another, in a humble spirit. Jesus gave his life for us and when we are in a spiritual rut, his love will give us the comfort we need.

Sincerely, the Rev. E. Lation



The  
Tale of the  
**TWO MEN  
SAYING  
THEIR  
PRAYERS**



## PARISH RECORD



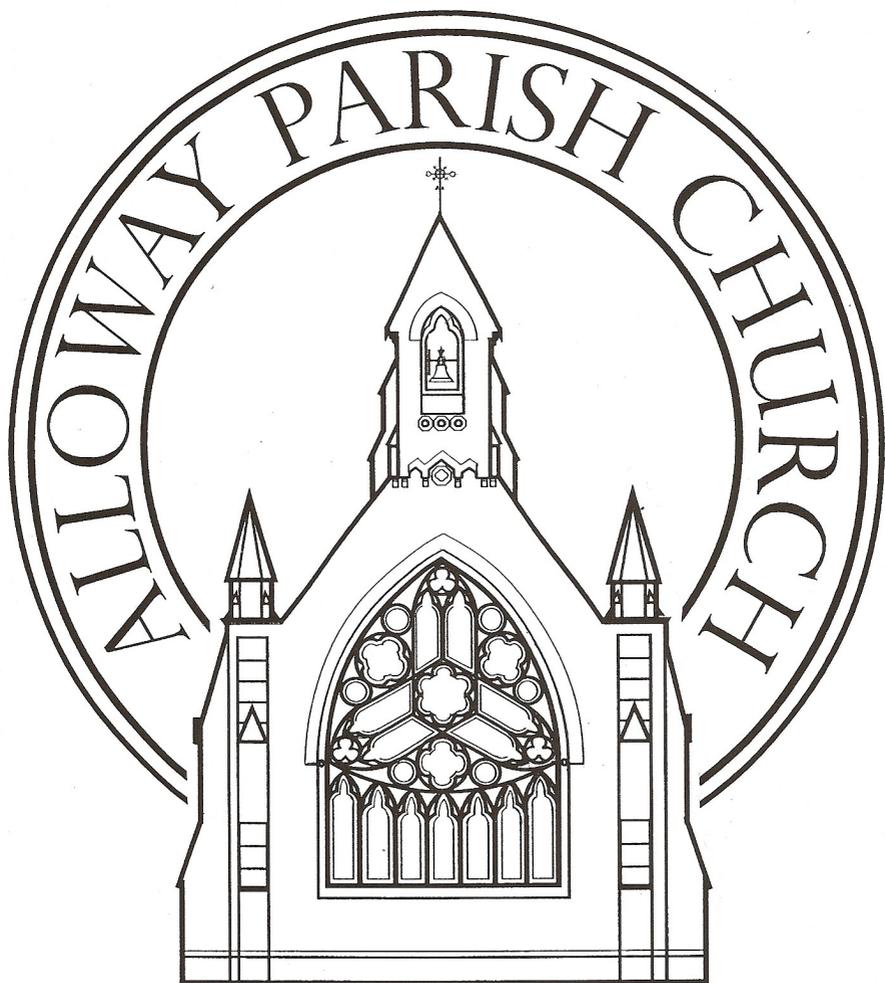
### **“Blessed are those who die in the Lord”**

11.07.20	Frances McGawn	Recawr Park
16.07.20	Jim Stewart	Gearholm Road

Editor this month was Lynda Mary.  
September newsletter deadline: 25/08/2020 12noon.

Contributions should be sent to:  
[allowaychurch.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:allowaychurch.newsletter@gmail.com)

Do visit [allowaychurch.org](http://allowaychurch.org) and [facebook.com/allowayparishchurch45/](https://facebook.com/allowayparishchurch45/)



Alloway Parish Church of Scotland  
No. 100538

Scottish Registered Charity  
No. SC012456